

James Japan is Good for Another Year! A Big Thank You to All the Supporters of This Website!



Tess teaching the Bible to children

Praise God, I just paid the Ipage hosting company \$257.79 for another year to host this website. It was due on May 3rd and we're glad to get it paid early. The price went up! It was \$220 a year but suddenly went up to \$270 a year. I asked the company why and was told it was because of inflation. But they kindly gave me a little discount. James Japan is now good for another 12 months for the hosting. The payment for the domain name, jamesjpn.net, is a separate payment to another company, Godaddy, and it's due every year on August 14, but it's only \$20 a year.

The hosting cost is no small money for my wife Tess and me since moving to the Philippines. When we lived in Guam, our income was much higher than now because Tess had a full-time job at Macy's. I used to work there too just before the Christmas holidays in 2022. It was of the Lord we moved from Guam to the Philippines when we did because she cannot work anymore due to a bad knee which hurts more the longer she has to stand. The door opened for us when the required COVID-vaccine mandate to enter the Philippines was lifted.

The next time you see a department store salesperson, you might feel sorry for him or her knowing that they are on their feet 8 hours a day, and sometimes more. They're only allowed to sit down during break-time for 15 minutes after a couple hours. Some department stores have an hour break for lunch, and some only 30 minutes.

There are no big companies employing hundreds of people where we live, only farms, little shops, and a lot of poor people doing what they can do to make a living such as raising chickens.

Today I picked up a man with my motorbike with sidecar who waved me down as I passed him. He told me he wanted to go to the same village I was going and offered me money. I didn't accept it knowing how poor he probably is.

Besides the work on this website, we have three Bible studies per week teaching children, teenagers, and adults.



It's because of your love for Jesus, the Word of God, the truth, and the support and encouragement I get from you that keeps me going. Thank you so much! God bless you and your loved ones.

[Adventure Moving to the Philippines](#)



The account of our move from Guam to the Philippines.

[Guam Crippled by Super Typhoon Mawar](#)



On Wednesday May 24, around noon local time, Typhoon Mawar hit Guam and gradually increased in strength uprooting trees and destroying dwellings that were not designed to withstand high winds! Electric power was cut. By 10 PM the force of the wind was at its peak. It continued throughout the night and finally subsided mid Thursday.

The Pacific island of Guam USA has been my home for the past 5 years. My wife and I were mostly in our bedroom during the typhoon with the storm shutter of our window closed. This meant after electric power was cut by the typhoon, it was dark in our room throughout the day. We thankfully had battery powered LED lights, and were not in total darkness.

I'm writing this article to notify my friends and visitors that I've been

handicapped for 3 days without Internet and I'm still without power. Mobile data for our phones was finally restored on Saturday morning. We are now in survival mode without power for our refrigerator, freezer, washing machine and electric lights. Thankfully we have propane gas to cook by. My brother in law with whom we are living with now set up a way to charge our phones from a car battery. That's why I'm able to write this post. Normally I use my PC to write posts but I can't use it now without electricity.

Thankfully today we found a water station where we brought 30 gallons of drinking water! Tap water is down to a trickle. We save it in buckets for washing clothes and bathing. Traffic lights are not working. Drivers at intersections are courteous to each other and yield to other cars when necessary. The landscape has changed with broken and uprooted trees. Gasoline stations have long lines with some people waiting up to 8 hours to fill their vehicles! On Thursday we had to wait 40 minutes in a long line at a local store to buy food.

A friend knew his rented house would not stand the winds and took his family to a hotel before the typhoon hit. It's good he did because the typhoon destroyed his house. He and or his family could have been killed or seriously injured had they stayed. As far as I know, nobody on the island has died due to the typhoon.

The house Tess and I are now staying at has 8 inch concrete walls and was built to withstand wind gusts up to 350 miles per hour. We knew we would be safe. Most houses on Guam are typhoon proof. And none of the utility poles were knocked down, only the power and communication lines were.

This is the second typhoon we experienced on Guam, and by far the worst, not only for me, but for many others living in the tropics. My brother in law says there was a worse one in the 1990s when no tree was left standing!

If you know Jesus, please pray the Lord will heal this island and fix the broken power grid soon! From Monday May 29 and up to June 4th we have important business in town with legal authorities to accomplish. But we don't want to drive there without knowing we can get gasoline for the car without waiting too long for it.

I am claiming Romans 8:28 that the Lord will work this disaster for good for us and all His children on the island of Guam! And may those who don't know Him come to repentance and the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ as a result.



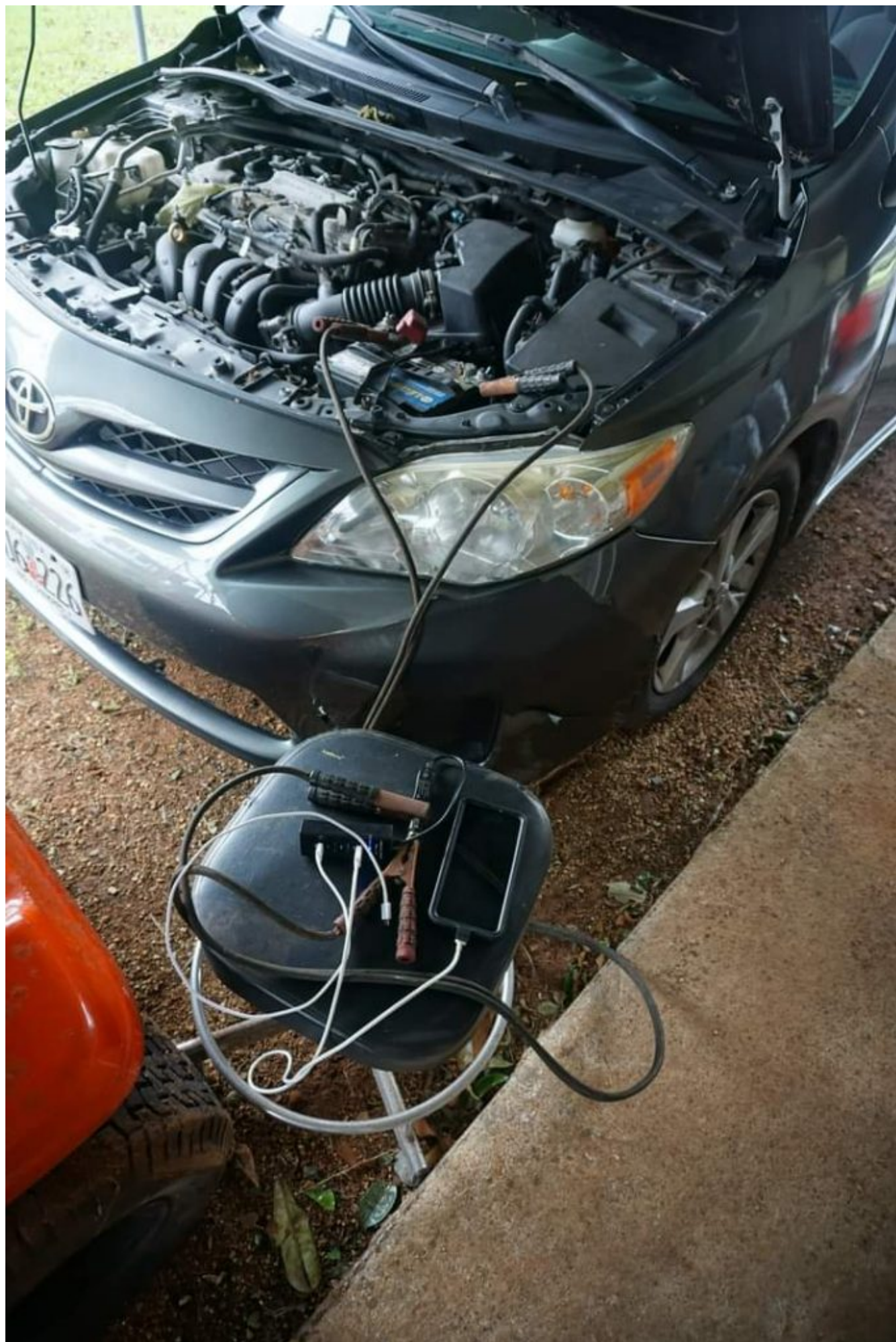
Uprooted tree



Uprooted palm trees



Uprooted trees



Charging our phones from a car battery.



Storing water



Storing water

Tuesday May 30 Update

Last night when I went to bed, I had two burdens on my heart, things I needed to do today but were made difficult to do because of the destruction of the typhoon. I claimed the promises of God that He would supply needed gasoline for the car, and He did today after a 3 hour wait! Most gasoline stations are closed, and the ones open have long lines. I saw one line at least two miles long! The one I waited at today was about half a mile long.

Public transportation on Guam is very poor. There are no trains and bus lines are few and don't go to where we regularly need to go. The existing bus lines don't have schedules posted by the bus stop. People are handicapped without a vehicle. I didn't drive or own a vehicle the 40 years I lived in Japan because public transportation was so good. And of course if you've read some of my early posts on this website, you know I loved to hitchhike. I never expected to drive ever again but living in Guam made it necessary.

And the second burden was also resolved, praise the Lord! I had to retrieve an important document from a government agency last Wednesday but couldn't because of the typhoon. Today I got it back.

I feel sorry for the poor tourists who came to Guam to enjoy the tropics and have ended up in a survival situation.

[Request for Prayer for My Wife's Recovery and for Support](#)



Tess and James Arendt

On April 20th, 2023, my beloved wife Tess got an operation on her knee to

remove a torn meniscus. Her knee is in severe pain from time to time. In order for her to have this operation, she had to take off from work at Macy's department store. At Macy's she was required to stand constantly and to walk a lot caring for the customers, something she's now unable to do. It's hard to say when she will be able to return to work. Without her continued employment, her regular income will come to a halt in May when her vacation pay ends.

Please pray Tess will recover speedily and not be in pain any longer. At the time of this edit, it's been 6 days since the operation and she is still in pain from time to time.

I have purposely kept this website ad-free because I think advertisements take away from the message I want to share. My main and only job now besides caring for Tess is to maintain this website and add more articles to it as the Lord leads me.

Tess and I have been grateful to the Lord that the website has so far paid for itself by your donations, and we are especially thankful to those who have contributed regularly to this website. One sister in Christ, Jackie, has especially been faithful to send something regularly. But if the other readers of this website would help out within the next weeks up to June 1st, we would be able to cover our expenses much easier. We are preparing to move to Tess's home country, the Philippines, in June, where we will be able to live much more economically. Food and energy costs are expensive on Guam because most products need to be shipped from the US mainland and other countries.

My PayPal ID: **james.arendt@jamesjpn.net**

Donate



Or use the PayPal QR Code.



[Or click here to donate](#)

Sharing Christ with a Convicted Criminal on Death Row



Patrick and Norah Pakai

The testimony in this article is from my Facebook friend, Patrick Pakai, a pastor in Zimbabwe, one of the poorest nations in Africa since the evil Robert Mugabe took the farms away from the white farmers and destroyed the economy through greed and corruption. I was so impressed with how Patrick talked to this prisoner I had to share it!

Today I was asked to speak the word of God to a prisoner on death row, condemned to be hanged any day for many crimes he committed against humanity. This huge guy was seated there motionless, with red threatening eyes, like he wanted to break my bones with his huge bare hands. I greeted him and he did not answer or move. I introduced myself as a Pastor and that I had brought the good news of our Lord Jesus Christ to him. He looked at me straight in my eyes and said, "Pastor, you are so late with your Jesus, it's too late now, I am facing death and your Jesus can not save me from death. Even you can not help me in any way, so pastor, get out of this place right now because I don't want to see you."

I said a quick prayer and I felt the presence of the Holy Spirit giving me strength and words of wisdom. I said to him, "My brother, I understand you and I will be out here soon, but you are telling me that you are sentenced to death, now tell me my brother, who in the world is not going to die? We all carry the sentence of death upon us, the only difference is the time and how we will die. As I am talking to you right now this minute, a thousand people have died in the whole world. And before they hang you, thousands will be dead in the world, and the judge who has judged you will die one day and the hang man will also die. So you see my brother, we all carry the sentence of

death upon us, but what matters is we do not have to die without Jesus Christ in our lives because hell is certain for those who die without Christ. And today I am not late to you, you are blessed that I have come to present Jesus Christ to you while you are still alive. I am so sad that I am late to many others who have already died without Christ for they will spend eternity in hell. So my brother, Jesus loves you and He wants to be with you forever in paradise”.

As I was speaking to him, I saw tears coming down from his eyes, I did not invite him to kneel down, but he was there on the floor on his knees and pleading with me to lead him to Christ. Oh what an amazing time as I hold his huge hands and began to pray for him. One soul added to the Kingdom, praise the Lord.

(End of testimonial)

Please see Patrick's posts on [Facebook](#):

Poison in Paradise – Attacked by a Drunken Man with a Baseball Bat!





Rear window of my Toyota Yaris after the baseball bat attack.

On June 20th, 2019, just after I took my father-in-law to his home in Piga Subdivision from the Dededo Senior Citizen's Center on the island of Guam, after turning right onto the main road of Chalan Koda, I saw a car ahead that was stopped about 50 meters from the intersection. I drove around the car on its left and then saw a man standing in the middle of the road holding a baseball bat. As I drove slowly past the man, he violently swung his baseball bat and smashed the rear window of my Toyota Yaris! Imagine my shock! This is the stuff of nightmares! I found out later that the driver of the car I went around had stopped and even backed up because the man with the baseball bat was throwing rocks at him!

The road is called Chalan Koda in the north part of the Village of Dededo. It's a rather narrow country road with potholes on both sides of the road. There is always traffic on it and I always slow down when approached by oncoming traffic in the opposite lane because I veer to the right as far as I can where the road is bumpy with holes so as not to rattle the car too much. It's a road I *must* drive on 3 to 4 times a week to take my father-in-law home. I had no idea it is also a dangerous area with disgruntled people from the island of Chuuk who live in the jungle next to it. More about them later.

I was all shook up and pulled the car over to the side of the road. Almost immediately 3 men came to see if I was alright. One was the driver of the car

I went around. He said he witnessed the whole thing and tried to get a video of it but failed. I called 911 and had a man talk to the police to explain where I was. About 10 minutes later the police came and sped past us as if they knew where the culprit was. About 30 minutes later a police officer came and talked to me and the witness. They believe the suspect is from one of the four islands of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) from the island of Chuuk. The four islands are Yap, Chuuk, Pohnpei, and Kosrae. Besides these 4 there is one other island, Palau, that is also in Micronesia but independent of FSM. Among these 5 island people who moved to Guam, mainly the Chuukese people are the troublemakers. The ones who are unemployed drink in the daytime and attack innocent people with rocks, slingshots, and even machetes! Why? In my opinion, it's probably out of jealousy. Most of the Chuukese people are not like them but are hardworking people with jobs. They are ashamed of their fellow countrymen. Except for the Chuukese people, which is only one of the four islands of FSM, there is no other racial profiling on Guam! There are minority Black people, White people like me, Japanese, Koreans, Japanese, Russians, Filipinos, and other island people including the northern Marianas Islands which includes Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. And of course, there are the Chamorro people who are native to Guam. Only the Chuukese have the reputation of being troublemakers.

This is sad because so far besides the man with the baseball bat, every person I have met from the island of Chuuk has been nice to me. My next-door neighbor is a pastor from Chuuk. The local market sales lady is from Chuuk. Some of my co-workers at DFS T-Galleria are from Chuuk. I was even picked up by people from Chuuk when I used to hitchhike the first six months after coming to Guam before we bought the car! I never felt intimidated by them. One of my co-workers, a Japanese lady told me that when the Chuukese drink, they become different people. Alcoholism is a problem on Guam. Liquor is sold at every food shop. Alcohol is the "poison" in the paradise of Guam. Booze is toxic. That's why it inTOXicates.

It will cost me and my wife \$400 dollars to have the back window fixed in spite of the fact we have car insurance. The insurance company says our policy is a \$400 "deductible" whatever that means. Rather than get a rent-a-car from the car dealer, we will use the car as is till we get it fixed. The day after the attack we went to the Home Center to buy thick transparent plastic and attached it with duct tape to keep the rain out. Then we went as instructed by the insurance agency to the car dealer to get an estimate of the cost and see if parts are available. The car dealer ordered the part and they will come sometime in the middle of next month, July, 3 weeks from the attack. \$400 out of a paycheck is a big sum for us as it is more than what I make in two weeks and about half of what my wife makes. If any of my readers who appreciates my work on this website would like to donate to help me and my wife Tess pay this money to the car dealer, I would sure appreciate it! We must give the dealer cash. We asked if we could pay in installments but that is not in the car dealer's policy.



Closeup of rear window.



Plastic sheet attached with duct tape over the rear window to keep the rain out.



Tess with her father.

Engaged to be Married!



My fiancée from the Philippines, Teresita AKA Tess!

August 6, 2022 update

Tess and I have been together for 4 years and 3 months. God has blessed us tremendously, and we are happier than ever, praise the Lord!

Original post

March 14, 2018 was a most auspicious day of my life! I asked a dear sister in Christ for her hand in marriage, and she said YES!!!

The photo above was when she was younger. When I get her permission I hope to post her name and more photos.

The wonderful thing about our romance is it's all based on text messages on Facebook Messenger and Facebook posts. I have never met her yet face to face! We have only seen each others photos and once we chatted by web camera. This makes a truly spiritual relationship without the flesh either aiding or hindering it.

I know what you're thinking now. "How can you be sure this is real and not a scam?" The answer is I have known her for a long time. She has been my Facebook friend from December 2012, and we first started to write to each other from December 2nd, 2016. From March 1st, 2017, we began to exchange messages often, and later daily, and now several times a day. She loves the same Father GOD Yahweh as I do, and the same LORD and Creator as I do, Jesus Christ. She has proven that to me literally thousands of times from her words. And she knows I have nothing to give her but my life, love and service. It was an answer to prayer for both of us! A marriage made in Heaven!

Misogi – a Shinto Purification Ritual of Standing Under a Waterfall in Winter



Spectators standing before Shiratama waterfall

On January 13, 2011, I attended a traditional local ceremony at Shiratama waterfall in Niigata Prefecture. I've been to this waterfall several times in the summer to escape the heat, but this is the first time to see it in the snowy mid winter, and the very first time to see people stand under it! It's actually a religious ceremony called *misogi*.



Six men and two women standing under the Shiratama Waterfall in mid winter.

Misogi (misogi) is a Japanese mountain ascetic practice of ritual purification. This may be undertaken through exhaustive activities such as extended periods without sleep, breath training, standing under waterfalls, or other methods. Water-misogi may be likened to dousing practices.

(Taken from <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Misogi>)

Any of the photos will enlarge when clicked upon.



Japanese musical instruments: The Koto and the Shakuhachi



Mr. Murata playing his handmade shakuhachi

On June 22, 2012, Mr. and Mrs. Murata picked me up from Nikaho, Akita Prefecture, and invited me to drink tea with them in their home in Akita city. Mr. Murata's hobby is making and playing a musical instrument made from bamboo which is called Shakuhachi. Mrs. Murata plays the Koto, a stringed instrument. I was honored to be their guest and hear them perform.

Mr. Murata wanted to give me a shakuhachi for a present, but because I couldn't produce a sound with it, I declined his kind offer. He said it will take me about a half year of practice just to learn how to make the sound!

The video was taken with my cell phone and is of poor quality, but the audio is pretty good.

Government and banking institutions' mistrust of aid collectors since the East Japan Earthquake



A couple days after the massive magnitude 9 earthquake in the Pacific 70 kilometres (43 mi) east of the Oshika Peninsula of Northeast Japan which

caused a massive tsunami destroying the northeast coast of the Tohoku region, I was asked to make a website <http://helpjapan2011.net> for the purpose of raising aid to buy goods and materials for volunteers to take to the survivors of the disaster.

At the time, NPO Leap High 28's Paypal account was under investigation by Paypal administrator's to verify its NPO status. Because of this, account was unable to accept donations. To work around the problem, I used instead my own Paypal account as a temporary substitute.

Within the first week a number of friends sent close to \$500 US to my Paypal account. Shortly afterward, Paypal sent me a message saying that I was using my Paypal account for business purposes and asked me to answer a set of questions. I believed I answered all the questions honestly and explained that none of my web sites with a Paypal donation button are offering anything for sale. I was merely asking donations for my missionary work, and since the March 11th earthquake, specifically for suppose of aid toward the earthquake and tsunami victims.

This seemed to satisfy Paypal and the matter appeared to be settled, but after a week suddenly and **without warning, Paypal froze my account!** This meant I could not use it to receive further donations or pay out from it. Thankfully by that time I withdrew all of the donations received for the earthquake victims and sent them on to the NPO. Only \$100 of the money I previously had in the account is now frozen.

I personally used 10,000 yen (now \$80 US) from donations I received since the earthquake to buy vegetables and natto for a large and needy family in Sendai. That together with other donations from friends taken to the family in Sendai was nearly double than the \$500 US I received in my Paypal account.

Other Paypal users in Japan – people I know – who are working to raise aid for the tsunami victims have reported similar problems with Paypal. It makes me think that Paypal may be ultimately controlled by [the Establishment](#).

Banks have also asked prying questions about transfers of funds from overseas. One of my friends who has been doing an great work in bringing supplies to needy families in Minami Senriku received a large donation of 3.2 million yen (\$40,000 US) from a company based in the USA. The bank dragged its feet in transferring these funds to his account. He was asked by bank officials the purpose of the money. What business is it of theirs, anyway?! He said that if he told them he was selling *pornography*, they probably would have understood and accepted it better rather than saying he was using the funds to buy equipment, food and supplies for the disaster victims! It dawned on him, *"The Establishment doesn't want me to have money! Common folks aren't supposed to have money because that means freedom of movement from Establishment control!"*

Mr. Ikeda, the man who took me home on July 11th. from the Adatara Service area on the Tohoku Expressway in Fukushima Prefecture reported similar problems with banking institutions and government agencies. His house in Soma City Fukushima Prefecture was somewhat damaged by the earthquake but is still

in a livable condition. City Hall in general has had nothing but doubts about his motivations to help raise aid for the disaster victims. He's had to fight every step of the way to do anything toward the cause of bringing aid.

Apparently a few unscrupulous persons have been using the March 11th. disaster as a means to fill their own pockets. As a result, all the good people trying to help have suffered. At the same time, big name charities such as the Red Cross are collecting millions of \$ without having to account for what all the money is being spent on! Talk about a mixed up world that cannot discern anymore the difference between the good guys and the bad ones.

□

Visit to friends in Sendai



Charles Begley before van stocked with food and goods for friends in Sendai

On March 26, Charles Begley and I drove to the city of Sendai to bring supplies to a small Christian community of 6 adults and 7 children. It was a 4 hour drive along the Banetsu and Tohoku expressways and was through Fukushima prefecture. As you see from the map, the Tohoku expressway is about 58 kilometers or 36 miles from the two troubled nuclear power-plants in Fukushima.



Route from Niigata to Sendai

Charles' van was completely filled with supplies, thanks to friends in Niigata and a donation of money from the director of NPO Leap High 28, Yoko Ishikawa, with whom I am working with in building the Help Japan 2011 web

site. In all we took approximately 80,000 yen or about \$1000 US worth of food and goods. This included 105 kg of rice, bags of white radish (daikon), potatoes, carrots, eggplant, onions, noodles, curry and stew ingredients, canned goods, 24 packs of natto, 2 camping stoves, 35 cans of kerosene for the stoves, 90 liters of kerosene for heating, clothes, blankets, and shoes. Most of these items are now hard to find or buy in Sendai, a city of one million people, the largest city of northeast Japan and the closest to the epicenter of the earthquake on March 11th in the Pacific. Some materials like clothes, shoes and blankets were not immediate needs of my friends in Sendai, but items they would distribute to others in need.



Cars lined up to get gas at the
Bandaisan service area on the
Banetsu expressway in Fukushima

The Tayama family was very grateful for the food and the means to cook it. They had no vegetables the past two weeks. Until a few days ago, they had no electricity. They still have no running water or gas.

Visual impressions

Much unlike my visit to the city of Ojiya in Niigata after the October 2004 earthquake when I saw destruction in any direction I looked, I saw no destruction or damage of anything whatsoever. The roads were not broken as they were in Niigata, and no houses fell. The only sign that something had happened was many convenience stores were closed. That is not to say there was no direct destruction at all from the earthquake. One friend reports his apartment was damaged to the point of becoming unlivable which forced him to move. But the overall direct damage from the earthquake seemed to be minimal. The real destruction was caused by the tsunami along perhaps 500 kilometers of the Pacific coast, up to 10 kilometers inland. This is roughly 5000 square kilometers of devastation!

It was cold and snowy in the mountains of Fukushima, but there was no snow in Sendai and not too cold in my friend's house even without the heaters on. But it was still daytime with a clear sky. The sun helps warm the houses. The Pacific side of Japan has a much higher percentage of sunny days than the west coast along the Sea of Japan. I'm sure it does get colder at night, and all that donated kerosene will be used for heating.

We came to a point in Sendai about 14 kilometers or 8 miles from the Pacific coast. My friend Charles did not want to purposely drive close enough to see any destruction. He said he saw enough of it on TV.

Photos after arriving in Sendai



Happy recipients of goods



Mrs. Tayama with one of the three
30 kilograms of rice donated by
friends in Niigata



Charles with the Tayamas



Yours truly struggling to hold the
30 kilogram bag of rice waiting for
Charles to figure out how to use
the camera.



The children rejoicing over the box
of bread products donated by a
bakery in Niigata



The Tayama family with some of the
supplies they received.

Testimonials from Friends in Sendai

Mrs. Tayama: "I work as a maid in a large hotel in Sendai. I was on the 10th floor in standing in front of the elevator when the earthquake hit. As soon as I pushed the down button to call the elevator, the building started to shake. It shook so bad I couldn't stand up without falling. I crouched down on the floor and stayed there till the shaking stopped."

Mr. Tayama: "The night of the earthquake we all slept with our clothes on. Tremors continued through the night. We knew we all may have to evacuate the building at any time. "

Bringing supplies to friends in Sendai



Tomorrow, Saturday March 26th, Charles Begley, the director of Begley Productions and I will travel to the city of Sendai, the largest city in northeast Japan that was affected by the earthquake, to bring supplies to a large family of 4 adults and 7 children. They are sitting in a cold house wearing their winter coats for lack of kerosene for heating.

So far we have acquired,

- 4 containers of kerosene holding 18 liters each equaling 72 liters.
- 60 kilograms of rice
- Boxes of macaroni
- Vegetables such as cabbage, carrots and onions

They also requested we bring can meat, fresh meat, natou, and ingredients to make curry and stew.

It's unfortunate that we cannot bring more kerosene to this family. That 72 liters may last them only a week. But it will soon be April and warmer weather.

Sixty kilograms of rice is enough for at least two months of meals. By then it may be easier for them to buy rice locally.

The route to Sendai will take us within 57 kilometers of the nuclear power plant in trouble in Fukushima. But this is well outside the danger radius. I've heard people within 20 kilometers of the nuclear reactors have been evacuated.

Message from an acquaintance of the people who are fighting the radiation

leak in the crippled nuclear power plant in Fukushima



I received the following email from a friend about the situation of the nuclear power-plant in Fukushima.

Dear everyone,

I have an urgent request for prayer. Right now there are people who are giving their all to save our country, its people, and you and your family at the risk of their lives at Fukushima atomic power plant. Please pray for the success of their work.

The Soldiers of Special chemical troop of Defense army (those who are working at the plant now) are volunteers who are above 55years old, who believe that their responsibility to their families (raising their children) is nearly over. They have volunteered to do this work. There are 50 such volunteers.

This is an excerpt from an article in JIji-tsushin□

Tokyo Electric Company has asked different cooperative firms for help of volunteers who would be a suicide squad to do the technical work inside of atomic power house.

One of the volunteers who has been working at an atomic power plant in West Japan for 40 years volunteered saying he would have only one year till his retirement and his children are grown up now.

His family couldn't dissuade him. He is quiet but firm in his determination that such a difficult job should be done by veterans like him. His daughter said this is a side of her father that she has never seen before.

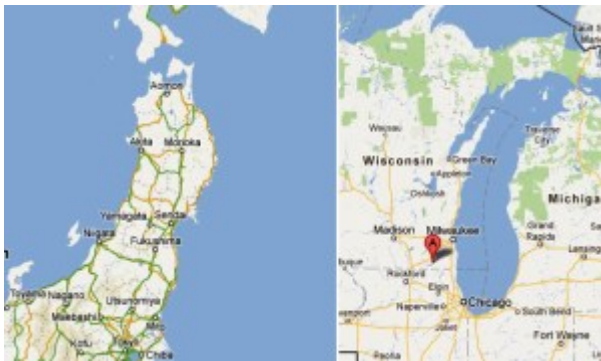
The next day, 20 more volunteers left their homes for this mission as if it was a usual morning of going to work.

Working under such conditions at atomic power plant, it is usual to be exposed to radiation. The allowed amount of contamination during such work is limited by the government to 100msv.

But this number was changed from 100msav to 250 msv because those volunteers have requested to lift the limit so that they would have enough time to do their work. So they were prepared to risk high doses of radiation.

The peace that we still enjoy now is due to their sacrifice...
Please everyone, pray!
Please pray that the mission can be completed.
Please pray that the future missions awaiting will be successful.
Pray for the safety of these workers.
Please tell all of your friends, family members, and as many people as possible
Ask them to join us in prayer for this.

Joined an NPO project to help the Sendai Earthquake Victims



The Tohoku or Northeast area of Japan is about the size of Lake Michigan. The earthquake moved this massive amount of land 2.4 m (8 ft) east into the Pacific! That's what caused the tsunami that killed 19,759 people.

It was an auspicious time for me to come to Osaka after the earthquake. I was contacted by a friend, Josh DeSantis, the chairman of Hiyaku28 NPO, to come to Kobe to set up a new website to raise donations for the earthquake victims. Josh participated in the relief efforts of the 1995 Kobe earthquake. Kobe is only a 360 yen train ride from where I was in Osaka. I had just enough money to get to Kobe with 69 yen left in my pocket, the remainder of 5000 yen I started with a week ago. Please see the web site I put up so far: Help Japan 2011

There is no chance for me to have a direct face to face contact with the earthquake victims at this time. Authorities have been telling volunteers not to come! Rescue operations are still underway. Much of the devastated area is still under water. Only professional rescue workers are allowed.

The Situation of my Family and Friends after the Tohoku Earthquake

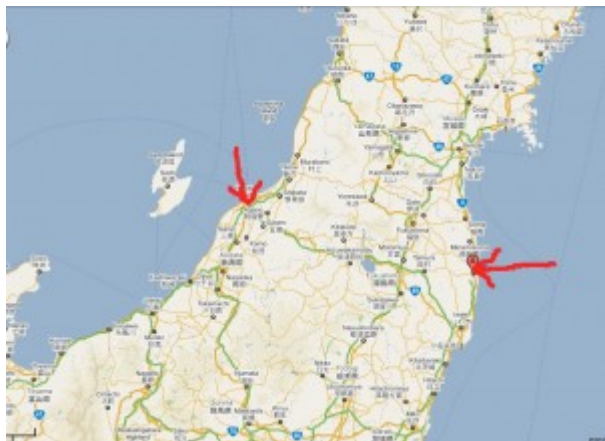


I've been calling all my friends, especially the ones that live close to the earthquake epicenter near Sendai, Japan. Nobody I know was hurt during the earthquake in the slightest. Everybody in Northern Japan experienced the shocks of the quake, but nobody was close enough to the coast to be affected by the tsunami.

My family in Niigata reports that they all went outside during the earthquake, but then went back inside when it was over because of the cold. Simon in Misawa in Aomori Prefecture says he was without power for 40 hours. Sam in western Tokyo was also without power, but he has a generator that generated enough power for lights. Paul in Nasu, northern Tochigi prefecture said that he and his family were not at home during the quake. They returned to find many broken dishes on the floor. I tried calling friends in Sendai which is close to the epicenter, but their phones were not working. However, I heard from others that they are all OK.

I lived in Sendai from 1975 – 1977. During that time I used to visit the towns of the Rikuzen area that were destroyed by the tsunami. There is not a single city in the area I haven't been to.

Shook up while in Tokyo by Massive Earthquake



The pointer on the left points to where I lived in Niigata City, and the pointer on the right is where the Fukushima nuclear reactors are that were damaged by the earthquake and tsunami.

March 11, 2011: At 2:46 PM local Japan time I was sitting in a MacDonald's in Sangenjaya, only two train stops from Shibuya, a major commercial center of Tokyo. An earthquake began shaking the building. There are earthquakes in Japan from time to time that are strong enough to be felt without doing any damage, but this one was the strongest I have experienced in my life doing damage right before my eyes! It got stronger and stronger to the point that the women in the MacDonald's started to scream and a few people ducked under the counters to protect themselves. A large picture window close to where I was sitting was shattered to pieces! Glass fell on the street and on the floor of the MacDonald's, and one piece even landed on the counter where I had my laptop PC. I grabbed the laptop and the rest of my stuff, and went outside and watched as the police brought brooms and swept the broken glass. A police box is just next to that MacDonald's.

At first I thought the earthquake was local because only the MacDonald's seemed to have damage, but I hear the main part was the Northeast of Japan, which meant the entire north half of Honshu felt the earthquake.

It was a good time to meet people and talk with them. It seems people are more willing to take time and stand and talk when something big happens that shakes them up!

Thirty minutes later there was an aftershock and more broken glass fell from the window. The police tried to keep the people away from the building, and the MacDonalds closed for business that day. It's funny but that was the only business that closed from what I could see. Everybody else continued business as normal.

A few hours later in the evening, I heard for the first time how massive the earthquake was, all of northern Japan and especially the Northeast area, an area I sometimes visit.

As I write this post, I can still feel aftershocks from time to time.

Explanation of Al Qaeda from a young man from Pakistan

"Al Qaeda" is a name given by the West to anyone in Pakistan they don't like. It's like a person in Japan "Yakuza" or somebody in America, "Mafia."

Meeting Joe and Maria in Chiba



On September 5th when visiting the city of Noda in Chiba prefecture, my old friends Joe and Maria came to visit. I was so glad to see them again, especially Maria, for she used to take care of my children when they were young. I haven't seen her in nearly 10 years.



Joe and Maria

100 Kilometer Cycling Adventure



Mt. Yahiko and Mt. Kakuda from a distance of 20 kilometers.

I enjoy taking long bicycle trips from time to time. I thought it would be a good day's challenge to circle two famous mountains of Niigata, Mt. Kakuda and Mt. Yahiko, and return home before nightfall. Mt. Kakuda and Mt. Yahiko are not famous for their height. Mt. Yahiko is only 600 some meters high. They are famous for being the only mountains smack dab on the coast of the Sea of Japan in the midst of the flat rice fields that Niigata is famous for. Click the photo to see an enlargement.

Niigata has some of the flattest areas in all of Japan. One reason it's so flat is that much of Niigata (Japanese meaning "new lagoon") was reclaimed from the ocean. All of the rice growing area between the Shinano and Agano rivers, meaning the area you see in the photo below, used to be underwater.

It took me a little over two hours to cycle 30 kilometers to Kakudahama which is the northern base of Mt. Kakuda. I didn't know the roads but followed what I thought was the closest route by line of sight. It turned out that I probably zigzagged back and forth on the roads between the rice fields a lot more than I needed to.

From Kakudahama I took the only road that runs along the coast of the Sea of Japan, a road over rolling hills and through several tunnels. The traffic was light and therefore a bit safer for a cyclist than on a normal highway. I needed to ride as far as the lowest point past Mt. Yahiko. I knew I reached it when I arrived at the mouth of Bunsui, a river that is a tributary of the Shinano river, the longest river in Japan. There is a road running parallel to it going in the direction I needed to go, and I knew it would be therefore flat.

I could add photos to this post. If you want to see them, please say so in a comment.

[New Home Member](#)



Princess with her toy

I took an overnight bus from Tokyo to Aomori City and met up with Judy who gave me her Shih Tsu dog, Princess. Judy and her family can no longer give 6 year old Princess the care she needs after moving to a new house where dogs are not allowed inside. I offered to take care of Princess. She now stays clean and warm and spends most of her time in my bedroom. ☐