Baptist B&B

For most of us, “B & B” means Bed and Breakfast. For Fellowship International missionaries serving in Japan, “B & B” stands for baseball and bicycles.

There can be few people who are unaware of the damage caused by the 9.0 earthquake and tsunami that devastated Japan this past March. It will take years and billions of dollars for the country to recover. As relief agencies and governments work to help the Japanese through these difficult times, smaller details that represent normalcy and comfort often get lost in the “big picture.”

In Japan the bicycle is a favoured mode of transportation and baseball is a passion. Who would have thought that bicycles and baseballs could be instruments of grace as well as signs of recovery?

Our missionaries did.

In the “big picture,” bikes and baseball don't seem important. They are if you are a kid. On the two month anniversary of the quake, Paul Sadler and the Tsukuba Grace Church put together a plan to collect baseball equipment and bicycles for students in Onagawa near Ishinomaki, a city run over by the tsunami. They connected with the local baseball teams and high schools, started an internet network and sent out scores of emails. One of the star baseball players in the region lent her presence and generated huge interest in the community. The result: 100 gloves, 54 bats, 300 balls, 39 pairs of shoes, 8 helmets, 20 caps, and 2 sets of catchers' gear.

Finding bicycles proved to be the bigger challenge but persistence paid off and 10 bicycles were found and refurbished. Within days the shipment was on its way, supplemented by $1,000 worth of paper that Rob Fleming had purchased to replace school supplies destroyed in the tidal wave.

B & B is having an impact. Baseball players, coaches and school board members, not to mention children and parents, have been exposed to, and impressed by, the love of Christ delivered on a bicycle, wrapped in a baseball glove or written on a package of paper and accompanied by a little booklet called ***Power for Living***. Plans are underway to conduct a baseball camp in the area this summer as follow-up.

Our missionaries and the believers of Japan are on the forefront of a movement toward faith fueled by the practical expressions of love seen in details like bicycles and baseballs.

We want to thank you for being a part of this movement through your support of our Fellowship International family in Japan and through your prayers and generous contributions to FAIR.

Photos (left): Paul Sadler and members of the Tsukuba church packed donated baseball supplies in preparation for the trip north. (right) Two recipients of baseball gear collected in the Tsukuba community.

FAIR—What has been done in Japan

As of June 7th, FAIR had received $201,714 for relief and rebuilding efforts following March's deadly earthquake and tsunami. This report provides a summary of how some of the funds have been spent and a plan for how future funds will be spent:

• **Church Association — $87,500; mid-term needs**
(A survey of the needs of affected churches has been done and financial policies have been developed to address needs. FAIR will work through the church association to meet the needs within the churches and also to assist those providing administrative support and oversight to relief efforts.)

• **Church planting — $50,000; long-term needs**
(The recovery will take years and some churches [Fukushima, Kesennuma] will not be able to re-build until the community re-development proceeds. Funds need to be in place to meet these long-term efforts as well as any new church plants in affected areas that are under consideration.)

• **CRASH — $25,000**
(CRASH [Christian Relief Assistance Support and Hope] responded quickly to the needs on the ground and Fellowship International personnel have joined them on a number of trips into the region impacted by the quake/tsunami. They have provided immediate needs (food and water) and continue to provide aid to churches/believers in the region.)

• **Damage to missionary homes/loss of property —less than $23,000**

• **Contingency — $16,000**
(To meet other needs that arise directly due to the earthquake/tsunami aftermath.)

• **Roof replacements — $10,000**
(To assist in the replacement of the roof of a poor neighbor, and a national worker serving alongside the Flemings.)

• **Church repair projects — $10,000**
(Churches in northern Ibaraki and southern Fukushima have repairs which must be completed in order to save the church building from being condemned. This fund will enable our team to respond to these requests.)

• **Ishinomaki Recovery — $10,000**
(To provide relief supplies to one of the worst-hit areas in the region.)

• **Baseball camp — $10,000**
(To run a baseball camp this summer in Ishinomaki with short-term teams for relief, BBQ lunches, and an evangelistic program for children and youth. Funds will assist with camp costs as well as needed supplies that the team will take into the area.)

• **Uchigo Church wall — $5,000**
(The team has learned of an evangelical church in Uchigo which the city will condemn if the wall/entrance to the building is not repaired.)

• **Water pump — $2,000**
(To replace the pump used to supply water to the Hitachi community for two weeks during water outage.)

• **Provision of a second-hand car — $1,000**
(To provide a used vehicle to the family of a national worker in Hitachi-naka who lost their home in the tsunami and are currently living in an evacuation centre.)

On behalf of our Japan missionary team, thank you to those who have partnered with FAIR in relief efforts. There is still need for an additional $50,000 to assist in meeting needs. **Can you help?** Donations can be mailed to the FAIR office or consider making a donation via our secure online link at: www.fellowship.ca

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