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Dear Friend,

For the past two weeks, I was privileged to share life in Japan with my dad. A volunteer opportunity up where the tsunami hit last year made our time together even more precious.

On the second morning in Ishinomaki, my dad commented that, "Restoration takes a LONG time." I hadn't seen the disaster so close up before, and we were both amazed by our trips taking wreckage to the dumps. We stayed in apartments where the first floor is still unlivable, and we helped clean out other apartments' frames to someday be rebuilt.

What seemed so remarkable about this trip was seeing peoples' practical and deeper needs met. My dad and I joined missionaries who have been involved in relief work since just days after the earthquake. Because they know the situation of the victims, we were able to play an extremely small role in joining to serve them well.

One elderly woman that we met shares a property with her ill sister. Flooding from the tsunami destroyed one of their homes, but thankfully they can share the other house. However, for over 18 months, they had been living with the garbage of the devastated home. Lining both sides of the driveway was wasting away doors, boxes, and various belongings. As we loaded the rubbish into a pickup truck, the woman repeatedly said in Japanese, "I didn't know what I was going to do, I didn't know what I was going to do."

I praise God that He brought her a way to live free from all of that debris. It was also our absolute joy to hug her and bring her a meal later that day. That represented the fact that we cared deeply about her and that she was not forgotten. Chad, one of the first members to bring supplies up following the disaster, also shared how the love that we have comes entirely from Christ.

Needless to say, seeing the desperation both physically and spiritually was a powerful experience to share alongside my dad. It was also extremely touching for him to meet so many of the people I am close with in Tokyo. My Japanese teachers, classmates, neighbors, and church friends all loved meeting him. The Japanese people are extremely gracious and of course showed him a warm welcome to Japan!

In Christ,

Christina

Please pray for Ishinomaki and other devastated areas for:

- ◆ Continued healing
- ◆ Praise for how God shows those victims that they are loved and not forgotten
- ◆ Protection for the missionaries and their families