



Japan Evangelical Lutheran Church (JELC)

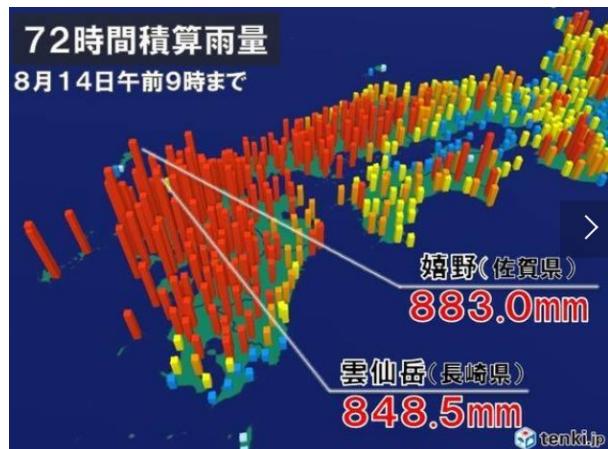
Conggregations in Kumamoto

Rev. Hitoshi and Satoko Adachi

ELCA Missionary and Associate

THANK YOU FROM KUMAMOTO

There were heavy rains in various parts of Japan in July and August. Especially in August, many areas were hit with record rainfall, some cities in Kyushu Island where Kumamoto Prefecture is located got three times more (in only 72 hours) than the average in August. However, the damage to Kumamoto was minimal. Hitoshi and Satoko as well as people near them are doing well. They are deeply grateful for your prayers and support.



MAKING RICE BALLS

Many voluntary organizations collaborate to deliver food for homeless people in Kumamoto. At the end of August, the Kuwamizu Church oversees this yearly event. It seems that they made rice balls for hundreds of people several years ago, but the number of homeless has decreased due to the improvement of facilities and services, so this year they made rice balls for 20 people. Before they began making



they read John 6:27 "Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures for eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you." and prayed that the grace of the Lord, (which endures for eternal life) would be delivered to the homeless people along with the rice balls.

CONTINUED KIDS' VISITS

The children, who began visiting when the school was closed by COVID19 in the spring of 2020, continued their visits almost every day during this summer as well. Satoko serves at the kindergarten until noon, so it was decided visits are after 14:00. There shouldn't be crowds due to the pandemic so, there's a rule that a maximum of 5 people at a time.

Richard, a Canadian, who comes to Sunday service at Kuwamizu Lutheran Church, was hospitalized for surgery earlier than expected, so even though the children did not know him, they made a thousand cranes, wrote a letter of encouragement and delivered them to the hospital reception area, since no visitors are allowed due to COVID19. Everyone wants to see Richard. Hitoshi and Satoko hope that will happen soon.



FOR ONE OF THE LEAST OF THOSE

Hitoshi's Reflection

The fifth wave of COVID-19 is rampant and medical personnel in Japan are worried that they will face a hellish situation. When you read this newsletter, Hitoshi is writing this draft while repenting to the Lord God and begging for the Lord's mercy so that surges will not happen in various parts of Japan.

Since the beginning of last year, as infection control protocols progress, there are concerns that the "economy" will be unsustainable, and measures have been taken in various countries around the world to avoid economic collapse. However, Hitoshi is wondering if the measures are ultimately for the very wealthy (i.e. capitalists) and not really for those who are in trouble during this prolonged pandemic. In fact, people hear that very wealthy capitalists are increasing their assets, which to average citizens are astronomical figures, much more than necessary to live a comfortable life.

The word "economy" in English is "oikonomia" in Greek, the New Testament language. This word came from two Greek words: "oikos," which is usually translated as "household"; and nemein, which is best translated as "management and dispensation." Which means that each household is maintained.



In Japanese, the word "economy" originally comes from four Chinese characters: 經世濟民 (kei-sei-sai-min) and the meaning of

these characters together is to manage (經) the world (世) and to save (濟) the people (民). With the further spread of infection, which some have said is the second phase of the pandemic. People are concerned about natural disasters due to heavy rains or typhoons this season, so who can manage the world and save the suffering people?

Jesus, the Savior, says, "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me." All the people in this world are children created by the same heavenly God and the same family members. As followers of Christ, Jesus is guiding us to support each of the least of these near us. People should Avoid These Three Cs (Closed spaces, Crowded places, and Close-contact settings), feed someone if they're hungry, give someone a drink if they're thirsty, provide a place to stay if someone doesn't have a home, clothe someone if they're naked, comfort someone if they're sick, visit if someone is in prison, contact via electronic means if you can't visit in person. These little things for the least of those can help boost the economy. Service industry personnel and health care workers are needed more than ever.



ELCA Global Mission Support & Contact Information

You can give through your synod office or mail your check to Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Gift Processing Center, P.O. Box 1809, Merrifield, VA 22116-8009. Make checks payable to "ELCA Missionaries" with "(Hitoshi and Satoko) Adachi GCS2051" in the memo line.

By credit or debit card, see <https://community.elca.org/Japan> or call 800-638-3522 and specify "(Hitoshi and Satoko) Adachi GCS2051". By automatic monthly bank withdrawal, or to establish a covenant of prayer, communication and support: Contact 800-638-3522, ext. 2657, or globalchurch@elca.org.