

Letter from Ishinomaki

Natural Disaster; Once in a Thousand Years ---Being in its Midst---

Yoshimi Takahashi
Member,
NGO Kahoku Tomonokai



A natural disaster of that scale is said to happen only once in a thousand years. Thrown in the midst of its tremendous power, we were helpless.

So sad and painful --- often I found myself weeping before I knew it. I am thankful to you, the members of the Lutheran Church, who have given a helping hand both materially and spiritually to those of us, local volunteers as well as to the survivors who live a depressed life in temporary housing.

Thanks to you, after one and half year since the 'Hanging Doll project' started, we were able to have an exhibition. Looking back at the time when the project started, some people shut each other out and rarely talked. Little by little, however, they opened up their minds as they stitched. When making good products became

their goal, their heart changed. That the exhibition was a success (it was received so favorably) was a happy surprise to all, and it appeared to help them recover self-confidence. Lutheran people continue to be concerned about us, come to see us countless times, and help take orders for the products the survivors' make in the shelter. We are so grateful to you.

As to the recovery, what we see outside is improving gradually, but the damages to lives and hearts are immeasurable. I have to admit, painfully, that the event leaves a scar that never heals. Someone told me that it was time to support one another locally. The advice is correct, but it is very difficult.

Close to the highway exit, about three km away from my house, construction is going on to build 400 houses by 2016 at the earliest. Everyone is looking forward to its completion. On the other hand, more and more I hear media reports that after the Hanshin-Awaji earthquake, seniors who left old neighborhoods have faced loneliness. I have come to dream of having a place for the survivors to get together and relax. Everybody ages. A place to meet people, to share happiness of life together, and to open up --- this is my dream that I move forward with.

I would be greatly encouraged if you, Lutheran people, continue to walk with us in the days and years to come. Thank you for your friendship.

JELCW General Account Report: FY 2014 Settlement & FY 2015 Budget

| | item | subitem | 2014 Budget | 2014 Result | % | 2015 Budget |
|---------------|---------------------|-------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------|------------------|
| INCOME | Fees | Membership fee | 3,550,000 | 3,307,200 | 93% | 3,300,000 |
| | | NL subscription | 220,000 | 273,900 | 125% | 280,000 |
| | Donation | to JELCW | 400,000 | 385,480 | 96% | 400,000 |
| | Mscln. Income | Mscln. Income | 0 | 0 | | 0 |
| | | Money transferred | 0 | 0 | | 0 |
| | Program | Thanksgiving | 700,000 | 532,154 | 76% | 700,000 |
| | Support | Sabah Scholarship | 650,000 | 615,950 | 95% | 650,000 |
| | Donation | Least Coin | 400,000 | 264,663 | 66% | 400,000 |
| | | ACWC Signature Campaign | 60,000 | 80,240 | 134% | 60,000 |
| | | Income Subtotal | 5,980,000 | 5,459,587 | 91% | 5,790,000 |
| | | Balance brought forward | 1,268,354 | 1,268,354 | 100% | 1,512,216 |
| | Total Income | | 7,248,354 | 6,727,941 | 93% | 7,302,216 |

| | | | | | | |
|--------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------|------------------|
| EXPENDITURE | Activity Fee | Publication | 640,000 | 546,173 | 85% | 550,000 |
| | | Board Meeting | 650,000 | 648,378 | 100% | 650,000 |
| | | Travel | 150,000 | 43,332 | 29% | 150,000 |
| | | Communication | 210,000 | 192,962 | 92% | 200,000 |
| | | Office Supplies | 70,000 | 38,856 | 56% | 50,000 |
| | | Mission | 200,000 | 135,744 | 68% | 150,000 |
| | | Association | 80,000 | 50,645 | 63% | 80,000 |
| | | Gift Expenses | 50,000 | 18,042 | 36% | 50,000 |
| | Office | Personnel | 1,000,000 | 778,186 | 78% | 1,000,000 |
| | Admin. Fee | Utility | 18,000 | 18,000 | 100% | 18,000 |
| | | Communal Upkeep | 152,400 | 152,400 | 100% | 152,400 |
| | Transfer to Fund | General Assembly | 900,000 | 900,000 | 100% | 900,000 |
| | | Seminar | 200,000 | 200,000 | 100% | 200,000 |
| | Program Support | Thanksgiving Donation | 700,000 | 532,154 | 76% | 700,000 |
| | | Sabah Scholarship | 650,000 | 615,950 | 95% | 650,000 |
| | | Least Coin | 400,000 | 264,663 | 66% | 400,000 |
| | | ACWC Signature Campaign | 60,000 | 80,240 | 134% | 60,000 |
| | | Expenditure Subtotal | 6,130,400 | 5,215,725 | 85% | 5,960,400 |
| | | Reserve | 1,117,954 | | | 1,341,816 |
| | | Amount carried forward | | 1,512,216 | | |
| | Total Expenditure | | 7,248,354 | 6,727,941 | 93% | 7,302,216 |

FY2014 Settlement of Account was audited on Jan. 22, 2015.
 FY 2015 Budget was approved by the Board the following day.

Setsuko Ishida Trasurer