

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