

Fukushima: The Interfaith Response

Rev. Dr. Naoya Kawakami
13th March
Kobe Union Church
1:00 pm, KUC sanctuary



Café de Monk, temporary house complex

Making my kids wear a glass badge*, a useless almighty protector,
I send them onto a battle field.
I see decontamination trucks in town
There are unknown men in the local convenience store.
I smell dusty soil from them.
Plastic storage bags are piling up here and there,
and I recall there is a school meal center just near by.

**Note by translator: A glass badge is a simple personal dosimeter that measures air dose radiation. Children living in the radiation affected areas are strongly encouraged to carry them at all times when they go out and while attending school.*



Beside the mountains of bags storing radioactive soil,
German journalists are walking in protective suits.
Beside them, I see my children walking toward me with
school backpacks on their back.
From my anguish, I become completely speechless.....

Rev. Dr. Kawakami has been providing spiritual care to people affected by the disaster including the authors of these poems. Come hear him explain about the current situation in Fukushima and the ministry of interfaith activities in Tohoku.



Rev. Dr. Naoya Kawakami is an associate pastor at Sendai Kita-Sanbancho Church of the United Church of Christ in Japan. He is the general secretary of Tohoku HELP (Sendai Christian Alliance Disaster Relief Network). In addition, he works as the Interfaith chaplain of Miyagi Prison. He is a member of the board of the advisory committee of the class in counseling to people of various faiths at Tohoku University. He is a Part-time Lecturer of Tohoku Gakuin University and Sendai Shirayuri University (Christian Studies.) Dr. Kawakami is on the Board of the Inter-

faith Liaison Council of Miyagi. He has written numerous books and articles including the book; *Stand at the Exposed Fukushima: From the World*. See also: http://www.tohokuhelp.com/index_en.html

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