

## “From the Era of Crisis to the Era of Regeneration. No.2 – Abandoned Masue –“

March 31, 2019  
Kobe International Christ Church  
Pastor Yoshio Iwamura

Theme Scripture: Isaiah 58:12

*“Your people will rebuild the ancient ruins and will raise up the age-old foundations; you will be called Repairer of Broken Walls, Restorer of Streets with Dwellings.”*

(The subject scripture is this year’s scripture of the Church and is used the fifth times in a row. All scriptures from New International Version)

### <Introduction>

Every time a natural disaster occurs, we visit the site immediately. We cannot do anything special, but we have been engaging in food distribution according to a request from the local government. We directly went to shelters while following the directions from the local government, before volunteer center or Social Welfare Council set up.

We received a request from the local government on April 15, 2016, to provide total of 2,000 meals to Aijien (Orphanage) at Masiki-cho in Kumamoto Prefecture. 10 people engaged in serving home-cooked meals from breakfast on the April 16.<sup>1</sup> The following year, due to the heavy rain that occurred over Kitakyushu area on July 5, 2017, we gathered more than 7 people as a team to provide 2,000 meals from July 7 to 9 and July 16 to 19 at the Masuki Junior High School Gymnasium in Haki-Masue, Asakura City Fukuoka Prefecture where experienced the most severe damage.<sup>2</sup> The connection with the isolated victims of 270 houses at Masue has begun. After the disaster, we served as the first-come group to do food distribution in any places. We visited Daini Fukuda Elementary School from August 8 to 13 and 24 to 25 in 2018, immediately after the disaster at Mabi-cho Kurashiki City Okayama Prefecture. Our work is just a small thing.<sup>3</sup>

Kobe International Sustaining Organization has been establishing the relationship with the victims through listening volunteer and hands-on approach as a cockroach for re-establishment, restoration and reintegration of the damaged sites.

Due to the disasters that occurred in 2018, such as the Osaka earthquake, Heavy Rain of July in Kyushu, Hokkaido Eastern Ibari Earthquake<sup>4</sup>, Typhoon Jebi and Sulawesi earthquake and tsunami at Palu Indonesia<sup>5</sup>, and also disasters in 2015, Severe Tropical Cyclone Pam at Vanuatu<sup>6</sup>, Nepal

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<sup>1</sup> 2016. *Asahi Shimbun*. April 20. (And other newspapers)

<sup>2</sup> 2017. *Yomiuri Shimbun*. July 8. (And other newspapers)

<sup>3</sup> 2018. *Christian Today*. July 9.

<sup>4</sup> 2018. *Christian Today*. September 7. 2019. *The Christ Weekly*. October 1.

<sup>5</sup> 2018. *Chugai Nippoh*. November 21. (And other newspapers)

<sup>6</sup> 2015. *Kobe Shimbun*. March 19. (And other newspapers)  
2015. *Vanuatu Daily Post*. April 29.

Earthquake<sup>7</sup>, and Flood Disaster in Vietnam<sup>8</sup> and Syrian Refugees<sup>9</sup>, zillions of people became victims of natural disasters. My friend Head Chief Mr. Masaru Kawabata, who had supported my work continuously, became tending to stay on bed because the cleaning-up his apartment due to the shaking from the Osaka earthquake in 2018, cut him down to his bone. In December 2018, there was a great trial request of treatment for a boy named Takifu from Vanuatu.<sup>10</sup>

For re-establishment, restoration and reintegration, the year of 2019 become a year that makes me think about how to face the people who cry out because of frequent occurrence of disasters. What should we respond if there is even one victim who has been treated to “die” as same as other disaster affected places by Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism, prefectural government, city administration and society?

## **(1) Cry of people who do not have**

### **a. The Crying – Salvation**

Kogori area at Otoishi, Haki-Masue Asakura City Fukuoka Prefecture became an area where residence is restricted two years ago.

My friendship with the victims who I met at Masue while I was doing the food distribution at Haki Junior High School at Asakura City right after the heavy rain on July 7, 2017, has been continuing. Nowadays, we are welcomed as a family from Chairman of Masue local community council Mr. Mutsuto Ito, Secretary General Mr. Shigeo Higuma, Mr. & Mrs. Toshie and Mr. Minoru Higuchi (78 years old) who is leading us as our storyteller. We have been receiving advice from lawyer Mr. Susumu Tsukui (Chairman of the Headquarters for Emergency Disaster Control of the Japan Federation of Bar Associations) about legal matters such as disaster relief money.<sup>11</sup> It will be 2 years in July 2019 this year. However, 83 people at temporary housing and 230 people at private rental housing-turned-temporary housing units are forced to leave their living place. I heard from Mr. Higuchi that there is no exception for extension.<sup>12</sup>

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<sup>7</sup> 2019. *Mainichi Shimbun*. May 12. (And other newspapers)  
2015. *Nepal*. September 4.

<sup>8</sup> 2016. *Quang Binh*. November 16. (And other newspapers and broadcastings)

<sup>9</sup> 2018. *Sankei Shimbun*. February 23. (And other newspapers)

<sup>10</sup> 2018. *Japan Broadcasting Corporation*. December 12. 6:30pm. (And other newspapers)

<sup>11</sup> 2012. Tsukui, S. *Daisaigai to Hou*. Iwanami Shoten. 45, 57-91.

“It is determined that food expenses should be within 1,010 yen per a day for a person. Shelter setting costs within 300 yen per a day for a person. The period of shelter opening should be within 7 days. Rescuing victims should be done within 3 days. The cost of temporary housing per a house is up to 2,387,000yen.”

<sup>12</sup> 2019. Iwamura, Y. *The 7<sup>th</sup> Masue Report*. February 17~24.



Dinner distribution at Haki Junior High School  
Gymnasium

“The Nishinippon Shimbun” (February 18, 2019)

**b. The Voice of the private rental housing-turned-temporary housing units.**

Mr. Shigemi Kojima (71 years old) from Shiragidani lived in a two-story house at Shirakidani Haki.<sup>13</sup> There were about 30 houses at Shirakidani area, and only 2 or 3 houses left. He used to be a plasterer. Although he had recovered from pharyngeal cancer in July 2018, he was encountered a sudden landslide. He was on the second floor, but his wife Hatsuko was taking care of their pet at the first floor. They kept an abandoned dog at their home. Then, while there was no warning and no time to get mind ready, she washed away by turbid flow for 1 km far away. Currently, they live in the private rental housing-turned-temporary housing units.



“The Lord said, ‘I have indeed seen the misery of my people in Egypt. I have heard them crying out because of their slave drivers, and I am concerned about their suffering. So I have come down to rescue them from the hand of the Egyptians.’”(Exodus 3:7-8) The faith that the people of Israel possessed was to raise the “crying voice צַעֲקָה *tsaqah*”, as it is written as “crying out”, “heard” and “rescue”. In such a way, they experienced that God is alive (Exodus 2:23-25, 3:7-8). God respected the people from the bottom, pain and groan through “salvation נָצַל *natsal*”. On the other hand, wealthy people, people who are benefiting from the current order, and people who are satisfied with the current state are not related to “the crying – salvation”. They are indifferent to the crying voice. They even don’t want God’s intervention. They feel relieved from what they know from their home, school and society, and also the right of own and a secure old age. Those who enjoy their good life do not consider God’s intervention, *natsal* and liberation as a boon thing. Therefore, they become arrogant and they even do not try to move one finger to do action for “people who do not have” (Exodus 6:5-6; Judges 2:18b, 10:12b, 14; 1 Samuel 7:8-9; Zechariah 7:12). It is a human history that has repeated “the love of most will grow cold (Matthew 24:12)”,

<sup>13</sup> 2017. Iwamura, Y. *The 2nd Masue Report*. July 16~19.

“without love (στοργή *storge* + negative prefix [lack of natural love, no love, heartless]) (2 Timothy 3:3)”, and “no understanding, no fidelity, no love, no mercy (Romans 1:31)”.

Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism notified a unilateral eviction to the victims of Otoishi area and Kogochi area on February 17, 2019 for the purpose of the sand control dam construction. It was the day when we visited Masue as the 7th volunteer (February 17 to 20, 2019). It will cost even if you move somewhere from temporary housing. It is a merciless policy that only asks for self-responsibility. Should the government at least buy the land where people lived for, shouldn't them? Why is the national mass media keeping silent? I cannot control my anger toward my country's acts of violence.

**c. Isolated villages where received eviction orders.** ⇒ <https://youtu.be/OEQmlL6cpjE>

Mr. Yasutsugu Kajiwara (born in August 30, 1939 [Showa 14]), who lived near the upper area of Otoishi area, passed away on February 7. According to his wife Misumi (born in April 18, 1939), Mr. Kajiwara died at the hospital by the strain of grief for the tragedy that caused from the eviction order for the sand control dam construction. Unwellness condition because of not being allowed to live in a home that has lived for many years is clearly disaster related death. Since 3.11 in 2011, nearly 3,700 in Tohoku disaster affected area lost their lives according to unwellness condition through living at evacuation shelter. If include the disaster related death, the response of the country and the disaster affected area's local government is slow, so the life that could be saved leave for die.

After the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake in 1995, a maximum of 5 million yen will be provided if it is recognized as a disaster related death. I don't think that Asakura City Hall aware about this fact. Ms. Misumi has also served as a social welfare worker throughout Masue, so she is trusted in her local community. He told me about his mortification that he had to leave his house due to the Sand control dam construction, even though there was no damage from the debris flow last year. Safety mythical mind control of the sand control dam is done from the governmental office. They don't do any single explanation about that if covers the bottom of the river by concrete, the amount of water which is discharged from rain, heavy concentrated rain and flood-control dam, will be not penetrated into the ground, and it will create the human-made flash flood. The public office just believes the safety myth of concrete.

The tragedy of Masue is not only about the sand control dam and the new hazard map. Moreover, victims are feeling lost because they don't know where to go after being expelled from temporary housing in July this year. Although 3 million yen was provided to the victims under “the Disaster Relief Act”, their money has been gone for the living cost in about two years, and their future life planning has stopped. Unlike Watanoha Ishinomaki City Miyagi Prefecture, Mashiki-cho Mashiki-gun Kumamoto Prefecture and Mabi-cho Kurashiki City Okayama Prefecture, residence at disaster affected site Masue is prohibited. Even the partially destroyed houses or intact houses, people are not allowed to live and a permission to restart agriculture and forestry is also not issued. It is said

that “safety” has not secured yet. It is because that there is an order to obey the new hazard map (Emergency evacuation map. It predict the damage cause by natural disasters and map the estimated damage area), which is created on the desk.

If there are any concerns about safety, all areas of the Japanese archipelago must be careful about base ground, risk of flooding of rivers, and land sliding due to heavy concentrated rain. In other words, it is a principle of “*Kan-son-min-pi* (官尊民卑. Authority / respect / citizen / denigrate. Respecting the authorities and denigrating ordinary citizens)” that force people a standard of “Safety Empire” rather than victim’s lives, livings, and a purpose of life.



Ms. Midori Kajiwara who is angry about the merciless eviction order from the temporary house at Hayashida area. February 18, 2019.

At Masue, I met with Ms. Midori Kajiwara (Born in March 17, 1939 [Showa 13]) who lives in Otoishi area, and I heard from her while I was doing the listening volunteer on February 18, 2019. Her house was drained completely by flood of the Otoishi River at 2pm on July 5, 2018, and she spent overnight at the river side with only covering her head by tinfoil board. Currently, she lives in a temporary house in Hayashida area. She was really angry about the notice of eviction order from Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism and Asakura City Hall since there is no promise to purchase of a land. On February 18, 2019, I confirmed the same merciless assault from other victims and posted on my Facebook on that night, but the most unresponsive people for my post were religious people who believe that they were saved.

## (2) Natural Disaster

### a. Lost of old village

At the mountain area of Masue, it was one of the heaviest concentrated rains in the history of weather observation for 9 hours. In side of the Masue Elementary School gymnasium was filled with mud and large stones that flowed from the upper stream of the Otoishi River came into the classrooms.<sup>14</sup>



Masue Elementary School. August 21, 2017.

Did the disaster that was indicated in the hazard map, could not be prevented? People might be

<sup>14</sup> 2017. Iwamura, Y. *The 3<sup>rd</sup> Masue Report*. August 20~23.

giving up and saying, “We could not do anything since it was the heavy amount of rain in the history”. What should we think about the cause of abnormal weather and global warning? It is recorded in the Bible that the cause of disaster may come from God. God is described as the one who brings “disaster (in Hebrew רָעָה *ra*)”, “The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of people, who suppress the truth by their wickedness. (Romans 1:18)”, “I form the light and create darkness, I bring prosperity and create disaster; I, the Lord, do all these things. (Isaiah 45:7)”

At the time of the Great Kantō earthquake (1923 [Taisho 12]), as “*Tenkenron* (天譴論. Divine punishment theory)” was appeared, there were remarks that God has given a punishment. In the diary of Kanzo Uchimura, who is one of the representative Christians in Japan, says in his diary that “I was astounded. I made to be heard a lot of horrible stories. The honor of Tokyo, the important center capital of Japan, was taken away in a day. I feel like an angel rise up its sword and give a trial over the whole city”.<sup>15</sup> Another Christian, Gunpei Yamamuro [1872-1940] also says, “This time earthquake disaster was an opportunity to give great remorse to my people who had been drowning in materialistic desires.

It was enough to give excessive aspiration and repentance by deal a great hard blow toward people, who stays at the bottom of the corruption.”<sup>16</sup>

Also Immediately after 3.11, the famous pastor in Korea was also interpreted the disaster as it was a heaven’s punishment for Japanese.<sup>17</sup>

#### **b. Is *Ingaouho* (因果応報. What comes around goes around) the teachings of the Bible?**

Rather than thinking “cause” and “result” as a reflection of karmic thinking way of *Ingaouho*, the viewpoint of how did your “act” relates to God’s will is the biblical thoughts.

For example, from Proverbs chapter 12 verses 14, I will stand and interpret on the side of human actions and God.

It is written as “From the fruit of their lips people are filled with good things, and the work of their hands brings them reward.” “Brings” is שָׁוַב *shuwb* in Hebrew. *shuwb* is translated as “giving reward (The Bible, The New Interconfessional Translation in Japanese)” and “reward (New Japanese Bible)”. “Interconfessional Bible translation of Japan Bible Society” translates as “back” and “the orally translated Bible” translates as “return”. In other words, the actions of the human side can be assured, compensated, developed and completed by God. Furthermore, in the Bible, Jesus Christ taught not to think about natural disasters by a retribution thought of *Ingaouho*.<sup>18</sup>

“Jesus answered, ‘Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans because they suffered this way? I tell you, no! But unless you repent, you too will all

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<sup>15</sup> 2011. Iwamura, Y. *Why do we think about the death?* (“Think about the ‘death’ together” lecture. Kobe Shimbun Kaikan. April 12.

<sup>16</sup> *ibid.*

<sup>17</sup> 2011. *The Christ Weekly*. April 12.

<sup>18</sup> 2011. Iwamura, Y. *Why do we think about the death?* (“Think about the ‘death’ together” lecture. Kobe Shimbun Kaikan. April 12.

perish. Or those eighteen who died when the tower in Siloam fell on them—do you think they were more guilty than all the others living in Jerusalem? I tell you, no! But unless you repent, you too will all perish.” (Luke 13: 2-5)

Jesus Christ asks us about the Galilean of Israel either “worse sinners” or “more guilty”. And he said “No!” and is denying the idea of Ingaouho.

“Repent” means in Greek language is to change direction and change your mind. It is same as Hebrew word *shuwb*. I think we need to change our view point the way to acknowledge something rather thinking about this time disaster as the heaven’s punishment.<sup>19</sup>

### c. Ecosystem of the Hometown

We humans have destroyed the nature by our selfish way of life. It is just like a prodigal child who forgot own hometown. On the other hand, there are rice terraces which is the original scenery of



Japan that people has been built for over 100 years in the upper stream of the Otoishi River at Masue. Even from the last year’s debris flow, stone wall of rice terraces still remains.

Japanese original scenery, rice terraces.

Toho village, Oita Prefecture. Photo of July 21, 2018.

As “I will set out and go back to my father”<sup>20</sup>, for the son who admires the nature of the hometown, the place to return is the forest. It is written in Genesis of the Bible that there were “the tree of life” and “the tree of the knowledge of good and evil” at the forest of the Garden of Eden.<sup>21</sup> Humans have repeatedly wondered whether

to protect forests or build roads, tunnels and dams. Farmers in all around Japan are having trouble with deer. “The tree of life” can be established by taking care of the seedlings of the forest and caring the natural “ecosystem”. On the other hand, “the tree of the knowledge of good and evil”

<sup>19</sup> 2009. Iwamura, Y. *Kirisuto-kyo to Shikei*. Kobe City University of Foreign Studies. May 24.

Mistranslation of “*metanoia*” in the New Testament and “*shuwb*” in the Old Testament pervasive not only to the publications from the Japan Bible Society, but also to “New Japanese Bible”. The verb “repentance / μετανοέω (*metanoew*, μετα ‘change’ + νοώ ‘think’ = ‘change the view point’, ‘logic of negation’ (Mark 1:15)” appears 33 times in the New Testament. The noun xxx appears 22 times, and also xxx appears 22 times. It means changing 180 degrees from the fixed concept of customs, traditions and common sense rather than “repenting of sin”. The Hebrew word “*shuwb*” is also used 1075 times in same way.

<sup>20</sup> 2013. Iwamura, Y. *Resurrection of Rice Field, Mountain, and Bay*. Japan Association of Religion and Ethics. Asuka Institute of Kansai University Ueda Memorial Hall. 3. Luke 15:18. 1985. *The New Testament. Translated by Naoyuki Yagyu*. Shinkyō Publishing.

<sup>21</sup> Genesis 2:9. *The Bible, The New Interconfessional Translation*.

take importance on human “life” that dominates the nature. It means that in order to maintain human “life”, we kill animals and plants in the natural world without hesitation. We give priority to human health care, lifespan and daily life; therefore we do not feel any guilty nor symphonize to take life away from smaller animals by doing animal experiments, to make fur and to have habit of hunting. For example, even in Hyogo Prefecture, where there are plenty forests, the discussion on how to decrease the number of deer comes up very often. The animals come down from the mountain to seek for their food. Then, from the view point of “the tree of the knowledge of good and evil”, we exterminate the “life” of animals as problem animals. Human is the king. However, is it fine to set us the top of primates because of a thought that we are far better than other animals?

“Surely the fate of human beings is like that of the animals; the same fate awaits them both: As one dies, so dies the other. All have the same breath (In Hebrew רִיחַ *ruwach* ‘spirit’); humans have no advantage over animals. Everything is meaningless.” (Ecclesiastes 3:19)

Unlike the values of the Bible, Western ideas have been conquered, controlled and destroyed the nature. We must not think in dualism about whether we should think first, the natural “ecosystem” or human “life”. “Resurrection of Rice Field, Mountain, and Bay” think about both and it will open the path that everyone agrees. Human beings can reconcile with the nature for the first time only by having relationship, connection and empathy with other living things. Therefore, *the Volunteer-Dō* (The Principle Way of volunteer) has a mission of reconciliation to connect human and the nature.

### (3) Natural Disaster or Human Disaster

#### a. Limitation of Human Technology: A perspective from the Western Japan Heavy Rain Relief Volunteer.



Japan Broadcasting Corporation

(July 19, 2018).

Nine people died at the Hiji River in Ehime

Due to the heavy rain over northern Kyushu through July 11 to 14, 2012, produced 816.5 mm (in 72 hours) amount of rainfall, and 30 people lost their lives and 27 people were injured at Aso City Kumamoto Prefecture. Asakura City was a region where both local governments and residents' association had a strong awareness of disaster prevention. They were paying attention about disasters on a daily basis and prepared their hazard map of expected the Chikugo River flood

damage areas. However, the case of July 5, they were not attacked from the river, but by debris flow with many drifted woods from a distant mountain. The hazard map was not perfect either. While they were worrying about the increasing water amount of river in front, a turbid blow came to them from the mountain behind suddenly.

On July 6, 2018, the embankment of Oda River, which flows into the Takahashi River, was broke at Mabi-cho area in Kurashiki City Okayama Prefecture. The amount of water more than 6 meters in height attacked the Mabi area. 51 people became victims in Mabi area alone. Over 80% were found dead on the first floor of their house. As of August 12, 850 people were living in evacuation shelters. What was the cause of the destruction of the Oda River that attacked up to the second floor heights of the house?

According to the local newspaper “the Sanyo Shimbun”, it was reported that it is suspected that an increasing water quantity in the Takahashi River due to drain from the Nariwagawa River Dam gave an influence to its tributary the Oda River was the cause of the tragedy. In other words, it became obvious that the discharging to prevent broke of the flood-control dam when it increased the amount of quantity because of the heavy rain brought up the flooding at the downstream area.<sup>22</sup> We also visited the Nariwagawa River Dam along the Takahashi River on August 8 and 13, 2018.<sup>23</sup> On the way, there was a painful situation due to the over flooding of the Takahashi River at Bitchū-Hirose area, and it was worse than Minagi area where we visited one week before. Mr. Shinsaku Tamura pointed out that two telephone poles were bended and one of them was twisted at the 2 meter high point. Together we said with tilt our heads in confusion, “How were they bended at such an upper place?” We were surprised at the power and height of the water pressure on the night of July 6, 2018. (The 5<sup>th</sup> Western Japan Heavy Rain Relief Volunteer Report) <sup>24</sup>

Does it fine not to look back the dam overemphasis flood control administration that there was no problem? Unfortunately, the media, the government the local government have not examined the relationship that two dams, the Shin-Nariwagawa Dam and the Koumoto Dam, at upstream of the Takahashi River led the Oda River destruction. Even the Koumoto Dam was a flood control dam with a flood control function, but on the day at 23 o'clock, it was switched to emergency flood disaster prevention operation (discharge all inflow water). According to the responsible official of disaster prevention in Takahashi City, “Actually, I went to the Koumoto Dam and to say ‘Please stop, please stop discharge the water anymore, it will over flood the river’. But people at the Koumoto Dam told me, ‘If we don’t discharge the water, the dam will be destroyed. It is impossible to stop because it will cause more serious damage if we don’t.’”<sup>25</sup> Emergency discharging is considered as the last measurement of overflow prevention that causes dam destruction.

However, a river engineering scholar, an honorable Professor, Mr. Hirotake Imamoto (78 years

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<sup>22</sup> 2018. *The Sanyo Shimbun*. August 10.

<sup>23</sup> *The 4<sup>th</sup> Western Japan Heavy Rain Relief Volunteer Report*. August 7 ~ 8, 2018.  
<http://kisokobe.sub.jp/article/12172/>

<sup>24</sup> *The 5<sup>th</sup> Western Japan Heavy Rain Relief Volunteer Report*. August 12 ~ 13, 2018.

<sup>25</sup> 2018. *Prime Sunday*. July 16. 13:50.

old) from Kyoto University is pointing out a doubt that “Inherently, the country has not been able to verify how dangerous the overflow from the dam is properly. “He also said about emergency discharging that “It has higher possibility that overflow from the dam would likely to be slower than discharging”. Therefore, Professor Imamoto give a frost look to the country’s statement since there is no case of breaking the dam when the water overflow from the levee crown (highest part of the dam) of the dam, because the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism, the side that builds dams, insists that “If the water overflow from the dam, the dam will be destroyed, so discharging is necessary”.<sup>26</sup>

On the other hand, some scholars day that if there is no dam, it will cause a greater damage. Professor Eiichi Nakakita (Disaster Prevention Research Institute Kyoto University) says that “If there is no dam, much more water will flow to downstream and there is no doubt that it would cause the greater damage.”<sup>27</sup> However, it is an unfounded Professor Nakakita’s opinion that is based on speculation. Because it is lacking a perspective that if there is no dam, there would be the time for evacuation. It is the same principle of sour grapes that some people still say that it would become more serious without the tide embankment, even after people of Tarō-chō, Iwate Prefecture, became victims for flooding by the 3.11 earthquake since they had full of trust on a tide embankment.<sup>28</sup>

“From the least to the greatest, all are greedy for gain; prophets and priests alike, all practice deceit. They dress the wound of my people as though it were not serious. ‘Peace, peace,’ they say, when there is no peace.”(Jeremiah 6:13-14) There will be no peace in people as long as the happiness of the triangle of industry (business operator), government (prefecture, prefectural police, and prefectural education commission) and academic (scholars, medical personnel) is intoxicated with idolatrous self-amplification.

Did only the flood damage of Yata, Mabi-chō Kurashiki City Okayama Prefecture expose the fragility of flood control administration that put the first priority on the dam?

## **b. Dam damages in other disaster affected areas**

Due to the heavy concentrated rain in June 1999, landslides occurred in new residential area in Hiroshima City. 32 people died or were missing. In August 2014, debris flow attacked residential areas in both Asaminami-ku and Asakita-ku area where are the northern part of the city and 77 people lost their lives including disaster-related death. Take occasion to this 2014 debris damage,

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<sup>26</sup> 2018. *The Kobe Shimbun*, August 18.

<sup>27</sup> 2018. *The Asahi Shimbun*. July 11.

<sup>28</sup> 2015. Iwamura, Y. Quoted from the series of *Resurrection of Rice Field, Mountain, and Bay* (8). Seasonal magazine *Shien*. No. 10. February 21. 4.

In 1933, 500 houses out of 559 in Taro Miyako City Iwate Prefecture were drawn away by the Showa Sanriku Tsunami. Humans have been fighting to decrease damages. The tide embankment s and breakwaters are like the last line of defense. In 1966, the world’s largest tide embankment was built in Taro. It is made of thick concrete with 10m high and 2600 m length. It is very tall so you need to look up to see it. It was said that the modern “Great Wall”, so people came to see it even from other countries. Residents were relieved and kept building houses more and more. The town became to be known as the “Disaster-preventing town” both domestically and internationally. However, the Tohoku earthquake and Tsunami destroyed this tide embankment from the bedding just like other tide embankments of the Sanriku coast. Taro was swallowed by the Tsunami, and 179 people were dead and 6 are missing.

the country and prefectures proceeded to establish “sediment control dam” and it has completed the emergency projects at 57 locations. However, the safety myth of dam broke down.

Due to the dam was built in Saka-chō located in Aki District Hiroshima Prefecture, where was also affected as same as Mabi-chō, people lost their lives. “Mainichi Shimbun” reported as, “About 1,800 people were living in the lower area of the dam at the Koyaura area. It was covered by debris completely. In the same area, 8 people died as of the 12<sup>th</sup>, and some people are still unsure of their safety.”<sup>29</sup> All the sediment control dams, which were under processing to construct as an emergency project in the area affected by the landslide disasters 3 years ago in Hiroshima City, has completed, and Mr. Takahide Maruyama, Director of Chugoku Regional Development Bureau of Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism reported to Mayor Mr. Matsui of Hiroshima City on 17<sup>th</sup>. In response to the landslide disasters in 3 years ago, Chugoku Regional Development Bureau of Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism preceded a construction of sediment control dams to prevent the secondary damage at 25 locations in both Asaminami-ku and Asakita-ku area. On this month 14<sup>th</sup>, the last sediment control dam construction has completed at Midorii 8 street in Asaminami-ku. On the 17<sup>th</sup>, Mr. Takahide Maruyama, Director of Chugoku Regional Development Bureau of Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism, visited Hiroshima City Hall and reported the accomplishment of all sediment control dams to Mayor Mr. Matsui.<sup>30</sup>

In Hiroshima City, before this, evacuation information has been issued earlier than usual for areas where the sediment control dam has not been completed. Landslides, collapse and flood damage should be anticipate of occurrence in other cities. It is dangerous to be bloated with pride for the Rokkō mountains, where even have incomparable developed sediment control dams in Japan.

Many of “sediment control dams” have constructed at the Rokkō mountains based on the “*Sabo-ho* (Erosion Control Act [March 30, 1897. Law No.29])”, and residents of the Hanshin area were feeling secured. There was a heavy rain of 461.8mm in the Flood Disaster in the Hanshin area (July 3~5, 1938 [Showa 13]), and there were 695 dead people in the prefecture. River floods happened in Kobe City and various places, and also landslides occurred at about 770 locations in the Rokkō mountains area.<sup>31</sup>

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<sup>29</sup> 2018. *Mainichi Shimbun*. July 12.

<sup>30</sup> 2017. *The Chugoku Shimbun*. May 18.

<sup>31</sup> 2016. Iwamura, Y. *Christianity and Volunteer-Dō (The Principle Way of volunteer)*. Tokyo University. 24. *The 1<sup>st</sup> Western Japan Heavy Rain Relief Volunteer Report*. Kobe City experienced an unparalleled difficulty by the Flood Disaster in the Hanshin area in 1938. (933 deaths. 72% of Kobe City was affected. 696,000 victims.)



Flood Disaster in the Hanshin area (July 3~5, 1938 [Showa 13])

It conflicts with God's intentions that bring about credible justice.

Even a civil engineering construction method sacrifices civil society, family time and relationship with community, it is continuously repeated as "safe". The sense of order to maintain the order in chaos is far from considerateness, caring and joy. The Bible does not say that a flaw-free community will not come naturally and automatically in a matter of time.

It is written that "the wicked" does not respect the innocent people, "But the wicked are like the tossing sea, which cannot rest, whose waves cast up mire and mud." (Isaiah 57:20)

The people are wishing for a vision that brings happiness to people that can take care of people who have been oppressed, victims who are neglected from their human rights, and those who cannot even live by themselves, and share hope together as an individual personal.

The act to save the victims is the God's will. "Wash and make yourselves clean. Take your evil deeds out of my sight; stop doing wrong. Learn to do right; seek justice. Defend the oppressed. Take up the cause of the fatherless; plead the case of the widow." (Isaiah 1:16-17)

### **c. The contrast of the people between the people who can have and the crying of people who cannot have.**

It is a common thought among religious people to believe that God intervened for salvation in our history. However, those religious people, who receive God's grace, blessings and prosperity, magnify the "works of blessings", but they won't do any move on God's "works of salvation" and keep in silence and indifferent. The confession of "saved (ナツアル)" make the differences between "blessing of grace" and "liberation for salvation" ambiguously. People who are saved are intoxicated by the stability, calmness and singing that is able to receive by the salvation of the soul. Therefore, it seems that people are indifferent to God's "powerful work of salvation" for the poor, the weak and the victims. Rather, people hope the world, orderly rules and the perseverance of the blessings that continue to bring benefit to the believers who enjoy a comfortable life. They keep saying that even when they will be exposed to powers, aspersions and countries that threaten the group that confesses "has been saved". "It was very good." (Genesis 1:31)

"You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the

saving of many lives.”(Genesis 50:20)

“I have been with you wherever you have gone, and I have cut off all your enemies from before you. Now I will make your name great, like the names of the greatest men on earth.” (2 Samuel 7:9)

“But my love will never be taken away from him, as I took it away from Saul, whom I removed from before you. Your house and your kingdom will endure forever before me ; your throne will be established forever. ” (2 Samuel 7:15-16)

“The people of Judah and Israel were as numerous as the sand on the seashore; they ate, they drank and they were happy.” (1 Kings 4:20)

“And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who i have been called according to his purpose.” (Romans 8:28)

“Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.” (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18)

Those are part of the bible that can be read with positive thinking.

However, it has no image of the dialogue of “the crying – salvation” and “I and Thou” of the poor. There is no state that the person begs for God because he/she is suffering from oppression, discrimination and persecution from his/her opponents. The pattern of “the crying – salvation” is exactly the opposite of the life of believers in grace who confess “has been saved”. The religious people are satisfied if the present situation is “happy” because their condition would stay as it is and it will not change. Now, here, I, such view of the world is spreading. Do not expect the intervention of God and it is not necessary and I do not wish it. Now, Here, I, there is a tendency to give an affirmative grunt on this world “Everything is OK”. Any politicians are not matter for us as long as they keep their public pledges to promise confidence; security and assurance of preserve my own benefit and interests. For those who enjoy the good life, *natsal* (salvation) for the poor is not important. They feel happy and celebrate for their life foundation that they already have or something that they won to get, and they try not to lose those things. Invisible boundaries lie between those who “already” have and who “not yet” have. We are insensitive to the North–South divide. I don’t feel any newness to the permanent members of the United Nations Security Council, world institution, and religious elite empires. The values of the world believe a system that can maintain “now”, “here”, “I” is the best<sup>32</sup>. For those who have, it is a sincerely wish to be as they are continuously now and forever. Natural disasters such as earthquakes, tsunamis and typhoons are also quickly tamed. If we cannot tame it, we will be pushed away or crushed down by the law, order and regime. The technical spirits, professional experts and medical technologies will give influence on the disaster areas.

“He who was seated on the throne said, ‘I am making everything new!’ Then he said, ‘Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.’” (Revelation 21:5) However, medical, technical

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<sup>32</sup> “*Changes in values read by data on the history for 30 years of Heisei consumers*” (Hakuhodo Life Research Institute 2019, p. 66-67).

and numerical supremacists are experts in prediction and management by a manual. They don't want "new" regenerations. In the 1st century, Jesus Christ stood up for people to make them free. "He could not do any miracles there, except lay his hands on a few sick people and heal them. He was amazed at their lack of faith. Then Jesus went around teaching from village to village." (Mark 6:5-6) Since that time, humanity has not wanted God's salvation, intervention or liberation. In a class-based society with a power structure, the voice of the prophets will be dismissed. They will not be respected. Because the "new" regeneration is dismissed as a source of confusion, destruction and heresy. Therefore, it is only a stranger, a person hired with money, a madman to claim still on a street. "God will judge those outside. "Expel the wicked person from among you." (1 Corinthians 5:13) Jesus also said and it is recorded as a strange talk between him and his disciples. "He replied, 'I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy; nothing will harm you.'" (Luke 10:18-19) Have fear, anger and threat by snakes, scorpions and enemies from the world gone?

However, Jesus said, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven." Jesus won on the cross. The seat of Satan, who is the king of this world, was shaken so he dropped from a high place. In other words, the crushing death by the rubbles, the water flood death and the destruction of the house were defeated. The person in charge of civil engineering work, Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism, the chief of the administration and the chief of the hospital seems like a responsible person, but they are not. Jesus said that "I am making everything new!" There is no longer something that makes people, who don't have, feel sadness. God promised us, "And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, 'Look! God's dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. 'He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death' or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.'" (Revelation 21:3-4) Satan has already been defeated. He is just a defanged lion. About 2,000 years ago, God had already brought the "New world" into our history. It has already happened.

Or more specifically, he told us to act for the cry of hurt "people who don't have" in a gap between the two directions that has not yet happened. The fulfillment of justice will be not done by the world order, approvals or AI (Artificial Intelligence). It is because that the world does not believe in "the new world", but looks at a vision and proceeds while calculating numbers. We have to resist injustice that has been continuing in a global scale and a mighty river of oppression. Jesus said, "What do you think? If a man owns a hundred sheep, and one of them wanders away, will he not leave the ninety-nine on the hills and go to look for the one that wandered off?" (Matthew 18:12) He goes to the place if he finds the one who has anger, suffering and frustration.

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### <Conclusion>

We have been tracing together the fact that the artificial concrete construction method that human has caused great damage. The country has built dams, roads and tunnels at everywhere in Japan that based on the Sabo-ho. However, every supremacist of technology, economy and military lost the escaping way from the “crisis era” tunnel of the “Ring of Fire” since we have entered in the 21st

century. And we are overwhelmed by fears from volcanoes, the Nankai megathrust earthquakes and global warming. As it is written, “People will faint from terror, apprehensive of what is coming on the world, for the heavenly bodies will be shaken”, we will “faint from terror, apprehensive of what is coming on the world”. (Luke 21:26) The responsibility of humans to take care the earth has transformed into a selfish, intimidating and sybaritic “ruler”. We forgot the original mission and role to govern the creations that of “You made them rulers over the works of your hands; you put everything under their g feet”.

The poor, orphans and widows are waiting for the restoration of the structure of “the crying – salvation”. It is hoped that appearing of a person who empathizes, sympathizes and shares sufferings with hurt people. Only a few insignificant people might be stood up.

Humans are faced to change perspectives from supremacism of technology, economy and military, and reconcile with the nature world to restore from human side. It is humans who have destroyed the nature, used it as a subject of profit and left it behind. It is not natural. The gospel of reconciliation, which will end the use of pesticide in rice fields, leaving trees after cutting, human sewage and kill of plankton due to the concrete-made tide embankment, from Japan will change “the Ring of Fire”, and the world. Where is God hiding the minorities who precede responsibilities to shift to a time of regeneration that take care of people’s lives, life and human rights?

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