

Our Church's Disaster Response: Immediate And Long-Term



Responding to the Earthquake in Turkey: First Responders

A major 7.2 earthquake rocked eastern Turkey on Sunday, October 23. First estimates projected over 200,000 people are affected. BBC news reports some 265 people died and 1,140 were injured, according to Interior Minister Idris Naim Sahin.

Nearly 1,000 buildings have been destroyed in the disaster zone, with the town of Ercis the worst hit. Many impacted families live in remote villages. Our global partners are concentrating relief efforts on the rural regions. In a first step, several thousand people are being provided with food and shelter materials. The fact that winter weather is about to descend on the area raises additional concerns. Shelter from the natural elements is a critical issue that needs to be addressed.

Japanese Earthquake Eight Months Ago: Long-Term Support

Now that eight months have passed, the relief work of Global Ministries is about long-term support and care. People have lost their livelihood and need new ways to earn a living. There is concern that incidences of suicide will rise. Our mission partners continue to work with families devastated by this disaster. Martha Mensendiek, our Global Missions Partner serving in Japan, asks us to pray:



Loving God,

We pray to you today, remembering that you are always with us. We pray for the people in Japan who, 8 months after the earthquake and tsunami are still grieving and facing an uncertain future. Today we especially remember those in Fukushima who are living with the fear of nuclear contamination. Many have had to leave their homes and are facing the reality that they may never be able to return. They fear for the health of their children and the environment. We pray that they will be given the care and guidance they need to make the decisions about their future. May the leaders of Japan, and indeed the world, learn the lessons from this disaster to be able to make wise decisions for the future of our communities. We also pray for the many volunteers who have helped in various ways during these months. May they know the joy that comes from reaching out and serving those who are suffering. May we ourselves heed Jesus' example to humble ourselves to be true servants of God in our own communities.

In Jesus' name, Amen!

HOW YOU CAN HELP

- Pray for the people and communities in Turkey and Japan impacted by these earthquakes.
- Give a gift through **One Great Hour of Sharing**. Write your check to your local congregation or to the Southwest Conference and designate it for OGHS and if desired, the country where you want your aid to go.