

Essay from the bold pastor #19 -Yakuza's Disaster Assistance-

As the citizen's indifference to others has never been more apparent, in addition to the government's lack of policies and covering up of facts, Yakuza's quick and appropriate actions after the tragic event are worth noting.

Top 3 Yakuza (Japanese Mafia) organizations, Yamaguchi-family, Sumiyoshi-family, and Inagawa-family, responded immediately. Especially Inagawa-family, which started out in Fukushima, shipped about 110,000 pounds worth of relief supplies by 25 trucks to the site within 2 days. Not only did they supply food and water, but also they provided blankets, flashlights, and even feminine supplies. Moreover, they left the site without identifying themselves.

Meanwhile in Tokyo, they offered their office spaces to the people who have lost their homes. Sumiyoshi group even offered shelters to foreign communities. These are the actions taken by those who are often feared and called "flea" and "garbage" of communities.

Their relief actions reminded me of the famous story of "Good Samaritans". A Jewish guy got robbed and abandoned half-dead on a street. The authorities and respected gentlemen walked right by him. There came one of the Samaritans who were despised by the Jews. Despite that fact, he took the guy to the doctor, paid for his treatment, and walked away. Through this story, Jesus teaches us to,

"Love your neighbor as yourself." Luke 10:27

It is definitely easier said than done. But the "despicable" Yakuza's assistance displayed the importance of taking actions regardless of logic or emotion. Jesus, too, achieved to save us by getting on the cross and sacrificing his life. Besides, he came back to life 3 days later! I have no doubt that Japan can be reconstructed if we all believe in this incredible God.

3-27-2012



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