

Campus Chronicles

April 4, 2011

Volume 3, Issue 3

EPIC Relief in Japan

EPIC Bible College student, Jonathan Robbins, has taken the quarter off to return home to Chikuma, Japan to assist with relief efforts following the massive earthquake and tsunami earlier this month. His parents, David and Naomi Robbins, are missionaries with Somebody Cares International (SCI). Chikuma is within the Nagano Prefecture, in the center of the main island. The earthquake and tsunami hit the north eastern coast of the main island. Below are excerpts showing some of the progress already being made:

[David Robbins] took about 300 pairs of underwear to the city office in Karuizawa. This city is hosting 1,000 refugees. The government has been slow on getting them out of the area. The mayor, Susumu Fujimaki, and Hisao Morozumi, the director over the displaced refugees were rather shocked that we started to fulfill our promise of supplying underwear for the refugees. Rev. Robbins told them that we would bring a second load next week.

The most important activity was a meeting [David] had with a doctor at the local hospital. His name is Dr. Yuutarou Oonishi. He is the Chairman of all of Nagano Prefecture. He is on the Board of Directors at the national level for the Medical Doctor's Association. He was very impressed after hearing about SCI and its partnering with other organizations. We want SCI to be able to come into Japan with the approval of the Japanese Government. He knows of the desperate needs in the affected areas and the lack of the government ability to supply the necessary response. He hopes that not only doctor and nurse teams will be able to come to Japan, but also medicines, water, food, shelter facilities, and other supplies will be allowed to enter as well.



(AP Photo/Keichi Nakane, The Yomiuri Shimbun) JAPAN OUT, CREDIT MANDATORY

Dr. Oohishi's advice is that working through the doctors' association, will open the door to the government allowing SCI to bring in relief. The doctors are working very closely with the government and are now able to effectively change governmental policies dealing with this disaster. After hearing what SCI could possibly do for Japan, Oohishi was fairly sure that door would open. The "wall" the Japanese government has created for importing in relief supplies, did not seem to bother him.

This looks like the hand of God working to get SCI and other partner organizations into Japan. We will be setting up a meeting for Friday, April 1st. Oohishi, and other doctor's, have an extremely powerful influence with the government. GOD seems to have us on a fast track in getting relief to the masses. We are doing what we can and He is doing what we can't.

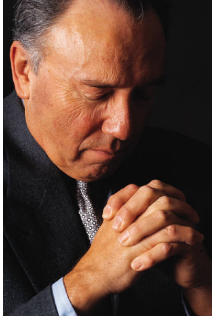
The Robbins Family

To learn more about the CSI faith based organization visit :

www.somebodycares.org

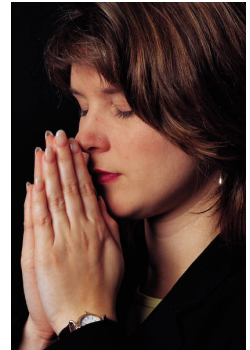
Pray for Israel

Jerusalem, March 23 – The Israel Project



In Jerusalem, a bomb set in the busiest part of the city killed a 59-year-old woman and injured dozens more. This was the first terrorist bombing in the Israeli capital in four years, but it comes at a time when the Palestinians have walked away from the peace process and are refusing to return. Two weeks ago, Palestinian terrorists slaughtered an Israeli family of five, including three children, in their beds.

Meanwhile terrorists in Gaza (believed to be armed and financed by Iran) have fired over 80 rockets and mortars at civilians in southern Israel since Saturday, March 19, including two military-grade Grad missiles at the city of Beersheba. One person, a 56-year old man, was injured by flying debris when the second Grad rocket exploded. Citizens had to rush into shelters, and authorities canceled school for Thursday.



"...The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective" (James 5:16).

The Adjustment Bureau:

A Movie Review by Joel Thompson

After a very long day of homework, reading assignments and the daily rigors of single fatherhood, I was invited on a “daddy-daughter” date by my oldest daughter, to go see a movie. (Popcorn and soda were included!) So off we went.

We decided on *The Adjustment Bureau* after reading the reviews and the underlying message. It is rated PG-13. After getting the essentials to enjoy the film, we found our seats and began watch, listen, and munch away.

As the film progressed, the PG-13 rating was made clear. There were some passionate scenes, as well as some fairly graphic violence. We were really digging into our popcorn and munchies as I began to really realize that the movie deserved more of my attention than did the snacks. After making a concerted effort to stay awake and absorb the deeper meaning of the movie, I noticed the underlying message: we are not the ones in control of our lives. There is obviously a subliminal message to the movie that will reach out and get a hold on your heart as the story unfolds.



With Matt Damon and Emily Blunt as the main characters, the movie was pretty easy on the eyes. Their determination for the relentless pursuit of undying love also helped convey the message. Damon was passionate for politics, and Blunt was an aspiring dancer. The two of them had good chemistry and seemed very natural in their roles. As the movie unfolded, it really spoke to my heart. The movie showed me that, with as much desire as we all have to attempt to control and manipulate the overall outcome of our lives, we truly are in control of nothing... The “Chairman” is.

This movie will reach deep in your spirit to the inner most depths of your conscience. Who ultimately has the blueprint of your life? Enjoy!

He is, by Alexandra Edith Renkvist

A mystery;
So beautiful- exactly extravagant to be precise.
How could something be so beautiful-
How could someone be so perfect.
Like spring flowers, melting snow,
He shows His beauty.
A glorious Master beyond understanding-
He is the Creator of all.

How glorious, how mysterious He is-
I can't seem to understand.
Like pouring rainbow-making colors from the sun,
He amazes everyone that sees.
So perfect; so unquestionably peaceful-
He is nothing less, only more.

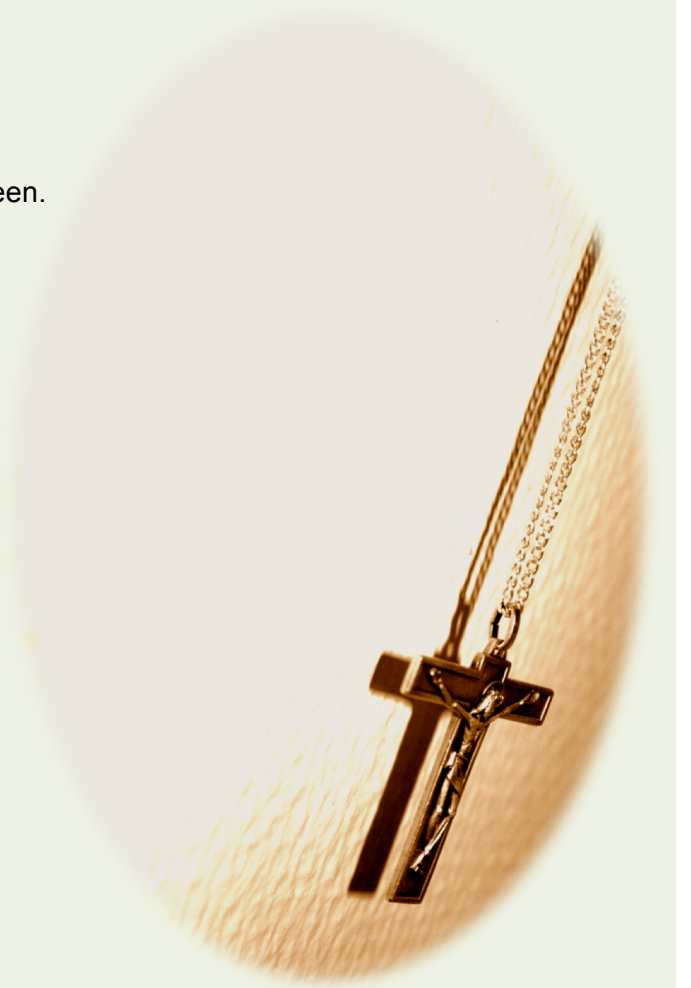
He is the Highest.
The ruler of Heavens- the ruler of earth.
The Creator of all the galaxy, and all that moves and breathes.
He is the most wonderful thing- the most wonderful one.
He is the most perfect thing- the most perfect one.
He is- there is no one like Him.
No one now and no one to come.
All that I need. All that you need. All that we need.

He is.

A wonder; So interesting- nothing like we've ever seen.
How could something be so beautiful-
How could someone be so perfect.
Like a galaxy with shooting stars,
He exceeds our hearts and souls.
A glorious Master beyond understanding-
He is the Creator of all.

How mysterious He is-
I can't seem to understand.
Like a storm with the strength of the wind,
He swirls our heart to go places it's never been.
So perfect; so unquestionably peaceful-
He is nothing less, only more.
He is the one.
The Highest.
The Ruler of all.
The Creator of me.
The Creator of you.
The Creator of us.
The most wonderful thing-
The most perfect one. He is.

He is.



A Ray of Hope, by R.J. Young

"But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice," Jesus said, wrapping up his sermon, "is like a foolish man who built his house on sand."

"Can we go now, Mama?" Jude was growing restless.

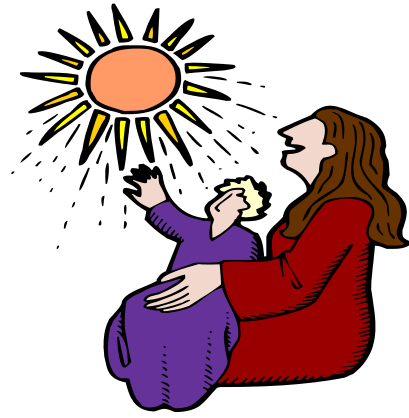
"Hush, now," Joanna scolded. She knew he and his sister had been sitting a long time, but she didn't want to miss a single word that Jesus was saying.

"The rain came down," Jesus' voice rose at the climax of his illustration, "the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house," His voice lowered—almost in sadness—so much that Joanna had to strain to hear the conclusion, "and it fell with a great crash." The crowd was silent, soaking in all that Jesus had been teaching.

That morning Joanna had followed countless other people to this spot on the side of the mountain, hoping to catch a glimpse of Jesus as he came here to teach his disciples. The lesson had been directed at the twelve, but Jesus spoke loud enough for everyone to hear.

Now, Jesus rose from the rock he had been sitting on. As he began his trek down the mountainside, most to the crowd followed him. Joanna stood up, brushing the dust from her widow's garb. "Come on children, let's go." She urged Jude and his elder sister to their feet, while picking up the baby. "Where are we going now Mama?" The small boy asked. *Where indeed?* Joanna sighed. The past two months had been the most difficult of her life. She knew she should resist the urge to follow the crowd and get back to gleaning for food. But there was something about him...

The baby began to cry then, and Joanna took her and found a place to sit and nurse in relative quiet. Frantically the baby sucked, but her hunger was not sated. Jude echoed his sister's complaint. "I'm hungry, Mama." Food had been so scarce in the household that Joanna had had to cut the children's portions in half, and her own even more. Abigail said nothing. She was old enough to know better. She worked hard gleaning; her hands were raw from the work. She was a woman now, though just barely. Her father had been in the middle of a hunt for the right husband for her when he had died. He had told Joanna that he had a few prospects, but never divulged their names. Now that he was gone, Joanna had no idea where to



look. When Abigail was married, there would be one less mouth to feed, but also one less pair of hands to glean.

The baby's wail reminded Joanna that she could not cut back on her own rations as much as she had. In an effort to feed the older two, she had eaten only enough to stay the hunger pains. Now that was taking a toll on her milk supply, and the baby was suffering for it.

Tears of despair threatened to overflow. Joanna knew that once they started she would find it hard to stop. After a few moments, she was able to put her emotions in check, and continue the trek down the mountain. Upon entering the town, the family saw the crowd that had followed Jesus.

Before Joanna could turn toward the field she heard a commotion from the outer ring of the crowd. There, pushing his way through the crowd, was a man with skin turned pasty white. Joanna gasped. The man had leprosy! He should not even be in town, much less among such crowd, touching countless people! Surely this new teacher would rebuke him and send him on his way without letting himself become unclean.

From where she stood, Joanna saw the sick man approach Jesus. The leper fell, with his face to the ground. "Lord!" He cried out in anguish. "If you are willing you can make me clean!"

The look Joanna saw on the teacher's face was not one of disgust, but of compassion. The crowd gasped as Jesus reached down and touched the man. "I am willing," Jesus smiled. "Be clean." Instantly, before the eyes of all those witnesses the man's skin returned to normal. Not a trace of sickness remained on or in him.

Continued on Page 5

Life's Strategies

by Sonia Kotko

Have you ever had a family Game Night? It was something we did on occasion, and I remember the smiles it would create as we joined together as a family. It is in those simple quality times spent together that we grow closer as a family. One night we played the game Memory. That is where a deck of cards is arranged on the floor face down, and then the images are matched together in pairs. When someone gets a match, they keep the pair and attempt to get another pair. The one who has the most matches at the end of the game is the winner.

As our family played, dad remarked, "My strategy is that I stay focused on the two or three specific pairs that I am trying to get, and after I get them, I pick out two or three more." Mother said, "My strategy is that I start on the cards in the corners, and with each of my turns I work my way towards the center of the game, trying to remember all the cards that I have flipped over."

Then the eight-year-old replied, "My strategy is very easy and simple, when you are both not looking I quickly and quietly peak under the cards. Then I remember where they are."

Whatever your life strategy may be, make sure you include seeking the presence of God daily. With God as your strength you will never have to peak under the cards. Jeremiah 29:11-13 states, "For I know the plans I have for



you, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart." He will guide you and pour out His favor in your life. You must be the one that takes that first step of faith, open up your heart, your mind, your soul and especially your WILL. Give it all to God and God will make you anew.

So what will your strategy be? Will you live day by day trying to "peak" at the future, wondering what is to come, or will you seek God each day and receive the blessings he has for you. Live your life to the fullest by beginning each day with God being the most important aspect of your day and life. Give up yourself. Let God take control and lead. He knows the roads very well. He can maneuver you through even the most difficult of situations and allow you to prosper.

A Ray of Hope, continued from page 4

Jesus spoke to the man further, but His words were lost in the din of the crowd. In a moment the man went away, rejoicing. Before he had left Joanna's line of sight, he had stopped three times to speak to someone, and point excitedly to where Jesus still stood among the throng.

Suddenly Joanna smiled. Her children were still hungry; she still needed to find a husband for her daughter; her milk was still in danger of drying up before the baby was old enough. Yet, seeing such a miracle gave Joanna something she hadn't had in the months since her husband had died. Surely the God who had healed that man would bring her and her children through this time of trial. For the first time in a long time, Joanna felt a ray of hope shine through her darkness.

This Week in Church History with Pastor Charlie

April 3

33: According to astronomers Humphreys and Waddington, this is the day Jesus was crucified. There have been *many* detailed calculations of the crucifixion date, but almost all agree it was some time during this week in the year 33. Also, there is a *very* compelling and convincing argument that the crucifixion was on *Wednesday*, not Friday, of this week. See Pastor Charlie for more information.

1528: In Cologne, Germany, Church reformer Adolf Clarenbach was arrested for teaching Protestant doctrines. The following year he was burned at the stake for his faith.

1860: Pony Express mail service began between St. Joseph, Missouri, and Sacramento, California.

April 4

1507: Future German reformer Martin Luther, at age 21, was ordained as a priest in the Roman Catholic Church.

1541: Spanish reformer Ignatius Loyola was elected the first General of the Jesuit Order, which he had established the previous year.

1687: King James II of England issued a *Declaration of Indulgence* allowing full liberty of worship in England.

1887: The people of Argonia, Kansas, elected Susanna Salter as the first U.S. woman mayor.

April 5

2348 BC: This is the date Rabbi's calculated that Noah's ark ran aground on Mount Ararat. (While it has been criticized, the date does fit the Biblical narrative.)

1811: Death of Robert Raikes, the English philanthropist regarded by many as the founder of the modern Sunday School movement.

1896: The first modern Olympic Games officially open in Athens, Greece.

1953: In Washington, D.C., President Dwight Eisenhower attended the first "Presidential Prayer Breakfast." Its name was later changed to the Annual National Prayer Breakfast and every U.S. President since has participated.

April 6

6 BC: This day is believed by many Biblical scholars to be the actual date of the birth of Jesus Christ. (Based on this and the date of his death shown above, it's fairly certain today that Jesus was executed within days of his 38th birthday.)

1830: James Augustine Healy, who became the first black Roman Catholic bishop in America, was born to an Irish planter and a slave on a plantation near Macon, Georgia.

April 7

1541: Francis Xavier and three friends set sail from Lisbon, Portugal, to become the first Roman Catholic missionaries to travel to India.

1940: Educator (and first President of Tuskegee University) Booker T. Washington became the first African-American to be honored on a U.S. postage stamp.

April 8

1546: At its fourth session, the Council of Trent adopted Saint Jerome's "*Latin Vulgate*" as the official Bible of the Roman Catholic Church.

1730: Shearith Israel, the first Jewish congregation organized in America, consecrated their synagogue in New York City.

April 9

1816: The African Methodist Episcopal Church was organized in Philadelphia. Richard Allen was elected the new denomination's first bishop.

1906: The first large [known modern] outbreak of the charismatic gift of tongues occurred in Los Angeles under the leadership of black evangelist William J. Seymour. It marked the beginning of the three-year "Azusa Street Revival."



5225 Hillsdale Blvd.,
Sacramento, CA 95842

Phone: (916) 348-4689

Website: www.epic.edu