



Dear brothers and sisters in the Lord of Aotearoa / New Zealand;

The cold winter has ended in Sendai, Japan. Through Lent, Easter, and the joy of Pentecost, has begun the season of fresh green. Overcoming the death of winter, and new life has begun again. Praise the name of the Lord of Life!

We are very encouraged to accumulate prayers with you towards the upcoming 10th Assembly of the World Council of Churches in Busan, Republic of Korea, from 30 October to 8 November 2013. As we informed Rev. Prince and Rev. Stewart, we requested of the the Japanese artist, Mr. Soichi Watanabe, to let us use his art work for our exhibition. He has been producing a lot of images with the theme of the Bible, and his paintings have been used at churches related with WCC before. Especially as you know, his image titled "The Coming of the Holy Spirit" was attached with the Pentecost message from WCC for three years from 2004. An interesting fact for you to know is that he was born in Ishinomaki City which suffered terribly from the Great East Japan Earthquake in March 2011. He has spent the last two years in listening to the message from the Bible on the pain of disaster.

I asked Mr. Watanabe if we would like to use his paintings for the WCC exhibit if we could receive a consensus from our brothers and sisters in Aotearoa / New Zealand. He was delighted about this possibility and said he is willing to let us use his paintings.

So, we would like to suggest the following ideas to you. Would you please review them and state your opinions?

Our idea is as follows.

#### 1. Purpose:

Based on the Madang proposal that was presented to the WCC, we would like to do the exhibition to stimulate discussion about the roles of churches in disaster. In order to attract people's attention and make people remember our exhibition more deeply, we

would like to utilize the paintings of Mr. Watanabe.

## 2. Placement of the paintings

(a) We would like to display an expanded copy of the painting "Ego eimi; I am. Do not be Afraid" at the entrance. This shows that Jesus is not only in front of the church and in the midst of disaster, but also standing in the storm together with the churches. We thought that this can be main image for the entire booth.

(b) Around the picture of "Ego eimi; I am. Do not be Afraid" we can do an exhibition of photos and videos showing the work of the inter-faith relief activities in Japan. At the same time, we would like to suggest you to display pictures symbolizing the disaster in Christchurch. Having this visual display at the entrance from both countries will indicate our collaboration.

(c) On the wall of the right side of the booth, we could display " You Shall Laugh". On the wall of the left side of the booth, we will display: "Even Though I Walk Through the Dark Valley of Death". While surrounded by these two paintings, we will exhibit mainly the work of churches in Christchurch. We will add some photos to the exhibit of the nuclear disaster from Japan's side.

(d) We could display " We are One in Jesus Our Lord "in the back. This shows unity in the sacrament. We would like to convey the message that we shall rejoice in the unity at the table of the Lord in the midst of the difficulties of disasters.

These are our ideas. We'd appreciate if we can start our discussion on the preparation of our joint exhibition. Thank you.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

30<sup>th</sup> May 2013

Naoya Kawakami, Rev. Dr.,

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