



Tim & Christine Huber - Pioneer Missionaries to Japan

PAZ missionaries **Tim and Christine Huber** work with **PAZ Japan**, a missions outreach of PAZ headquarters in the Amazon. Tim started church planting in Japan in 1987, and Christine joined him in 1997 after they were married.

Tim grew up in southern Brazil, the son of missionaries Melvin and Katherine Huber. Christine's parents, Curtis and Estelle Bunney, were missionaries to the Apache Indians in San Carlos, Arizona, where she grew up. Christine was formerly married to Tim's older brother, PAZ founder Luke Huber, who died in 1994 when his small plane crashed in the Amazon.

Luke and Christine raised four children in the Amazon: Sarah (husband Andy and three children), Esther (husband Aaron and two children), Josiah (wife Jennifer), and Isaiah. **All four children are involved in, or preparing for, mission work.** The grandchildren are learning they have two Grandpa Hubers, one in Heaven and one in Japan!

Tim worked in church planting with PAZ in the Amazon for five and a half years before starting the work in Japan.

"Japan is one of the largest unreached people-groups in the world, since only about 0.3 percent of the population are evangelical Christians. PAZ currently has two churches in Japan, with several that are just starting. With a strong emphasis on small groups and personal one-to-one discipleship, our goal is to train church-planters to be sent out to different areas of Japan, and also to other countries. In addition to the work in Japan, we are reaching out to Muslims in Indonesia."

Tim and Christine invite you to pray about coming to help PAZ Japan! Most Japanese have never met a Christian before, or read any part of the Bible. Most of them don't even believe that God exists.

REPORT MARCH 28, 2011

The people in **Fukushima Prefecture** are suffering terribly – not only from the massive earthquake, the tsunami, the death, destruction, wounded people surrounding them, the cold, and the radiation scare – they also feel discriminated against. They are not receiving the outside help that other earthquake/tsunami regions are. They are shunned for no fault on their own because they live within or near the evacuation area in the 30-kilometer radius from the nuclear power plant that is causing radiation problems.

Yas (our local pastor) met and ministered to many of these destitute, very lonely people! With tears in his eyes, one older man told Yas that hardly anyone has paid attention to their needs. Relief Aid organizations and volunteer workers are making a detour around their area to help other completely devastated towns and cities farther away from the nuclear plant.

Anyone with money or position who could evacuate have left, including city government leaders, hospital workers, and police. Those who remain, are especially many elderly, the sick, the poor, and those who had nowhere to go.

We are helping **The Global Missions Chapel**, a church located in **Iwaki City, Fukushima Prefecture** led by **Pastor Mori** and his Norwegian-born wife. They and their congregation chose not to

evacuate, but decided to stay to help the people in need. They are working hard to collect and distribute relief aid to various shelters where the now homeless people are congregating. Japanese people do not normally show much outward expression of emotions, but on the inside, they are full of fear and deeply grief-stricken.

Tomorrow, I plan to go with five people from our church to lend a helping hand and give some hope by sharing God's love with them. The city is a four hour drive from our base in Tokyo. Our other pastor from our church in **Funabashi, Tomo Kobayashi**, is there already, and others are going on Wednesday and Thursday. Our church has "adopted" the **Fukushima** area, and best of all, **God has promised to take care of us!** THANKS for your love and prayers!!

REPORT APRIL 6, 2011

The team from our church got back home today after working for five days among the people in the earthquake/tsunami area in **Fukushima (Iwaki City)**. Other people from our churches will be going at different times.

We are overwhelmed and exhausted, tired but everyone wants to go back again. There are SO MANY who need SO MUCH HELP! Countless have died – there are too many of them – it's too painful to think about. So many bodies have not yet been found. They were either



THE HUBERS: TO JAPAN WITH LOVE

washed out to sea or are buried under the mud and ruins of buildings.

Many of the buildings were also washed out to sea. Those that are still there will have to be demolished – houses in which they, their parents and grandparents have lived for so many years! Personal belongings — documents, photo albums and the like to commemorate the past, are all completely destroyed! Other houses are in shambles, it's incredible! The owners don't even know where to start, they feel so alone. It was a pathetic sight to watch the old people trying to clean what was left of their homes - elderly men and women with nobody to help them!

Our teams worked together and helped clear the houses of debris - wrecked furniture, broken windows, walls, bricks, tiles and the like. In the yards, we shoveled and carried away wheelbarrows filled with mud mixed with wreckage and a maze of items from far-away houses and buildings that had washed in with the tsunami. We didn't complain over our backs hurting — we could just imagine how much the backs of the people there hurt!

The amazing church there, **Global Missions Center**, organized all the volunteers (about 30-50 from different cities in Japan and Korea), and everybody did an amazing job — you cannot imagine how much there is to do!

The tsunami-hit areas don't have running water or electricity, so most of the



people had not bathed since the disaster on March 11. We brought warm spring water to wash and massage their feet, which gave us a chance to listen to their painful stories. When we arrived, most people were living in shelters with a little water and bread. We made hot food at the Center and brought it to the people. Now they are also given more fruits and vegetables, and a few portable toilets to share.

Japanese people don't show much emotion, but when we helped them, several cried, even the men. Japanese don't hug either, but they gave us some amazing hugs and thanks, bowing over and over and over again, saying "thank you, thank you, thank you"!! One man said that the first time he cried after the disaster was when our volunteers came to help him. One lady asked me why I came so far to help them, even to the nuclear radiation area where most people don't want to go. **I told her that we were Christians, and God wanted us to come there.** She asked several questions about Christians, and quietly thought about it all. Unfortunately, we cannot reach them all!

One lady told me that her dad helped carry the dead bodies from the beach — so many dead children! He doesn't sleep well at night, the traumatic memories and all the continuing earthquakes keep him awake. People are afraid and trying to comfort their children. Cont...

FROM R.K.'S CORNER

On March 11, when the cataclysmic earthquake and tsunami hit Japan, I asked the Lord to make a way for The Bridge to reach the destitute victims there with spiritual and physical food, knowing we had no direct contacts in Japan. And that's what precisely happened — unexpectedly, **the doors flung wide open all the way through grassroots connections right into the radiation zone!!**

I suddenly recalled meeting Tim Huber a few years ago when he stayed with us for a few days with his sister and father on their way back from the States to Brazil. A phone call to Brazil - and the connection was made! Tim, born by American parents, grew up in Brazil where his parents began pioneering the Gospel in 1956. Today, their mission, Project Amazon (PAZ), has planted over 200 churches; the goal is to plant a total of 1000! The entire Huber family is involved in missions work. Tim moved to Japan 25 years ago, where he pioneered a church. He and his wife, Christine now oversee three churches. They have adapted well to the Japanese culture and language. Their love for the Japanese people is clearly demonstrated in that they are pulling into the most destitute and dangerous area — the main disaster zone around the nuclear plant — to help the needy there, when other relief agencies are bypassing it! All our donations toward Japan will be sent through them! **PLEASE GIVE GENEROUSLY TO JAPAN RELIEF AID — YOUR GIFTS WILL BE SENT IN FULL! Please pray for Japan and the Huber family!**

...Cont. from p. 3 One young, beautiful mother said she had to be strong for her children, but she has no hope for the future. She cried and hugged me when her children were not around. **What a time to show God's love to people!** They're amazed someone is there to give them a hand!

Our pastors who are going are not only taking supplies, but also eager to listen to, encourage, and pray with the many severely traumatized people. Tonight during prayer time, one young man believed in Jesus, and became a member of God's family. This is our prayer for many, many Japanese.

The Japanese don't usually open up with strangers. But after they see you working so hard to help them, something changes. The next day we went back, they were so happy to see us. We just felt overwhelmed because what we did, was like a drop in the ocean. The ocean which they loved, is now frightening — it's full of dead bodies. Each aftershock is traumatic; they fear there will be another tsunami. Beyond that, is the threat of the unseen, deadly enemy — the radiation! For these people, there is no escape! I keep thinking, "Now is the time to help — now is the time they need help!" We can't close our eyes and walk away — **we need to stop and lend a hand! WOULD YOU PLEASE HELP US TO HELP THEM?**



13762 State Road 84, Suite 423
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33325
USA

Ragnhild K. Ulrich ("R.K.")
Executive Director

Tel 1.954.916.0521
Fax 1.954.916.8740

E-Mail:
TheBridge@BridgeInternational.org
Website:

www.BridgeInternational.org

**LINKING GOD'S PEOPLE TO
REACH THE UNREACHED**

**Did you know you can
contribute online via our
website? Click and see!**