

Japan's Crisis Could Leave Emotional Scars

✘ At 9 magnitude on the Richter scale, it was one of the largest earthquakes in the recorded history. If that wasn't shocking enough, a tsunami added to the trauma, then a nuclear crisis offered the possibility of a nightmare of historic proportions. Additional earthquakes and tsunami warnings would follow, even as radiation leaked into the food supply.

Watching the footage of the Tohoku earthquake and tsunami of March 11, 2011, many Christians around the world have been asking the same question: What can we do?

Charisma News caught up with Dr. Tim Clinton, a world leader in the field of Christian counseling, and Dr. Hitomi Makino, a Christian counselor from Japan, to gain insight into how the to help while being sensitive to Japanese culture.

'Soul Surfer' Inspires Online Evangelism Efforts

✘ After debuting in fourth place at the box office, Soul Surfer has caught the attention of Hollywood. Now, youth ministries are using the film's draw to catch the attention of lost souls surfing the Internet.

Global Media Outreach, which was founded in 2004 by Campus Crusade for Christ, has partnered with several national youth ministries to launch SoulSurfer.com. The web site shares the spiritual story of teen surfer Bethany Hamilton, whose is

played by AnnaSophia Robb in the blockbuster movie about her young life.

At age 13, Hamilton survived a tiger shark attack while surfing in Hawaii. Despite losing her arm—and 60 percent of her blood—in the traumatic event, Hamilton got back on her board and braved the ocean just a month later. Today, Hamilton is a professional surfer, inspiring the world with her courage and faith.

Could ‘Love Wins’ Threaten Global Missions?

✘ A controversial book could tear at the seam of evangelical missions. So says David Shibley, a former pastor and founder of Global Advance.

“There has been a book that has been released recently by a high-profile pastor that suggests that eventually everyone is going to go to heaven,” Shibley says.

The book has caused a stir throughout the Christian world. Many have called it heresy due to its possible implications that all people will get to go to heaven when they die, regardless of their response (or even lack thereof) to Christ on earth.

300 Indian Churches Set to Memorize Scripture

✘ What would happen if people all started memorizing passages from their Bible? They would have recall on hundreds of verses. They would be able to witness with accurate scripture passages even without a Bible in front of them. They would be able to start a revolution.

Thus in the recent General Assembly meeting of Evangelical Free Church of India, an important and challenging decision was made.

“One of the significant resolutions adopted during this assembly was the declaration of 2011 and 2012 [as] the years of Bible reading and memorization,” explains Mawii Pudaite with Bibles For the World who, along with her husband, was in attendance at the assembly.

Christian CEOs Take C12 Groups to Portland

You’ve heard of the G12, but how about the C12?

Named for the model Jesus Christ set in Scripture (purposeful interaction among a group of 12 disciples), the C12 Group is a Christian businessmen’s accountability group. You might call it a mastermind group for Christian CEOs.

There are C12 Groups across the country. The newest one is in Portland-Vancouver.

Mexico Missionaries Face Growing Cartel Threats

✘ Since President Felipe Calderon declared war on the drug cartels, 5,397 people have gone missing in Mexico, according to a *BBC News* report. The cartels seem to have been getting more violent in recent days.

Jason Woolford, executive director of Christian Resources International (CRI), says his ministry partners in Mexico have always feared being stopped and looted along the road, but now the threat of a more serious fate is significant.

Libertarians Call for Permanent Gov't Shutdown

✘ Elected officials are considering a temporary shutdown of small parts of the federal government. But the Libertarian Party is calling for something much more drastic.

Indeed, the Libertarian Party, which stands for free markets, civil liberties and peace, is vying for a permanent shutdown of most of the federal government.??

“Just think how a permanent government shutdown would allow so many Americans to regain the blessings of liberty,” says Libertarian Party Executive Director Wes Benedict. “Education would blossom as the Department of Education ended its war on

learning, no longer wasting our money and preventing educational innovation with one-size-fits-all centralized mandates.”

Israel-Hamas War Seems Imminent in Gaza

✘ Israel isn't backing down—and neither is Hamas. As the conflict escalates, more people are dying and an all-out war seems imminent in the Middle East.

Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) targeted terrorist cells across the Gaza Strip on Thursday night and Friday morning. IDF fired at the regions from which mortar shells or rockets were originating, as well as the area from which an anti-tank missile was fired at a school bus earlier this week.

IDF confirmed direct hits on two terrorist cells in the northern and southern Gaza Strip.

Palestinian sources reported the IDF strikes killed three civilians and two Hamas members. The *Jerusalem Post* reports 10 Palestinians have been killed in IDF attacks on Gaza terror cells since Thursday night.

500 Houses Burn Down, 40

Killed in India Fire

✘ A massive fire devastated a community in Tripura, India, taking 40 lives and destroying approximately 500 houses. The dead were mostly children and the elderly.

“Five hundred houses were burned down accidentally when a flame of fire from the nearby Jhum cultivation fell on them during midday,” reported a woman from a Gospel for Asia-supported congregation.

The fire occurred at a refugee camp for tribal people. Most of the approximately 3,000 families who live there make their livelihood through agriculture, practicing a form of cultivation that involves cutting down forested areas so they can dry the leaves of the plants and trees. Usually during the second week of March, they burn the deforested areas and fertilize them in preparation for planting. Most of the tribes people rely on this practice to earn their livelihoods because they have no other means to meet their basic needs.

Middle East, North Africa Learn from Egypt

✘ The revolution of Egypt no longer dominates the headlines.

However, Carl Moeller of Open Doors USA says discounting the changes in Egypt could be a costly mistake: “Egypt still is in the midst of sorting out what this revolution is going to look like. The reality is that there’s still an incredible amount of uncertainty as to which direction Egypt is going to go. As a result, there’s an incredible amount of uncertainty and

continuing instability for the entire region.”

More to the point, Moeller says, Egypt is a driving force in the policies of North Africa: “Egyptians have had the tradition of setting the course for a large part of the intellectual direction of Islam.”