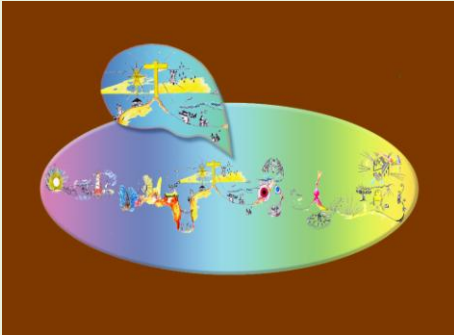


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OCTOBER 2011

NO 192



Eternal Fellowship News Bulletin

We believe in one GOD, in three persons; FATHER, SON and HOLY SPIRIT. We regard the Bible (both Hebrew Bible and New Testament) as the only infallible authoritative WORD OF GOD.

HULDAH MINISTRY aims to return to the Word Of God, founded on Hebrew background and to interpret it from Hebraic perspective, acknowledging that Jesus is a Jew and the Jewish-ness of His teaching as a continuation from the Hebrew Bible. The Ministry also aims to put His teaching into practice, to have a closer relationship with the Lord, Jesus Christ, and to regularly have a Christian fellowship so that this-worldly kingdom of God will materialise in the midst of the followers of Jesus here and now, as well as earnestly seeking Christ's Return to establish the otherworldly Kingdom of God on earth.

All activities are free of charge and no obligation whatever. Just enjoy our fellowship!

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HULDAH MINISTRY

LETTER TO THE BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN CHRIST

**【NATIONS IN ANGUISH AND
PERPLEXITY:
WHY IS ALL THIS HAPPENING?】**

I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. The creation waits in eager expectation for the sons of God to be revealed. For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the glorious freedom of the children of God.

We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what he already has? But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently.

In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express. And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints in accordance with God's will.

And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified.

What then, shall we say in response to this? If God is for us, who can be against us? He did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?.....Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or

hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword?.....For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

ROMANS 8:18-39.

Shocked by an incessant and alarming number of global disasters, there must be many people in the world who are beginning to be gripped by fear of the future. This year 2011 began with a massive flood in Queensland, Northeastern Australia, where nearly 200,000 residents were forced to leave their home, followed by big earthquakes; Argentina (M7.0), Chile (M7.1), Pakistan (M7.0) in January; Christchurch, New Zealand (M6.3) in February; Miyagi, Japan (M7.2) and Tohoku, Japan (M9.0)—the biggest one, this year— in March; Miyagi, Japan (M7.1) in April; Alaska (M7.2) in June; Kermadec Islands, New Zealand (M7.6), Miyagi, Japan (M7.0) in July; Vanuatu Efate Island, Australia (M7.5) in August; and Fiji Islands (M7.2) in September. Added to the sheer number of natural disasters which have included global floods, furious hurricanes, long-residing, slow-moving typhoons, ferocious tornados, unimaginable high tsunamis, wildfires and droughts, is the unpredictability of their nature which has been particularly noticeable in this year's natural disasters. Most of them have set a weather record by their size or length of a disaster zone, property damage, duration, insured loss, and death toll. Many are in shock by the unprecedented train of calamities here and there, all over the world.

In the nation of Pakistan, there has been incessant flooding for more than a year, affecting around six million people so far. More than two million people have been suffering from flood-related diseases since the country was hit by its worst floods in living memory in August last year. In Japan, typhoons have caused unprecedented floods in an unexpectedly wide area this summer. It has seemed like another continual and merciless threat to already severely submerged areas in Tohoku region (due to the massive tsunami earlier in the year). The US is also one of the countries experiencing unprecedented disasters this year. The CBN News reports: 'The world was still in shock when the southern and eastern United States experienced the worst rash of tornadoes in recorded weather history. The 2011 "Super Outbreak" included four EF-5 tornadoes.....Then just weeks later on a Sunday afternoon in May, a mile-wide multiple vortex EF-5 tornado plowed through Joplin, Mo., obliterating parts of the city, killing 159 people.....Experts have studied other disaster scenarios.....warned that heavy rains on Mount Rainer in Washington State could cause a deadly 40-mile mudslide moving at 60 mph, filled with rocks and trees. Some fear the collapse of the giant volcanic mountain Cumbre Vieja in the Canary Islands could send an 80-foot high tsunami slamming into the east coast of the United States at 600 mph. And along the Mississippi, a catastrophic quake at the giant new Madrid fault would cause utter devastation to America's heartland, changing the course of the mighty Mississippi, and causing the ground to roll like the ocean, as it did in 1811 and 1812. Many Americans might think they live in one of the safest periods in world history.....Why have so many natural disasters struck the planet this year, and what does it mean? "It brings people to question the ultimate end of everything. Even the natural man who doesn't even know God, is saying 'Something bad is happening,' 'It's getting worse and worse,'" "What are the ultimate reasons for this? What's the ultimate answer from God or from somewhere?" '(2nd Sep.' 11). Another article reports: 'Hurricane Irene, Unusual Earthquakes, Unprecedented tornadoes, Historic Flooding And Horrific Drought: Why Is All Of this Stuff Happening To America? What in the world is happening to America? In more normal times it would be easy to dismiss Hurricane Irene as an isolated incident, but so far this year we have had some sort of a "major disaster" almost every single month.....this year we have also had truly unusual earthquakes, unprecedented tornadoes historic flooding along the Mississippi and Missouri rivers, horrific drought, massive wildfires and continuous onslaught of nuclear radiation from Fukushima.....right now we are having a "once in a century" disaster every few weeks, and either we are just extremely "unlucky" or there is a reason why all this is happening.....radiation from the Fukushima nuclear disaster in Japan is not a problem for the Japanese. Fukushima sits on the east coast of Japan, and most of the radiation that is released from Fukushima heads out in the direction of the Pacific

Ocean. The first time most of it makes landfall is when it reaches the United States.....Well, according to a recent article in the Telegraph, the amount of cesium released by Fukushima is equivalent to 168 Hiroshima bombs.....Nuclear radiation from Fukushima has been showing up in our milk, our water and our food. Things have gotten so bad at Fukushima that now even the New York Times is admitting that large areas around the facility may be uninhabitable for decades...'(pakalertpress.com). This alarmingly exaggerated article does not seem to be written on the basis of concrete evidence and probably represents highly subjective views. However, it is successful in conveying the writer's irrational fear and restlessness with uncertainty, which many may share.

These phenomena are undoubtedly signs of the end of age, which Christ put it: ***'There will be sings in the sun, moon and stars. On the earth, nations will be in anguish and perplexity at the roaring and tossing of the sea. Men will faint from terror apprehensive of what is coming on the world, for the heavenly bodies will be shaken'*** (Luke 21:25-26). According to Christ's prediction, at the extreme end of such a time He will finally appear with power and great glory to redeem His followers, and therefore, these terrible situations are likely to continue to the end until human kingdoms will at last cease to exist and be replaced by God's kingdom. All of us must be prepared for the oncoming onslaught of the world's worst disasters. What happened in Fukushima after the massive earthquake and tsunami, the worst nuclear disaster in all of human history, has been reported as "far worse than you have been told" by some foreign media. Among them, some even puts it: 'In an attempt to keep people calm, authorities in Japan (and around the rest of the world as well) have lied and lied and lied.....It is going to take the Japanese years to fully contain this problem. Meanwhile, Fukushima will continue to blast all of us with high levels of cesium, strontium and plutonium and will slowly kill millions of people around the globe for years to come.' Strangely enough, it is true that the Japanese government and nation do not seem to be so much afraid of the aftermath of an inevitable nuclear meltdown. In the midst of controversy, David Shukman, a BBC News' environment & science correspondent, boldly entered the deserted nuclear ghost zone, fully equipped with overalls, boots, gloves, and face-masks and also with a Geiger counter to measure radiation level. He was guided by a local farmer, who moved back to his farm to remain alone by refusing authority's orders, soon after he initially evacuated to a refugee centre, and who is eager for the world to see how his community has suffered. David reported: 'Nothing stirs in the empty heart of Tomioka, a community of 16,000 now reduced to the eerie status of a ghost town after the nuclear disaster at Fukushima.....that was hurriedly enforced last March when a radioactive cloud escaped from the stricken power plant. In the rush to flee, doors were left wide open. Windows and roofs shattered by the earthquake and tsunami are still not repaired.....We are making the visit after reassurances from scientists and other journalists that radiation levels had fallen in this particular area.....We continually operate a Geiger counter.....it is even lower than we had expected. For the record, during the course of a three-hour visit.....the rate averages about three microsieverts per hour. We estimate our total dose to be roughly half that of a typical chest X-ray. Our guide is a local farmer.....the last citizen to remain but he believes that it's his duty to do whatever he can to keep Tomioka going as a community....."Now it's just me taking care of the animals." The fate of the livestock is one immediate challenge. Dozens of cattle broke free after the evacuation and now roam wild. Pigs and farmed boar also escaped and are living a feral existence.....But others remained trapped - their owners fled in too much of a hurry to release them - and they have since starved to death.....the radiation level, as expected, is generally higher down on the ground, very occasionally peaking at around 30 microsieverts an hour. On a very rapid visit like ours, these rates are by no means threatening. But I ask our guide if he worries about living in this environment. "I refuse to think about it," he says, joking that his chain-smoking may be more dangerous.....Of wider concern is the impact of contamination beyond the zone. The main plume of radioactivity reached far further than the 20km border with fears for agriculture and human health, and scientists are now in a race to gather reliable data to help shape public policy. Japan's Institute for Livestock and Grassland Science has invited in a leading British expert, Dr Brenda Howard from the Centre for Ecology and Hydrology in Lancaster, to provide advice

following her years of research at Chernobyl. Her initial assessment is that the effects will not be nearly as serious as with that accident, partly because in Japan most cattle are kept indoors and so avoided the fallout. 'No Chernobyl'.....Professor Tomoko Nakanishi of the University of Tokyo's Graduate School of Agriculture and Life Sciences believes the contamination is mostly superficial. Her early studies have shown that vast majority of radioactivity is held within the top 5cm of the soil.....But if that conclusion is proved right, there still remains the challenge of clearing up large areas of poisoned soil. Removing the top soil is one technique but it needs to be disposed of and the work is very expensive. Ploughing it deeper into the ground can dilute it but that too is a costly option. Six months on, much of the science is still uncertain and it may be years before farmland can be convincingly declared safe. Meanwhile, Naoto Matsumura..... Ten miles from the crippled power station, he lives by candlelight, mostly eating from tins, all the while he hoping the community he grew up in will come back to life' (BBC News on 13th Sep. '11).

From a biblical perspective, David Shukman's report reveals all creatures' suffering, especially innocent animals because of man's sin, and the disaster is categorically a man-made disaster and yet, it had to take place due to God's unfathomable plans. First, we must realise that what man has competitively built up since the Fall of man will only destroy his/her own life and so, human kingdoms must cease to exist sometime by the Lord's intervention. As the apostle Paul illustrated the present suffering of God-created world in the quoted passages at the beginning, this imperfect world is eagerly awaiting God's redemption, and until that time irrational suffering and inequality of the world will remain unsettled. However, the Lord's steadfast love towards the whole creation and His everlasting faithfulness to His promise firmly sustain us, His followers to the end, whatever happens around us. Our Lord is the Creator of the earth, and the amazing self-cleansing power of the earth has been witnessed by scientists and ordinary people. For example, there was an article about oil-eating bacteria reported in January this year. The Washington Post reported that the BP oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico had been prevented from being an even worse disaster by bacteria that feed on hydrocarbons. The oil spill created the biggest environmental problem of 2010 but the vast majority of the 5 million barrels (207 million gallons) of oil had gone (recaptured, burned off, evaporated, flushed out by ocean currents or eaten by bacteria), just two weeks after BP managed to seal off the well. This may be a demonstration of the fact that God is always, and still in perfect control of His creation and that He knows how to cleanse, and deal with the aftermath of disasters. Secondly, God might be preparing some specialists for the worse to come, by making scientists in the world search for ways of dealing with a nuclear aftermath. According to Ezekiel 39, the day will come when the land of Israel will need to be thoroughly cleansed by 'professional hands', possibly from nuclear contamination after the battle of Gog and Magog in the Middle East. The passage is very particular about burial details after the battle, by demanding seven months of cleansing only by specialists, and downwind burial place, '*the Valley of Hamon Gog*' i.e., 'east of the Dead Sea'. The present trial-and-error method of seeking solutions for dealing with a nuclear disaster might contribute to an effective service in the upcoming predicted battle. Above all, we must remember that as Christ's followers, there is nothing that will threaten us, and Christ's promise is paramount encouragement for those who believe in Him: '*our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us.....For in this hope we were saved*'.

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This month, a money gift of ¥***** has been donated as relief aid for the people directly affected by the disaster and for Christian assistance in the Tohoku region/Pacific Ocean earthquake in Japan on 11th March. While there are quite a number of helping hands, more funds are demanded to effectively mobilise them and to rebuild destroyed church communities in the affected areas.

There was an error in the figures reported on this NEWS column in No.190 Huldah Letter. The amount of money gift sent to Mary Jane in the Philippines for her children's ministry's support and also for the land purchase for minority tribes' livelihood should have been written as US\$*****.

Please accept our apologies for the incorrect report.