

Tohoku Volunteer Trip Update

Thank you for your prayers and support for the team that went to Tohoku. We had the opportunity to work with Samaritan's Purse (SP) staff and other volunteer teams in finishing one house and completely cleaning another house. During breaks, the team members got to talk to the homeowners and hear their experiences during and after the tsunami. Knowing someone who was directly affected by the tsunami really had an impact on them.

Everyone worked hard. One of the goals of SP is to do as Jesus commands us to do: Love our neighbors. We did this by tearing down walls, pulling nails and screws, removing mud, collecting and bagging trash and broken wood, pulling weeds, sweeping dirt, and pressure-washing walls. We also took time to listen to the homeowners and pray for them. This was all done with the motivation of loving our neighbor.

Each evening, a member from the different teams working that week shared their thoughts and reflections from the day. All of the members of our team who shared said that their perspectives of the devastation changed since they have been able to see it up close. Many of them also said that it makes them rethink about what is important as well as how important it is to help others. With this experience, many want to go back.

I am thankful for each team member. Everyone worked very hard and got along with SP staff and members of the other teams very well. Many weren't sure they wanted to leave. My hope is that this experience will go a long way to reminding all of us how important it is to "love your neighbor as yourself."

Richard W. Myers
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