Koriyama city, Japan

The city of Koriyama (koh-ree-yah-mah) is the transportation center in Fukushima Prefecture. It is located where highways from the east, west, north and south converge, making it a meeting spot for people traveling from all over northeastern Japan. Although it has a population of 340,000, the worldview of its people is very rural. The pace of life is much slower than in larger metro areas. More families have three generations living in one household than in metro areas, although more young people are leaving to go to Tokyo and other larger cities for school or work.

Located about 40 miles from the Fukushima Nuclear Power Plant, Koriyama has had large numbers of people moving both to and from the city since March 11, 2011, when the earthquake and tsunami struck. Even as Koriyama struggles to accept earthquake refugees from nearby Fukushima, it also suffers a population drain as young families leave Koriyama for even safer places in western Japan. Families are under much stress, needing emotional, financial and spiritual support.

Beautiful mountains and rural farmland surround the city and the evidence of the Creator God's handiwork is everywhere, yet people go about their business without much thought of Him. Recent disasters have momentarily awakened some to a desire to know God, yet most have not had a chance to hear the Gospel message.

www.outreachjapan.org

Map courtesy of The World Factbook 2011

Prayer Starters

• Pray Luke 10:2b for this city, asking God to send laborers to share the Gospel and reap a harvest of souls in the core city in Fukushima Prefecture.

• Pray for those who are anxious about the effects of radiation on their children. Ask God to reveal to them the hope for the future they can have in Him.

• Pray that many will meet Jesus at Koriyama and will take the Good News north, south, east and west throughout Japan.

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