



## Japan Earthquake Testimonials Pat (EHS) and Shinobu

I think I've managed to relay to most of you by now that Shinobu and I are fine. We live quite high, in what is known as the Asagiri Plateau, a plain of volcanic flows on the west side of Mt. Fuji.

There is really not a lot of topsoil here, so the farming has always been rather poor, but it has two advantages: it is a source of fresh spring water filtering down from Mt. Fuji and it is stable in an earthquake.

Also, while we pay the price for it in cold winters, it is above the level of even the highest known tsunamis (1500 feet in prehistoric times).

Shinobu and I were both working outside in mid-afternoon.

Shinobu was putting the tractor away (I was going to write you all that I got to drive a tractor for the first time yesterday—such exciting news) and I was inspecting the progress of the daffodils, when I began to feel really woozy. We had an icy north wind, so I wondered if that was what was wrong with me. Just too cold maybe. Shinobu says he was wondering if he had low blood sugar. I shrugged it off and began inspecting the azaleas, but it hit me again. This had me scared, because I've had arrhythmia and I wondered if that was it. I don't remember what tipped me off, maybe the trees shaking, but I realized it wasn't I that was threatening to smack the earth, but vice versa. The power lines started doing the jitterbug and the trees were just beside themselves. I said, "Sweet Holy (insert name of suitable historic religious figure)" and started trying to get away from the former. A couple of cars almost collided, and a group of teenage boys across the creek from me remarked in their gangsterish way that it was an earthquake.

I knew it wasn't a small one. If it had been a local earthquake, there would have been an immediate sharp jolt. Unmistakable. But all that swaying, continuing for nearly a full minute, indicated it was at a good distance, and by far the strongest earthquake we'd ever experienced. So my first inclination once the music had stopped was to contact anyone I could because I knew everyone was going to be worried. But it was too late—all the power was out and the phones. Everything gone. It was really an eerie experience, because aside from the unnatural dance party I'd just witnessed, there was no damage. Nothing to indicate anything out of the normal. So I headed for the fields to check on Shinobu, and he was just heading back home thinking the same sort of thing.

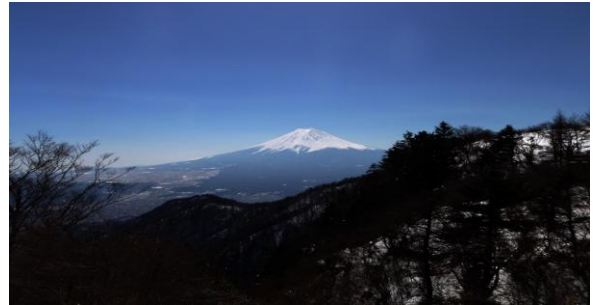
We spent a very quiet evening in front of the kerosene stove with Shinobu's radio listening to all the static-ridden reports coming in. The estimated magnitude was revised upward and tsunami warnings expanded to include Fuji City, below us, which got one of about five feet. That can still be dangerous. The scariest news was the evacuation of the area around the nuclear reactor northeast of Tokyo. The tsunami warnings are still up for all of Japan, and we hear Hawaii and California have been affected as well.

Japan is just fantastic about getting tsunami warnings up. Our town had public announcements within about a half hour--and we are away from the sea. The TV and radio stations all post warnings immediately after any earthquake if there is even a slight chance of tsunamis. They have admirable disaster preparedness and rescue programs. The degree of organization here is amazing, and the way the Japanese work together is a skill learned from early childhood.

I tried the phone again around 10 pm, and I got a dial tone but lines were all busy, so we went to bed. One thing I must note is that it was very very peaceful. There was the sense we have when camping, just a really pleasant atmosphere. Almost no cars running too. At about 2 am the power came back on and within 30 minutes I had a throbbing headache. Shinobu got up immediately and turned on the TV, which he'd been missing. I've been sensitized to the electromagnetic fields, but frankly, I'm not enjoying seeing the news either.

I think I'll spend some peaceful time praying. There are still at least two people I am worried about.

Our love to you all,  
Pat and Shinobu



March 13, 2011, view of Mount Fuji at Pat and Shinobu

[ZOOM HD](#)