

Mourning Lost Lives



▲ March 11th, 2012. The Great East Japan Earthquake Minamisanriku Memorial Ceremony at Bayside Arena. Elementary school students joined their hands in prayer in front of a large altar, continuing to do so until the teachers indicated for them to stop.

photo Asada Masashi

The sadness of not being with loved ones who lost their lives on March 11th, 2011 will never heal. The tears will never dry up, even after many years have passed.

On the 11th, the monthly anniversary of the death of the victims of the disaster, each time Minamisanriku residents gathered they would offer a silent prayer and mourn the death of the people they lost. Their thoughts focused on these people who were not meant to die that day, they vowed, time and time again, to live a life worthy of their memory and to build a better town than the one that existed before the earthquake.

Step by step, the people of Minamisanriku have moved forward with the reconstruction of their town, sharing their sorrows with their neighbors at every opportunity.

The departed are still alive in the hearts of the people of Minamisanriku. They continue to encourage and support the living in making the most of each day that they have. The people of Minamisanriku are still living with the dead, even today.



▲ April 11th, 2011. Office workers line up in front of the temporary town hall building to offer a silent prayer.



▲ August 11th, 2011. People gathered on the beach, a place they had been afraid to approach, for Sending our Thoughts to the Coast of Minamisanriku, a memorial gathering held in Sodehama.