



「日本には大陸からの文明がもたらされる前から『やまとごころ』という独自のメンタリティーがあり、すぐそばにある山や溪谷、川、海に対し畏敬の気持をもちながら人知を使ってそれらと共存する術を開発してきた民族です。沢山の自然災害を経験してきた後、時間をかけてまた自然との共生をはじめてきました。そのような国においてイエス・キリストの信仰は人と人、そして人と自然をつなぐところにおいても大きな力を発すると思います。人が生まれ、成長し、家族をつくり、老いて行くのもまた自然のわざです。地球環境の変化もまた大きな自然のわざです。

そこに神さまを見いだし祈り、同伴者となっていただくような日本の国らしい信仰のあり方はまた世界にも通じるのではと思います。厳しい災害を経験した国である日本でこそあらわされる神とのきずなを大いなる救いの歴史に繋がるものとして下さい。」

“They say that we have had ‘Yamatogokoro’, a unique Japanese spirit since the ancient times before the times Chinese culture and civilization was introduced into Japan. That's why we stand in awe of nature, such as mountains, seas, rivers and valleys, etc. So we have developed how to live in harmony with nature using intellect and wisdom.

We have experienced lots of natural disasters. Every time we have suffered from them, we have recovered from difficulties, learned many things from them and lived again with nature. I believe in such a country as Japan, Christian faith is a great help for us to become one and love nature.

It is the workings of nature that we come into the world, grow up, raise a family and grow old. It can be said that global changes in the environment are in a sense the workings of nature as well as of human beings.

I firmly believe that people in the world will understand our faith, finding God in creation and praying to God who is always with us.

As I said above, we have had a horrific disaster.

May the Lord strengthen the bond between You and us in the history of salvation.”