

Shinohara speaks on Japan

By Brian Burgess
Managing Editor

Coach Shigeyoshi Shinohara was in college in Japan during the 1995 Osaka quake that many are comparing to last week's.

Originally from Yamaguchi Prefecture, Japan, several hours from the site of the recent quake, Shinohara knows it must be tough for the Japanese people.

The area affected is mostly a fishing area. Of course, it is known for its nuclear energy.

Once he heard the news of the quake, Shinohara

knew from his experience in '95 that a tsunami would follow. He tried to contact his friends and family but couldn't get through at first.

"I'm lucky that my family is okay," he said. Shinohara's hometown was fortunate to receive little of the damage caused.

"Students and staff have been very caring. I want them to know I am thankful to all of those who have expressed their concern," said Shinohara. "I want Japan to know people here support them."

Shinohara added, "the people in that area are patient, I'm confident they will endure."

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The problem is, you're wrong

Devil's Advocate
Brian Burgess
Managing Editor

"I'm not saying that God, is, you know, causing earthquakes. I'm not *not* saying that either... Whether you call it Gaia, or whether you call it Jesus, there's a message being sent and that is, "Hey, you know that stuff we're doing? Not really working out real well. Maybe we should stop doing some of it," Glenn Beck said, laughing to himself this week on his radio show.

That's right, according to Glenn Beck, and surprisingly many others, the tsunami Japan suffered this week is an attempt at cleansing or punishment by God. You know, that benevolent father who loves the little children as long as they are straight, white, rich and Christian?

It seems that God, who is never wrong and is always looking out for his pals (Pat Robertson,

Beck, Limbaugh, etc.), is responsible for the vile, terrifying, and terrible events in the Land of the Sun. What's more, for once, I find myself agreeing with Beck.

The fact of the matter is, with the assumption that the Bible is completely accurate, God created everything. To be clear, that includes Satan, evil, tsunamis, and Japan itself. Common answers to this problem are that Satan is behind it, God is punishing those who deserve it, or that it's just the way of the world.

In effect, though, that places the blame on God in some fashion, as God created Satan (and knew he was going to do this and allowed it), God created the world (and knew this would happen and allowed it), and if God did it himself then I need say no more.

My point is that when we accept that the Christian God exists we accept that he is responsible for everything, not just the good things, in some capacity. When you pray to

this deity you are asking forgiveness and aid from a God who is "jealous and proud of it; a petty, unjust, unforgiving control-freak; a vindictive, bloodthirsty ethnic cleanser; a misogynistic, homophobic, racist, infanticidal, genocidal, filicidal, pestilential, megalomaniacal, sadomasochistic, capriciously malevolent bully."

I find no answer that satisfies how a God can exist who created everything yet not be responsible, in some form, for suffering. Therefore, if that God does exist, I have very little respect for him and refuse to give him praise when I could better spend my time cleaning up his mess.

Devil's Advocate so unreasonable you'd rather discuss kayaking with a WLEE student? Send your responses to clarion@brevard.edu

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The Word of the Week

Skullduggery (n)

Definition:

Underhanded or unscrupulous behavior; a devious device or trick

Origin:

Origin unknown, but it's first known use was in 1867

Usage:

Without skullduggery, politics would not be in the least bit interesting.

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