

My Thoughts about this Publication

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Today, we have reached 37 years from when the atomic bomb was dropped and the voice for the Abolition of Nuclear Weapons and the hope for world peace had been raised, but on the other hand the aging population is becoming a serious issue for this society. I had always been thinking about somehow finding a way to make a record of the atomic bombing experiences of the people living at Genbaku Home.

One day when I was thinking about it, some residents who didn't normally talk about the atomic bombing commented "I'd like to study about peace." and I saw those people choking up as they talked about this wretched event, 37 years ago, with tears in their eyes to the students who visited that said "We want to hear about the atomic bombing." I was listening to their story along with the students for a while when I thought "If these people stop talking about it, who else can talk about these valuable experiences? I'd like to gather together accounts of their experiences."

In February 1981, Pope Saint John Paul II visited Meguminooka and in his speech he said:

"People who still carry the mark of destruction that you received on that unforgettable day..... To all the people in good faith, your way of life is the most convincing appeal - for an anti-war movement and to promote World Peace..... A living appeal for peace which is speaking to the world constantly and we all are in your debt."

When I told those residents who were *Living appeals for peace*, “I want to record those atomic bomb experiences, so I’d appreciate your cooperation.”, they accepted gladly as they hoped that their experiences could be helpful for something, and this is how we have arrived at publication.

This *Record of Experiences* has recorded the bare experiences and bare voices of the writers. Some of the writers have already passed away. And I also want to add that there are people who carry the wounds of the atomic bombing in their minds and bodies but are not able to write here because of speech impediments and other reasons.

With regards to this publication, I’d like to share my heartfelt appreciation to the many participants for their cooperation and also Seibonokishisha who oversaw the printing.

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