

## **Never Give Up**

### **~~“Give It Up”~~**

It was very early in the morning, the streets clean and deserted, I was on my way to the railroad station. As I compared the tower clock with my watch I realized it was already much later than I had thought, I had to hurry, the shock of this discovery made me feel uncertain of the way, I was not very well acquainted with the town yet, fortunately there was a policeman nearby, I ran to him and breathlessly asked him the way. He smiled and said: ‘from me you want to learn the way?’ ‘Yes,’ I said, ‘since I cannot find it myself.’ ‘Give it up, give it up,’ said he, and turned away with a great sweep, like someone who wants to be alone with his laughter.

Franz Kafka

I often wonder what is more important for human survival, the daily replenishment of water and food or the unmeasurable nutrient of hope. Perhaps the former feeds the body and the later, the soul.

In the face of all kinds of natural and man-made tragedies, of repressions and cruelties, of indifference and abandonment, we seek out the crumbs of hope that give us the energy to go on, to believe that tomorrow or the tomorrow after that just might be better than today.

Japan now faces immense challenges from the triple disasters of 3.11. It is easy to despair. Yet when I see people rebuilding their shattered lives in Tohoku, when I feel the rhythmic beating of drums at post-nuclear demonstration, and when I listen to the call of youth to renew Japan and create a safe and sustainable future, the message is not one of resignation or apathy. It shows hope and the human spirit to never give up.

Scott Ree, Namida Project member / for Edwina Hörl