

# Hirochan's Returnee's Story

Resource:

OMF International

JCL (Japan Christian Link)

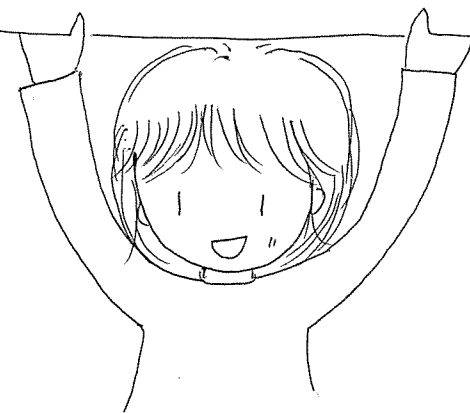
JO (Japanese Outreach)

JCFN (Japanese Christian Fellowship Network)

How to support Returnees in the UK  
( <http://youtu.be/HOjEUK6NQHU> )

How to support Returnees in Japan  
( <http://youtu.be/nkzoJG1Hch0> )

This booklet is written to support Japanese who become Christians overseas and for those who are willing to support them both overseas and in Japan.



I became a Christian 16 years ago in England



Jesus wa watashino  
Sin no tameni Cross  
ni kakatte kurema  
shita...

She mixed English and Japanese together



so that it doesn't really make sense in Japanese. She meant to say...

senior returnee Rie san

Jesus died for my sins.  
He is my Saviour.



Japanese missionary A

↑  
Japanese Bible

You may well have a hard time when you get back home. You know? Reverse Cultu...

I'm OK. Because Jesus is always with me. Even if I read the Bible in Japanese and it doesn't quite click.

I'm Japanese. Don't worry.



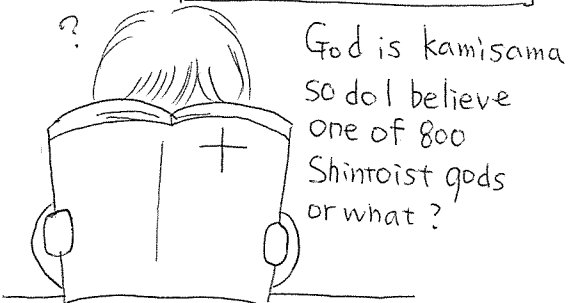
I was soon to go back to Japan.

The first time I opened the Japanese Bible.

First impression

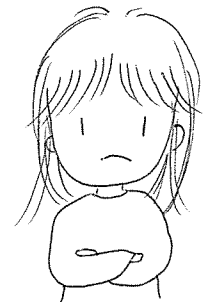


Second impression

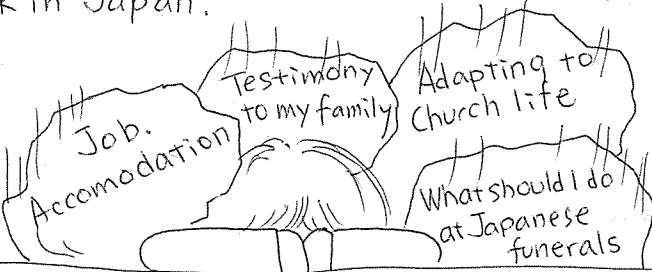


Third impression

Lots of words I don't understand like "righteousness" and "Sin". The Japanese Bible seems like a different book entirely.



If you encounter Christianity in Japan, you can sort problems out little by little. But if you are in a foreign country, you have little chance to ask Japanese about problems you'll come across back in Japan.



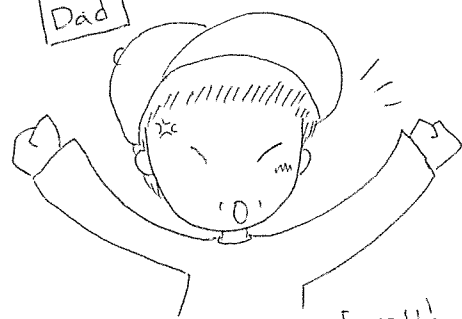
My Family's reaction



Mum

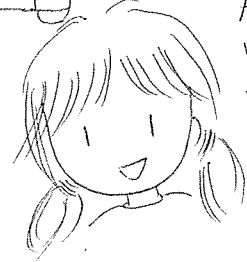
Oh, No!  
We are all supposed to be Buddhist. It is shameful what you have done to our ancestors. How can I explain this disgraceful thing you've got sucked into?

Dad



We are ashamed of you!  
It's a waste of time and money sending you to university.  
Did university make you like that?

Little Sis



As long as Hirochan is happy, I think It's good if she wants to believe.



Big Sis



Are you an idiot?  
This is all too dodgy.  
Religion is for weak people. You are a loser.

# Hirochan's first time to a Church in Japan

Pastor,  
You have wrong  
stress on "Amen."  
you know?

Do I?  
pastor N

**Shock**

She kept on annoying and embarrassing the Pastor, even though, she didn't mean to. While overseas, she became like a westerner strongly asserting herself.

I have decided  
not to worship  
with Japanese songs  
that I don't understand.  
Please let us sing  
English ones.

Why do you wear  
slippers when you  
go into the church?  
You are supposed  
to wear shoes  
in Church.

**Shock shock**

**Shock!!!**

✉ Hirochan now feels she should have written a letter....

Dear N sensei  
I hope you are doing well. I must apologise about my attitude at that time. I was too rude. I thank you for accepting me for who I was.

# At church

It was good  
in England

England  
Worship / Fellowship  
tea time

Japanese songs  
are also very  
nice to sing  
with old Japanese

Hirochan,  
you are now  
in Japan.  
Face up to  
reality.

# With my boy friend going out 8 years

Christianity is  
hard to believe so  
quickly. I can't do it

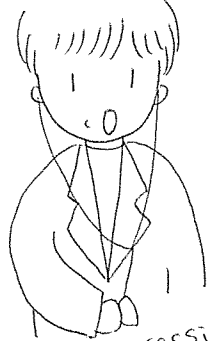
Jesus ga  
watashi tachi  
no sin no  
tameni...

I'm sorry...  
Bye

I can't explain it  
properly  
in Japanese..

After 6 months

T Mental Clinic



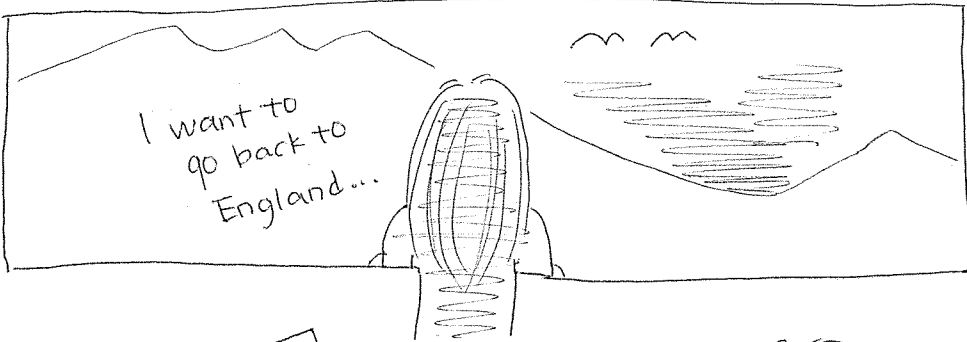
Depression...  
I will give you some  
medicine.

Well....  
I can't taste anything,  
I don't have an appetite,  
and I have fever.  
I feel so tired everyday...



Sob...

.....  
It's hard to live...



I want to  
go back to  
England...

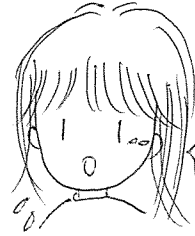
For Returnees

Be gentle on yourself especially  
in the first year.  
Don't blame yourself, even if  
you cannot "settle in" a church.



For Japanese Church people

By the way, it took  
Hirochan 2 years...



I prefer English  
worship rather  
than Japanese.

Returnee's complaints  
last only 6 months  
Please listen to them



What did you  
sing in the UK?



I want to  
go back to  
England



I can imagine.  
What did you enjoy  
most there?



The Japanese Bible  
is difficult to  
understand.



How is the English  
Bible?



Thank you  
for listening to  
my thoughts about  
England.  
I will try to settle  
down here.



Good!  
We've also  
learned some  
new things.

# How to live in Japan as a Christian

Weddings and funerals seminar.  
from Hirochan's failure.

Right after return home...

## Funeral



I'm not going to the funeral,  
because it is the pagans' idol  
worship.

## Festival of the Dead "Obon"



No,  
I won't go

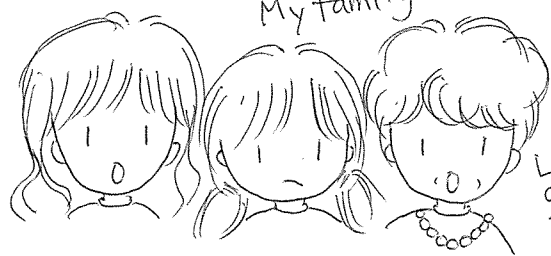


Relatives



Go to the grave  
to welcome  
our ancestors

## Memorial service on the 49<sup>th</sup> day



My family

Let's  
go



No, I won't go

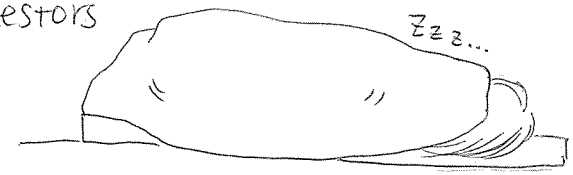
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## Offering food at the family altar



Hirochan,  
Offer food  
to our ancestors

No, I won't do it.



## New year's visit to a Shrine

No!

## Buddhist festivals

No!

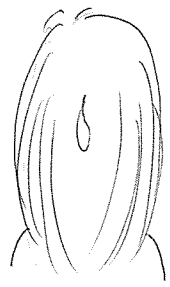
## Buddhist Services

No!



Since you became a Christian,  
We feel sad, because you don't go  
with us any more....

For English Church people  
Please ask a mature Japanese  
Christian \* about how to deal with  
Buddhist ceremonies in Japan



\* If you don't know any Japanese Christian,  
Please contact one of the organisation  
listed at the back.

# How to live in Japan as a Christian

weddings and funerals seminar  
from current Hirochan's example



Ask a pastor or an experienced Christian.  
There are various ways to respond.

## Funerals

I'm not offering incense at the front.  
Can I stay here?



Next person please

Hirochan's example



Short hair

I go to funerals but don't offer incense at the front. I pay my respect to the bereaved family for their loss before and after the ceremony.

## Festival of the Dead

I will offer flowers instead, to make the graves beautiful.



I'm not offering incense to the dead, because I don't believe it...

## Offering food at the family altar



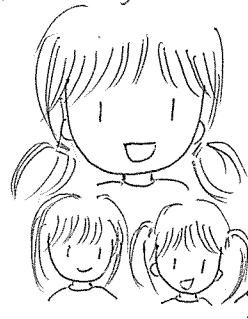
Hirochan Offer food to our ancestors

Mum's still saying this, though it's 16 years since I came back..




Mum, I won't do that because I don't believe that the dead eat food. But I will wash up afterward.

at Family's funeral



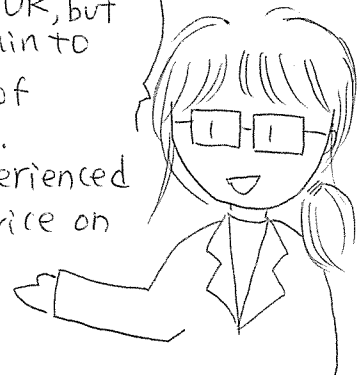
Hirochan, Look after my kids please.



Ok!

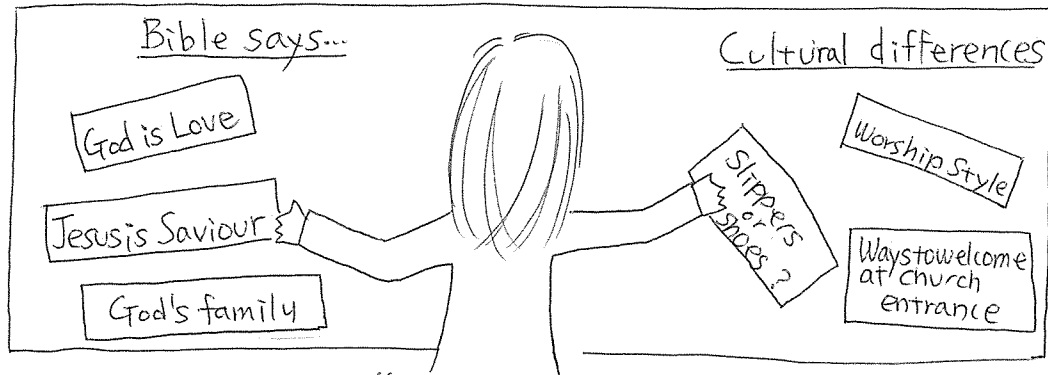
Little sis helps me so I don't have to offer incense

It's tough having all their religious events, which aren't in the UK, but It is a good chance to explain to Japanese how the thinking of Christianity is different. Don't suffer alone, ask experienced Japanese Christian for advice on how to deal with Japanese ceremonies.

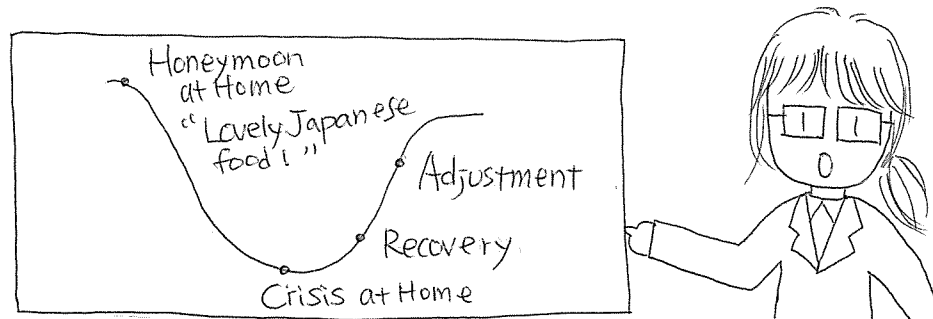


# Important information for Returnees

## 1 Distinguish between Christianity and English culture.



## 2 Learn about "Reverse Culture Shock"



3 Read Japanese Bible

4 Meet Japanese Christian before returning and ask about life in Japan.

5 Make Japanese Christian contacts in your home town before you go back.

6 Don't give up being a Christian even in Japan.

Some things that can be done to overcome the culture differences between Britain and Japan.



For example...

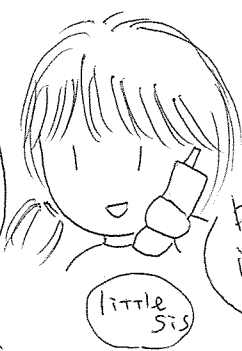




Hirochan's family now



Hirochan got into a strange religion when she was in the UK...



Don't worry. Christianity is one of the three biggest religions in the world. It's not strange Mum

Still this kind of attitude..



You know what? Tomihiro Hoshino \*1 is a Christ.\*2

- \*1 very famous poet
- \*2 "Christ" is used as "Christian" in my area

Good poem I will put it in the book

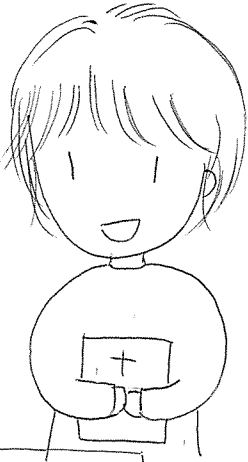


Can't you live in a way that doesn't embarrass people around you? You're a loser as well as a Christian... so weird, awkward. Someone asked me about you yesterday at the volley ball club and I felt so embarrassed about your annoying life style. Do something about it!

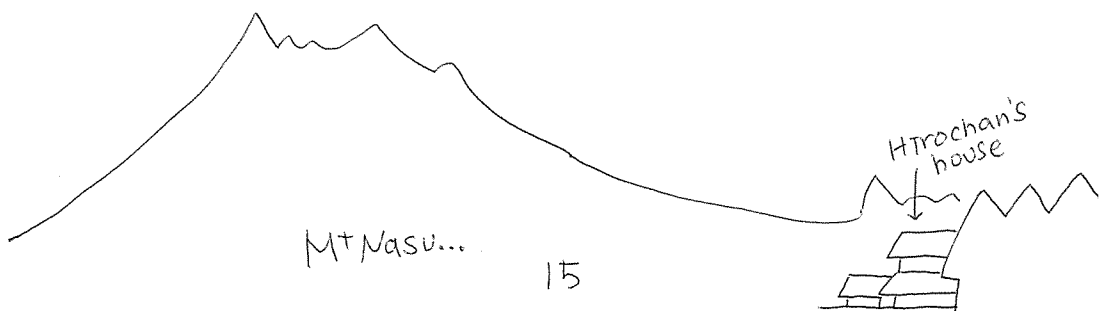


Hirochan, I'm sorry for our family's attitude toward you. Thanks to you, it might be easier for me to become a Christian in our family. However as it seems tough, I will become a Christian the day before I die.

They had been living peacefully in the country side before I became a Christian and suddenly brought "Foreign culture" in my family. They have been confused and puzzled because of me being a Christian. I will love them and pray for them



Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved - you and your household  
Acts 16:31



To Returnees



I will share a Bible passage  
that made me decide to live as  
a Japanese Christian in Japan.

The LORD will guide you always ; he will satisfy your  
needs in a sun-scorched land and will  
strengthen your frame.  
You will be like a well-watered garden like a  
Spring whose waters never fail

Isaiah 58:11

God sent you overseas to know  
Him. This is God's special  
plan for you.

Keep believing in God and  
walk with Him, whether in the  
UK or in Japan



Thank you for reading my story



Hirochan



Rie san