

Meet Hoshi

“Would you take time to talk to me?”



“I saved you a place in line,” Tony said.

Hoshi was both surprised and grateful to hear those words. Appointments aren’t available at the physical therapy clinic in Shimonoseki, Japan. It’s first come, first served, and a line forms early.

Tony Haug, Japan’s Ministry Manager and pastor at Shimonoseki Christ Bible Church, had met 79-year-old Hoshi previously while standing in the morning line at the clinic and had enjoyed a few conversations with her.

“What do you do for a living?” Hoshi asked him during one conversation. Tony told her about being a pastor and about the church, and he gave her a leaflet he had personally created that explained the gospel in Japanese.

When she saw Tony again a few days later, Hoshi said, “I read the pamphlet you gave me several times. Would you take time to talk to me sometime?” she asked. “Yes!” Tony replied.

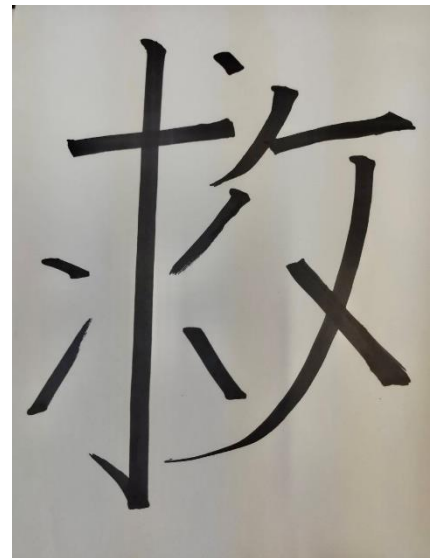
When Pastor Tony and Hoshi met again at the clinic, Hoshi followed Tony to his car to chat, and she agreed to ride to the church so they could talk further.

At the church, Tony asked Hoshi if she had ever read the Bible. “No, I have never heard anything from the Bible,” she said.

“The Bible is God’s introduction to His love for us,” Tony explained. “It starts in Genesis by answering questions like ‘Where did I come from?’ and ‘Why am I here?’”

Tony read from the New Testament, and Hoshi heard John 3:16 for the first time in her life. Then he drew the Japanese character for “salvation” which is comprised of three symbols: a man, a cross, and the word for “to strike.”

Tony prayed with Hoshi, and she agreed to meet with him the following week to learn more. She later canceled their appointment but has shown interest in meeting again. Pray for Hoshi, that she will have the courage to continue meeting with Pastor Tony to learn about God’s love for her.



In Japan's population of more than 125 million people, less than one percent are evangelical Christians. New Japanese Christians face societal challenges, and many fear the disruption of order that their new faith can bring.

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