

Meet Yoshiko

“God protected my life!”

I am the eldest daughter and grew up in a family with my younger sister and brother. Both of my grandparents were Christians. I moved to Shimonoseki when I was 14 years old. I first learned of the existence of Jesus Christ when I was a child, but I thought I had to do many good deeds to make up for my bad behaviors.

When I was in sixth grade, the terrible Kansai earthquake occurred. I had developed a habit of sleeping in the study room in our house where we three children had our desks and books. However—for some reason—the night before the earthquake, I suddenly decided to sleep in our bedroom. After the earthquake occurred early the next morning, my father checked on all the rooms. The study room I usually slept in was almost destroyed! When I look back on that day, I realize *God protected my life*.



As I grew older, I stopped going to church altogether. As a working adult, I moved away from Shimonoseki. I was busy with my daily life and didn't attend church then either. When the Corona pandemic began, I had to stay in my apartment by myself without talking to anyone. I felt completely depressed. I felt so low and didn't know what I was doing with my life.

I went to Shimonoseki Christ Church for the first time in August of 2021 when my mother was baptized and gave her testimony. The next time I returned to visit my parents, I attended the church service again. Pastor Tony said after his message, “Raise your hand if you believe and want to accept Jesus Christ as your Savior.” I suddenly found myself raising up my hand in response!

Unfortunately for about 2 years after that, I did not pursue my relationship with Christ much. When my grandfather died, I was reminded at his funeral of the work of Jesus in his life. I was touched that my grandfather was loved so much by God and that he had taught our family how to live for God.

I began wondering, “Why am I not baptized?” It had been two years since my profession of faith. I had not been reading my Bible. I realized that my actions were far away from God's heart, and I was sinning. I prayed to Jesus to forgive my strayed heart. Since that time, I studied with Pastor Tony every Saturday evening online. I greatly enjoyed studying the Bible (and also all of the laughter 😊). I am thankful that I was able to be baptized at the same time as my nephew!

Jesus died on the cross in place of our sins and rose from the dead three days later. He did many miracles and provides us with salvation and daily grace! I want to remember forever the salvation in Jesus Christ. I desire to walk with my brothers and sisters in the faith, supporting and encouraging them as we follow Christ.

Name and image are representations only.

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.

Pastor Tony and our Japan team at Shimonoseki Christ Bible Church love the Japanese people and are dedicated to sharing the love of Jesus with them. To support their ministry in Japan, click on the “Give” tab on the menu above and choose “Japan Pastor Support” to donate securely today.