

## Picked up by two Nichiren ladies



**November 29, 2009:** While hitchhiking to town I noticed a lady walking toward me from a distance with what appeared to be her car parked by the side of the road behind her. I correctly assumed she was going to offer me a ride. She had another lady friend with her who was the driver. They seemed a bit overly impressed to meet me which caused me to become suspicious.

I asked them, "Do you want to sell me something?"

"No!"

"Are you folks into some kind of religion?"

"No!"

They asked me if I had eaten lunch yet and invited me to a restaurant to talk. I accepted the invitation because I wasn't in any hurry and knew it would give me an opportunity to share my faith with them.

In the restaurant I offered to give them two Activated magazines. As soon as I pulled them out of my briefcase, they turned them down. The only kind of Japanese who refuses to accept literature from me are people into some type of religion, and sure enough, these two ladies turned out to be [Nichiren Buddhist](#) people, and their intent was to try to convert me!

Most Buddhists are very tolerant of other religions, and they have no problem toward Christians in general. The Nichiren sect is the **notifiable exception**. They will flatly tell you to forsake Jesus Christ and pray to their idol using their chant instead. Every time they chanted that horrible chant to me, I started to pray the "Our Father" prayer and told them that prayer works for me. To their credit, they did listen when I told them why Jesus died on the cross, and for what reason, to save all of mankind from sin.

Normally when a Japanese person invites me to a restaurant or coffee bar, they will pick up my tab. I fully expected this to happen but to my embarrassment I walked halfway out of the restaurant and was told I hadn't paid my bill yet! Next time I'll be more wary when a person seems overly interested in talking to me even though we just met. Either they want to

convert you or sell you on some network marketing type of product. ☐

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## October Adventure to Aomori



A man who took me to Murakami City in Niigata Prefecture

**October 30, 2009:** I needed to be in Odate City in Akita Prefecture on November 1st for an appointment at 9:00 AM. Odate is the birthplace of [Hachiko, the faithful dog](#) that would come to meet his master at Shibuya Station in Tokyo when he arrived returning from work. Hachiko continued to do this every evening – even after his master died – for a period of 10 years!

Rather than stay in a hotel in Odate, I opted to stay in Aomori city with friends. Taking the 7:10 train from Aomori would get me in time for my appointment.

The first ride was a truck driver carrying a power shovel. I think this is the very first time I rode in a truck with such a heavy load. In the photo just in front of the truck you can see the two pieces of language I was carrying.



Hosaka Takayuki

I made it as far as Akita City that day in 4 vehicles.



Sachiyo who took me to Akita City

The next morning Hosaka Takayuki took me to just outside of Akita City from where I caught a ride with Sachiyo, (22) whose car was loaded with luggage. She said that she was moving from Akita back to her home town in Aomori. She saw the Akita sign that I was holding, past me once, and then turned around and offered me a ride. This kind lady even went 60 kilometers out of her way to take me to my specific destination in Akita!

Sachiyo was my audience for the next three hours while I shared stories from

the Bible with her. Most Japanese know about Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden, and they know about the great worldwide flood and Noah's ark, but they don't understand the significance of these historical events. It's always a joy for me to share God's good Word with the dear Japanese people. In Sachiyo's case she was already inclined to believe in the existence of the Great Creator and so she readily prayed with me to accept Jesus Christ as her Savior after we reached our destination.

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## Upgrade to Fedora 12 beta



**November 2:** [Fedora Linux](#) version 12 is due to come out on November 18, but I couldn't wait to try it out and installed the yet beta version.

Improvements from Fedora 11 that I've noticed:

- The default video driver recognized my dual monitor setup and automatically gave me the correct screen resolution and spanning monitors.
- Gnome seems to run faster. Terminal now comes up instantaneously.
- Many of the applications appear to load faster.
- Pulse audio now works as it should without quirks. In Fedora 10-11 I could not use other audio applications when Firefox was accessing a flash media file.
- Mplayer plays my MP3 files without the irksome shuddering sound it used to have during the first couple seconds when playing the file. This was a problem in Fedora 10 and 11 but now seems fixed.
- Bluefish HTML editor doesn't crash anymore when I do a spell check as it used to do in Fedora 10 and 11
- The new version of [Dansguardian](#) Internet content filter now runs. I couldn't get the latest version to work in Fedora 11. Dansguardian has improved with options to weed out unwanted pop-ups and advertisements.

Using the Fedora Linux – Firefox – Dansguardian combination gives me the safest browsing imaginable! Eat your heart out, Windows 7!

The downsides of upgrading to Fedora 12 beta:

- In the beginning Firefox crashed a couple of times. It seems to be stable now after a week.
- I can't yet install the Nvidia video driver. But this only means I can't run applications that take a lot of video power such as Google Earth. Video files play perfectly fine.
- Wine doesn't run anymore. I have to wait for a Wine upgrade to fix a conflict with Pulse audio.

All of the above are fixed now after Fedora 12 came out with the final release, and also thanks to the good advice on [Fedora Forum](#). I found a fix for Wine by installing the 64 bit version with the command:

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yum install wine.i686 -y
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