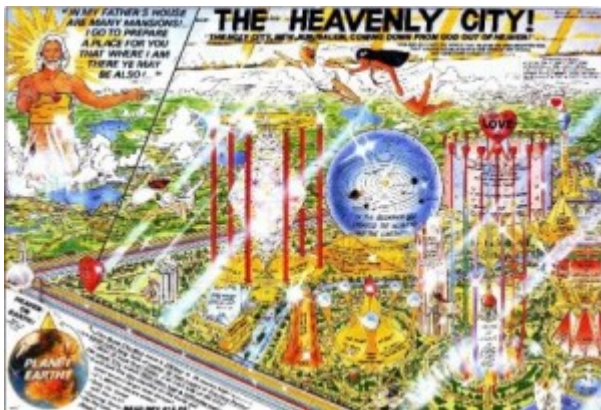


# What Heaven Is Like!



Have you ever wondered what happens to you after you die? What's in store for you when you get to the "other side"? – If indeed there is another side. Is there a Heaven? If so, what is it like? Would you be happy there? Would you find your loved ones there? How different would it be from your life on earth?

If you're interested in knowing the answers to these and many more questions, read on!

You may wonder how I know anything about Heaven anyway. Well, the Bible tells us a lot about what to expect when we get to Heaven – what it will be like, what we will be like, what our bodies will look like, and what we'll do there. There have also been numerous accounts from people who have had a near-death experience where they have died momentarily, gone to Heaven and returned to tell the tale of what they found. Some people have even seen their departed loved ones in visions or dreams, and received messages from them with details of what they found life in Heaven to be like.

One of the most important things about life in Heaven – which many people find surprising – is that it's not entirely different from life on earth! I realize this may not sound like good news, considering all the evils in this world and the sadness that so many people feel and that you may have experienced in your own life. But when I say Heaven is similar to life on earth, I mean that you'll find many things very relatable to your life here. However, the big difference is that Heaven's a perfect world, a world where we can enjoy all the beauties and pleasures that we have here on earth, but without the sorrow, pain, emptiness, loneliness and fear that so often grips us, and without the selfishness, greed and destruction that we see in the world around us.

In Heaven there is only love, beauty, peace, comfort, understanding, joy, willingness to help and to give, thoughtfulness, caring for one another, and most of all, being enveloped in the love of the One who loves us more than anyone – God Himself. The Bible tells us that God is a God of love. In fact, He is the Spirit of Love itself. Therefore His home, Heaven, is a home of love, where you will feel no pain, no sorrow, no rejection, no loneliness – only love! Isn't that wonderful?

Heaven holds many similarities with our physical world. We know from the Bible and from the accounts of those who have seen glimpses of Heaven that we're going to look much the same as we do now. We're not going to be faceless, bodiless spirits, wisping around with no form whatsoever. We'll have bodies, much like we do now, but without the sickness, discomfort or pain we experience here. We'll have our loved ones, our families and children around us. We'll be able to enjoy each other's company, and live happily together forever! If that sounds like paradise, well, that's what Heaven is!

Many people have the mistaken impression that Heaven is going to be a very boring place where we'll have nothing to do but sit around and play harps and sing praises to God. Well, I'm sure that people can play the harp if they want to, and we certainly will be praising God, but our life in Heaven will be much fuller than that!

In fact, we'll probably be even busier there than we are here on earth, except that we won't have the stress, worry, competitiveness and struggle for survival that we presently endure. We'll be busy with things that truly matter, things that make a difference in other people's lives. We'll be investing our time in things that make us happy, inspire us and give us joy; instead of the drudgery, the drab routine, and the senselessness that many of us have experienced in our daily lives here.

We don't know all the details of what we'll be doing in Heaven, but one thing we do know is that we'll be helping people on earth – helping to inspire and encourage them, whispering in their minds and implanting good, happy, uplifting thoughts. We'll help them make the right decisions, so they can be happy too, so they can experience God's love and know that He loves them.

The Bible tells us that Jesus Christ Himself will soon return to reign over the earth, together with the inhabitants of Heaven, for a period of a thousand years known as the Millennium. One of the tasks of those in Heaven – those who love God and have gone on to be with Him after this life – will be to help reconstruct, reorganize, and re-educate the people on earth, in order to make this world a better place – a place where love predominates; where everyone has enough, but no one has too much; where everyone can be happy and can enjoy the fruits of their labors; where there is no more war, deceit or cruelty.

[spp title="God's personal reign on earth"]

Perhaps this sounds like a dream of utopia, but this is exactly what God's personal reign on earth will bring about! And those of us who will be in Heaven will have a part in it. In fact, during the Millennium we'll use all that we've learned – the natural gifts God has blessed us with as well as the skills that we've acquired in our earthly lifetime – in order to help restore the earth to a Garden-of-Eden-like state, as God originally intended for it to be before man polluted our once pure and perfect planet through greed and war.

So whether you're a teacher or a doctor or an engineer or a farmer or a social worker, bus driver, clerk, or a mother or father – whatever your profession or talents may be – you'll be able to use many of the same skills and talents you have now, in the life to come. The difference is that you'll

be using them for much more meaningful purposes – not simply as a means to support yourself and your family, but to make a difference, to help others and to bring them joy and happiness. The way to be happy is to make other people happy, so as we help and encourage others, we experience the love, joy and happiness that we give to them.

The last two chapters of the Bible's Book of Revelation describe Heaven as a gigantic golden city nearly 1,500 miles wide, 1,500 miles long, and 1,500 miles high! (See Revelation 21:16.) That's enough floor space to cover half of the United States or most of Western Europe, reaching nearly 1,500 miles into space! As you can imagine, if you divide it into multiple floor levels, a space this massive can house billions of people, with room to spare!

The Bible tells us that this wonderful heavenly habitation of God will someday come to earth, and that God will dwell with man. It will be like God moving over right into our neighborhood to live with us! And those who love God and have received His love in their hearts are going to live with Him in His wonderful golden city!

This may seem pretty far-fetched, or like something out of a sci-fi movie, but it's true, foretold in a credible prophetic book – the Bible – which contains hundreds of detailed predictions that have already come to pass throughout history!

The Bible describes the city streets as being made of gold, with a wall encasing the city made of twelve different types of precious gems. We will have houses there, heavenly "mansions" where we can live with our families and loved ones, those who have also believed and received God and His love into their lives.

There'll even be a great amusement park, with heavenly amphitheaters where we can hear heavenly music, a time travel center where we can go and review the famous events of history and see how they happened and what really took place, and many other centers of interest where we can learn more about the wonderful life that God has given us and how we can best use it to love Him and others.

You'll have a supernatural body that will never get tired, although you can rest if you want to. You'll never get hungry, although you can eat if you want to. And you'll still be able to enjoy the many other senses and pleasures that we relish here on earth, such as touch, smell, sight and even lovemaking – except that each of these things will be enhanced beyond what you have ever experienced before. You'll even be able to fly!

So as you can see, life in Heaven is a lot like that which we have on earth, except of course it's so much better! It's a place that is alive, vibrant, warm, happy, where you'll be able to enjoy all the pleasures that you've ever wanted, and where all the dreams you've dreamed will come true! It's as if you took life here on earth and removed all the bad things and added a lot of love, joy, peace, happiness and fulfillment. – That's Heaven!

Maybe by now you're wondering how you can make sure you will be able to live

in such a wonderful place as Heaven, once your time on earth is over. Perhaps you've been told that only those who are very good get to go to Heaven. You may feel that excludes you, since you know you've made mistakes, and have at times done things that were wrong, unloving and hurtful.

[spp title="Good News for You!"]

Well, I have good news for you! Anybody can get a free entrance ticket to Heaven! Anybody can be taken into the arms of love and receive the joy, fulfillment and everlasting love that God wants to give each of us, both here and in the life to come – and that includes you! It doesn't matter who you are. It doesn't matter where you've been or what you've done. It doesn't matter how good or how bad you are – because none of us can be good enough to earn a place in Heaven.

The Bible says that only those who are perfect can earn a place in Heaven. But since none of us are perfect, none of us deserve to go there through our own merit. That's why God sent His Son, Jesus, to this earth 2,000 years ago. Jesus paid our way by dying for our sins, and so, through simply believing in Him as our Savior, we can be sure of a place in Heaven. That relieves us of the burden of having to be good enough to go to Heaven, which we couldn't do anyway, because after all, we're only human. Jesus took our burden for us, and therefore all we have to do is believe and receive the gift of salvation that He wants to give us.

He's opened the door for you to the life beyond, and all you have to do is walk through it by believing. You can't earn it, neither can you be too bad for it, because Jesus loves you just the way you are. He knows you, and He knows what's inside of you and everything you've done, even your deepest secrets. He knows it all, but He loves you anyway, because His love is infinite.

His love is so far beyond anything that we can understand or see with our eyes here on earth. His love can fix any mistake, right any wrong, fill any emptiness and heal any pain or hurt. His love can bring joy where there was sorrow, laughter where there was pain, and fulfillment where there was uselessness and misery.

He wants to give you all these things now, here on this earth, plus a place in Heaven when your time here is done. He longs for you and your loved ones to be united and happy forever with Him, and that's why He gave His life for you. He's reaching out to you with this gift now. Just take His love! Take it now, take it today!

You can receive His love and a place in Heaven by simply praying this little prayer: "Dear Jesus, I believe that You love me, and that You came for love and died for me so that I can be free, so that I could live in Heaven for eternity. I ask You to give me this gift of Your love now. Fill the emptiness in my life and give me fulfillment and happiness. Help me to give this same love to others, so that they can be happy too. I accept Your gift of my reservation in Heaven."

There! It's just that simple! All you had to do was open your heart, and Jesus is there now, and He'll be with you forever. You can never lose Him!

You've got a permanent reservation in Heaven that can never be canceled!

God has now placed this gift of love in your heart, and whenever you need Him, you can call out to Him, and He'll help you with His love.

Although it was a free gift, now that you have His love in your heart, He wants you to do what you can to love others, and to pass on the love He has given you so that others can also experience joy in their lives – both here and in Heaven also!

Will you show love to others? Will you do what you can to make their lives better, even if it's only giving a smile, saying a kind word or lending a helping hand? Simple deeds of love and kindness go a long way and can make such a difference in someone's life. Now that you have a little bit of Heaven in your heart, help put a little bit of Heaven in someone else's heart today.

God loves you, and He's looking forward to living with you in Heaven for eternity! And so am I! I'll see you there!

(Written by Maria David. Maria David is the spiritual head of the Family, a nonprofit volunteer Christian missionary movement with operations around the globe, whose mission is to bring spiritual and physical assistance, hope and God's love to others.)

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## [Wife of Marine Colonel exposes corruption and perversion in the U.S. Military](#)



Kay Griggs talks About Military Assassin Squads, Drug Running, Illegal Weapon Deals, and Sexual Perversion Deep Within the U.S. Military And Government.

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# Caffeine dangerous to health



The following information is from the book, “Caffeine Blues” by Stephen Cherniske, M.S. and specifically from Chapter 5, “Specific Health Disorders: The Caffeine Connection” and chapter 6 “Caffeine and Women’s Health”

## **Habitual caffeine intake is linked to:**

- Cardiovascular disease (heart attacks, stroke)
- Gastrointestinal disease (Irritable Bowel Syndrome, ulcers, etc.)
- Migraine headache
- Diabetes
- Osteoporosis
- Anemia
- Premenstrual Syndrome
- Fibrocystic Breast Disease
- Breast cancer
- Birth defects
- Adrenal dysfunction disorders such as allergies, asthma, fibromyalgia, chronic fatigue syndrome and autoimmune disease
- Urinary and prostate problems
- Gout

“Compared to men, research shows that caffeine is much more damaging to women, producing adverse effects at lower intake.” –  
From Caffeine Blues Chapter 6 p. 225

## **Also see:**

[http://www.naturalnews.com/012352\\_caffeine\\_coffee.html](http://www.naturalnews.com/012352_caffeine_coffee.html)

[Is Coffee The Most Caffeinated Drink?](#)

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# The World of the 5th Dimension Explained



His invisible Heavenly Kingdom is already in operation and existence! It not only surrounds us, but is within us. As Jesus said, "The Kingdom of God is within you."

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## King Nebuchadnezzar Becomes Insane



God deals with King Nebuchadnezzar's pride and arrogance by making him insane for seven years! In the end, he gives glory to God.

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# The Cure for Loneliness



God didn't intend for people to be lonely or to live alone. He intended for us to live, love and share our lives TOGETHER with OTHERS in FAMILIES.

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## My Incredible Experience – How I became Alive!

By Teiko Imada

**It can happen to you too!**

**Introduction – World War II**



Teiko with her husband from  
England, Steven

I was born on the 7th January 1934 in the prefecture of Hiroshima, Western Japan, on one of the Setonaikai islands. When the Second World War started, I was 7 years old and had to take care of my brother and sisters while my father and mother were doing farm work. Previously my parents ran a shop, but due to war rationing and great shortages their business closed and they had to look for any work they could find in order to survive.

One day, when I was 10 years old, helping my mother pick oranges in a mountain field, I saw the first blue-eyed person I had ever seen in my life. This was when an American fighter plane broke away from a squadron which was flying past our island towards a Japanese Naval port close to Hiroshima. The plane came directly towards us as if to attack us. My mother cried out, "It's coming for us!" We started to run for protection behind large trees alongside



the field, but we could not make it in time and so definitely thought that we were going to be shot at. My mother embraced me as we looked up in terror into the blue eyes of the young pilot who gazed down upon us. Fortunately he did not open fire, and he had to pull his plane up over the mountain to avoid crashing into it. He saw that we were only a mother and child. This experience was very horrifying for me as a child.



August 6, 1999 at Peace  
Park Hiroshima in front  
of the building that  
was directly under the  
atomic bomb when it  
exploded. The force of  
the impact went outward  
and flattened  
everything within a 2  
kilometer radius except  
the building just below  
it.

Later when I was 11 years old, at 8:15 AM on the 6th August, 1945, everything suddenly went dark and then there was a brilliantly blindingly violet brightness, which was followed by a tremendously terrifying resounding boom with an earthshaking tremor from the USA's first Atomic bomb on the nearby city of Hiroshima. Later the local public warning sirens sounded and we all had to quietly take cover and disperse from the small school. Some of the older school children and workers from our town were living in the nearby city of Hiroshima, and some older men from our town, who had just been summoned as fresh conscripts for the army, had just gone into Hiroshima earlier that day when this bomb mushroomed above us.

This sudden happening caused great concern in our town amongst the relatives of those that were in Hiroshima, so that they quickly went to the city of Hiroshima to find out what had happened only to find that the bomb had killed almost everyone within a two kilometer radius from the city's center and others were in torturous pain. The relatives returned back to town totally heartbroken, only to find after awhile, that they themselves were now suffering from some kind of ailment that they knew nothing about, nor how to overcome it. Of course now that ailment is known to be caused by atomic radiation, which eventually brought about some of their deaths and suffering from long term sicknesses.

## **Bitterness and an "Ugly Duckling" fear complex**

As you can imagine, this caused me to develop a strong bitterness towards Americans without realizing what it was that was bothering me. But also, before the war started, when I was only 7 years old, I had developed a strong "Ugly Duckling" fear complex while growing up. This was because all of my

brothers and sisters were considered to be beautiful or handsome by everyone, while visitors to our family commented that I was not so good-looking. This caused me to develop an inferiority complex, so that when going to school I would make every effort to avoid meeting people, and rather than go the direct route, I would go by surrounding paths. Then as I grew up as a teen in defeated Japan and later trained as a nurse in the Osaka University Hospital Nursing School, it was only then that I began to realize that I was not the only "Ugly Duckling" on this planet.

The reason I started this nurse training in Osaka was because my mother realized that I did not have the special beauty of the rest of my family, so she very sweetly wanted to assist me through my life by helping me to develop a professional occupation.

I worked for 30 years and became what many would consider a proficient and diligent chief nurse in the highly respected government hospital of Osaka. If any foreigners were admitted to my ward, I would instinctively keep my distance from them and automatically designate another nurse to take care of them. I did not realize that this was due to a very strong, deep-seated, sense of bitterness in my heart towards Americans due to the War.

My extreme shyness because of a homeliness complex, caused me not to be able to discuss things with more than just a few people at a time. Only once around the age of 45, after I had become a chief nurse, was I asked to address a large audience. This totally terrified me and caused me to be trembling all through the speech. It was such a horrendous experience for me.

In my early twenties I developed heart problems. As I reached the age of 50 this condition was growing worse so I decided to retire from hospital work. The whole of life was becoming a big money game so I moved to the beautiful Pacific seacoast of Shionomisaki, southeast of Osaka, where I lived with my longtime friend who had also just retired from his work. Living in such a natural environment by the sea surrounded by nature and fishing, was a paradise for me for the first 2 or 3 years. However, soon my enjoyment with a free and natural life by the sea started to fade to a lack of any real fulfillment in my life. I became forlorn and depressed by the futility of life and the sorrows of this world.

It was at this time that I briefly visited my older sister who was living in Tokyo. My sister suggested to me, that if I would simply ask Jesus Christ to come into my heart, He would give me the love, truth and happiness that I so badly needed as well as give me a sense of fulfillment. I could not see how this would help me, as I personally had no interest in God nor any religious matters. However, I prayed with my sister and asked Jesus into my heart more out of courtesy and respect for my older sister's desire to be helpful to me, and not because I thought it would do anything for me.

After leaving Tokyo and returning back to life with my friend by the seacoast, I totally rejected the whole idea of Jesus in my mind and did not feel that this was any solution to my problems at all. I later phoned my sister in Tokyo and told her while laughing that I was not interested in her "mind control". I think this must have deeply hurt her feelings, but my male

companion and I had no interest at all in religion. Yet as we were living in Shionomisaki totally immersed in nature, we could not help but feel that there was definitely some greater power that controlled all the beautiful things of nature.

## **Great Hope found through tragedy – Miracles start to happen**

One day as we were setting off to go fishing, my dear boy friend suddenly had a cerebral hemorrhage right in front of me in our boat! It really shook me up. He then went into a coma and I became totally heartbroken. Thankfully my concerned older sister from Tokyo came down to the coast at Shionomisaki to comfort me. Two days later he died in the hospital. After his cremation all my friends and acquaintances departed for home but my sweet sister stayed on with me for a while more. She was concerned that I might decide to commit suicide. She could feel in the spirit that my beloved friend and I had made plans to die together. My sister opened her Bible and showed me a scripture verse of hope, but I could not understand it at all.

During the night my sister spent many hours telling me about Jesus' love and His healing balm. Suddenly she noticed a total transformation had taken place in my facial appearance. She suggested to me that I should look at myself in the mirror. In the mirror I saw that my whole face had changed into the face of a **4 or 5-year-old child**! My sister continued telling me more about Jesus and His sweet love, life and power, so that my countenance became more like that of a baby, with a big and happy smile. This was such a surprise to me because in my own thinking I had been so sad and I had felt so hopeless on the death of my beloved friend that I just wanted to join him by taking my own life.

After a very happy night's sleep, the next morning I awoke to find that my usual reading glasses had become too strong for me and if I used the much weaker medium range pair of glasses that my deceased friend had used I could read with no problem. This showed me that **my eyesight had greatly improved**. It was a total miracle! Also for the previous 30 years I had suffered from heart problems, which was one of the reasons that I had had to retire early from Hospital service, but that morning when I awoke, I was also fully recovered from that problem. Also that morning all my body swellings totally disappeared and I found that I was now 10 kilograms lighter to the point that the neighbors did not even recognize me! I had also suffered for a long time from a severe backbone problem, as well as a continual ringing sound in my left ear for many years, but now all of these problems too were also completely gone! This was a complete surprise to me as I had been so medically aware of all my ailments from a scientific point of view.

The awareness of the spirit world started to become so real to me that my dear companion's departure from this world was no longer the main problem anymore for me. Because my sister had talked with him and helped him to receive Jesus into his heart while he was in his comatose state just before he passed on, I knew that he had merely gone on ahead of me to be with Jesus. Of course sometimes I would feel strong remorseful and cold heart pains about my friend's departure, but whenever I cried out desperately to Jesus my tears

would stop and I knew that my friend was being well taken care of and I could actually feel Jesus' loving arms around me.



Before Salvation! After salvation!

It was not so much an articulate understanding in my mind, that I could understand these things, but rather it was an amazingly deep awareness of Jesus' closeness and presence and supernatural help to me in every detail of my life which totally obliterated any thoughts of suicide and hopelessness. I had previously totally rejected any religious ideas and so never have touched a Bible before. However because of experiencing so many miracles at this time, when I did get a chance to actually read the Bible for myself, I was amazed to see that the physical and spiritual experiences that I had had at this time were all written about in the Bible. Thank You Jesus!

### **My move to Tokyo – a New Life Begins!**

My older sister closed up my living quarters in Shionomisaki for me in such a miraculous way! I felt so incapable and was unable to do anything to help her. This demonstrated to both my sister and me that Jesus was doing all these miracles for us, as my older sister was also not so healthy or physically strong either. She was such a good example of being a dedicated witness of Jesus' love to everyone we met while helping me, so this really taught me the importance of just forgetting my own self- pity and sorrow as I saw the great need and joy of just witnessing about Jesus' love and His care in every situation and opportunity that I had. To do so was yet another miracle. I was totally set free from my previous fear of man that I had been under all of my life in speaking to groups of people!



Summer 1992, Harajuku,  
Tokyo. Harajuku is the  
fashion center of Tokyo  
where all the young  
people like to go.

I moved up to Tokyo to be closer to my sister along with other Christian disciples who really love Jesus and call themselves, "The Family International." Some of them are foreigners. I then became aware of another miraculous transformation that had occurred: My strong bitterness towards foreigners had completely vanished!

In Tokyo I opened up an apartment to be near my sister. After experiencing so many miracles after my friend's decease, I became deeply interested in the Bible and began reading it. Then I started reading the words of David Brandt Berg, the founder of the Family, which I found so simple and marvelous in helping me to understand the mysteries of life, so that I just wanted to read everything that David Berg had written about God and life and the life to

come.

I had never before been aware how deep and immeasurable the spirit world is but I could now feel Jesus' exploding Love from within stimulating me and a great hunger for the Word of God and Truth. I now wanted to be totally part of this Family.



August 1995 meeting homeless  
children in Vladivostok, Russia

Basically I just could not seem to get enough of God's Word from the Bible and the deep guidance from David Berg's literature of encouragement, as to how God's love was so relevant to not only myself, but to everyone in the world today and all that is happening these days. This gave me such a strong spiritual thirst and desire to grow as close as I could to Jesus in spirit and in truth in every area of my life. The Scripture, "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God." (Matthew 4:4) became a reality to me. I just wanted to witness about Jesus and the End Time warning message and Jesus' Love, which can be experienced right now. I would go out on my own to tell others this truth, which I found difficult at first until I realized more and more that I just had to claim Jesus' power to do anything.

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## [Former Canadian Cabinet Minister Testifies to the existence of Extraterrestrial beings visiting Earth](#)



ETs are the fallen angels who followed Lucifer. Some who have testified to being abducted by UFOs have stopped the experience by calling on the Name of

Jesus.

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## May 2013 Adventure to Aomori



Mr. Yasutake Natsukasa from  
Fukuyama City HIroshima Prefecture.  
Atsumi Onsen to Tsuruoka. He's  
retired and travels around Japan  
living in his car.

From May 10 to 12 I traveled 870 kilometers from Niigata Murakami City to  
Aomori City and back in 22 vehicles.

The first driver, a lady, took me from Majima station to Nezegaseki near the  
Yamagata border line. She was on her way to help oversee a group of  
elementary children (which including her son) climb Mt. Nihonkoku, a small  
mountain of 300 meters high. From there a van took me to Atsumi Onsen, just 5  
kilometers further.

At Atsumi Onsen a man on foot approached me asking if I can speak English.  
His name is Yasutaka Nakatsukasa, a retired businessman from Fukuyama City in  
Hiroshima Prefecture. He was living in his car touring the Tohoku area for a  
month. Yasutaka's hobby is water painting. He showed me drawings of the local  
scenery. He took me to Tsuruoka City which is where he had just come from  
that day.



View from Sakata of Mt. Chokai

From Tsuoka a lady who attends Hawaiian dance classes took me to me to the next city of Sakata. She said she has been a widow from 17 years ago. Her husband was a policeman investigating an accident and was hit by a driver who wasn't watching where he was going! Her husband died immediately. "Was the driver arrested and put in prison? I asked. "No," the lady replied, "But he was an irresponsible man with bad eyesight who never should have had a driver's license in the first place. "



Single couple who took me from  
Sakata to Omagari to Konoura

The lady dropped me off in the middle of Sataka city. I would rather have been further down the road closer to the edge of the city from where there would be less city traffic, and so I walked. After about 10 minutes I got to a bridge. It's not likely that anyone would stop for me in the middle of a bridge but a car suddenly stopped in the lane it was in. Usually a driver will pull over to the side and so I thought it rather odd.. But because there was no traffic behind the car the driver was blocking anybody. It was a young single couple, Shunta and Mizuki, both 20 years old, high school dropouts on their way to Magari in Akita Prefecture, their home. They were debating with each other whether to pick me up or not. After questioning me and being satisfied with my answers, they took me to Konoura Interchange of the Akita Expressway. There are no tolls for the first 40 kilometers of that expressway which made it a good place to hitchhike to catch traffic going some distance. Expressway tolls in Japan are probably the highest in the world. It costs 7000 yen to travel 300 kilometers.

A car transport lorry took me to Honjo City from Konoura. From Honjo another 20 year old man, Mr. Suzuki, took me as far as Akita Station, some 40 kilometers further. He's a seaman who works on a fishing vessel 10 months out of the year. Mr. Suzuki said he has to work 18 hour days for weeks on end. The only days off are when they aren't fishing. The boat goes as far as Peru in S.A. He was on his way to see his girlfriend. The pay, he said, is good, earning enough to easily save to buy a house.

I got to Akita Station just in time to catch a train going to Noshiro City, but took it only a distance of 240 yen to Oiwake Station from where I again hitchhiked. A mother and her daughter who were going to their home in Noshiro went a few kilometers out of their way for me to take me to Futsui, the end of the expressway.

It was hot and I was thirsty. Though it was fine weather in Futatui, unlike previous times standing in Futatsu, I waited a relatively long time for a ride. I decided to walk further up the road. After walking nearly a kilometer, I came close to a tunnel and knew I wouldn't be able to walk through it safely. Just then a car pulled over. It was truck driver on his way home in a regular car. He not only took me a good distance up the road to Takanosu, but he even found the next ride for me a man going all the way to

Aomori city, my destination!

## Photos from Aomori back to Niigata



Newly wed couple to Hirosaki from  
Aomori Chuo

Toru who took me from Odate City to Takanosuke in Akita Prefecture

Road sign in Takanosu.

Miss Yoshimi who took me to Yurihonjo City from Noshiro City in Akita Prefecture. She was very interested in the Biblical account of Creation and said she wants to believe and accept God's Son Jesus into her life.

A family who took me to Nezugasaki in Niigata Prefecture from Atsumi Onsen in Yamagata Prefecture

□□□□□□□□□□ A single couple who took me to a train station near home where I had my bicycle parked.

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## Second Trip of Golden Week 2013 Hitchhiking Adventures



Toward the end of Golden Week, I again went to Aomori Prefecture and back. Six vehicles took me 431 kilometers to Aomori City, and 5 cars took me 632 kilometers back to Niigata via the Tohoku and Banetsu Expressways. Though I expected sunny weather, there again was slight precipitation from time to time.



Three of the drivers offered to treat me to coffee but I politely declined. I've been reading [Caffeine Blues](#) by Stephen Cherniske, M.S. and have finally woken up to the hidden dangers of the world's #1 drug! An older man who took me 300 kilometers to Fukushima handed me a can of coffee which he bought for me without asking me. I accepted it but didn't drink it. I gave it to the next driver, a lady who took me toward Aizuwakamatsu. I explained why I don't drink any caffeine containing beverages anymore, and told her that coffee is especially bad for women. "Better not drink it!" I told her. I had mixed feelings about offering her the coffee, but she told me she loves the stuff. Hopefully it'll be her last fix.



Mr. & Mrs. Kobayashi from Amagasaki City. They took me from Murakami City in Niigata to Sakata City in Yamagata.



Lady who took me to Katagami City just past Akita City. She went a bit out of her way from me.



Satoh Maki from Toyosaki in Niigata Prefecture. She and her parents took me from Katagami City to a point close to Odate City. They were on their way to Lake Towada.



Kazumasa Hikita who took me to Hirosaki.



Family who took me to my destination in Aomori City. They went a bit out of their way for me.

## May 4: Hirosaki to Aomori City

Two couples on their way to Hachinohe went a bit out of their way to take me to my destination. They work for a pharmaceutical company. I told them I stay away from all drugs, including caffeine. Drugs only treat symptoms, not the basic causes of illness. Only lifestyle changes can correct the causes. One man agreed with me but said that most people find it difficult to change their lifestyle. "We sometimes need a coach", I told him. A coach could be a loved one, a church pastor, or a professional therapist. If you ever seek professional help for personal problems such as an addiction, it's best to consult with a person who has had the same problem you have, and have overcome it.



Setting sun over Mt. Iwaki. Cherry tree in foreground.



Mr. & Mrs. Manabe and their friends who took me back to Aomori city from Hirosaki.

## May 5: Aomori City to Niigata City

Today was *supposed* to be sunny according to the weather forecast, but again there was a slight rain. I waited over 2 hours at the Aomori Chuo interchange! Though there was much traffic and a long line of cars, nearly everyone of the drivers avoided making eye contact with me. The few who offered me a ride were going only a short distance. I was hoping for the first ride to get me at least as far as Morioka City in Iwate.

Finally, a lady who spoke English said she would be going to Fukushima that evening, but she would stop at Goshogawara first to see her elderly mother. Goshogawara is a good hour out of my way. It would take at least two and a half hours for her to get back on the expressway going the direction I needed to go. Normally I would not have accepted a ride in such circumstances. But because the lady was quite fluent in English, and because I wanted to move on, I went with her. But after considering the matter further, I decided not to go with her all the way but to get off only 10 minutes later when she would arrive at Route 7 between Aomori City and Hirosaki. The point is rather desolate with little traffic.

I didn't consider myself in a good situation but within a few minutes a car stopped for me. It was a man with his Chinese wife. At first I thought the Chinese wife was deaf because she was moving her hands when trying to communicate with her husband as if she was using sign language. But I

realized later she cannot speak Japanese, and he doesn't speak Chinese! Sometimes she would write down words in Chinese characters, the ones Japanese can understand. They took me to Hirosaki. I still had an opportunity to get back on the Tohoku Expressway from that point. Another option was to take Route 7 back all the way if I could catch a car going far enough.

An older couple with Tokyo license plates stopped for me. I rejoiced because I knew they would be going at least as far as Fukushima. But the driver said he may going only up to Sendai which is still a good distance. I accepted. The Golden Week traffic was heavy and there were traffic jams at the beginning of slopes and before tunnels where many drivers unconsciously slow down. The couple decided not to spend the night in Sendai after all and therefore took me to Adatara in Fukushima. I arrived around 6:30 p.m. just before dark. From there it was a relatively short wait for the next two cars that took me home.



Ohtake Chio, daughter Noe and son Satoi. They took me from Adatara SA of the Tohoku Expressway to Bandaisan SA on the Banetsu Expressway



Mr. & Mrs. Kasiwagi and their son. Sosuke. who were on their way to Ehime Prefecture in Shikoku. They took me to Niigata City.

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## [Fukushima Radiation Reports Overblown](#)



The fear mongers of the threat of radiation from the nuclear power plant meltdown were all wrong! Life goes on in Japan as it always had.

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## 2013 Golden Week Hitchhike Adventure to Aomori



The Tohoku area of Northern Honshu, Japan. The red light shows my usual route to Aomori City, and the blue line shows the route I took back via the Tohoku and Banestsu Expressways. It is 130 kilometers longer than the Sea of Japan route, but potentially faster.

From April 27th to April 29th I hitchhiked 986 kilometers in 12 vehicles From Niigata to Aomori Prefecture and back. (See map) This time is the beginning of what is called "Golden Week" in Japan, a string of holidays which includes Emperor Showa's birthday.

It rained hard the night before I left but by morning, the rain had stopped in Niigata. I caught an immediate ride at my starting point on Route 345 near Majima station, the first car that came! The driver took me to Tsuruoka City in Yamagata Prefecture, a good 1.5 hour distance of about 100 kilometers. It was raining heavily when I arrived and so I sought for shelter at a store for some 30 minutes. The rain subsided by then but there were strong gusts of wind. My umbrella strained against it but survived.

The second car also came very quickly, a man who took me to Sakata City about 20 kilometers up the road. He offered me a can of coffee to drink but I politely declined. I explained to him that I quit all caffeine intake only 4 days before. I shared with him the physiological and psychological harm caffeine does to my body, things I read from "Caffeine Blues."

The final car that day was a mother and her one and a half year old daughter.



Mr. and Mrs. Kamimoto who took me  
from Iwate to Fukushima

The longest ride on the way back was from Iwatesan Service Area in Iwate Prefecture just before Morioka City to Adatara in Fukushima, 310 kilometers. The driver, Mr. Kamimoto and his wife were one of the sweetest couples as well. They treated me to lunch at Kunimi Service Area in Fukushima Prefecture. It turns out Mr. Kamimoto served some 34 years in the Japanese Self Defense Force! I knew from my own military experience as an Airman in the USAF that he must have rose fairly high in rank to be in the military so long, and I learned he retired as a Lt. General! I think Mr. Kamimoto must be the highest ranking officer who ever befriended me. I've only known colonels before.

The Kamimotos took me to Adatara SA which is just before the Banetsu Expressway junction. From experience I know this is the hardest point to catch a ride toward my destination of Niigata. Nearly all of the traffic is heading south toward Tokyo. However today, I got an immediate ride! A high school science teacher and his elderly mother saw my sign and stopped for me. I asked him if he believes in evolution. "Of course!", the teacher replied. I explained why I reject it as false science. They took me to Bandaisan Service Area. At that point a good percentage of the traffic is going to Niigata.



Mr. and Mrs. Satoh who took me to  
Niigata City

The final ride to Niigata City was a couple from the Unification Church, Mr. and Mrs. Satoh. He's also a nuclear power plant engineer at the power plant at Kashiwazaki-Kariwa, the largest nuclear power plant in the world. We talked about his job for a while, and then he switched to biblical doctrinal matters. For some reason, these dear people do not think that Jesus' death on the Cross of Calvary was necessary or good! They think that Jesus failed! I told them Jesus offered Himself as a sacrifice for our sins, and His blood shed on the cross cleans us from all sin.

Colossians 1:20 And, having made peace through the blood of his

cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven.