

Hitchhike Adventure to Aomori City and Kanto



On September 17th, 2016, I hitchhiked from the crossroads of Route 345 and Route 7 near Gatsugi Station in Murakami City in Niigata Prefecture all the way to Aomori City in a single car! This is a distance of about 400 kilometers or 250 miles. I am 66 years old at the time of this post.

The driver's name is Hiroshi who lives and works in France as a chef of French cuisine. He once was the chef of the Emperor and Empress of Japan and actually met them! He bought me lunch and went way out of his way to take me exactly where I wanted to go, a 5 hour drive from his original destination. Unfortunately Hiroshi wouldn't let me take a photo of him.

Hiroshi needed to go to Yokote City to buy some exotic Japanese cuisine. Normally I would have refused to go with him to Yokote, but he promised me he would take me the rest of the way to Aomori afterwards and I believed him. Yokote is the longer route to Aomori.

The scenes are in Akita Prefecture. The red and white striped pole is to mark the edge of the road after heavy snowfalls, a frequent winter occurrence in this part of northern Japan.



Akita Prefecture, Ani



Two days later my destination is now Sayama city in Saitama Prefecture. Saitama is one of the prefectures in the Kanto Plain area of Japan. Aomori City is the northern city of Honshu, and Saitama is just north of Tokyo which means I needed to travel 600 kilometers or 400 miles that day in order to make it. I nearly didn't!

After waiting only 30 minutes, a couple going to Furukawa City in Miyagi

picked me up. This was a good distance of 200 kilometers, a 1/3 of the distance I needed to go!



The couple who took-me over 200 kilometers-from Aomori City to Miyagi Prefecture

The second driver was on his way to Nagoya and would pass through Niigata. Normally I would have gone with him to Niigata which has been my home till date. But because today I'm going to Saitama, he took me to the Adatara Service Area in Fukushima Prefecture which is just before the Banetsu junction that goes to Niigata.



Masayuki who took me to Fukushima from Miyagi



The third car of my hitchhiking adventure from Aomori City to Sayama City in Saitama was a young couple I met at Adatara service area in Fukushima. They were on their way to Utsunomiya in Tochigi Prefecture and had also picked up a university student who was also hitchhiking from Aomori City! He was on his way to Matsumoto in Nagano which is 3 times further than my destination in Saitama. The couple offered to take us both to the Sano Service Area in Tochigi.

By the time we arrived to Sano, it was dark and raining heavily to the low atmospheric pressure influence of the typhoon in Okinawa. Because it was a holiday, "Senior Citizens Day," the service area was crowded with vehicles and thronged with people. But from experience I knew that was not necessary a good thing. Too many people means the average Japanese thinks someone else will give the poor hitchhiker a ride!

I stood in front of the restrooms out of the rain and showed the paper sign of my destination to everyone. They all knew what I was doing but nearly everyone ignored me and avoided making eye contact. Often a person who makes eye contact is willing to help.

At the service area there were 3 other hitchhikers. One was the university student who came with me from Fukushima, and the other two were highschool students on their way to Hannyu city in Saitama. We were all in the same boat. Nobody was offering them rides either.

After about 45 minutes, a man approached me and gave me a can of hot coffee and a pet bottle of green tea! He couldn't help me but wanted to encourage me.

After an hour I decided to call it quits. I consigned myself to an

uncomfortable night camping out in the service area rest facility. There were only hard chairs to lay down on.

I sat down at a crowded table in the midst of other travelers. After a few minutes a young lady sitting on my right started talking to me in English. She was interested in what I was doing but I could tell her male partner wasn't interested in helping me.

After she and her partner left a man sitting at my left started speaking to me in perfect English! He lived in Germany for 4 years and went to an international school in Frankfurt and all that time schooled in a total English environment. He was on his way with his family to an area in Saitama which is relatively close to my final destination! I told him I am facing an unpleasant night unless I can leave the service area and get to a train station and go by train where I needed to go, Sayama City. He talked to his family and they agreed to take me with them! And what a family! It was his parents, his wife and children, and his brother's and sister's spouses and children, at least 20 people in all! And because they all lived in Germany before, most of them speak English! They were traveling in the huge bus you see in the photo.



The bus that took me from Tochigi to Saitama.

In the beginning I spoke to them in English but later switched to Japanese as I shared my faith in the Creator God and true history from the Bible. They listened with interest and one of the men became my Facebook friend.

I am facing a crossroads in my life at this time. Rather than hitchhike several times a month to Aomori just to earn money, I am thinking and praying about moving there. Any financial help or encouragement you can send me is appreciated.

[Japan Rescued Polish Orphans from Siberia at the end of World War One](#)



This is the story of when Japan rescued Polish orphans from Siberia at the end of World War One. I translated it from Japanese to English from the YouTube with the help of my Japanese friend Yoko Ishikawa:

The untold story of why Poland is friends with Japan!

Praise to the non-discriminatory Japanese nurse for her help and support.

This is a heart moving true story.

In 1989, Poland changed significantly due to democratization from the former communist bloc which resulted in its rapid economic growth. In 21 consecutive years, Poland's GNP has the only positive growth in Europe. It has maintained this growth in spite of the euro crisis and the collapse of Lehman Brothers.

Poland has a surprisingly warm friendly relationship with Japan. A popular department of the prestigious University of Warsaw is the Japan Department of Japanese martial arts boom such as kendo.

In 1920, after the First World War, during the civil war of the Russian Revolution, many Polish citizens were detained in Siberia. They could not use the land route of the Trans-Siberian Railway during the war to escape from Russia, and even if they did manage to return to Poland, their house was gone.

The Polish people were dying one after another in a land of extreme cold. Poland in an effort to save just the children who lost their parents, issued a letter, a life-saving petition to the United States and the United Kingdom. The petition asked for transportation and the assistance of orphans, but due to the tension of international relations, the reaction of the nations to Poland's request was indifferent and callous.

Poland then turned to Japan for help as its last hope.

The Japan Ministry of Foreign Affairs made a prompt decision toward the relief of the orphans.

In late July, 1920, 56 orphans from Vladivostok arrived in Tokyo via Tsuruga, and were housed in a dormitory. At the time Japan had no formal diplomatic relations with Poland, and moreover, to comply with a request that was a

costly and effort-consuming attempt to aid civilians in Siberia who were separated from their homeland was unusual.

And, from 1920 to 1922, a total of 5 times, 765 orphans from one year old to 16 years old were brought to Japan by ship, and they received a surprisingly warm hospitality. Orphans with lice on their heads or those who suffered from typhus and other bad health conditions and those who were starving were treated immediately after arrival by hard working Japanese Red Cross nurses.

News of the orphans was broadcast throughout Japan. As a result donations, toys, candy etc. were sent to the orphans. Volunteers provided dental treatment, hairdressing, entertainment, and consolation.

Entertaining and comforting the orphans was offered one after another. Also, Japanese children who were brought by adults to visit the Polish orphans, without hesitation gave them the clothes they were wearing and their hair ornaments. In addition, there was also the following episode.

A young Japanese nurse, Ms. Fumi Matsuzawa, who cared for a child with typhoid fever, said she wanted at the very least, for the child to die while holding the child in her arms. She continued to nurse the child without leaving him even for a moment.

Her effort was worth it and the child miraculously recovered, but Ms. Fumi herself was infected with typhoid fever, and eventually died from it. In addition, there is also a similar recollection of another child. "I had been suffering from a terrible skin disease, and medicine was applied all over my body. Then I was wrapped in a white cloth as mummy, and was taken to bed by the nurse.

When the nurse put me on the bed, she smiled and kissed my nose which was the only part of my face out of the cloth. I got the courage to live because of this kiss, and burst into tears.

The orphan children were thus touched by the warm hearts of the Japanese. They were pale skinned and skinny children when they first came to Japan, but by the time they left they were all healthy and became like a different person.

This was of course a wonderful thing, but it also meant that the day was approaching when the children would go back to their homeland.

Everyone was hoping that they would stay in Japan, the nation where the sun is pretty, a nation with beautiful summers, with a sea, where flowers are always in bloom.

When the orphans departed Japan, bananas and sweets were given to them. With sadness of heart, the Japanese who cared for them said goodbye, and the children's eyes were full of tears.

The orphans yelled out from the deck of the ship, "arigato" (thank you) to the Japanese on shore. They also sang Japanese songs and showed much gratitude for the care they received.

The Japanese captain of the ship went to the orphans' quarters every night, and went to each bed, each child, and made sure the child was covered with a blanket up to his neck. He stroked the child's forehead to make sure the child did not have a fever.

Father's hand was surely so big, and warm, the child thought. They waited with half closed eyes for the captain to come around and see them.

After the children returned to Poland, they were housed in an orphanage. They grew up and went about their individual lives, but they knew it was the affection that was poured out to them in a foreign country that gave them the power to live.

This story has been buried in the vortex of history in Japan, and most of the Japanese have forgotten the event with the orphans from Poland. However, the Polish people themselves did not forget.

In 1980, a movement of democratization began in Poland. Mr. Lech Walensa who became the driving force behind it selected Japan for his first foreign visit destination. He visited Japan in May 1981. He found Japan to be a nation of peace and full of great potential. When Mr. Walensa returned home, he made a slogan calling Poland to become the second Japan.

In 1989, Poland was liberated from Communism and became the Republic of Poland.

Mr. Nagao Hyodo who served as the Polish ambassador from 1993, began to wonder why Poland is so pro-Japanese. He decided to determine the cause and spread the reason why.

In October 1995, eight of the Siberia orphans officially visited Japan.

Though the orphans were all older than 80 years old, their memories were still vivid, and they shared their feelings of gratitude. And, Mr. Nagao Hyodo until the last year of his term of office, piled up information of the exchanges with the orphans.

The Vice Chairman of the Far Eastern Commission, Mr Jozef, Yakubukebitchi, sent a thank-you letter to the Japanese government.

Polish nationals are a noble people, a nation that does not forget the kindness showed it. I would like the Japanese people to know that fact about Poland.

The Polish people have the deepest respect, the most warm friendship and affection for Japan. I want to tell the world about this.

An event to prove this took place in 1995. When the people of Poland heard news of the Great Hanshin Earthquake, they moved toward the relief of the affected area as soon as the very next day.

And, children who became orphans after the earthquake were invited to Poland where they received comfort and compassion.

Poland's local governments, companies, wealthy individuals, and artists, sent donations and gave support and aid.

At the end of the second visit, the earthquake orphans had a face-to-face meeting with the original Siberia orphans. They talked about the past and deepened their friendship. In 2006, the last of the Polish orphans, Ms. Antonina Lilo, died at the age of 90.

Before she had her last breath, she left a kind word. "Japan was like heaven on earth."

I hope many people will see this video.

If you wish to support this message, it would be greatly appreciated if you would click the like button.

Thank you for viewing this till the end.

[The Seven Seals of Revelation Chapter 6 Shown to be Fulfilled Historically](#)



The meaning of the 7 seals of the book of Revelation.

[Kent Hovid Profoundly Answers the Age Old Question, "Where Did God Come](#)

From?"



Kent Hovid's answer is so good, I transcribed it. You're welcome to print it out.

All right, your question, "Where did God come from?" assumes that you're thinking of the wrong, obviously displays that you're thinking of the wrong God. Because the God of the Bible is not affected by time, space or matter. If He's affected by time, space or matter, He's not God.

Time, space and matter is what we call a *continuum*. All of them have to come into existence at the same instant. Because if there were matter but no space, where would you put it? If there were matter and space but no time, when would you put it? You cannot have time, space or matter independently. They have to come into existence simultaneously.

The Bible answers that in 10 words. "In the beginning", there's time, "God created the heaven", there's space, "and the earth", there's matter. So you have time, space, matter created, a trinity of trinities there. Time is past, present, future, space has length, width, height, matter has solid, liquid, gas. You have a trinity of trinities created instantaneously, and the God who created them has to be *outside* of them. If He's limited by time, He's not God.

The god that created this computer is not in the computer, he's not running around in there changing the numbers on the screen, OK? The God Who created this universe is outside of the universe. He's above it, beyond it, in it, through it, He's unaffected by it. So the concept of a spiritual force cannot have any effect on a material body, well then I guess you have to explain to me things like emotions and love, and hatred and envy, and jealousy and rationality. I mean if your brain is just a random collection of chemicals that formed by chance over billions of years, how on earth can you trust your own reasoning processes and the thoughts that you think?

So your question, "Where did God come from?" is assuming a limited God. And that's your problem. The God that I worship is not limited by time, space or matter. If I could fit the infinite God in my 3 pound brain, He would not be

worth worshiping, that's for certain. So that's the God that I worship, thank you.