



When I was working and living as a web developer in Japan, I completely denied the existence of God.  
I'd lived my life by solving everything on my own.



At the time, I thought that by being a good person, I could make more money. That was my initial reason for starting to read the Bible.



One day while living in Japan, I decided to make a big decision in my life.

Throwing away everything, such as my job position, career, and relationship, then going to Australia.

This is my favourite English phrase, No pain, no gain.

I believed that something really good would come from this pain.



← Submitted a resignation letter

Last September when I arrived in Australia.

I decided to go to church, because I knew there was lots of wisdom which I could learn from the Bible and because the Bible had a significant impact on world culture.

The first two churches I went to were not particularly attractive and I never went there again.



CrossCulture was the third church that I tried.  
I found a good way to learn English and the Bible in  
CrossCulture's English Corner and the Life Group.  
I made friends there and started attending every week.



I remember being confused because I didn't understand why people I met there were so kind to me.

In Japan, some religions required people to donate money to become a member.

I wasn't a customer in this Church and I didn't need to donate it. Even then they were still kind to me. I felt that there was something fundamentally different compared to the way I felt among my friends in Japan.

Buying exorbitantly expensive spiritual stuff to be saved. →



Then, after the English corner Life Group bible study, I went to the Evening service at the church.

But I felt puzzled during the service.

It felt like I was listening to an unknown language.

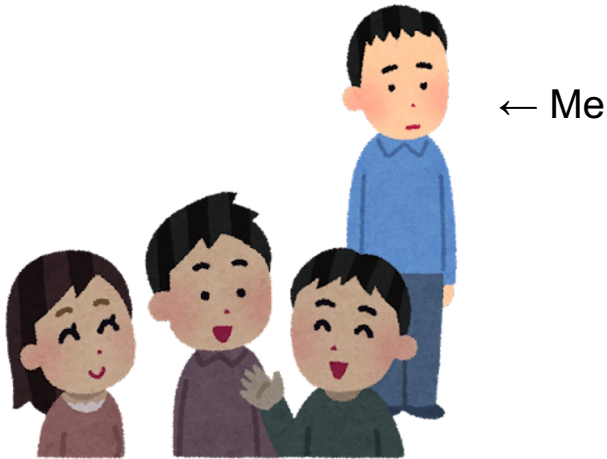




One day, after the evening service, someone invited me to go to Step.

So I decided to join the next week.

When I first joined, I was confused because I didn't know any of the people.



Jacob was the first to speak to me and as a result, I became friends with the people in Step.

Then, I went to Easter camp to meet more people in Step and gained new insights in Christianity.

Specifically, listening to Jesse's sessions allowed me to grow closer to Jesus.

It has definitely changed my perspective of the difference between typical Japanese morals and Christian morals.

So far I've been touched by the kindness of Christians and I've developed a desire to be like them in my own life. In Japanese, there's this phrase called 浮き彫り (relief), and it basically describes how a piece of wood can be carved from nothing into art.



In that sense, the wood represents the mentality of Japanese people, including myself. The carving was Christianity. The art is my new way to express my kindness from my mind.



Learning the Bible



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One day a person encouraged me to pray.

A few days after I started praying in Japanese I understood the true meaning of prayer.

Before, when I heard the prayers, they only sounded like requests to a shrine. It felt like I was whispering to nothing.



← Just I was thinking about what I wanna have this dinner while closing my eyes at Shrine.

Now, I feel like there's a possibility for my voice and thoughts to reach God, even if it isn't guaranteed.  
This made me want to believe in God.



In Japan, people buy お守り (amulets) to gain luck, but since I'd never believed in Gods, amulets were just pieces of fabric and paper to me.



amulets  
(お守り/Omamori)

I didn't understand the meaning and concept of faith in God, so I wanted to define my faith before following what is written in the Bible so I wouldn't be reading it like a textbook. My reason for pursuing this faith was because of the kindness that Christians showed me.

Define the meaning of  
the faith like a code →

```
6  /**
7   * @argument book Set the book as the bible
8   * @returns Kindness to others
9   * @throws Error. Throwing when I haven't decided yet.
10  */
11  const Believe = (book: BookType): any => {
12    if (book = "Textbook") return NonBeliver();
13    else if (book = "Holly bible"){
14      const reason_of_faith = "the kindness that Christians showed me."
15      return Biliver(reason_of_faith);
16    }
17    throw Error("I'm still thinking that I'm a believer or not a believer.");
18  }
```



Compared to last year, I can see that I'm a very different person now.

Now I feel that the Bible isn't just a story or a textbook, but it's the undeniable reason I've been remade.



🔥 Make up my mind 🔥

Even though I kept rejecting God and turning my back on him, he never gave up on me and kept waiting for me to come back one day. And my dead relationship with God has now been restored through what Jesus has done on the cross for me. All of this leads me to believe that Jesus Christ overcame death itself by dying for our sins himself and rising again.



Finis.

Thank you for your attention.

English Corner とライフグループ  
私に会った人がなぜ自分に親切にするのか理解ができずに困  
私は顧客ではなく、お金を払うこともないからです。日本人の持つ感覚とい  
徴を感じました。

そして、ライフグループのバイブルスタディが終わった後に、教会の Evenin  
独特な空気感に圧倒されますが、前向きな感情は抱きませんでした。

Special thanks to Caitlin and Jeremy  
for helping me to translate my text into English!

ある日の Evening service の後の交流時間でのこと。  
一人の Step からそこへの招待を受けました。  
そしてその翌週に参加することにしました。  
初めて参加した時には誰一人として知っている人がおらず、困惑しました。  
そこで Jacob が初めて話してくれて結果として、Step のメンバーと仲良  
その後、Easter camp に行き Step のメン  
た。具体的には Jesse