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★ *On Saturday evenings Mrs. Inai works through the night at an elderly care facility which makes it difficult for her to join the believers for Sunday worship. Thank you for praying that her work schedule would be changed so that she could attend the worship services.*

★ *The Christmas season in Japan provides many opportunities to minister as the Japanese enjoy attending Christmas events. Preparations for the various Christmas outreaches that will take place in December are well underway. These include a **Christmas Luncheon** here in Hikari on the 6th, a **Kids' Christmas Party** in Hirao on the 14th, a **Christmas Candlelight Service** in Hirao on the 15th, and a **Christmas Eve Service** here in Hikari on the 24th. The gospel will be proclaimed at each event. Thank you for praying that some of the attendees would agree to begin studying the Bible.*

Dear Praying Friends,

One day back in February we received a phone call from a lady (whom we had not met previously) who lives in our housing development, inquiring about purchasing a Bible. Arrangements were made to meet Mrs. Inai the following day during which time she shared her story.

Years ago, Mrs. Inai attended a private Japanese high school with Christian roots. As a student she was given a brief introduction to the Bible, but that is as far as it went. Later as an adult she dabbled in various Japanese religions, yet never found what she was looking for.

As an avid reader, she had read several self-help books. While perusing a secular book store, one book in particular caught her attention, so she pulled it off the shelf to purchase. It so happened that the book she selected mentioned that the Bible was an important book to know. As a result, she decided to purchase one, thus her phone call.



During Mrs. Inai's first visit we stressed the importance of understanding as well as believing what the Bible teaches, and suggested that she study it for herself. She readily agreed and returned the following Tuesday for her first Bible study. Mrs. Kondo (a vibrant believer from the Hikari church appearing on the left in the blue blouse) sat in on the classes and the two women ended up becoming close friends.

Right from the start, Mrs. Inai readily believed everything she was learning from the Bible and repeatedly expressed her gratefulness for having been granted the privilege of hearing about her Creator. At this past week's lesson (her 29th thus far) it was confirmed that she has acknowledged her personal sinfulness, believes that the Lord Jesus was punished in her stead, was resurrected and is presently alive. Upon further inquiry it was revealed that Mrs. Inai had outside of class called out to God for forgiveness and believes that He has granted that request and cleansed her heart. Upon sharing this news during our study last Thursday, Mrs. Inai was encouraged to pray right then and there to thank God for granting her salvation. Her prayer of thanksgiving brought tears to her eyes and immense joy to Mrs. Kondo's heart.

Reflecting on Mrs. Inai's journey to the cross, it is evident that her Creator's hand was guiding her all the way. For it was He who steered her away from those Buddhist cults, directed her hand to select the publication of His choice at the bookstore, led her into our lives, and finally through the narrow gate that opened the way to life everlasting.

*Proclaiming Creation to Christ,
Jonathan & Dorothy*