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Dear Friend,



Hiyama Sensei even drove me home after our dinner.

Six months ago a teacher stepped into my life, which I am perpetually thankful for. Hiyama Sensei teaches with spunk, and she keeps us on our toes in a fun way. From the first day, I liked her class. But what I didn't realize for a long time was that I stood out to her too.

Slowly but surely, Hiyama-san and I started talking after school. She asked me for a recipe, I wanted to know about her time teaching in Vietnam. Gradually, we also started sending each other messages. Recently, Hiyama-san mentioned she was very surprised by my timing. It seems that I reply to a message or run into her on rough days when she really needs some encouragement. Then, Hiyama Sensei invited me to dinner.

During our conversation over tea, I learned that my 37-year-old teacher first met a missionary when she was in junior high. Beth was in Japan short-term, so she didn't know the language. Over 20 years later, Hiyama Sensei wanted to know more about what Beth had told her. Beth said that if God was our father, then that would make us all siblings. I still have limited Japanese but could start to explain how the Bible says we're created by God. Hiyama-san was vaguely familiar with Adam and Eve, so we could also discuss humanity's need for a restored relationship with our Creator, which led to the concept of God adopting us back.

It just so happens that two of my siblings were adopted. It's also timely that today I gave a speech about my brothers and sisters, which Hiyama Sensei helped me practice and came to hear. God has enabled me to start sharing with her about the beauty of adoption in my family and the incredible opportunity for adoption back as God's children. Please pray with me that God would continue to intervene in and bless my relationship with Hiyama-san and many others.

In Christ,

Christina

Requesting your prayers for...

- ◆ Hiyama Sensei to know Jesus personally
- ◆ Rieko & Wakaho to continue seeing God's love through church and others around them
- ◆ Our annual CHANGE Conference (3/11-15)



Cheers with friends from school (from China, Vietnam, and Myanmar) after the speech contest.