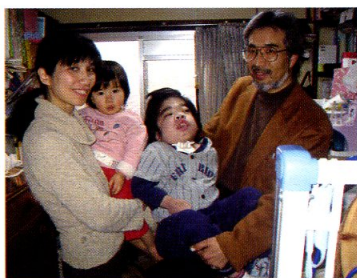


The English Page with Excerpts

Caring for a Terminally Sick Child



Rev. Naohide and Noriko Tajima of Oyama Bible Christ Church in Tochigi Prefecture have five children of whom one son named Tomoki, now aged twelve, was born with a debilitating disease called mucopolysaccharidosis. They first discovered this when they found that their son at age one didn't respond to sound. Since then he has lost his sight and now is bedridden with other complications. Doctors originally said he would probably live only 10 years.

"We prayed that God would turn everything for good. Of course we grieved at the thought that in a few years he would die. And sometimes Noriko woke up in the middle of the night crying. Yet we have the firm conviction that it was God's plan to give us this child."

"For most of us, when we hear the word 'sickness', we automatically think 'healing'. And I think that's right, but just as God used Miura Ayako and Hoshino Tomihiro without healing them, we feel our son is in a similar situation. I don't believe it's fair to measure God's work in our lives by whether He heals us or not."

"Most people consider terminal sickness as a burden and sympathize with us, but we have come to see it differently. We see our son was born with this sickness for a purpose and for God to show His glory. People have been saved through Tomoki's smile and come to church through his influence."

"I Can't Ignore Them"

A Ministry to the Homeless



Rev. Kim Soiku has ministered to the homeless for the past ten years conducting services and providing meals every week to some 200 who live along the banks of the river in Senju, Tokyo.

"They rarely tell the true story about their past... and they hardly ever use their real names. Maybe one or two in a hundred might have a registered address and most all of them carry deep hurts in their hearts that they can't tell anyone. Their families have rejected them. As long as they earned money, the wives and children

welcomed them home, but when money ran out, their relationship ended.

Up to 70% of them walk around collecting cans or cardboard to resell and make a little money. It's not an easy carefree life as some imagine it. As one man said, 'It was much easier when I had a roof over my head.'

There are those who have come to Christ over the years here and there, and we have held baptismal services in the river near where many live under the bridge...If you ask them if they believe Christ, most will raise their hands...

Some have graduated from elite universities and were salaried workers and then became homeless through alcoholism. One man heard the gospel, repented, went on to seminary and is now working in a Christian company."

Rev. Kim says that the ministry has turned out to be a blessing both for his family and church. .

Even High School Kids Can Make a Difference



The homeless of Ikebukuro are receiving help and attention from a surprising source - international high school students. Last year, 11th grade student David Rudd

and two classmates decided to do something which would help the homeless. In early 2007, they gathered clothing, prepared sandwiches and other food, and inserted gospel tracts to pass out to at least 80 people.

"My goal is not just for me to do this - especially since I will be graduating and leaving at the end of this school year. I would like to motivate other high school kids to carry this on after I leave."

" We learned that Ikebukuro is a totally different place during the night and early morning than it is during the daytime. It's forced us to see things we don't like to see. We like to just see what is good, but this has opened our eyes to what is bad around us."

"We haven't had too many chances to talk to homeless people or to hear from them about what it is like to have no home or family. It's hard for us to imagine. But I've learned high school kids can make a difference for Christ. We can serve the homeless. We can help clean our community. We can spend time with old people. There are other things too that we can do. I want people to see us, not just as an international school, but as students who serve others in the name of Christ."

**Focus on Youth:
High Schoolers are Honest**



Chieko Suzuki, who is a daughter of a former hi-b.a. (High School Born-Againers) director has worked with high school students for the past twelve years.

"High schoolers closely watch their Christian parents and see their priorities. If the parents quote 'Seek first God's Kingdom and righteousness', but are wrapped up in prestigious education or money, it confuses their kids... They watch the church members, too--those who snooze in church or those who criticise others behind their backs, to which they'd rather close their ears."

"Some live in rough unsettled family environments and need to see examples of Christian family life. If you are a Christian couple, I encourage you to invite high schoolers into your home and show them what a Christian home is like. They don't have many such opportunities."

Pastor Naito's Q & A



Q: I am a married Christian man who recently came to see how selfish I have been and have repented, hoping to give time to the family and to improve on my role as husband and father. However, my wife, who has endured me these years, doesn't really believe I can change and says it'll be all over after three days and back to the same old pattern. I really want to change, but am discouraged. What do you suggest I do?

A: I believe there are two aspects to your question. One concerns your personal life of faith and the other your home life. Your personal faith will always be reflected into your home life as husband and father... You may be discouraged by your wife's perspective on reality, but first know that you have made an important discovery and the right choice to correct your past. Secondly, recognize "the new man in Christ" and rely on the Spirit, not the flesh, to bring about the change... Next, don't expect perfection... and work on things a little at a time step by step... Finally, have a prayer partner to encourage you...



Prince Caspian - Entertainment Review
by Tim Cole

If C.S. Lewis' first Narnia story, "The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe" was an allegory, illustrating the meaning of

Jesus' death, resurrection, and salvation from sin, then his second story, "Prince Caspian" skillfully portrays the nature of belief in God, and the implications of following Christ as His disciples. C.S. Lewis wrote the Narnia books at a time when Europe was just exiting the horrors of World War II, and entering the terrors of the Cold War, when Communism ruthlessly attempted to extinguish the Christian faith and erase all consciousness of God from the human race. Meanwhile, Western thought was giving way to Existentialism and Post-Modernism - denying absolutes of truth and morality, simultaneously elevating technology and subjective human experience as the basis for society and individual life. "Prince Caspian", while ostensibly written for children, proclaims that the God of the Bible is alive, and that His Truth will prevail, no matter how ruthlessly it is suppressed.

Trusting Our Children
by Jon Benedict



From the time my children were small, I was always very protective of their entertainment and the kind of books they read, in particular those with sexual content. Now there's nothing wrong with keeping immoral content from our children, but I couldn't shake this feeling of mistrust, and my suspicions seemed to get worse as they hit the teens. I didn't trust them to turn off the TV or switch channels when inappropriate scenes came on, and they knew I didn't trust them.

One day I finally understood why I was so wary of them. The Lord opened my understanding concerning why I was so suspicious and unable to trust my children to make moral choices. I was reminded of, beginning at age ten, when I first became curious about sex through reading a comic book at a bookstore and my teens when I read some playboy books and went to see some adult movies without telling anyone. I had done those things on the sneak, and although I had confessed those sins years ago and knew I was forgiven, as my kids reached the same age as I had been, I was suspecting they would do the same on the sneak. I discovered that my strong distrust was rooted in my own past...

I asked the Lord to help me to trust my children with moral decisions (to the extent they can be) and gradually He has. I have learned that kids need to know their parents trust them to make right choices, because trust is one of the proofs of our love. "Love always trusts..." 1Corinthians. 13:7