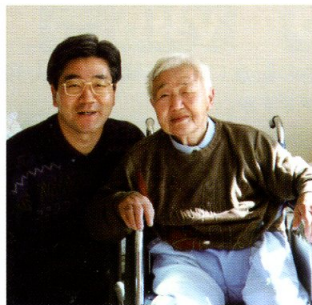


The English Page with Excerpts

My Father and Mother's Salvation

by Rev. Shutaro Kubota



Though I grew up on Tanegashima Island, far removed from Christianity, not only did the Lord choose and save me but He saved my father and mother as well.

One day, I happened to spot a thick book on our family bookshelf which I had never seen before. On the cover

was printed "The Holy Bible". In those days, such a book was a rarity in a farmer's home on Tanegashima Island. How did it get here? I found out later that this had been my oldest sister's and brought home from the mainland after she had died of cancer at the age 38. Evidently someone had given it to her. I didn't hold it or try to open it because to me it felt eerie...That was my first encounter with the Bible...

This is a powerful testimony of how God took one young man, the last of eight children, to come to faith in Christ and over a period of 30 years brought salvation to the family. It is a story of how God can step into a remote village in rural Japan steeped in local religion and strong traditions, and still change the hearts of people to trust Christ.

Encounter Series (Part 1)

Meeting in a Hospice

Interview: Kazuhisa & Jongmi Horita

It has increasingly become harder for people in Japan to find their life partners. If that is true, it is even more difficult when one has lost a spouse and desires to remarry. However, here is the story of two people who each lost their spouses to terminal cancer, but then later met each other at the hospice, and eventually married.

It was also a journey of faith. The wife (Jongmi), though a Christian, had strayed away from her faith after struggling with her husband's cancer for six years.

But when confronted with the opportunity to marry again, she knew she needed to get right with God.

The husband (Kazuhisa), meanwhile, felt that he needed to help Jongmi in her depressed state but consequently ended up being invited to church by Jongmi where he came to know the Lord.

They were married in 2004.



Focus on Youth (part 2)

by Rieko Ando

Secretary General, KGK Intersarsity

One of the characteristics of students today is that they don't think logically. Those who have been born and raised in Christian homes don't ask the "why" and "what for" questions of life, nor think deeply about them. So when they meet people who are passionate about a cause or are in another paradigm, they feel defeated.

At our Intersarsity leaders' training camp we have an extended "time of quiet" following lunch where each person must talk with no one and do nothing but wait on God. Since these young people normally live in an environment of sound and images, there is a marked increase in youth who say they have never experienced a time of quietness.

Of course, it just goes to show how little time they spend in contemplative thought.

Another characteristic is that youth today tend to put their feelings and emotions first rather than the will of God. If they get into the mood of things, there's nothing that will stop them.

Of the freshmen who join our clubs, there is virtually none who have assurance of salvation. Though they are Christians, increasingly more have not read their Bibles.

"Why is it wrong to have sex before marriage?" is one question that really gets college students' attention.

In discussing this issue, I use the opportunity to share the Gospel.

As for a good testimony, there was a fellow infatuated with drugs and alcohol and like a junkie who one day came to our Bible study.

We accepted him warmly and he eventually came to our summer camp and got saved.

He shared the gospel with his separated parents, who were then united and began attending church. This fellow, who has graduated now, continues to witness to his family and says, "Now, I just need to work on my sister"



Five-Minute Fathering

by Jonathan Benedict

Sexual Abuse

Sexual abuse of children has some characteristics which make it difficult to detect and treat. One is the fact that it is mostly committed in secrecy. Often there are only two who can give witness to it, the victim and the abuser. But it is rare for either of them to admit it, especially if it is a parent or a relative of the child, which happens in half of all cases.

There is also the problem of becoming entrapped in abuse

and then for the victim to accommodate it. The sexual abuse is repeated and therefore the victim just begins to accept it as a part of life.

If the child is old enough and seeks help the first time, there is a better chance of putting a stop to it, but when it continues, the child sees no way out and begins to accommodate it...

The wound in the heart is deepest when the abuser is a close family member and should be the most trusted person in the child's life...

Sexual problems in their marriage is also multiplied. As much as 80% or more of these women, if abused by a close relative, will not be able to freely enjoy sex with their husbands and some will avoid sex altogether...

Book Review

Raising Positive Kids in a Negative World by Zig Ziglar



During the 1940's the leading problems requiring teacher discipline were talking, chewing gum, making noise, running in the halls, getting out of place in line, wearing improper clothing, and not putting paper in the waste basket.

Today, student problems include drug & alcohol abuse, pregnancy, suicide, rape, assault/burglary, and arson...

We know that music and television are two of the many negative influences in society that are having a powerful effect.

Just as parents need to control what a child buys at the supermarket making sure it is nutritious, they need to select what is healthy for their child's mind as well.

In this book, Zig Ziglar, who is a parent, teacher, and motivational author, provides practical advice through his 16 principles for parenting children in our world today.

I Love You, Dad by Kim Sung Mook



Kim Sung Mook had a successful career working for Japan Airlines and International Air Freight, but his home life was falling apart and had come to the point of total destruction.

The main reason was another woman and Kim's unfaithfulness to his wife.

When his wife spoke the word "divorce", it was a wake-up call and he realized just how serious their situation had become.

What held them together, however, were the words of their own child. "I want Mama, but I want Papa, too"

Kim enrolled in "Father School" which started in Korea in 1995 and his life and family were turned around 180 degrees.

Grateful for what it did for him, he committed his energies to the cause and trained himself to give lectures for the school and now he is used of God around the world.

The amazing thing about Kim is that until then he had never had any theological training nor special education in family studies.

"Father School" has now spread around the world and currently boasts 100,000 graduates.

Pastor Naito's Q & A

Q: My mother who lives alone in the country is getting quite old and frequently gets sick. Memories of her youth make it difficult to accept the fact that she is weakening in health. She also calls us from time to time saying that it gets lonely living by herself.

We have invited her to come out to the city and live with us, but she doesn't want to leave her home. We live far away, so I can't leave my husband and the kids to visit her as often as I'd like. I'm at a loss as to what to do.



A: Here are some options you may want to consider.

1. The elderly parents should consider moving closer to their child's family since jobs, parenting, and schooling make it difficult for the younger family to pick up and move...
2. Though this is less likely, if it's possible for the younger family to juggle jobs and schools, etc, they may want to consider moving to the elderly parents' place...
3. If there are siblings, you need to take turns caring of your elderly parent. Usually the closest sibling takes on the most responsibility but you need to share the burden...
4. Have your parent enter a facility...

NEW! Just off the press in Japanese!

Ai No Tabiji



A sequel to Janette Oke's bestsellers, Love Comes Softly and Love's Enduring Promise, Love's Long Journey (Ai No Tabiji) follows Missy LaHaye as she journeys westward across the rugged and treacherous frontier of America with her new husband Willie.

Faced with the hardship of separation, travel difficulties, and even death, Missie must lean on her faith more than ever in order to find the strength and courage she needs to make it through each day.

A story of endurance and trust, Love's Long Journey stands as a shining example of the strong commitment found in marriage even in the midst of numerous trials.

We suggest this series as a great resource for helping non-Christians gently gain a Christian world-view and family perspective.