

The English Page with Excerpts

Shinto Priest Turns to Christ



Toshiyasu Arai had a thirst for spiritual things and sought the meaning of life since he was a youth. Toshiyasu's father, Takeo, was a Shinto priest in Sapporo, but Toshiyasu didn't find the answer he sought in Shintoism and wondered if Christianity might lead him to the truth. His high school teacher recommended he read the Bible, which he did, and later after studying the Bible with a missionary he accepted Christ at the age of 37. Toshiyasu's prayer was that his father, an acting Shinto priest, would also accept Christ as Saviour. That day finally came and Takeo was baptised on Easter day 1997 at the age of 95. His conversion made a big impact on the community, to say the least. Today, though he is now with the Lord, Takeo's testimony continues to speak in the visible form of a church building which stands on a piece of property originally reserved for a shinto shrine that he donated for the church.

From Tenrikyo to Christ



Yukio Miyokawa and his wife joined the Tenrikyo religion and through diligent study he became a teacher in the organization. There were many teachings which were good, however Yukio

saw discrepancies between the teachings and the actual practice of the leaders and became disillusioned.

About the time he decided to leave, his daughter Yoko, a recent convert to Christ who was living in Hawaii, sent her discouraged father a Bible which he hungrily devoured in 2 weeks. That was the spring of 1993, and later that year Yukio's wife committed her life to Christ at the Koshien Revival Mission meetings, and soon after Yukio at age 62 made a confession of faith as well.

Yukio states that he had life questions that Tenrikyo couldn't answer, but that he got the answers from the Bible, such as why God created man and why man sins. He states, "I came to understand that there is a world of difference between Tenrikyo's founder, Miki Nakayama and Jesus Christ. One is merely human and the other God himself. When I realized that, I had to confess my sin of idolatry."

Yukio's spiritual hunger did not abate after trusting Christ and he decided to enroll in a correspondence course at Sendai Bible Baptist Seminary. Yukio has had the opportunity to go to Tenri

City and share his story to many Tenrikyo believers. Some have come to Christ through his testimony.

Now at age 77 he is serving as a pastor for the Japanese at the Kahului Union Church in Hawaii.

Freedom from "A Root of Bitterness"

Elijah House Japan



"Pastor Hiroshi Tsukii had a father who was physically violent with his mother, which eventually led to a divorce. His father remarried, but soon became abusive with his second wife as well. During his junior high school years, Tsukii found himself protecting his step-mother from his father's violence, and this problem in turn negatively affected his own future life.

After getting married and parenting began, when his wife scolded the children or disciplined them for bad behavior, Tsukii instinctively protected the children and got in the way of his wife's corrective instruction. This in turn was causing friction in their own marriage.

Through participating in the Elijah House lectures, however, Tsukii discovered the root of his problem, found restitution with his father and was able to find healing in his relationship with his wife. This impacting experience birthed a burning desire in him to see many others find healing as he had found..."

Along with stories of changed lives and churches, this article also covers the history, four basic principles, and training courses in the Elijah House Ministry.

"Therefore confess your faults one with another and pray for one another that you may be healed." James 5:16

For more information:

Elijah House Japan: <http://elijahhouse.web.infoseek.co.jp/>

International <http://www.elijahhouse.org/>

Q & A : Ask Pastor Hori (No. 3)



Q. This is a personal question but, how did you become a pastor? Have you ever regretted becoming one? If you did, how did you get over it? How can we church members make pastors' work easier for them?

A. The pastor is probably one of the least understood occupations since Christians are so few and church history is so short in Japan. But it is important that we understand pastors' work. In particular these three points:

1. They take on the work not from preference, but in answer to a calling from God, much like Paul was called to be an apostle.
2. They do sometimes feel like quitting because they have so many responsibilities and problems to handle which is often

taxing on their energy and spirit.

3. We serve them best if we don't wear them out mentally but rather pray for them and understand and support them.

Walk With Jesus



-Tokaido Evangelism Message
Given on the Final Day-
by Pastor Tsuneo Sugimoto

"We began our walk on Aug 3 from Nihonbashi in Tokyo and now we are about to reach our goal tomorrow. Walking some 20 km per day we met people along the way, spoke with them and gave them gospel literature. All of us have spent a lot of energy and feel the aches in our feet..."
"However, though this 4 week walk ends at Sanjo Ohashi, it is only the beginning of our walk with Jesus in our daily lives. The Lord began this Tokaido walk which is now coming to a close, but he is beginning a new journey in our lives. Let us continue to follow Him who is the Beginning and the End..."



Koji Kaneko's Family Talk

"We can learn much about parenting from the skilled coaches of famous athletes. Tiger Woods' coach Butch Hammand wasn't a better golfer, nor was Kosuke Kitajima's coach Norimasa

Hirai a faster swimmer. So why are they considered renowned coaches and what is the common factor? The answer is that they poured themselves into the lives of their athletes and studied their character, abilities, and even their habits, often ending up knowing more about the athlete than the athlete himself..."



Katie Cole's Tidiness Techniques

No. 2 -Sorting and Keeping Memories

"Unlike the 19th century when the only saved item was probably a personal diary, today, we have huge volumes of personal items such as printed matter, 8mm films, slides, videos, photographs, CDs, and DVDs which make for a very big and time consuming job to catalogue. Therefore, in order not to get overwhelmed, it's important to sort through important memory items little by little."

Katie Cole shares the effective way for sorting, first of all in the use of a file box, files, envelopes, and labels. And then she challenges us to think through what media we want to preserve the memories in. For example, we may want to switch old 8mm

films and VHS tapes into digital formats as well as scan slides. Of course don't forget to back it up, too.

Katie says if you're wondering what to get your child for a birthday present, and if you have the digital formats handy you can make personalized T-shirts, mug cups, etc. which make great presents.



Gift of A Listening Ear

By Jon Benedict

"One of the most irritating things a man can say to his wife, who is a mother of young children, is "So, what have you been doing all day?" ...Many husbands and fathers don't understand the fatiguing work of housekeeping and of being a mother of small children. They tend to think that what they do as men outside the home is REAL work and that their wife has it easy..."
My wife says that, "Just to be acknowledged helps to relieve the burden..."

The most encouraging kind of thing that a father can say in front of the mother is, "Kids, your mother is tired and so let's help with the dishes." This form of compliment-acknowledging her tireless work and practical help to relieve her--goes a long way and gives her strength to go on..."

School of Youth Ministries



The School of Youth Ministries in English (SYME), a unique school begun by Word of Life Japan, just opened in Karuizawa in 2007 and teaches the Bible in English to students who are non-native English speakers using the total immersion method. The object of the school is to prepare students for studying in North American colleges and to deepen their knowledge of the Scriptures.

One of the programs which the school incorporates is speaking nothing but English for 13 hours a day which immerses the students in an English speaking environment. But the students don't just stay in classrooms, they go out and do ministry such as tracting and distributing Gideon Bibles. Director, Mr. Yoshito Kato says that they want to be a school which can help small fledgling Japanese churches and to raise up young people for the harvest. It has been said that within the next ten years one out of three churches in Japan will close down due to the aging of churchgoers and the lack of young people to take their place. SYME hopes to help stem that tide.

For more information: www.woljapan.org