

The English Page with Excerpts



What's "Falling in Love"?
What's "Marriage"?
Pastor Yoshihiro Okada

"Our culture today expects that the next step after "casual friends" is "boyfriend" or "girlfriend" and leaves no room for guys and girls to get to know each other more. It is not always so easy to get to know the opposite sex without stimulating romantic emotions but I think the ideal is where they can openly share at a deeper level of fellowship..."

"Many young people think that if there is no one whom they have romantic feelings for, they don't have a potential marriage partner. But what's important in marriage is not how and where you met the person nor feelings BEFORE the wedding, rather, how you are going to build up your relationship AFTER you marry. So the true discovery of your partner is not the meeting him or her and deciding to marry, rather, how you two are going to discover how to grow in oneness through the experience of the marriage years.



Addictions and Behavior
Interview with Dr. Aikawa,
Christian Psychiatrist

"Typically, people are in denial of their addictions. So the whole family may be suffering due to an alcohol addiction, but the person refuses to admit it and will not seek professional help...In Japan, there may be as many as 3 in 100 people who are addicted to alcohol."

"Trying to help the addicted can make matters worse in the case of conflicting opinions where the family sees the addiction and wants to help but the addicted person is in denial and doesn't want help. In the case of a physical injury, both parties can agree on the need for surgical treatment, but in addictions, if the person doesn't see the need for help, the healing process can't begin..."

"I think addiction is very similar to sin. A person's behavior is affected by addiction and many times he or she begins to lie, to deceive and become increasingly self-centered. If it's alcohol, his life centers around drinking and the family ceases to take priority. From the family's perspective it is extremely selfish, and this is exactly the nature of sin..."

Just being there is often more important than actually stepping in to help. It forces the person to seek out recovery on their own...Much like the Prodigal Son, you have to let them go so they will come for help of their own volition... This is called 'tough love.'"

Homosexuality and Me No. 4
Anonymous

"In the midst of a fever of over 40 degrees, constant coughing, unbearable pain all over my body, nausea, and dizziness, God assured me through scripture that he was sending me to the hospital for a purpose. He spoke to my heart to believe to win the hospital for the Gospel... This word gave me great encouragement in my heart..."

"At first I wondered how I could witness since I was assigned a private room, but little by little nurses began to talk and I was able to share one on one about God's grace and salvation without fear of intimidation from other patients..."

"The nurse told me that most AIDS patients don't have any visitors. However, in contrast, people from the church came to visit me every day. By the grace of God I never felt lonely even after they left to go home. The Lord taught me the privilege of prayer, too and I prayed for all who came to visit me at the hospital "sending them back out" with a blessing on their life and witness..."



DVD Released in Japanese
"The Privileged Planet"

Is our world a result of chance or design? Increasingly, astronomers and cosmologists are finding that Earth is no ordinary planet, but rather a very special and privileged one that has been precisely "fine-tuned" for the existence of complex life. This provocative DVD produced by NASA scientists brings out the wonders of an intelligently designed world standing as a testimony to the scriptures which declare that in the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

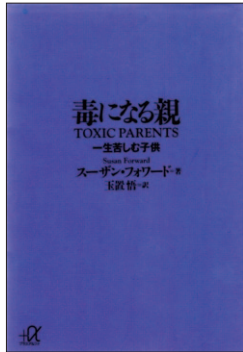
Good for showing along with its twin production "Unlocking the Mystery of Life".



Book Review:
The Five Love Languages of Children

After writing his book for married couple titled "The Five Love Languages", Gary Chapman has written a book on how parents can communicate love to their children. The five languages are, physical touch, words of affirmation, quality time, gifts, and acts of service. Unfortunately, a child tends to think

that he is not loved if the parents do not express love in a way that is felt by him. Questions in the book help parents to discover how their child perceives love so they can express it more effectively.



**Book Review:
Toxic Parents**

Psychologist Susan Forward unapologetically calls deficient parents who cripple children with emotional abuse "toxic parents". The book is mainly in two parts. The first deals with identifying the toxic parent, and the second with overcoming the hurtful legacy and reclaiming one's life.



Ask Pastor Hori

Q. We are married with two children, but for the past two years we haven't had any sex. When I approach my husband he just says "I'm too tired" and doesn't show any interest. What can I do?

A. "Usually sexlessness is not a isolated issue. It shows up as a symptom when there are other relationship problems..."

"There are different possibilities... dysfunction due to stress, a perception that it's unnecessary due to a lack of desire, the lack of deep communication between the couple, or because life has become a routine and the romantic fire has gone out..."

"Couples need to talk about it and find out the reason..."

"As Christians we need to cultivate Agape love which encompasses much more than sex..."



Movie Review: Amazing Grace

This movie tells the inspiring true story of British politician William Wilberforce and his long battle in parliament to abolish the slave trade. Portrayed are John Newton and William Pitt encouraging him in the struggle and also his deep faith in God which carries him through 26 grueling years to final victory in the passage of the Slave Trade Act of 1807.



Movie Review: Up

A great Disney movie created by Pixar Animations full of humor, adventure and good values which the whole family can enjoy. The story is about two unlikely traveling companions, a grumpy old man and an 8 year old boy, who fly to South America on a house carried by helium balloons. They have to learn to work together and save an exotic bird from a deranged genius... If you enjoyed Toy Story, your family will love this one, too. (Rated PG for some peril and action)



Katie Cole's Cookie Recipe

"You might say that cookies are an integral part of the American culture and so cookies played a big part in my family while growing up. My mother was an expert at baking cookies and she taught us three girls how to make good cookies..."

"Let me share with you one of my favorite recipes--sugar cookies with easy-to-make icing..."

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Raising Girls
by Jon Benedict

"For our girls, marrying a Christian man is the first and foremost condition in choosing a life partner. But this is not so easy for women in Japan today because there are approximately half the number of Christian men compared to women in the church, leaving many women with no Christian choice..."

"...What can we do? We cannot just hope and wait. The time has come for us to intentionally plan and encourage our young people to meet other Christians for the purpose of courting or serious dating with marriage in mind. We need to encourage men to reach out to men with the gospel, teach young men to grow up, focus on marriage and become more responsible adults, and connect with pastors and youth beyond our denominational circles..."

"...The very things that an unequally yoked couple are not compatible in and miss out on (II Cor. 6:14 ~ 18) are the things that a Christian couple can richly enjoy the benefits of. The equally yoked couple is able to enjoy 'partnership', 'fellowship', 'harmony', 'common interest', and 'agreement' in their marriage because both are believers..."