

The English Page with Excerpts

Business Crisis Leads to Faith in Christ

Interview: Koji & Rika Kobayashi



When I asked him, "If God miraculously gets us out of this mess, will you believe Him?" He answered, "Sure I'll believe Him."

But that was just a pat answer and even when we did experience God's miracle, it was soon forgotten. This has happened more than just a couple of times."

"Koji, when are you going to get baptized?", asked Bobby.

"I've got too much sin, and on top of that I can't quit drinking and smoking. I don't think I qualify."

"Koji, if you wait until you quit drinking, you'll never make it. No one is perfect, so don't worry about that. Go ahead and get baptized.

It was then that I realized that it was okay for me to simply come as a sinner, and since I didn't have any more reasons left to refuse the invitation, I decided to be baptized."



Ask Pastor Hori



Q: The shocking news of a foster parent killing a child through physical abuse hit the media recently.

I'm interested in foster parenting as well, but have some questions. How do I know that I won't end up doing something similarly tragic? What do you think caused this and

how can we understand it from a psychological perspective?

A: A mother expects her parenting to go perfectly but when it doesn't, she begins to despair. When her hard work isn't rewarded, anger wells up and she eventually explodes...

Another possibility is that when a parent has been abused and unloved as a child, she or he finds it harder to love their own children or foster children. As one mother once confessed to me, "Pastor, I'm ashamed to admit it, but I just can't seem to love my children..."

On the other hand, when abused or neglected children who feel unloved are put under foster care, they will often test their foster parents to see if they are willing to truly forgive them for any wrong and accept them fully into the family...

Reviews of Books in Japanese

1. Boundary with Children: How Healthy Choices Grow Healthy Children, written by Drs. Henry Cloud and John Townsend.



This follows the book, "Boundaries", written for adult relationships and now applies the same principles for raising children. It gives insight through many practical examples on how to handle our children's actions, attitudes, and emotions and how to mold and instill character in them.

2. A Mother's Guide for Helping Her Children Understand Sex and Life, written by Ikuko Nagahara.



Nagahara, the director of Mana Maternity Hospital in Kobe, has written this book for mothers who want to teach their children about life and sex. She stresses the mystery and value of life, taking responsibility for bringing life into the world, and the importance of sexual abstinence before marriage.

3. Soul Surfer



This is a true story of the 13 year old surfer, Bethany Hamilton, who lost an arm in a shark attack. It chronicles her journey of overcoming her disability to become a champion surfer. It is an uplifting story that will encourage its readers to overcome their insurmountable problems through trusting in God.

DVD Review : Princess of Persia

One Night with the King (2006). This is the story of Esther from the Bible, brought to the screen by



Hollywood. Before watching, it's recommended that you first read the actual story of Esther in the Bible and use the questions for discussion to get the most out of the movie. Rated PG.

Principles of Love for Mending Relationships With Children

Interview with Yoko Isobe, Director of Ai no Kawa Counseling Center



"...Children do not get angry for no reason. They are provoked by the environment in which they are living..."

"These words cut like a knife into my heart. My method of parenting was to first scold my child. However, this only drove my child further away and I would end up feeling guilty..."

"When the child sins or fails, we must treat the child like Jesus would. He first forgave and then he taught the person to do the right thing. Rather than provoking our children to anger, we should follow this pattern for parenting."

"Fathers, do not anger your children but bring them up in the nurture and instruction of the Lord." Eph. 6:4

"Homosexuality and Me" (Part 6)

by Anonymous

"Japan, among all the developed nations, is the only country where the rate of HIV infection is still rising."

"Everyone is taught that if you use a condom, you can protect yourself. I felt safe because that's what was printed on the AIDS education pamphlets. However, this information isn't accurate since I still was infected with HIV even though I used condoms..."

"What we need today in our schools is not safe sex education but abstinence education so that young people will refrain from sex until marriage....I can say from my own experience that that is the only safe way and the biblical answer to stopping



the spread of HIV and AIDS."

"I am HIV positive and know the pain of living day to day. And yet, as a believer now, I'm grateful because it was through this crisis that I found God and a deep joy I never had before. My prayer is for those in similar circumstances to find salvation as I have..."



Family Talk

by Koji Kaneko

"If we don't set standards and expectation of responsibility for our children we'll spoil them and they'll never develop self-discipline. For example, if a child gets whatever he wants whenever he wants and isn't expected to help out, he'll never learn to aim high or to be diligent in his work. As a result, you can imagine what kind of adult he will grow into..."

The Five Minute Father Mother's "Helpmeet"

by Jon Benedict



One of the greatest difficulties for the mother I learned, is getting time away from the children to rejuvenate. One day, back when we had only three children, I came home from teaching at school with the expectation of relaxing after a hard day. To my utter surprise, as soon as I opened the front door, my wife thrust the baby into my arms and told me that she was going for a walk and that it was now "my turn" to look after the kids! This sent an unmistakable message that she needed help and it served as one of my earliest lessons in parenting.

