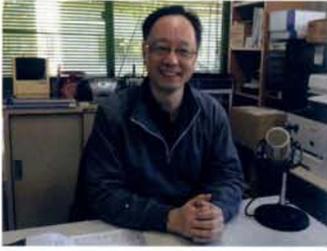


The English Page with Excerpts

Interview: Goal of Parenting,
Pastor Kiyoshi Mizutani



-What is the goal of parenting?

M: It is to take God-given lives and send them out there to stand on their own. Give them responsibilities according to their age

and let them fail sometimes and reap the consequences. Kids should gradually become less dependent on the parents, and eventually take full reins of their own lives.

Codependency between parent & child tend to develop from those who misunderstand this truth. The Bible teaches not only to obey your parents, but also to leave your parents in order to start your family (Gen. 2:24)

Someone said that a child flourishes on the overflowing love between his/her parents. Mothers that are not satisfied with their husbands tend to smother their child with "love" that should have been shared with their husbands.

-What are some of the symptoms of codependency in Christian families?

M: Both parents and the children are college-educated, but the children somehow cannot join the work force. Some that are raised by Christian parents have high profile in life, such as teachers and doctors, but they do not know how to relate to their spouses on an equal basis, therefore cannot maintain married life. I see such sad cases far too often.

I say to mothers, "What a lovely boy you have! But do you see the end results of it all? Most likely some other woman will snatch him away from you!" (Laugh)What will remain is you two, husband & wife. Do not forget to work on your marriage.....

Love & Respect

by Dr. Emmerson Eggrichs



"When I talk to wives, they have no trouble grasping the concept of unconditional love. After all, they are wired that way. But when I mention showing unconditional respect for husbands., it's a much harder sell.....

Interestingly, at first men don't grasp the idea of unconditional respect either. Wives and husbands believe respect ought to be earned.

The wife feels her husband doesn't deserve the kind of respect he's getting from his wife.

To suggest that respect for men should be unconditional gets some wives downright upset. Repeatedly, I hear comments like these from wives: "How can I show respect for him when he comes across as so unloving?"..."He doesn't deserve respect; he has hurt me"..."I love him, but I get so frustrated and angry I don't want to respect him"..."Love is what matters. If he loved me as I need to be loved, maybe I would have stronger feelings of respect"..."Yes, I have things to deal with, but the major problem is with him and he needs to change. The truth is he needs to love and respect me far better than he does."

Parenting for beginners #4,

by Jonathan Benedict

Q. Since our child was born, my wife has been devoted only to the baby, and I feel left out and unsatisfied. I wish she would care for me like she did when newly married. How should I let her know my true feelings? -LONELY HUSBAND

A. There is a story of a man who cheated on his wife and so they both went to a counsellor to try to fix their marriage. This was his story. He said that his loneliness started with the birth of their first child. His wife did everything for the child and basically neglected him thereafter. The man felt left out and lonely for companionship and soon found a young lady at his workplace who listened to him and gave him respect. And that eventually led to a sexual relationship. This is a familiar story and we ask the question, who was at fault? The answer is not so easy and of course there is no excuse for adultery, but the blame doesn't necessarily always rest on the man alone. Marriage problems are rarely a problem with just him or her. However, today's question comes from the man and so I will attempt to give some understanding and answers for him as the husband.....

Movie Review: Les Misérables

by Tim Cole

Jean Valjean (Hugh Jackman) has finally been released from 20 years of prison labor, for stealing bread to feed a starving child. But now he is a



marked man, rejected by all for either work or dwelling place, except for a Catholic priest, Bishop Myriel, who gives him a warm meal and lodging.

Valjean cannot resist stealing some silver utensils from the church. He is quickly apprehended and dragged back to the priest, where, to his amazement, the priest informs the authorities that he had given the silver to Valjean, and in fact gives him even more. The priest then whispers in his ear, "You must use this silver to become an honest man." That is what Valjean does, taking on a new identity and starting a successful business to employ the needy...

For all the profound symbolism and the inspiring message, we cannot recommend this movie for family viewing. The squalor and degradation of 19th century French street life is portrayed graphically, including immodesty, sexual acts, and crudeness, to which children and youth should not be exposed. Even adults may prefer to read the book, by which they can experience the full and unedited extent of Victor Hugo's genius.

Ask Pastor Hori

Q. In the movie "The Ending Note", a gravely sick father's preparation for his death was filmed by his daughter. Books bearing similar titles are among the bestsellers today. After all, is it necessary to prepare for your own death like this?

A. Whether or not you use the ending note, the fact is that everybody will eventually die, and hopes that he/she would not like to be a cause for worry for the loved ones. So it is significant to write and leave a note for the time when the writer is no longer on earth.....

However, if the note was too detailed and lengthy, it could be controlling everyone who is concerned and may leave them feel guilty when the wishes of the dead were not fully realized....

The essence of the ending note are threefold:

- 1 One needs to repent the past sins and be reconciled with those who were not amiable with him/her.
- 2 One needs to leave the gift of peace, love and

comfort like Jesus said in John 14:27 "I will leave my peace with you."

3 Your personal history can be edited like an album and be left as a testimony of his/her Christian life.

Consider these points and why not make your own original note.



Baking bread rolls for Easter!

by Haruka Otsuka

You can teach a Bible lesson about Easter by baking bread with kids. They will be mesmerized to find that the marshmallows they have put into the bread have disappeared... We can use the object lesson to tell the story of how Jesus' body vanished from the Garden tomb.

"Do you know what happened on the first Easter Sunday? Jesus came to the earth as the Son of God, the spotless One, like this white marshmallow, but was crucified and died for our sins....."

(Cf. "You Bake It", Clubhouse Jr. magazine, published by Focus on the Family, April 2012, p.21)

Book Review:

Boundaries in Marriage

by John Townsend & Henry Cloud



This is the third of the "Boundaries" series by the same authors. The main thrust is that regardless of whether you are the husband or the wife, spouses have to be mature adults to be one with another. The boundary concept should be used not to change others but yourself.

"Generally, there is no right or wrong in most family conflicts." "First off, let there be mutual agreement that it is alright to point out what bothers you about the other spouse." "If your mate reveals what bothers him/her, do NOT be defensive, but open-minded and just listen."

Prevention is important as well as treatment as in illnesses. Problems in marriage can be called "lifestyle disease."

It is not easy to notice your own peculiar habits that may be a problem to your spouse, so reviewing the principles of the boundaries is a good opportunity to look back and improve on your marriage. (Tsuneo Maejima)