

## Leaving the Life of Hikikomori

Interview: Mr.Hideaki Koriyama

Mr.Hideaki Koriyama lived as a Hikikomori for about 10 years of his youth.

Hikikomori is a life withdrawn from society. He refused to leave his house or sometimes even from his room, isolating himself from society. It started when he was in high school. His mother suddenly died and he stopped going to school. His mother's death was certainly a shocking event, but Mr.Koriyama says having his father not take leadership at home was the biggest cause of his hikikomori life. No leadership at home made him feel free to withdraw himself from school.



In his interview he shares how his friends guided him to Christ and showed how hopeful life with Christ is. Knowing

that God forgives him and loves him no matter what he has done gave him courage to get out of his house and face reality. He now serves at Oasis Life Care at Rifu Kirisuto Kyokai in Miyagi.

## Start Your Shukatsu Young

Interview: Mrs. Masayo Ishii

Shukatsu is one of the hot topics that people talk about today in Japan.

It is the preparation for one's death.



Recently, Mrs. Masayo Ishii, a pastor's wife took lessons to be a Shukatsu counselor and she shares the information she learned.

An "Ending Note" is used effectively to look back at one's life and see how God has been blessing a person. By writing an Ending Note, a person can leave organized information about finances and their insurance so that family members can know where to contact when he/she got sick or is in critical condition.

She is hoping to make her own version of the Ending Note to help her church members and the people near her church. She thinks that Shukatsu could also be a tool for evangelism.



## Parenting for Beginners No.8

By Jon Benedict



**Q.** I learned from last issue that we have to teach our children not to have sex until they get married, but is there any other reason why it's not good besides the Bible?

**A.** In my last article, We discussed a range of subjects including keeping communication lines open, merits of

abstinence, skills for overcoming temptations, God's unceasing forgiveness for sexual sins, and accountability partners. Teens are bombarded with illicit material through the media and are under tremendous pressure to engage in sex and need every help they can get to stay pure. Therefore, I would like to introduce a good article written by a Christian ministry that will equip young people with knowledge to overcome temptation.

This article is insightful for understanding how we are sexually wired and will help young people to understand why sex should be reserved only for marriage.

## How Shall We Lead Our Children to Christ?

By Shinzo Omura



Mr.Shinzo Omura, a father of 7, teaches us how we should guide children to have faith.

This time he focuses on toddler to kindergarten age and shares what we can do to lead them to grow in faith. He teaches that this is parents' job to teach their children about God; however, it is God's work that results in their children having faith. In other words, we as parents must teach our children about God and the Bible, but when our children come to faith in Him is beyond our control.

For those little children who cannot read

or write, parents can sing praise songs with them, read the Bible to them, and pray on every occasion so that children can feel that God is very close to them. His daughter had faith in God even when she was 2 years and 9months old, so we should keep working hard to spread the Gospel to our children.

## IT and Children – What's SNS?

By Takashi Horii

To make it easily understandable for non-IT parents, a Social Networking Service (SNS) is "to be in a big park with a lot of people who are sharing their thoughts and pictures/videos and they are clapping for or making comments about each other". Facebook has been popular among young people and is very useful to connect with people all over the world. But on the other hand, sharing information on where they live and what they do could lead our children into danger.

Also, middle school students can easily get addicted to these electronic devices, and many cannot stay away from their smart phones. Parents must be aware of these things when they let their children own a smart phone and make sure they know the rules on how much information they could share with their friends.

