

# The English Page with Excerpts

## Freedom from Homosexuality and Gender Identity Disorder DR. MELVIN WONG



In this interview Dr. Wong highlights common misconceptions regarding homosexuality, provides definitions of various sexual conditions, and explores the difference between sexual orientation and sexual behaviors. "Homosexual or transsexual behavior is a sin that a person chooses, but the sexual orientation generally is not something a person chooses," he explains. There is no credible evidence that people are "born this way", but there can be many factors in a person's early life (notably attachment issues in one's parental relationships) that can lead to sexual confusion.

Many Christians think homosexuals simply need to "repent" and are unaware of how to minister to these people with long-term compassion and understanding. They have both spiritual and emotional needs; many are involved in complex behaviors and habits that are difficult to change. One way the Church can help is to stop ostracizing homosexuals and look for ways to support them in their healing process through mentoring and accountability. Dr. Wong shares that he has witnessed many lives changed through the power of Jesus Christ.

"As we care for these individuals with the love of God, these can become situations in which the 'works of God' can be displayed," he says. "There are former homosexuals and transsexuals all over the world who are living proof of God's healing power, who are now ministering to countless others. The same thing can happen right here in Japan."

### Homosexuality and Me No. 1

"Though it was an Extremely Large Stone"  
Anonymous

"Having been raised in an environment where my father was almost never around, I grew up never feeling loved. As a result, my heart was deeply scarred by the feeling that I couldn't love myself. I then found myself trying to fill that emptiness by turning to same-sex relationships."

"I tried burying that emptiness by immersing myself in the physical consolation of homosexuality. My sexual desires were satisfied, but my heart was not. In the search for even more fulfillment, I daily sought to satisfy only my physical desires. Just like it says in the Bible, I was somehow or another led astray to an idol of "lust for men". And just as it says 'mute idols,' so my own idol of 'lust for men' didn't satisfy my heart in the truest sense."

In this issue, the man shares his personal experiences and thoughts as a former homosexual. He relates his search for fulfillment through the physical gratification of homosexuality,

how his encounter with Jesus Christ finally filled the emptiness in his heart, and shares his hope in Christ for his future.

## From Learning about Biblical Parenting to Entering a Relationship with the "Perfect Parent" Barbara Bauman



One of the foundational concepts Sanae says she learned through Barbara's parenting class was the important truth that God creates each child as a unique individual, with differing abilities and gifts.

She admits that as a young mother, "... I was always comparing them to others, and as a result I wounded their spirits. I failed to find their strengths and praise them for what they could do. Yet through the parenting class and the principles I was learning from the Bible, my thought patterns began changing."

She also learned about the importance of Biblical discipline and the need to address sinful behavior. In Japan we usually only understand "sin" as doing things for which we could be arrested. But when we learn how God defines sin, we gain a much deeper understanding of how it is impossible for us to live up to God's standards in our own strength. If we love our children, we must discipline them; God is our example of a loving disciplinarian. (Hebrews 12:5b-8)

### Katie Cole's Tidying Techniques

If God were to suddenly give you an extra hour every day, how would you use that extra time? Jesus told a parable about a rich man who gave his servants large sums of money to manage on his behalf. Two of the servants doubled the money placed in their care, while the third just buried it in the ground (Matt. 25:14-30). Time is one of the most valuable assets we have, and so it is important to consider how best to manage it.

You may not even be aware of what is actually eating up your time. Is it TV, videos, games, or surfing the internet? One way to find out is to take 2 days and keep a detailed record of how you spent your time. You may be surprised at what you learn.

By planning ahead and keeping things organized and scheduled, I feel more relaxed and prepared to handle things that come up. I need to remember that God may have brought some person or event into my life for a reason that I don't understand at first. Hebrews 13:2 says, "Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some people have entertained angels without knowing it."

### The Five-Minute Father Raising Boys

By Jon Benedict

As I consider what it means to raise my own four boys to be a

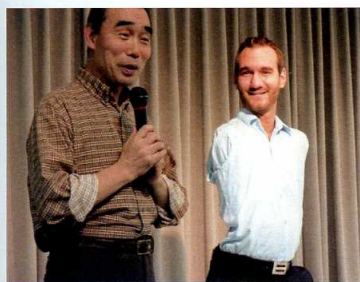


man, a husband, and a father, I see some important character traits which I want to instill in them. In particular, I'd like to take up three of them: honesty, leadership, and purity.

When I was 10 years old, my family lived in Fujisawa and one day I stole some chocolate from a FUJIYA candy store in our neighborhood. Over the years this sin haunted me; while I was attending Bible school in Hawaii, I decided that when I got back to Japan I would go back to Fujisawa and confess my sin to the store owners. I had the opportunity to do this several years later and the surprised store owners were quick to dismiss it. But the burden of sin that I had carried for over 10 years was suddenly gone and there was a great joy which came from obedience to God's command. I tell this story to make the point that we need to teach our boys honesty and integrity. When we are faithful in the little things God can entrust us with bigger things.

### The Evangelist Without Limbs

Nick Vujicic



In this interview, Nick Vujicic, a man born without arms or legs shares his story of life without limbs, describing his discovery of God's plan for his life and the many activities he has been able to do,

all the while encouraging believers who are going through trials like his own to fight Satan's lies and know that God is near and cares.

"When I prayed, 'God, please give me hands and feet' and he didn't answer, I thought he didn't love me. I thought 'I'm just God's creative flop.'"

"When I was eight, I almost threw my life away because I felt so alone. If someone who had the same kind of body as me had told me 'Don't worry, everything will be alright,' I probably would have believed it. As it was, however, there was no one like that. I myself became that 'miracle' for other people instead."

"I'm thankful to God now for not giving me arms or legs. That's because I came to understand his plan. God is with both you and me and he has not forgotten about you or your family. If he has a plan for an armless and legless person like me, he certainly has one for you too."

### Q & A with Dr. Hori

In this Q & A session, Dr. Hori discusses the differences between a cult and fantasy, distinguishing between fantasy and reality, and the importance of exposing your children to good books and movies.

"If you're that concerned that magic and sorcery or other ungodly subjects in novels and movies will have a bad influence on your child, it's important for you to discuss and communicate

to your children how this material should be viewed and point out its problems."

"Depending on the child, some will have difficulty distinguishing between fantasy and reality and so in these cases it's good to remind them that 'This is only a story.'"

"The Bible says, 'Whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and anything worthy of praise, think of these things' (Philippians 4:8). This verse is helpful when you're having difficulty making the right decision."

### Book review

"Children Who Can't Become Humans: Pitfalls in Child-rearing Today"

by Terumoto Kiyokawa

Mr. Kiyokawa, a former NHK director and one of Japan's leading media pioneers, is concerned that the media is having a bad influence on the children who are the future of Japan.

"If the conditions or environment necessary for proper human development aren't made secure, what kind of strains will it have on the bodies and hearts of children? Japan is presently right in the middle of this test."

He explains that the incredible amount of media that children today consume is holding back their psychological and physical development. He backs up these claims with abundant data.

### The Gospel through Manga

by Hidenori Kumai



Mr. Kumai, a manga artist, shares his obsession with manga during his youth, his Christian manga works, and the effects of media on children.

However, Mr. Kumai doesn't use the Bible as simply subject

matter for manga. His manga is just one step toward getting as many people as possible to pick up the real Bible. Even 'MANGA Messiah' was written for the purpose of getting people to read the Bible.

"There are manga with sexual and violent themes, so if a child becomes totally immersed in them it can be disastrous. I understand why parents worry. However, there's more to it than just simply taking it away from them. The most important thing is that a relationship of mutual trust is built."

"Children watch their parents and instinctively sense whether or not they are walking with the Lord. So even though they may be caught up in manga or always playing games, if the standard of the parents is a firm one, they'll be able to absorb and resolve some of the problems. This is a rule of a family life that has God at its center."