
NO GREATER JOY

Vol. 1 Issue 2 NEWSLETTER of THE CHURCH AT CANE CREEK June, 1995

Emotional Manipulators

Just this week, a family was visiting us in the Herb garden while their children played in the yard. The four-year-old girl seemed to be pouty and moody. For a while, she just watched the other children having fun, but didn't participate. She was the smallest and often couldn't keep up. After a time, making an attempt to chase after the others, she fell on the thick carpet of grass. She immediately began to scream as if the goat were eating her favorite hat. At the same time, she was doing a stumbling, "pitiful" run to her mother. "Poor child." The mother, drawn by the desperate, defiant screams, did what all mothers are expected to do; she sympathetically rushed to her "wounded" child. The four-year-old psychologist was well aware that, with others looking on, the mother's reputation was at stake.

Though it was not outwardly visible, I knew that the mother was irritated at her child. She didn't really feel sympathetic. She was probably thinking something like this: "What's wrong with the little brat now? She's such a crybaby. I know she is not really hurt. Why does she pretend to be?" And then the guilt feelings hit the mother

and she lies to herself: "Oh well, she is just a little thing and even though there is no scratch or bruise, and the ground is not hard, maybe she is hurt."

The mother intuitively knows that what she is hearing is not a cry of pain, but of protest. She can't sort out all these feelings and facts, so she pretends to be concerned. The mother's pretense and buried feelings are putting steam in the

boiler that will later, in private, boil over into anger and irritability toward her child. The mother, in this situation, actually doesn't like her child. This causes her to feel inadequate because she knows that her attitude renders her unfit to properly mother her own child. The fact is, the thing that irritates and even disgusts the mother about her child is actually a developing character flaw in the child.

By the responses of the mother, this little girl has been trained to

Continued on page 3

Potty Training Answered

In our book, *To Train Up A Child*, the chapter that has produced the most inquires is the one on potty training infants. The letters have ranged from those who challenge our integrity for making such a bragging claim to those who thank us for the success they have seen in potty training their own infants. We often laughingly joke about the wisdom of adding it to the book. But for those of you who have been successful, it is worth it. To the rest of you struggling, frustrated moms, forgive us; it was just an idea to make life easier, not harder. Potty Training infants is certainly not character building. This article is in answer to all of you who

have written, asking for more detail.

While on mission trips in Central America, I noticed that the tribal women did not put diapers on their babies. I found this interesting and started asking questions. Occasionally, they would slide their babies out of the back sling and sit them on the tops of the mother's feet. I had read about this being done in the forties by those mothers working to build the nation of Israel. Then, when I saw it being done in C.A., it just caused me to want to try it with my own babies.

When my next child was born, I put a cloth diaper on her and laid her on my tummy. In this position, during those first few days of recovery, when I felt the diaper get warm, I gave the action a name. My newborn came to associate the sound with the action.

Continued on page 2

Proverbs 22:6 Train up a child in the way he should go:
and when he is old, he will not depart from it.



Twinkie Twerp

My wife was standing in a yard talking to a young mother of a seven-year-old boy and two girls. The girls are fairly obedient and even tempered. But the boy -- Well, they were interrupted by him coming from the house with a Hostess Twinkie. He said, "Mama, can I have this?" She said, "No, there is not enough for the other children (neighbor children with whom he was playing). He looked shocked and offended -- then anger curled his lip and hardened his brow. He began to protest and beg, frantically tearing at the wrapping. It appeared that he would rip it open in defiance. The mother commenced a foot shuffling, grabbing competition for the Twinkie. For a while it was up in the air as to who would win. She finally grabbed it; but she didn't win; neither did the boy. He was a bigger loser than either of them supposed. His was a character loss.

As he knew that due to her size it would eventually be necessary to forfeit his spoils, he surrendered

the Twinkie. But, it was his bargaining chip. The mother was standing there holding the deformed Twinkie, looking exhausted, when he fired at her, "Then, let me have a Graham Cracker." Seeing a way out, she paid the little extortionists his Graham Cracker and resumed her adult conversation. It was all in a day's stress at the old home place.

He never actually expected that he would overpower his mother (Though he will someday). He just

wanted to express his anger at being denied personal indulgence. Furthermore, from past experiences, he knew how to manipulate her into occasional compliance. And then again, his behavior was rewarded with a Graham Cracker. This mother reinforced his ugly behavior pattern. As I have said, "All children are trained -- some positively, some negatively." She was training him to repeat this negative behavior.

Continued on page 3

Potty Training

Continued from page 1

For the first few months, I put her on the potty in front of me so she would feel secure and relaxed. If I had waited until her bladder was full and spoke the word which she had come to associate with the body function, she would perform the response. In the early stage I dribbled cold water down her tummy to stimulate her to 'peepee'. The cold lid against her warm legs, the position of her body, the words I spoke, the dribbled water and her full bladder, all worked together to signal a response.

My two older children helped and sometimes even daddy. It was a ritual about ever two or three hours. When we failed to perceive her need and discovered a bowel movement or peepee in progress, we still rushed her to the pot, saying the appropriate word to reinforce the association. She caught on quickly, and by the time she was 3 months old she would fuss when she needed to go. Until she was about a year old, anytime we were out

in the public for any length of time, I put a diaper on her just in case of accident.

I have often wondered if I would have had the same success if I had tried this on my first child. She had many bowel movements each day -- often while nursing. Since I only trained the two younger girls, I don't know how it would work with boys. In our child training seminars, we have met other mothers who boast of success with their babies. We have the moms stand and take a bow while we all applaud. Having older children to assist you is a great advantage.

It was never, NEVER a discipline matter.

If you wait until the child is three or four months old to attempt training, it may be more difficult because you are working against a learned habit of going in their diaper.

Well, go have another baby and give it a try. Let us know if you have success. We have heard of enough failures. On the other hand, what is a little diaper rash and a pail full of stinky diapers. After all, it's an American tradition. ~

Twinkie Twerp

Parent, not adversary

She could have handled the situation by flying into a rage and whipping him for his lousy attitude and actions. He would have screamed and kicked to make her sorry for being such an "abusive, cruel mom." She would have felt deeply defeated in spirit and, I hope, sadden by the condition of his soul. If she increased the whippings or their severity, he would be more cautious, but still angry and manipulative. Is this your situation? Have you "tried everything" and concluded that you just have a "strong-willed" child? Not so. You have neglected to properly train.

Horse sense

We have two horses that come to the back door and just stand around. I continually shew them away -- and clean my shoes. They have five acres of pasture, but they prefer the scraps that are thrown out to the dogs. What a dog will not eat is usually what a horse will eat. They love potato peelings and old cabbage. They will wait hours for just one quick bite. Have you ever seen three dogs, five puppies and two horses trying to eat out of the same pan? Ten occasions of being slapped on the rear-end and chased down the hill to screams of "Wha horse!" does not deter them from coming up and scratching their flanks on my office window, waiting for a hand out. They think that getting screamed at and chased down the hill is part of the game of life. They live to gratify the flesh -- no sense of self-control. They have been

well trained to come to the back door.

You may wonder why I don't spend more time to train them properly. I confess that neither my dogs nor my horses are very well trained. I pay them little attention until they become intolerable. The truth is: I just don't care enough about them to spend the time needed. They just aren't worth the inconvenience. Of course, our children are worth far more than everything we possess and more than all earthly endeavors. "He that hath ears to hear...."

Breaking mule headedness

What of our Twinkie consumer? Keep in mind that his responses are a result of undisciplined desires for "things good for food." He is living for self-gratification,

and is angered when anything or anyone gets in his way. The issue is far bigger than that of the management of eating schedules. Our first concern is character development. The child may not be morally developed to the point of possessing the capability of making a value judgment and denying his flesh, but he can be conditioned to respond in a restrained way. If you do not now get control of his passions for self-indulgence, he will be out of control long before he knows that he should exercise self-discipline. Her giving-in has trained him to repeat this and other similar, undesirable actions.

Continued on page 6

Emotional Manipulators

continued from page 1

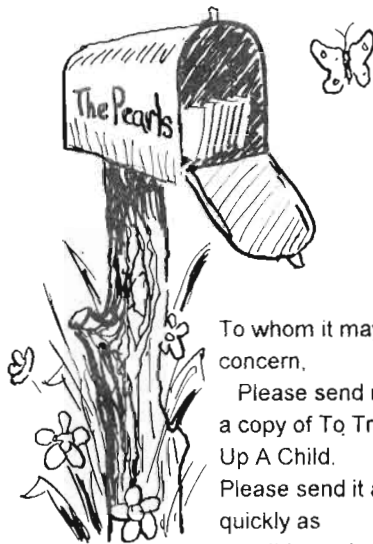
be an emotional manipulator. When she can not get her way, she will pretend to be hurt -- or take a small hurt and make it into a big one. The mother will rush to the child and tell the other children to let her play or to not run off and leave her. This further compounds the sibling relationships because the other children don't feel kindly toward a "crybaby" who forces limitations on their play.

When the child begins to scream her defiance or hurt, the mother should just ignore her. Don't be moved by it. Don't pick her up. Tell her that there is no reason to cry, so go away and play. If she demands treatment, ask her if it hurts. If she says yes, then reach in you purse, pull out a terrible tasting herbal potion and give her a spoon full. After she

gets through gagging on her vitamin and mineral supplement, tell her that she is now completely healed and invite her to come back for another dose if she again gets hurt. If you don't have an herbal remedy, use something that is very unpleasant, yet good for the child -- like apple cider vinegar with garlic.

Don't laugh while she is looking. Remember, you are doctoring a serious attitude problem. Three doses is guaranteed to forever cure emotional manipulators and also prevent the development of future hypochondriacs. If crying and running to mom does not advance her own agenda over others, she will learn to make her own way and accept the normal unfairness and hardships of life. Everyone will like her better, including her own brothers, sisters and parents. Furthermore, she will be happier. ~

Our Mail Box



To whom it may concern,
Please send me a copy of To Train Up A Child. Please send it as quickly as possible, as I am

desperate for wisdom in this matter. Please pray for me! I have been crying out to the Lord in this matter of training up my children, but I am a total failure -- still! Do I need to fast as well as Pray?

[signed] God help me!

Dear Michael and Debi,

Hi, again! I got the books on Monday and by Thursday I had given all the copies away. There are still people asking me for them; so, I have ordered 10 more copies. Once again, Thank you for letting God use you.

My husband was against homeschooling until he read your book. so thanks to ya'll I will be able to have my children home with me.

Dear Michael and Debi,

We are in the process of implementing your book. You have given us a vision for obedience that our culture would say is impossible. Thank You. We have enclosed an order for eight more books to help other young parents like ourselves who are at the end of their ropes and ready to try such a radical, (even though true, Biblical, and time-tested) and counterculture approach.

Even a child is known by his doings, whether his work be pure; and whether it be right. Proverbs 20:11

Dear Mr. Pearl,
My name is Susan Dietz and I am 7 years old. I came to hear you speak in Ft. Worth, Tx. I know where New Guinea is because my family studied the missionary, Ott Koning, and how he learned to give up his rights. I guess Miss Rebekah gave up her rights to eat what she wanted to eat when she ate the grub worms.

Please use this money to help Miss Rebekah go to New Guinea. I want to spend money on saving others from going to Hell. Thank you for coming and telling us how to train up a child. I liked it alot.

Sincerely,
Susan Dietz



By Rebekah Pearl at age 14

This month, Rebekah received several gifts from children who want to be a part of her ministry. This is highly encouraging. If our young people are focusing on missions now, we will see more participants in the harvest later on.

"And Jesus saith unto them, Yea; have ye never read, Out of the mouth of babes and sucklings thou hast perfected praise?" Matt. 21:16

ONLY A PRISM
I am like a prism
Upon a window seat
A bottle full of water
Or a hanging crystal leaf
And the rainbows all about me
Are not what I have made
They're from that which shines through me
Something far more great
So sitting in the window seat
Reflecting in the quiet
I am just a prism
Jesus is the Light.

Missionary News Update !!!

Dear Friends,

Greetings in the name of our Lord! During the last eight months I have been in Bowie, Texas finishing my last phase of missionary training. I will graduate from Baptist Bible Translators Institute with a B.A. in Linguistics and Translation.

It has been four years now since God called me to be a missionary to the unreached tribes of Papua New Guinea. The time of preparation has been long, but very rewarding. I thank God for the first rate training I have received. In just one week, I will return to Tennessee to spend six weeks with my family before my brother Gabriel and I leave for the jungles of P.N.G. I am so excited at the thought of returning! This will be a survey trip in which we will fly and then hike over the mountain ranges of the Madang region.



I am interested in one particular tribe, the Aiome people. We will visit them and find out whether or not they will receive a missionary. I also hope to: #1 Make contact with other missionaries in the country, #2 Learn what I'll need to bring, #3 Find a location in which to settle, #4 Get a better idea of the cost of living. New Guinea's economy is very unstable right now, and it looks like I'll need a minimum of \$1200 per month. This trip will be only three weeks long. When I return, there will be supplies to be gathered and support to be raised. How long this will take, I do not know. I am anxious to settle in P.N.G. for good and begin learning the language of these tribal people.

Pray for me as I graduate and get ready for my summer trip. Pray that I'll be able to raise the financial support needed. The greatest blessing a Christian can experience is that of being used by God, and I thank Him for using me. My cup is full and running over!

My home church is sending me out, and I can be reached through the address on this news letter.

Because He First Loved Me,

Beka
Rebekah Joy Pearl

I want to thank all of you who have chosen to support this ministry of reaching those who have never heard. The most exciting work on this planet must be to bear the good news to those who would never have heard unless you had gone. When you go into a tribe and see old ones dying

while you are trying to learn enough of the language to tell them, you realize that you are their only link to the 2,000 year old message. Most American Christians do not realize that there are still several thousand language groups who have never heard the name of Christ even once. In many cases their

language is not known by anyone outside of their tribe. By language, culture, fear and inhospitable mountains and swamps they are cut off from the outside world. They cannot come to hear, so we must go and tell. Would God have you and your children to share in this ministry? ~

Twinkie Twerp

Continued from page 3

I will suggest a possible way to deal with the Twinkie ripper. He begins to tear at the wrapper and protest. Instead of accepting the challenge and becoming the other half of the competition, lean back and solemnly observe. Pretend to be a judge gathering evidence. If he intended to open the package, he would do so. If he doesn't, with no one caring to spar with him, his little performance would soon become a lonesome embarrassment. Wait until he manifests himself. When he gets it open or gives up trying, take any course of action that not only denies him immediate gratification but future gratification as well. Make his actions counterproductive by responding in a way that denies him much more than what he hoped to gain.

When he gets the Twinkie out of the wrapper, calmly tell him to give it to his friends. The shock of your cold and solemn, rock hardness will probably cause him to obey. Then, tell him that he will be denied sweets for one week. Reinforce it with a spanking. Stand by your pronouncement. Let him suffer deprivation while the other family members indulge. After two or three such times, he will see the *law of cause and effect* in action. Apply the principle of action and reaction. When his actions are inappropriate, it is the cause of a reaction on your part that will get him the opposite of what he wanted. He will soon make adjustments, using the law to his own benefit. If you are as consistent as the "law of the

Medes and the Persians," he will adjust his actions in favor of his own appetite.

What if he should continue to scream and protest when you give the Twinkie to the other children? Lead him to the place where the "magic wand" is kept and give him respect for the "Powers that be."

What if he should continue to steal sweets and make demands? Simply tell him that his actions have led you to see that his addiction must be broken, so you will not buy anything sweet for one month -- and stick to it. The worse thing you could do is to make an exception or to give-over after a week or two.

When we changed the place of feeding the dogs from the back door to the barn, the horses stopped hanging around. We used their own self-interest to condition their response. When the child finds that he gets more of what he wants by being courteous and patient, his own selfishness will cause him to obey.

Moral development

You may ask, "If he is still motivated by selfishness, how is the conditioning going to be morally beneficial?" Though he may still be acting out of self interest, he is having to exercise his own will in the immediate denial of passion. This will equip him for exercising self-discipline when his moral faculties are fully developed. The rod and your manipulation of his responses can not change the child's heart. However, it can completely check the "evil" manifestation of the heart and provide a very teachable and disciplined body that is, for what ever reason, exercising self-restraint.

The rod, when ministered with dignity and for the child's good, is an indispensable part of the training. But, it can not take the place of training any more than driving off the horses would cause them to ignore their appetite. Just like your child, they will forget the rump slapping and return when they are stirred by the possibility of indulgence. You must not continue to scream at or beat on your child in response to his repeated twinkieholism. Arrange the circumstances so that, if nothing else, his own selfishness will motivate him to acceptable behavior, and then use the rod as a part of that enforcement and training. ~

Of Utmost Concern

I think that many of you feel as I do. My most important personal concern is my children. Even before I was married, my occupation, financial security, ministry, personal fulfillment -- all took third place to my concerns for my future children. What does it profit a man if he gain the whole world and lose his own soul? Or, what does it profit if a man gain this world and lose the soul of his child?

What can be called success if your children turn out to be part of the world's problem rather than it's cure? What satisfaction can there be in the comforts of material success if your child grows up to need counsel rather than being sought out to give counsel? If your child lies awake at night suffering from guilt and anxiety, being gnawed on by the demons of intemperance and self-indulgence, how can you enjoy your food or your pillow?

The success of a tree or a man is measured by the fruit that is borne. The fruit of a man or woman is their children; everything else is falling leaves.

Continued on page 7

Herbs

Plantain

(The mother of Herbs)

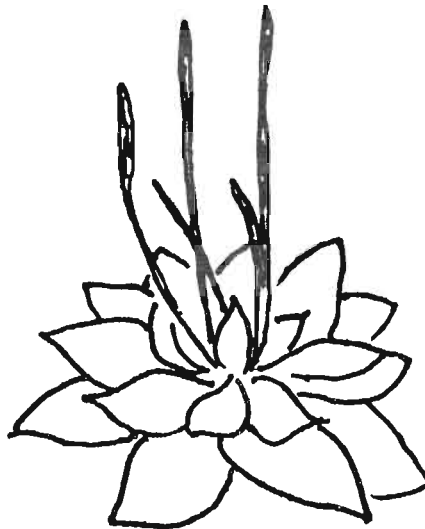
By Debi

Plantain is a common weed found naturalized throughout temperate North America. My yard is about 1/4 Plantain. Because summer is upon us, I thought it would be useful to learn how to recognize Plantain and how to use it in treating insect bites and poison ivy. There are many kinds of Plantain with similar properties but, for lack of space, I will introduce you to the most common. As seen here in this picture, Common Plantain (*Plantago major* L.) has a rosette of broad, oval, long-stalked leaves and, during the summer, bears spikes of tiny greenish to greenish-white flowers. The roots are fibrous, which means there are lots of small roots coming right from the base of the plant (like strings from a mop). Once you learn to recognize Plantain, you will see it everywhere.

Plantago genus contains tannin, and thus are astringent (able to draw tissue together). This characteristic is helpful in many ways, but really shines as a helper when you have a bee sting. When someone is stung, the leaves from the plantain can be quickly picked, bruised (twist -- ring it out, chop or chew) and applied to the sting (Train your children to do it for themselves). The astringent action quickly begins to draw out the poison as it pulls tissue together,

thus reducing the pain within seconds. If the poison is drawn out soon enough there will be no swelling, since the swelling is the result of the body's defense system reacting to the poison. Thus, it is a good anti-inflammatory. We, as well as others of our community, have seen this work many times. Plantain can be used to treat poison ivy or any skin inflammation that would benefit from the astringent action.

Make your own Plantain tincture. Fill a glass jar with 1/3 Plantain and 2/3s apple cider vinegar.



Keep in a dark cool place for 3 weeks, shaking it ever day or so. After 3 weeks, strain the vinegar tincture off and store in an empty bottle (syrup or dish detergent with a squeeze snout) for ready use. This tincture is especially useful in treating blemishes on your face. Plantain pulls out the poison of the blemish and will often pull the discoloration left from blemishes.

This week our dog, who just had pups, had a very sore and swollen tit. It was obvious that the milk duct was infected and needed an opening to allow it to drain. My

daughter made a plantain poultice to help speed up the drawing out process. Within an hour, a purple spot appeared and soon developed a white spot in its center. The place soon broke open and drained. She had already made a fresh garlic salve (by mixing chopped garlic and lanolin together) and had been applying that to the whole area. By the next morning our dog was well. The hungry pups were thankful.

Plantain, being a simple herb, has basically only two main actions: astringent and an anti-inflammatory; but it sure can be handy in time of need.

Reader's Digest Magic and Medicine of Plants has a good picture of the three most common Plantains.

Utmost Concern *from page 6*

If the sun rise and set, and I cast no bigger shadow, what of it, if my children are growing in God's family? Let me die poor; let me die early; let me be ravaged by disease; but let my children rise up and call me blessed. Let me not measure my giving by the dollars I spend on them or the educational opportunities that my station in life affords them, but rather, by the hours we spend in fellowship.

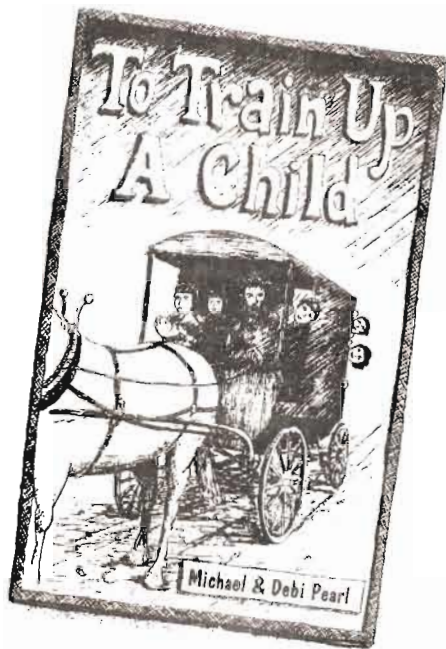
May they graduate from my tutorship to become disciples of the man from Nazareth. May they know good and evil from the pinnacle of obedience rather than from the pit of despair. May they have the wisdom to choose the precious and the courage to reject the trite and the vain. May they always labor for the meat that endures.

May they be lovers of God, coworkers of the Holy Spirit and a friend to the Lord Jesus. And, when their trail ends, may it end at the throne of God laying crowns at the feet of the Savior. ~

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One book: \$3.89 + \$1.50 S/H (\$5.39).		
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NO GREATER JOY

"I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in the truth" III John 4

The Church At Cane Creek
1000 Pearl Road
Pleasantville, TN 37147