

NO GREATER JOY

Newsletter of

The Church At Cane Creek, a ministry of the local church.

October '95

T. J. Slayman

As you receive this news letter, T. J. Slayman has been in Hong Kong about one month. T. J. is a young man who has proved himself faithful in the work of the ministry. He was saved about six or seven years ago under our ministry here in Pleasantville, Tennessee, and has continued to abide faithful. He has gone from homeschooled to college graduate with a degree in linguistics and translation. He and about ten others will be assisting Jessie Beal in the distribution of one-million gospel tracts to the Chinese. During their six month stay, they will be working with Chinese Christians teaching them how to disciple their fellow countrymen.

Ultimately, T. J. is going to Laos to minister the gospel. Laos is closed to missionaries and severely persecutes the Christians. During his stay and ministry in Hong Kong, T. J. is going to take a trip into Thailand where he will meet the Laotians on the Mekong river. They cross the river in large numbers and can be ministered to in their house-boats from the Thailand side.

Just a few days before departing, T. J. received a letter with information of a Laotian national day of prayer to be held in October in Bangkok, Thailand. Christian leaders from all parts of Laos will be there to discuss strategy for reaching their own country. This will be a perfect opportunity for him to make contacts and learn of their needs.

T. J. says, "If I were to simply barge into Laos and start searching for Christians, I would endanger the church there. Recently, in the northern areas of Laos, Christians have been forced by gun-point to sign documents renouncing Christianity. It is a very sensitive situation. In Bangkok I hope to gain a deeper insight into the true spiritual needs of this country. I am praying that God will open doors and that I will be able to teach the Bible and help train up Laotian pastors, evangelists, and missionaries. There are still 100 people/language groups in Laos that have no gospel witness."

Through his work in construction this summer, T. J. was able to purchase his own ticket to Hong Kong. The church here was able to give him \$800.00 for his first two months support, but he did not have the additional \$500.00 he estimated would be needed to make this trip into Bangkok. He prayed earnestly for the additional finances. One reader sent \$25.00; and then just the day before he was to leave, one of our readers from California sent a check for



\$470.35. He left thanking God for His provisions.

T. J. will be needing \$400.00 each month through March of '96. If you would like to share in this ministry, make the check out to The Church At Cane Creek, and designate it to T. J. Slayman. If you would like to write T. J. in Hong Kong, address correspondence to:

T. J. Slayman
c/o Richard McCollum
#32 Fuk Hing Tsun
Wang Chau
Yuen Long N.T.
HONG KONG (must be in capitals)

Plowing-under weeds

Last week I was in Florida staying in the home of a young family. They had a son, 2½ years old, who exemplified good training. He was a joy to be around. I was wondering how this young couple had managed to train him so well.

The next morning, I sat across the breakfast table from the mother as she was feeding her little eleven-month-old daughter. Suzzie sat in the high chair sucking from a spoon a spinach-squash-mush-mix, or some such concoction. I think I have discovered why some kids are so rebellious later in life. They are punishing their parents for what they were forced to eat when they were too young to know the difference and too small to resist.

After about half of a jar, the little girl shoved it away. The mother pushed it back in front of her and said, "Don't you want some more, are you through?" Again the child shoved it away, this time with a little more force. It was one of those whole-body shoves, not violent, but determined. Her body language said, "I have had all of this I am going to tolerate. Get it out of my sight before I throw it in the floor." She didn't voice any protest, and she was not mean spirited. She was just practicing being independent, demonstrating her ability to enforce her rights.

Most mothers would have simply accepted the child's actions as a statement that she was through eating. However, this little mother was wise beyond her years. She picked up her little enforcer, which was lying on the table, and spat the child's hand, while she once again placed the jar of green slime in front of her. Suzzie tried to shove it away, and received another spat. The mother spoke so quietly and so without emotion that no one else at the table even noticed, "Suzzie, are you through eating?" The little girl did not cry, but she got the message that she is not in control—Mother is. I



could see that she wanted to push it away, but she looked at the little switch and restrained herself. The mother further enforced her victory by leaving the jar in front of the child.

I loved it. It was beautiful. It was the making of a well disciplined, self-controlled, balanced teenager. In that little girl's heart, the seeds of rebellion were just germinating. She was foreshadowing the sins of Lucifer: "I will be..., I will ascend..., I will exhalt..." (Isa. 14:13-14)."

The thing that makes it difficult for the parents is that at such a young age the rebellion is so easy to overlook. At times it is even cute. "It doesn't hurt anyone, it is not inconvenient, embarrassing, or trying on our patience. We are not personally irritated, so why bother? Wait until it gets to be a problem." If a farmer waited until the little blades of grass got to be a problem, he has lost his crop. Before the roots get too deep, the farmer plows or cultivates-under the grass. When more seeds germinate, and grass and weeds begin to grow, the farmer again plows it under. By dealing with the problem before it is a problem, it never becomes a problem.

Most parents wait until the weeds of self-will and indulgence are choking

their children and disrupting the family before they try to pull them. The world and the Devil are always sowing tares in the flesh of our children. If we "sleep" and allow the weeds to get high enough to become visible, we might just have to "let them both grow together until the harvest, lest while ye gather up the tares, ye root up also the wheat with them."

There was a conflict in this eleven-month-old child. It was a tiny conflict, but it involved her whole soul. The tiny seeds seemed insignificant, but all deep rooted weeds begin as harmless little sprigs. The character she will have as an adult was being formed over that jar of baby food. The way parents respond to the eleven-month-old is one-hundred times more important than how they respond to the fourteen-year-old. Tares that can be so easily pulled in a small child can not be pulled at all in a teenager.

One year, I allowed grass to grow up around some bell pepper plants. I had cultivated out the center of the row, and was proud of the way my garden looked. But I had neglected the grass that was growing immediately next to some of the plants, concealed by the foliage. When it finally came to my attention, I decided that I would pull it tomorrow. I got distracted, we had a couple good rains, the sun shone warm, and the grass roots entwined with the roots of the bell pepper. When the pepper plant started to bear fruit, the grass was then nearly as big as the pepper plant. I decided to pull the grass. You guessed it, the pepper plant was uprooted with the grass. I stood there holding my beautiful bell pepper plant feeling like a stupid sluggard. When I found weeds tangled in the roots of other plants, I let them both grow together. The fruit was greatly decreased, but at least I didn't kill the whole plant.

I have seen parents "uproot" their older children in the process of trying to pull the tares which they allowed to mature. Pressured by parents who

"What curriculum do you recommend for my six-year-old just starting school?"

What curriculum? Do you have any change around the house? How about a tape measure? Raisins and M&M's are handy little math tools. Now you are set for Math Class for the next three or four years. I'm not being funny. So many parents spend money on expensive curriculum and forget that the reason we teach math is so little Sara will know how to make change, sew a dress, and total up her catalog order. Your question reveals that you have accepted some erroneous presuppositions.

You have been schooling your children since they were born. While shopping, driving down the road, or piddling in the house, have you taught them to recognize colors, shapes, numbers? Through looking at books with you, can they distinguish one animal from another? Do they know how many fingers they have on one hand, the total on both hands? Have they watched you cut up a chicken and discussed the body structure? Have you sat with them in the yard and examined bugs and worms? Have you looked at a globe to see how the world is arranged? Have they stacked blocks and balanced their weight on a seesaw? Have you corrected their grammar and taught them to write their name? Have you provided colors and paper for them to doodle? Well, they have already had biology 101, natural physics, general math, world geography, English grammar, art appreciation, and home economics.

But you feel a compulsion to do something that looks more like the school everyone is familiar with. You have accepted the pressure placed on

you from the state and from friends and relatives. You are ready to stop being a parent and to become a teacher. The children are now going to suddenly become students. You feel you need something to validate your decision to homeschool, something tangible.

Remember that God did not make classroom education. It is the invention of humanists seeking to usurp the parental authority. Why recapture your rights and duty only to adopt their methods of teaching? We are not now talking about the material that is taught, but how it is taught. Classrooms are as unnatural as welding schools or boot camps. If an adult desires to enter into an occupational specialty, the classroom may be a pain that must be endured, but God save our children from the accountability and demands of professional student.

God has clearly defined the manner in which a parents should teach: "And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up. And thou shalt bind them for a sign upon thine hand, and they shall be as frontlets between thine eyes. And thou shalt write them upon the posts of thy house, and on thy gates. (Deuteronomy 6:7-9)."

Maybe you could follow this rule: If a workbook can be enjoyed by the child, if they desire to do it just for fun, then it cannot be harmful, unless the child becomes so absorbed in books as to neglect the important social and work aspects of family.

Except on rare occasions, book studies should never consume a large part of the day. Children should be engaged in work and play with their families. A young daughter needs to begin early learning and practicing to be a wife,

Continued on next page

Plowing weeds continued

suddenly decide to clean house, some children totally rebel and run away from home—or commit suicide. I will not here discuss the manner in which we should deal with "weedy" teenagers. I am sure that I do not have answers for all the problems that arise.

This little mother did know, however, how to pull little tares from the flesh of her eleven-month-old daughter.

If you will take time to anticipate the character you desire in your teenager and cultivate it while they are young, you will be able to enjoy the fruit later on. We gardeners know that it is much easier to weed early in the season, before the sun gets hot, and the ground gets hard. If you wait too long, you may wait until the experience is so painful and humiliating that you give up on one of your "plants" and say, "Well maybe next year—next child." It is sad to come to that place, but many of you are there right now.

I must encourage those of you with small children, train up your children now. Do not wait until they are one-year-old to start training. Rebellion and self-will should be broken in the six-month-old when it first appears. Take this young mother's example and think of ways you can train your child.

Curriculum continued

mother, and home-keeper. A boy should begin early, two-years-old, practicing to be the man of the house and the President of the United States. He should be given responsibility and an important role in sustaining the family. Our first concern should be the development of character, work ethic, and personal confidence.

So many of you are needlessly worried about your ability to teach. In a society full of books, one can hardly keep a child from learning to read. There is no reading mother so ignorant that she will prevent her child from reading if she only encourages him. But I have seen well educated, demanding mothers and professional teachers cause a child to be so crushed in confidence or so bored to tears that they feared trying to learn to read. Forget the early achiever business. Too many parents drive their children for their own satisfaction.

Primitive tribesman can be taught to read in one year. A ten or twelve-year-old America who has been exposed to letters and some phonics, can learn to read in three months. A child who fears failure will not want to try to learn. One who wants to read will do so, regardless.

Relax, and then relax some more. Finally, relax with your children. Talk with them. Answer their question about the why and how of everything. Have a good time discovering things together. Don't give them tests and scores. How would you like to have your teaching rated? Would you be encouraged in your endeavors, or would you feel like hiding for fear of failure? You might do some panic studying, but you would hate it. That is not what you want for your children? Take the pressure off, let them be two to four years behind their

age level, and they will be far ahead by the time they are eighteen.

Some of you are so brainwashed, you don't believe this. Let me say that we reared and taught all five of our children in just this manner. When our oldest went off to college, she earned a four point average the first year. Most of our children did not learn to read until they were ten-years-old, but they all enjoy reading and are exceptionally good readers—and with good comprehension.

Understanding the principle of teaching "while walking in the way (Deuteronomy 6:7-9)" does not mean that you ignore teaching, but, rather, that you do it as a natural course of daily life. The children will not know they are in school; they will think you are just taking more interest in them, or that you have decided to have some fun with them rather than knock around like a frustrated commander fearing mutiny.

Everyday life is your curriculum. It will be the place where your children will face their ultimate tests. It will be the ground on which they must apply what they have learned. Everyday life is the best classroom and, with a little guidance, the best teacher.



The Church At Cane Creek is a nonprofit organization recognized by the state of Tennessee. It is a ministry of the local New Testament church, organized to facilitate the work of the church both at home and abroad.

**Two Fathers**

By Rebekah Pearl

9/15/89

Once there were two fathers**In houses side by side.****Each had a little boy****The apple of his eye.****One raised his son in love and care****And made him to obey.****He taught him from the Bible,****And each night they knelt to pray.****The other father loved his son****But had no time to spare.****And so he left his little boy****In some one else's care.****Then when each boy became a man,****All who saw him did know,****One was raised with father's care,****But the other grew alone.****The one became a drunkard.****He cheated and he lied.****And the other that honored God****Met an accident and died.****And so the godly father grieved,****His beloved son was gone.****And yet I wonder, of the two,****Which father lost his son?**

The Opinion of Three

As we sat at the kitchen table talking with T. J. Slayman, he expressed his views on home-schooling and rearing strong young men. Debi Pearl, Mike's wife, recorded them, and Mike edited them for publication. So this is a corporate endeavor, the opinion of three.

On homeschooling

T. J. said, "Most homeschoolers seem to have the same limited vision as do public school children. All of their present life is focused on finishing high school. It is as if a curtain is pulled over their future, and they see themselves as just students until they finish that last workbook." It is assumed they are not yet qualified to have a vision for their purpose in life. They are given little responsibility, other than that which chickens have, keeping the nest clean.

I say, give your children a vision from their youth. Encourage them to consider their life's ministry in the Kingdom of God. Cause their schooling to be training for that ministry.

Children study certain subjects to prepare for a medical career; why not teach your little ones to think of the day when God can use them to go to a field that is white unto the harvest. Their geography class may entail following the work and needs of the missionaries on a world map. Their math class can be collecting cast off items from other families, having a garage sale, counting the money, learning how to get a money order, and sending it to a missionary. Their language class could be writing missionaries to tell them you have marked their place on the map and are praying for them. Give your children a

vision—God's vision of reaching every tongue, kindred and nation.

Kids simply need to be asked regularly, "So what are you going to do with this life God has given you?" Whether the answer is towards ministry or some other occupation, it will at least break the trance that seems to grip youngsters.

On making strong young men.

T. J. says, "If you allow your children to live in the home as dependents, full time students, you will have weak, discontent children." You can't raise strong young men who love and appreciate their families in an environment where they exist as dependents. Debi says, "A man is to be strong, a protector and provider of his family. Mutual dependence is such a necessary ingredient in a loving family. True need is a must for building responsibility, which in turn builds strength of character. If a boy believes his family can do just fine without him, he will not be concerned with their welfare, and will not be appreciative. However, if a young man knows that his family's very existence depends upon him, he will know his role, and his heart will be where his treasure is. This need must be genuine, it cannot be faked."

If your life style is geared to a single provider with a house full of dependents, you have a weak family. For the sake of your children, arrange your life style so that your children are needed for something more than filling out workbooks.

Debi says, "Don't expect a strong man to come out of a weak son. A boy needs to practice being a strong man just like he practices math. If he has no

one to depend on him, no one to protect, and no one asking his advise, he will grow up feeling and acting like a wimp. Muscles are made by being used. A boy is caused to become a strong man by assuming a part of the role as protector and provider—just like dad."

Rebekah

I would like to thank those of you who have prayed and those who have given toward my ministry in Papua New Guinea. The Lord has been faithful to His work. I have already received about two-thirds of the money needed for initial entry and set-up in Papua New Guinea. Almost half of the minimum monthly support has been promised by friends, churches, and those of you who have taken an interest in the tribal people of PNG. I am busy traveling, showing my slides and sharing my vision for the Kumboi people. With the advent of the rainy season in January, I will not be able to get back into the mountains until June. At present, I plan to be back in PNG by June '96. Keep praying, I have seen the results of your prayers.

Michael and daughters, Rebekah and Shalom, will be in seminars at the following locations:

- Nov. 3 Friday evening Sherman, TX.
*Bro. Godfrey (903) 813-0820 {OPEN}
- Nov. 4 Saturday morning Sherman, TX.
*Bro. Godfrey (903)813-0820 {OPEN}
- Nov. 4 Saturday evening Bowie, TX.
*Bro. Jamie Reed
Eastside Baptist Church
- Nov. 5 Sunday morning Bowie, TX.
*Bro. Jamie Reed
Eastside Baptist Church {OPEN}
(817)872-2673
- Nov. 5 Sunday Evening Bowie, TX.
*Pastor Henderson
Central Baptist Church {OPEN}
(817)872-2704
- Nov. 6-9 All Day Missions Conf. Marion, TX.
Marion Baptist Church
(210)914-3205
- Nov. 9 Thursday evening Austin, TX.
The Church of the Hills {OPEN}
10700 Anderson Mill Rd. (512)331-9559
Stephen Names (512)251-8646
- Nov. 10 Friday
- Nov. 11 Saturday morning College Station, TX.
Debra Santini (409)764-8983 {OPEN}
Call for location
- Nov. 11 Saturday evening 6:30 PM Temple, TX.
Church of Christ {OPEN}
corner of 15th St. & Ave. I
*Sharyl Robchard (817)939-8999
*Eva Stewart (817)939-8840
- Nov. 12 Sunday 10:30 AM Forth Worth, TX
Homechurch
- Nov. 12 Sunday evening 6 PM Benbrook, TX
*Marty Gray (817)249-1198 {OPEN}
Call for location
- Nov. 13 Monday evening 7 PM Ft. Worth, TX
James Ave. Baptist Church {OPEN}
5745 James Ave.
* Richard Diggers (817)293-1074
- Nov. 14 Tuesday evening Carrollton, TX
Sojourn Church {OPEN}
3440 Sojourn Dr. Suite 220 (office complex)
*Katie Moore (214)417-3039
- Nov. 15 Wednesday evening Ft. Worth, TX
- Nov. 16 Thursday evening 7 PM Halton City, TX
*Birdie Miller (817)485-5046
Glenview Baptist Church {OPEN}
4805 N.E. Loop 820
- Nov. 17 Friday evening 7 PM Cedar Hill, TX
*Teresa Woodson (214)291-1613
Call for location {OPEN}
- Nov. 18 Saturday morning Ft. Worth, TX
*Bro. Larry Norman (817)534-0787
Worth Baptist Church 10 AM-3 PM
4900 Campus Drive {OPEN}
- Nov. 19 Sunday afternoon 4 PM Amarillo, TX
Richard Hamilton (806)351-0119 {OPEN}

“Do you feel there is anything good on TV?”

from our mail box



I have seen several good things on TV. I once saw a family picture on the TV. It was sitting beside a set of good books.

Yes, the TV has some good programming, though I do not include the news and sports in that list. Particularly good is some of the educational programs.

However, I have two concerns with the TV. One is the fact that it is impossible to have one around and search for the good stuff without eventually being exposed to the garbage. I would not dig through a garbage can of slop to find the one good biscuit lying in the bottom.

Commercials are full of corruption. And even programs like *Little House On the Prairie* are strong on humanism.

The second problem I have with TV is that it is a thief. It robs the individual of time and creativity. Watching TV is a cessation of reality. It is an intoxicating withdrawal from the real world. The family with a TV is bucking the odds. The family without a TV stands a better chance of achieving righteous goals. Basically, watching Hollywood productions is an activity of the flesh, and can only produce carnality.

I hear a cry of legalism coming from the garbage can! OK, if you can pray the

following prayer over the things you watch, then by all means watch them.

“Dear Lord, we invite you to come join us in this time of viewing. As your children, we commit this time to you as worthy of our attention. May our family be uplifted by this hour before the screen. And Lord, we pray that families everywhere would have the opportunity to do likewise. We thank you for providing this program for us, and we ask you to bless it to the edification of the Holy Spirit within. Now Lord, bless the men and women who produced this show and those who made it available us. May they have your blessings to do more of the same.

In Jesus name, we thank you, Amen.

I challenge you to copy this prayer on a card, large enough to be seen from anywhere in the room, and place it over your TV for all who enter to read. Then have the whole family read it out loud before each viewing.

You can send you newsletter cancellations to the address on the back.

Herbs

TANSY

Homeschoolers are not as likely as are public school children to get lice; but if your children ever rub shoulders with public school children, chances are you will one day be declaring war on lice. Lice are tiny bugs that get in a person's hair, then lay eggs and hatch into thousands of tiny bugs.

The first signs of lice are small dandruff looking particles that are connected to the hair about one-half inch from the scalp. These are the sacs that hold lice eggs. Getting rid of lice can be very time consuming and expensive for a large family. The process involves washing all bedding, couches, chairs and carpet. The lice killing shampoo sold in drug stores is quite expensive.

May I introduce to you Tansy, a lice zapping herb? Tansy will grow most any where. Its large, tropic, fern-like foliage grows five or six feet high. In mid to late summer, it bears small, daisy looking, yellow flowers. Tansy has a sharp unpleasant smell, which is a deterrent to bugs.

Tansy is usually started from a root cutting. Once established, it grows rapidly, and continues to multiply. According to the herb info now available, all tansies are not the same. There is a strain that looks and smells like the real thing, but does not have the bug killing properties of the real Tansy. Try your plant on garden bugs before you have to depend on it for lice treatment.

I pack the fresh or dried Tansy in a glass quart jar (1/3 herb to 2/3 vinegar), adding hot, apple cider vinegar. I cap this mixture and shake it everyday for 3 weeks, at which time I strain off the



herb and bottle the vinegar tincture in a well-labeled squeeze bottle. This tincture, as well as other herbal tinctures, will keep well in a cool dark place.

The Tansy vinegar tincture can be rubbed into the scalp when you think you might have been exposed to lice, thus eliminating the possibility of getting them. If you already have lice, saturate your hair and scalp several times over a forty-eight hour period. It is safe for the hair and scalp, but should be kept out of the eyes, since the vinegar burns. Vinegar has long been used as a hair rinse to bring out the natural shine to the hair, as well as to add body and control.

In the house or garden, tansy can also be used to discourage invading ants, as a garden pesticide, or on most any insect invasion.

Rebekah took dried tansy with her on the PNG missions trip. She sprinkled it in her sleeping bag to ward off bed bugs -- Gabe didn't. You guessed it, he ended up sharing his sleeping bag with wild, New Guinea, jungle-mountain bed bugs.

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Send us your check with your return address clearly printed. We usually mail out orders within twenty-four hours.

October 95

NO GREATER JOY

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

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