

NO GREATER JOY

Newsletter of **THE CHURCH AT CANE CREEK** a ministry of the local church February '96

Training Teens?

Dear Michael

I have a fourteen-year-old son who is worldly minded. He gets his hair cut so that his bangs hang down over his eye on one side. He will sit in church and sort of swing his head so that his bangs bounce around. It appears that he likes to peek at the world through his pretty hair. It seems that he becomes totally absorbed with how he looks. It is embarrassing and, I am ashamed to admit it, but sometimes when I look at him I am disgusted. He is not satisfied with his clothes or shoes unless they are the current fashion. When I tell him how ridiculous he looks, he only withdraws. When I try to curb his desires for the latest fashions, he becomes miserable until we give him what he wants.

I don't want him to be unpopular or rejected because of his clothes. He doesn't get along with his brothers and sister, but has friends he would rather be with. I know that we have made some mistakes, but what can we do to correct the situation? It seems we have lost touch with him. It is as if we are in two different worlds. We do not want to drive the wedge deeper.

His father doesn't say much, he is always busy working and doesn't seem to notice what is going on. I know that my son is not going to change as long as I have a critical spirit toward him. I am desperate. Do you have any suggestions on how to retrain him?

"Groannnnn." That's the sound I make sitting at my desk trying to answer a letter like this. I feel like the Station Attendant when the lady drives the car in on a flapping, fragmented, flat tire and then wants him to fix it. Lady, it should have been fixed back

down the road where the flat first occurred.

There is something you must understand about yourself and your child. There is a strange struggle, a competition, taking place. Your relationship to this child began in infancy with him totally dependent. As he grew older, your words could move and persuade him. Your logic was beyond assail. Your power omnipotent. You were loved, feared, respected. He began as a young sapling that could be bent to your will, caused to grow in any direction. You took for granted your control. You didn't see the curve of independence asserting itself in the relationship.

Suddenly you find your dependent child has become stiff and unyielding with a mind and will of his own. He disdains your logic. Your reasons are without foundation. You don't understand him. You are old-fashioned, out of touch. He views you as one who is trying to persecute him and keep him from happiness. He alone has experienced the passions and joys of life. He is ready to feel, taste, experience. He stands on the edge of the great thrill of life, and you, with all your talk of duty and responsibility... you are the enemy. His friends "understand him" because they are in the same passionate vortex. It has never dawned on him that you weren't born a hardened adult. He doesn't know that you once had the same disease called youth—and got over it.

A child is kneadable clay, still being formed, but an adult is pottery baked in the oven of time. Between the

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Help us out!

If you do not find time to read this news letter or if you do not wish to receive it, please drop us a note and let us know. We will remove your name from our mailing list. Otherwise you may continue to receive this publication every month for the next ten years, or until the saints are caught up. Thank you.

A Means to an End

Child training is not our end. We desire to see your children trained up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord that they might be laborers in the LORD'S harvest. There are many tribes and languages still forgotten by the church after two-thousand years. We do not care to send missionaries where the gospel has already been available. We will not rest until every tribe and village has heard.

The public churches are no longer sending missionaries to the tribes. Homeschoolers are a reservoir of quality missionary material. By God's grace we will tap that reservoir and assist in channeling your young people to the foreign field.

We have an informal Bible training program here in Pleasantville. If you have young people who are serious about missions, we will be glad to train them in the Word of God and assist your church in getting them to the foreign field. As Bible believers, we are Baptist in doctrine. A statement of faith will be sent upon request. ✠

Training Teens?

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trainable child and the unyielding adult is the twelve to sixteen-year-old. They are like clay, half baked in the sun. It is too late to forcibly remold them, but they are not yet so hardened as to be totally beyond reclaiming. The twelve-year-old may demand the independence and liberty of an adult, while having the emotional needs of a small child. They expect the security of being mothered and the supremacy of being an adult.

Their struggle comes because they possess the developing passions of an adult with the indulging mentality of a child. They have always lived by their wants. Their unrestrained indulgences appeared to be no problem when the consequences were nothing more than cavities. But an unrestrained teenager can reap dire consequences.

It is natural for a child to grow into a state of independence, to gradually assume the command of his or her own life. It is when they demonstrate ineptness of responsibility that we parents become upset.

It is not a question of giving them independence, they most certainly grow into it. We parents enjoy handing the reins to the children and saying, "You can drive awhile." But the day comes when they do not drive as we think they should. When we demand they give over the reins, we find ourselves looking into the determined, independent face of a twelve to sixteen-year-old adult. They are forever beyond being governed from without. It is a hard adjustment for the parent to make, for the young teen wants to be fed and protected in the nest, but wants to wander without accountability.

We parents know the child is making bad decisions, but when we try to intervene they are resentful. We see them eating our food and greedily demanding more of the luxuries our money can buy, but unwilling to accept our jurisdiction over their lifestyle. The young teenager is no more on his own than when he was three, but he demands that everyone

respect his right to sovereignty. We figure that with the food and clothes we provide and the roof we keep over his head we have purchased governorship. But, having spent his whole life as one totally cared for, he feels it is all his due. So the parents and the child/man don't see the world through the same glasses. Our wisdom and judgment have always overruled all his reasons. He turns twelve or fourteen and suddenly we have lost all persuasive powers.

If a child turns eighteen and walks away to provide his own roof, food, clothes, etc., we can readily relinquish our hold, but a totally dependent fourteen-year-old suddenly assuming that he is wiser than we are is hard to swallow, especially when his hand is still in our pocket.

Their struggle comes because they possess the developing passions of an adult with the indulging mentality of a child.

We parents have great aspirations for our children. We want the best for them. We have made mistakes and have witnessed the mistakes of others. We know where the pitfalls and deathtraps are located, and it is hard to see our children blinded, arrogantly rushing across a battlefield where we have seen many casualties fall, some to never rise again.

So it is in this betwixt-and-between stage where the parent is uncomfortable with the child's growing independence, and the child is uncomfortable with the parents' clinging governorship. Ideally, the parent should have prepared the child to be responsible in his growing independence. We should be training them toward the time when they will make decisions alone. It is a joy to see your child wisely assume command of his own life. It is comforting to relinquish your authority when you can trust the hands that receive it. But to see an irresponsible child destroy all that

you thought you were building is misery indeed. To have him or her rebel and run helter skelter into sure destruction is the ultimate disappointment in life.

So in answer to the original question: "What can I do to train my fourteen-year-old son?" IT IS TOO LATE TO TRAIN HIM. He is beyond the power-plays and the unquestioning submission. He is no longer one of the "little children" to whom the kingdom of God belongs. He is a skeptic where your opinions are concerned. He sees your hypocrisy and will not respect anyone who is not respectable. He will give no honor based on rank. He is a free moral agent bent on demonstrating his independence.

You must change your approach from hot demands to respectful persuasion. It is too late to forcibly cut his hair. Too late to make demands without good logic behind it. As an independent free-agent he must be persuaded. His own will, based on his own values, will be the ruling factor in his life. You must win his confidence and earn a right to be his counselor. Your anger that once caused him to cower and submit will now only cause him to withdraw. There was a time when demonstrating how hurt you were broke his heart and made him submit. Today it disgusts him and makes him seek friendships elsewhere.

However, you should not let your guilt over your failure cause you to submit to your teenager's tyranny. You should take authority over your house and all who live in it. You are the "Lord of the Manor." You can no longer tell your subjects how to think, but you still have sovereign control of all acts within your domain. Your child's soul may have grown out from under your jurisdiction, but as long as he is under your roof eating your food his actions are still under your control. **You must earn the right to enter his soul, but he should be made to understand that he must earn the right to live in your house and eat your food.** Where a teenager will resent your jurisdiction over his soul,

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◆ One More Time ◆

Potty Training at Three Months

By Susanna Beachy

My name is Susanna Beachy. I am a thirty-year-old mother of three children. I didn't potty train my first two babies, but when the third one came along the Pearls came over one day when my little girl was just two months old. Mike and Deb asked, "Why aren't you potty training this child?" I looked at my tiny squirming girl and said, "Can it really be done? Is it possible?" I didn't believe it, but I knew the Pearls didn't lie, so I asked them to tell me how it is done.

Well, after close instruction I tried it. It was harder training me than it was training my infant. For the first week I kept her in cloth diapers and maintained close contact. I held her nearly all the time or kept her sitting close enough where I could keep a hand or foot on her cloth diaper. When I felt the diaper grow warm from wetting, I make a sound like running water -- "sssssss." By the end of the third day, "sssssss" meant it is time to pee-pee. When I suspected that it was about time for a wetting, I would make the sound and she would respond by wetting. Her "let down" was automatic. She never even knew she was being conditioned. When I started putting her on a little child's potty, the added cold on her bottom became an additional cue to respond with a wetting.

I kept this up for about a month, even though it was time consuming. I had success most of



Beulah Beachy, five-years-old, demonstrates the potty position with her little four-months-old sister, Rosanna.

the time, but there were times when she would still go in her diaper. I thought I was failing until I went back and talked to Mama Deb [very local endearment only]. She explained that the idea of early potty training was not to achieve perfect results but to communicate to the child that going on the pot was the natural and normal thing to do.

My four-month-old is comfortable going on the potty. It is natural to her. She knows what I

expect of her when I sit her on it and make the appropriate sound. By the time she is walking, I expect her to be taking herself to the toilet.

If you train them to think that going in their pants is natural, then when they are older and you suddenly start putting them on the cold, unfriendly toilet, you can not expect it to cause a "let down."

I would encourage you other mothers: Don't let this become another pressure on you. It is a lot better for the children to have a relaxed contented mother than it is for you to potty train the baby. I don't let this be stressful to me. I only take the baby when I go or whenever it is apparent that she needs to go. I don't push myself or the baby. If the baby gets red in the face or gets a still, concentrating look on her face, I know she is going to relieve herself. Once you become aware of your baby's cycle it is not hard to catch it. I use pampers with velcro, and a diaper will often last all day, if I am careful. It saves a lot of diapers, and it is bringing my baby up with the right idea.

I think, if it is possible, it has made my baby even more precious, through the extra time I have spent with her. When everything goes off right, and with a satisfied, smug, little smile she looks up into my face, it is worth every moment. ✽

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he will respect your right and authority over the outward management of your home and resources. If you are dignified and calm in your legislation, he will respect it even if he gripes. For instance: You do not have to pay for designer clothes. You should provide modest clothes that are serviceable, nothing more. You don't have to give them any allowance at all. They can work for it. You need not pick up after them and cater to their wants. You have a right to control the music and TV in your house, if you have such. They will expect you to exercise



control over all physical and external matters of running a smooth household. They will appreciate your demands that they treat every member of the house with the same respect that you do. Of course if you are a screaming idiot, they would not respect your request that they be any different. If you are indulgent, your demands that they not be indulgent will only be met with ridicule. If you are worldly in your approach to dress, they will show no honor when you want them to dress modest and practical.

How did your children get in the condition they are in? They were not born that way. How did they learn about designer clothes and mod hair cuts? How did they develop associations with worldly kids? You didn't send them to the public or private school, but did you put them in a position to be part of a youth group in a large public church? Did you take them shopping in the malls? Do you coo over chic clothing styles? If your

children are trying to conform to the world instead of being transformed by the renewing of their minds, it is because you have provided a worldly environment to allure them. If they act like some of the jerk comedians on the TV, it is because they admire someone whom you once thought was funny. If they have a don't-care attitude, perhaps they learned it from Hollywood. If you cause a pumpkin to grow hanging on a fence, you should expect it to have impressions of the wire on its outer skin. Though it is not the final deciding factor, the environment is the mold in which your child is formed. While you gave no particular concern to training, their world was a constant training ground.

Yet now you cry out with a broken heart. You are willing to take the blame. You are willing to correct those faults in your own character. You are willing to purge your home and environment of worldly influence. But what can you do to rectify the wrong? You can start by becoming the person you desire your child to be. No

double-mindedness or two-faced fraud. You must be a real Christian through and through. To have a little revival in your child's soul you must have a big one in your own. They can not be changed by you from without, but they can be changed by themselves and God from within. Your job is to lead them to desire goodness with all their hearts. You can not push with criticism. You must lead by example.

Understand your limitations and your authority. You have the authority to rule the home and everyone in it externally. But, in dealing with your teenager's soul, you are limited to persuasion and counsel based on mutual respect. You can tell them what to do in regard to the family environment, but you cannot tell them how to feel. You can teach and exemplify values, but you cannot legislate values.

For a teenager it is too late to "train up a child," but it is not too late



Mountain Ma and Pa

by Rebekah Pearl 4/10/91

*O, so much ter do
So much ter be done
The work's never through
An the work ain't much fun.
No thanks fer yer labor
No pay fer the job
Jest "What's fer supper?"
"How bout corn-on-da-cob?"
Ya mop an ya sweep,
Ya dust an ya shine
Then turn around
And what do ya find?
His shoes on the floor,
His coat on the chair,
His rear in the couch,
An his feet in the air!
So ya kick off yer shoes
An ya throw down yer broom
An ya wink at yer ole man
So he'll make ya some room!*

This is why Ma and Pa have been married 25 years.

MISSIONARY UPDATE

Those of you who have been receiving our newsletter are aware that we have several missionaries out of our church. Here is the latest update.

T.J. Slayman:

Many of you have sent gifts to this ministry. The mission gifts which were not designated to either T.J. or Rebekah have been used to send a seventeen-year-old young man named Joshua Steele to minister with T. J. in Hong Kong. Joshua arrived in Hong Kong in late January and will be there through March. With about eight others they are distributing up to 20,000 pieces of Gospel literature every day. T. J., a young man from our church, will be in Laos during March, making arrangements to commence a work among the Laotians. Right now stop and pray for T. J.'s safety and health. Pray that he will have wisdom and spiritual discernment. Pray every day during the first three weeks of March.

Gabriel Pearl

Some of you sent gifts to my son Gabriel for his trip to Hong Kong. Two weeks before he was to leave, he tore the cartilage in his knee and had to have an operation to repair it. He is already walking normally, but he was unable to go to Hong Kong. The moneys designated to Gabriel will be applied to a trip he will be making to the Philippines, May 10 - 31. He and one other twenty-three-year-old young man from our church will be accompanying native pastors as they journey by boat up a river to unreached peoples who are not accessible by land.

You may ask, "What good can a nineteen-year-old American do in three weeks, in a foreign culture, going to people whose language is unknown to him?" Short term trips like this are not primarily for the benefit of the tribal people. Young missionaries are made on such trips as this. It is when one is standing in a smoky hut looking into needy faces that a burden for

ministry comes. You can't boat up a wilderness river past fifty villages, seeing the needs of the people, and not come back with a burden and a vision for reaching them.

But our presence and ministry through an interpreter is a great encouragement to the national Christians in a foreign country. It is on such trips as these that we learn of needs and are led to pray. Furthermore, nationals will come out to hear a tall, strange looking foreigner speak through an interpreter where they will ignore one of their own.

Rebekah Pearl

Our daughter Rebekah is now making purchases of tools and equipment needed in her upcoming work in New Guinea. Just today she was packing three years worth of clothes for her sojourn. She will be departing in June to commence Bible translation

work among the primitive Kumboi tribe in the Highlands of Papua New Guinea. Our seventeen-year-old son Nathan will be traveling with her and assisting through the first six months.

Steve & Margaret Schnell

Steve and Margaret are attending school at *Bible Baptist Translators* in Bowie, Texas. With their two young children and a full day's study, they are kept busy learning the skills that will be needed to break an unknown language and reduce it to a Bible translation.

Cathy Yailo

Cathy is an answer to prayer and an example of God's divine leading. She is a national of Papua New Guinea whom God has led to assist Rebekah in the Kumboi tribe. Just yesterday, we received a letter from Cathy. She is excited about beginning the work and is making preparation to go on a preliminary trip into the tribe before Rebekah arrives. She speaks English and Pidgin and is a mature Christian. Pray for her and Rebekah. ✨

The Five-year-old Whine-baby

My daughter Shalom came home telling the following experience. I told her to go write it down. This is the view of a fourteen-year-old in her own words.

My friend and I returned from the store with ice-cream. When we meet her little brother and sister and gave them some ice-cream, he just whined as usual. He always wants something different from what you give him. But his older sister usually just says, "No, eat that one," or sometimes she gives him hers. This little boy whines about a lot of stuff to get his way.

Later that afternoon my friend was giving coffee to her daddy and the little boy whined for some as well. But after several times of whining and her saying "No" he finally gave up and

started whining for hot-chocolate. When the sister said "No," again he continued to whine. She kept saying, "You can have water but no coffee or chocolate." By this time I could see that they were training him into a whine-baby, so I said, "No, he can't have water either, if he is going to whine for it. He went into the corner and pouted at me for not giving in to his whining.

I explained to the sister that when he whined for a different ice-cream bar, I would not give him any ice-cream at all. After three times he would be happy with what he got.

When whining for coffee or hot-chocolate instead of rewarding him with water, I would say, "No water for an hour or until we eat dinner." Do not reward whining, no matter what happens. ✨

IMPUTED RIGHTEOUSNESS

What does one do to have this righteousness imputed to his account?

"Even as David also describeth the blessedness of the man, unto whom God imputeth righteousness without works, Saying, Blessed are they whose iniquities are forgiven, and whose sins are covered. Blessed is the man to whom the LORD will not impute sin." - Rom. 4:6.

"But for us also, to whom it shall be imputed, if we believe on him that raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead;" - Rom. 4:24.

Believe is the condition.
Read Rom. 4-5.

What did Christ do to have our sin imputed to him? He, kneeling in the garden, believed and received the weight of sin. God *"made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin..."* - 2 Cor. 5:21. Jesus became what we are, a sinner—no, more than that, He became sin itself, *"...that we might be made the righteousness of God in him."* God was willing to see Jesus as a sinner so He could see us as righteousness. Jesus became what we are so we can become what he is. He became a sinful son of man so we could become sinless sons of God. It was a trade. He traded his righteousness to us for our sin. He then carried the consequences of our sin before God so we can carry the consequences of Christ's righteousness before God. He walked to Calvary so we could ascend to heaven. The God who *"calleth those things which be not as though they were"* called his Son something he wasn't—a sinner, so that he could call us something that we are not—righteous. *"Blessed is the man to whom the Lord will not impute sin." - Rom. 4:8.*

"God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them..." - 2 Cor. 5:19.

One higher, in authority, must do the imputing. God imputes

righteousness to me. The records show that I am *"accounted"* righteous. I *"reckon"* what God says to be true of me. A child cannot do other than believe.



RESTING:

Adam was created at the end of God's work week. When Adam drew his first breath, the work was all done. The next day God rested from all his labor. There was no work for Adam to do. If he also rested on the Sabbath day then he was resting in God's finished work. All of creation was a gift to Adam. If, through some personal sense of pride or humiliation, Adam had attempted to contribute to the already finished creation, God would have been insulted. Instead, Adam did what we should do—rested in the finished work of God on his behalf.

When God said, *"It is very good"* and *"It is finished,"* we should, as a child, believe God. One who believes will cease *"from his own works, as God did from his."* - Heb. 4:10. It is time to cease laboring to create our own rest, and to labor to enter in to the rest that Jesus has already provided. The only obstacles that we must labor to remove are those that keep us from believing like a child.

"Sirs, what must I do to be saved? Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved." - Acts 16:30-31.

If God is satisfied with the finished work of Christ, let us believe and be satisfied also. ✽

This newsletter is a product of **The Church At Cane Creek**. It is written by Michael and Debi Pearl, authors of *To Train Up A Child*. The book is now in it's fourth printing and we are working on another. Our Newsletter mailing list grows by hundreds every month. We are now sending out thousands with each mailing. The sales of the books have been supporting the cost of the news letter.

The books and news letters are a ministry to the Christian family. The Pearls do not receive any royalties or remuneration from this ministry.

You can help us. If you do not wish to continue receiving this news letter, please let us know; we will delete your name from the mailing list. To those who wish to continue receiving it, the news letter will continue to be free. But if you would like to share in this ministry, \$5.00 would cover the cost of twelve issues. All gifts are tax deductible. ✽

Oh No! My child has Hyperactive, Attention Deficit Disorder Syndrome!

Many parents who have previously accepted this lie and been victimized by the state have found complete cure through the Word of God and proper training.

I am compiling information on ADDS. If you have any personal experience or professional knowledge on the subject, I would appreciate the information. I would like to use some of your testimonies in my next book. If you do not want your name made public, please make a note to that effect. ✽

Now it is your turn to minister.

You can do what hundreds of others have done. Be a very special friend to someone by giving them a copy of **TO TRAIN UP A CHILD**. By purchasing eight or more books, you can receive a 40% discount. You can purchase eight books for \$18.64 + \$4.50 S/H. That is just \$2.33 each, for a total of \$23.14. If you cannot afford to give the books, you can do what others are doing and sell them at your cost or at retail price.

Missionary Resources

Read **Bruchko** and discover what it is like for a nineteen-year-old boy to walk alone and unprepared into the dense jungles of the Andes mountains in search of a primitive, savage tribe. He first knew he had found them when he felt their arrows tearing his flesh. This man is still alive and still ministering to the Indians of Columbia.

Read **Lords of the Earth** and see what it is like to stand between two warring tribes with a message of love and peace. They thought he was a god when their arrows wouldn't kill him.

Read **Mission Venezuela** and discover the meaning of culture shock.

See the video **EE Taow!** and weep as you see live footage of a whole village becoming believers in Jesus— all in one day.

Kentucky, Ohio, and Indiana:

We are now scheduling Child Training Seminars in your states for May 1-9. We will be in the Ft. Wayne Indiana Curriculum Fair May 10 and 11. If your church or homeschool group would like to schedule a Seminar during this time, please send us your request and phone number.

Those of you who have already sent in your request will be contacted soon.

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"And all thy children shall be taught of the LORD; and great shall be the peace of thy children." Isaiah 54:13

Order 8 books at a 40% discount and be a blessing to 8 more mothers. Our books are not sold to make a profit. No one receives any remuneration or royalties. We are here to be a ministry to you. As so many others are doing, you can continue this ministry by giving to others.

If you know of others who would like to receive this newsletter, send us



February 1996

NO GREATER JOY

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

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