



NO GREATER JOY

Newsletter of **The Church At Cane Creek**, a ministry of the local church. March 1996

Pubermania

Mother number One: "I simply can't understand what has happen to my son John. He has always been the one child I could trust to always do right. He has always been so thoughtful, polite and sensitive to the younger children; and even though his attitude is still good, he does the most unexpectedly mean things. Like the other day, I heard his younger brothers crying and hollering. I raced in the room and found him sitting on them, holding one in a headlock and laughing, having a great time. He was ashamed as soon as I began to reprimand him, and he immediately asked his little brothers to forgive him. How could he enjoy doing something so mean and then have such a repentant heart five minutes later. What has happened to my son?"

Mother number One-thousand, three-hundred and seventy-two: "Our

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Michael and Debi Pearl, married 25 years, still friends and lovers.

Coming Out

I just returned from doing seminars in North Carolina. I had very pleasant stays in three different homes where each family had several children under eight-years-old. It is a renewing experience to interact with God-centered homeschooling families. I am encouraged by what I am seeing and the letters and reports I am receiving from all over this land. There is a slow, steady revival of holiness and deliverance. For the last fifty years Satan has been increasingly trampling the homes of America into the mud. When it seemed that the children would be forsaken, wounded in the field; when it appeared parents had relinquished their duty to nurture their own children; when Hollywood was gobbling up the last bit of sanity left in the home, many of us had given up hope and retreated to a quiet place, thinking ourselves to be the last survivors of Christianity. But like the animals God called to Noah's ark, thousands were hearing a call to "Come out of her my people and be not partaker of her sins."

I daily receive scores of letters, many telling of great victories in the home. God does indeed have His remnant. The scales of blindness are fal-

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Coming out

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ling away and old fashioned holiness is making a comeback. This is not a movement under one ministry or one denomination. In fact, I know of few churches that are even able to comprehend this phenomena. We receive many letters from parents who are concerned because their church is the only remaining corrupting influence on their family. God is doing a work from the heart out, instead of from the pulpit down.

I encourage Bible believing pastors to wake up and clean out a corner in the church to contain this movement of God. It will not go away; but many families are leaving structured Christianity to gather in a protected environment with like minded families. Our larger cities are dotted with hundreds of home churches. If the cream leaves our churches, Pastors will be missionaries to what is left of their congregations.

Once Christian fathers and mothers bolster the courage to stand up and take charge of their lives, there is no stopping them from going all the way to completely reform their families. The reform is personal, as seen by a change in diet, entertainment and personal habits. The reform is economical, as seen by a movement to live debt free, under one's means rather than right on the edge. The reform is family centered, as seen by the increased size of the families and the structuring of time and activities around the family's needs. The reform is religious, as seen by the increase in personal and family devotion and holiness. The reform is medical, as seen by a revival of interest in herbs, natural child birth, and personally taking charge of one's own diagnoses and treatment.

The reform is often occupational. Many Fathers are moving their families out of the cities and into a simpler lifestyle. More fathers are seen with a

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thirteen-year-old son has always been such a joy to us. He has a heart for God that has caused him to seek to do all he can for others. But just lately, totally out of character, he seems to be asserting his will over mine. It's like he wants to gain authority over his younger brothers and sisters, and occasionally even me. This new person really runs into trouble with his father, who takes his son's questions as a personal

hoe in their hand rather than a golf club, and their children by their side rather than business associates. Mothers are seen standing with their girls, wearing aprons smudged with wheat flour, rather than standing in the shopping malls.

This is a revival of family life, of the Christian home. From these homes, like from a honey tree, flows a sweetness and purity that is a joy to see. I am thankful to live in this age and to be a part of this remnant of reform.

My prayer is that in our zeal to flee the world we do not become self-centered and withdrawn from those in need. As we choose our school, church, occupation, and neighbors, let us not become like the Pharisee who, seeking to justify himself, said, "Who is my neighbor?" If we clutch to ourselves the goodness of this movement, it will rot like the manna that fell daily in the wilderness. To minister to those in need is to minister to Christ. A ministering family is a growing family. A self-centered family is like a plant feeding upon its own foliage. It will wither and die. By giving we receive. You will increase your family by tending to the dying of this world. Let us not save this great bounty for ourselves, but rather lead our children in giving it away.

insult, and really comes down hard. For the first time as parents we disagree on how to handle our children. We both know we cannot let it go, but how do we deal with this new kid? Our son's attitude still seems so right, but still it almost looks like a seed of rebellion. It is hard to explain. What has happen to my sweet little boy?"

Debi Pearl responds:

Have you ever raised chickens? We have eight hens and one rooster. Many times I have gone out to work in the garden and noticed our rooster making a pest of himself. The hens will be busy scratching the ground, then he runs over and shoves them away. The little hens just turn and start scratching some other place. The rooster waits a few seconds and again shoves another one around. Of course, every time I open the hen house door I run for dear life, or he will be trying to shove me around. That crazy old rooster doesn't know how many times I have pondered putting him in the cooking pot. When Mike is outside, the rooster steers a wide path. On occasions Mike has had me let the hens out while he hides around the corner just so he can give the rooster a heart-attack. I figure, it takes a bigger rooster to intimidate a smaller rooster—and of course, enjoy the intimidation. It is a mystery to me why the rooster feels compelled to be such a jerk, but Mike thinks its real funny.

I said all this to tell you, I suspect your little roosters are feeling their natural hormonal competitive instinct, and as of yet haven't learned to harness their urges to dominate. Since it takes a rooster to understand a rooster, I'm going to let the big rooster in this family tell you how we handled this new and exciting challenge when our boys came of age.

Thanks for that introduction, Deb. Remember, behind every good rooster is a good hen. The two mothers above, voicing their concerns, are representative of many homeschool mothers. If your children are away from home

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Barabas

by Rebekah Pearl

Aug., 1994

Shivering in the darkness
Filthy rags upon his back,
No ray of light to find him
Huddled there among the rats.
For him there was no future.
He had lived a life of sin,
Thief, murderer, and liar
And coward at the end.
Crimson guilt upon his conscience
Dark cell to claim as home
He cringed as they came nearer,
Soldier's footsteps on the stone.
The heavy door swung open
They came with torch and sword
Unlocked the chains that bound him
And dragged him out the door.
He cursed them and he struggled
Then beseeched them with his tears.
Though death is always certain,
For him it now loomed near.
He heard the crowd screaming
And began to swear and fight
But the iron gates swung open
And they dragged him to the light.
He crouched there on the ground
Unable yet to see.
Through fear and great confusion
He heard them set him free!
But like a wounded animal
He waited there to die
And wondered in amazement
As the angry crowd rushed by.
He followed at a distance
Bewildered now and lost.
Then far ahead he saw One
Beneath a heavy cross.
His steps led to Golgotha
To be nailed upon a tree.
A carpenter named Jesus,
Though someone called Him "King."
The sinner that had followed
Now stood nearby to see.
The cross was there before him,
The blood had stained his feet.
There in the eerie darkness
He stared in shock and daze
Into the eyes of one who loved
Enough to take his place.

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most of the day attending school, you will not be as aware of this change that occurs in the thirteen and fourteen-year-old boys. But when the mother has her "sweet son" under her constant tutelage, the inevitable physical and psychological change that comes with puberty will be a shock to her concept of childhood submission. The boy's "problem" is a result of gushing, exploding, rampaging hormones. In the Eastern cultures it has been traditional to remove the boys from the women's quarters to the men's domain before this change takes place.

It is often obscured in our perverted culture, but a boy's destiny is to become a man. Although, prior to puberty, boys are psychologically different from girls, the contrast increases to stark dimensions when they each go through this natural maturing change we call puberty. The male becomes more independent and domineering. This independence is not just directed at females but at all people and things. Keep in mind that the boys are growing into a role of leadership. Leadership in the male population is not just an office they inherit upon marriage, or at some manhood graduation ceremony; it is a growing process that causes them to begin to assume authority at puberty. It is not natural for a woman to rule over a man. For that reason the young teenager's conflict is more prominent with the mother than with the father.

You may observe and want to

protest that your young teenage son is just a child with no abilities or wisdom to lead. This is generally true; but leadership in a man does not necessarily come from wisdom or ability. It is initially hormonal and psychological. The boys will become more competitive and aggressive. They begin to step away from the crowd (including the family) and seek their identity alone. They become self-assured and cocky. They are ready to conquer, go to war if necessary. As their "own-man," they may question untried authority or challenge unproved regulations. They are beginning the process of marching to their own drum beat, and not that of the crowd, including their mother's.

Fathers can also have a problem with this development in their sons. Remember, the father has been the rooster of the yard, and suddenly he is challenged. If he is insecure, especially if he does not have the submission of his wife, he may rise in anger against this challenging upstart. For twelve or thirteen years, with just a hard look, he has been able to crush any challenge. Suddenly his hard look is returned. He may fly into a rage to try to strike down his challenger.

To compound the problem, if the father does not cherish the females in his life, the son may not discipline his own feelings of dominance or conquest. He must have his impulses tempered with wisdom and kindness. It is not desirable to break these male impulses, only channel them. Gentlemen are not broken

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MISSIONARY UPDATE

T. J. Slayman, a young man from our church, has just returned from a six month missionary tour of Hong Kong, Thailand, and Laos. God has called T. J. to take the gospel to these needy people. He is being sent out under the local church, dependent upon God for the financial support, and you and I for the prayer support. He is attacking a stronghold of the Devil with the Word of God and a shield of faith. During T. J.'s last trip into Laos, God really opened the doors. We thought he would have to settle in Thailand, across the river from Laos, in order to reach the Laotians. But through a series of miraculous leadings, he received an invitation to return to Vientiane, the capital city of Laos, and teach English in a private school. This is a marvelous opportunity to learn the language and culture from a protected environment, where he will be valued by the government.

He will not be paid for his services. It will take about \$800.00 each

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Dear Rebekah,

When I grow up I want to be a Missionary like you. I know you are doing God's work, and I am proud of you. I pray every day and every night for you. I am 10 Years old, and God is beginning to make me see God's will in people like you. I read about you in the News-letters, and I like your poems you write. I know you are doing something that is very hard, like translating the Bible and writing a language, and I like that. I also know God is protecting you. I have 1 older sister, 1 younger sister, and 1 younger brother. Katie (the oldest) and I both admire you.

What Can We Do?

"We are starved for fellowship with believers who are of like mind. I am ashamed to say that we cannot relate to most of the families in our church. We love our pastor and his family, he is a good man. But as a homeschooling family concerned about holiness, we just can't be a part of all the carnality that is in our church. What can we do?"

Create a fellowship of believers in your church, not a bless-me group, but a Let's-go-out-and-tell-someone-about-Jesus group. This can be done under the umbrella of any good Bible believing church. You will want your children to sit with you in church. If you do not want to turn them loose in the youth group or permit them to attend Sunday schools, then perhaps you could persuade your pastor to allow families of like mind to come together for family church during the Sunday school hour. Three to six families, with all their children present would "have church" together. You will take turns teaching the children in the presence of all adults. You will involve your twelve to eighteen-year-olds in the teaching and song leading. The men will speak words of encouragement to the whole group and you will pray for one another. This inner fellowship will continue throughout the week with perhaps a meeting in your homes once a week.

This church within the church will become a core nucleus that can reach out to the rest of the church and disciple other families. To prevent an appearance of sectarianism, you might call your inner church group a Homeschool Support and Fellowship class.

True Confessions of a

Many of you have written us about the problem of your older children wetting their beds. Through our extensive social outreach we have persuaded one of these tormented souls to go public with her confession. You will read in her very own words the chronicle of her bitter struggle to rise above domestic shame and a wet mattress.

"When I was growing up I wet on the bed. I hated wetting on the bed and would have done anything to be able to stop. I played hard and I slept hard. I simply could not wake up! No amount of medication, discipline, or shaming could change my personality. Today, I still run the days course like the road runner himself. At night I sleep like the dead. Thankfully, when I was nine years old, my bladder finally learned to adjust.

My mom was a very practical

When the group grows beyond the size of a living room, you should split up into smaller groups and continue to reach out to others. This cannot be organized from the hierarchy down. If the whole church were divided into cell groups it would likely be a total failure. This must be a result of spontaneous life. If there is not a thirsting and hunger on the part of the participants, it will be just another "church social." Those of like mind who have responded to a higher calling must be allowed to separate themselves for their own survival. Then they will have the strength to reach within the greater church and build up their numbers one family at a time. The eventual goal is to grow until the whole church is consumed of a higher calling to holiness and family ministry.

woman. Every night she simply provided me with an old towel to stuff in my under pants, and brought clean sheets every morning. The heavy-duty rubber cover protected the mattress, while my mother protected our secret.

To my shame, I never could spend the night away or go to camp without dread of wetting the bed.

But mom—bless her heart—never added to my shame. She made it as easy as possible on me until nature allowed relief.

To the many hundreds of moms who have written, I just want to say, "Relax," teach your bedwetting children to privately put on a towel or diaper at night. Remind them to go to the bathroom, but don't make an issue of it. They hate their problem more than you do. They are the ones who wake up cold, wet, smelly, and embarrassed.

Just like some kids learn to walk late, others need time to grow out of this problem. Remember, someday your child may grow up and write an article on bedwetting, or co-author a book on child training; so make sure you leave a good impression. This has been the confession of Debi Pearl. I do feel better now.

Herbs

Peppermint

Almost every family uses the herb Peppermint simply because it tastes good. Most people would assume, anything that tastes that good couldn't be something that heals, but they're wrong. Peppermint is loaded with volatile oils that act as a mild anesthetic to the stomach wall, causing the nauseated person to not feel his discomfort so intensely. Peppermint also has a substance that checks the formation of gas and helps dispel gas that has already formed by relaxing the muscles of the digestive system and stimulating bile and digestive juices to flow. This is why restaurants have the tradition of providing mints at the end of meals. Peppermint's ability to relax the smooth muscles make it a nervine herb, thus useful in herbal combinations for easing anxiety and tension.

All this means a cup of Peppermint tea can help bring relief from morning sickness, menstrual cramps, baby's colic, stomach flu, stomach gas

and cramps, ulcerative condition of the bowels, upset stomach due to tension, etc. And stomach pain is not all that Peppermint relieves. Peppermint has warming properties that can be used to raise the body's temperature, to encourage sweating, causing it to be used in treatment of fevers, colds, and influenza. When someone in the family has a stuffy nose, I pack dried Peppermint leaves into a small baby food jar, add cotton wool and a little water before I put the lid on, and set it to stay warm on the wood burning stove. We use it like the old smelling salts of bygone days. The fumes actually bring healing and relief as they open your nasal passage.

You will notice I have written only about Peppermint. The other mints are nice, but lack the strong volatile oils of Peppermint, therefore lack the healing properties of Peppermint.

Peppermint is sterile, so you must start with a plant, but it will spread faster than weeds. Plant it around a water spicket or ditch so it will get tall enough to harvest several times each summer. Cut before it flowers, or plant it under your clothes line and mow it down each week for the sweetest smelling clothes and yard anywhere.

MISSIONARY UPDATE

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month to sustain him in Laos. T. J. will be returning to Laos in June to begin his initial language learning in preparation for teaching in the fall. Do pray for T. J. Slayman and the county of Laos.

Rebekah Pearl: In June, our daughter, Rebekah, will be going back to the Kumboi tribe in the mountains of Papua New Guinea, to commence her work of translating Scripture into their language. Tim and Rachel Stoll, a couple from our church, will be accompanying Rebekah for the first six weeks. Tim was raised in an Amish community in the bush country of Belize, Central America. He is adept at primitive construction. Nathan, our seventeen-year-old son, will be with Rebekah for the first six months. He will be constructing furniture from native materials, trying to set up a water supply and shower, generally getting her living quarters as comfortable as possible.

Gabriel, our nineteen-year-old son, will be traveling to the Philippines in May. Accompanying him will be Bob Slayman, T. J.'s fifteen-year-old brother, and Sam Vincent, another young man from our church. They will be traveling with nationals, taking a boat up a river to preach the gospel to those who have never heard. This can be dangerous, so pray for their safety and for conquest against the powers of darkness.

Steve and Margret Schnell, from our church, are still in Linguistic and translation training at *Bible Baptist Translators* in Bowie, Texas. They will graduate this May. Pray that God will give them a vision.

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men who have no urges to conquer, but men who know how to vent their steam on creative living rather than against others. When a man or boy finds his identity in ruling over others, it is an unjustified use of his impulses and powers.

When a young man (going through puberty) experiences this change, it is time for him to be engaged in hard work with the men. It is against nature to place a developing young man in the care of his mother. His impulses are to care for her. He needs to be straining his muscles, putting his back to the burden. If his education continues, it should be under the tutelage of the men. A boy could sit down for a short time to the teaching of his mother, if his body and mind have been engaged in a man's world. The conflict comes when the parents do not recognize and provide outlets for his development. A little steam continuously released is of no consequence; but if it is bottled up, it will become a great explosion.

Ideally, the boys should be engaged in physical labor, but if you find yourself locked into this strange American culture, and feel you are unable to make a change, understanding your son's developing passions will enable you to artificially make allowances. For instance, Mother if you must have your son under your constant care, provide outdoor activity for him. Allow him to go out and do something physical about every hour. Do not try to pen him up like a docile female. Let the boys run, jump, holler, wrestle, climb, and race on bicycles. One mother supplied their garage with tools and had someone teach her boys how to use them. They spend most of their day making things, which they sell. When it does come time for book learning, they are calm and relaxed.

Some families have been able to

create a mini farm on one or two acres, where the boys can tend animals and make repairs or modifications on buildings or fences. Small engine repair or rebuilding old bicy-

cles and selling them are just a few of the possibilities.

cles and selling them are just a few of the possibilities.

You think, "But my son is so ignorant now, he needs to be in school." Most of the boy's time is probably spent day-dreaming and griping. Put him to a physically exhausting or mentally challenging

task and he will learn more in one-tenth of the classroom time.

Mother, you must turn loose of the sweet boy and let the man emerge. Demand respect and obedience, but learn to live with another man in the house. In the dark ages, they often castrated the male household servants to maintain the docile boys, living in unquestioning submission. I wouldn't give a dime for a boy who didn't put his brothers in a headlock occasionally. Real boys are like the old coal-burning steam-engines; they make a lot of noise and smoke. They blow their whistle so everyone will know they are coming and get out of the way; but mostly they are just letting off steam. Mother, picture yourself as rearing a leader of other men, a conqueror of frontiers, a missionary who will laugh in the face of death and charge hell with a King James Bible; then you will not be disturbed by this growing change.

You received this monthly newsletter from the *The Church At Cane Creek*, a ministry of a Bible believing, missionary minded, local church.

Michael and Debi Pearl, authors of *To Train Up A Child*, developed this newsletter in response to the many letters and questions on training children. You got on our mailing list by ordering one of our books. You will continue to receive this free newsletter as long as we are able to send it, or until you request to be removed from our mailing list. We are thankful when someone asks that their name be removed. It saves us money and time, and makes room for someone else who is interested.

The Pearls do not receive any remuneration from this ministry or from the sale of books. All money goes to the production of more books and newsletters or to the support of missionaries. Many of you have sent extra gifts to pay for the newsletter. It has been a great blessing. All gifts to this ministry are tax deductible.

Imputed Righteousness:

What does one do to have God's 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 he could call us something we are not—righteous. *"Blessed is the man to whom the Lord will not impute sin."* - Rom. 4:8.

The Church At Cane Creek

Michael Pearl
1000 Pearl Road
Pleasantville, TN. 37147

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