



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

# Rights are Right

I receive many letters and public inquiries on the issue of personal rights. A mother asks, "How can I teach my children to share? How can I teach them to play together without fighting over the toys? They are constantly coming to me whining that someone has taken something away from them. I try to teach them they should share and be kind, but they seem to like fighting better. I get so frustrated I don't know what to do. I hate to admit it, but sometimes I just want to get away from them. I can't stand all the bickering."

Another mother says: "I have two boys, one eight and one ten. My daughters are five and two. The boys are always teasing their sisters. Anytime the girls go in the boys' room or play with anything that belongs to the boys, the boys become very selfish. They will not let their sisters play with them and are constantly running off and making them cry. I know that there is an age difference and that the boys and girls have different interests, but how can I teach the boys to give up their rights? They are not gentlemen and sometimes just mean to their sisters. Is this a stage they will grow out of or should I start spanking them more?"

## In Answer

I can see a frustrated, har-

rowed mother as she takes a deep breath and tells herself not to get angry. The children are closing in from every side screaming, "Mother, make him play with me; Mother, he took my teddy bear away; She's sitting in my chair; I had it first; It's mine, give it to me." So she sighs and once more adorns her arbitrators gown, taking the stand to hear the pros and cons from the accusing and excusing par-

ties. She is never quite sure she has judged fairly, and most of the children are sure she hasn't. An appropriate family Bible verse becomes: "There is no peace saith my God to the wicked." She is privately convinced she has the most unchristian four and six-year-olds in the Western world.

When our children begin to demand their own way and practice the "me first" philosophy, we know it is a root of sin manifesting itself. So we referee apart the clinched competitors and demand they give over their rights. We futilely sing the give-over song to the beat of their exchanged blows. And all our sincere warnings against selfishness are punctuated by screams and protests of unfairness.

Your equality-philosophy and sharing-principles haven't worked for the same reason that Stalinism and Leninism haven't worked. You are a Socialists dictator trying to create equality and brotherly love by the power of the court, at the point of a switch. Our own U. S. Constitution states that "*all men are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights.*" Webster's defines unalienable as "*not able to convey, sell, or make over (any property) to another.*" It is a "self evident truth" each human being is endowed with rights that can not be surrendered to the jurisdiction of another. Your Parental intrusion into these *unalienable* rights is as unwelcomed as the King's intrusion into the liberties of the Colonies. Just as in a socialists state, your children will learn to use your intrusion as a tool to get their share of the pie. You have created a welfare state, taking from the haves to give to the have-nots.

Parent, how would you feel about your neighbors or even your relatives if the government forced you to give over rights to your bed or

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# The Bottom

I had left my wife at the airport, coming to this distant city to teach several seminars. My hosts showed me to an upstairs hallway where I was to sleep. It was a new and strange, but familiar place. My book would not be needed if all families were the quality of this one. I had been there one night, and arose before light to join the noisy activity. The five boys had more energy than a flock of black birds. I thought I knew all the ways a kid could mount a couch. Did you know you can sit on a couch with the back of your neck, your head pointing out, your face searching the ceiling for spiders, your rear where your shoulders are nor-

mally, and your feet in proper position, right side up but backwards? And all the time competing with a flock of brothers for space while the Bible story is being read? Don't ask for patience. God will give you five of those critters, all of the male variety, each thirteen months apart.

But in the midst of the circus, over by the heater, I saw a five-year-old fellow lay his two-year-old brother on a blanket, hoist his legs, remove a very, all night long, three times over, soiled diaper and begin to wipe and wash away the night's litter. Very routinely and quite efficiently, the five-year-old held his little brothers two legs up with one hand and

wiped with the other. He completed the task in record time and with optimum cleanliness.

I looked around in wonder to see which parent was going to start the brag, but no one had noticed. When I excitedly questioned, "How did you get him to do that?" the mother explained that he just decided it was his chore and one day assumed the responsibility. My wife worked on me for ten years and finally got me to change about three diapers of the number-two variety.

Can you conceive of the depth of caring and fellowship that existed between these two little brothers? Now you are waiting for me to give you the secret of training your five-year-old to change diapers. Well, I don't know yet. I am thinking about it. Maybe its a quirk, but a pleasant one for this particular mother. \*

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your lawn mower? Suppose that on your day off from work you came home to find your well maintained lawnmower already in use by your careless neighbor? You say to him, "Hey, I would like to use my lawn mower if you don't mind." He sticks his tongue out and jeers, "Nan Ne Nan Nah Nann Nann, I got it firrrrrst." So do you say, "Well, I am suppose to give up my rights, and it is a law – share and share alike." Is this how you build good relationships with your neighbors?

A parent must recognize the child's right to private property. The child must be allowed to possess his own property as he sees fit. If his right to be selfish is not recognized, then he does not have any rights. Again, a child can not give up rights he doesn't have. If there is a

limit placed on his free use of those rights then as long as he is operating under threat of loss of property, he actually never owns the property. He then must give over the property for fear of losing it. The property is not his, and when he gives it over he has given nothing, nor has he exercised benevolence. In selfishness he gives over for the purpose of, in some measure, retaining usage of the thing that judicially is not his.

*A parent must recognize the child's right to private property.*

We should seek opportunity to teach the principles of giving and sharing, but not so as to coerce them into giving against their wills. It is our desire to see our children have a benevolent heart. Forcing them to give

will only rob them of the opportunity to freely give. They can only discover the blessedness of giving when it comes from their own heart.

A child whines, "Make him play with me." When you force unwelcomed associations upon your children, they do not learn to love each other. On the contrary, their despising only increases. How would you feel if you were forced to attend social engagements or spend the evening with someone not of your choosing? Would it endear the person to you if they had gone to the authorities whining of your indifference to them? When the authorities said, "Now you be sweet and let your neighbor sit in your house and gloat over their power to forcibly dominate your time, and remember you should give up your rights," how would you feel toward you neighbor? And how would you feel about what you were doing? Would you have a good feeling that

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# Laying Down Habits

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**Y**ou might consider chickens to be on the lower end of the intelligence scale, though on the upper end of preference in the food chain. And you may be right; but as dumb as they are, they can still be trained. Like your children, chickens develop habits. Whether the habits are good or bad depends on their keeper. You are wasting your time to get mad at a flock of chickens. If you run at them shouting, they just squawk and scatter in as many directions as the number of drumsticks divided by two. They can not understand your words, so you are wasting your time fussing at them. When you bawl them out, they just look up from their constant pecking the ground to see if you have any old corn bread. If not, they go back to eating dirt. After having chickens for quite a while, I will admit they are not much more intelligent than a peanut butter sandwich, but they can be trained.

Chickens were created by God to provide farm fresh eggs. Regardless of what the experts say, it is their contribution to breakfast. Most of the time chickens are kept in a small pen. You don't want them laying eggs all over the ground. Therefore, when you build a chicken pen you make several nests for their egg laying. The chickens like privacy when laying eggs, so early every morning they seek out these little elevated boxes with the soft straw. There, now you have trained the fowl creature to lay its eggs in a certain place. With forethought, you have caused a good habit to develop. But if you are careless you can untrain them.

Late in the day, farmers open the chicken coop door and allow the expectant egg layers, and one rooster, out into the yard. They learn to anticipate the time, and will stand in a group waiting to be released. The

rooster runs out first to clear the ground of any intruders, but if it is a chicken hawk or stray poultry-plucking dog, he stops being a rooster and becomes just another chicken. Even stupidity has its limits.

Chickens generally lay their

eggs early in the day, so you make sure during that time they are in their pen close to their nest. If a chicken that has been released onto the yard feels a need to lay an egg, they will return to the nest — as long as it is convenient. However if you consistently release the chickens before they have laid all their eggs, and they stray too far from the nest, they will develop the habit of laying their eggs on the ground. Once this practice becomes a habit, even when put back in their pen they will stop climbing up to the nest and will continue laying their eggs on the ground.

My wife has a big heart when it comes to her chickens. All I have is a big stomach. The chickens learned to recognize her as the one who releases them. When she passes their pen early in the day, they take advantage of the opportunity to play upon her tender emotions. The rooster will lead the hens over to the door

where they will stand bunched up like pitiful refugees waiting to be released. To satisfy her own need to show pity, Debi began a process of turning them out earlier and earlier. Then we started finding eggs in the yard. This forced my wife to ignore their pitiful manipulations and leave them in the pen where we would have all our eggs in our one basket.

Well farmer, you have trained and then untrained your chickens. They started off with good habits and ended up with habits that destined them for a dumpling retirement. It won't do you any good to get mad at the dumb clucks for laying their eggs on the filthy floor. It will do no good to shame them and scream, "Don't you even care?" It will not help to force a comparison with the neighbor's well trained chickens. And it won't help to have more chickens if you haven't learned anything.

Now thankfully, your children are many times more intelligent than these chickens, and it is much easier to break them of bad habits. Although, they are much better psychologists than the pitiful chickens. Who is in charge of your children farm, you or the chicks? Your pity is not to the benefit of your child. It only feeds their desire to gain further control. Sit down and think about it; arrange circumstances to make the good habits convenient and the bad habits inconvenient. Persevere until the desirable action becomes ingrained, and then maintain order so the good habit is always the convenient thing to do. By the way, switches and rods make many things mighty inconvenient. \*

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you had made sacrifices for your neighbor's sake? No. You would be angry at everyone, and especially at the unjust authority.

There is an easy solution. Parent, put a stop to the bickering by allowing free associations. You can and should teach your children to be sensitive to the needs of others. But, as your children sense, you have no right to legislate or intimidate them into unwelcomed associations. To do so will prevent them from ever having a heart change toward the other. If I see my neighbor, whom I may not particularly like, lonely or in need, I may choose to give up my rights and sacrifice my time to meet their need. In so doing, I am drawn closer to him, not made resentful.

You may ask, "But what if when they are given their liberty, they chose to never associate with the other?" I do not think that is likely, for much of the bitterness and rejection is probably from the unjust intrusion of the one who is rejected. But if you are truly recognizing the child's right to free association then you must be prepared to allow the self imposed segregation. If it were possible for one child to dislike another so much as to never desire association then it would be better for the rejected child to not have forced association with such a one.

Also remember that the whining child, who has learned to manipulate parents into forcing the other children to do his bidding, is of all children most despised and rejected by the others. Furthermore parents who reward the whining by giving them their way cultivate in the child a selfish personality that even the parents come to despise. If you are angry and bitter toward your child, consider the probability that you are disappointed in your own creation.

The squabbling over property is even easier to deal with. Parent

you need to bring your children together and open a "land and title company." Cause your children to register each possession. Every toy, chair, bed, bedroom (or corner of a shared bedroom) should be designated as the sole property of one child only. If they have common property, divide the toys into two piles and let them draw straws for their pile. Oversee a period of trading (when they exchange toys on whatever bases they may agree upon) and then seal it with a "homestead act" that assures future "government (parental)" protection of those rights.

Small children should be trained not to touch the private property of older children. And older children should be given liberty to police their own property. When an older child is free to maintain control of his own life and property around the younger brother or sister, they are more comfortable with the little ones. They are then free to relate to their fellow siblings more as a guardian and guide rather than as a competitor or victim.

No one has ever settled on my land or tried to manage my personal property because there is no question but that the government guarantees my rights to private property. It doesn't matter who got there first or who was playing with my lawnmower first; if I can prove it is mine, there is no contest. There will be less resentment and feelings of unfairness. Your children will like each other better, if they are not forced into a communal living.

If you will function as a government should (to protect rights, not redistribute them) then your children can relax their vigilance to grab and tightly possess. It will end the mad competition to get there first and hold on the tightest. It will be the end of argument. What is there to discuss? All property goes to the owner upon request, regardless of the circumstances. When Johnny whines, "He took my truck," instead of trying to reconstruct the squabble, you can

simply say, "It is his truck. Give it to him."

Furthermore, where you have seldom seen your children give-up anything, under the private ownership policy, you will see individual acts of sharing begin to take place. When your children discover the good feeling of giving and the mutual benefit of sharing, they will begin to practice it at least as much as you do. By making this switch in your tactics, by giving up the socialists power play, you will come to rely more on teaching and example. It should increase your awareness of your duty to exemplify in word and deed the Christian graces you seek to instill.

Not until their heart is renewed by the Holy Spirit will they ever truly give out of pure love. If you allow them the free choice and God endowed liberties that are theirs, they will then, and only then, be free to develop morally in this area. Make a commitment to trust to your teaching and example, not to the legislation of "Big Brother." The curtain came down in Russia. It might as well come down in your home. \*

### April/May

You will note this issue is April/May. We normally send our newsletter out once a month and will continue to do so, but we have been getting later and later into each month until we are one month behind. We are writing another book, which takes most of our time. Rather than try to catch up, we are just skipping a month. You will still get your next newsletter in one month.

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# T. J. Slayman *Missionary Update*

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**G**reetings. In October I went to Hong Kong without any promise of support. Every time I had a financial need God touched someone in the States and the money always arrived on time. Also, I know some of you were praying, because God ministered to me as I ministered His gospel to others.

Through many long hours of climbing stairs and marching the streets of the most densely populated country in East Asia, our small team was able to put 1.3 million Chinese gospel tracts in the doorways and mailboxes of the lost in Hong Kong. On the back of each tract was an offer for a free Bible correspondence course. Many are already enrolled and being directed to solid, Chinese, Bible-believing churches. AMEN!

The Lord ministered in so many ways. What a joy it was to see God move in the hearts of the young Chinese Christians. Evangelistic zeal

in the eyes of a young National is a powerful thing to behold. A missionary's success is not gauged by what happens in his presence, but by what continues on in his absence.

Laos is the country to which God has called me. It has been thrilling to see God opening doors and moving hearts. During the six months I was in Hong Kong, God made provision for me to make two survey trips, one into Thailand and one into Laos.

After the fall of Indochina (Vietnam, Cambodia, and Laos) to communism in 1975, the Church in Laos suffered severe persecution. Ninety percent of the trained Christian leaders fled the country, leaving only 10 men with Bible training to pastor the 100-plus small churches struggling for existence, scattered throughout the underdeveloped mountainous terrain. The so very few Christians are as sheep without a

shepherd.

Jesus said if I loved Him I would feed His sheep. God has clearly commissioned me to teach young Laotian men the Word of God that they may reach their own people. There are over 100 ethnically and linguistically diverse people groups in Laos, and only five have Scriptures and a gospel witness. It is impossible for me to learn the language and customs of 100 different people groups and then translate the Bible into their language and start churches. I cannot reach all those people, but God has made it clear that He wants to use me to train up and teach the men that can. If Laos is going to be reached for Jesus Christ, it is the Laotians that can do it, not western missionaries (II Tim 2:2).

It has been said it is impossible for a missionary to stay within the country of Laos. I had planned on living in Northeast Thailand to learn the Laotian language and minister from there, but God has proven Himself bigger and able to do more than I could ask or think. During my short stay in Laos, God opened the doors for me to live in Vientiane, the capitol city of Laos, and teach English in a private school. This is going to enable me to live immersed in the Lao language and culture. And because it is a private school—which is being directed by a saved Thai national!—I will be allowed to witness freely to my students. I will teach them English from the greatest piece of English literature, the number one best seller of all time, the most loved, cherished, hated, and attacked book the world

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## Rebekah Pearl *Missionary Update*

and no doubt trying to shoot one of the big birds or spear one of the wild pigs to supplement their diet of rice and sweet potatoes.

Tim and Rachel Stoll, a couple from our church, will also be going for the first six weeks to assist in the immediate building. Their two young children will be staying with us. (Am I still patient with little ones in the house? Six weeks! Has anyone got a good book I could read?)

**T**his past month we packed and shipped 1100 pounds to Papua New Guinea. It will take two months to arrive, and our team should arrive about the same time. They will have to hire a helicopter to carry it to the top of the mountain. It is eighty miles inland with no roads, and at nine thousand feet altitude. You four-wheeler buffs couldn't even get to where they are going. It's walk and climb or helicopter if you go to the top of one of these slippery jungle mountains. There is an airstrip six hours walk at the base of the mountain, but even these strong little nationals cannot carry a 100 lb. box of printer paper up a nine thousand foot mud pile covered with hairy vines and twisted roots.

Among the eight to ten thousand Kumboi tribesmen there is a small group who have heard and believed the gospel. They are anticipating the arrival of our daughter Rebekah, who will translate "God's talk" (their word for the Bible) into their language and teach them to read it.

Our seventeen-year-old son Nathan will be going with Rebekah for the first six months. He will be clearing back the jungle growth, digging an out-house hole, cultivating ground for a garden, setting up the solar power, making a solar shower, constructing a living quarters out of whatever materials the jungle yields,

Rebekah will spend most of her time learning the language and culture. She does not want to waste any time getting to the place where she can translate portions of Scripture. Can you conceive of the joy of being able to read the very first verse translated into your own tongue?

And then there is Cathy, the national girl who will be going with Rebekah as her missionary partner. Pray that she will get the financial support she will need.

Pray for this team of five, as they bind the strong man and spoil his goods. \*

### *T. J. Slayman*

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has ever known, the King James Holy Bible! Amen and amen!

Several men I spoke with in Laos believe it is only a matter of time before their country will join the Asian Free Trade agreement. This will open Laos to greater religious freedom. A friend of mine, who graduated from Bible Baptist Translators the same time as I, has recently entered Cambodia with a missionary visa!

If the bamboo curtain comes down, the cults will be waiting anxiously to move in and proselytize as they did in Eastern Europe and other countries that recently opened to religious freedom. It was heartbreaking to see the zeal and efficiency with which the Mormons and Jehovah's Witnesses were spreading their lies in Hong Kong.

By God's grace I intend to be naturally fluent in the Lao language and able to preach from the Lao Bible before the cults ever set foot in the country. I also expect to have translated Bible materials and have trained men to minister among their own people. Pray for me as I strive to beat Satan's ministers to the punch (2 Cor 13-15).

T. J. Slayman

T. J. was saved six years ago through the ministry of our Church. He has continued to be an aggressive and faithful witness. Many have cautioned him to wait until he has sufficient support before returning to Laos, but God has called and T. J. is going. The Church is going to put up the money for his plane ticket over there, and then it is up to God. He is going back in June to begin teaching English and learning the language. He will receive no remuneration for his teaching. It is volunteer work in a private school. If you would like for him to come and share his vision with your church, he only has about six weeks to do so. You may write to our address or call him at his home.

For translation work and literature production, T. J. is going to need an upper-end notebook computer. Also, the private school in Laos is going to start a computer class and could use several desk top or notebook computers. If you have one you would like to donate to this work, contact us at the address on this newsletter. \*

## Reinforcements Coming

By Rebekah Pearl 4/11/96

There is a mighty army  
 Being trained to stand and fight.  
 A Battlefield of soldiers  
 Learning what is right.  
 A Company of warriors  
 That will boldly take the Word  
 To every tribe and nation  
 Til every soul has heard.  
 There is a mighty army,  
 I've seen them everywhere.  
 Most are wearing diapers  
 And dragging Teddy Bears.  
 Infants in the training  
 Drilled in right and wrong.  
 Mom and Dad are making  
 Soldiers brave and strong.  
 There is a mighty army  
 Trained in righteous war.  
 Cheer them on to victory,  
 Children of the Lord!

## Better Late or Never

This newsletter is late in arriving because the Pearl family has a developing problem — more friends than we have minutes in the day and night. Two-hundred-plus families have expressed an interest in stopping by our homestead this summer. We too are looking for a place to spend the summer. Also, a far larger number try to contact us by phone. We would love to speak to each of you and answer

any questions you have. However this would take away from our family life, as well as all other ministries.

I have been unable to complete two books that were basically written over six months ago. If half of those who receive our newsletter called just once a year, we would be on the telephone eight hours every day, 365 days of the year. This is not an exaggeration; I calculated it mathematically. Now I know that half of you would not call once a year, but there are many who will call every other day. As much as we would like to, it is just physically impossible to be available in that way. So we have decided to close the gate on our little love nest and cease all counseling by phone. My wife and I are beginning the twenty-sixth phase of our honeymoon and need the privacy. We also have five children who need us from time to time. We are still available by mail. And we have personal friends that we like to see from time to time. If you put yourself in our place, I know you will understand. \*

You received this monthly newsletter from *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.

If you do not find time to read this newsletter 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 raptured. Thank you. \*

### Gabe, Bob, and Sam.

Our son Gabriel, 19 years old, Bob Slayman, 15 years old, and Sam Vincent, 21 years old, will be going to the Philippines to minister the gospel during the month of May. They will not be ministering in the cities. They will be traveling with a team by boat into the interior to show gospel films and testify of God's saving grace. Pray for these young men as they enter Satan's stronghold. \*

*T H E G O S P E L*

Excerpt from an unpublished book, *By Divine Design*  
by Michael Pearl.

**T**he law is what we should do. The gospel is what God has done in light of our failure to do what we ought. The gospel is not the *process* of God making us righteous, it is the *act* of Him *declaring* us righteous.

Jesus Christ is erected before God as the full satisfaction of all the sinner's needs. He is offered to the sinner as the full satisfaction of all his needs.

The gospel is a declaration of a complete provision for the complete

man with a complete need. Therefore, the gospel is not an offer of something that will come into existence if men respond, but it is the good news that something is already in existence that men might respond. God offers. We receive.

There are no conditions to entering the gospel's provision. Rather, the gospel is a declaration that the conditions have already been met; and as such, there can be no personal achievement. You cannot succeed before God, you can only joy in God's success; for the gospel comes as good tidings of a deed accomplished.

The sinner does not come to God, God comes to him when he believes. There is never cause to delay in believing. Any modifications we would make in personal preparation can only render us more unfit by adding the sin of pride to that of unbelief. "*Come unto me all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest,*" said the Savior.

The gift of righteousness is for those who "*worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly (Rom. 4:5).*" Paul said, "*And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith (Phil. 3:9).*" \*

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