



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

June 1996

The Selfishness of a Tender Heart

You remember the many "Johnnys" in our book. His reputation was further confirmed as he came to visit us this week. As kids are apt to do, he quickly discovered a baby stroller just made for a six-year-old who had a gullible sister willing to act as the motor. When the royal conveyance had visited every corner several times and bumped every piece of furniture thirteen times, he decided he would take a pilgrimage into the "forbidden room." The occupant of

the room was lost in her meditation, but not so deeply as to fail to hear him command his chauffeur to push him into the occupied bedroom. Not wanting her furniture banged up or her solitude interrupted, the occupant commanded, "No, keep the stroller in the main room." Johnny, quietly, but not quietly enough, told his little sister to push him into the forbidden room anyway. I suppose Johnny thought he could always claim to be the helpless passenger of a stroller

driven by his sister. Little sister was leaning into her burden and grunting too loudly to hear the "do not enter" command. As Johnny made his grand entrance, all laid back in his rickshaw, the meditator sprang from her repose and rushed to intercept the interloper. Just as she stood towering over the trembling intruder, his mother walked in, quickly appraising the scene.

Unfortunately for Johnny, his mama was having an emotional day. She was expecting a new baby and her heart, which is tender when she is at her toughest, was nothing but mush this day. You notice I said "unfortunately," because in order for Johnny to develop integrity, his mother needs guts. One look into Johnny's face assured her that he was under investigation for some alleged offense. "What's going on here?" Mama asked. The meditator calmly told the story as it had happened. Johnny turned to Mama with an expression of innocent wonder and sincere confusion. Seeing that sweet little face, Mama knew that any accusation against him was false. She quickly began explaining that Johnny had hearing problems. Johnny now had an excuse. With hope in her gentle voice, mama asked a question that assumed the answer: "You didn't hear her tell you not to come in, did you?" Now Johnny is old enough to have a master's degree in abnormal psychology (It only takes six years), so he immediately grasped the reprieve that his distraught mother had offered. But looking back at the towering, now censuring meditator, he was smart enough not to risk perjury. So he answered, "I don't know, I think I didn't

Homeschoolers, Rebekah and Nathan Pearl

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Tender Heart

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hear her.” Sound familiar? He doesn’t want to be a liar, but it is so convenient.

Well, it was apparent that he had pleased Mama with his answer and relieved her of the pain. Mama knew Johnny was guilty, but something inside her wanted to protect her son at any cost; and the cost of making mama feel better is often very high. Johnny was taught how to be a successful liar and manipulator. He also learned that telling lies makes mama feel better. She would be angry if he told the truth, and it was obvious to him that she did not want the truth, so why be a fool and stick your head in a noose? They were accomplices in deception.

This mother had avoided facing her deception by a feeling that

she was satisfying a deeper need to protect her little Johnny. But it was actually her own feelings she was protecting. Immediate good feelings overrode her better judgment. If she were allowed to make a clear choice apart from emotion, she would do what is best for her son. But like an alcoholic, she is addicted to her “tenderness.”

The verse that is the basis of the title of this newsletter is III John 4: *“I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth.”* Parents when you make it convenient for your children to be deceptive, you are leading them down paths of darkness. Bring your children to the light of truth. Value their honesty above all. I would take an honest scoundrel over a smooth, lying lover any day.

This story didn’t end when the mother hastily rushed her children out of the house, away from the incriminating stare of the meditator be-

come denunciator. The next day she called with a broken heart. She is a devoted mother who truly desires what is best for her children. When she had time to get out from under the pressure of her feelings, she judged justly.

It is not too late for Johnny to break the lying habit, but when you wait until they are six-years-old to institute integrity, you have ingrained a character flaw that they will have to struggle against the rest of their lives. It is never too late to repent, but if we train them right, there will be areas in which they will never need to repent. It is better to train your child so that their energies can be applied to creatively serving God rather than struggling with their own weaknesses. One who spends his whole life trying to keep his head above water will never be involved in saving others. We want our children to be moral doctors not moral patients.

Get tough, Mama. *

Uncommon Common Sense

Recently I asked two old-timers (men who remember seeing the first airplane or automobile that came to town, and they go to sleep before they finish telling the story) about how they would raise children. Their answers were accurate and would provide material for a new book. These old men, grumbling their views, are largely ignored. If they were thirty years younger, had a degree in child psychology from a “Christian” university and could speak with social grace, their statements would be received as profound. Packaged differently, their message would be highly acclaimed among today’s parents.

When we stand before a crowd of eager parents and share the simple principles of parenting, we never cease to be amazed at their deep appreciation for simple truths. Concepts, that in former generations were common knowledge, are lost to to-

day’s parents. The mid- to late twentieth century breakdown in discipline and family is not due to an inferior strain of children – nor to a corrupt society. Our children are the product of their parents. Or to put it another way: Today’s children are a product of yesterday’s children. Parents are children who grew up to have chil-

dren. There is usually less than ten years between the child’s last spanking and the first spanking they give to their first child. Do years alone make one wise and bring maturity? Does the selfish, angry twelve-year-old mutate into a capable child trainer in the ten years before inheriting the job? Or to ask a more pertinent question: What kind of parent is your child going to make?

Why do some young people make good parents and others make lousy parents? The bottom line is that parenting skills are passed down from generation to generation. It is not necessarily a conscious effort. Most parenting techniques are never premeditated. When Deb and I began our family, we just took parenting for granted, as do most. We were both blessed to have had good parents of the old school. When we just related to our children as our parents had related to us, we were usually doing the right thing. When we had a problem

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Broken Insides

By Debi Pearl

While back we were invited to speak to a group. When we drove up, it was obvious that it was a very conservative bunch, modestly dressed and every family with a large solemn following of children. As we piled out of the car and started unloading there was a certain air of quiet foreboding over the place. Being a person with more than my share of imagination, I put my feelings down and entered with a smile. Mike seem to be struggling as he spoke; I began to pray for him in earnest. At the close of the meeting we were all tired and anxious to leave. The car was silent as we traveled down the dark unfamiliar highway. Finally

from the back, one of the young girls spoke up, "All those folks seemed like their insides were all broken up." Poor grammar, but an excellent way to describe the people. The women all wore long dresses and the men were dressed plainly, but it was like they were dead ancestors wandering back from an unwelcomed life of hardship. It was like they were mechanically programmed to say the right thing and look the right way. But there was no light in their eyes.

Over the next few days Mike mentioned a couple of the men saying that years earlier God had called them to missions, but they couldn't find a mission board to take them. "Yes," I told him, "three different women told me that God had spoken to their husbands concerning missions early in their marriage, but they got so caught up in babies and making ends meet that they didn't pursue it." Two of our older children heard us talking and began relaying similar stories some of the people had told them. As this information began to take hold of our minds we fell silent with a contemplative brooding. My mind drifted back to the sober, tired, care-weary faces we met that night, and I silently bowed my head, "God save us from having broken insides." *

Uncommon

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arise with one of our children, it was from our past childhood that we drew our answers.

By the time most parents have had enough experience to appreciate the issues and make adjustments, their children are already parents. Parents can mature and repent of their mistakes, but meanwhile their children are passing the same mistakes on to the grandchildren. We are in midst of a cycle of degenerating family structure. Parents with young children must reverse the cycle while their children are still young enough to be programmed.

The way the farmer used to get new chickens was to allow the hen to sit on her eggs until they hatched. The proud mother would lead the little chicks around the barn yard, teaching them what it meant to be a chicken. But unknowingly she was teaching them how to be good mothers when they grew up. When they begin laying eggs, they too will find a nice place to lay a dozen eggs and

incubate them into chicks. Then, just like their mom, they will proudly carry on the farm tradition.

But there is a new way. Every spring, we go to the Co-op and buy a new batch of chicks. They have been hatched in an incubator and are only a few days old. When you look down in their box you notice that they are all grouped according to age and size, and usually grouped according to sex. They grow up with their peers. They remind me of children in a school yard or grouped in a day care center. They learn to compete and survive in this prefabricated social order. It is not like the old barn yard where the chicks followed the mother hen around looking for something to

eat. The new way is much more efficient. Where efficiency and an abundance of eggs is the goal, it is definitely progress. It is a fast new world, you know.

The only problem with this new way is that the young chicks who grow up without a mother's care have lost the natural instinct to be mothers themselves. It is rare that one of these modern egg layers will devote the time and energy to sit on their eggs and care for young chicks. They are too busy with their own fulfillment to care for the brood.

I think there are thousands of young couples struggling to raise their brood, but somewhere in the former generations the knowledge of the simple "how to" was lost. For many of you raised in a classroom and nursed on TV, being a parent does not come naturally. You must imagine what parents should be like.

There seems to be a great awakening of families longing to raise a godly generation. It is a glorious sight traveling from place to place meeting hundreds of parents willing

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MISSIONARY UPDATE

Rebekah's planned departure to New Guinea has been set back two or three weeks due to a delay in some paper work having to do with visas. We are expecting to see the missionary party depart in middle- to late June.

Our 17-year-old son Nathan will be going with Rebekah to the Kumboi tribe.

Our 19-year-old son Gabriel and two other young men from our church, Sam Vincent and Bob Slayman, just returned from the Philippines where they assisted in building and conducting meetings. They went with a national team into a remote village that had never received a white person. The oddity of their presence helped draw a crowd, and the gospel was preached to many who had never heard. Several professed

faith in Christ and were baptized.

T.J. Slayman, a young man from our church, is waiting for his visa into Laos. He has a man there in the country assisting him.

Steve and Margaret Schnell, with their two little ones, just graduated from Bible Baptist Translators in Bowie, TX. They are planing to stay

on and help at the school as part of the staff during the next year.

These trips over seas are not pleasure trips. They come back, sometimes with malaria, almost always with

stomach disorders, tired, worn and ready for something good to eat.

Pray for these young people by name. We are not warring against a carnal foe. Our contention is with the powers of darkness. But nothing can prevail against the Light. Pray that their light may so shine. *

A Needful Tape

Everywhere we go I am broken to see such a dearth of simple truths on how to be a woman of God. Women want to know the truth, they just don't know what God desires of them. "The Hidden Woman" by Denny Kenaston is one of those rare messages that I know are anointed of God. It is a message telling women what a wonderful opportunity they have as wives to minister to their husbands, setting them free to be all that God intended them to be. My husband is continuing to received a tremendous blessing from this tape, and he never even had to listen to it. The simple message in this Biblical tape does for the woman what *To Train Up a Child* did for the parent. This tape takes up where the many books left off. You will know that this message is God's gift to you.

Do you want a mighty man of God? Then learn to be a hidden woman. We are making it available for \$3 each, and no additional postage when ordered with one or more books. If you are ordering the tape alone, then add .60 postage (\$3.60 total). Ask for *The Hidden Woman*.

Dear Michael, Debi, and family,

Praise God! "There is a mighty army being trained to stand and fight." I have been reading about Rebekah's experiences, and I watched EE Taow. In March, God clearly called me to become a Bible Translator. I finished up my home-schooling and I plan to train to be a missionary with New-Tribes. I am so thankful for Rebekah's obedience. She has been a good example to me. God bless you for your work in furthering His kingdom, and for the impact you have had on my life!

*In Jesus Christ,
Elizabeth Magley*

Uncom-

to hear and obey God's direction in raising a family. If you can just understand how you got where you are, you can better plot your journey back. You do not have ten years to recover what has been lost. Your children must be raised on right example. Only you can reverse the downward cycle. Today is the first day of the remainder of your child's life. Make it count. *

Aloe is a medicine cabinet in disguise. Aloe has the amazing ability to cause the body to regenerate cell tissue. For burns this ability is a real blessing. Aloe is one herb where nature is truly best. It works best when the mucilage is taken straight from the growing plant. As such, it is sterile and will not contaminate a burn with bacteria. Use the outer, older leaves because they have the strongest properties as a cell proliferate healer. Just break off an inch or

so, depending on the size of the burn, peel off the outside skin and rub the soothing watery inner part of the herb on the wound. The slimy film will quickly dry and become an effective seal for the wound.

Don't worry about your broken plant; it will quickly heal itself and provide more "medicine" for future use.

Aloe has proven to be effective against many different bacteria that invade a wound. Midwives recommend it to be used against vaginal yeast infections, for relief from hemorrhoids, for soothing minor birthing tears and for nursing mothers to use on sore nipples.

Aloe has been used for many

centuries as a beauty aid. It has the ability to penetrate all three layers of skin, bringing deep healing. There is a caution, because of its ability to readily penetrate all three layers of skin, when included as an ingredient in cosmetics with chemicals and dyes, it acts as a vehicle to carry the chemicals deep beyond the surface of the skin. Thus, commercial products with Aloe could cause more harm than help.

Aloe has been reported to be effective in checking arthritis when in its early stages. In treating arthritis it is suggested to ingest about 1/4 teaspoon of the Aloe's mucilage (watery inside part) twice a day for about 3 weeks. Be careful to only take small amounts, for Aloe is made of several different sugars and can cause diarrhea if you take too much.

Why buy a commercial product with aloe as an ingredient when you can have the benefits of 100% aloe directly from nature? *

After Its Kind, *and then some*

When I see orange, the same shade as the fruit, I experience an involuntary citrus constriction in the muscles of my jaw. When I smell hickory wood smoke, I feel good all over. When I see a chalk board, I feel pained and anxious. I know I am going to be called on to write my spelling words for the entire third grade class. These involuntary responses are the result of prior conditioning.

I recently received a letter from a mother who told of her little girl's conditioning to potty when she hears the sound made by a certain crib toy. The Mother does not know how it happened, but somehow the child came to associate the sound of the toy with the release of her bladder. (I think she said the child was six months old.) The mother is now trying to use this happenstance conditioning to induce the child to go on

the potty instead of in her crib.

Where smaller children are concerned, conditioning is a powerful

tool. It can work both ways. All children are conditioned to respond to stimuli. It is inevitable. I have been in homes where the children went joyously nuts when they heard Daddy

driving up at five in the evening. Later in life, without knowing why, they will still experience a leap of the heart when a car pulls into the driveway. Children, dreading the sound of a car bringing home an abusive father, will grow up to feel anxious at the sound of a car in the driveway.

When emotionally disturbed or bored children are pacified by a pacifier, they grow up learning to cope by enacting the sucking motion. Later they are pacified by having a cracker or sucker stuck in their mouths. The parents purchase peace by teaching their children to indulge their lusts to satisfy their feelings. Rather than learn self control, they are directed in their lack of control. The children are thus conditioned to resort to eating as the answer to all stress, anxiety and

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After Its Kind

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boredom. In other words, they are conditioned to eat. This not only generates lack of self control in eating but produces a general approach to life that is one of indulgence and intemperance. The first sin involved putting something in the mouth. Christ's first temptation was to provide bread for his hunger. The mouth is the central focus of the lust of the flesh.

Your child is not evil in his desire to indulge, anymore than a dog is evil when he eats meat until he regurgitates. But the dog never grows up to face moral duty. Their reason never develops so that they can place a value on something beyond its ability to satisfy their animal needs. The child is to grow to be more than a mammal seeking survival. The animal takes and devours with no thought to the needs of others. The human is to grow to the point where they can choose to ignore even strong appetites and passions, and to give to the point of suffering that others might have their needs met. Indeed, true humanity is not found at the table, but at the altar. Not taking, but giving. The more costly the giving, the higher the humanity. The stronger the passion resisted, the deeper the soul of the man. Humanity increases in proportion to the difference between the strength of the pull of the flesh and the strength of soul to resist pure animal indulgence.

The end of the struggle between the flesh and the spirit is character. History has revealed that all have fallen short of living up to his or her own aspirations to overcome selfish bodily indulgence. There is nothing glorious about humanity indulging. The Bible says, "For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God (Rom. 3:23)." Certainly the sinfulness of man is clearly revealed in our willingness to indulge on the animal level. It is an ugly sight to see a parent ignoring, or even promoting, the child's indulgence. The cute, curly

headed little darling grows into a puffy, pouting, flesh parading, pile of inhumanity.

Parent, only you can save your small child from the early conditioning to indulge. We will not be able to condition them into being Saints, but we can sure condition them to sufficient self-control and self-respect to be responsive to the call of God to repentance and faith.

The adult can lean on his intelligence or his sense of values and override his conditioning, but the child is not so developed in reason and self reflection as to be able to make a decision purely on the basis of what he ought to do. The sluggard, the glutton, the thief, and the sexual pervert, to

name a few, are children who grew up to have an adult's capacity for indulgence with a child's lack of self-restraint.

When your child is only days old, begin to watch for the signs of their seeking to manipulate their environment to their gratification. They will need to be fed, but they also need to learn to wait. They need to be held and cuddled, but you should not allow the child to dictate the time and place. They will need attention, but they should not be allowed to grow up thinking that they can command the center of attention. The child will be

more secure if you condition them to be patient and have self-control. Cause them to learn the meaning of the word *wait*. They should be able to accept a "No" without complaint. If you tell them "No," and they whine, they are already manipulating you to their own gratification. You have allowed negative conditioning. A child should be taught to sit where placed, lay down and be quiet when told to, and eat the food they are offered. To allow a child to do only what they want to do is to cultivate the animal and to starve the human development.

I do not intend this to justify the hard, overriding, autocratic rule of some parents. Our job as parents is not to bear down with an autocratic spirit. We are not breaking a bad dog, we are nurturing a tender, developing plant. If you become nervous, anxious and irritable, you will damage the delicate fruit. Children must be handled with kind, patient, loving hands.

As a parent—as an adult—you are still possessed of the natural passions and appetites that began even before birth. Your flesh lusts against your spirit. You know what you should do. Conscience speaks with a voice louder than our excuses. You may blame your parents for the bad programming. And they may well be the initial cause of some of you hang-ups. But you are now possessed of a mind and a spirit that is much the superior of your passions. Different from a child, you can choose to not yield to your weaknesses. Love of food, alcohol and tobacco, or vanity of possessions, or bitterness of spirit may be more important to you than right doing, but you are absolutely free and able to step away from your early conditioning.

If a long history of self-will and indulgence has left your soul callused and your will weakened, you may say with the Apostle Paul, "for to will is present with me, but how to perform that which is good I find not (Romans 7:18)." As an adult, you are not to blame for your moral weaknesses, but

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After Its Kind

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you are to blame for giving in to them. Moral helplessness is unwillingness of desire, not inability of faculties. If your children are to rise above selfishness, you must show them the way.

If you are a born-again Christian, you have been freed from all that you were in the old self. When Christ died, you died with him (Rom:6:1-14). By faith you are now free from sin. You are no longer the "old man" conditioned to indulge. You are a new creature (2 Cor.5:17), old things are passed away, all things are new. If you walk after the Spirit, you will not live after your lusts (Gal.5:16).

In conclusion, if you walk after your lusts it is because you choose to, but your child has no choice. Until they are old enough to know good from evil (Deut. 1:39), your responsibility is to function as your child's conscience and will. You must determine that you will train and conditioned them to a life of self-control and temperance. If you wait until they are old enough to understand their duty, they will already have a history of being totally given over to the flesh. Condition them now to be self-controlled and temperate in all things, and they will not bring into their Christian life a whole mess of twisted responses against which they must struggle. Parent, repent and lay hold of the freedom that is yours in Christ. Give your child a better start than you had. You are their only hope. *

ORDER FORM

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The Hidden Woman, tape by Denny Kenaston, \$3.00 + .60 S/H (U.S. Postal) \$3.60

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POSTAGE AND PACKAGING

Orders that are a combination of, books and videos, shipping charges are as follows: (UPS only)

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He Touched Me

By Rebekah Pearl 4/22/94

*Struggling in the crowd
Jostled by the throng
Desperate just to touch Him
That I be made strong.
I could see Him there before me
But too weak to force my way
Someone shoved me and I stumbled
Hurting now and dazed.
At last in desperate effort
I lunged and then I fell
My fingers brushed His garment
And I knew I was made well!
I lay there in the dust
Tears streaming down my face
Rejoicing I was healed
And then I heard Him say;
"Who touched me?" He stopped
And the crowd fell silent now
Bewildered at His question
I watched Him turn around
Master," I cried, trembling in my soul
"Twas I that touched you
And now I am made whole!"
"Fear not, my daughter,"
Then He bid me peace
And I wondered, did I touch Him?
Or did Jesus touch me?*

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, 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.

You Asked For It!

We get many letters from our readers wanting to know about other publications that will teach or encourage them. There are many such magazines and I will try to mention others from time to time. Listed are three good ones that happen to be on my desk at the moment. *An Encouraging Word*, 1504 Cleveland St., Idabel, OK 74745; *Coming Home*, PO Box 367, Savannah, TN 38372; *The Remnant*, 59 S. Groffdale Rd., Leola, PA 17540.

Many have ask about where to find information concerning herbs. There are many books you can get from your local library. Two books I have used are: *The How to Herb Book* by Velma Keith and Monteen Gordon, and *The Healing Herbs* by Michael Castleman. *

The Church At Cane Creek

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