

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



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Seeing through a glass darkly

by Debi Pearl

Twenty-two years ago a wonderful, sweet, darling two-year-old boy, whom I loved, came down with a fever. Within 24 hours he was dead. During the days after his death, while the family grieved, I kept his baby brother. I remember staring at my sweet Rebekah and feeling a sense of relief that it was not she who was taken.

"When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things." What I am about to say will be hard for many of you to understand, but as an older woman I feel compelled to speak.

Death is not the worst enemy. When I was a young mother, this truth was simply beyond comprehension. To lose a child was my worst fear. I avoided long bridges because I was afraid I could not save all my children if the car plunged into the water. I carefully chose cars by the ease of opening the safety buckles and doors—just in case. I studied medications, familiarizing myself with potential problems and learning how to use alternative medicines. My natural instinct to protect my children, regardless of the cost, was in full operation. God gave me that instinct. Along the way, other children whom I knew died, and I continued to cling to my children, trying to guard their safety. Yet how frail my

efforts would have been if death had come calling.

When you are young and raising a family, death seems to be the ultimate loss. The grief is a pain you can only know first hand. When we are young, we see through a glass darkly.



As we grow older, life is not as big as we thought it was when it was all before us. Life in this flesh is quite temporary. I am not so old yet. Life is still precious. Death is still the enemy. I continue to cling to life, not only my own, but to that of those I love. Yet, my clinging has changed. Somewhere over the passing years I realized death was not the worst enemy. Grief over death stopped

being the worst grief. I can now see just a tiny bit clearer through the dark glass.

Eternity is so eternal, so terribly final, so completely forever. Death is not final. By the grace of God, it is not without hope. There is something yet beyond. Temporarily saying goodbye, even to a child, is still temporary. There will be a glad tomorrow. At the parting of death it is our own loss we grieve, not the child's, who has gone into the presence of God. But there is a loss into the darkness of eternity that is far more than the loss of temporary separation.

The older you get, the more you see the real enemy; you learn to recognize the real grief. It is not a temporary parting that brings apprehension, but knowledge of certain and eternal judgment awaiting your child. The pain of that rebellious child seeking a life of destruction is a thousand times more grievous than losing a baby. That mother I spoke of earlier, the one who lost her baby, suffered another, far greater loss years later. She lost her second son to the devil. Looking back, she now admits it was her own selfish grief and bitterness. It stole her joy, leaving her without a smile to nurture her living son. I heard her say 14 years after the death of her son, "It would have been easier to have also lost this one to death as a baby than to see

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Seeing through...

what has become of him now.”

I remember when I carried my first child in my womb; I had waited for 3 years, and when I finally got pregnant I was the happiest person I had ever known. One day, as I practiced childbirth relaxation, God spoke to me. I believe He told me to give the child I was carrying to Him. I began to cry and beg God not to take the baby, all afternoon I wrestled with my own feelings and what I believed God wanted of me. Finally, in great grief I surrendered the child to God. As the days passed, I was totally thrilled and amazed that nothing happened. When the baby was born strong and healthy, I knew God had something bigger than what I had feared. Still, I saw through a glass darkly. Life and death were the only two “biggies” in my life.

Thereafter, as each child was conceived, I eagerly gave it to God. Throughout their childhood I had instincts just like every other mother. I would protect my children at any cost. Instinct, although an overwhelming feeling, is just instinct. Even mother animals will die protecting their young. Oh, mother, if we as young mothers could just get a vision of something greater than instinct for our children, and begin to feel just as urgently for their souls, how different it would make us. Things that appear as tragedies are not so tragic. If as young mothers we could have eternity in our eyes. Older mothers, God-fearing mothers see more clearly. Whether it is age or spiritual maturity, I don’t know—maybe both—but it is not for their lives we fear; it for their souls. We are still stirred to pray for their safety and health, but our consuming prayer is that they overcome all the snares and diversions this evil world can offer. Where once

a mother begged God's protection for her child, she now begs Divine intervention at any cost (including life or limb). No, death is not your greatest enemy. Death brings a temporary sadness, a time of great loneliness, but in Christ there is always hope. Your greatest enemies are those vying for your child's soul.

People often ask me how I could ever let my daughter Rebekah go to the mountains of Papua New Guinea. What they don't understand is that I let Rebekah go years before when she was still in my womb. Yes, I have fears, but there is great hope. There is great joy. There is wonderful peace in knowing this is only temporary. I shall see her in a few months, or maybe in a few years, but most assuredly I will be with her again. There is no grief, there is no pain, there is only a glad tomorrow. Yes, I cry when she leaves, and I wander from room to room for a few weeks. When there is word she will return I clean and clean, and buy her clothes and talk and cry some more.

But, mother, what would it be like if she were to disappear from home, leaving in anger and rebellion? If I knew she left with a man I didn't like or respect. Weeks pass and there is no word, there is no hope. Grief? That is real grief. You think because they are grown you cease to feel? Death is such a simple thing compared to this grief. You lose a child to death, and everyone understands your sorrow and shares your pain. But lose a child to Satan's grip and you are an island alone, buffeted on every side with such turmoil, such pain, sleepless nights, exhausted prayer, hopelessness. Grief? Only the older mother understands eternal grief. Only the older mother can look in the face of a young mother and say, train

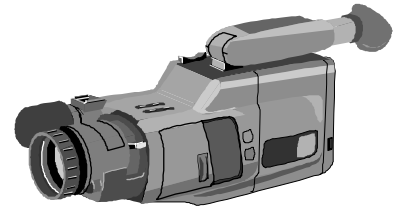
your children to obey, raise them to love God, be real in the home, so much depends on it.

When you are a young mother raising a family, it is so easy to care about your own feelings, your own hurts, your little fuss with your husband. Oh but, Mother, there is coming a day when your own feelings, hurts, and fusses will seem so immaterial, so silly. It is that atmosphere emanating from your relationship to your husband, your attitude and responses that help decide your baby's future in eternity. It is not your child training techniques; it is who you are today. It is how you respond to life's ups and downs and to life's grief and joy. It is how you honor your husband, thus how you honor God.

We go through life so protective of our children's bodies. Let us as mothers early look to the protection of their souls. The enemy is not death. The enemy is not outside, lurking to get in; the enemy is a mother's heart dedicated to a mother's feelings. It is our own selfishness, our own anger, our own bitterness, and our own disappointments. The enemy is Mother, doing what is right in her own eyes instead of obeying God. God, grant us the wisdom to get beyond instinct to the wisdom of true love. God, grant us hearts to see, to feel, and to live with eternity in our eyes.

“The aged women likewise, that... they may teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children (Titus 2: 3-4).” ☺

The Power of the Media Revisited



I have new information confirming our former hypothesis concerning the recent technological advances in child training and behavior control. For approximately \$500.00 you can have perfectly obedient children, at home or in public. If you are budget minded there are ways to get by for under \$25.00, or if you don't mind a little deception played on your children, there are ways to get your equipment free.

Of course if you read our first article on the power of the media you know that the electronic child control equipment we are talking about is a video camera. You can get an old twelve-pounder from the hock shop for \$25.00, or you can get one free from an old friend that dropped his in the fountain and shorted out all the wiring. It doesn't matter if you are actually taking pictures, as long as the children think you are. We have discovered that a pointed camera is better than a pointed finger. Switching on a camera (or pretending to) is better than switching on the kids.

Just this past week, I purchased a new digital video camera. It is our intention, unless prevented by the rapture or Y2K, to produce a child training video. Don't write and ask for it now, it may take us six months. I took the camera to the church meeting Sunday to get some good footage [for you laymen, that's videographer's language]. I was hoping to "do a take" on some kid throwing a fit. In the course of events, I explained to everyone that I would be documenting their child training, and in the process, making some of the parents infamous. After the meeting I hurried outside to try for a Pulitzer Prize winning shot.

I saw several parents seriously talking to their children while pointing to my camera. The children were

all soaking it up quite seriously. Well, with fifty kids in sight I was able to capture only one little fit. And it was spoiled when an eight-year-old candidate for an overdose on Ritalin leaped in front of the screaming child, shoved his scrawny face into the wide angle lens, and commenced to scream hysterically. He was auditioning of course. You will remember him as the one that I tied up on the camping trip. The small child immediately stopped crying and stared at the older kid. She was just out-classed. He spoiled the shot of the kid throwing a fit, but he gave me great footage of a kid the state of Texas has insisted should be put on Ritalin. His mother has wisely refused and the kid continues to act like a boy. By the way, I wouldn't have the little knot head any other way. I wandered around the churchyard, trying to get natural shots, but everyone was on guard. It looked like an IRS waiting room.

That evening, Carolyn, 3 years and five months old, was visiting the house. I offered her a piece of cake, and she readily accepted. I lifted her into a chair and served the cake. As I was walking off she called my name in a tone of supplication. When I turned around I could see that she had something serious to say. "Mike, I am a good girl now." I had never questioned it, so I was puzzled until the next day when her mother told me of an event on the previous day. That Sunday afternoon as everyone was playing volleyball, as usual the kids were all swinging on ropes, racing bicycles, building sand castles, and swimming in the creek. Carolyn's mother noticed that Carolyn was playing unusually well. All afternoon she had not whined, complained, cried, or hesitated to obey. Mother said to Carolyn, "You have

been so good this afternoon!" Carolyn responded, "Yea, I am afraid Mike Pearl is hiding in the bushes, trying to take my picture." It seems I am now the editor of the infamous Cane Creek Video Tabloid. No child is safe to throw a fit or relax into selfishness. Where is the American freedom to have an emotional breakdown? Even a wrong pucker or droop of the shoulders could bring the camera instantly into play.

Now there is a great lesson in this for parents. Think about it. A three-year-old child knows that certain behavior is wrong. The child would be embarrassed to have her behavior documented on video. Parents are naive. Children convince their parents that they are helpless creatures of indulgence. "The child doesn't understand." It is the parent who doesn't understand. "But the poor thing is upset; she just needs some reassurance." Poke a video camera in her face with promise to show it to everyone, and see if she is still helpless and confused. Everything gets in focus in a hurry.

If the three-year-old can control her own emotions and responses for six hours on the fear that someone is hiding somewhere trying to get video footage of embarrassing behavior, then the child has demonstrated that she has complete control over her entire body, mind, and emotions. If she throws a fit later on, it is because she has an agenda and that momentary expression is a means to get her way. Parents stimulate and promote such behavior by treating it as normal. If you respond to fits of anger with your own fit of anger, you are giving credibility to that kind of behavior,

We have had small children in our home who made emotional dis-

Would you like answers to these questions?



104 page paperback book

- ◆ How can I teach my children to share, to give up rights?
- ◆ How do I get my children to sit still in church?
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Written over a period of two years, the questions the Pearl's were most asked are answered in this 104 page book. It contains 48 individual articles, each on a separate subject. It's full of real life humorous stories illustrating the Biblical approach to training children. This exciting new book is being placed in Doctor's offices and waiting rooms. Order eight at a 40% savings and share them with your friends. Send a

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plays with intentions of controlling the house. It is so completely unacceptable around here that we all just stop and stare in amazement. One of us will comment on the bizarre behavior. Someone else will laugh and comment on how silly it looks. One will turn to another and say in the presence of the kid throwing the fit, "That must work at home; she doesn't know us very well does she?" Another one of my kids may say, "Did you see how she fell down in the floor? You know her tears even look real!" "Yeah, maybe she is going to be an actress when she grows up." "Well, let's all go eat while she practices her parent training skills." "Should we just leave her

in here?" "Yeah, but shut the door so we don't have to listen." Once or twice with a response like that and the kid is humiliated to try it again. Now understand I am talking about dealing with someone else's kid, not my own. You can't spank you neighbor's kid, especially when it is really your neighbor that needs the spanking.

I will tell you something else that works well. When a child is so emotionally upset that he has completely lost control, lean over and talk in low tones to others in the room, ignoring the child. They will stop crying to hear what you are saying. I am not suggesting that you do this as a regular way of training; it is just a

lot of fun. It will give you a clear perspective on what you are dealing with. Kids don't like to be left out of anything. They will give up a good spell to hear what is going on.

Parent when are you going to grow up and act like an adult? Someone needs to be in authority around your place. Your children know exactly what they are doing, and they know what you are going to do when they start their little displays. If you come to my house, you know what I am going to do. That's right, I am going to take aim at you with my Cannon. See you on the big screen! ☺

It's the book's fault

*This is an edited version of
the original 6 page letter.*

Dear Michael and Debi,

Our children are now 3 ½, 22 months, and 3 months. When our first child was 19 months old and I was pregnant with our second, we moved and made new friends with a family that had well balanced, happy, and obedient children. After much pleading that they tell us their secret, they gave us your book.

To cut a long story short, we now have two relatively well-balanced kids. My husband and I are still riding a roller-coaster of stress and anxiety with occasional loops of wonderful joy and contentment with our children. That is not what the book said it would be like!! In a way, I feel worse with my pretty-well-balanced kids than I did with the unruly first one. Sure, she threw an occasional tantrum, which raised my blood pressure, but on the whole, I found that I just loved her so much that I put up with those times as being "normal." and thoroughly enjoyed her for just who she was the rest of the time (and even the tantrums I could generally laugh about later).

Firstly, I would like to talk with you about attitudes, mine mainly. I know that a lot of the sulking and whining that goes on with the girls is a reflection of my attitude towards them. As I said before, when I had no expectations or standards for the behavior of toddlers, I was extremely patient with my daughter and her ways and I just enjoyed being with her. Since reading your book I have set certain standards as norm for my children, and I find that I tend to look at the kids and judge their

every word and action, by the standards I have mentally set. I don't enjoy being with our kids any more (unless they are having one of their super well behaved days. I am very saddened and irritated. To see how insecure L. has become, rather than the secure, at peace child I envisaged at the outset of re-training her the "right" way.

I can see that I need to step outside of our little world here for a while, get a proper focus on things and perspective. The more disappointed I become with our training non-results, the more introspective I become, which gets me more irritated and disappointed, making the snowball bigger and bigger—I don't want it to explode and shatter us all.

I guess my question to you is how do I get off of this roller coaster before it is too late and I've done damage to the children along the way?? I just want to enjoy the kids and nurture them with love and patience and understanding, but I find myself at a point where I cannot deal with the conflicts while maintaining the Christ-like attitude God asks us to have with our children. I am at the point where the hairs on the back of my neck stand up when a child disobeys, or displays a bad attitude, I can feel the tension and stress level in my body rise. Though I try to maintain my outward composure, and though I try to speak calmly to the girls when rebuking them and switching them, I think deep down I feel irritated more than anything, because I can't see the training working.

[She then gives two examples of the problems they have. The

three-year-old will not lie down for a nap. They spank until they are weary, but it does no good. The next child often fails to respond when given a command.] She says, "We are weary and irritated, and don't know where we're going wrong."

The 3 ½-year-old is jealous of the 2-year-old, always wants what the other has, jumps all over us, smothers us with kisses when she sees the younger child coming our way, pushes past the other to get to us first, sulks when any of the above doesn't work out or when we gently rebuke her for being jealous. What can we do?

The 3½-year-old's attitude will probably mend when mine does, but I find her difficult to hug when she's being jealous or feeling sorry for herself. I think it is beyond a case of discipline when I am feeling like that, and more a time of mending, but how? Why is the switching and rebuke and a general "come," "stop," "go" drilling not working?

The 3 ½-year-old also claims to be "scared" to be by herself. Even during the day, she wants the lights on in the toilet and cries hysterically if we all start to go downstairs while she is still in her room upstairs. I am irritated by this, but should this be an area where I just stay with her and reassure her? I have been telling her to just come and catch up with us, but she carries on a bit if we don't stop to wait for her.

We feel very alone and very tired, and we would appreciate a boost of enthusiasm and support, maybe a kick in the backside. These are children God has given us, and we don't want to damage them or our relationship with them, and especially their relationship with Him.

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Young people love it!

The Diary of Rebekah Pearl, homeschooler, missionary, linguist

July 17, 1995

I'm here! We took a small plane, 5 seater, single prop, turbo, for 35 minutes inland. We flew past the highest mountain in P.N.G., snow covered, Mount Wilhelm.



112 pages - paperback

Then we landed on a small grass airstrip where about 150 natives were waiting. They loaded up our backpacks, put the food in their bilams, and we started up the mountains. And climbed up and up and up until I was sure we must have passed the moon and sun too. The villagers were peeking through the brush and climbing trees to see us. The girls would run their hands up and down my arms and feel my hair. I said to them, "Mi narapela kain meri, eh?" ("I'm a different kind of girl, eh?"), and they all busted out laughing. I was indeed another kind of girl than they had ever seen. The children hang back and stare with big eyes. We met a lapun meri (old woman) who screeched and crooned with toothless delight at our arrival. Another old man went off into an enraptured speech in Kumboi, "In 1975 we gained independence as a country. That year was the last time I saw a white man. Now I am happy to see white brothers and sisters."

Read the rest of the story. Rebekah Pearl, the daughter of Michael and Debi Pearl is a missionary to a primitive tribe in the highlands of Papua New Guinea. Now you can read the daily chronicle of her first year among the Kumboi people. This 112 page book tells the awesome story of God's guidance and protection as a 22-year-old girl, all alone where no white person had ever been, sought to adapt to a primitive culture, learn two languages, and translate Scripture. See Rebekah in her village setting through several pages of photographs .

Send a gift of \$4.00 plus \$2.00 S.H. and you will receive your copy right away. You will also want to hear her story in her own words, now available on audio tape for a gift of \$3.00. Ask for the Gami Akiz story. ☺

Rebekah answers Anna Joy

Dear Pearls,

Thank you so much for your labors of love in Christ Jesus. Our eighteen year old Anna Joy knows God is calling her to be a missionary. How did you help Rebekah get ready to go to PNG as a missionary? Anna hungers for God's Word and has been homeschooled all her life. We know that time is short before she is out on her own. How can we best direct her final training before entering the mission field? She asked me to write this inquiry to you as she is busy with various aspects of helping her Daddy's ministry to be successful. Thank you for your time and thoughtfulness assisting others to be more equipped in the truth and love of our Lord Jesus Christ.

*Sincerely,
LK*

Dear Anna Joy and Family,

Several years ago when I first began preparing for the mission field, I sought out an old veteran of God's army to seek the wisdom that comes from experience. "What is the most important thing I should know before going to the mission field?" I asked with fear and trembling. His skin

was like an ancient cellar potato, and his watery blue eyes peered out from behind thick glasses as he answered with a smile, "The Lord." Because you see, Anna, God never does the exact same thing twice in a row. He is a God of marvelous variety and creativity. You will find the truths of His word beneath all, but the diversity of the ways He will glorify Himself are beyond imagination. I tell you this because I am about to give



Rebekah Pearl among the Kumboi people

you a list of things you can do to prepare yourself for service, and many times I have allowed my own abilities to get in the way of my *availability*. Prepare yourself continually, be ready, instant in season and out, but always leave room for God to do exceedingly, abundantly above all that you ask or think.

When I was only eight years old my parents began taking short-term mission trips into Mexico and Central America; this was the beginning of

preparation. I learned at an early age that there were other countries full of needy people—and that it was really no big deal to be the one to go there and meet those needs. We not only studied maps, people groups, cultures, foods and languages; we *went* there and experienced it. Mexico is one of the most needy places in the world and easily accessible. Back in the U.S., my parents continually exposed us to the needs of others. We witnessed on the streets and passed out tracts when I was knee high to a bull frog. There were Bible studies, counseling sessions, Sunday schools,

Bible clubs, taking food and clothing to the poor; **ministry became our way of life.**

I remember Dad saying once, "I don't know if God will call my kids to the mission field or not, but if He does, I want them to be ready." We chopped and sawed firewood, built fires and cooked outside, we made bush houses in the woods (our property looked like a refugee camp for a while). We studied herbology with Mom, carpentry with Dad, and if a

(Continued on page 14)

From our readers



Dear Bro. and Sister Pearl,
I want to say how thankful I am for your example of child training. It seems almost revolutionary, yet it's also so obvious and logical. How could Christians have been missing it for

Dear Michael and Debi,
Thank you so much for writing your books. You have helped me tremendously. I praise God for you. I have much concern because I discovered your books a little bit late. I have a 6-, 5-, and 3-year-old. I disciplined them, but I did very little training. I successfully created a whining, complaining, selfish and somewhat rebellious son. I'm praying that it is not too late for me. I am the one who needs to be trained. For every successful training session I seem to fail in 2 or 3 others. I've decided to purchase your tapes in hopes that I will have this wisdom instilled in me though listening.

Michael and Debi,
God has freed me from disciplining my children in anger because now I am training them and I have a clear understanding of what is acceptable and what is unacceptable and why. My 3 emotional daughters are no longer torturing our peaceful home with unnecessary whining and crying. Now I know where to draw the line!



Dear Mr. Pearl,

You may recall but we had the pleasure of having you stay in our home two or three years ago when you had some speaking engagements in NC. Recently my three oldest daughters, ages 11, 9, and 7, have been wearing out you tapes of "To Train Up a Child" and "No Greater Joy, VI." I am now seeking their counsel regarding the raising of their younger siblings! The other evening, they became a little over zealous in acting out some of the scenarios you describe in the tapes. It was 2230 [10:30 PM], and I had turned in for the night. I heard loud shouts and screams from downstairs. I ignored it for a few minutes hoping the girls would realize their folly on their own and quiet down. Unfortunately they didn't. So I went down to inquire about the cause of this uproar. When I asked them why they were shouting and screaming, etc., they said "Its Mr. Pearl." I didn't ask them to elaborate. I merely said to the eldest before I spanked her, "Since you mentioned Mr. Pearl, I'm going to give you some "Mr. Pearl." There were two warm smiles followed by one warm bottom.

Dear, Sweet John's girls,
Sorry about the spanking, but I know you are growing up to be wise young ladies. Next time don't mention my name. I would hate to become identified with switches, belts and paddles.
Michael P.

...book's fault

(Continued from page 5)

In Answer

I commend you for your openness and willingness to expose yourself and face up to your need.

I often wish I could say tough things more smoothly, but I am concerned that I will not be understood unless I say exactly what I am thinking the way I think it. I fear that if I polish it too much the shine might hide the message. So before I offer some practical advise, I am going to give you that "kick in the backside."

According to your testimony, you were doing better before you tried to implement the principles taught in our book. If I weren't an old soldier, I would feel like apologizing for raising your expectations. Remember, you were discontent with your children before you read my book. You said you engaged in "much pleading" to get your friends to tell you their "secret" to having "well balanced, happy, and obedient children." Obviously you had prior concerns about your child training.

You admitted you had a problem with attitude towards your children, but you seem to have an attitude towards me and the things said in the book. You said, "Since reading your book I have set certain standards as norm for my children, and I find that I tend to look at the kids and judge their every word and action by the "standards I have mentally set." You talk like someone trying to face up to a legalistic spirit, confessing that your expectations are unrealistic. But know that the standards by which you now judge your children are not imposed on you. If you are uncomfortable with your expectations, change them; desire only what is best for your children. I give you my permission to throw out all the elevated standards you received from

reading our book. You can go back to "loving them just like they are." It won't work will it? The standards are now your own. Regardless of the source, when one's knowledge of good and evil is awakened it is impossible to go back to innocence. There is a degree of truth in the old cliché, "Ignorance is bliss." You don't become angry when your children violate standards written in a book. Like it or not, they are now your standards. You are judging your children and your own performance by what you really expect in your own heart. You believe such performance as you have required is possible and desirable or you would not be frustrated. You are just making one last feeble attempt to lay the blame elsewhere. But I can tell from your letter that you have sighted on the source of your problem and you are the target. As you are reluctantly doing, you must fully face your fault if you are to progress.

If your standards had not been raised by reading my book, you would have experienced frustration all the same. All parents, whether they read my book or not, go through a shift in their expectations just as you did. We parents demand very little from a one-year-old, but we naturally expect much more from a three-year-old. I didn't teach you to expect more; I taught you how to achieve it. And as a matter of record, it has proven effective for tens of thousands of families.

As a matter of principle, many times I have said, "If you can't bring your children up to your higher standards, and, as a result, you find that you are critical and losing fellowship with the kids, then lower your standards to the point where you can relax and enjoy their company. It is better to have an undisciplined, selfish, self-centered brat that feels secure and loved than to have an undisciplined, selfish, self-centered brat who feels she is despised by everyone.

It doesn't have to be an either/or. But if you find that as a result of personal limitations you are unable to achieve the norm, then know that fellowship and good will are always first on any child training agenda. Criticism, anger, and rejection are Satanic soil, a place to breed rebels and derelicts. You should have given more attention to the section on tying strings of fellowship.

I have been hard on you. But I believe you have asked for it. Despite shades of your attempting to pass the buck, I can see that you know the answer lies with a change in your own heart. You are correct in that estimation, and I assure you that such a transformation is within sight.

Paul the Apostle described his own similar experience of awakening.

"For I was alive without the law once: but when the commandment came, sin revived, and I died. 10 And the commandment, which was ordained to life, I found to be unto death. 11 For sin, taking occasion by the commandment, deceived me, and by it slew me. 12 Wherefore the law is holy, and the commandment holy, and just, and good. 13 Was then that which is good made death unto me? God forbid. But sin, that it might appear sin, working death in me by that which is good; that sin by the commandment might become exceeding sinful. 14 For we know that the law is spiritual: but I am carnal, sold under sin. 15 For that which I do I allow not: for what I would, that do I not; but what I hate, that do I. 16 If then I do that which I would not, I consent unto the law that it is good (Romans 7: 9-16)."

At one time, probably in his youth, Paul was comfortable in a shallow interpretation of the law. But the day came when he began to un-

(Continued on page 10)

derstand the implications of God's commandments, at which time he did just what you did, he accepted the new revelation as good and binding upon his life. But when he tried to obey, the experience was far worse than before he had his expectations raised. He even describes his experience of the law as a revival of sin and death.

The main thrust of the coming of the law was to awaken his conscience to a higher righteousness, a righteousness he should obey, but he would find he couldn't. In a small way, our book was to you in the area of child-training what the law was to Paul. The law was designed to be a schoolmaster to bring him to Christ (Gal 3:24). As a schoolmaster the law found him wanting and failed him. But what the law could not do in that

it was weak through the flesh, Christ did do through His Spirit (Rom. 8:3).

Dear Mother, you are in that very same place spiritually. You do not need more technique. You need a fresh dose of grace, mercy, and love from God. You need a trip to the cross and the open tomb. You need what I need daily, a trip to the upper room and the filling of the Holy Spirit. Wash yourself in the mercy of God, accept His forgiveness, and you will be different from the inside out. You cannot work this out in your mind. It is the miracle of Christianity to which I direct you.

By way of practical advice, there are several things you need to consider:

•**Your own relationship to God.**

Without doubt, when a parent is out of fellowship with the children,

he/she is out of communion with God. The broken chain is most obvious in the parents' relationship to their children, but the cause is much further back in the chain of relationships. If there is no peace within, it will manifest itself in your relationship to the kids. You cannot hide your own condition with training techniques. There is no way to do the right thing if you are not the right person.

We don't have the space here, nor is this the format, to do justice to this subject. What I have said about your relationship to God could bury you under a pile. You already feel inadequate. To tell you that you are "not a good Christian" is rubbing salt in the wound. But please understand, at this point I am not calling you to a higher level of maturity. I am not telling you to settle down and do better. We often forget; there is only one way to relate to God, and that is through the blood of His son. At any moment, without any preparation, any of us can confess our total sinfulness and enter into an experience of mercy and grace. God delights to grant forgiveness to the "poor in spirit." The big obstacle to God's blessings is our own efforts at acceptance. We can never find acceptance with God by reaching a place where we accept ourselves. Based on the sacrifice of Christ, God accepts what we cannot—in others and ourselves. What we reject, God injects with abundant mercy and forgiveness. The road to forgiveness is not to reverse your course (which is impossible) but to throw yourself upon the mercy of God. Purchase the little book, *All of Grace*, by C. H. Spurgeon. The first chapter will set your soul free. We do not sell the book. It can be found in most any Christian bookstore.

•**Your relationship to your husband**

You cannot be a better mother than you are a wife. You cannot be in contention with your husband and be relaxed with the kids. It is impossible. You are a whole person, not an

Children love it!



Available in CD or Cassette

CD includes eight page foldout with five color pictures of Rebekah in her tribal setting and all the words to the songs

From the End of the Earth

comes a song by Rebekah Pearl. All alone in a bamboo hut on the top of a mountain, the first white person ever seen by this Kumboi village, Rebekah writes and sings songs about her God. Rebekah accompanies herself on a classical guitar. This is not contemporary music. It is inspired by her walk of faith.

Rebekah sings the gospel she is sharing with the people. It includes songs in both Kumboi and Pidgin.

CD for a gift of \$8.00
Tape for a gift of \$5.00

We had this CD and tape professionally produced, so we are requesting a higher donation that we normally do for tapes that we produce.

...book's fault

(Continued from page 10)

actor with different roles. There is a chain of authority, with God at the top, then your husband, you, and finally the kids. A chain of authority is also a channel for the delivery of blessings. If you do not receive from the chain above, you cannot pass it on to the kids under you.

•Your relationship to your parents and friends

If there is bitterness, guilt, or resentment toward your parents or friends, your spirit will not be free to bless your children. If you are giving or receiving condemnation to anyone, then you cannot be other than a source of condemnation for your children. Condemnation is like an odor; you cannot direct it. It just oozes in all directions, affecting everyone.

•Your attitude toward training

There can be only one motive for training your children—their welfare as they grow to bring glory to God. If you accept pressure from friends, relatives, or society to perform in a certain way, then you are no longer raising up children, you are coaching performers. The expectation of others is a blind motivator. It cares not for soul or spirit. It is for the praise of the moment—not praise of the child, but praise of parents. Don't let anything, including our book, put you under pressure to display your good parenting. On your part, be content to be a failure. Care not for your reputation. True training is soul training. Soul training is first training in love, peace, creativity, grace, kindness, understanding, and then self-discipline, obedience, and responsibility. To try to teach heart obedience and self-discipline in an atmosphere of criticism and anger is like trying to make ice in the oven. Shake yourself free from public opinion and personal ambition. Freedom of spirit and joy

are caught, not taught.

•Your attitude toward life on this planet

To be a good mother you must have eternity in view. By that I do not mean that you must put on religious pretense, always rebuking the carnal minded around you, and steering all conversations back to the "sacred." A mother with eternity in view will see the value of relaxing with her children. Housework and schoolwork are so temporal, so worldly, unless you can do them in a spirit of fellowship with others. Everyday deserves a song and a dance, not the dance of the world, but the dance of carefree feet tiptoeing through the blessings and joy of just being. Dirty floors, clothes that didn't get picked up, spilled milk, and schoolwork that didn't get done will be of no consequence 100,000 years from now. Whether poor or rich, highly educated or common laborer, the heart is cultivated to enjoy God's presence. All else is vanity and vexation of spirit.

Write down all the things that trouble you during a day, not just the ones that pertain to the children. What is the very first irritation of the morning. It may be very subtle. It may not lead to bad words. You may not even be aware that your have been turned to a bad spirit. Write it all down for one day and then review it at night. Was it worth it? What are your values? Can you realistically expect others to change? If you change in your values and responses, then all has changed.

•Your diet and sleep patterns

Many, many mothers are suffering from some form of chronic fatigue. Constipation is killing Americans. Fat is pressing in on the hearts and minds of society. Lack of nutrition and too much sugar is leaving brains running at the speed of garbage trucks. TV and late nights are

stealing the family and health. Lack of exercise is wasting away minds as fast as it inflates bodies. Your mind functions through a physical brain. Your spirit lives in a vessel of flesh. The spirit is willing but the flesh is weak. You must learn to bring your body into subjection if you would free your spirit.

•Your attitude toward your children

We saved this one until last, because if the others are all tended to there will be no problem here. Learn to view your children as people, not kids. They are adults that you are counseling and encouraging. But you have a privilege every counselor would love. You can undo the hurts and hang-ups by removing them before they happen. You are on the other side of the problem—before it is a problem. Your children are your fruit. They are your purpose for existing. You have the highest calling on planet earth. Several innocent souls are committed to your trust. They will be what you make them. Knowing this should give us a proper perspective.

Spend lots of time with your children just having fun. Think of ways to turn every moment of work and responsibility into joy. Win their hearts and earn a smile from each child every five minutes of the day. So doing, you will not have trouble with your attitude or theirs.

Read the article in our book, No Greater Joy Volume One, entitled *Bad Attitude*. ☺

You may copy this newsletter and give out as many copies as you please.

MORE MAIL

Greetings to you in the precious name of Jesus,

What a tremendous impact your books, tapes and newsletters have made on my life. I am so inspired and exhorted.

I am one that feels chained to curriculum and doesn't know how to go about breaking free. I only had an 8th grade education and am not creative. I always hated school and feel very frustrated by it. I want my girls to love learning. I now love learning and reading all I can about the Lord and His ways, but as far as anything else I feel it's a waste of time. I don't want my girls wasting their hours chained to these books and no time for sewing, cooking, quilting. These are the things I don't even know how to do and I'm 39 years old. Please send me anything that might help me.

Pearls,

What I read in your book had been my goals in parenting. I had just forgotten through weariness and the frustration of three small children. When my friend offered to loan me your book, I told her I was too tired and not well enough to read it now. I took it anyways and in a few hours time I realized I especially needed it if I was fatigued and not well physically! It took a very short time for my little ones to become obedient and HAPPY and MOM'S HAPPY, too. Thanks,

Debi, Last week the 11-year-old reminded 'mom' that a 'training session' would answer the problem of the 1-year-old's adventurous fascination with the stairs and not stopping at the 1st landing!

Dear Pearls,

We are sending in for our third set of books. I wanted to share a few experiences with you that have come from your teaching. The first is from the neighbors a couple houses down. The children 3 to 6 years old were over playing with ours while their mom talked to my wife in our front yard. When the mom called that it was time to go, the 6-year-old son began rebuking his mom and rebelling against going. After a few whines and begs from mom, my wife told the boy he should obey his mother. Their daughter spoke up and said, "Obey? We don't know what that

Dear Mike and Deb,

I'm trying very hard to train at home so that I don't have to train in public. I've never before heard anyone address this and it just makes soooo much sense! Also, want to thank Debi for making the home schooling tape. It has given me so much freedom and has taken a ton of pressure off. I've been praying for a year now for God to prepare me to homeschool my son. I firmly believe that this was His answer for me. TR from TX



You can help

spread the message. There are parents out there who need this message of child training. When we do live interviews on the radio it increases our orders significantly. Call your local Christian radio station and tell them you would like to hear a live interview of Michael Pearl and a review of the book *To Train Up A Child*. Send them a book along with your letter. Follow your letter with a phone call.

Dear Michael and Debi,

I feel as if I owe you my life. There's no way I can describe the transformation which has taken place in our home. And it is getting better every day. My miracle baby was born after 7 years of marriage. I was 38 years old. What can I say? We spoiled her.

My husband and I both came from abusive homes and we were determined not to do to our child what had been done to us. We went too far the other way.... At age 8 he was mouthy, smart alecky and had a terrible temper, etc. I read your books. I did as you said and applied the rod. It only took 1 1/2 weeks for the changes to stick.

Papua New

By Rebekah Pearl

For those of you that have been praying for Dewayne and Deanna among the Kumboi people of Papua New Guinea, they are doing great! If you read my diary, you already know some of the problems I faced the first year. Dewayne was exactly what the people needed. He is fearless and will not be controlled by circumstance or culture. His second week among the Kumboi, he was asked to speak. With Pastor Allen translating, he stood up and told them that he had come to teach the Bible because God had told him to, not because they had asked for him to. He told them that he was there to serve God and make God happy, not the Kumboi people, and if they weren't faithful and diligent in the Word but sought monetary gain, then he would pack up and go somewhere else where the people were serious about obeying God. He rebuked them for the way they had treated me last year and told them they had better get their act together if they wanted God to move and save souls among their people. Then he gave them a vision for what they could do among their own people and urged them to get serious with God. They loved him for it, recognizing in Dewayne a man that was not a servant to position and pride, but to God alone, and the change has been marvelous.

Deanna is most definitely a suitable helpmeet there on the mountain. The women and children love her. She is unfailingly cheerful and thankful, determined to give all for Dewayne and her children. She teaches children's Bible Club during the week and also children's Sunday school. Priscilla (Pastor Allen's wife) translates and helps. On Thursdays, Priscilla teaches a women's meeting. Women walk as much as

four hours one way to attend. The change among the women is the most remarkable. Deanna also has one-on-one Bible studies with Priscilla during the week, who in turn is helping her adjust to the bush life and village hardships. Despite it all, Deanna is very small in her own eyes, and God is glorified.

The kids are brown and healthy and tough as nails. They are learning to speak Pidgin as they play with the village kids and tag around after their

2: Deanna is 5 months pregnant and also needs prayer for health and safety while she carries the baby. Also wisdom as to whether or not they should have the baby in the village.

3: Language learning for the whole family. They are doing great and Dewayne will be preaching a revival in the Pidgin language this August.

4: Integrity and sincerity in the believers there in the village. Dewayne needs some faithful men, key men, to teach.

One last thing, for those of you who are wondering, yes, I am back in the States. Nathan and I both returned with malaria, but are well now. I am



hero, Manassa - a fourteen-year-old boy. Ben, the oldest, is quite a little hiker and climbs the trail like he's done it all his life.

Here are some things to pray for;

1: Dewayne has contracted Ross River Fever, which leaves him weak with flu-like symptoms two or three days a week. It can last up to 18 months. Pray for his recovery and strength.

working daily on a tract in Pidgin which we hope to get printed and shipped in the next couple of months. The country of PNG is economically unstable and if it should collapse we may have another South Africa on our hands. Therefore it is important to reach as many people as we can as quickly as possible. We have a vision for saturating the island with this tract. In 1990 over 57% were literate

(Continued on page 14)

Rebekah...

(Continued from page 7)

neighbor knew how to do something useful, we pestered him until he taught us how. We washed clothes by hand for six months, experimented with every kind of seed we could find as we learned to garden, made greenhouses and raised-beds, canned and dried everything from venison to apples, and learned to eat just about anything. We learned to grind grains and make breads, tortillas, and anything edible—some stuff that wasn't. We hunted Ginseng on the hills, Goldenseal in the valleys, Stinging Nettles in between, and learned how to recognize, preserve and use dozens of others. We read survival books, missionary stories, encyclopedias, and watched every missionary video we could find. Mom and I took a sign-language course together, then Gabe and I took Spanish. My sister Shalom is studying a nursing book and hopes to be an R.N. My brother Nathan is getting his private pilot's license. My brother Gabriel has studied photography, and ShoShanna knows more about herbs than any of us. And there are so many other things we would like to try, but haven't had time or opportunity yet. Look around for something you can learn. Do you know a mid-wife, a fireman, a veterinarian, a carpenter, a plumber, a baker, a teacher, a musician, a missionary, or an old man with common sense? Talk to them, ask questions, and be involved. Bible school is another option, but to be honest, I don't know of any I would really recommend. Most homeschoolers should have a good Bible background anyway. Linguistic training is also an option if you intend to go to a field where the language has not yet been put down in writing. I received my BA in Linguistics at Baptist Bible Translators Institute in Bowie, TX.

The most helpful training I can think of is a simple teaching degree in English. Most countries in our world today are closed to missionaries of any kind but will welcome English teachers with open arms. Once inside the "closed" country, you can teach from the greatest piece of English literature ever written: The King James Holy Bible.

The next step is to go. It is much easier than anyone can imagine. It is the unknown that most people are afraid of, but if you have studied maps and books and done short-term trips, the unknown is not so great. There are a few things you need though. Number One is a good home church that will stand behind you with prayer. If they have watched you pray, plan, and prepare over the years, then their joy will be as great as yours when the day finally comes for you to step on foreign soil. It is the most natural function of a church and even their reason for existence to reproduce themselves by sending out their own ambassadors to reach the world. You need this. You cannot go without that supporting body behind you. Finally, to actually get there, you must study the country you wish to visit, find addresses of missionaries already there, guest houses, people groups, visa requirements (a travel agent can supply that info), diseases current in the country, political status, etc. Then buy yourself a ticket and go. If you have someone to go with you, that's great, but if not, don't chicken out. The safest place to be is in the will of God, whether it's Congo, Africa or Baghdad, Iraq. Money is hardly worth mentioning. God absolutely loves it when someone believes Him enough to step out by faith. He will supply all your need according to His riches in Christ Jesus—and believe me, that's a lot.

Helpful Books:

Operation World, by Dr. Johnston
404 S. Church St.

Robeson, PA 19551

Where There Is No Doctor, by David Werner with Carol Thuman and Jane Maxwell

The Hesperian Foundation
P.O. Box 1692
Palo Alto, CA 94302

ETHNOLOGUE - Languages of the World

Summer Institute of Linguistics
International Academic Bookstore
7500 West Camp Wisdom Road
Dallas, TX 75236

Lonely Planet Books

(Can be found in just about any bookstore.) ☺

New

(Continued from page 13)

and the percentage has no doubt gone up drastically in the last eight years. We are also praying for a print shop within the country as a beachhead from which to run a correspondence school and produce free literature for the national preachers and missionaries to use. So much to do, so little time. The way it looks now, I will be returning in September. Pray for more laborers and for wisdom. And come help us if you can.

Through August, maybe early September, Rebekah will be available to come to your church and share her ministry. Write immediately if you are interested. Include your phone number. ☺

Audio Tapes

Gami Akij: We highly recommend this tape for all young people, as well as adults. Children and adults love it.

Miracles are not all in the past. The story of God's grace among an ancient people, and how their path crossed that of one lone American girl obeying God. Told by Rebekah Pearl.

•**Five Helpers:** A Panel of five women, all wives of men of far-reaching ministries, discuss how they help their husbands be used of God.

•**Authority of the believer in prayer:** The last message of the missions camp, preached by Michael Pearl. Hear how prayer changes God, moves heaven, and determines the course of men. *Suggested gift: \$3.00 each + S/H*

Great Book

Me? Obey Him? When I was a young bride I read *Me? Obey Him?* By Mrs. Elizabeth Rice Hanford. I can still remember the surprise and joy I experienced in "trying out" what I had read. I know God used this book to help make my marriage, thus my ministry, what it is today. May God bless you thus as you read it. *Debi Pearl*

*"Can you believe this, my children love to listen to your tapes of **No Greater Joy Vol. 1** and **To Train Up A Child**. We listen as we drive along in the car, and when we get where we are going they want to stay in the car to finish the story. In the evenings the children beg to listen to the tapes while they sit coloring pictures. The tapes are transforming the way my children think about themselves. Even our teens are loving the tapes."*

Vindicated at last. Some of you have scoffed at our experience at potty training newborns. Well, we thought we discovered the technique among the Maya Indians of Central America. As we have discovered, there was a book written on it before we came along. Turns out, everybody in the world practices it but narrow minded Westerners. It is called *Trickle Treat*, by Laurie Boucke. I will be searching the mail for your apologies.

Order Form

	Quan.	Code	Description	Suggested gift	Total
BOOKS		BK 9S	To Train Up A Child 1-7 books	EACH 4.00	
		BK 9X	To Train Up A Child 8-99 books	2.50	
		BK 9C	To Train Up A Child Box of 100	2.20	
		BK 1S	No Greater Joy Volume One 1-7 books	4.00	
		BK 1X	No Greater Joy Volume One 8-99 books	2.50	
		BK 1C	No Greater Joy Volume One Box of 100	2.20	
		BK 4	Me? Obey Him? pbk. 95 pg. (Christian wives)	2.00	
		BK 2M	Lords of the Earth, pbk. 368 pg. (missionary)	10.00	
		BK R1	Rebekah's Diary, pbk. 108 pg. Read the true diary of a 21-year-old girl living alone in a primitive tribe.	4.00	
		BK 5	Trickle Treat, pbk. (potty training infants)	6.00	
AUDIO		AD 9	To Train up a Child (3tapes read by Michael Pearl)	9.00	
		AD 1	No Greater Joy Vol. 1 (3tapes read by Michael Pearl)	9.00	
		AD 10	Vinyl album of both books, To Train up a Child & No Greater Joy V. 1 six tapes in album)	18.00	
		AD 11	Best Homeschooling Ideas (by Debi Pearl)	3.00	
		AD 12	Gami Akiz true story told by Rebekah Pearl	3.00	
		AD 13	A Panel of Five (for women only)	3.00	
		AD 14	Authority and Prayer sermon by Michael Pearl	3.00	
		AD 15	Only Men (for men only by Michael Pearl)	3.00	
		CD 01	From the End of the Earth CD MUSIC	8.00	
		RB 02	From the End of the Earth Cassette MUSIC	5.00	
VIDEOS		VI 11	EE-Taow This video by New Tribes Mission is the best I have ever seen. It will change your life forever.	20.00	
		VI 12	EE-Taow The 2nd Chapter	20.00	

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All foreign orders triple S/H

The Church at Cane Creek, 1000 Pearl Road, Pleasantville TN 37033

T. J. Slayman

My studies are still progressing well. I thank God for my teachers and the opportunity to invest in language study. Already when I speak at the weekly cell group meeting, I'm using Lao a good portion of the time, but I always keep my interpreter handy and on his toes. Please pray for my learning. God willing I hope to finish my studies this year and start preaching and teaching the Lao Bible. The goal is now within sight.

Also pray for my health. I've been having some bad stomach pains/problems. I've found no connection between the pain and anything I eat. Six Roloids usually knocks it out. I'm afraid it's an ulcer. Also pray for my future here in Laos. I want to serve God here for a long time to come, and I need to be unnoticed by the authorities.

The Good News goes to Cambodia

The Schnell family, from our little church here at Cane Creek, has purchased one way tickets to Cambodia. Steve and Margaret, with their three children (Margaret delivered a baby girl this month), are going to this poor and gospel starved country to train up faithful men to train up faithful men to build the church in Cambodia. Steve will be spending his first year in language studies while doing some teaching in English. They are stepping out by faith. At this time their promised support is \$750.00 per month. If you would like to have a part in reaching Cambodia, we will be handling their finances. Every cent given to a missionary goes directly to that missionary. No administrative cost is withheld.

They are leaving at the end of July.

Pidgin Bibles now available

If you read the Pidgin of Papua New Guinea or you know someone who does, we will send you a copy of this recently printed polyglot—Authorized Version and Pidgin. We are retaining 200 copies. The remainder of the 20,000 is being shipped to PNG.

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