

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



# NO GREATER JOY

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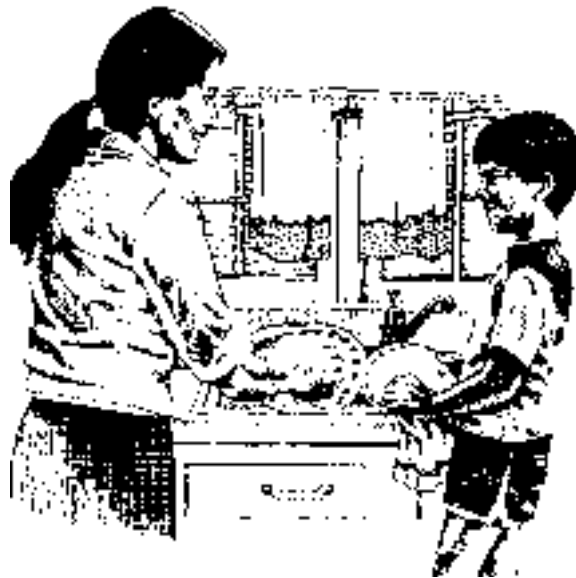
## *The Flavor of Joy*

**P**arenting, like courtship, must be properly seasoned with joy. Parenting without joy is not only tasteless, it is tiresome. Joy is the expression of present life—yet more, it is the energy and vision of life that shall be. Parenting without joy is like music without rhythm or flowers without color. A joyless parent can no more raise happy kids than a skunk can raise skunklets that smell good.

You say, "But the kids destroy my joy!" I am sure it's mutual. Without aggressive, deliberate, child training techniques your kids will be unruly and your home will be disorderly, sometimes explosive. You will be unhappy, short, rude, a gripe. If someone asked your kids if you were joyful, what would they say?

In many homes the problems are not deep—bad, but not deep. There is no deep-seated hostility or resentment in the family, just chaos, like an intersection with no traffic light. The installation of a traffic light stops all the collisions. The problem at the intersection appears to be one of attitude, that is if you judge by all the horn blowing, fist waving, and drop-dead looks; but once everyone knows the rules and order is established the tension leaves and everything runs smoothly. Likewise, in the home where there is no adequate authority and no consistency of rules, children

are generally too unruly and the home is too disorganized to permit positive interchanges between family members. Collisions are frequent. There is no joy.



With only a little enlightenment, many parents have applied simple training procedures and gained complete control of their families in just a few days. By taking authority, these parents have eliminated the provocation to anger, in their children as well as themselves. Their anger resulted from frustration. It was just a runaway condition that upon being brought to a halt made everyone

happy. Joy came to the family.

Order restored will eliminate the anger and hostility provoked by circumstances, but parenting doesn't stop with conditioning children to

outward obedience. It is a blessing to have the circumstantial anger removed, to have peace in the home; but the absence of conflict does not necessarily imply joy. Joy is a positive virtue, not just the absence of conflict.

Some parents are joyless regardless of the circumstances. They may not be angry or unhappy, just joyless. Look at it as a scale. Anger or bitterness is on the far left. A stable, sedate personality is in the middle, and joyfulness is on the far right. Granted, children do far better with deadpan parents who have

no joy than they do with angry or bitter parents, but they do best when both parents are known for their joy. Bitterness is a plant with a disease. Joyless mediocrity is a plant without disease growing in average to poor soil. Joyfulness is a plant rooted in well-balanced soil with the right combination of rain and sunshine.

The Bible tells us to bring up our children in the nurture and admoni-

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tion of the Lord. The body, mind, and will of a child is trained from without, but the soul of a child is nurtured within through example and fellowship. There is no nurturing without joy. As I said another place, "If the joy of the Lord is the Christian's strength, is not the joy of the parent the child's strength?"

Children must be attracted to their parents by something more than physical lineage. Parents must win in a competition for role model to their children. Children will seek to be like the person who most attracts them. Parents cannot demand respect or admiration. If it is not freely given, it doesn't exist. Joy attracts everyone. Children are not molded by hands of psychology, but by the breath of inspiration.

Children are rooted in parental attitude more than proper technique. More is caught than taught. As salt that has lost its savor is good for nothing but to be cast out and trampled under foot, so parenting that has lost its joy results in a family trampled under foot. As parenting without training is chaos, training without joy is tyranny.

Where there is no joy, what of value remains? A soldier can endure the mud, blood, and pain of war by fantasizing of past or future joys, but a child without joy is a lost soul. An occupation without joy can be endured, knowing that there is a sanctuary of joy waiting after hours, but when the sanctuary is joyless, what hope can sustain you? A mature wife may cope with a joyless marriage by consoling herself in the hope of after-life, but a child cannot so resign himself. A husband may deal with a joyless marriage by losing himself in the rewards of occupation or hobby, but a child has no outlet that can compensate for loss of relationships. Relationships are a part of the adult world, but relationships are all the world to a child. An adult without

relationships may be a successful careerists, a reader, a hobbyist, a loner, etc., but a child without relationships is emotionally ill. Where there is no joy there is not even friendship.

The other extreme of joy is bitterness. If Christ were joy, Anti-christ would be bitterness. No matter the skill or technique, as a painting done in bitterness leaves its scars on the canvas, so parenting done in bitterness will leave its strokes on the canvas of the soul. Bitterness is like a virus; it multiplies until it infects all healthy tissue. It is rottenness to the bones. It doesn't matter why a parent is unhappy. The parent need not be unhappy about the child, but any unhappiness becomes the child's bread all the same.

Positive creativity is conceived in the womb of joy. God created humans to be happy. Happiness and joy are a healing balm. Joyfulness smiles away all the wrinkles on children's attitudes. Children who rise up a little grumpy and meet a smiling mother are soon smiling with her. On the other hand, children who rise up grumpy and meet a grump will spiral downward into the pit of misery. "I am tired of them being grouchy; I will put the pressure on them until they straighten up." Pressure never caused a sapling to grow straight.

A little girl who gets up with a chip on her shoulder should meet a smiling mother who is undaunted in her expressions of delight. If the child is not soon overcome with joy, she should never be allowed to alter the mood of the family. She should be the odd one, she should cut herself out of the fun with her attitude. If a grumpy child can change the atmosphere to reflect her bad mood then in her estimation she is justified in her grouchiness.

You cannot threaten, insult, or intimidate a bad attitude out of a child. If you become angry then the child cannot help but view your

discipline as a personal confrontation. It is perfectly natural then for the child to respond in anger.

Now there is a religious escape mechanism you can employ at this point to get yourself off the hook and ignore what I have said. First, put on your most devout and earnest expression; breathe deep; sigh; let your shoulders droop just a little; now lower your eyebrows and say, "I know I am not happy, but I do have the joy of the Lord in my heart." Now is the time to say that little ditty you learned in a sermon, "Happiness is based on the happenings of life, which we cannot control, but joy is based on our relationship to God." Now that you have separated happiness from joy, you can admit that you are not happy ("After all it is sort of carnal to be happy.") and profess to have an unseen joy tucked away somewhere. I am sure the kids appreciate the deep joy that you have, but what they need is happy cheerful parents. The unseen joy is all right in a ladies' deeper life conference, but it is absolutely good for nothing when it comes to raising kids.

Finally, ask yourself this question: Is my lack of joy a result of circumstances alone? If you took the proper steps and trained your children to be decent and in order would you then be joyful? Or does your lack of joy result from something within yourself, or maybe something that is not in you? If it is circumstantial then you should be able to reverse the trend in just a few days of training. Many testify that their first day of training transforms everyone. In which case the problem was shallow, just procedural; their technique was off; proper training immediately restored the joy. They were unhappy from without.

But if you are unhappy from within, then applying training techniques will help some, but it will not bring the children to where they

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## Angry Child?

*"I do have a question. How do I deal with an angry child?*

*When he doesn't get his way, when I fix a breakfast he's not fond of, he acts angry and blames me. He often tells me that spankings only makes him angrier. What am I missing?" CH*

## Answer

There is only one reason that he would express anger when he did not get his way; because such displays have, at least occasionally, caused him to get his way. He is manipulating you. The fact that he continues to do it tells me that it occasionally works. You give in. You have suc-

cessfully trained him to respond as he does.

You feel guilty and inadequate, and he knows it. He knows you are trying to work the anger out of him, so he assures you that your responses only make matters worse. You believe him, so he wins again. Smart kid.

The big problem is that he is a

little fish in a very little bowl. He is learning to respond to life in a manner that will not work later in life. He controls his weak mother, but the world is not made up of weak mothers. There are some "couldn't care less" people waiting out there who can also get angry and act quite irrational. Cops are trained to deal with angry boys, even 250 pounders.

I regularly go to a prison that has over 1200 men in it. Many of them were just like your son when they were his age. No one could control them, that is, until they met a don't-care cellmate and a don't-give-a-blankety-blank security guard, surrounded by several razor wire fences. If you don't like the food, and few

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## Joy

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should be, and it will not give you lasting joy. If your unhappiness is in your soul then you must go to a soul doctor. Jesus Christ is the only licensed soul doctor. All others are fakes. St. John the apostle said, "And these things write we unto you, that your joy may be full (1 John 1:4)."

John goes on to discuss the things that bring full joy:

"The blood cleanses us from all sin; he is faithful to forgive us from all unrighteousness; truly, our fellowship is with the Father and with his son Jesus Christ; a new commandment I write, that you love one another; I write unto you, little children, because your sins are forgiven you for his name's sake; Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be; but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is (taken

from 1 John)."

Here is one I like: "Live joyfully with the wife whom thou lovest all the days of the life...for that is thy portion in *this* life (Ecclesiastes 9:9)." That makes me smile.

How about this commandment? "Neither be ye sorry; for the joy of the LORD is your strength (Nehemiah 8:10)."

Would you resolve as David did? "And my soul shall be joyful in the LORD (Psalm 35:9)."

Perhaps you need to confess your sinfulness to God and pray with David, "Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation (Psalm 51:12)."

God sums up the Christian experience: "For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost (Romans 14:17)." Religion without joy is Godless.

Finally here is the one we based our newsletter on: "I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth (3 John 4)." This is the greatest earthly joy.

Children thrive on joy. They will do anything for someone who enjoys them. Parents have asked me, "What

is the first step to recovering what I have lost with my children?" Many times I have answered the same, and I have never found a need to revise it: "Look into the face of your child and smile." Let your child look into the face of someone who delights in his/her presence. Don't withhold your joy until it is deserved. Who deserves a good friend? Who deserves the Savior's love? Smile your children into obedience, and you will find that the rod is seldom necessary. Become the Pied Pipper of joy. You won't have to drive them if you give them something worth following. Don't just smile at you kids, smile into them; smile through them. Let your joy flow, and the kids will be swept along in the current. ☺

## Project whole world

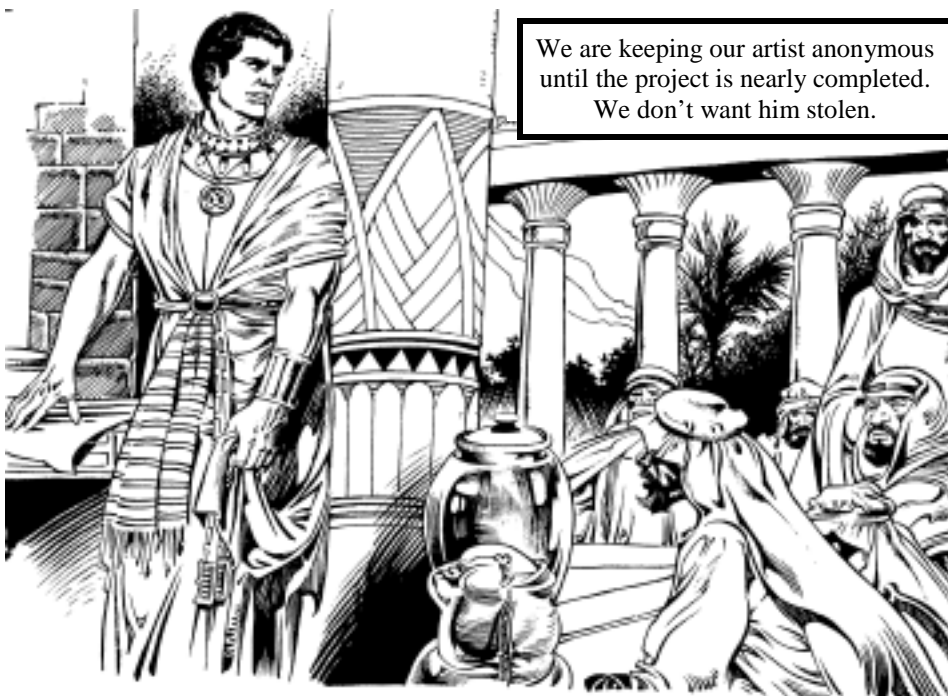
I tremble with excitement as I tell you that we are now engaged in the grandest project of our lives. Rebekah came back to the States with a vision to make the gospel message available to all of New Guinea by means of picture literature. God has expanded our vision to take in the whole world. As God wills, we are going to produce a pictorial gospel Bible starting in Genesis and covering the redemptive message chronologically all the way through the Bible and church history down to the present and into the future reign of Christ in heaven.

The individual missionary on the ground, interacting with people in their culture, will remain indispensable until Jesus comes. But there are not enough missionaries, nor is there enough time for them to learn a language. Many countries forbid missionaries. But with the printing press we can produce millions of missionaries in just a few days.

National Christians are willing to distribute good gospel literature in their own country. There are many tracts out there, but it is impossible to communicate the entire message in a small publication. Most people read too poorly to understand much of what they read. Few people will trouble themselves to read



Samples of art work



We are keeping our artist anonymous until the project is nearly completed. We don't want him stolen.

four pages of type. But everyone loves pictures. More than in America, the Asian people feed on illustrated publications. They spend billions of dollars every year purchasing what we call comic books.

We have found a professional artist that is as good as they come. He has worked in the industry for 20 years. He quit because it did not agree with his Christian convictions. We are going to hire him full time to work on this project. It will take up to two years to complete.

The finished product will be a book approximately 250 pages long, over 1000 frames. To save on cost and to make it easy to print in foreign countries, it will be in black and white as you see on the previous page. The pages

with the pictures and balloon frames will be set up in a computer. A translation of the text will be made according to a number assigned each frame. This will be done on a word processor program separate from the pictures. The computer will then automatically insert the text into the appropriate frames, ready for publication. In this way we can quickly put the gospel into hundreds of languages simultaneously. Translations of text can be made while we are finishing the artwork.

Yes, this will cost a fortune, but God will provide for his work done his way. Single churches in America spend millions of dollars yearly. Christian churches and ministries handle billions of dollars annually. We will not concern ourselves with the cost. There are many who would love to invest their money in something that can have this kind of impact.

The beauty of a good piece of pictorial literature is that it dies slowly. It is passed around and reread until it eventually falls apart. Hundreds will read a single book. Entire villages can be reached when one man returns from the market place carrying a single book. The Jesus film has and is having a tremendous impact all over the world. This is a Jesus book that doesn't go home after one week. It can travel behind bamboo curtains, ideological walls, and religious fences.

The book will contain sufficient information for one who is a complete stranger to Biblical truth to understand the nature of God, the nature of man, man's purpose on the earth, the creation of the world, angels, man, the fall, the history of Genesis, the exodus from Egypt. The prophecies of the coming Christ will be a prominent part. We do not include stories of David and Goliath, or Samson, or David and Bathsheba. The main emphasis will be on redemption as seen in the animal sacrifices, culminating in The Lamb of

God who taketh away the sin of the world. The life and ministry of Christ, the book of Acts, the early church, and a little church history so those who lack education will understand this message in historical perspective. Near the end, the pictures will show the very book they are reading being translated into their language and distributed to them by someone who cares. It will show someone believing and then taking the message to others until a church is formed in their village. There will be persecution unto death and then the second coming of Christ and the Great White Throne Judgment with some going to heaven and some to Hell. This will be a mini Bible College education with an appeal to be a missionary and continue discipling others.

I am only about 20% through in writing the script. It is drama packed with tension and excitement built in. This book will be read.

Pray that I will have wisdom in writing the script. It is more difficult than writing a commentary. My goal is simplicity that can be readily translated without losing the message. I need wisdom to know what stories to include and how to tell them. How far should I go in embellishing the text? This is not a Bible translation. As a children's Bible story book just tells a story simply, so I too will not stick word-for-word with the text of Scripture. I need wisdom to know how much freedom I should take. Also pray for the Artist, that the Devil will not incapacitate him. When you get involved in a world missions project like this you are setting yourself up as a target for the principalities. Pray for us and we will see this thing through. ☺

## The Cold Within

Six humans trapped by happenstance  
In dark and bitter cold.  
Each one possessed a stick of wood,  
Or so the story's told.

Their dying fire in need of logs,  
The first woman held hers back,  
For on the faces around the fire  
She noticed one was black.

The next man looking cross the way,  
Saw one not of his church,  
And couldn't bring himself to give  
The fire his stick of birch.

The third one sat in tattered clothes,  
He gave his coat a hitch.  
Why should his log be put to use  
To warm the idle rich?

The rich man just sat back and thought  
Of wealth he had in store.  
And how to keep what he had earned  
From lazy, shiftless poor.

The black man's face bespoke revenge  
As the fire passed from sight,  
For all he saw in his sick of wood  
Was a chance to spite the white.

The last man of this forlorn group  
Did naught except for gain  
Giving only to those who gave  
Was how he played the game.

The logs held tight in death's still hands  
Was proof of human sin.  
They didn't die from the cold without.  
They died from -THE COLD WITHIN.

Author Unknown

## New Tape

We spend about two hours of every day reading your letters. The things you have written and the questions you have asked direct us in our ministry to you. We write according to the most prevailing needs. Deb often reads the letters to me and we discuss the questions. In that way we learn from you and from each other.

We have been riding along in the car discussing a great issue and realized that this is something every parent needs to hear. So we have decided that with each newsletter we will record one of our mail opening sessions and make the tape available to you. It will be informal and 'off the cuff.' You will hear the envelopes being opened and the letters read. We will not publish any information that would identify the writer or cause embarrassment. We will discuss issues and brainstorm together, seeking a solution.

Obviously we cannot answer every letter personally. It would take 100 hours a day. My days are sometimes nearly that long, but I have to spend some time hugging my wife.

The first tape, Mail Bag #1, is now available. See the order blank. ☺

## Grandma Bears

Dear Grandma

I know you love me. My Daddy and Mama love me too. We all love each other, but there are things about big people that I don't understand yet. I can tell by some of the things that you say, especially when my daddy spansks me, that you think he doesn't love me as good as you do. I know that my mama and daddy are young and sometimes not as wise as you are. I have heard them talking, and I know that they have some different ideas about raising me than you do. But they are the ones who will stand before God on judgment day concerning me, and they are thinking of eternity, my eternity as well as their own. Sometimes at night I hear my mama and daddy praying for me. They ask God to help them be wise.

I know you love me too, Grandma, but I also know my daddy would jump in front of a moving bulldozer without fear or even concern for himself if it meant saving me. God gave my daddy that instinct. He

didn't give it to you, Grandma. My daddy might not be right every time about how to raise me, but I am so glad he's my daddy. I'm proud of him. Trust him to take good care of me, to make wise decisions about how to raise me. If he says "No TV" or "No candy" then don't look sad at me and make me unhappy with what my daddy says. If you really love me, then the best thing you can do for my emotional, spiritual, and physical wellbeing is to make me and my mama believe you think my daddy is the smartest, best daddy anywhere. Someday when I'm big you will be so proud of me, and it will be because my daddy raised me like he thought God wanted him too. That's why mama stands behind what daddy says or does. She knows God will bless her and God will bless me as she obeys daddy. So, Grandma, I just want you to know, my daddy loves me and you can trust him.

Tiny Tot

# Illustrated tract for Papua New Guinea

15



Na dispela promis Em i bin promis pinis long yumi, em i laip i stap gut oltaim oltaim. 1Jon 2:25

1



16



2



While in New Guinea, Rebekah wrote a tract in the Pidgin language. She passed it around to be proofed by veteran missionaries who have more experience in the language.

The drawings and language of this tract reflect the PNG culture. Rebekah has already produced 50,000 of these tracts and they are now being shipped with the 50,000 Pidgin Bibles. Many of you had a part in this project. You will reap the harvest along with the missionaries in the field.

## From our readers



Dear Michael and Debi,

*Thank you so much for the wisdom in your books. We are the parents of 6 homeschooled boys. Most of the time they are a wonderful blessing and witness in our community, but I live with them. I have to deal with the whining, fussing, and bad attitudes that most people never see. Your books have given me renewed hope. Now when my 10-year-old whines about having to load the dishwasher he has to wash all the pans too. And when the 8-year-old avoids his job of cleaning off the table, he has to straighten the shoes on the shoe rack and sweep under it. And when the 6-year-old screams "Mooommeee" because he doesn't get his way, well, HE DOESN'T get his way! My 4-year-old "baby," who cries at every bump and scratch, meets with a dismissal and is sent on his way. Then there is my 2-year-old. He is such a good boy, and I'm keeping on top of his little attitudes. I'm looking forward to my joy return-*



Dear Michael and Debi,

Greetings in our Saviors name. Well, it has been almost 3 months since I wrote you last and read your book for the first time. What a change that is coming on! I personally feel like I've been pressed through a food grinder at times but I know it will all be worth it in view of eternity! I've had a lot of changing to do on myself and I must admit it has been difficult. I dare even say it was impossible for me to be the Christian wife I needed to be. I wrestled long and hard till one day I fell on my knees and gave it to God. Wow! He can do anything. Since then it has become a lot easier. Now I don't get my feelings hurt at the drop of a hat. I'm not yelling or nagging. Your book Me? Obey him? has been a big help. I think my husband is liking the changes, too. He's starting to look at me like he once did when we were first married. It seems as if he's "falling in love" with me again. I try always to greet him with a smile and rejoice in his presence. There is a change coming on!!!.....

In Christian Love, GA

Dear Michael,

In an article you quoted from "All of Grace," by Charles Spurgeon. This is available in booklet form at no charge by writing to Spurgeon Ministries, PO Box 1673, Kingston, Ontario, Canada.

Sincerely, SL



# Y2K ?



"I'm sure you have been reading in other Christian publications what is being said about preparations and such for the coming year 2000 problem. PLEASE< PLEASE, give us your thoughts on all of this. (SOON!)"

JT

I too have read all the warnings about potential depression or even anarchy after the computer failure expected January 1, 2000. But I didn't read about it in Christian publications; I have been reading about it in computer magazines and in business and scientific journals for quite some time before it became the property of Armageddon hucksters. You ask my opinion? I am still trying to learn how to operate Microsoft Word. I know as much about the inside of a computer as I do the inside of a kid's head.

The experts are telling us that there is going to be some kind of a problem with the ability of older computers to deal with the additional digits involved in the year 2000. Since computers are date sensitive, they won't operate. Some companies foresaw the problem and began taking steps as early as 1989, but most people just hoped it would go away. The people who are supposed to know, and I don't mean religious people who are trying to maintain a rating, tell us that in many cases it is too late to do anything about it. You always reap what you program.

Some very big companies are planning to just wait until their computers do fail and then discard them and start over. That will cause several weeks or months of disruption in commerce, transportation, communications, power and utilities, and

banking. In other words, you may not be able to buy groceries, and your power, gas, and electricity may not work for a while.

Do I think there will be a problem? Yes, I have thought so ever since I read Matthew 24 and the book of Revelation. That was thirty-five years ago.

Whether or not some adversity happens this month, next year, or five years from now, I do not know. I don't know if this is the beginning of the great tribulation, a medium size judgment on TV watchers, a major shut down for the sake of junk food eaters, punishment for worldliness, or just a scare generated by the government so they can gain further control of the major infrastructure. Am I going to get prepared? I started preparing 25 years ago—for any such event.

What do I suggest? Survival with honor! How? It depends on where you are, your abilities, resourcefulness, what others around you will do, etc. I am not buying guns and ammunition. I am not buying gold and silver. I am not buying a generator or storing up gasoline. I don't intend to shoot anyone or remain in a place where someone is likely to shoot me. I do not want to be walking around with gold or silver trying to buy the last scraps of bread when everyone else is out of food, gold, and silver, but still have lead bullets. I will not need a generator because I will not need to operate appliances. If there is not gas, I don't want the neighbors to hear my generator running. They will wonder what else I have stored in my house.

What amazes me is that people wait until there is a little scare before getting scared. Cities scare me in the best of times. In my view—which is personal—there is only one good

reason to live in city: God has called you to suffer for the sake of the city dwellers that you are winning to the Lord.

For some practical advice: Live in a rural area if you can. Develop a way to obtain water, store water, or purify water. If you don't have water, what you do have is about eight or nine days to live, under the best of circumstances. Always have enough dry food on hand to last for six months to a year. The cheapest way to do that is to go to the local farmers or the farmers Co-op and buy dry grains in bulk—wheat, barley, rice, corn, beans, peas, oats, anything that you can buy by the bushel. Unless you have more money than you need, don't buy those expensive vacuum sealed buckets of wheat and corn. At the present, prices are triple what they were one year ago, and it is still hard to get. The shortage is not with the farmer. It is just that there are a limited number of retail suppliers, and the demand is so high that they are able to raise their prices and still stay busy to the maximum. One year ago we paid eight dollars for a five gallon bucket of wheat. It is now selling for between \$20.00 and \$45.00 a bucket. Buy it by the pickup or dump truck load, and you will pay no more than \$2.00 per five gallons.

Go to the library and read about the different ways to preserve and store grain. Also study what you can eat that grows wild in your area. Your knowledge of what to eat, how to store it and how to use what you have is more valuable than what you have stored. Don't expect to receive much from hunting. The National Guard will prevent that. When grain gets several years old you may want to replace it with fresh grain, although if properly stored it can last for a lifetime. For a few hundred dollars you can store enough grain to feed your whole family for a year. It will be easier if you have a hand grinder to turn the grain into flour or meal, but it is not absolutely neces-

sary. Grain can be eaten raw, boiled, sprouted, or planted. You won't have any variety and you won't have to worry about getting fat, but who wants to be the only fat guy on the street when everyone else is hungry? Do not tell anyone what you are doing unless you plan on feeding them and all the people that they will tell and the people that they tell will tell and so on.

And do not move to an Amish community or to a rural Christian community. Such places will be targets of everyone that gets hungry and remembers how to get there. If you come to our community, you will not find me. My house will be empty and the garden tools and food all gone. You might find me in the city, preaching in the streets, calling the nation to repentance, or you may find me in the woods picking up acorns.

I am no expert on computers. I am not a prophet. I am not up on current events. And I am not concerned to band together for a last ditch survival against the 'marauding hordes of hungry savages.' If tribulation does come to America before the Great Tribulation, I will have a small measure of preparation; most of it is information and skills I have stored in my head after 52 years of experience.

Our greatest need is to repent. Judgments from God are not times when God tests our resourcefulness to survive while others around us perish. If the church in America had been made up of regenerated believers walking in holiness, this would never happen. I am more concerned about the survival of souls than I am about eating while others starve.

Do what you can and then forget about it. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof. Don't let some uncertainty keep you from smiling and enjoying your family today. ☺

## Angry Child?

*(Continued from page 3)*

do, you don't have to eat it. No one will feel guilty when you go hungry. If you get angry and they throw you in solitary, they are not impressed if you say, "That only makes me angrier." Such talk won't even interrupt the discussion the security guards are having as they escort you to the cell in your cute little white jacket with your arms tied behind you. One minute out of the cell, they won't remember your angry threat.

Funny thing, 1200 men will go all week without one fight. If you get angry at the wrong person in a prison, you may die with a sharpened toothbrush sticking in your throat. Angry little boys never say, "Don't do that, it only makes me more angry." Who cares? When no one is listening and no one is impressed, threats are useless.

I am not calloused to your dilemma. But the big problem is in your own mind. You are not free to be forceful and bold. Your son needs to run smack dab into a big, high, unmoving fence of authority. You, mother, are a pushover, a sucker. Your need is a renewed mind. Now that I have plowed your fallow ground, I will plant the seeds of understanding.

Let's try to understand this anger. Displeasure when one doesn't get his way is as natural as humanity. If one were not disappointed by unfulfilled drives, he would be without preference and thus without personhood. Anger is also a natural trait of all living souls—not necessarily of the fallen state only. God is angry when it is appropriate. Speaking of Jesus, the Scripture says, "And when he had looked round about on them with anger, being grieved for the hardness of their hearts... (Mark 3:5)." *(Continued on page 11)*

Righteous anger is anger directed at injustice, selfishness. To be righteously angry toward someone is to impute blame to them. It is to hold them in contempt for not acting as they should have. Righteous anger seeks goodness. It is the guardian of love. It is moral choice expressed in the emotions.

Righteous anger is agreeing with the innate dictates of common law. It is taking your place on the jury to condemn and then recommend sentencing to the guilty.

But anger at not getting one's way is something else entirely. Selfish anger is manipulative and unreasonable. It assumes that ultimate good is the gratification of self. It judges all events according to how they personally gratify. To thus be angry toward others, the individual must assume that others exist to fulfill his impulses. To him, right and wrong is: everyone does good by complying with my will and everyone does evil by depriving me of what I want. His anger is judgment falling on the 'sinner' for standing in the way of his indulgence. The selfishly angry person is judge and jury in a courtroom where the only rule of law is the satisfaction of one person—self. All should be subservient to the big I, or all should be damned. A selfishly angry person lives at the center of a small world with all others orbiting for his gratification. He is the manager of affairs according to his whims. The needs of others or the justice of a situation is irrelevant.

Mother, I am trying to make you angry (righteously so)—not hurt, not guilty, and certainly not timid—angry at the Devil who is running away with your child. You can stop it. You can break the spell. For this angry perversion to survive it must be fed. Shake off the senseless guilt and stand firm and consistent in not yielding to you son's demands. When you see that ugly head of self-

*(Continued on page 11)*

*(Continued from page 10)*

centeredness pop up in your son, cut it off like you would a venomous viper in your baby's crib. To give over to his demands, even once, is like a mother giving drugs or alcohol to her addicted child. Addictions are not broken a little at a time. They are starved to death. Shake him out of his make-believe, selfish kingdom. Kick him off the throne and never look back.

Now that I have emphasized the seriousness of this I will offer some practical advice. Cause your son to know that he does not have any say or authority over what foods are set in front of him. You do this by never allowing him to veto your decisions once they are made. If you want to offer him a choice before you prepare the meal, that is perfectly suitable, but never allow him to direct events with anger or ill temper. You must not be angry. Do not plead for understanding or acceptance in your role as head dietician. Display indifference with dignity. Rise above petty debate and bickering. Like an army sergeant, state your will and accept nothing less. If he doesn't like what is on the table and he is rude, send him away from the table and do not let him eat until the next meal. Do not feed him snacks between meals, and let him get good and hungry. He will then eat baby food spinach and love it.

If you think it is appropriate, and you spank him, make sure that it is not a token spanking. Light, swatting spankings done in anger without courtroom dignity will make children mad because they sense that they have been bullied by an antagonist. A proper spanking leaves children without breath to complain. If he should tell you that the spanking makes him madder, spank him again. If he is still mad.... He desperately needs an unswayable authority, a

cold rock of justice.

I could break his anger in two days. Like a private standing before his sergeant for the first time, he would be too scared to get angry. On the third day he would draw into a quiet shell and obey. On the fourth day I would treat him with respect, and he would respond in kind. On the fifth day the fear would go away and he would relax because he would have judged that as long as he responds correctly there is nothing to fear. On the sixth day he would like himself better and enjoy his new relationship to authority. On the seventh day I would fellowship with him in some activity that he enjoyed. On the eighth day he would love me and would make a commitment to always please me because he valued my approval and fellowship. On the ninth day someone would comment that I had the most cheerful and obedient boy that they had ever seen. On the tenth day we would be the best of buddies.

"The fear of God is the beginning of wisdom." Think about it.

Keep in mind that if you are angry you are wasting your time trying to spank his anger away.

One word of caution: the firm authoritarian demeanor I have described is not the general disposition of a parent. I am describing the ideal parental response to the angry child. When the child does not project a barrier to fellowship, parents should be spending time investing themselves in their children. Lots of smiles, mutual appreciation, fun, laughter, creative activity, praise, worship, etc. If we water the tender plants regularly, they won't dry up and need desperate measures. ☺

## Permission to reprint

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Editing may be permissible. It must first be approved by Michael or Debi Pearl.

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

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## MORE MAIL

*Dear Mike and Debi,*

*So much has happened in our marriage since you stayed in our home and confronted me on my anger toward God (as evidenced by my anger toward my husband). We were recently prompted by our pastor to "date" weekly and now we're practically one of those mushy (yuk!) romantic couples. May God be praised!*

*We want you to know your newsletters are a regular source of godly counsel to us and you usually "nail-us-between-the-eyes" at least once in every newsletter if not more....*

*Love, B*

*Dear Mr. And Mrs. Pearl,*

We were blessed to read your newsletter. We are giving away your books to new families attending our fellowship. I wanted to mention that I was born in Cuba and came to this country at the age of two years. I had never heard of potty training the way you describe it from an American. This is exactly how I was potty trained, now people will know I was not exaggerating and neither was my mother. By age 9 months I was completely potty trained. May the Lord bless you.

*Dearest Mike and Debi,*

*Thank you for your ministry. The only negative thing we have ever found about your books is that when we loan them out people*

*Dear M & D,*

*Thank you for your book. The difference in our home and our children's cooperation has been astounding. The most gratifying change has been in my own attitude. No longer do I try to avoid being with my children (a difficult thing to do when one is a homeschooling housewife!). I now gladly incorporate them into my chores and my leisure time.*

*Dear Mr. and Mrs. Pearl,*

*I've been reading articles by and about you in Keepers At Home, Coming Home, and Heartbeat of the Remnant...and I can't contain my curiosity any longer! Send me a book.*

*Dear Sirs:*

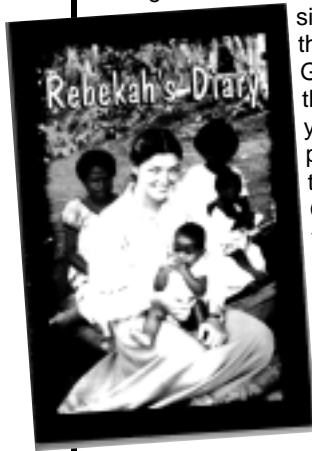
I have trained my kids not to listen just as you describe in the book, but over the last few days have begun using your training techniques. I am already beginning to see results, and have not been angry at my children in four days. I hope to continue in the training until my children are as cooperative as those you describe in the book, but I know it will not be

Dear Mike and Debi Pearl,

My husband and I both agree that your book is a refreshing straightforward no-nonsense parent guide. We have decided that no new parent should be without such a good support tool! So you will find my order enclosed for more so that I can take them to baby showers for the new moms. I am also highly tempted to keep a copy in my diaper bag so that the next person who exclaims how "lucky" I am to be the mother of "easy personality" children will find themselves quickly blessed with a new book.

God has given you a blessing in ministry to tell it like it is. Thanks for letting God use you to change our lives. We have never enjoyed our children as much as we are now that we are taking a firm but loving hand. You have helped us to hone our parenting skills into what God would consider to be the most loving towards our children. And they in turn have show us a

**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.

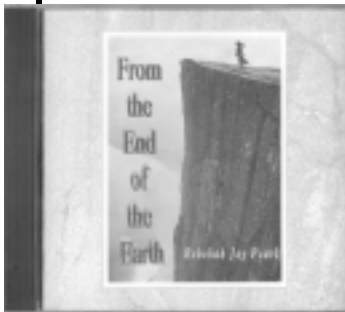


Written over a period of two years, the questions the Pearls were most asked are answered in this 104 page book. It contains 48 individual articles, each on a separate subject. It's full of real life humorous stories illustrating the Biblical approach to training children.

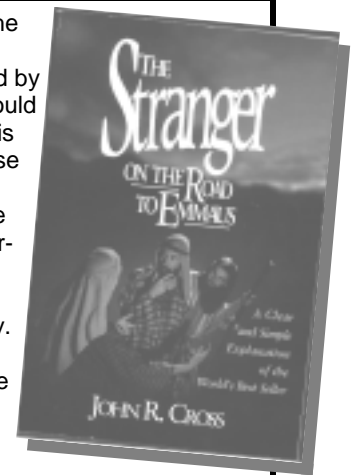
- ◆ How can I teach my children to share, to give up rights?
- ◆ How do I get my children to sit still in church?
- ◆ How do I stop being angry with my children?
- ◆ What can I do about sibling rivalry?
- ◆ Is it too late for my teenagers?
- ◆ How do I take the frustration out of



**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.



If you have heard of the chronological method of teaching now being used by missionaries and you would like to know more, here is your chance. This concise 318-page book by John Cross is ideal for anyone that wants to get an overview of the whole Bible and to understand its message chronologically. It is simple, well illustrated, and straight to the point. It is a great guide for parents who want to teach their children the message of the Bible.



**Great Book**

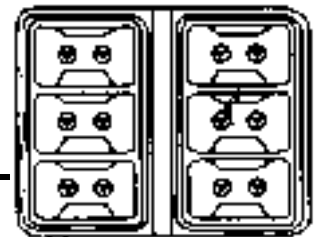
**Me? Obey Him?** Debi Pearl says, "When I was a young bride I read *Me? Obey Him?* By Mrs. Elizabeth Rice Hanford. I can still remember the surprise and joy I experienced in 'trying out' what I had read. I know God used this book to help make my marriage, thus my ministry, what it is today. May God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

A gift of \$2.00



**Eight hours of listening.**

Michael Pearl reads both books (To Train Up A Child & No Greater Joy Volume 1). Six tapes in a vinyl album for a gift of \$18.00.



## The Noel family

**D**ewayne is prospering in the work among the Kumboi. For a while he was rather sick with Ross River Fever. He is now recovered. Pray for his children. Remember his wife who will have a baby in September. She wants to deliver there on the mountain in her quite little bamboo hut, but the tribal culture demands that she go out into the jungle and have her baby where no man will walk across the spot and become defiled. One time one of the tribal women accidentally had her baby while walking along one of the steep mountain trails. The men had to fence off that section so no one would walk over it, and then they had to laboriously dig a trail around the old one. They take this very seriously, so the Noels could not have their baby in the house, or no one would enter it. Sometimes the men get around to building a little makeshift shelter for the women to deliver in, but quite often they squat in the cold rain and deliver alone in the jungle. Anyone out there unthankful?

Dewayne could use more financial support as well as prayer support. ☺

## Steve and Margaret Schnell

**S**teve and Margaret Schnell are preparing to leave for Cambodia in August. By the time you read this newsletter they should be there. Steve was saved under our ministry about twelve years ago when we were still in Millington, Tennessee working with the military. He was one of the last young men to come to know the Lord before we left there and moved into the hills. After he had served his four years in the Navy he came to

visit us. He met one of the Amish girls and eventually married. They bought land, built a house, and started raising a family. After a few cows, chickens, cornfields and kids, God called Steve to take the gospel beyond his little world. He has spent the last several years preparing himself and his family. As all our missionaries, Steve is not going out under a mission board. He is being

*(Continued on page 16)*

## Wrong side up

(A true story by Rebekah Pearl)

**A** curly headed, little, city girl came to visit us hicks a few weeks ago. She was an enthusiastic two-year-old, and her eyes were round with wonder at this strange new world. The huge bearded man, the slobbering dogs, the hum of insects in the weeds, and the farm cat were all life changing experiences. With bravado born of sheer ignorance she scooped up the scraggly farm cat and toted him around with devoted adoration. He cast a few bewildered glances in our direction, wondering, no doubt, if he was still just "the cat." Shock made him passively lay in the pudgy little arms for a few moments—until the drooling farm dogs began snickering at his sudden lack of dignity. This would not do, but empty air met his frantically batting paws. The arms of the little city girl seemed unaccountably strong. He knew better than to claw, and so resorted to simply going limp all over. It worked! For a moment he was free of the loving arms and on his own feet once again.

But the wise old farm cat made his first mistake by underestimating true love. She hoisted him up and kissed him between the ears, but he quickly slid down again, only to be hoisted up, to slide down again. The world tilted and rocked and swayed around him, finally coming to rest in an odd position—upside down. She had him again! This time his tail was curled around her neck, his back feet were stuck in her collar, and her tiny tennis shoes were only inches from his face. His dignity was lost! His pride destroyed! And just when things could not get worse—she kissed him! His tail whipped down to cover the offended spot as the dogs howled with laughter. Life on the farm would never be the same. ☺

*(Continued from page 15)*

sent out by his local church. The church made a commitment to receive for Steve one freewill offering each month. Beyond that, he must go by faith. Steve did not wait until he had promised support sufficient for their needs before choosing a date to leave. By faith he chose a date and on that date they depart. Through your offerings to this ministry we were able to buy their plane tickets and give them \$3,000.00 upon departure. That should help them get settled and carry them through the first month.

Steve and Margaret have received extensive training and a degree in Linguistics and Translation. He will spend his first year learning the language while ministering to English speaking Cambodians as he is able.

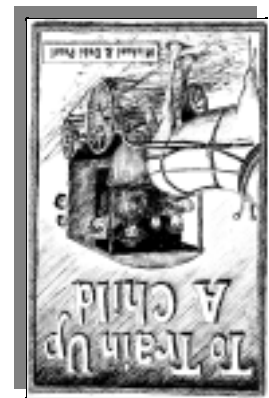
Margaret was raised Amish. Her world has been small and protected.



It will take some adjustment to live in so new a situation, but Margaret is fully committed to the task and totally supportive of her husband.

Pray for them. Pray for their health, safety, and for wisdom and discernment. Pray against the forces

of darkness. Pray that an effectual door will be opened before them and that the gospel will take root in this Buddhist culture. ☺



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