



No Greater Joy

Vol. 5 No. 3

The Church At Cane Creek, 1000 Pearl Rd., Pleasantville, TN 37033

May-June 1999

The Parental Root

A mother wrote this letter to us. It is so terribly typical, we feel compelled to answer it plainly. As you read it, think of yourself as the counselor and take note of your own responses. Do you sympathize with her plight? Are you in similar circumstances? What would you tell her to do?

After a paragraph of complimentary introduction, she gets down to the issue.

"Now I will convey to you the complications I seem to have with rearing my three children.

I praise our Lord for a wonderful Christian home. But with the struggles of each day, the varying differences between my husband and I seem to intensify with the delicate process of rearing our three children. They are ages 10, 6 1/2, & 4. As a result of my husband becoming a true and genuinely active Christian after the age of 36, he has contrarily maintained a somewhat conflicting and contradictory viewpoint in specific relation to the more liberal attitude toward training and disciplining our children. This obviously creates a greater difficulty to uphold a truly consistent pattern of discipline. I believe godly principles dictate a parental enforcement and reinforcement of obedience to God and parents.

I am interested in your answer to one specific area of dispute. My husband contends that a 10 year old little girl is "too big" to spank, but I disagree. Could you please clarify this according to your principles of understanding.

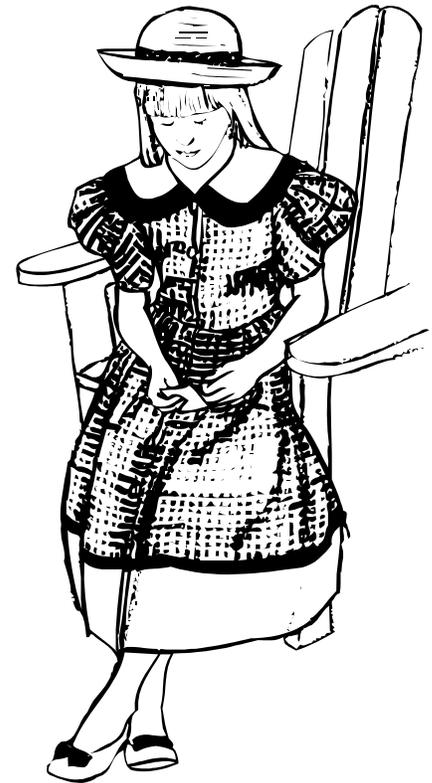
Another specific concern might be with regard to negative attitudes from children at the time of completing an instruction to do household chores or daily routines. Please present your viewpoint on this issue. Thanks so much for the godly instruction you provide. May God richly bless your ministries as well as you and your family.

Sincerely,

Vastly conservative mother of 3

Thanks for your plain letter. I will be equally plain in my answer. You have described your family problems from your one sided perspective, which is the way we usually hear the details of a conflict. From many years of counseling I have learned to never take at face value the interpretation of just one member of a controversy. And with no more than the contents of just one letter, it is difficult to be certain in my interpretation of the situation, but to answer, it is necessary to make

some assumptions. If there were just 100 questions with 100 answers I could match the answer with the question. Like your question as to whether or not it is appropriate to spank a 10 year old girl: There is no one right answer



that covers all circumstances. Fathers usually cease spanking girls at an earlier age than do Mothers. Perhaps for him she is too old; for you, maybe an occa-

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sional spanking is still in order. It differs with the child and the relationship you sustain to him or her. Under normal conditions, where training started sooner, a ten-year-old would not need spanking. You better get the job done in a hurry, she will likely be too old for a spanking by the time she is twelve.

As to your question regarding the bad attitude of children faced with unpleasant commands, again, there is not a single answer that covers all situations. I cannot say that all children with bad attitudes should be spanked until they smile, or given double workloads until they are thankful, etc. We have offered several practical solutions to this issue in our books *No Greater Joy*, Volumes One and Two. The main thing is to never allow the child's attitude to control your expectations, unless it is to cause you to demand more.

Understand me. Family is first a matter of relationships, not techniques and appropriate responses. If you are running a correctional facility with inmates, you could spell out the proper penalty and response to a given infraction of the rules, and by being consistent you could maintain discipline and order. But our goal in parenting is to train a soul into godliness, not just gain compliance.

From the child's perspective, training is better instituted through emulation rather than capitulation. If we lose the child's heart, we have lost the battle before we even know what the issues are. The attitude of parents, the mother in particular, is the fountain from which flows all family relationships—Mother is the morale of the family. There-

fore, as counselors, until we have dealt with parental attitudes we are wasting our time. A technique that is right for one person can be wrong for another, when it is dished out with the wrong attitude. A rod can heal or destroy. A rebuke can bring repentance or communicate rejection. A warning can turn the heart of the child before it gets out of hand or it can produce rebellion. There is no technique or appropriate response that can conceal a parent's heart and produce fruit different from the parental root.

To answer your questions—the questions of any parent where conflict is the issue—I must address the attitude of the parent; I

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must make some bold assumptions. I am limited to generalizations, limited to the many personal experiences I have had in hearing questions phrased and then digging deeper until I could attach a disposition to them. It helps greatly to look into the eyes and read body language, but I must know you through your words.

The general content of your letter assumes that the fault in your home is your husband's. Before you begin to discuss the issues, you say the right words: "praise the Lord for a wonderful Christian home," and for a "true and genuinely active Christian husband." Those statements are not consistent with that which

follows, for in reference to your husband you speak of, "varying differences between my husband and I seem to intensify." He has "contrarily maintained... conflicting and contradictory viewpoint," with an attitude that is "more liberal" than your own. Your husband creates a "greater difficulty." You have "one specific area of dispute" with him. Your husband "contends," and you "disagree." If this is a "wonderful Christian home" don't expect any converts.

You must understand, we are all possessed with an inordinate drive to control. That one is seeking to control others in the realm of religion does not sanctify the selfish drive. If the Devil was limited to imparting just one vice, I suspect he would choose a religious controlling spirit. The drive to dominate has worked more evil in the world than any other factor. Homes are destroyed and children are scarred, not by bad training techniques or by one member of the family that is "too liberal," but by two people competing for domination. The children can survive a little liberality. They can survive too few or too many spankings, but the conflict that arises between two parents seeking to control each other, even for the greater good, creates a caustic atmosphere that rots the souls of their children.

It is a great beginning to accept the reality that there is only one person in the world we can control—ourselves. And self-control is a lifetime challenge, managed only through the Lord Jesus Christ. To control others is an elusive sweetness reserved for the violent and the mesmerizing cultist. But there is hardly a mar-

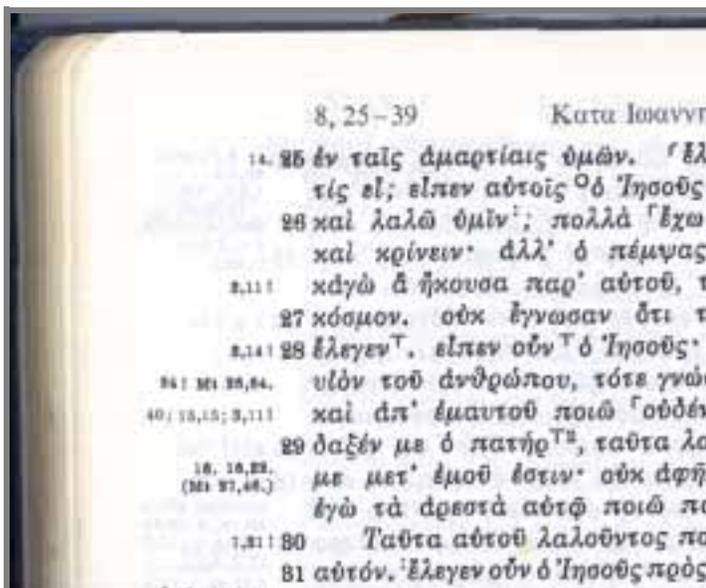
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New Age Bible Versions

Some of you have asked why we make available the book *New Age Bible Versions*. Thirty-five years ago I was a student at a very conservative Bible College. I was taught the generally accepted, fundamentalist views on inspiration of Scripture. When I first began to read a little Greek, I thought I had arrived. I was reading the Bible in the original language, or so I thought. The Greek, which I thought was THE Greek Bible, was the 25th edition of the Nestle-Aland Greek New Testament published by the American Bible Society. After I graduated from Bible college and went on to pastor a church, when I came to a passage in the Bible that didn't read the way I thought it should, I would search the many other "bibles" until I found a reading that met my doctrinal criterion. I found the Greek lexicons very helpful when I needed to reject a given passage.

I believed as I was taught, that the Scripture which had been "given by inspiration of God" had been lost many years ago, and that at best we could "trust" the almost perfect copies that remained. What I didn't learn in Bible college is that the Greek New Testament I was using did not even exist until 1898. I thought it was a copy of "the original." Upon investigation, I learned that there are 24 different Greek N Ts, just as there are

different English versions. It surprised me to learn that modern scholarship did not believe what I had been taught as a child. I went back to one of the faculty members at my old college and discussed it with him. I discovered that he was not able to hand me just one book in any language and assure me that it was the inerrant, perfect words of God. No one in my college had ever so much as seen such a book.



25th edition of the Nestle-Aland Greek New Testament, now changed in over 600 places.

Needless to say, twenty-eight years ago I launched into a study of manuscript evidences. As a result, I came to believe that the King James Bible is the words of God, and nothing but the words of God, to English speaking people.

Do you believe that the book you call a Bible is the word of

God? If it is not a King James Bible, then know that the translators and publishers of your "version" do not believe that your bible is the Bible, the Word of God.

I now reach up and pull a book from the shelf here in my library. Like many of the books in my library it is one that expresses views contrary to my own.

It is a little paperback, sent to the subscribers of *Biblical Archeology Review*, called *The Dead Sea Scrolls After Forty Years*. It was published in 1991 by BAR. If

you want to read apostasy at its best, subscribe to BAR. I have found it useful in keeping up with the infidels. I open the book to page 60 and read comments by James Sanders, a member of the United Bible Society. He served on the committee that put out the New Revised Standard Version of the Bible. He says, "The NRSV is not the Bible; no translation is the Bible. So what is the Bible? What and whence these texts?" On page 62 he continues, "We are now very careful about using the word 'original,' because

we don't really know what we mean by it." On page 63, he suggests, "[W]e should just drop the word [original, as in original Greek Bible] because we do not have the autographs of anything...." He goes on to answer his question as to where the Bible

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riage that is not bleeding from attempts to control and dominate. The mother cuts the father, as you have done in this letter; the father cuts the mother, and the children bleed. They ask me for medicine to give the children to stop the bleeding, and when I tell the parents that they are the ones who need to take the medicine, they are sure I am directing my advice to the other partner, the one that will not cooperate.

Your letter implies: you cannot be a good wife and mother, and you cannot train your children, because your husband will not cooperate. Understand this. You cannot wait until the world is a good place before you become good. You cannot wait until the church is revived to experience your own revival. And you cannot wait until your spouse is right before you do right. You must be the kind of person God requires, despite the condition of your spouse. Your spouse is outside the limits of your control. Accept that and go forward, or stop here and dig in your heels, which will create a grave for your children. If you make your husband's compliance a condition to the success of your parenting, you have already lost the battle. Children can survive inconsistency, but they will never survive dissention and tension.

I am not using hyperbole when I say, your children would be in a better condition if you were as "liberal" as your husband, believed exactly as he does, and the two of you were joyously in sync at his lower level of "enforcement." They would grow up with sloppy habits, possibly a bit lazy, probably lack a high measure of self-control, but they

would be emotionally secure. They would feel loved, valued, and, most importantly of all, they would not be bitter and rebellious, as they will be raised in a home filled with parental conflict. You can minister life to your children by providing an atmosphere that says you are absolutely delighted with your husband, but you only minister death if they feel you are in disagreement with him. By your rejection of your husband—the ultimate authority in the home—you erode the very concept of authority in the minds of your children. Regardless of your words, you are training them in rebellion.

This concept is the most important training principle I can give you, and it is the most common need. It reminds me of an experience I had when I was about ten years old. My parents left my eight-year-old brother and me at home. We were ordered to do the dishes, after which we could split an entire chocolate pie. I loved chocolate pie. To be able to split a whole pie into two equal pieces and eat half by myself was joy beyond description. As we washed the dishes we began to argue over who was going to cut the pie. Neither of us trusted the other to be fair in dividing it. I was two years older and was obviously more qualified to enforce my broadly experienced will. But my brother was equally determined to make sure justice was accomplished. When the last dish was put

away, we both rushed to the table. I pulled the pie over to make the cut. He pulled it back his way. We struggled until the pie landed upside down on the dirty kitchen floor. I can still feel the total sense of loss, seeing that beautiful chocolate pie splattered out in a two foot circle, the cat lapping at the edges. It was a total loss. Of course it was his fault for not appreciating my judgment. But he thought it was my fault for enforcing my will. When our parents came home and heard our complaints, they only laughed, saying something about "hoping we had learned our lessons." I'm sure he didn't. That was 43 years ago and still he has not repented. Oh well, he just wouldn't listen to sound advice.

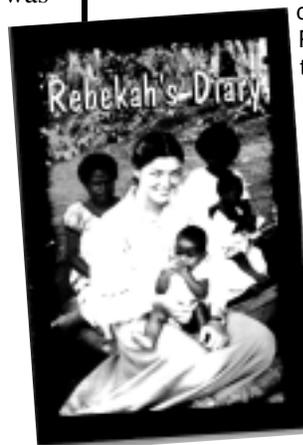
Now, my slightly embellished story is certainly funny today; from time to time when we get together we laugh over it. But I hope you were able to interpret my little parable. Parents that struggle over how to raise the kids end up spilling the whole pie. It would be better to resign yourself to eating the little piece of pie, no matter the cost to your pride, than to demand your rights and end up

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Read the rest of the story. Now you can read the daily chronicle of Rebekah Pearl, the

daughter of Michael and Debi Pearl, as she sought to adapt to missionary life among the Kumboi people, a primitive tribe in the highlands of Papua New Guinea. This 112 page book tells the awesome story of God's guidance and protection of a 22-year-old girl, all alone where no white person had ever been.

Several pages of photographs document Rebekah in her village setting.



New Age Versions

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originated, “Therefore, we have to say that we don’t really know exactly the inception of any of these texts, but they develop into what we call traditioning process.”

Do you believe your Bible had an unknown beginning through the various traditions that were slowly collected and assembled over several centuries until they evolved into a document of religious importance? You don’t? One of the “Bible Scholars” responsible for the NRSV does. On page 69 he says, “[T]he stabilization of the text is not yet finished...” He is telling you that what you think is the Bible today may not be the Bible tomorrow. For example, the Greek Bible I studied when I was in College is now different in over 600 places. Words have been changed, deleted or added. It is not the same Greek Bible it was when I was in college studying “the original Greek.” Men like Sanders changed it.

He goes on to describe his duties as Bible translator, “We try to reconstruct what was first said or written.” Then in a moment of candidity (page 71), on behalf of his fellow scholars and Bible translators, he says, “I think it is time for us to stop fooling the people, making them think there is just one Bible and that our Bible committee got closer to it than their committee did.” Of course that is the sales pitch for any new bible. When a man “fools” you he makes you look like a fool by causing you to believe the ridiculous. Sanders then expresses the reason why the “scholars” deliberately fool the public: “I have been told by some that that [telling the

truth as they see it] would just destroy the Bible because lay folk still want to think of the Bible as somehow ‘inerrant.’” Are you one of the “lay people” who buys bibles and have been “fooled” lest you learn what the translators are deliberately keeping from you, that the Bible is not inerrant? He concludes with, “It may well be that if there should ever be the possibility of discussing the text of Isaiah with Isaiah, he might very well say, ‘But I did not say that.’”

Let me ask you, would you trust a man like that if he changed the Bible text and gave as a reason that the “oldest and best manuscripts read...”? Then could you trust your favorite minister of the gospel who, after reading James Sanders or one like him, should take up the same tune and correct the bible on grounds that “the oldest and best manuscripts...” or “all scholars agree...”? What are the oldest and best manuscripts? Can you trust the marginal notes that so freely alter the Bible text? Do all scholars agree, or just the ones that are “fooling” the people? In this New Age in which we live, Christians are taken to be fools by the “good godly men” that have provided the English speaking people with over 200 “modern translations.”

There you have it. Does this concern you? Have you searched out the facts for yourself? I believed the King James Bible is the Word of God 25 years before I read New Age Bible Versions. I have in my library more books on this subject than you could carry in a wheelbarrow. There are many scholars that do not agree with Sanders and his kind. I offer you New Age Bible Versions because among many books on the subject it is the easiest for the layman to

understand.

Yes, I have read several authors that have dismissed this book on various grounds, but I also read the book, along with 50 others on the subject—pro and con. Don’t think you are informed just because you read one author that smugly discounted this thoroughly researched work.

There are many that would discourage you from investigating beyond their opinions. Openness and investigation is the enemy of deceit only. If someone would prevent you from reading this or any book on doctrinal issues, ask yourself what they fear and why. Truth doesn’t need to be policed. It can stand alone against all error. So in the name of open dialogue and ready access to information, we offer you New Age Bible Versions, a book that goes behind the scenes and uncovers the plot to change your Bible. Read it and be shocked.

I am not attempting to enter the arena on this issue. We have been called to child training and family ministry. There is an avalanche of material available on this subject, so do not write expecting me to take up the challenge. Others more qualified have said it all better than I ever could. Do your own research. I will read anything you send me as long as it disagrees with my position. There is a web site I have never seen, but I heard it is helpful on this subject.

www.biblebelievers.com

Don’t forget to exercise grace towards those that disagree with you. Even Bible believers need love. Happy research! ☺☺☺

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standing over the mess. Is blame so sweet that you would risk the pie just to see that he doesn't get away with anything? You say, "But it is different; I am fighting for the right for my kids to eat pie." A big piece of pie eaten in tension may cause indigestion or regurgitation. A little piece eaten in peace, with thankfulness, is the good life.

I have often said, "If you find that your expectations of your spouse or your children are so high that you are angry at them for failing to comply, it is far better to lower your expectations to your smiling threshold than to scowl at them from your high perch." We are not asking you to compromise truth, but to resign as policeman of that truth. We are not asking you to lay aside your convictions, but to lay aside the conviction that you are duty bound to pass those convictions on to your husband, and that he should be obliged to follow your lead. Truth, love, discipline, justice, joy, and obedience are not well supported by criticism, blame, anger, and accusation.

You are not responsible for the actions of your husband. If he is truly less capable than you are, demonstrate your expertise by training your children in such a way that they never suspect there is any conflict. They may know that you are tougher and absolutely consistent, but they will suppose that such is just normal. "Daddy and Mama love each other dearly. He lets us get away with more than she does, but we know that when he is not around we had better walk the line."

Mother, you spend far more time with your little ones than he does. In most homes, the mother

is responsible for more than 80% of the training time, and the father for less than 20%. If you do your job right, he will not be able to undo it in the evening, unless you set up a tension that causes the children to lose respect for the both of you and for authority in general. In which case, they will rebel against you, knowing that they are working two opposing sides. When parents are not known to be in perfect agreement, do not present a unified command, in the minds of the children it leaves an authority vacuum, and the kids will step in to fill that vacuum. You, mother, are the only one that can communicate the concept that there is divided authority. The children will never interpret the differences between the liberal father and the strict mother as divided command unless you communicate that through open challenge in their presence or through slights you make when he is not present.

I know what you are thinking: "But I cannot just give up and resign my children to what I know is going to be very bad training. They are too important to allow my husband to spoil them." You are still assuming that you can fight a battle with your husband and change him. You are still convinced that if you just push harder and demand more, he will eventually see the error of his way and follow you in your greater wisdom. Yea, and if it happens, it will be the first time in the history of the world that a husband has bowed to pressure from his wife and matured as a result. No man ever crawled out from under the burden his wife placed on him to become a better man. Such is the illusion of a controlling spirit. I am not commending the male ego; I am stating reality. Flow with it

and prosper, or resist it and die with the satisfaction that it was your husband that destroyed your family—you stood on your principles.

If parents withhold affection from a child on the condition that he deserves it, he will never seek affection from his parents, and will eventually reach a place where he will resent affection and reject it if they tried to give it. Likewise, if a husband withholds love from his wife on the condition that she honors him, she will dishonor him with the zeal of a fanatic. And she will deliberately make him aware of those whom she does honor, just to show him what he is missing. And so it is that if a woman withholds honor from her husband on the condition that he become honorable, he may become honorable for others, but he will never become honorable for her. If you fail to take into account the reverse psychology of a fallen, perverted race, you are building on fanciful imaginations.

It seems like a hopeless cycle. And it is, without a miracle. Just look at society around you. Until someone lays his own life down, his own ambitions, his own deserts, his own edification, his rights, his pride, and gives without regard to return; in short, until someone loves as Christ loved, there will be no healing, no growth, no proper child training. The alternative is to stand your ground and wait for him to pull his share, which means the load will never get delivered. Or you can pull the load for the both of you, and take no thought of it. Never remind him; never complain; know it is your joy to be the kind of person God requires you to be, even if the whole world

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Getting in tune

Just this week, I heard a mother tell with amusement how her son had announced that he was going to be a musician—a guitarist. For several weeks, while he searched for and purchased just the right guitar, he told all his friends of his great future as a guitarist. Eventually a friend of the family came over and showed him how to form just three basic cords in the key of C. When the young man tried it, he found that it “hurt” his fingers. He also found that his wrist got tired from strumming. And it didn’t sound at all as if his music would make it to the charts. His vision of fame and glory quickly faded. He still has his guitar. It sits in a corner, not tuned—he never learned how. His fingers don’t hurt anymore, and he never mentions his former dreams.

Just a few days ago I observed a young mother interacting with her first child. Not too long ago she was planning her wedding and talking about her coming marriage and the family she would raise. Having been exposed to much teaching and some good examples on child training, she was often heard discussing how she was going to have happy, obedient children. “It’s just terrible what they let that child get away with,” she would say.

She is now married and has a child. Recently I heard someone say of her and her husband, “It’s just terrible what they let that child get away with.” She is a very sweet mother—the sweetest

of all. She’s protective and loving, often seen reassuring her little girl. She started out with the highest expectations for her family, but she found that it hurts to practice training your children. It takes time, energy, emotion, and, like guitar playing, you sometimes have to sacrifice your tenderness for toughness. That can hurt.

Today this mother is known to have “the most spoiled child I have ever seen.” She is a fine person, a good Christian, a good wife, and a “good mother.” But she will never play the guitar, and her girl will never “walk in the way she should go.” When she is encouraged or counseled, she just doesn’t get it. “Oh, she’ll grow out of it,” she says. “She’s just not like other kids. All kids are different you know.” The father explains his child by laughing and saying, “It is one thing to talk about training; it is something else to do it.” He is implying that it is an unlikely task, as if he were being asked to teach her to read by age three. The lightness with which he discusses his whining, demanding daughter, indicates that he puts it in the same category with learning to ride a bicycle—she is late, but she will catch up. Late child training is somewhat like being late putting the milk in the refrigerator.

Just two days ago, while answering child training questions over a radio talk show, I was asked the same question I have been asked a thousand times: “If you have a friend who has read

your books and agrees with everything you say, yet it makes no change in their family—they go on doing it the same old way—how do you help them?” I gave the same answer, “You can’t.” There is one thing a parent must bring to the process of instruction in child training—a mental state—a vision, fortitude, determination, expectation. If old-fashioned grit is missing, you can’t learn to play the guitar, nor can you tune your children. Nothing happens just because you talk about it or because you read a book. Establishing priorities and following through on commitments is essential to accomplish any worthy end. You either pay the price to train or later you pay the bigger price for having not trained. ☺

Steve Schnell and family, sent out by our church and supported by this ministry, are still laboring in Cambodia. He says, “We have three groups meeting in three different geographical areas with another group of about 20 wanting to get something organized in yet a different area. The Lord is busy building. The churches need prayer. The church at Phnom Dong (Coconut Mountain) has strong leadership but is isolated, and has Muslims, Buddhists, and witches to put up with. We are seeing the beginning of a stronger more consistent nucleus of believers.”

You can accomplish much by praying for Steve and his family.

Dandelion

Two years ago, in the early Spring, we were up north near Chicago doing several seminars. As we traveled through the countryside to our next Seminar, I was overwhelmed by the profusion of bright yellow dandelions carpeting the fields and roadsides. Northern dandelions seem to grow taller and thicker than our Southern variety. If that town was the only town in all the world where dandelions grew, then it would be on all the travel maps, renowned as a place of extraordinary beauty. People would come from everywhere to view the breathtaking wonder of the dandelions in Spring. But God in his wisdom and love didn't give dandelions to just a chosen few, he freely and generously gave them to most everyone. As I looked over that sea of dancing yellow flowers I thought to myself, "The folks of this town will never starve, that is, unless they can't see the food God planted everywhere." Chances are (unless you have poisoned them out of existence) you have dandelions in your yard as well. Dandelions grow all winter here in Tennessee, and according to author, James Duke, in his new book *The Green Pharmacy*, he finds dandelions growing all year long as far north as his home in Maryland.

Early in the spring dandelion salad leaves are joined by a yellow flower. Then as Spring wears

on, a puff-ball pops up to entertain the youngsters, while underground the thick dandelion root grows yet deeper. Except for the puff-balls, which carry the seeds, all parts of the dandelion are used for herbs and food—the leaves, flowers, and roots.

The flowers have traditionally been made into a wine or tonic and used as a liver cleanser. Its effectiveness has been scientifically validated. The leaves can be



eaten as a salad, cooked green, or made into a green drink. The root of the dandelion can be roasted for a coffee like drink. Dandelions are high in vitamins and minerals, especially calcium and vitamins A and C. They are high in protein, iron, manganese, potassium, and sodium—all nutritive salts for the blood. It is often used to treat anemia. As a food source, the

dandelion could be invaluable. Most physical problems could be helped if not completely cured by a balance of nutrients.

As a medicinal herb the dandelion is a remarkable friend. It is a potent diuretic, which means it helps flush excess water from the body. As a diuretic, it can be used to reduce bloating before your cycle, or anytime you have swelling around your ankles or hands, which might indicate you are holding water. As a diuretic, it can help keep the urinary passages flushed in case of irritation or infection. It could even bring some relief in congestive heart problems, which is water collecting around the heart.

Dandelion also stimulates the flow of bile, which makes it a good tonic for the liver and gallbladder. Most herb books recommend it for a wide variety of liver disorders.

Dandelion neutralizes acids in the body, thus it is often used by people as they lose weight to help keep the acid levels down, which rise as a person loses weight. Dandelion has antioxidants that help cleanse the body, which is why it is mentioned in many herbals as a help for people suffering with cancer. Because of its anti-toxin activities, many herbalists suggest dandelion to treat various skin problems.

I have counted 46 different medicinal uses of dandelion, as expressed in several herbal reference books. The list of disorders treated with dandelion range from acne to hepatitis, from bronchitis

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Come visit the

Every year about this time we receive many letters from our readers requesting to come visit us. We would love to get to know each and every one of you, but there are hundreds who have asked to come. It would be physically impossible to meet and talk with all of you.

Deb and I are plain, old, country people. We live with four of our children in a small, unpainted board house located on 100 acres of ridge and farm land. We have tried to keep from being changed by the notoriety we receive from the things we write. There are friends living within a mile of us who have no idea that we write or distribute books. In addition to our daily writing, answering letters, responding to the needs of missionaries, ministering in the prisons, and assisting in international mission projects, our summer is filled with gardening. In addition to canning about 2,000 jars this year, we will dry and store some food, while potatoes, squash, turnips, and pumpkins will be prepared and stored in the cellar. All this keeps us busy.

There are those who drop in unannounced, sometimes three car loads a day. It was a hard decision to make, but we decided that if we were going to be able to minister in print we would have to forgo these personal visits, so when someone stops by, in most cases, they don't even see us. Someone from the Church office, which is out in front of our house, meets them and explains that we are busy.

We are still parents with a

family that needs attention, and we are members of a small, clan-nish, little, country community that doesn't want to be awakened to the 21 century. It is best if we know each other through the printed page. We read and consider every letter and E-mail. Then in the quiet mornings or the late evenings we discuss your needs, and after praying and searching Scripture we sit down to write our thoughts. We can reach tens of thousands with the written page and have decided that is the best way we can minister to the most people. Please pray for us. Write us your ideas; tell us your needs, and we will respond in print. We will miss your face, but we look forward to meeting you some day at one of our seminars. ☺

The Parental Root

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decides to ride in your wagon. If you do not feel sufficient to the task, welcome to the Christian life. The choice is yours. You can choose for only one person, and it is not your husband. ☺

Consumption of the American male

By Debi Pearl

Have you ever seen teenage boys slouching with their pants hanging limp, walking down the sidewalk like a loose-jointed snake? That kind of walk certainly isn't natural. They had to watch other kids and practice the jives to create body movements like that. One day, after my girls came home from a meeting, I asked them if so-and-so's cousin, a recent arrival to the community,

looked like the other members of the family. "Oh," they said, "He looked like them, except he had this empty, computer generated look on his face all the time, like he was some kind of an image instead of a real person. Like, knock, knock, who's there? Nobody; didn't you notice. I think its in style." Instead of real people, his parents gave him a TV and a computer to mold him into a digital image instead of a man. The America male is being eaten by the gigabyte. ☺

Dandelion

(Continued from page 8)

to yellow jaundice. All survival books say scurvy would be the number one debilitating and killing disorder if people were forced to a survival diet. Yet because dandelion is so available and high in vitamin C, scurvy could be eliminated completely.

History has revealed that the roaming gypsy people were extremely healthy and robust. The greater part of their diet was soups made from wild herbs of the field, stewed with a handful of hominy (see corn article from our February newsletter), wheat (called bulgur when cooked), beans, or an occasional rabbit. Along with Dandelions, they were most likely eating Plantain, Stinging Nettle, and Chickweed, with wild onions and garlic for favor. No wonder they were known for their robust health.

I keep a gallon jar of dried dandelion root in my herb pantry. I used it this week in making a recipe for a person with a kidney infection. I have used it for expectant mothers with swelling hands and feet. I have given it to women that were anemic, since it is so high in iron. Likewise I have made it available to older women needing a steady, easy to digest source of calcium. Dandelion is inexpensive and nice to have on hand. Libraries are full of herbal books, as are bookstores, that will help you discover more information on the lowly dandelion.

Take your children on a nature walk and teach them to recognize the dandelion. Let them pick and taste the flowers, which

are loaded with lecithin, a nutrient that is useful in liver ailments. Pick a few tender greens and let the children cook them for supper. Let them blow the puff balls to the wind, and teach them how the seeds are scattered. Let them try to dig up one of the dandelion roots and find how deep they grow. Take a book with you and find dandelion in the book. Teach the children as you learn. Knowing about dandelions could be an important part of their life and well being.

If you are going to utilize herbs, by far the least expensive route is to collect your own or buy the raw herb. We grow many herbs, but we have found that in most cases it is cheaper to purchase them than to put in the labor of harvesting and drying. You may have been to the stores and seen how expensive theirs can be when purchased in capsules or tinctures. If so, you will be amazed at how inexpensive they are when purchased in their natural condition as a dried, cut herb. You will save more than 95 cents on the dollar.

If you have been looking for a place to buy bulk, dried, cut herbs, our son Nathan has an herbal mail order business. He grew up being one of my guinea pigs as I learned to use herbs. In his vast experience as a guinea pig, he knows what to sell and what to not even carry. He also carries a few of my favorite herb books and a key book for

family survival. Each herb he ships comes with a paper on how to prepare and use that herb, including making teas, tinctures and capsules. You cannot contact him through us. His business is in no way associated with our ministry here. But if you will write to THE BULK HERB STORE, 1010 Pearl Road, Pleasantville, TN 37033, he will send you the information you need to purchase your herbs very inexpensively. ☺

NEW TAPE

You asked for it!

Two tapes—two hours—of Michael Pearl speaking on Child training. These two tapes are particularly geared toward the father's role in the family.



A note from T. J.

He is in a touchy, even dangerous circumstance, so everything he sends or that is sent to him must be devoid of words like “prayer, God, Bible, Christians, believers, Jesus, etc.” We say little about T. J. in the newsletter, because the less said publicly the safer he is. But he and the believers there in that Far Eastern country need you to remember them in prayer regularly.

“Greetings. Things have heated up here in Laos recently. Our friends in high places (HE’S TALKING ABOUT THE GOV’T) have gained a new zeal and refreshed vision for stamping out and isolat-

ing all sources of light. Thirty arrested in Luang Nam Ta province and another 12 in the south. The big arrests always come before rice planting season, so as to keep the men out of the field and thereby putting more pressure on the families.

To compound the situation, the LEC (LAO EVANGELICAL CHURCH) is suffering from some deep internal divisions. I foresee it splitting right down the middle within two years. One half will be communist dictated and state monitored, and the other will be underground completely.

On a personal note, I’ve come under a good bit of fire from our

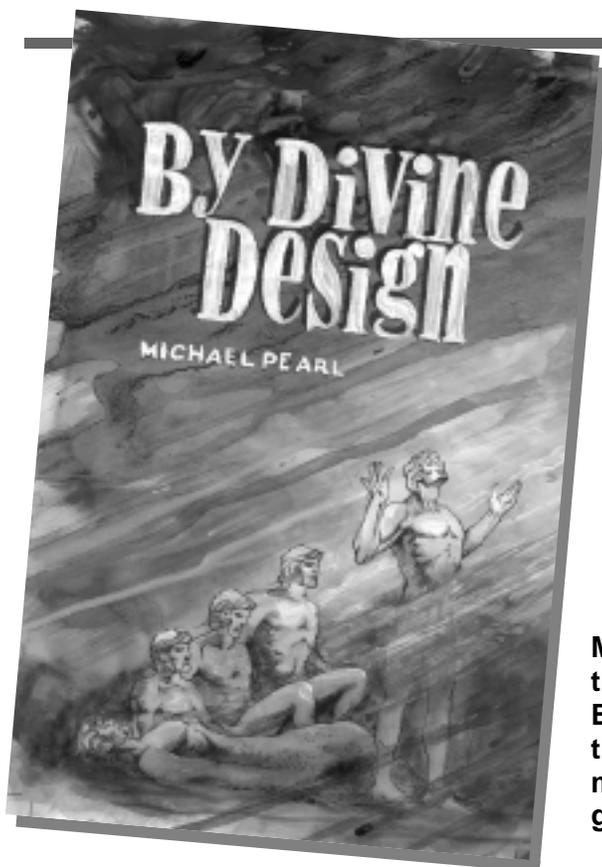
unseen enemy. Please remember me here. Many “unexplainable” things have happened in the course of translating JOHN and ROMANS. However, I’ve been getting some encouraging feedback from my proof readers.

I’ll be doing a considerable amount of traveling in the next two months, so please keep me covered.

Needing intercession,

T. J.

By the time you receive this newsletter T. J. expects to have John and Romans delivered to the printer. Many await the printing of these two books in their very own native tongue.



Excerpt taken from the book **By Divine Design**

The question is asked:

“Could not God have created a race of beings who were incapable of sin?” We answer: No, God cannot create persons constitutionally unable to sin. To exclude all possibility of sin, it would have been necessary for God to have permitted no freedom of will higher than that of animals. To achieve the desired end—persons—God must have allowed free and ungoverned will, which by its very nature admits to the possibility of sin. It was not necessary for God to make persons, but if He would make persons He was limited to those three essential attributes of personhood wherein the will is indispensable.

Many of you have inquired as to our doctrinal positions. In this little book Michael Pearl explains the Bible message of salvation in a way that appeals to the skeptical mind. We have received several testimonies from individuals that came to know the forgiveness of sins through reading this little book.

From our Mailbox

Michael and Debi,

A friend gave me a copy of your book, *To Train Up A Child*. Quite literally, it is the best gift I have ever received! It has revolutionized our family and our children (ages 5, 2, and 1). We have always disciplined our children with the rod, but the concept of training was really quite new to me. No longer do I get angry at my kids for disobeying – I deal with it immediately and cheerfully, and on our way we go.

It has been just two weeks since we began implementing the ideas in your book and we have seen marked improvement in our children's attitudes and behaviors! The biggest change had been in our 2 year-old daughter. We previously thought her to be stubborn and very emotional. After training her in a more God ordained fashion for the past two weeks, we now have a happy, obedient and in-control little girl. I must say it is very humbling to know that stubbornness and lack of control of her emotions was a direct result of our failure to parent her properly.

We have had such peace and orderliness in our household in the past two weeks. I love it! I can't wait to share this book with other families in our church who want to raise godly, obedient, children, but don't know how. Thank you so much!

B.J.

Dear Pearls,

I had ordered a book from you as a gift and was so delighted today when your newsletter came to us in the mail. Thank you for sending it to us here in India... May God bless you and keep giving you plenty of His ways to write about.

Rebecca

Dear Michael and Debi,

Thank you, thank you, thank you. For what, you ask. Well, for sending us a copy of the newsletter. You may be surprised at my gratitude over something so normal. But we don't live in the US, we live in the United Arab Emirates. I never expected to receive one here!...It made my day!

Delores

Dewayne Noel and Family

Dewayne and Deanna have been busy. For months now, Dewayne has been teaching 25 men, representing five different churches (villages). He just finished a week mission training in Lae, May 6th through 9th where he had full day classes and preaching at night. Then he flew back to the mountain to continue teaching the men up there.

All four children are thriving in the mountain environment; and his wife, Deanne, is teaching the women and children while homeschooling, cooking on an open fire, washing clothes by hand, as well as living in extremely primitive conditions.

Continue to pray for Michael

Braband. He is ready to go, but the visa has not come through. He is considering going on a tourist visa and trying to work into a work visa. Dewayne needs him to help carry the load. Also, other people groups have come requesting someone to come teach them. Dewayne writes, "With studying for the school and writing all my own curriculum, I am not as mobile as I would like, and the fellows need practical field training as well as classes. That is where Michael Braband comes in. There is a lot of work to do yet. The plan is to have these fellows completely self-sufficient within another year, then move on to another area." ☺

I think you are doing a great job on your web site! I have borrowed your magazines and have really enjoyed them! I have also borrowed the book *Rebekah's Diary* and the tape "To The Ends of the Earth." I don't listen to music very much, but Rebekah's singing got me going—something that is not easy to do! I really enjoyed both the tape and book and plan to order them as soon as possible. I really am glad that you are using your ministry to bring glory to God.

J, (an 11 year old girl who loves to read.)

Seminar in Virginia

Deb and I will be holding child training seminars in Fredricksburg, Virginia on Friday or Saturday, January 14th. If you are within 200 miles of there and would like to schedule us on one of the week nights before the 14th, drop us a line. It need not be a large group. We can publicize your location to our newsletter subscribers in your area and bring in a few more. ☺

WORTH IT ALL!

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Pearl,

God has used your ministry to bless our family countless ways. For years, we thought we were "Christians," trying to do the right thing. We attended your mission conference last fall in East Texas. God used that seminar. He also used some materials we purchased there, fellowship, preaching, and prayer at a church we have been attending about 7 months now, and several other ministries. All completely independent of each other, and all pointing us to the same direction. We are now trusting solely on the blood shed at Calvary. It took us a long time to understand. We have so much more to learn.

A New Creature in Christ

Dear Mr. Pearl,

As a young family, we have truly benefitted from much of your wisdom and teaching in the Titus tradition.

I have one question for you concerning your last issue of "No Greater Joy" – Are you familiar with La Leche League and Dr. William Sears? I am familiar with both, and have a different view than the author of the letter you printed. When the modern day church encouraged me to work outside my home and give my baby artificial milk in a bottle, La Leche encouraged me to stay home and breastfeed my baby. No, La Leche is not a Christian organization, but God used the influence of a Christian La Leche League leader in my life for which I am grateful.

And concerning Dr. Sears, the article "12 Parenting Essentials" could have been written by Sears himself. He does not encourage "all grace" parenting; he has a very balanced view on "love and limits." Please be careful not to group him in with unbelievers as you seem to in your response simply because he endorses a breastfeeding organization that is not Christian. Give other believers the grace to parent differently than you.

And as for "attachment parenting" being new, as in the letter I believe the basic principle is age-old. Mary probably carried Jesus tied to her body by a cloth as most mothers did; they still do in primitive cultures. There were no infant seats, strollers, playpens, or car seats back then. Where else would the Holy Babe be on a long walk or while Mary was working in her home? Many Christian authors now dismiss the tried and true methods and traditions of mothers of years gone by.

We have all but forsaken the old ways for convenience. Take the family bed, for instance. Before central heat, young children, whose bodily thermostats were not as developed as their parents', shared the warmth of their mother's bed. This was especially true of nursing infants who barely stirred to nurse and then settled back to sleep in the warmth of their mother's body.

The dangerous part of writing books and reading books on parenting is that most Christians now are looking for a quick solution – someone's method. Parenting is not an issue of method – it's an issue of the heart. God has given us His Word as the final authority on everything, including children. Any parent can follow a method; only a true spirit-led believer can follow the Holy Spirit in parenting based on God's Word.

E. B.

Michael Responds

Well, E. B., looks like you are now a published author. You said very well things that needed to be said. I have never read any books on child training or parenting except when proofing my own. So I do not know this Dr. Sears, and was therefore not attempting to berate him by publishing the letter. I thought Dr. Sears worked with a guy named Robuck. I am one that believes in free dissemination of and access to information. Each person must assume responsibility for his own beliefs and actions. It does not disturb me when others differ with me, nor am I alarmed when I differ with others. Truth stands alone. We must be on its side; it will never be on ours. ☺



Web site

I am absolutely thrilled at finding this web site. A missionary friend of mine recommended the book *To Train Up A Child*. I had three children who were controlling us instead of vice-versa! But after reading that book last summer and putting the principles to work in our lives.wow.

The changes are so wonderful! I thank God for you. I like to post messages on a Christian message board and I have posted this web site's URL. I encouraged all mothers and dads to visit this site.

It's such a need in the Body of Christ for this wonderful teaching on raising children. I am so excited! Thank so much for having the website.

Linda

Dear Linda,
You'll need to thank Hugh, as Mike nor I can even find the thing (website) ourselves. Hugh's our office manager and brains. Thanks for spreading the word.

Pearls

New Book

Finally! Volume Two

A reprint of over two years of newsletter articles.

Resuming where Volume One left off.

Every week—nearly every day—Mike and Deb sit down and write answers to your most oft-asked questions. The newsletter, **No Greater Joy**, is the chronicle of their responses. If you did not read the articles from 1994 through 1997, you will want to get a copy of **Volume One** &, now, **Volume Two**. 106 pages of answers to your questions.



Send us your stories of child training. We need examples to use in our writings.

Request for newsletter,

Please send a newsletter to me. My sister sent one to me a few months ago that was vital to my healing after the death of my newborn baby boy this past October. The article was from a June 98 issue and was entitled "Seeing Through a Glass Darkly." My sister decided to save the issue thinking that someday she might be able to share it with someone who needed it. Little did she or I know at the time that my precious Garrett would meet the Lord in October. How thankful I am that the Lord laid it on her heart to save that newsletter and share it with me.

Jennifer (This article is in No Greater Joy Volume 2)

Dear Mike and Debi,

Thank you so much for your ministry. I first learned about your book from an ad in Teaching Home. It sounded too good to be true! (I am usually very skeptical about these kinds of things). I was pleasantly surprised to find that your claims were not unfounded and that your methods (taken straight from Proverbs) worked miracles. At that time, my husband as a Navy officer was gone about 80% of the time. I survived the 6 month deployment of his ship alone with 4 small children in large part because of your book. It was unfortunate that he missed the transition. He came back expecting the same old order and found that things had changed radically. Now, two years later, I can see that he is still scratching his head. Your book not only transformed me, it transformed the children. I am just glad that my husband can come home in the evening and enjoy the results of a relatively peaceful home, and children who are respectful and obedient. I am looking forward to the close, loving, relationship I know I will enjoy with my toddler, and soon after, the other will follow. Thanks for sharing your "uncommon common sense."

A.C.

P.S. My kids loved Rebekah's CD



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