

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



No Greater Joy

Vol. 5 No. 4

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

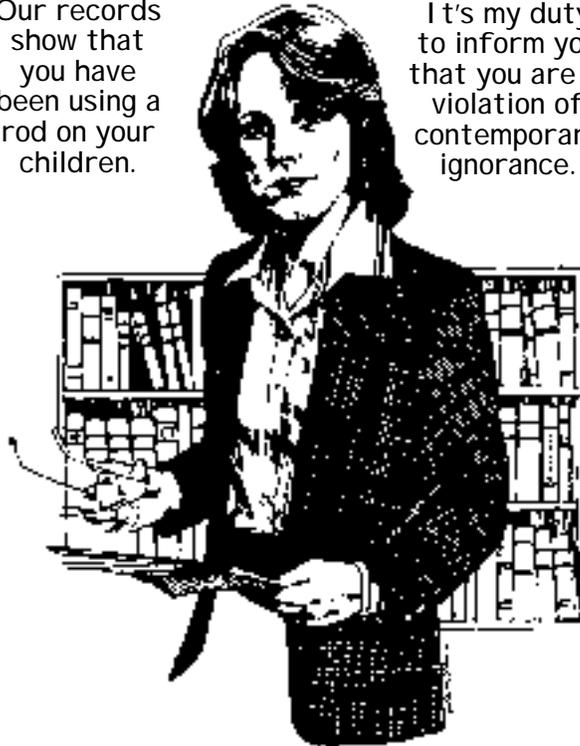
July-August 1999

Rodless Training?

I just hung up the phone after talking with a pastor concerning a new member in his church. This single mother had been hopelessly bound in drugs and immorality, living a life of sin and degradation. The state had removed the children from her home. For two years they were passed around from institution to temporary residence, to institution, and back again. This mother, forsaken by all but the predators who sought to consume the scared flesh that remained, was lost—alone, wasted, hopeless. "But God...(Eph. 2:4)." Then someone told her about the forgiveness that was purchased by the blood of Jesus. In a moment's time, without the aid of religious ritual or practiced instruction, she was translated from the kingdom of darkness into the kingdom of God's dear son (Col. 1:13). It is called the New Birth and is the only door to heaven (John 3). The State quickly recognized that she

was not the same person whose lifestyle had necessitated removal of her children. The children were sent home to their new mother. But when she sought to begin a

Our records show that you have been using a rod on your children.



It's my duty to inform you that you are in violation of contemporary ignorance.

There is no excuse for this kind of behavior, but it pays well.

new life with her children she found they were as inmates re-

leased from captivity, monsters of contention and rebellion. Children that start life in a government institution often end up in one.

The Pastor related the dilemma. He had given her our book, but when she attempted to implement the things she learned, she realized that she was setting herself up to lose the children back to the state. For when she spanked them they would scream, "Please don't whip me." She is still on probation and must receive visits from social workers. If a child were to reveal that he was being spanked, the children would be immediately removed and placed back in a soulless institution. There they would not be bruised on the outside, but they would continue to rot from the inside.

So the pastor's question was, "Is there a way to train children if you are prevented from Biblical application of the rod?" The Bible says, "*Foolishness is bound in the heart of a child; but the rod of correction shall drive it far from him* (Proverbs 22:15)."

"Withhold not correction from the child: for if thou beatest

NO GREATER JOY is a bimonthly newsletter written by Michael & Debi Pearl, authors of *To Train Up a Child*.
Published by The Church at Cane Creek, 1000 Pearl Road, Pleasantville, TN 37033.
Subscription is free upon request.

Visit our Website at www.netsite21.com/nogreaterjoy

him with the rod, he shall not die. Thou shalt beat him with the rod, and shalt deliver his soul from hell (Proverbs 23:13-14)."

"The rod and reproof give wisdom: but a child left to himself bringeth his mother to shame (Proverbs 29:15)."

This question has been asked in more than one way. It is a common situation. One parent absolutely stands against use of the rod, and so it could not be employed effectively. Can the other parent still train the children? If you are a foster parent you are forbidden from using the rod. Perhaps you are host to your grandchildren and not allowed to spank them. Maybe you are often in charge of the neighbor's kids. Likewise, you are limited if you are a worker in a daycare or if you are a schoolteacher.

The question is, "If I am in a position where I cannot use the rod, am I already doomed to failure, or is there still hope? Can children be trained without use of the rod?" Absolutely. But they cannot be absolutely trained. Proper application of the rod is indispensable to communicating the divine principle of retributive justice, but any child, military man, employee, the neighbor's kid, your dog, cat, or the birds in your yard can be trained through manipulating their relationship to their environment. Any creature that is self-motivated and has likes and dislikes can be trained if you are in a position to reward or deny any pleasure or need. Where humans are concerned you have the added tools of reason, moral persuasion, social persuasion, and conscience. Where it concerns those that are close to you, that is,

they depend upon your fellowship for their mental satisfaction, you have the additional tools of persuasion and example.

If you are seeking to avoid the rod because you are an emotional coward or you are a product of contemporary philosophy, then not obeying God in this matter should not be considered an option. The Word of God teaches us the best method of child training, and proper use of the rod is a part of that program. Furthermore, if you abstain from use of the rod because you believe there is a better way, then you have revealed a fundamental flaw in your thinking that will leave a giant hole in any method you adopt. In other words, a person who understands the value and principle of the rod, but is somehow prevented from using it, will carry those valuable principles over into rodless training and so reap some of the benefits. Whereas the person that does not believe in use of the rod is so flawed in his understanding of human nature and life in general that no technique will be entirely effective for him.

So if circumstances beyond your control prevent you from doing as God commands, you are not without tools. There are still plenty of options available to you. You can do a relatively good job of training if you are consistent and recognize the nature of your limitations. You will have to lean more heavily on alternatives that tend toward accomplishing the same end.

Here is a single mother with chaotic children whom she must train without the assistance of the ultimate force—pain. She tells them to do something, and they

immediately seek to do the opposite. She invites them to the table, and they tarry or declare that they are not hungry. Thirty minutes later they are demanding something sweet. When she refuses, they begin to cry and beg. When she tells them to stop, they scream. Then they start fighting between themselves. When she tries to interfere, they turn on her in violence. Their favorite word is "No" spoken with defiance. They will say "No" even when they would actually like to comply, just to express their autonomy.

Let's take it further so as to be relevant to a larger audience. If she were to spank them, they would react by screaming and fighting her. They would pull away, try to grab the switch, scream "No," and go completely hysterical. She could not spank them until they yielded, unless she spanked them into physical exhaustion, which of course would be counterproductive. In short, in her attempt to build a relationship with them, at this early stage, spanking would not likely be profitable anyway. You may be thinking, "My children have always been in a secure environment and they act just like that."

The foremost need in child training, the ground on which all positive guidance occurs, is the relationship of child to parent. Her children are doubtlessly in an adversarial frame of mind. It is not just that they seek to put forward their own agenda, but that they actually seek to sabotage hers. It is vain to make her will clear, because they have already decided to resist all control. A rebel is not so concerned with

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Fetch disabled

By Greg Stablein

The story you are about to read is based on a true story. The dog's name was changed to protect his dignity. You may draw your own conclusions as to the moral of this story and its applicability to "learning disabilities."

Fido was no ordinary dog. For as long as anyone could remember, Fido had been "fetch disabled." Fido had been tested by numerous experts and all agreed that Fido should be put on witalin so he could function on a daily basis. After taking this drug, Fido still could not fetch, but at least he would sit quietly at the end of his rope and not disturb his masters. Nevertheless, the resulting changes in Fido's "personality" were disturbing.

One day there came a stranger who saw that Fido was unable to fetch, but did not see this as a permanent condition. He knew the consequences of growing up with such a label in a dog-eat-dog world. He sought to pinpoint the problem and then devised a remedy. Fido's attention span and visual tracking were adequate to follow a stick as it flew through the air. Fido's fine motor skills were sufficiently developed that he could pick up a stick. His sequencing ability and

short-term memory were such that he could return with the stick. But he could not be persuaded to release the stick. Fido could not stay on task and would resort to his own game of "keep away."

The stranger used Fido's natural inclination to chase a stick to overcome his deficiency. Just as Fido was returning with the first stick, the stranger threw a second stick. Fido's attention was mo-



mentarily diverted long enough to drop the first stick. Five minutes of this training cured Fido, made him ineligible for pity or government funding, and forced him to remove the "fetch disabled" label from his resume. ☺

Dear Mike and Debi,

We wanted to share with you an episode of our child training. We have four children, ages 6, 4, 2 and three months. Ever since the birth of our first son, we had claimed the back row of the church (and ran off the teen-agers in the process!). This was due to the disruption of our children and the need to take at least one out of the service for discipline. After reviewing your materials, we decided that we needed to have "church training" at home so that our children would learn to sit still in the service. Every afternoon, they were sat on the sofa with a coloring book and crayons. The timer was set for fifteen minutes. If one of them talked, got off the sofa, misbehaved, etc., they were switched across their legs. We did this for one week and the next Sunday, my husband boldly claimed his "pre-fatherhood" pew, up at the front of the church. Our children sat there better than some of the adults! We even had several comments after the service about how well behaved they were. We cannot thank you enough for your ministry. We had read all of the well known child rearing books, but always knew that something was missing. We are looking forward to continuing the training of our children. ☺

Rodless Training?

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doing his own thing as he is in not doing the will of another. He dedicates himself to publicly demonstrating that he is not in subjection to any authority. It is his agenda to rebel, to prove his independence and lack of respect.

Now we who are not emotionally involved are inclined to see the situation from the child's point of view. The poor children have been emotionally deprived and abused. It is not their fault that they were jerked up and passed around like a piece of rental equipment. They are hostile because they have never known love and security. They have never had anyone they could trust to always be there. They are products of the adults surrounding them.

However, if we now handle them under our own shadow of guilt and sympathy they will be further ruined. If our understanding of their plight causes us to sympathize, we will only authenticate their hostilities. You must remember, children raised under the best of circumstances, in a home of love and security, are nonetheless inclined to selfish domination and independent action against the rule of law. If a child is "left to himself" he does not grow up beautiful, he grows up to be a little devil and will "bring his mother to shame (Prov. 29:15)." Her children are what they are because of neglect, but they are only being themselves. It is not a matter of just bad habits, it is now a case of bad character—yes, even at two years old.

But we are not going to blame the children, we are going to train them—however difficult, without

the use of the rod. We may not achieve as high results, but if we are wise and consistent, others will brag on "what good kids" we have.

In our first book on child training, we talked about "tying strings." The first step in all child training, the foundation stone that must be continually renewed, is fellowship between parent and child. In 99% of all homes, children are in an adversarial state of mind most of the time. The first step, the step without which all other attempts are in vain, is to establish mutual ties of respect and honor. Unless the children can trust their parents with the handling of their souls they will not make themselves vulnerable. It is the same with you, is it not? Children must be brought to the place where they want to please their parents. Until children value the approval of their parents more than the lure of any indulgence there is not foundation for training. The parents will be constantly leaving their children behind.

Fear of punishment is not sufficient to make children compliant; it will certainly not remove the adversarial mentality. When parents get to the place where they are relying on threats alone, they have totally lost fellowship and are functioning as the IRS. Threats might get outward compliance but never the heart—quite the opposite.

So there is nothing that prevents this mother from taking the first step in child training—establish a relationship of trust and respect. How is this done? Enjoy the children and cause them to enjoy you. Don't ask anything of them that is not absolutely necessary to the stability of the

home, give them something they want—not selfish demands, just ignore those. Give them your time, your attention, your laugh, your approval, your touch, hugs, reading, silly funnies, rolling on the carpet or yard, pushing in the swing, or pulling in the wagon. But most of all, let them bask in your smile until they need it like they need the next breath. Cause them to feed on your fellowship, to relax until they are sure you care only for their good, that you live to enjoy their company and would not be happy without them. Do this and you will have achieved what most Christian homes are missing.

When you first begin to mend a broken relationship, or build one that never existed, you will have to do what friends do—ignore problem areas, absorb ugliness, for "they know not what they do." If they begin to trust you, and you strike at them, physically or verbally, they will withdraw, and it will take longer to draw them into the open again. You can stand firm on issues; just make sure that you are always relaxed and calm in your responses. If you have to reject an action, never communicate rejection of them as a person. The worse thing you can do in this attempt to rebuild the relationship is to develop critical feelings toward them and to become short and abusive in your language or attitude. They will shut you out like shutting the barn door on a winter storm. You can wipe out everything by having a condemning attitude.

Your reach as a disciplinarian cannot exceed the limits of your fellowship with the child. Rebuke must be delivered in an atmosphere of trust and respect. If you

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He's got child training nailed down.

Dear Pearls,

Recently, we had a visit from some dear missionary friends of ours. I gave the wife all of the tapes of yours I had on hand and Re-bekah's Diary. We had been talking about real schooling and she told me a story. I instantly thought of the Pearls when I heard it! Jenny has a friend who's from a large family. Mostly girls, but several boys. The father is a roofer. As soon as the boys could toddle around, he'd take them to work with him. He'd take them up on the roof with him and....nail their britches to the roof!! No, none of them ever fell off, he nailed 'em good! Then gave each one a hammer and they'd bang away until he was ready for another part of the roof. Then he'd pull up the nails and pound them in securely in another spot. He's still a roofer and all of his boys work with their Daddy.

Sincerely, J. C. F. H.



Send us you favorite stories or experiences.

Dear Mike & Debi,

I wanted to burn your books the first time I read it! I was furious because you told me to switch my dear children. How dare that man, I foolishly thought, to say my children needed a switch across their backside! Well, the Lord gently told me to read it again and to open my heart. As I did, I came under conviction. What I first saw as cruel and foolish now became loving and wise. Your books and tapes are now my favorites.

I now have 3 children, Keith is 8, Kellie is almost 5, and Kaleena is 19 months. The eight-year-old is rarely chastened. The five-year-old was my "Loving Guidance" child. She has been the hardest because I was so permissive with her. The 19-month-old has been trained since day one. She is not there yet, but has a great advantage over her brothers and sister.

Most of the problems I have with my children are not really them but me. I am the one who needs the training, or should I say retraining. I wish I had read your books years ago or had someone sit me down and say, "This is how you do it."

Even though we got a late start, the Lord is helping me and changing my life so my children will have joy and contentment in their lives.

A Mother in Training,

Rodless Training?

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have lost the child's heart, then the child will have lost the heart to please you. If the child is not in agreement to pull with you, it is vain to try to harness him to your rules. The occasional rebuke must be the exception to a constant sharing of positive experiences. When rebuke and chastisement are strung along on a thread of long silences, punctuated by beads of unpleasanties, it will only strangle the relationship, not beautify the child's soul.

The other day my daughters took in a younger girl that was a product of the Federal School, a working mother, and an insensitive father—in that order. She was at that age just before puberty when it is easy to be misunderstood and confused. The child had been swept along in the sexless society of the federal system. She was not feminine or lovely in demeanor. My girls spent the day treating her as another “lady.” Toward the end of the day when it was near time for her father to pick her up, they got her dressed in a long flowing dress. You could tell that at first it was an embarrassment to her to appear so vulnerable, so feminine, but she soon began to enjoy it. She started carrying herself differently. The affected gawkiness disappeared. She smiled with a blush and gracefully swept around the room. Soon her father came into the room. You could tell that she was pleased with herself and was expecting his approval. My daughters presented her to him as if she were a newly dressed bride, exclaiming how nice she looked in a

dress. He blurted, “Yea, I been telling her she would look better in dresses. She just wears those old pants. The kids these days....” Her countenance fell and her shoulders hardened into the reserved condition she had displayed hours earlier. It was obvious to her that rather than her father being pleased with her, he was pleased with himself that she had justified what he “had been saying all along.” On such small threads do our children hang. She had attempted to take a new course, one that could have made a great difference in her life, but his preoccupation with himself had shut the door in her face. He was not mean or cruel or angry—just insensitive, absorbed with his own performance, perhaps carrying latent irritation at having been ignored so long. He had a chance to join hearts with her, but he missed it.

Can you see that in such simple, day to day matters hangs all of child training. Until we tie strings of fellowship all else is vain, even harmful. If you would train your children and you are prevented from using the rod, you still have at your disposal a tool that most of my readers have never effectively employed—continuous fellowship with their child. If you can create an atmosphere of trust and good will, you will greatly reduce the need to spank the small child, and nearly eliminate the need in children 8 or older.

After you have established fellowship with your children, the next step in training is to gain their respect as a person of principle. Your children must know that you answer to, and act as repre-

sentative of, a rule of law that is higher than your own personal preference. You have boundaries that you adhere to and expect them to do likewise. By reverencing boundaries in your own life you communicate that there is a Lawgiver higher than your own feelings and impulses. If the child is made to feel that he or she must obey you only because you are bigger or tougher, or because you have control of the resources, then your influence will extend only until they are big enough to rebel without severe consequences. But if the child treasures your fellowship and wants to please you, and on top of that the child wants to please the God that you please, then you have a solid foundation for training. The only battle left is the child's flesh.

Many parents have found, all too late, that religious instruction given in the context of permissiveness works to produce atheists and infidels rather than Christians. I personally know many families that took their children to church and talked spirituality while indulging the flesh in food and pleasure and indulging the soul in irritability and pettiness, with the result that their children grew up to resemble sons and daughters of Baal rather than children of a holy God. Children dragged through that kind of confusion are far harder to reach with the truth of Christ than are the abused and abusing sons and daughters of prostitutes and dope peddlers. I know whereof I speak. Besides dealing with hundreds of such cases, some of my own relatives serve as the best examples.

So, on a foundation of fellow-

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Church or Children?

Dear Mike & Debi,

I've really enjoyed reading your newsletters and am currently reading your books. I am a pastor's wife and the mother of two children, ages 4 and 19 months. I'm planning on homeschooling and am wondering if you had a "rule of thumb" as to how involved you were in your church when you were homeschooling and also having small children. In our home, things can get awfully busy without even trying. I want to be helpful to my husband and I do not in any way want to sacrifice my kids for the sake of the church. I want the right balance. Right now I'm only doing one thing in the church and quite honestly, I feel real comfortable with that. Occasionally, I feel pressured to take on more jobs in the church, but do not want my family to suffer for it.

I need your advice and wisdom. Thank you for all you do.

A Pastor's wife,

Michael Answers

It is simple. God made the family first; the church came later. You are first a wife, then a mother, and then a housekeeper ("...keepers at home..." Titus 2:5). And now you are a schoolteacher. After that, if you have time left over, and you can involve the children so as to enhance their lives, or you can do some ministry with your husband so as to enhance his life, then go for it. If not, if at the end of the day you have run out of steam and don't have the energy to read to the kids and to tantalize your husband (1 Cor. 7:2-5), then cut out the unnecessary—church work. God gave the ministry of the church to men (2 Tim. 2:1) that are able to minister the word as their second calling (their families being first, 1 Cor. 7:32-35), not their fifth priority, as it would be with you. If you build a great church but lose your children, or even a part of what they could have been, the rest of your life will feel like a failure. No one will

remember that you didn't do church work, but they will always remember that you were a failure at the thing that counts the most—your children.

Seek ministry that involves the kids and teaches them to minister—retirement community ministry, counseling and ministering to needy families, taking the gospel into the homes of those that have never heard, holding Bible classes in a home after school for those kids that are victimized by the Federal Behavioral Control Centers. Child Evangelism Fellowship has the kind of materials you will need for such a class. [I don't know their address. Look it up in the phone book.] My wife was teaching classes when she was in her early teens. Preparing materials is a great homeschool project and keeps the kids interested. They can help and eventually teach. Ministries like this are good for the family, not detrimental as would be your attendance at an exclusively, adult, female, religious club while your kids wasted in a nursery or tormenting a baby sitter. You asked for it. ☺

Dear Michael and Debi,

Thank you for writing the tract "God Made Jesus To Be Sin" and for sending me a copy with my order. It explains the gospel so clearly. I have made more than a hundred copies of it and shared it with women who are incarcerated in five county jails where I visit.

God has used it to bring some of these women to Christ.

Thank you! May God bless you.

Note: We will send 100 tracts at a time to anyone that requests them. Larger amounts are available to ministries. There is no charge for the tracts. We just had another 50,000 printed and will give them to anyone that will promise to pass them out. If your request comes with an order, the shipping is free. If not, you can pay the shipping. \$1.50 S/H for 100 tracts.

Rodless Training?

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ship and respect for God the law-giver, you are ready to deal with that indomitable enemy of all the sons of Adam—the flesh. Even when your child wants to please you and wants to please God, he/she is going to feel the constant pull of the desires of the flesh. “The flesh lusteth against the spirit and the spirit against the flesh, and these are contrary the one to the other so that [your child] cannot do the things that he would.” Here is where the mechanics of training are inaugurated. Your young child is composed of two opposing elements—elements that were in harmony before the fall of Adam—the flesh and the spirit. The spirit is that inner man, the soulish self. The flesh is that non-material biological conglomerate of tissue, bone, and blood that is endowed with passion and drives.

The spirit can receive instruction and make decision based on values, whereas the flesh is indifferent to good and evil. Like any animal or plant, the flesh seeks survival and propagation. It battles within seeking to maintain a stability that promotes health, and it strives without seeking zones of comfort and pleasure. The body has no built in governor that predetermines moderation or sets limits. It would eat what tastes good, and it would eat it now. It would rest rather than work and take rather than give. The body cares not how it affects others or what might be the long-range consequences. The body neither knows nor cares that present ac-

tions will result in cavities, obesity, colon cancer, heart disease, or venereal disease; it just pursues the line of immediate pleasure. Where there is not an active, mature, trained, and disciplined mind exercising control, the body is a self-destructive fungus.

The bottom line you must recognize is that the infant is born with all of the passions of body but with no capacity for self-restraint. Your three-year-old has active bodily drives but no understanding or will to moderation and self-restraint. The child will be in his early to middle teens before he can function so as to be self motivated to the point of subjecting the body to the spirit. You can have a child with a submissive heart, but he cannot exercise his mind to self-restraint.

Herein is the parental responsibility: While your child is in the process of maturing, before he can govern himself, it is your responsibility to function as his spirit, as his governor. You will act as his conscience, his sensor, advisor, instructor, chastiser, rebuker. You will say no to his flesh when he cannot. You will be ever alert, vigilant, on guard to detect any uprising of flesh. You will strengthen his resolve to stand by the rule of law and deny the flesh. You will spot laziness and lead him in an attack against it. You will spot selfishness and see that it is not gratified. In short, you will never allow it to be a pleasing experience to indulge the flesh. He will be caused to find rest and peace in one path only—the path of holiness and self-discipline. Your job is to make all evil counterproductive and unrewarding and to make all righteousness and

discipline to be delightful and joyous.

At this point the parent would have the rod as an enforcer against the monster of flesh. When the flesh runs away with the spirit and captivates the will, when the child turns on you like an angry dog and refuses to give ground, the rod can restore his respect for your authority. It is your final tool against the power of the body to commit mutiny and take the will captive.

But our subject is: “What can you do if you are denied that ultimate power to subdue the flesh?” You can fully apply all of the above measures so that you do not come to that place where the rod is necessary. Yet, we must face the obvious truth that no parent is going to create a net of training so tight that the kids don’t occasionally slip through. There will be times when a spanking is appropriate. But you are prevented! Then use your power as the caretaker and dispenser of all privileges and responsibilities to make his actions totally counterproductive. If you can’t spank the flesh, starve it with an embargo. Stand your ground and do not let the little fellow find satisfaction in his pursuits. Stay on duty, demanding obedience until he surrenders his will to your persistence. If there is a way to deny him access to some means of indulgence that relates to the offense, then by all means as governor of the island on which he lives deny him normal privileges until he complies.

The one—most important—principle is to never allow his rebellion to be successful. Always win the contest. You can do this

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My Two Cents

Debi speaks out

At least 3 people a day write and ask me what my views are on breast feeding. It seems to be a major issue causing a great deal of confusion and uncertainty. What surprises me is how for the last 6000 years babies have been born, were nursed, and grew up to be emotionally and physically healthy without anyone telling their mama's how and when to nurse them. But since so many have asked, I thought I would give you my 2 cents worth as well. I covered the same subject on Mail Box Tape #3.

Nursing is instinctual, in the baby and the mother. It is so natural that I never dreamed it could be made into an issue. Let me tell you, cows are different one from the other. That's right COWS. Don't get upset with me for introducing animals into a high and noble subject like human breast feeding. It is the loss of such knowledge that has caused this controversy in the first place. Beef cows can let their calves nurse all and any time they want, because they don't have much milk. Whereas Jersey calves would die if they nursed any time they wanted, because Jersey cows have too much milk, and so the calves only get the sugar milk. People are very much like cows in respect to nursing. Some are beef stock and some are Jersey. When a cow first delivers, she produces colostrum just as a human does. The newborn baby or calf needs

all the colostrum it can get. It is a natural antibiotic for the baby, as well as serving other vital purposes. A cow and a mother only produce colostrum for 5 or 10 days, and then her real milk comes in. When the mother's milk comes in she usually has far more than her baby can use. Thus the baby nurses only part of the breast and never really drains the breast dry. That is a problem. Any mother who has had a baby with colic and diarrhea can attest to this. Just like that Jersey calf, the baby is getting too much "first milk"—not colostrum, that ceased after about 10 days. At each nursing, when a mother's milk first lets down, it is "sugar milk." It is light blue and clear. As you milk the cow, or the baby nurses the mother, and the breasts begin to empty, the milk gets thicker and creamier. The very last milk left in the breast is cream, full of fat and very filling to the baby. When a baby gets a belly full of creamy milk he will not be hungry for several hours. If the baby gets the thin, clear, light blue, sugar milk he will be hungry in 2 hours and have a tummy ache with diarrhea to follow.

Herein lies wisdom. Use common sense. All down through the ages people raised animals, thus had enough common sense to know how to adjust their nursing problems based on the common knowledge learned from raising animals.

Do you have a colicky baby? Maybe he is getting too much sugar milk and not enough cream.

Do you have a baby that is too fat? Maybe you need to increase your milk supply (try lots of water, Blessed Thistle and Brewers yeast) so the baby will not get so much cream. Does your baby wake every 2 hours and need to nurse? Maybe you need to manually expel some of your sugar milk so your baby will not get a "temporary full" but keep nursing to get some thick creamy milk as well. Should you let your baby cry-and-cry at night to train him not to nurse every 2 hours? Think. If the baby nursed 2 hours before and did not get anything but sugar milk, and he is starving, are you making your baby healthy by training him to endure hunger?

The new system of scheduling is designed to help the average mama that doesn't know anything about nursing to get the baby to be so hungry that he drains her dry, which allows the child to get sugar milk and the rich creamy milk as well. This "scheduling" has its good points and its bad points, as does indiscriminant "nursing on demand."

There is the other side of the controversy—"nursing on demand." This is more consistent with nature, because the baby knows when it is hungry. It is the way women all down through the ages have nursed. And it has worked for 6000 years. But we are a people who have lost our natural instincts of nursing and child training due to leaving the work God gave Adam. Working in a garden and dealing with animals teaches people a lot of common sense things that are missing in this technological culture. There-

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because of your position as banker, cook, house cleaner, play-time supervisor, work detail manager, etc. Stand your ground. If you develop a reputation as a winner of conflicts, you will be home free. If you develop a reputation as a vacillating wimp that whines and complains about how you are treated, they will run over you like a discarded aluminum can. The key is to win. Always win. Stand by your demands. Be just. Be reasonable. Be consistent. Be tough. Be there all the time, ever in his face, loving, laughing, smiling, and demanding compliance as foreman of the home.

Without use of the rod, you will be handicapped but not crippled. You won't do as good of a job as you could have done, but with determination and vigilance, you can do a better job than 99% of the other Christian parents who have full freedom to use the rod.

☺

Washing Baby's Hair

Dear Mike and Debi

Thank you for sharing your examples with others so we can learn! I have so enjoyed reading your articles. They are so insightful in all the areas I have thus read and I find them very amusing as well. Thanks for making me laugh as well as helping me to learn and grow In the Lord.

I was hoping you might have some suggestions for me on how to make bath time fun for my two year old. For the most part, she loves taking a bath and playing in the water. However, when it comes time to washing her hair, she begins to cry. I believe she is crying because she is genuinely fearful of lying back in the water to get her hair rinsed. She hates the water in her ears which I suppose she finds annoying, but as far as physical ear problems she has none. My husband and I have tried to make bath fun and wait until the end to wash her hair. We then, despite her crying, wash and rinse her hair. I have also told her she may not sit up from having her hair rinsed until she stops crying. I allow her to sit up when she gains control of her crying and is sniffing. I wish she would just be at ease when we wash and rinse her hair and I am struggling with how to train her to this end. Do I make her lie in the water until she is completely at ease, or is she genuinely fearful of something? We don't have trouble with obedience in other areas like brushing her teeth, changing her diaper, getting her dressed, telling her to pick up her toys, etc. My husband believes she is truly scared versus rebelling. Do you have any training advice?

Dear Jenny,

Just this week, Shoshanna, our daughter, kept a two-year-old, we will call Jane, with the same problem. A dozen times during the day Shoshanna talked about how fun it was to get your head wet. She dribbled water over Jane's head several times in play. Everything she did to Jane, she first did to herself, laughing all the while. At bath time, she took the switch with her (just in case) but made bath a grand, fun playtime. "Ok," she said to Jane, "it's stick you head in the water time." Jane started to "tune up," but Shoshanna put her finger up saying, "NO, this is not a cry-time, it's a happy-time!" It worked. She laughed and went down for a hair washing. Jane not only was happy to wash her hair, she loved swimming in the creek, which she was afraid to do before, and laughed when she got her head in the water. Shoshanna says, "If the kid thinks you think she is going to love it, then the kid loves it. It's all a matter of attitudes—the parent's attitude." She also potty trained Jane in one day, the same week. Again, Shoshanna said that she showed (over dramatic) her shock that Jane had messed herself... so Jane stopped. Shoshanna is 15 years old.

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My Two Cents

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fore a young mother who has a new baby and is uncertain, knowing nothing of the natural workings of the body, will grab the baby up every time he fusses, thinking he is hungry. Thus the baby is constantly getting little snacks of sugar milk and has colic most of his first 6 months. It would seem in this new age we live in people have lost contact with the plain facts of life. It is the lack of common sense that causes people to need a plan to live by such as the nursing schedule. I am sure the schedule has been of help to many young mothers by causing them to unknowingly meet the baby's need for the deeper cream received when the baby is really hungry and drains the breast. Without the schedule these same mothers would be tired, worried, and stressed, while their babies would be having colic or would be constipated because they were put on formula because they "couldn't digest mother's milk." Yet, I have seen new mothers who followed the schedule to the minute and have skinny babies that scream. I wonder at their lack of natural instinct in following someone's ideas so closely.

The next BIG controversy that seems to have hit the normal "Back to Basics Homeschooling Family" is the issue concerning the family bed. This is also an issue where good common sense should rule the day. All my children were born in cool weather. Every night the temperature in the house would drop from cool to cold as the wood burning stove ran its course. My newborns wore

tiny cotton hats to help hold their body heat, and they slept close to me in our king size bed. I never got up at night to nurse. I never even knew when the baby nursed. By the time the baby was walking and playing with the other children they were moved to their sibling's bed (usually 3 to a bed). They would toddle in every morning to nurse before I got out of bed, or an older sibling would bring them and crawl in to join the crowd. It was a sweet time of cuddling with mama and daddy. If they found our door locked, they knew to wait their turn.

Even if I had lived in a house where the temperature never wavered from a comfortable 70 degrees, still I would have kept my baby in bed with me. It was never a consideration to put them in another room. After my kids were grown and I heard of the controversy over this issue, I went to the older ladies of our community, who each have 8 or 10 children, and asked them their opinion on the matter of nursing and having the baby sleep with you. Most gave me blank looks like they could not figure out what was wrong with me to ask such a silly question.

They all kept their babies in the bed (or within touching distance) until they are around walking age. They all nursed as often as the baby needed to nurse, but made sure the baby was not just taking snacks but emptying the breast so he would not be hungry for several hours. Most all the mothers have had a baby every 2 to 3 years, but seldom any closer. Heavy nursing has been the tradi-

tional means of birth control all down through the ages, allowing time between the pregnancies for the mother's body to get back in good shape to carry another healthy child. Most of the scheduled nursing ladies I have heard from say they began their monthly cycle soon after the baby was born, often getting pregnant by the time their newborn is 6 or 8 months old, thus, due to fatigue, were forced to stop nursing the first infant. Medical scientists have discovered that babies nursed for up to 2 years have a larger brain than babies fed formula. Women of Biblical times nursed their children until they were 5 years old. Remember the story of Samuel. Just for the record, I quit at 2-years-old.

So here you have a few facts and my 2 cents worth of common sense. Use it to make a decision that best suits you, your baby, and the life style your husband has chosen for your family.

Learn all you can from all points of view and then throw it all out and do what works best for you. Relax. Don't chose sides and fight it out. It is not Bible doctrine. In departing from someone's system you need not feel guilt or pride. The cows, goats, horses, and even rabbits have been doing it right all along and, if they could they would laugh that we "intelligent humans" ever bothered to discuss it. ☺



Pictorial Gospel Bible

We have now completed about 140 pages of our proposed 300 page Pictorial Gospel Bible. We will not give you the artist's name until the project is near completion, for we do not want him stolen away to a more lucrative project. He worked in the Marvel Comic Book industry for 25 years. Now that he has come to know the forgiveness of sins, he has committed his talent and skills to the furtherance of the gospel. We have hired him full time for the duration of the project, which will take over two years—about one more year to go. Michael Pearl writes the script and does sketches that indicate the layout of each frame, providing verbal descriptions of each character or scene. Michael also provides historical pictures that aid the artist in accuracy. After the artist submits pencil sketches for approval, he then inks the pictures. The

originals are ten inches wide by fifteen tall. When we receive the finished ink drawing, Hugh Godwin, our office manager and computer "expert" scans them in for the next phase. We tried to find a computer artist to do the gray shading, but it didn't work out, so Hugh taught Michael, who has an art background, to work the programs. The shaded picture that you see on the previous page is the finished art with the exception of the bubble frames containing text, which will be added later.

The completed project will not cover every major story in the Bible—far from it. It is a chronological presentation of the gospel beginning with creation and the major events of Genesis and Exodus, hitting the highlights of Jewish history, and then centering in on the life and ministry of Christ, ending up with a brief history of the church, and concluding with

the second coming of Christ and the new heavens and new earth in the beginning of eternity.

We expect to print this, or make it available free of charge for others to print, in every major language on the face of the earth. It will be a standalone Bible course and evangelistic presentation. It will be a printed missionary sufficient by itself—with the aid of the Holy Spirit—to communicate the message of the Bible and of Christ to the man that has never heard. We have already secured translators for about 15 languages. If you know of someone who would volunteer to translate it into a foreign language, please send us his name and address. ☺

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Dear Pearls,

A while back, I wrote to you about my 2-year-old daughter who struggled with getting her hair washed and rinsed. You replied a while ago, and I wanted to thank you for taking the time to share with me your daughter's success with Jane! I followed suit and had dramatic results. I was a bit exhausted by all the enthusiasm I displayed when I poured water over my own head, but the effort paid off. My daughter struggled a bit, but our first time obedience training came in handy when I explained that this was not a cry-time, but a happy-time. She swallowed her sorrow and tried her best to smile as I sang about how fun it was to get water poured over your head. I discovered she really doesn't like water in her ears, so we made another game of plugging her ears with her fingers! I wish I had a video camera...Mom with soaking wet hair herself, a 2-year-old with fingers in her ears, and poorly written lyrics being sung out of tune about how fun it is to get your hair wet. Please thank Shoshanna for me! Sincerely trying to learn.

Thanks, J



STINGING NETTLES

I remember as a child, one night I was chasing lightning bugs and discovered Stinging Nettles. At the time I never would have dreamed that Stinging Nettles were such an important part of history and of good health. Stinging Nettles are aptly named for the tiny little stinging hairs all over the stems. When you rub against the seemingly innocent plants it feels like biting ants.

Because of their stinging hairs they are easy to identify, thus easy to find in the wild. There are some varieties that can cause stinging for weeks. The sting of Stinging Nettles has been and is still used to put on areas of the body where circulation is needed. That use is called urtication.

Stinging Nettle is a wonderfully nutritional plant. It is rich in chlorophyll, calcium, silicon, chromium, magnesium, zinc, and potassium. It contains vitamins A, C, D, and E, along with the minerals sodium, copper, and iron. It is very high in protein. Traditionally it has been used as a spring tonic. After a long winter, when the body needed a good boost, it was cooked as greens and eaten. It doesn't sting after it is steamed or cooked. Although I must tell you, our hippie neighbors tried a big

meal of Nettles cooked as greens. They said they were delicious. Two hours later they were thoroughly sick to their stomachs. Too much of a good thing can get quite hard to digest. But then they were always overdosing anyhow. The moral to their story is, eat your nettles in moderation. A

small amount of the herb added to a pot of beans can greatly increase your nutritional intake, which



could make a big difference in good health if you were in a situation where your vitamin and mineral intake was otherwise limited.

Without proper vitamins and minerals the bodily functions soon begin to break down, causing disease or weakness. For instance, sometimes low chromium levels in the body can cause high blood sugar levels. Often high blood pressure can be corrected with potassium. Add a small amount of Nettle to your diet in the way of tea, or added to a pot of soup, and these problems could be eliminated. If you know anyone who has lost all their get-up-and-go, tell them to get up and go get some Nettles for the high iron and chlorophyll content. Most chlorophyll sold in health-food stores is made from the rich Stinging Nettle plant. For ladies expecting babies, Nettles are a helpful source of iron and calcium. Together with Red Raspberry and Alfalfa, Stinging Nettle is a good prenatal herbal.

Stinging Nettle is a diuretic, which means it helps the body flush out waste and toxins by increasing the urine flow. Thus it is used in many kidney and bladder herbals.

But my favorite use of Nettles is for the hair. You can read about that in any herb book.

Collecting Stinging Nettles in the wild can be a pain! Our son Nathan sells this herb. Write for a free catalogue to: The Bulk Herb Store, 1010 Pearl Road, Pleasantville, TN 37033. The Bulk Herb Store is in no way connected to this ministry. ☺