

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



No Greater Joy

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Infant Manifesto

To all you little kids out there, I would like to lend my advice on how to train your Mommies and Daddies. Let me tell you, this is easier than you think. Those who have gone before have blazed the trail. Almost without exception kids are winning the war against parental dominance. There is no need to grow up deprived of your rights to unlimited indulgence. We are born into a new age where psychology and TV have taught parents the truth about one's right to free expression. Kids everywhere are breaking free of the old fashioned restraints of family. No one has a right to tell another human being what is right and wrong. Each one must find one's own way. Be true to thyself. Get in touch with your own feelings, and do not allow your creativity to be stifled by the older hypocrites. The tide has turned, and we even have the law on our side now. The courts are ruling in our favor. So rise up to your calling and join the masses as we throw off the archaic restraints.

I know they are big and can be intimidating, but if the truth be



known, they are all pushovers. Let me inform you of your advantages. You will soon discover these things on your own, but if you two-month-olds can be forewarned, you can get a head-start while the big dummies are still totally absorbed with how cute you are. Why wait until you are six-months-old to start taking control of these teddy bears? Many kids your age are already establishing dominance. So as one who has been through it, let me give you a few tips.

First you must understand that your very weakness will be working to your advantage. During the

first months, parents, especially mothers—I think it has something to do with hormones—are driven by blind instinct. They have this deep emotional need to meet your every need. While you are still very young and weak, they know that you depend on them for your very survival. In those early months they will give you anything you need. By the time you are four or five months old you will realize that the world is full of stimulating and indulging things to do. You must start now before it is too late, getting your wants met as well as your needs. You see, at that early age, parents don't know the difference between your needs and your wants, and if you have programmed them properly, they will not question your motives. Their own guilt and sense of duty will cause them to rush to your every whimper.

By six months you will begin to experience anger when they fail to immediately comply. If you work it right, they will think you are just as cute when mad as when you are smiling, so pour it on and condition them to accept your anger as a normal part of infancy. All too soon they will begin to be frustrated with your dominance, so you must set a pattern before they are personally bothered by your controlling demands. By nine months old they will say you have

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a strong will and they will even say it with pride, as if it is some kind of virtue. When they are confronted by enemies of child freedom, they will excuse your behavior by saying that you are different and cannot be dealt with as other children. By the time you are two years old, they will be so conditioned that they will dismiss your free expressions as “the terrible twos.” They are not willing to face defeat, so they like to think of it as just a stage. And there is some truth to their analysis. As you get three or four, you will have to learn to direct your demands more carefully. You can push them too far too soon, and they explode. Sometimes they strike out in violence and make you retreat to your room. They might even have an emotional breakdown, and you could be put into a government institution. There is more freedom there, but one does not get proper attention in the system.

So you must disguise your dominance and express it more carefully. There are several ways to do this, and it is good to have a variety—it confuses them and keeps them from ever getting a fix on it. For instance, if you are a cute little girl, it is very effective to play the pity role. Pretend to be weak and emotionally hurt. You can get more mileage out of that than the boys can out of their strength. Even fathers are susceptible to this guise. If they tell you no, just look brokenhearted. It helps to just sag in your body like you don't have the strength to go on with life. If they don't immediately comply, then you can say you are tired or don't feel well. Just lay around, and remember to ask in a pitiful voice about every

ten minutes. When you ask, be sure to rub your hand along their leg or arm. If you are close enough to touch their faces that works even better. The stimulation of touch breaks down their resistance. Eventually they will say, “Oh all right, I don't guess it will hurt anything.” There, you will have your way, and after all, there is nothing in life more important than getting your own way. It is the greatest source of pleasure.

Now if you are a boy, or a first born girl, or just a free spirit, then you may find the direct method more to your liking. Anger and hostility will intimidate the biggest of them. If you stand your ground early, especially before they feel you are old enough to be spanked, you can gain the upper hand by convincing them that it is “just your personality” and that “you will grow out of it.” Be advised, it just takes one experience. It is best conducted before you are one year old, but it will work at any time. All you have to do is win. That is rule number one; win any contest of wills. Cause them to give up in exasperation. Frustrate their efforts at dominance. Stand your ground, even when you are spanked. Prove to the bullies that when you have your mind made up nothing can change it. Let them know that you will not obey any command you do not think is just. If you ever win just once, then you have broken their wills. Yes, remember, that is the important thing. Break their wills. Take away their confidence. Make them feel helpless. After that, it is easy. If you ever hear her say, “I can't do a thing with that boy; he just has a strong will,” then you know you have won. Keep it up and you

will always be free of control.

Another point to anticipate is that parents go through stages. They may read a book or take advice from a friend and decide to renew their efforts at dominance. Sometimes it can be hard on you for a few days. They will spank more and be impatient, but if you just hold out it will all blow over and things will return to normal. Remember, consistency is the key. If you ever give in just once, it renews their confidence, so if nothing else, seek symbolic victories. If there is no issue, just say “No” for the pleasure of it. If they tell you to remove your hand, and you know that they will explode if you don't, then for the time being you will have to remove your hand. But just to keep them from feeling cocky, remove your hand slowly. Hesitate; keep their nerves on edge. It is a tricky balance, but they must always be made to feel that your will is intact. Move your hand by increments. Make them tell you six or eight times. Push them to the edge. This is good for your self-image.

Don't take it too hard when you are forced to comply. After all, they are bigger than you. No one is going to think you are weak just because you are outgunned. Your day will come. You will not always be the little guy. One day you will be able to stand, look her right in the eye, and cuss the old lady to her face. So for now, go with the flow, maintain your will and wait your turn. Eventually you will have a body that will match your will. Then you can seek your own without anyone telling you what to do.

If you are lucky you will get

modern parents. If you are really lucky you will be in the Federal School system. Then you stand a very good chance of receiving an official title to describe your behavior. They may call you something grand like: HAADDS. This will explain why you can never do what you are told and why you ignore commands that are given you. They treat you like you are born different, like you have no choice in the matter. It takes the monkey off your back. Once you are labeled by an Official, they will put you on drugs. That's right, the same stuff the big guys buy on the streets. Man what a high! All of life becomes mellow. No responsibility, no struggles; you can just sail through youth feeling good, never having to surrender your will. There are reports that the kids on these medicines don't function too well when they are grown, but don't you believe it. I took drugs from the time I was in the second grade, and it didn't hurt me. In fact, now that I am older, they bring me several drugs every day, and I feel great—that is when I am not sleeping. Sorry about the messy writing, but the pencil they give me to write with can't be longer than two inches. They are afraid I will try to hurt myself with it, but there is no chance of that—that is, as long as they give me what I want.

Well, there is more I could tell you, but this should get you started. Remember our motto: "SELF-EXPRESSION—SELF-FULFILLMENT—SELF REALIZATION — SELF-INDULGENCE—SELF..... SELF.....self...self.....i Can'T reMember the ResT of It is time for mY nappppp." ☺



To whom it may concern:

Please include me in your free monthly newsletter. I have to tell you that if it were not for the book "To Train Up A Child" I would probably be working full time with my two small children in daycare. I had lost control of my three-year-old boy and was at the point where I didn't even want to be around him. I figured my 15-month-old daughter would grow up to be the same way, so I started searching for a job. Being a Christian, I knew this was not what God would want from me. I felt guilty and stressed. A friend of my mom's gave her the book to give to me. I read it through, prayed, and immediately put into action the training taught in the book. I am grateful and amazed at how well it is already working! My son is no longer angry. He is listening to me and is so lovable! I have no guilt any more because I never yell at him. I am even considering home-schooling. Praise the Lord!

Thank you D.

My Journey

by Michael Pearl

In my journeys I came to an old wooden bridge. A traveler was halted by a bridging plank that was out of place. He asked my advice, so I stopped and helped him repair the single board. He traveled on, but before I could go far, others sought my assistance. Somehow over a period of time, after several successful repairs, I must have assumed responsibility for that bridge. I stood by it to assist and advise concerned travelers. After replacing the same surface boards several times I came to realize that the problem was deeper. The supporting timbers were poorly constructed and now in a state of decay. At first I was thrilled to have discovered the cause. But it didn't take long to learn that the problem went all the way to the foundation. Once I got to the very bottom, I could stand in

one spot and trace the failing structure right to its foundations. I was now quite certain as to the root cause of the failing roadway above. Yes, my analysis were quite certain. Yet, when I informed travelers that their poor journey was due to the foundation that had been laid, they did not seem as satisfied as I was. "How do we fix it," they asked. "Well, next time lay a better foundation," was an answer that came easy. "Yes, but what of this bridge," they asked, "how do you safely re-lay the foundation of a bridge already carrying travelers?" I haven't come up with any certain answers for that one. I am better at analysis. It is a more popular profession. But I answer, "Very carefully, one timber at a time," "Which one first," they ask. "You are putting a lot of responsibility on me; it is not my bridge." "But you are the bridgekeeper, they accuse." "No, I am just a voluntary consultant that doesn't know as much as he did when he started." ☺

Abusive Husband

I want you to read what I must read all too often.

"Hi, I've been reading your material for years and respect your insight on child rearing. It has helped me immensely! I have a friend that is married to a verbally abusive husband. Most of your material is geared to married Christians. This friend of mine is saved, but her husband is not. They have a seven-year-old daughter that is a confused, emotional wreck already. Her husband has had multiple affairs with other women. He uses their daughter to manipulate situations and hurt her mother. Whatever training the mother does with her daughter, the father tells the daughter not to listen to a word that she says. The little girl is told by the father that the mother is hitting her when she spansks her. It is a horrible situation. The father does not provide them with any food, a vehicle, payment for doctor visits, and so on. The mother has filed for divorce, not knowing if this is the right thing to do or not, but not knowing what else to do, she did. It has been 5 months now, and her husband has not been served. She has called her Christian lawyer many times about this. She now believes that this must be the Lord's will that she stay in this situation. Meanwhile, her daughter is growing more and more diffi-

cult at home and in school, with every passing day. The situation is so much worse than I could even begin to describe to you in this short letter. I know she would appreciate any insight that you would have to offer. She is very concerned for her daughter and wants only to do what the Lord would have her to do. Thanks for your help. Love in Christ, Her Friend."

Debi Pearl answers:

The Scripture makes it very clear how God feels about divorce, He hates it. It is an Old Testament passage, but God has not changed his mind. He still hates divorce. It is not His will, it wasn't so from the beginning, and it is not so today. There have been occasions, both in Scripture and in our ministry, where a man was so vile that God has killed him. A woman can come to God asking Him to deliver her from a man if he will not repent, but a woman should be sure she has obeyed God in her relationship to her husband, before she asks such a thing.

God has given us several promises concerning marriage to unbelievers. I Peter 3:1-6 tells us how to win our unbelieving husband, and in 1Cor. 7:14 God promises that our children will be holy if we stay with our unbelieving spouse and honor God in our relationship with him. That is a promise from God. These Scriptures give us the "how to" on our end and the expected results. I

have seen God keep His word. I have also seen many who would expect God to keep His word when they did not obey their end of the "how to."

I am not taking her situation lightly. I know that although I am married to a righteous man, I have often wanted to demand my rights and set him straight. How much more difficult it must be for a young woman being subjected to the unreasonable demands of a lost, selfish man? But God is able, not only to save your man, but also to take you to a place of sweet loving kindness in the midst of turmoil. God is also able to save your children. There is no promise in Scripture to spare your children if you leave your lost husband. I could give you a list of hundreds of godly Christians that chose to leave their unbelieving spouses and then married a believing spouse, had decent marriages, but lost their children to the world and bitterness. I have sat and listened to many say, "We sinned; our children suffered, and we lost them to the world. They hate us. My divorce was wrong. Oh if only..." God didn't destroy that family. He didn't cause those many lives to be lost. It was the principle of what you sow you will reap. God hates divorce because divorce is destructive. Its temporary relief deceives people into thinking they have somehow escaped the long-term, tragic reaping that comes with divorce, the reaping that sometimes reaches its ugly arm into the 3rd or 4th generation. It affects an ever widening circle of people. Others look on, especially the young married couples, and see your divorce as a quick fix, and follow your lead. When things get

rough in their marriage, your situation has helped mold them to go the same road. And so the circle of destruction is passed on to countless more. Seeds of sin just keep on replanting themselves, and bitter hurt seems to go on forever. God hates divorce because it hurts so many. God made a way to win your husband and change your marriage.

I Peter 3:1-4 says, "Likewise, ye wives, be in subjection to your own husbands: that, if any obey not the word, they also may without the word be won by the conversation of the wives; While they behold your chaste conversation coupled with fear. Whose adorning let it not be that outward adorning of plaiting the hair and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel; But let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price."

God tells us here, if your husband is not obeying the word of God, then you can win him without trying to teach him the Word of God. God says that as a husband looks on and sees the way his wife responds to him, he will be won. He will hear and see her cheerful countenance. He will notice her willingness to help and forgive. He will see her giving up her rights and not taking offense when he knows he has wronged her. He will see she honors him, obeys him, treats him with respect, and serves him with a non-rebellious, non-resistant attitude. He will see her spirit is not raging outwardly in emotional fits or inwardly in silent brooding of hurt,

but her spirit is quiet, restful, and peaceful. He will see she doesn't puff up and talk incessantly in criticism of him—or others. He trusts her. He knows she is not going to discuss him with her pastor or friend. He sees she is wise with what little money he gives her. She is a remarkable woman, not because she is classy in the way she dresses or looks, but in the way she controls her spirit. She rejoices for an opportunity to bless him, and he knows her heart is good. He tries her; he deliberately tempts her into hurt or anger; he judges her unfairly; he demands things of her that he knows embarrasses her, yet she is in subjection to him in all things. And in the end, she wins him by her chaste conversation. It is a promise from God to you. And God goes on to promise more to this obedient, believing lady.

"And the woman which hath an husband that believeth not, and if he be pleased to dwell with her, let her not leave him. For the unbelieving husband is sanctified by the wife, and the unbelieving wife is sanctified by the husband: else were your children unclean; but now are they holy (I Cor. 7:13)." When children have a believing parent that is walking in honor to God and her spouse, it will cause the child to honor that believing parent. The child will find refuge, companionship, joy, and respect in that parent. It is a natural law. If your child is failing, then you need to look at yourself and say, "Am I continuing in faith and sobriety? Am I walking in peace and joy? Am I willing to forgive and forget? Am I feeling sorry for myself and

playing the sad face, or am I rejoicing and believing God? Is the expression on my face and the words coming from my mouth a reflection of the joy of the Lord?"

It is an impossible task, yet with God all things are possible. God is able, and with him you can do the impossible. You can wake up in the morning with a song in your heart, kissing your child and laughing at the sunlight sprinkling your room. You can serve, give, forgive, and enjoy the victory you have in Jesus. And when you feel that hurt, angry spirit rise up, you can open your mouth in praise and thanksgiving to God that you are free from sin and bondage, and free to be glad. In that kind of atmosphere, a child grows stable and complete, a selfish man stops fighting and trying to defeat and subdue.

Dear Mama, whether your husband is lost or saved, God has given you the opportunity to set the atmosphere in your home that will bring joy, peace, thanksgiving, and love. He has given you the tools to become the most loved woman and mother on all the earth. He has given you the plan to right a thousand wrongs and prove to the world that with God all things are possible. He has provided you with the way to show the devil that God can take the weakest, silliest wreck of a woman; a woman that has given over to become broken, both physically and emotionally, and turn her into a strong, confident, God fearing, honoring, joyful, yes, even thankful woman. One day you will wake up, turn your head to smile good morning to your husband, and see the tears of thanksgiving glistening in his eyes

as he tells you one more time how much he loves you and how proud he is to have you as his wife. Then someday as the years pass you will hear your teenage sons and daughters speak of how wonderful their mama is, and you will think that life could never be any sweeter. This is what God loves, because it brings so much happiness, so much joy, so much peace. And the blessings will continue to flow out, not only to you but to your children and your children's children, and then to those around you who see God's blessings and hunger to know the truth. It was not the easy road; God's way never is. This happened because day by day, minute by minute, you chose to believe God's Word and honor him even though your flesh wanted to scream in anger and defeat. And in that moment of weakness, when you bowed beneath the load, God reached down and gently reminded you to keep on because some day your children will "arise and call you blessed; your husband also, and he praiseth you. Many daughters have done virtuously, but thou excellest them all."

Women have a tendency to want the answer to their prayers NOW. That is one reason why divorce is so prevalent. But haste is not God's way. In truth, it is not the best way. In the end, when the blessings begin to flow, it will seem like such a short time, because the blessings never end. Every blessing-seed plants another. Divorce is the world's way out. But God is able, and with Him, so are you. God loves to bless you; he loves to heal you; he loves to hear that your children walk in truth.

You say your husband is just "too vile," that it would "take a miracle" or him "dying and being born all over again." Yes, now you are beginning to understand. God has a miraculous plan to make it possible. You are part of that plan. Every day, minute by minute, as you respond to the living God in obedience and thanksgiving, you make that plan unfold. "That, if any obey not the word, they also may without the word be won by the conversation of the wives." He has given you the power to overcome the reactions (lust) of the flesh and to see that plan become a reality in your life. Will you?

As surely as this article goes out to the many thousands, a score of angry women will write me a letter containing personal examples, proving this could not work with their daughter's husband, or with their friend's husband. They will tell me the vile, ugly things the husbands do and of the broken sweet lady in distress, and I will agree. But I would remind you that in the verse that records the sowing and reaping we are warned not to be deceived. It is easy to be deceived by our feelings and what we see. When a person is deceived, they are convinced they are doing right. It seems right, it feels right, everyone says there is nothing else to do. Eve felt that way once. We, as with Eve, think that the will of God stands in the way of our freedom and peace. We believe that due to our unusual circumstances, we are an exception. "Be not deceived, God is not mocked, for whatsoever a man soweth that shall he also reap." God hates divorce. Divorce has its own set of tragic reaping. If only you

could see past today and tomorrow. If only you could get a glimpse of the years to come and of eternity, you would then agree with God. One man and one woman, loving and enjoying each other was and is God's best plan. It was such a good plan that he made it a picture of his relationship to us, His Church. The second time around can never substitute for this.

Divorce followed by the most wonderful second marriage is still a failure, and will be throughout eternity. When you chunk a bad marriage, you chunk your lifelong opportunity for God to have manifested his power and glory. A failing marriage is a challenge to God. When you divorce, you divest God of the opportunity of ever making something glorious out of the Devil's mess. Divorce is not just your failure, it becomes the failure of God to triumph in those circumstances. You are not just saying that it is "more than you can bear," but that it is "more than God could handle."

This is a hard saying. For many reading this, it is simply an impossible dream. For some it is more like a nightmare. I am here to tell you, the Christian life is a miracle. If it is not a miracle against all odds, then it is not Christian; it is only a religious life. God has given you the "how to," and he has given you his Spirit to make it possible. He will give you the heart to want it to happen—if you ask him. He is a good God.

Michael adds his thoughts:

If you or your children have been hit (other than the children being spanked) so as to leave dis-

(Continued on page 7)

cernable marks two hours later, and you genuinely fear that he will repeat his battering, you can take legal steps without divorcing your husband. In a moment when he is not angry, calmly inform him that the next time he physically assaults you or the kids, you are going to call the law and have him arrested. You must first resolve in your heart that you are willing to prosecute him and see him go to jail. I visit prisons every week. It is a great place to mull over the consequences of one's deeds. And I have never met a prisoner that turned down a visit from anyone. Think about it, lady; it is a great time for writing love letters and sharing a three-minute romantic phone call once a week. Guys who get out of prison run straight home to their ladies and treat them wonderfully—for a while anyway.

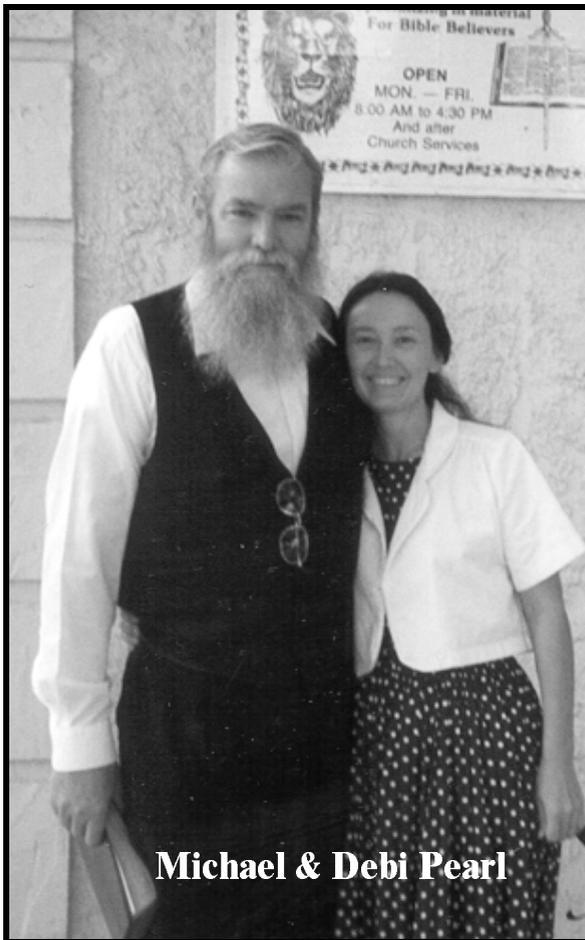
If your abusing husband fully understands that you have the power of the law behind you, he will learn to keep his hands in his pockets. I am not suggesting you do this to be vindictive or to get even with him. It must be done in humility and love. If your husbands knows that you are the weaker vessel, desperately seeking your survival and that of the kids, and that you are not trying to punish him, but that you are going to stand by and continue to love him, that you are going to wait for him to get out of prison and then try to start over again, it may move his heart to fear if not to repentance. You say, he cannot help himself. Does he help himself when his peers—other men his own size—make him angry? Does he fly out of control and

start hitting his boss or his employees? No? Then he has self-control when he must. The law can make it a must, which will allow you to continue with him and demonstrate your womanhood and win him to yourself and then to your God.

But if your husband has sexually molested the children, you should approach him with it. If he is willing to seek counseling and

forgiveness and restitution. Will this glorify God? Forever. You ask, "What if he doesn't repent even then?" Then you will be rewarded in heaven equal to the martyrs, and God will have something to rub in the Devil's face. God hates divorce—always, forever, regardless, without exception.

Finally, this is not written to castigate those of you who have already made irreversible mistakes. If you are divorced and remarried, something precious in God's sight has been lost which can never be regained, but if there has been a remarriage, there is no going back as some would suggest. God forgives and you must go on as you are. An opportunity lost does not reflect on present responsibility or future possibilities. You must make the best of what you have with the spouse to which you are now legally joined. The bed is still undefiled. Do not allow the damaged past to damage the present. You need not do penance. You need not sacrifice the second half of your life on the ruins of the first half. God will not stop the reaping process, but where there is repentance, he completely forgives. Jesus is a savior of sinners. Take your place at the cross and then stand with the saints to rejoice in so great salvation. ☺



repent, then fine and good. If not, then go to the law and have him arrested. Stick by him, but testify against him in court. Have him do about 10 to 20 years, and by the time he gets out, you will have raised the kids, and you can be waiting for him with open arms of

Dear Pearls,

Home is where my heart is now – settled down and comforted in His love. I desire to be here at home now – totally and cheerfully. Before, I was committed to being home, because I just knew that Christ had called me to homeschool, so I did, all the while being frustrated and angry, impatient and irritable. I've read practically all the child training books (Christian ones), but when I listened to the tape of your book No Greater Joy Volume One, that was very helpful. To actually hear the same questions I had and your responses was partly what I needed. That, and a completely dedicated heart towards Christ. He is my world now- and that makes the rest of my world much easier to bear. My children are truly a joy to me now.

Sincerely,
S.T., mother of 3

From our Mailbox

Dear Michael and Debi Pearl,

A friend of mine let me read your books, "To Train Up A Child" and "No Greater Joy." I have read many books and none can compare to yours.

At the time I read your books, we were going through a tough time with our oldest daughter, who then was thirteen. We had tried many things, and we realized we had created a daughter we didn't like. We had sought after outside help from counselors, psychologists, and psychiatrists. We were told that she had numerous disorders including obsessive control disorder and intermittent explosive disorder, and would have to be on medication for the rest of her life.

But when I read the story of the "Volleyball Bawler," I realized where we went wrong. She had even made the statement in counseling that she always got her way. I didn't realize what she meant by that until I read that story. We had put her in a Behavioral Health Center when things got so bad. We prayed for wisdom and forgiveness and God led us to a Christian counselor who told us a lot of the same things your books did and made us realize we were not dealing with disorders, but with the flesh.

On July 1, 1998, we found a very strict Christian Girls Home for our daughter. We were told she would have to stay there for one year, in this spiritual intensive care. They renewed her mind with the Word of God through much preaching and Bible memorization. Meanwhile, we started to work on our younger children. The first thing we did was to take them out of public school. We began training them using the principles in your book and the Word of God. It was amazing the change that occurred and how quickly we started seeing the fruits of our labor.

On December 18, 1998, our daughter returned home to us, a new, changed girl.

Now fourteen, she is the one requesting the books so she will not make the same mistakes we made.

Thank you so much,
S.M.

Dear Mr. Pearl,

Please send your newsletter to [us]. My son and his wife are using your materials in training up their children. We are very impressed with the changes we see in their family and would like to be able to reinforce their training and be supportive of them. We believe your newsletter will encourage us in this area, and help us to encourage our other children and grandchildren as well.

Sincerely yours,
Mrs. L L

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Dear Pearls,

I wanted to share with you a recent incident I had with my son. He is 21 months old and was born with a heart problem. Knowing this, I always had a hard time disciplining him, and consequently, he has become very willful. He had surgery to correct the problem 2 months ago.

Yesterday, we had a major battle of wills. I have been praying for an opportunity to get to the heart of his rebellion, but up until yesterday, I could not seem to find one. He has always been stubborn, but responsive to the rod. I had put him down for a much-needed nap, but he stood up and started crying (not unusual). I spanked him and put him down. He stood up again as soon as I walked out (not unusual). What was unusual was that rather than 2 or 3 spankings to gain compliance, he continued the above scenario for more than 20 times! (I stood in awe of the stubbornness of this little person!) I cried out to God, and I felt a strong encouragement to go on. So many Proverbs came to mind to back me up: "Chasten thy son while there is hope, let not thy soul spare for his crying," etc. I knew this was the opportunity I had prayed for. The struggle had become to "stop crying," and I knew he could do it because he stopped to listen to me when I would come back in and explain that because he was disobeying, I would have to spank him, etc. I decided not to give him so much time to stop, not to walk out and hope he would "wind down" but to spank on the first whimper, and only one or two spats, since he'd had so many by this time.

I am so glad the Lord strengthened me to continue on, because at last, I saw him "break." And the look of relief in his eyes was unforgettable. He settled down without another peep. Later, when I put him down for the night, he went right down without the usual 2 or 3 attempts to get back up. I was so pleased. It wasn't the issue of lying down quietly I was really concerned about; I wanted obedience. I feel I've tapped the vein of rebellion that had long eluded me. Praise the Lord! This little boy has been so loving and snuggly this morning!

Also, Debbie, I just want to thank you for faithfully presenting the case for submission to our husbands as being vital to the health of our families and our witness to the world.

Love in Christ,
J

Dear Pastor Pearl,

I was reared in a very disciplined Christian home. Not one day do I regret the discipline my sisters and I received, but there was something missing that I had vowed to do differently with my children. My husband shared similar circumstances and we embarked on a quest together to discipline our children differently somehow. Your book revealed the answer – training. Now we know we will train our baby up using discipline, not discipline up only. I was so encouraged by your chapter on "The Rod" where you went into the psychology of guilt. I know that discipline and training work for no other reason than God promises it to work; but now I understand why it works.

My parents read your book and it was a great blessing to them. My dad is understanding the love he never had for us girls and is trying to change himself. Also my sister and her husband have read the book and have committed to training their children. Your words really have blessed all of our lives and have given us hope and faith that God does keep His promises when we do as He commands. Parents have told us, "You never know whether your child will be a Christian or not." Your book encouraged me (as I know it in my heart) that, yes, you CAN know.

In Him,
Mrs. J.S.

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.



Dear Mr. and Mrs. Pearl,

Let me share a funny story with you. A friend of mine gets this newsletter out of "nowhere," talking about child training. She tells me I would really like it, but I did not think too much about it until she got her tapes. She kept saying, over and over, you should listen to these tapes, they are really good. Finally, she brought me the tapes and I began to listen to them. Within the first 3 minutes I was appalled! I stopped the tape, called her and said, this man is nuts! I agreed with everything you said about training children as well as how to train them. It was your thoughts on public school that upset me. You see, I was currently a first grade teacher in public school. I said, "He has never set foot in my classroom, he doesn't know squat. Maybe it is like that in the big city, but not in my small town, not in my room!" I went on maternity leave soon after and decided to homeschool my daughter for the year. The Lord has taught me a lot over the past year, including my ignorance! I was always very careful not to teach any of that anti-God stuff. But unknowingly, I did. Under the guise of critical thinking, values clarification, and higher-order learning skills, new age came into my classroom. I must say, you have never been in my classroom, but you couldn't have been more accurate in your statements, even in my small town, even in my classroom.

I know the Lord has a sense of humor, because the same person who thought you were nuts is now just as nuts as you are! I am currently helping 3 families begin their road to homeschooling!

In Christ, B.T.

Dear Michael and Debi Pearl,

I was the mother who always eventually got her children to obey. Prior to reading your books, the children were, by today's standards, very well behaved. They are homeschooled. They do not watch television. We have an orderly home with house rules and a mother giving full attention to the children, as well as a loving father. Before reading your book, my husband and I were complimented on the behavior of our children. But now..... they are so much better! It is so awesome to tell your children to do something and have them respond immediately. You have ministered to my family through your books in such an incredible way.

Love in Christ, K.C.

Please remove us from your mailing list. We are no longer christians and do not wish to receive any christian literature or christian based teachings. We have repented from following the teachings laid down by the anti-semitic church fathers and have returned to the faith of the prophets and of the nazarene teacher..... Biblical Judaism. You take "Hey-Zeus", I'll take God.

Michael & Debi Pearl published To Train Up a Child in August 1994. By mid 1999, over 250,000 copies were in print. This newsletter came about as a way to answer the many questions received in the mail each day. Other books have followed which answer the many questions.

The Pearls receive no remuneration from the sale of these books and tapes. This is a ministry operated through The Church At Cane Creek where Michael Pearl is pastor/teacher. The low prices reflect our concern to make these materials available to as many as possible. We give a 38-45% discount on books by the Pearls when purchased in volumes of eight or more. We also make available a limited number of books and videos that we believe will be a great blessing to your family.

We are dedicated to the advancement of the gospel of Jesus Christ in those countries where Christ is least known. Monies received from books and tapes more than pay for their distribution. After operating expenses, all money from the sale of books goes to foreign missions. All gifts go directly to foreign missions, none being retained here in the States, unless otherwise designated by the donor.

All who have ordered materials from us during the past twelve months are automatically put on our mailing list to receive our free monthly newsletter. However, you need not purchase materials to continue receiving this newsletter. We are here to serve you, but we must know that you are interested. If we haven't heard from you in a year, drop us a brief note, or just a card with your name and address. It is our joy to serve you. ☺

Dear Friends,

Greetings, from your side of the planet this time! It is wonderful to be home with my family again, and I'm appreciating every little detail of Tennessee in the fall. For those of you that are unfamiliar with what I've been up to:

Last October 1998; I was offered the opportunity to spend one year in Israel as a volunteer at a Christian Youth Hostel. Among the many ordinary duties of cleaning and keeping up such a place, I also had the privilege to witness to people from all over the world, give away Bibles in dozens of languages, and disciple young believers in the faith. It was one of the most taxing years of my life, but I also learned more than I ever have in any given amount of time. When one is presented with every culture, language, and religion known to man, and pressed upon to find answers to ultimate questions, one not only learns the Word of God, but also the heart of God, the heart of man, and the heart of self. I prefer the heart of God! In all four years of Bible College combined, I only learned 1/4th of what I came to experience in Israel. It was challenging – but good. The schedule was pretty hectic, and towards the last few months, I battled with exhaustion and illness, until at last the doctor said, "You have to go

Rebekah

home." My year was just a few weeks short of completion anyway, so I packed my same, old bags and found myself a flight home. Seems to be the story of my life, leaving and returning from home.

Mom and the doctor have been running tests and pumping

and about three days later, I'll get an infectious swelling around my right eye or temple. They never did figure it out (although everybody and their Aunt Bee have been sending me diagnosis and remedies). Eventually, rest, good food, and a God that answers prayer built me back up, and I've been well for three weeks now. Thank Him. It's a good thing we don't have to keep these old bodies for the rest of Eternity! I'm about ready for my Blessed Hope model.

Now what? I'm waiting on God again. He's always come through exceedingly, abundantly above all that I ask or think, so I'm staying put until He gives direction. Meanwhile, I'm studying the Vietnamese language and country, helping out around here, and writing a book. I plan to be home at least through the new year, Lord willing. The money you send me is being diverted into general missions to pay for Bibles and tracts — the prayers I'm selfishly keeping for myself. Thanks for being a part of my life – and I really mean that. Someday I'll get to meet you all and thank you personally for your prayers and involvement in God's work through me. It's an honor and privilege to be part of your family!

May I never cease to thank Him for His goodness to me,
Rebekah Pearl

P.S. I'll keep you updated on what happens next. ☺

HIM

*I hold a Hand that holds the stars
And has since they were new.*

*I fear not what tomorrow brings;
He holds tomorrow too.*

*I love a Friend that loved me true
Before I yet was born
He knew my name and drew me forth;
For me his flesh was torn.*

*I serve a Lord that served the world
By giving His own life
He filled my darkest, empty space
With His consuming light.*

*I seek a face that sought me first
When I was so undone
And called me by His own dear name;
An heir with Christ the Son..*

*Rebekah Pearl
October 12, 1999*

me full of good-for-you-stuff. My white blood cell count was really high, and they didn't know what to think. Every couple of weeks or so I get a fever, ache all over,

The Land that God Remem-

Many of you have kept up with the ministry in Papua New Guinea. Dewayne Noel and his family have spent the last two years discipling 25 or so young men to be disciplers of others. Seven villages now have their own churches and elders. Missionary work can be greatly hindered if the missionary stays too long. Many Western missionaries treat the native ministry as a colony of the Western church. This weakens the native church and eventually makes it a Western Outpost rather than a Local Indigenous Church. Dewayne was well taught before he went to PNG, and intended to get his work there done within two or three years. He has met with great success and is confident that the nationals are ready to assume full ministerial control. He will be going back from time to time to encourage the work, but as of this November, the Holy Spirit will bear the weight of follow up—as it should be. Here is an Email Rebekah received from Dewayne's wife:

Hi, Rebekah!

It was so very good to get your e-mails and know where you are and how you are doing. Dewayne is in Madang one last time, picking up mail, groceries, and Mike Braband. Mike will be staying with us until we leave, travelling with us as far as Sydney, and then coming back to PNG. We are excited to have him here. Two months left. Two months of seeing these beautiful mountains, their beautiful people, and living in this beautiful place. I will miss it. Back home, they think we're roughing it, and here, we think they're roughing it!!! It will be a very busy two months for Dewayne and Mike, and a very lonely two months for me! The guys will be hiking to all the surrounding villages every Thursday through Sunday during the months of September and October. I

think there are 6 or 7 villages in all. Please pray extra for them. As for me, hiking through the bush, 3 months pregnant, with 4 pikinini's, at the start of rainy season, sleeping on the floor in a bag for 3 to 4 nights just isn't my idea of fun, so I will be staying home with the kids!!! I can do more good here, in my nice, warm, comfortable house, with my wood stove and foam mattress, praying for the guys, anyway!!! They're going as far away as Malek, a 6 hour, HARD hike, and as close as Chinam, about 45 minutes. Dewayne will be doing most of the teaching, but he said he's going to let Mike preach some too. I am sending a small tape recorder along with them so that I don't miss out on it all! It's going to be hard for the kids to leave here. Besides being the ideal place for a kid to grow up, they are spoiled rotten by the village folks! I wonder how it's gonna be when we get back to the States and they find out that they will no longer be the center of attention! Anyway, it will be hard for all of us to leave. Sure, we're ready to go. God has put that peace in our hearts. But leaving is always hard. I'll tell you what, Rebekeh, if for nothing else, us living here has sure taught me a lot about prayer, about my God, about myself. I love the way He works! This summer (dry season!) the folks started to backslide. All the girls, Jerry and Natoline, the young guys. It was so hard seeing it happen. Two of the girls, Anna and Stella, tried their best to remain faithful, and they did. They came over for Bible study and stuff. None of the others would come and see me. They wouldn't come by and play with the kids, or anything. It got really hard, and Dewayne offered to send me and the kids home while he finished up the work here. But I knew that my place is with my husband and that if I left I would be quitting and giving up. So I stayed. And I prayed.

Dewayne quit preaching to them. Lawrence quit preaching to them. The church was dead. No services. Then Dewayne made a trip to town and got "stuck" there for 3 weeks. Lawrence was gone every weekend and in between, preaching at other villages. Anna and Stella, my only "friends" were very busy in the coffee gardens and such. I was here with the kids and no one else. Or so I thought. This must have been the time that you started receiving all of that mail and stuff from us, and you said you'd been praying extra hard for us. Thank you. I knew someone was praying because I never would have gotten through those three weeks without those prayers. That is the main reason I am telling you all of this. To let you know that your prayers were heard, answered, and so very much appreciated!!! Another reason I am telling you all of this is to share what happened next. First, let me say how GLORIOUS and CARING and BEAUTIFUL my God is!!! Of course, you already knew that, didn't you? Well, anyway, a couple of weeks ago, all the backslidden girls went to Lawrence, a few at a time, and confessed, bawled, and begged his forgiveness. They told him how they were so convicted and that they couldn't go on. They had a taste of this world and its "goods," and they decided it just wasn't worth it. They left it. They've come back!!! (I just want to jump and shout and praise God with all my might every time I think about this! But I better keep it quiet, the kids are asleep.) Lucy and Rossilla were the first to come back. Then Leonie, and finally Alice and Jullian. Leonie has been quite a shock. She has stood up to Jerry and family and told them how backslidden they are; she told Alice and so Alice got so convicted that she finally broke. Go Leonie!!! Lucy came to Dewayne and me and

(Continued on page 15)

The Good-Book Runners

Many of you have sent gifts, some designated to a particular missionary, some given to the general fund. We here at No Greater Joy ministry and The Church at Cane Creek are first dedicated to the task of making the gospel known to those who have never heard. All funds above operating expenses go to foreign missions. One of the young men you have supported is T. J.

T. J. has spent the last two years in the Far East, in a country closed to the gospel, studying the language in a university, and conducting discriminate matriculations on the side. He has completed translation of the books of Romans and John. They were printed in quantity, but needed to be discreetly conducted into receptive hands. So T. J. returned this past month with six “tourists,” all carrying backpacks stuffed with good news, hot off the press. The book runners were a mixed lot, ranging from T. J.’s younger sister to his father, plus two other young men from the church here, an elderly lady, and a young man from another state who wanted to get a taste of Pauline travels. They found it necessary to cross the border more than once to complete their mission. That “closed” country opened up to receive the best news since the angelic multitude had a praise service in the presence of the shepherds.

T. J.’s dad, Tom, had not been overseas since he returned from Vietnam. As Tom strapped on his

heavy backpack, preparing to cross the border, he must have experienced a special thrill, knowing that his own son had translated the books he was carrying.

“Grandma,” from Indiana, was thrilled to celebrate her 73rd birthday as an active member of the team. When she first volunteered to go, her friends cautioned her to consider the dangers. “Hey, what have I to lose,” she said, “I’ve lived my life, so what if I die? Let it be while I’m busy doing something I’ve always dreamed of doing.” Actually, she was good cover for the whole team. Who would ever suspect Grandma and “her family” of being Bible runners? It’s never to late to serve God, and, as Grandma found out, never to late for a thrill.

We rejoice that those imprisoned behind a Communist and Buddhist curtain now have available to them an accurate translation of at least two of the books.

As God enables, these two books are just the first of what T. J. hopes will one day be a set of 66—all translated from the “oldest and best manuscripts,” as is the K J V.

By the time you read this, the team should be home, but T. J. will be returning to his

adopted country after the New Year. If you would like to have him speak in your church during late November, December, or early January, contact us and we will make arrangements.

Oh, one other thing: T. J.’s dad, Tom, called back to the States for a hasty shipment of our little book *Divine Design*. He had wormed his way into one of the prisons in Thailand, where American and European prisoners are held. They exist under horrible conditions, but he was able to preach the good news to very receptive ears. Before returning to the States, Tom is going to go back and give them *Divine Design* and other literature to aid them in understanding the message. Tom’s wife said that when he called he was talking about moving over there so he can regularly visit the English speaking prisoners with a message of repentance and forgiveness. Sounds like a winner! There has never been a better time to serve God—more white fields than ever. ☺

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

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





SPICED FOR LIFE

Some of the most important herbs are also spices. Ginger, cinnamon, turmeric, and clove are four popular culinary spices that are also highly regarded in the herbal field.

Turmeric is presently under the scientific spotlight. It is that bright yellow spice used in so many dishes from India. It has come to be used in virtually all their meat dishes because of its ability to destroy harmful bacteria in meat that has not been properly refrigerated.

Recently, there have been as many as 16 studies done on Turmeric as an antioxidant. There have also been 34 reports on its role against cancer, 23 reports on the properties of Turmeric in reducing inflammation, five scientific articles on its potential to reduce heart disease, and three studies demonstrating its ability to slow the progression of the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection to clinical AIDS.

Of all the studies being done on Turmeric, the most interesting are those that demonstrate its properties as an antioxidant. Antioxidants are necessary to the body's survival, by daily functioning to remove toxins—to, in effect, “clean house.” Antioxidant nutrients work together synergistically. That is, it takes several different antioxidants working together to do the single job of toxin removal. Two well know antioxidants are those of vitamins E and C. They must work together to be effective. Just as we need daily amounts of

vitamins and minerals, as are found in fruits and vegetables, so we need daily amounts of antioxidants, which are found in great concentrations in Turmeric.

Ginger is another Asian spice that is also used as an herb. In China, Ginger is first an herb, then a spice. In America, Ginger is best known for its ability to limit motion sickness. It has proven

more effective for air travel than any medication available. Midwives give it to expectant mothers to control their morning sickness. It has long been used to treat indigestion, flatulence (gas), diarrhea, and loss of appetite. As the Indians use Turmeric to detoxify their meat, the Chinese use Ginger for that purpose. Either spice also aids in the digestion of meat.

Oil extracted from Ginger root is effective as a massaging ointment on painful, inflamed joints. By adding a few pieces of the root to your bath water you will experience a tingling sensation that is a sign of the relief to follow.

I love Ginger-root tea. It is stimulating and refreshing. Just put a few tiny, dried pieces in a cup of boiling water and steep for 3 minutes. Add honey to your taste.

Cinnamon is most commonly called a spice, yet it is also a very effective herb. Because of its early prominence as a spice, Cinnamon has often been tested and found effective in treating a variety of health problems. Cinnamon oil is a potent antibacterial, anti-fungal, and even a uterine stimulant. This means if you have an infected wound or a fungus (like athlete's foot), a wash made with cinnamon has been found effective in fighting the fungus or infection. Many medicinal qualities are found in the volatile oils. The presence of volatile oils is betrayed by the pungent odors and flavors.

Cinnamon is effective in treating

infection of the mouth and throat. Because it tastes good, adults, and even children, will happily suck on a Cinnamon stick. The volatile oils in Cinnamon are also a digestive aid. A dash of cinnamon added to a cup of hot tea or apple cider makes the drink taste better, and is very soothing.

Midwives give Cinnamon when a new mother, or would-be mother, needs her uterus stimulated to enhance labor, or in treatment of post-natal bleeding.

Cinnamon has been proven to bring relief from all sorts of “cold” conditions, from the common cold, to stomach chills, to arthritis or rheumatism.

I keep Cinnamon on hand for both healing and comfort. And of course, Cinnamon is at its very best in whole-wheat Cinnamon rolls!

Clove is both a spice and an herb. It is the one herb I always take with me whenever we travel. Clove is a small, hard, spicy herb that fits easily in the side of your mouth. Unlike store bought mints, a clove will stay in your mouth, continuing to release its oils, bringing fresh breath for hours. For a speaker or counselor, it is indispensable.

When a Clove is placed into or beside a sore tooth, it not only freshens the mouth, but also acts as an anesthetic to relieve the pain. As the anesthetic diminishes the pain, it is also releases germicidal properties that fight bacteria. With the availability of modern drugs, most dentists still prefer and use clove oil to deaden pain and fight infection.

Nutrition aside, just considering taste, my favorite herbal tea is a combination of Clove, Cinnamon, and Peppermint.

*Nathan Pearl sells herbs. Write for a free catalogue: **The Bulk Herb Store, 1010 Pearl Road, Pleasantville, TN 37033.** Don't write the church. We have no part in Herb sales. ☺*

(Continued from page 12)

apologized for her behavior. What a trip that did to my heart!!! You wouldn't believe the change in them! They are like different people! They started a new church – The Church at Aikram! They are meeting in Lawrence's house for now, on Sunday mornings and whenever the Holy Spirit leads them to meet. In the middle of the night, in the middle of the day, it doesn't matter. They are tired of following the ways of man. They are building a new church building too. It's a one room house with a fire pit in the middle. No pews, no pulpit, no official Pastor. Every time Dewayne goes up to Lawrence's house, he finds at least one person there with him, studying the Bible. Anyway, I just thought you might like to hear that. PRAYER WORKS!!! These people make me look like a heathen! Needless to say, I am glad I stayed, and now I can watch the Lord work some more here in little ol' Aikram, before we have to leave here for good. I say for good, but Dewayne plans on coming back for a visit next year. We got amazing tickets home. All 5 of us fly for under \$4200! We leave here, Aikram, on November 1st. Vacation in Madang for a week. Leave Madang on the 7th, layover in Sydney for one day and night (we got a motel room), and then it's on

to L. A. and Dallas. We will spend a week or so in Temple, at our home church, and then go to Amarillo for Thanksgiving with Dewayne's folks! Then we plan to hit the road and visit some of our supporting churches during December. Then it's on to Kansas in January, where we will settle down. Dewayne will be teaching missions in a small Bible school. So those are our plans. We don't have a vehicle, but we know that God will give us the right one when He can get the most glory for it. I know that He is already working it out, though. Who cares where or how or when??? As long as He gets the Glory!!! I can't wait to get back to the States and see what kind of vehicle and house He is going to provide for us. You are a very easy person to talk to, you know! Thanks for being such a friend. We are praying for you and maybe we will get to see you in the states, soon. Until then... your friend, Deanna

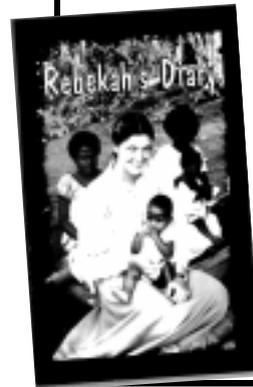
Michael Braband, of whom

Deanna spoke, is a young man whom God has called to the work. He is waiting on a Visa so he can go to the unreached tribes of PNG. But while he is waiting, he is there on a tourist visa. You can pray that he will be granted a visa and that God will supply all his needs.

Dewayne will be home in late November. Braband should be back in January. If you would like for either of them to speak in your church or mission conference, you may contact us here. ☺

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.



The Church at Cane Creek
1000 PEARL ROAD
PLEASANTVILLE, TN 37033

September– October 1999

