

# No Greater Joy

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## Insulate your children within

In our recent article on betrothal, I mentioned that many homeschooling parents insulate their children without, but fail to insulate them within. We have received a number of inquiries as to how parents should go about insulating their children within. After asking the question, most correspondents offered answers that were quite accurate. It is clear that they were not inquiring out of ignorance but out of a desire for us to more fully express a reality that is already evident to them. Parents are realizing that their children need something more than just good fences if they are to remain separated from the world.

Homeschooling has now been popular for about twenty years. It is just one aspect of a movement to reclaim the family. We parents have said, "Stop the world; I want to get my kids off." We know that every fiber of American society has become hostile to raising a godly heritage. There was a time when the public school was enemy number one. Today, the public churches have also become enemies to a godly seed. I do not know of any church youth group that has produced holiness in the

community. But I have heard of many cases of fornication, drugs, rebellion, and homosexuality coming out of the weekly youth gatherings. If you haven't panicked, there is still time. So for nearly two decades there has been an increasing number of refugees joining the retreat to homeschooling, and some to home churches. Get out of the world! Flee! Save your kids! Get rid of your television. Stay away from the malls. Guard what you read. Be careful of your associations! Insulate your children from the world.

The Pearls started their flight 30 years ago. We began homeschooling and separated ourselves from social, commercial, and institutional evil. We were misunderstood and criticized for not allowing our children to go to Christian youth events, for not celebrating Xmas, for not allowing them to spend the night with a cousin or Christian friend, for censoring music, and for dressing modestly—just to mention a few. "Christians" were and remain our greatest enemies.

Our children are all gone except one daughter, yet Deb still gets to the magazines first and

exercises her censorship rights. I don't care what the article is, if there is an unclad female on the other side, I won't get to read it. There will be a hole torn in the page. This is what I referred to as "insulating your children (and husbands) from without." It is needful, but not sufficient.

Many parents do a careful job of quarantining their children from the world, but fail to inoculate them against eventual and inevitable exposure to evil. Parents somehow think that if they can just keep their children isolated until they get to be older teenagers then the danger will have passed. If we protect our children until they are old enough to leave home, but fail to prepare them within to triumph over the world's alluring environment, we have not protected them at all; we have actually made them vulnerable. An unused character can grow as weak as an unused limb. Worldliness is not a condition of the world; it is a condition of the soul.

When we isolate our children from the world, we may forget that they are already infected. Children are born with, and become carriers of, the disease of

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carnality. The protected and separated home differs from the world only in degree, not kind. The flesh of every child and every criminal is identical. As a child matures, his flesh becomes increasingly vulnerable to every carnal opportunity, and, as you know, society secretes opportunities to sin. The air is filled with it. The world is a carnival, and every child a potential customer.

You can police your small children for a while, striking down opportunity when it tries to slither into your family circle, but as children get older they develop a curiosity to meet with opportunity, to listen to its pitch, as did Eve.

The Bible calls this budding understanding, “knowledge of good and evil.” God possesses knowledge of good and evil, and it is essential to humanity that we also develop such knowledge. This understanding slowly develops in the child as his moral faculties mature. Life is a test of one’s temperance and self-control.

One can know good and evil from either side of the issue. God

would have us come to this knowledge standing on the side of good and looking on its opposite—evil. But like Eve, the human race tends to plunge into evil, and thereby know good only by its absence.

Be aware, children that are “good” but untested do not necessarily possess character. It concerns me to see godly young people marrying “good” kids that have never had the opportunity to have their characters tested. I look at some of these 18-year-olds that have been cloistered all their lives and I know that no one, not even they, know who they are. We frequently hear of “good” kids suddenly “going wild” when they get about 15 to 18. Just recently, a long time friend of our family lost one of his “nice” daughters to a heathen. She is his oldest daughter of more than 12 kids. She was well protected and guarded from evil all her life. Then one day, while awaiting betrothal, she met a cool creep. She “fell in love” immediately. She was not deterred by his unbelief and impurity. It was all so “exciting” and

“wonderful.” “Surely any thing that feels this good must be goodness itself.” In that case my dog is good twice each year.

On another occasion, a preacher’s daughter, 16 years old, had a fight with her father. She went for a walk to cool off and met a sympathetic young man that “understood her.” He “knew how she felt” and gave her comfort and assurance. It was a dream come true—until after her bastard baby was born in a shack, and she later discovered that her cool, understanding, and sympathetic lover was copulating with his step mother. She was a preacher’s daughter, homeschooled, with no television or videos, long dresses and no pants, long hair, head coverings, and life in the country.

But the above story didn’t end with the ruin of the older daughter. When her parents discovered she was “seeing” this young man, they sent the younger sister along to chaperone. She practiced voyeurism, watching the two “lovers” love. She didn’t follow in her sister’s footsteps. She made her own, and they sunk

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deeper into sin.

So how do we insulate our children within? How do we prepare them to stand in the evil day? The child is insulated within when he holds a mature and tested world view by which he can wisely discriminate between good and evil, and when he has the will to choose the good, even when doing so is without pleasure. In other words, your child's last line of defense against the incursion of the world is to hate the world and love righteousness.

Before I offer practical examples of how to build character into your children, I want to discuss the nature of how character is developed. The biblical history of the human race is a look into God's character clinic. God has revealed his method of building character, and we can emulate it. We will not take the time to point out the Biblical patters, but it is

obvious to any student of the Word, beginning with Adam and his garden experience, through Joseph, Abraham, Moses, and the Children of Israel, down to Christ himself as the Holy Spirit drove him into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil. I discussed this more fully in my book "By Divine Design."

God created Adam and Eve to be righteous, but he did not create them righteous. They were created right, innocent, but with no knowledge of good or evil. Character cannot be created. It comes out of choice. Character does not develop in a moral vacuum. One does not learn to be good by never being allowed to do evil. Character is the end result of many moral contests. One must face moral dilemmas, with no limitations or constraints on his freedom, and choose between the naked realities of good and evil in order to develop character. Further, one

must chose good in circumstances that are hostile to his choice. Finally, if he is to have lasting character, he must make the hard choice of doing the right thing in situations where his body and soul cry out for the pleasure that will come with an unlawful choice.

The key words are knowledge, test, and choose.

- Parents must carefully lead their children into a knowledge of good and evil.
- Children must be allowed to face moral tests of increasing intensity,
- Ultimately they must exercise their wills, choosing righteousness because they value it.

Children can learn character from the Bible, but they cannot possess character except through experience. God's method of building character in his children

## WHICH VERSION IS THE BIBLE?

Did you know that when writers or preachers use "the Greek" to correct the K. J. Bible, they are not using the Greek text from which the K. J. was translated? They are using a Greek text invented by two unbelievers in the late 19th century. Did you know that considering all ancient language manuscripts, over 95% of them support the K. J. Bible? Did you know that the reason there are over 200 different English translations, a new "bible" every nine months, translated entirely different from its predecessors, is purely for economic gain? The King James Bible remains the only Word of God to English speaking people.

How could so many "good godly men be so wrong?" Read this 281 page scholarly book and find out. Be ready to lose your innocence concerning the trustworthiness of institutionalized Christianity. Intellectual blindness isn't confined to the evolutionists.

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is to leave us in the presence of sin while warning us to take the initiative to flee from it. When Satan desires to have us that he may sift us like wheat, God does not destroy the devil, and he does not shield us from the temptation; he prays for us that our faith will not fail in the midst of the trial. You can't overcome an obstacle unless it is in your path. To be a winner you've got to compete. Children kept out of the competition will not break any bones, but neither will they grow strong and become winners. When they are challenged to overcome, they may just wimp out. Yet, God does not allow us to be tempted above that which we are able to overcome.

When my children were very young—I don't remember their age, probably four or five—I instructed them in issues that could soon confront them. On occasion, when my boys and I were standing somewhere outdoors, relieving ourselves, I might have said, "Boys, this (give it a name) is given by God for urinating, and later on when you get older it will be used for making babies. If any body ever wants to touch you there, hit'em in the nose, and then take off running." Later, possibly when they were seven or eight, and we saw a Sodomite, maybe witnessed to one, I would tell the boys something to the effect, "This guy is all messed up in his mind. He handles other guys like a man is supposed to touch his wife. He is perverted." And then I would remind them of the Bible story of Sodom and Gomorra and how God hates such sin and judges it with hell fire.

When my children got big enough to walk or ride their bicy-

cles down the road without our presence, I warned them against pornography. I would never consider letting a child leave the yard with other children or by himself until he was thoroughly warned against the evils of pornography. My children knew how I felt, for on several occasions, I accidentally patronized a store that sold pornography. They had seen me enter a store after pumping gas, and then as I was about to pay, I discovered a display of pornography. It always angers me. I denounce it loudly, ask to see the manager, tell them that I will not trade there again until they remove it, and then inform them that I will inform all my friends to also avoid trading there. When I have seen pornography displayed illegally, I have called the law and gone before the judges. On one occasion, the boys saw me almost get into a knock down fight with a manager that did not appreciate my moral opinion. The boys saw me tear up news magazines, turn off TV sets, and speak out against billboard advertisements. They knew how I felt.

Occasionally I would warn them, saying something to the effect, "Just as God has his book, the devil has his, and it is called pornography. Sooner or later the devil is going to put a porno book on the side of the road where you will find it. You will be tempted to look inside. The pictures may be very exciting. It will give you a thrill to look at it, but it is addictive like drugs. If you ever look just one time, it could destroy your chance for happiness. The devil can use it to twist your mind. If you want to have a good relationship to your wife someday, you had better just pass on

Now, enjoy the teaching of Michael and Debi Pearl on video in this five hour, three tape series. Learn how they successfully trained up their five children with love, humor, the rod, and a King James Bible. \$24.00

by that filthy book."

To reinforce my words I made sure that my children met sinners and newly saved saints that had bad backgrounds. You can tell them that sin is bad, but there is nothing as effective as seeing the destruction that sin has caused in the lives of others. When they saw individuals broken in body and spirit, they knew that sin was not just bad because the Bible and a few nerdy Christians said it was. Sin is destructive regardless of what the Bible or the preacher says.

When my boys got close to puberty, I began to warn them of what was coming. I joked with

them, saying, "One of these days when you get about twelve or thirteen, you are going to start growing hair under your arms and.... Your body will begin to change and you will start to be a man." And I would say something to the effect, "You think girls are cute now; wait until you go through puberty!" They would look at me rather blankly and then go back to being a kid. Just months before puberty, I would say, "It won't be long now." This is all man to man talk. I know it doesn't sound very spiritual, but flesh is flesh, and you can fly so high you depart from reality.

I think our family study of the book of Proverbs did more to instruct them in Biblical principles than any thing we did. I suggest it to every family. We didn't do it every day, but we had at least one session each week and during the long winter days, we sometimes read Proverbs together every evening. This is not a law to be spiritual; it is a teaching exercise.

The kids loved it. We kept it light and fun. Each person would read one verse and then comment on it. They were never too young. The toddlers would sit next to Mom and repeat the words after her, following along with their fingers. As they began to read just a little, they would tell us what they thought the passage meant. By the time they were reading well, we would have them stand up and read loudly, and then comment with gusto. As they got older yet still, we would correct their diction and offer advice on how to speak more effectively. "Stop mumbling." "Put your hand down." "Look at your audience." "Stand up straight." We laughed

and joked and had a great time. Everyone was a winner. We never used this time to bring up their "many sins." We never used it as a time to catch up on rebuke. It is one of the pleasant memories our children cherish.

Just picture the kind of impression Proverbs 7 would make upon a boy just going through puberty. It is the story of a harlot seducing a young man and of the hell that is to follow.

#### **Proverbs 7:6-27**

6 For at the window of my house I looked through my casement,

7 And beheld among the simple ones, I discerned among the youths, a young man void of understanding,

8 Passing through the street near her corner; and he went the way to her house,

9 In the twilight, in the evening, in the black and dark night:

10 And, behold, there met him a woman with the attire of an harlot, and subtil of heart.

11 (She is loud and stubborn; her feet abide not in her house:

12 Now is she without, now in the streets, and lieth in wait at every corner.)

13 So she caught him, and kissed him, and with an impudent face said unto him,

14 I have peace offerings with me; this day have I payed my vows.

15 Therefore came I forth to meet thee, diligently to seek thy face, and I have found thee.

16 I have decked my bed with coverings of tapestry, with carved works, with fine linen of Egypt.

17 I have perfumed my bed with myrrh, aloes, and cinnamon.

18 Come, let us take our fill of love until the morning: let us solace ourselves with loves.

19 For the goodman is not at

home, he is gone a long journey:

20 He hath taken a bag of money with him, and will come home at the day appointed.

21 With her much fair speech she caused him to yield, with the flattering of her lips she forced him.

22 He goeth after her straightway, as an ox goeth to the slaughter, or as a fool to the correction of the stocks;

23 Till a dart strike through his liver; as a bird hasteth to the snare, and knoweth not that it is for his life.

24 Hearken unto me now therefore, O ye children, and attend to the words of my mouth.

25 Let not thine heart decline to her ways, go not astray in her paths.

26 For she hath cast down many wounded: yea, many strong men have been slain by her.

27 Her house is the way to hell, going down to the chambers of death.

At verse 7 we would discuss what it meant to be void of understanding.

At verse 10 we would discuss the attire of a harlot, why she dresses that way, and what effect it has upon the young man. This is good for your girls.

At verse 13 we would discuss how kissing is sexual foreplay design to lead to copulation.

We point out in verse 14 how she was religious and so might deceive the simple. We would then warn them that not all "Christians" are godly.

We would point out from verse 21 how flattery can be used as a tool to weaken your defenses.

When he yielded to her temptation, it was like an ox going to

get his throat cut, verse 22.

And in verse 27, going in to have sex with this religious woman was going into the fires of hell.

Now you must be able to see the impact this had on kids as they grew up. The book of Proverbs is complete in the subjects it covers. Every aspect of life is covered, from laziness to wisdom. Proverbs has 31 chapters. If you did a chapter each day, you could cover it in one month. If you did a chapter each week, you could cover it nearly twice each year. If you covered Proverbs twice each year, beginning when the child is 4 and going until he is 18, he would have gone through each chapter 30 times before he leaves home. He will never be "simple."

This is what we call insulating the children from within. You could keep the kid locked up in the house until he is 18, but how will he respond the first time a good looking, "Christian" sex bomb offers herself? Could your son turn down the sweet and sexy "worship leader" at your church if he is "in love?"

As we ministered to others, it was a way of life for us to analyze the shipwrecked lives of those in our acquaintance. How did it come to this? Where did they go wrong? How could they be so deceived? Our children saw the rewards of holiness and the pain of sin. They grew up knowing that love, peace, and hope were the fruits of holiness, and that hate, bitterness, and disease, eventually ending in hopeless death, were the fruits of sin.

The examples I have given pertain to sex, and though that is the most compelling drive facing

a young man, it was only one area in which we prepared them to withstand. Around the kitchen table and as we lounged in the evening, we also analyzed the failures and pain we saw coming from greed, bitterness, selfishness, anger, laziness, hypocrisy, pride, envy, and a thousand other evils of which we are all guilty in one way or another from time to time. Our intention was not to point out the sins of others so as to elevate ourselves, but rather to study the many roads that lead to destruction. This is not the same as nit-picking your friends. We are not encouraging the natural tendency to criticize others. In the process of ministering to others we came in contact with hurting people. As we sought to lift them out of their sin, they became a ready example, a clinic on good and evil.

If you look you can see people reaping what they have sowed. If our children or we are walking the ugly road, we too will reap the thorns that are sure to follow. The law of sowing and reaping is so certain that it can be observed as a science. If your child is beginning to show laziness, you can draw his attention to the lives of others and show him where it will end. Your children don't have to repeat the mistakes that have already been made in order to learn. Just open their eyes and insulate them within.

As the chief overseer of character development in your children, there are two sides to your instruction. First you must cause the child to see the rewards and blessedness of righteousness. If you represent righteousness and you are a miserable, unthankful, and mean spirited individual, you

will never convince your children that your way is the right way. They will find some sinner that is much more attractive than you, and they will choose the sinner's way. Second, as we have discussed, you must cause the child to sufficiently observe and consider evil until he knows that he does not want any part of it.

If you make loving God and walking in righteousness attractive, and demonstrate that the way of sin is not, you will win your child to your world-view. So inoculate your children, insulate them from sin in the only way that is sure and permanent. ☺

# Missions training for 100 young men

Those of you who have followed our ministry for some time know that our interests are much larger than just producing “good” kids. We train up children so they will be disciples of our Lord.

Most missionaries do more harm than good. For this reason we engage in teaching missionaries the Biblical principles of missions. If you are an unmarried man between the ages of 17 and 30, and you are headed to the mission field, or you are already a missionary—of any age, we invite you to come to Cane Creek this August 19–25 for intense training. Classes will be taught by four veteran missionaries.

Our church building is 26 feet wide and 40 feet long. You will be sleeping on the floor, in tents, and on the ground, and taking

baths in the creek. You will eat plain food, simply prepared, and make use of outdoor toilets.

This is not for families who want to “go see the Pearls.” Nor is it for young men who are stumbling, trying to get their bearings. This is serious missionary training for committed individuals. If 100 young men come, I expect to see at least 25 of them on the field within two years.

If you would like to be a part of this six days of training, send us your name and address immediately. We will send you more details at that time. You will be required to do some preliminary preparation, which amounts to a mini correspondence course on missions.

These sessions will be filmed and audio recorded made available to the public by the end of September. ☺

**Michael & Debi Pearl published *To Train Up a Child* in August 1994. By November of 2000 over 270,000 English copies had been sold. It has also been translated into several foreign languages, including Ukrainian, Mandarin (Chinese), Portuguese, German, and Spanish.**

This publication came about as a way to answer many questions we receive in the mail each day. 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.

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# Barbie Dolls Revisited

Dear Mike and Debi,

I wanted to ask you a few questions. About Barbie dolls, I have read your view and agree, but I never was bothered by the dolls until recently. I have 6- and 8-year-old girls who play with them constantly. I am ashamed to say that they must have dozens and they play with them daily. When it first began to bother me I just tried to talk to them and I really didn't even know what to say, I just knew that I felt odd about their playing with them. I spoke to my husband about it and he really wasn't bothered by it, and so we just brushed it off. They have since received even more dolls at Christmas and birthday times. I have noticed in the past few days how terrible their pretend is. They speak of divorce, lying, the moms leaving their babies at the sitters while they work, and so on. These are all things that they are never around (except family gatherings) and they know it is wrong. They were telling me about how this doll and that doll got a divorced and were laughing about it! They know that it is wrong to make a mockery of sin and I reminded them of it. My question is: How do I take the dolls away when they play with them and it is their absolute favorite toy? No one else sees how it is wrong, and everyone thinks that my feelings and convictions are a little too serious. It is also difficult because their daddy isn't convicted or bothered like I am, so he doesn't think getting rid of them is necessary. Any advice given would be great. I just don't know how to handle this.

T. S.

## Michael Answers:

This mother had read the article published in our book, *No Greater Joy* Volume Two, page 66, where we spoke of the fact that Barbie Dolls are very popular with some lascivious men. You can see the big-busted babes standing bare in the rooms of lustful, young, military men, and in the cells of prisoners. The street language for sexy girls is "dolls."

After receiving a hundred testimonies like the one above,

you cannot help but see the pattern. When a child pretends to be riding a horse, he is imagining HIMSELF doing so. When a child pretends to be driving a pickup truck, he is preparing HIMSELF for the day when his dream will become a thrilling reality. When a young man looks at pornography, his imagination is taking HIM to places HE will eventually go. When young girls play with baby dolls—imitations of infants—they are role playing motherly instincts

and preparing themselves to assume that role later in life. Likewise, when young girls play with sexy babes, their imaginations are preparing them to assume that role later in life—say, at about thirteen.

If you think there is any similarity between a baby-doll and dressing up a Playboy model for an evening out with Ken, you are a blessing to the devil. At the least, Barbie dolls erode the innocence and natural modesty of

young girls. In worse case scenarios, girls drawn to the sexy bodies of other girls are called lesbians? Even setting aside the potential for extremes, certainly Barbie dolls condition girls to focus on their bodies as their main asset and area of concern. They are learning to meet the world with their boobs rather than their brains.

To use modern, liberal rhetoric, Barbie dolls are sexists in the extreme. It creates a basis in fact for men to view females as objects to be exploited for their bodies. It is preparing the prey for the predator.

It disturbs me to see parents accept Madison Avenue promoters, Hollywood entertainers, psychologists, and John Dewey educators as if they were angels sent to help train, amuse, and educate their children. Nothing coming from these sources is neutral. Every thing has a world-view behind it. Every experience is teaching, molding, role playing one's future responses. Parents need a big case of cynicism and skepticism when it comes to what the world offers. A good rule to follow is to assume that everything that is sold or promoted for your children is diabolical. "Prove all things and hold fast to that which is good...for all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life is not of the father but is of the world, and the world passeth away and the lust thereof...."

Mother, you said, "They have since received more dolls at Christmas and birthdays." "They received"? Did Santa Clause send them or did you have anything to do with it? Reading between the lines, I sense that you are afraid of

what your relatives and friends will think if you "go radical" on things like Barbie dolls.

When Deb read the above letter to me, my first response was, "Mother, your husband is taking his cue from you. Stop hiding behind him. He is not there every day listening to the girl's conversation and seeing how it is effecting them. Get some backbone and do the right thing—get those sex goddesses out of the house before it is completely too late; don't worry about what the girls might say. You are the parent. Take charge."

After I had offered my response, our seventeen-year-old daughter Shoshanna walked in, and Deb read the letter to get her response. I was humbled—well, almost. What wisdom! Shoshanna's solution is brilliant, so I will restate it in my own words, just like it was my idea all along.

### Shoshanna speaks

If you suddenly take the Barbies away, now that they have become such a vital part of the girl's lives, they will not understand, and it might cause rebellion. Furthermore, they are already corrupted in their thinking. Even if they never play with a Barbie again, their world-views are already molded in that direction. They will continue to be surrounded with other stimuli that will promote the Barbie world-view. They would persist to dream and plan for the day when they can be a Barbie themselves. In short, it is too late to fix the problem by removing the dolls. What the dolls represent is now a part of their frame of reference.

So what is the answer. The

girls got to where they are by role-playing. What would be better than disassociating your self from a sinner? To convert the sinner to Christ and to a righteous world view. Therefore, win the Barbies to Christ. Bring them to repentance and disciple them into a holy walk.

Shoshanna said that if she were the mother of these girls, she would go to them with a smile and tell them that she wanted to play with them. Mother should ask for several of the dolls to be her own. She should then tell the girls that she is going to sew some doll clothes. Take the girls to the store and pick out material. Then go home and make modest clothes for two of the dolls. These two modestly dressed dolls will be Christian mothers. As Mother sits in the floor and leads her two "Christians in conversation, they will speak of the joy and peace they have since they came to Christ. They will speak of how wonderful their marriages are and how they just love their husbands. Mother will take two other dolls and leave them in the traditional Barbie dress. These two "ladies" will continue to have the unregenerate world view that the children have adopted. They will speak of their divorce and of the unhappiness and misery that they are experiencing. One of them will get depressed and want to commit suicide because her life is so unhappy. You could get a regular sop opera going with the unregenerate dolls going from one marriage to another and then talking about how unhappy their children have become over the "divorce."

While the mother is talking the unregenerate Barbies through their miserable lives, she is con-

tinuing to talk the “Christian” dolls through the joy of living.

Don’t cram this all in to one day. Stretch it out so the girls get used to the idea of you playing with them. Mother’s unregenerate dolls can communicate with the girl’s unregenerate dolls. This is a time for Mother to express the wages of sin in a way that is not preachy.

When the girls are aware that there are two contrasting life styles and world-views on the playing field, it is time to introduce the “Christian” dolls to the unregenerate dolls. In the course of make-believe conversation, the unregenerate dolls ask the Christians why they are so happy and how they came to have such a wonderful home life. The Christians tell them about Jesus. Take a few days for the unregenerate to come to repentance and confess Christ as their savior and lord. Take them through repentance

and faith. Cry with them, and then rejoice with them when they get saved. Once the unregenerate are saved, they too will want new clothes and new hair-styles.

Shoshanna suggested that at some point early in the game, the Mother tell the girls that they cannot play with the dolls unless mother is playing with them. Continue the game until the girls have accepted the new world-view and their dolls get converted also.

I think this is marvelous. It will not only undo the damage, it will be a time of teaching the girls the gospel and the essence of the Christian experience.

In time, Mother will want to wean the girls from the dolls and get them interesting in sewing dresses for themselves, or get them involved in teaching the gospel to real children. A six-year-old is capable of ministry to other children. ☺

## **HERBS** and home health resources.

Gabriel and Rebekah Anast have purchased and are operating a business which they feel will be a blessing to homeschoolers and health conscious people everywhere. This is the same Rebekah who used to be Rebekah Pearl, our oldest child. They are living in Gallup, New Mexico and conducting their mail-order herb business out of their book store.

They carry much more than just herbs. You can purchase a wheat grinder or a juicer or most any item that pertains to home health. Look up their web site, or you may write or call to receive a free catalogue.

### **Herbbarrel.com**

Herb Barrel  
112 West Coal Ave.  
Gallup, NM 87301  
505-863-0567

## **PERSONAL**

**O**ur daughter Rebekah is due to deliver our first grandchild early in April. This is something for which we have been waiting a long time. I am 55 years old and have looked like a granddaddy for several years now. If you look like one, I think you ought to have the perks that go along with the image.

But I have been receiving the senior citizens discounts lately. Businesses used to ask if I qualified; now they just assume. It has gotten to the point that cute little waitresses are patting me on the hand and calling me “Sweetie” and “Honey,” right in front of my wife, and with no fear of exciting my senses. You know you are in the last category when that happens. Before long they will be laughing at my jokes, even when I am not telling any, and nodding, though what I said didn’t make sense. O well, my wife can still vouch for me.

Our second son, Nathan, is now married to Zepher, a girl he met at a missions conference in Texas. They are in the process of building their house and home.

Shalom, our 19-year-old daughter is still working in the orphanage, and Shoshanna, our 17-year-old is doing everything at once, busier than a one legged man in a snake pit.

Our oldest son, Gabriel, 24-years-old, just got back from Asia where he visited our missionaries to encourage them and to deliver much needed material. He is prospering in every way, except making grandkids. He doesn’t have a wife yet.

Deb and I fall in love again every morning when we wake, and spend our days on honeymoon. The Lord is blessing us far beyond our expectations. If life was any better, and Jesus would just come to visit occasionally, I wouldn’t see any need of going to heaven.

We are here to serve you. Let us know your needs. ☺

## *From our Mailbox*

Dear Mike and Debi,

Thank you for your newsletter. Please keep me on your mailing list. I don't want to miss an issue, because it seems that every one is a direct message from God through you to me! I am especially grateful for the August/September 98 newsletter. We had moved and I had to write you and ask you to send me a copy because I hadn't sent out new address in time. I am so glad I asked. "The Flavor of Joy" has transformed my life. I took your advice and went to the soul Doctor and through His Word (especially the Psalms) I have been healed of bitterness. I am beginning to experience daily joy and I can finally see what Christ meant by abundant life. I'm not perfect, but even my very patient husband says he enjoys being with me now more than ever. Thank you for boldly speaking out on the things that so many of us need to be convicted about. Our whole family has been blessed by your ministry.

L. R.

Dear Mr. And Mrs. Pearl,

My mom bought your tapes, To Train Up A Child and No Greater Joy Volume I & II and just about wore them and the tape player out listening to them. We own a few goats, and anyone who has owned a goat knows that they act like a spoiled, brat child. Ours were no exception. I, being their care-taker, was driven up the wall in frustration. My mother suggested to me one day, after listening to your tapes for about the hundreth time, that I should try to train my goats with a rod and the word "No." The next time I went to take care of the goats I brought along a thin stick. They soon learned I was not to be fooled with, and now I enjoy being with the animals, and they enjoy being with me (I think). Thank you for the tapes; they really helped me to train my kids.

Nina

Dear Pearls,

I am the 13-year-old daughter of some of your most ardent fans. I have 4 siblings older than I, and 2 younger brothers – Isaac 7 and Zion 5.

I wanted to share a story with you. The other morning my younger brothers and I were sent to do the chores in the pasture. The whole way out Zion grumbled about having to work and argued about what we were supposed to do with Isaac.

Isaac's hot temper was almost instantly aroused. I quickly headed off the first fight and told Zion sternly not to gripe and Isaac to not fight. Isaac quit trying to punch Zion's nose, but Zion didn't quit fussing. "He hurt me!" "He's mean," "Why do I have to help?" He pouted all the way out there, and when I told him to get the hose and water the chickens, he made a pretense of trying and said "See, I told you I can't!" I told him sharply to get to work. He kicked and howled defiantly, to which I threatened to take him to mom. He looked like a cornered rabbit – frightened and desperate. I gave him a hug and told him to straighten up and work - if he needed help he could ask. He continued sitting on the ground crying. I told him to come, and started for the house. He stayed as far away from me as possible. At the house he was spanked, and we went out again. This time I held the switch, as soon as the door closed he was fussing again. I should have gone right back in, but I didn't. After 15 minutes and many spankings, Zion and I made yet another trip to the house. I gave my report to mom and started back out to the field. In a little while Zion reappeared in the field and I asked him if he was happy now. He replied "Yup, cause I just stopped being mad, and the next time, if I'm being a pain, just do what mom did, and gimme three awful spankins, and it makes me happy!"

Thy rod and thy staff they comfort me,

Tirzah Digennaro

# Papua New Guinea

Many of you read Rebekah's Diary, our daughter's account of her two years experience as a missionary in a primitive tribe in Papua New Guinea. After she and her brothers prepared the way, Dewayne Noel and his family spent two years among the Kumboi people. When Dewayne left, there were 8 indigenous churches functioning among the various villages of this primitive tribe. It has been nearly two years, and we had not heard from them. Recently Michael Braband, who was with Dewayne for a time on the mountain, and is now a missionary to East Temore, made a quick trip into the mountains to check up on the eight churches. We were all waiting to hear if the churches still lived.

Of the 8 churches, one was lost to the spirit-world when it was taken over by two women who had been into witchcraft and began to receive visions by which they are leading the spiritism. The other 7 churches are alive and well beyond expectations. The young men Dewayne disciplined are continuing to spread the gospel. They are holding Bible studies and preaching in several locations. The village of Simbai, down off the mountain and closer to

civilization, which was outside the scope of Rebekah's and Dewayne's ministry, has been invaded with the powerful preaching of these apostles. The response has been so tremendous that, not only the church, but the entire village is scheduled to have an amulet and paraphernalia burning. The local government is so impressed with the changes in the people of the village, that they have proposed to take money from the government coffers to reimburse these young men for their expenses and loss of time in their gardens. Please note that all of this is totally indigenous, without the supervision from a missionary. Missionaries sometimes smother what they start by hugging it too closely.

Some men from a village deeper into the mountains were in Simbai and heard these men preaching the Word. When they returned to their village, they carried the message and the village decided to build a house for the preacher boys and invite them to come preach to them. They will soon be traveling to that unreached village, bearing the precious seeds of life. This kind of response is not so unusual when the missionary is a white man bringing

money, food, education, and medicine to the village, but to invite a poor tribesman to come is the height of sincerity. Pray for these native missionaries as they follow in the footsteps of the Apostle Paul. ☺

**Yes, it's OK with us.**

Several people have written asking if it is OK with us if they buy our material and resell it. Absolutely! We encourage you to purchase our materials in volume and resell them at homeschool conventions or wherever your imagination takes you. Some people have found they can supplement their income and have a ministry at the same time. We will also furnish you with a number of newsletters to give away.

# Starting over

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Pearl,

A faithful friend handed me your books. I wish I'd read them 10 years ago before letting my kids learn many ways of quietly disobeying. Do you have any suggestions on where best to start changing things? It doesn't seem quite right to suddenly and immediately punish every infraction when we have allowed them to get into these habits.

AP

the sleep. Whether our material or someone else's, or no aids at all, the key is to inform the children and enlist them as active participants in the process. Cause them to understand that you are doing something different, and that it is for their good. Let them know that at times it will not be pleasant if they rebel, but that as long as they cooperate, everyone will be happier and things will go smoothly. Establish, as it were, a rule of law, a code of conduct, with predefined punishments for infractions. Involve the older children in the chain of command, giving them authority over the younger children and letting them be your partners in training the younger children.

The third step is to set up training exercises that are designed to reprogram their behavior. I have illustrated this many times in our writings, so I won't go into it here. Don't just wait until they repeat their negative habits and then punish them for it. It won't work. When you come up against unacceptable behavior, stop right there and explain how you expect things to be different. If you are angry or frustrated, you are wasting your time. You must maintain your dignity and cool. Smiles make everything go down better. After explaining how things are going to be different, put the kid through his paces. Walk him through the right response or action. If it seems appropriate, have him repeat the same act of obedience several times as a way to program his mind.

Fourth, stop thinking of the

## *Michael & Debi Answer*

I can understand your consternation. I agree that it would not be right to suddenly bring down judgment on their well-ingrained habits. What you feel is correct, giving your perspective on "punishing every infraction." Your understanding of our message is incomplete. You missed the main point of all our writings. The church is full of books teaching parents to apply the rod, but our unique contribution to the subject of child rearing is to encourage parents to train so they do not have to punish. Furthermore, punishment is ineffective if it is not part of an environment of careful training and fellowship.

The first step in retooling the family, is to renew your attitude. You have to become attractive to your children. In short, you must learn to smile and enjoy life. Then you must enjoy them. Children do

not respond well to condemnation and criticism. No kid or adult ever rose up out of a pile of condemnation to please his accuser. Rejection and fault finding has never motivated anyone to seek approval, quite the opposite.

You must tie string of fellowship and goodwill. The children must be convinced that you value them greatly and are doing this for their good.

The second step in reclaiming the heart of your children is to speak with them plainly, explaining what you are doing and why. Many parents have found it profitable to read our books to their children. Others have used our tapes or videos to inform their kids. We receive many letters from parents who tell how their children enjoy listening to the Alabama Seminar and the three books on tape when they are falling off

rod as something to be used at the end of an intolerance curve. Parents too often make such a big deal out of spanking their kids. They remove them to another room and go through elaborate ceremonies that take a lot of time and emotional energy. The momentousness of the ordeal makes it something to be avoided if at all possible. Consequently, parents put it off and resort to threatening and nagging, sometimes whining. The attitude that parents display leading up to the spanking is far more detrimental to training than the spanking is effective. Keep the rod handy and use it in place of telling them twice. Use it on the spot, without having the child get up or bend over. Swat any exposed skin anywhere except on the head. Don't warn them. If you give a command and they delay, don't tell them again, give them a swat and smile. In twenty-four hours your children will learn that they are under new management

and the bar of tolerance has been raised. If you act immediately, you will not be reacting later in anger and frustration. Best of all, the children will not have to be pickled in the lousy attitude that you develop when their lack of compliance leads to your frustration.

Fifth, be consistent. Stay with it and don't vacillate. If you are on one day and off the next, you destroy any respect they would have. You will lose out entirely.

Lastly, spend time talking with your children and doing things together, things they enjoy. Don't allow them to continue in boredom and gloom. Lighten up and enjoy life together. ☺

## Husbands, Love Your Wives

Husband, learn how to sanctify your wife and cleanse her of spots, wrinkles, and blemishes.

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Two video tapes – \$18.00

You have the power to bring your wife into the fullness of all that God intended.

## Wives, Honor Your Husbands

Michael Pearl teaches from the Word of God on Husband and Wife relationships.

## Responses to our Betrothal article

When I wrote the article on Betrothal, we expected to receive many negative responses. To our surprise, we got just two or three letters or e-mails that were in disagreement, and only one of them was from an emotionally stable individual that offered constructive reasons for his disagreement. But we received hundreds of positive responses and thanks. We give you just three of the many letters we received.

Mike,

*Just a quick comment on your betrothal article: Great Job!! It is yet another example of how I jump on the latest Christian bandwagon without doing all my homework. I recently have been working for \_ \_ \_ \_ and thought I had this courtship/betrothal thing all sorted out. The very sound wisdom you shared has really added balance to my perspective. I must admit some retraction of my formerly ambitious intentions as a potentially meddling dad. I suppose my kids will be relieved as I give them more room to maneuver in the years to come.*

*Much of what you shared is memorable, but the comment about "indulging parents in a vicarious romance" is convicting to both me, the controlling dad, and my matchmaker wife. The narrative on the "dating game" is stand-alone wisdom I'll pass on to my 4 sons.*

*I tend to be analytical and skeptical of opinions which challenge mine, and I found the betrothal evaluation to be very compelling and timely. God bless your work and reward you for your boldness. I pray this concept helps make the morality/dating/courtship pendulum swing to just the right spot, so our homeschool kids don't have to react to some of our over-zealousness.*

D. C.

Dear Brother Pearl,

That was a great well-balanced article on betrothal! You may "get some of yours back" in the way of criticism, but let me send a hearty and charitable thanks.

A. D.

Dear Pearls,

*Thank you for the excellent article on betrothal. I found it put into words many of my own thoughts on this issue, and gave me a practical approach to helping out daughters in the process of finding mates. We have 5 daughters and 3 sons. Thanks again.*

J F

Dear Mr. And Mrs. Pearl,

just finished reading "To Train Up A Child." Thank the Lord for you and you ministry. I received the book as a baby shower gift. I am 8 month pregnant. I am grateful for all of the adorable clothes and much needed diapers that I received, but I am most grateful for this book. It will do us more good than anything else we received. Thank you for plainly instructing me on the way to raise my baby from the start. I am now looking foreword to a rewarding relationship with my child, instead of a fear-filled one of not knowing how to handle discipline. Thank you, thank you. I can not wait to spread the word about your book to my friends that are also expecting. Praise the Lord for people like you who listen to God's voice.

Cheyenne

# Greetings from Bangkok:

**T**om & Kathy Slayman are founding members of The Church At Cane Creek. When we first began to sell our books, they are the ones who volunteered to assist us—without pay. Tom built our office—without pay.

The Slayman family is indigenous to this area. They came to know the Lord through our witness about two years after we first moved into this area fourteen years ago. I count Tom as one of my best and most loyal friends on the face of this earth. He is pure soul-winner to the last minute of every day—and in the middle of the night, if he can keep anyone awake to listen to him.

His Son T. J. is missionary to another Asian country that is closed to gospel witness.

The following is just one, unedited e-mail from the field. It was not written to the public. I think you will find it insightful.

The weather here has been cool and rainy the last two weeks so that has been a big plus for us. The only bad part about the rain is that one of the prisons is located right on the big river that flows through Bangkok. Every time it rains, the river overflows and floods the check-in area and part of the prison's visiting area. So needless to say, we avoid going there during those times. We have waded through knee-deep water on occasion and wading through river/sewer water is *not* a fun thing to do. All types of critters are in those waters.

We have been visiting the Christian building leaders and several other elders in the churches inside the prisons. The

Nigerians are still very hopeful about the treaty between Nigeria and Thailand. They keep hearing the time of their first major release may be in May. We don't know just how many inmates will be released then, but it will be at least 50 or more. We are trying to focus on them the most right now. We want to be sure they are truly "rooted and grounded" in the Word of God before they go back home. We think some will honestly make it on the outside, but we also know that many will probably fall into sin again. Many have said they are scared because things have changed so drastically in the 8, 10, or 12 years since they have been incarcerated. Some have no families to help, no wife or children left to welcome them home, nothing really to look forward to. There has only been a handful that openly admit that they have God now and that He will help them through anything. There are many that have been taught a "works" gospel and a "faith and prosperity" gospel and every other kind of heresy there is out there, so we have been sending all kinds of materials and books to help these guys "arm themselves." The Islamic information and books we sent inside were well received. One of the building leaders, former Muslim, now born-again Christian, says that the books are excellent because they compile a lot of information about the background of Mohammed and Islam into short, easy to read books.

We have been working on getting a more permanent visa. We went to Laos a few days ago and got a 90 day tourist visas. Once we get a more permanent visa, we are going to approach the Dept. of Corrections and ask about having Bible studies. Then

we can visit 6-8 prisoners at a time. Tom can cover a lot of doctrines and heresies in 2 hours time! So we need you to pray for us that the Dept. of Corrections gives us an open door to the prisons here.

When we first got back from the States, two girls from a neighboring country came to stay with us for a couple of days. One is a nearby national, but was raised in London, England. So here we have a very pretty girl with dark skin and dark eyes and speaking British English. What a contrast! Very well educated. Working on her doctorate in Parasitology (the study of parasites). The other girl lives in a nearby country. The second day she was here, we discovered that she wasn't a Christian. She is in her 4th year as an English student, earning her way by peeling garlic and shelling peanuts in the evenings, and has a very good grasp of English. After a couple of hours, Tom convinced her that no matter what, who, when, or where, she is going to have to give an account to God Himself for her sins. She finally understood the concept of "personal salvation" and accepted the Lord Jesus as her Savior. We will keep track of her through mutual friends and see how she progresses in her newly found walk with the Lord.

We were also downtown a few weeks ago and Tom stopped a foreigner on the street and asked him where he was from (Germany), and if he lived here in Thailand (no, on a 3 week holiday), and they did the regular chit-chat thing for a few minutes. (Tom lived in different parts of Germany during his High School years. Amazing how God works, isn't it?) Then Tom asked him if he was a sinner, and the guy says, "Of

course. I'm gay." Then he paused waiting for a reaction from Tom, but got none. He then said the good old stand-by, "Well, everyone is a sinner." So Tom proceeded to tell him how he had sinned against not only his fellowman but also against God Himself. They went over the gospel, several other doctrines, beliefs and heresies. This guy kept saying, "I only have 5 minutes. I have to leave to go meet my boyfriend." But he kept hanging around and asking questions. He was genuinely interested in what Tom was saying, but after 45 minutes or so, he walked off. His head was swimming with spiritual things! But the one thing that really struck us was when he said, "Thanks for looking past my lifestyle and seeing me as a human being." Wow, what a jolt! But then that really is the TRUE key of soul-winning, isn't it? And another thing that really surprised us—he confessed that his homosexual lifestyle was a sin. He *knew* he was doing wrong. He never once tried to justify being a homosexual by offering an excuse. May the seed Tom planted be watered by someone else, and the Word take root. We will probably never know on this side of eternity where this man will end up forever. Please pray for him.

We had a strange trip to Laos to get our visas renewed. We left Bangkok on Thursday night on the train. It was due to get to Nong Khai at 8:30 AM. This allows us about an hour and a half to get to Vientiane to get our passports and visa applications turned in. The train didn't get to Nong Khai until 11:00 AM! We didn't get to Vientiane until 12:30PM and it was too late to turn in our documents. So we had to wait until Monday morning, and we got our paperwork back on Tuesday afternoon. We went back to Nong Khai to get on the train but alas! it was full! VERY unusual. There are always seats available. But since the bombing of a plane at the Bang-

kok airport a few days earlier, everyone seemed more comfortable taking the trains or buses. So we had to wait until the following night for our return trip home. So our 4-day trip became a 6-day trip. We did meet a fellow at the Thai Consulate's office from America. He is staying in Thailand for a year. He called us yesterday and we met him at a donut shop and visited for 4 hours. He is an epidemiologist, a person who studies epidemics such as AIDS, hepatitis, sexually transmitted diseases, etc. He writes classroom texts for the teachers to use to teach the interns. Very intelligent fellow. He found Tom's presentation of the Gospel quite fascinating. He said he's heard the gospel before, but not like Tom teaches. He didn't know anything about the blood of Jesus or atonement, but he has read the Bible some before. He is half Japanese (his mother) and half American (his father). He is a Buddhist because of his mother. Tom was able to counter his "intellectualism" and "secular reasoning" with Scripture. Please pray for J. N. He is really seeking Truth and came to the conclusion that God did put Tom into his life for that reason. Amen! We will be meeting him again this weekend.

So we have experienced several different facets of life here in Bangkok since we have been back. That's the one great thing about working for God. You never know whom He is going to bring to you. We have learned to be ready for anything, "in season and out of season." Life is never dull here.

May the peace of God be known to you.

Tom & Kathy Slayman

Hebrews 13:3

## Apology to Our Readers

When we sent the January-February 2001 newsletter out we discovered a problem in our mailing list data that resulted in approximately 4000 of our readers being excluded from our mailing – this also occurred in previous printings of the newsletter. We have corrected this problem, and we apologize to those of you that did not receive one. We regret that we do not keep on hand a large number of the newsletters that we can send back issues, but storage and cost prohibit it. We would ask that you utilize our web site at <http://NoGreaterJoy.org> to print articles that you may have missed. Again, we sincerely apologize for this inconvenience.

## Questions a wife can ask to tear her house down:

by Debi Pearl

**1. Do you feel comfortable spending that much money buying that \_\_\_\_\_?**

He begins to doubt his ability to make wise decisions.

**2. Are you sure God wants you to work at that job and be away from us all the time?**

He wonders about his reasons for working there, even though it is a good job. He remembers he has had opportunity to witness. Yet? He grows unsure of his own leading.

**3. Honey, I need to ask you something very important that really tears me up inside, does this activity not grieve your spirit?**

The Spirit of God had been prompting him concerning this, but he was trying not to hear; almost he brought the subject up himself last evening, but now she is disappointed with him. He suspects he is not spiritual, but somehow the whole thing makes him angry. He feels pushed.

**4. Why don't you ever want to go with me to \_\_\_\_\_?**

He doesn't feel comfortable around those people, they seem so artificial, and their kids are whiny jerks. The man talks in a quiet humble way which grates on his nerves, it just seem so "put on," but his wife doesn't see it that way. He guesses he must be carnal. Somehow he just doesn't care anymore.

**5. Before we were married you read your Bible; at least you said you did, why don't you ever read and teach me and the children?**

He has a vague memory of enjoying reading and relating to how scared Moses was of the job God gave him, but somewhere he just lost interest. He supposes he is backslidden.

**6. Why don't you spend more time with our sons?**

The thrill of having boys has faded. The few times he has disciplined them, his wife talked with him later for being harsh. Maybe he was. He likes being with the men better; anyway, they are mama's boys. Not that they are sissies, they just have this close, talky, relationship with mama. He feels separated. He's not that type. He can see the accusation in the boys' eyes; it is reflected from their mother's eyes. Same questioning look, which provokes in him the same feelings of condemnation he gets from being around her. He thinks, "I am a real jerk. I wonder if I'm even saved."

**7. Do you ever think of just loving me in the spiritual way instead of the carnal? I am so hungry for some deep spiritual understanding and communication.**

Something deep inside him is so dissatisfied, so frustrated that she responds only when she feels right about it. It speaks nothing of his manhood. His soul is sick all the way to its core. He falls asleep dreaming of the woman he met in the store today. God, help his filthy soul.

**7. Sweetheart, why won't you have devotions with us? We want you to lead us in prayer and help us grow spiritual. The Bible says you are our spiritual leader, why, why will you not lead?**

He laughs inside himself, "Are you kidding? I can't do that. I would feel like a total hypocrite. I can't teach them about something I don't know. I'm out of here." He leaves, or works, or watches TV all the same; it is his escape.

**8. Why do you think the pastor said that about Charles? Don't you think it was cruel? Sometimes I wonder if we should go to Church somewhere else.**

Angry bile seethes in him as he listens to her tell the story for the fourth time. He silently contemplates, "The pastor's a jerk. He's not any better than anyone else. I don't know what makes him think he's so righteous."

**9. Poor Charles, it is so sad to see what the preacher's mean words have done to that family. Don't you think we should do something about it, like call and let them know we love them and don't agree with the pastor, because I am so hurt at the pastor myself?**

Frustrated at his own failures, and bitterness at others has run its course and is now bearing fruit as he silently surmises: "All those self-religious people make me sick. I don't care what they do, but they will not do it to me."

**10. Honey, its church time. You need to get dress. What! are you not going? But you always go to Church? Do you think you should let a silly thing like that business with Charles, keep you from worship? What about the boys? You'll be a bad influence on them, don't you care?**

**11. Jane, I want you to know that without your close, loving friendship, which I turn to everyday, I would never be able to get through this loveless marriage. He is so cold and distant. He doesn't care about the children. I don't know how I could have been so deceived into thinking he was a fine Christian man when I married him. Will you ask the girls to pray for him this week at our women's meeting?**

*Proverbs 14:1 "Every wise woman buildeth her house; but the foolish plucketh it down with her hands."*

*Dear Mr. And Mrs. Pearl,*

*This past Friday my cousin gave me the book "To Train Up A Child." I read it through Friday night. I began my day on Saturday by asking God and my children to forgive me for the mistakes I had made in raising them. And I promised them that I would do better.*

*This is the fourth day. My children, ages 6, 4 and 4 (twins), have responded to training in ways I didn't think were possible. They hug and kiss me, tell me how much they love me, and pick up after themselves without being asked!*

*I recently went to a therapist hoping to find a way to control my anger. I was screaming at my kids daily, sometimes before they were even out of bed in the morning. I was ashamed of my behavior. I didn't feel right before God, and my relationship with Him suffered. I didn't understand why He didn't answer my prayers for patience and self-control. I stopped praying every morning. I felt like a failure as a Christian and a mother.*

*I have not raised my voice in four days. I rise before my children in the morning and can not wait for them to come downstairs. I am enjoying them in ways I never did before. My oldest son, Kenny, said today, "Mommy, now you spank me more but you don't yell. So I'm glad you spank me because it reminds me to listen. And if I listen, I won't get any spankings." This is a child that did not hear me when I spoke a week ago. Now I know he hears me, and the first time too. It's an absolute miracle.*

*So thank you both for publishing that book. It has only been a few days, but my life has changed dramatically. God has used you in such a powerful way. I will remember you each day in my prayers. God bless you and your family.*

*Leah*

Dear Mike and Debi,

At the age of 23 I was asked to take care of 5 children for 3 working ladies in our small community—the children ranging from 4 months to 6 years old. I have always loved children, but I knew it was going to be a huge challenge, since most of these kids had no training/discipline. I was homeschooled and raised in a loving and well balanced home. My mom gave me to Train Up A Child, and with the parents' permission I applied much of it to training these kids. As you can only imagine, they had many habits that needed breaking. I am happy to say that in a week, they were playing well together, obeying me quickly and happily, and helping out without complaining; but most of all they loved pleasing me. Their parents were amazed at the wonderful results, and have made changes since. Praise God! All this happened 5 years ago. I no longer take care of the 5 kids. In 1999 I married a wonderful Christian man and now have a 9 1/2 month-old son that we are training up. My new job title is full time, stay at home mom! It only takes a soft spoken "No," and if need be one switching and Ryan is reminded of who is in control. He is a true joy! I am so thankful that I have the knowledge at my young age to train him up right.

Thank you for your God given wisdom, insight, and willingness to tell it like it is in you books, newsletters, and tapes. Everything that you teach works! God bless you! You are in our prayers.

Lori

Dear Mrs. Pearl,

I am a 62-year-old grandmother. So much of what I read from you is not put to use in my life, as my children are grown. But the article on "dating" has opened up some insights I want to share to help young people. My husband and I engaged in pre-marital sex in our teen years. I thought it was "love" and "cool." He thought it was love and a conquest and OK. I have been a born again Christian for 28 years. He is not. Now I am experiencing some very bitter feelings against my husband because I feel I was taken advantage of. We "had to get married." Our son came a month before we were married. This was in 1959 when such things were shameful. I suffered over this and I was in a "maternity home" where my son was born. I could not give him up, so my parents let me come home, but I was married as soon as possible. I know they suffered with this. I remember that I was not really ready to be married, but I felt the child needed his real father. To this day, I am embarrassed and refuse to celebrate my wedding anniversaries. My wedding was not a happy day, but something necessary. I know by today's standards I am "sensitive," but it grieves me that things happened this way. Oh, I am not placing the blame fully on my husband. My parents said nothing to me about sexual feelings. Of course, I had a choice, but I remember those feelings were overwhelming. More than a young naive girl could overcome. And even in those days society was sexually stimulating. Yes, simple dating is not good, and the later one "dates" the better. Anyway, you have already said it all on that subject. Hope this proves useful to you. I won't sign my name.

### **Debi Answers:**

**I** know many women are weeping as you read this. You know except for the date, it could be you who wrote this—or maybe you murdered your little one. So many similar letters have passed my desk. Regret. It is an ugly word. Regret. Time seems to make it more pronounced rather than diminished. Regret. It causes us to blame others. It makes us grow bitter. It makes us angry. Regret. We are the guilty one. If it were not him, it would have been another. It was your own lust that took you down the road you have traveled. It is your own guilt over your own ugly sin that needs to find forgiveness in the shed blood of Jesus Christ. Anyone reading this and wanting to know more of forgiveness found in Christ, write and ask for free material to help you understand what Christ did for you. The book *By Divine Design* will also help you be set free.