

No Greater Joy

"I HAVE NO GREATER JOY THAN TO HEAR THAT MY CHILDREN WALK IN TRUTH." III JOHN 4



WORKING CHARACTER INTO CHILDREN

OCTOBER • DECEMBER

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OCTOBER - DECEMBER 2002

VOL. 8 NO. 5

All Scripture taken
from the Authorized
Version (King
James) Holy Bible

No Greater Joy is a bi-monthly publication by No Greater Joy Ministries, Inc., a non-profit organization dedicated to the advancement of the gospel of Jesus Christ in America and in those countries where Christ is least known. A free subscription is available by writing to the address below or by visiting our website. Your questions and comments are welcomed. Please send them to the address below.

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Pleasantville, TN 37033



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On the Cover – Daniel and Zachary Owings help stack boxes of books at No Greater Joy office.

Cover photograph and newsletter layout by Clint Cearley

Working Character into your Children

“All work is pain,” said a French philosopher. You don’t have to be smart to know that. I could have uttered such words of wisdom when I was five years old. The older I get the truer it becomes. We live

in a plain community made up of Amish and Mennonite farmers and laborers. They can work circles around me. I can’t even keep up with the kids and old ladies, but I have never heard any of them complain when the work is finished and the dinner bell rings. Even their horses and mules despise work. If you give a horse a choice, he would never work, and when you accidentally point him toward the barn, he will stubbornly pull at the bit, trying to get back to his quiet, comfortable stall. But in this community the horses, mules, kids, adults, and even crickety old grandmas perform their necessary labor.

Both of our sons are construction contractors, as well as most of the men in the church. Nearly all the young men in the community are raised working with their fathers or with other men in the area. It is a culture of hard work, and a man who won’t work receives about as much respect as a thief.

From time to time, new people move into the community. We have seen young teenagers come along and begin to work with the men. There is a marked difference between someone who is raised working and someone who didn’t

work until he got to his teen years. The newcomer to work may learn to put in his time and even earn his wages, but he will never be committed to work like the ones raised working.

Now you may say, “But I don’t intend for my child to have to work with his hands; I want him to be a professional.” Children gain more from labor than muscles and money. I have noticed an interesting connection. The young men and women who learn to bear the yoke in their youth, develop an area of character that is purer and more honest than those that don’t learn to work early. It is almost as if those who never learned to work are always weak in resolve and commitment. When it comes time to sweat or bend their backs, they become men-pleasers, working with eye-service. They remind me of a fat person who sneaks around and lies about what he is eating. They feel the need to make a good show, but work is so distasteful that they are dishonest



Children gain more from labor than muscles and money.

about it. These loafers are missing something in their character. There is an area of life that they avoid at all cost, and they are always the poorer in soul because of it.

They are less likely to gain the respect of their fellow man—or their family, for that matter—and they are not as prone to become leaders. They are not as ready to endure hardship, including emotional and mental. All things being equal, they will flee from a marriage or job sooner than the

ones who learned to bear up under work when young. They are less likely to sacrifice their comfort or rights for others. In short, the lazy child will grow up to be more selfish than the child who is taught to work.

The most obvious trait of the person raised to work is emotional stability. There is a calmness of soul and a confidence that accompanies the person who has persevered in the face of duty and suffered to the end of his day’s toil. He is less likely to be nervous and anxious. He finds a rest in his soul that the lazy loafer will never know. I believe that if you were to go to a hospital for the emotionally disturbed, you would find that a disproportionately high number of the patients were

by Michael Pearl

coddled and not taught to work when they were young. If you were to take a poll at the welfare lines or at the homeless shelters, you would find that majority of them did not come from secure families

where they were led to work as children.

Working children, all things being equal, never have problems with poor self-image. It is the pampered, lazy kid that commits suicide, gets on drugs or turns to freaks for companionship. Working children don't poke their bodies full of holes and dye their hair blue. They do not feel the need to follow style. They know who they are, and they don't need a gang to give them identity. Furthermore, the working child and teenager is more prone to respect authority and less likely to demand his equal rights.

He is more independent, and rather than expecting someone to give him his fair share, he expects to have to earn his way. This makes him a more productive member of society, and the discipline he develops when working will enable him to better succeed in academics or in the corporate world.

I have observed that ministers and missionaries who came from a hard working background are more apt to respect the people to whom they minister. People who come from a working background are less likely to steal or

cheat. To sum it all up, a balanced experience of work will instill integrity, a good attitude, diligence, and perseverance in a child.

Now, I have not taken a poll. I have no way of proving these things, but it is what I have observed in a half century of studying people. My conclusion is that no matter what your child is going to do in life, whether a concert pianist, a politician, an attorney, a banker, or a missionary, the best preparation of character, mind, and body is to be engaged in responsible and productive labor when young.

All of us can point to exceptions to the trend I have noted. You will remember that I qualified my conclusions with the statement "all things being equal." A child who is worked like a slave or one who is taught to work but is abused or neglected in some way, will not do so well. Likewise, there are those who did not work as children, but were vigorous and committed to personal goals, and, at the first opportunity, they did launch into work with a zeal equal to those who were brought up to work. Yes. There are definitely exceptions to the rule, and the exceptions may be many, but the rule—representing the majority—still applies. One could take a chance and hope his pampered child would somehow be one of the exceptions, but I would never take such a risk with a child in my care. They will learn to work at the same time they learn to play. Mine did, and they all represent themselves well to this day.

The sum of the matter is that work is a necessity of life. It takes unpleasant work to provide the basic essentials of life for ourselves and for those for whom we are responsible. We have a duty to work and to pull our share. To do one's duty is a moral obligation. When a child grows up slothful and dismissive toward his duty to work, it ingrains in him the concept of neglecting distasteful duty in general. The neglect of duty is shameful in any culture. The performance of duty is the measure of a man, or child. Shirking duty is the lowest form of social cowardliness.

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~ Michael Pearl

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Bible school and missionary training in Bangkok

Our lives have always revolved around fulfilling The Great Commission — taking the gospel to the whole world. About three years ago, Tom Slayman, a member of the Church at Cane Creek, who is my age, 56 years

By Michael Pearl old, went to the far east to visit his son, whom our church sent out as a missionary to translate Scripture. While there, Tom decided to visit Bangkok, Thailand where he had been during the Vietnam War. Tom loves to tell others about Jesus, and having been in prison himself, he decided to visit the English-speaking prisoners in Bangkok. He discovered that there were several thousand incarcerated in Thailand. The man he was able to visit that day was a black man from America. When Tom gave him the gospel, the man began to weep and trusted the Lord

Jesus as his Savior. When Tom got back to the States, he said that he would like to go back to Thailand and visit the prisons every day. When I heard his testimony, I knew it was of God. We had a vision. Tom has now been there for over two years. He has won many nationals and prisoners to the Lord. Several churches have been started as a result of his ministry. He has started a correspondence school and has about six full-time helpers in the ministry, including a young couple, Seth and Rhoda Gray, whom we trained here at Cane Creek. The school in Bangkok is growing every day. They are very busy, even with the nationals who help translate the Bible courses into six different languages. They have exploded into a missionary army, growing faster than you could ever imagine. Tom needs help. He would like to place missionaries in every prison in Southeast Asia and beyond. He wants to start a radio station. He needs computer nerds, desktop publishers, artists, paper graders, soul winners, computer geeks,

church planting preachers, and men and women with spiritual guts who don't balk at hard work.

Only a few times in my life has God given me a vision of things much bigger than myself. Each time I was humbled and awed by the prospect. Recently, God has spoken again. Our new vision is to have a missionary training school located in Bangkok, Thailand, to fill this and other needs all around the world. Beginning in the fall of 2003, we will begin a missionary training school in Bangkok. It will be unlike any Bible school in the States. This will be hands-on missionary training of the highest quality, taught by veteran missionaries. Students will go through the entire Bible, verse by verse. They will also learn the use of the computer in language study, international communication, and desktop publishing. They will learn Thai while studying linguistics and translation. There will be courses in medicine, culture, international shipping and Customs. They will learn how

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Flowers of Blessings



Justin & Shalom

Our daughter, Shalom, was married to Justin Brand on September 14, 2002. It was a glorious wedding held outdoors down by the creek. About 150 people shared our joy and helped us celebrate the beginning of a new family. There has never been a wedding where both families were more in agreement. Daddy Brand stood with me before the congregation and announced that we were about to see the bride and groom kiss for the first time, and then we all watched, with increasing embarrassment, as they kissed and kissed and kissed. For their first kiss ever, they did a good job. It is a thing of

pure holiness and delight to see God do something so pure, so innocent, so Garden of Eden-like. We have one more daughter to go, and just like her two sisters before her, she is saving herself for that one man for whom she was prepared from before the foundation of the world. When we witness two young people who have both lived in total virtue come together in holy marriage, it is like a colossal sacrifice of praise to our Lord. It honors God like nothing else. Holiness is the highest form of worship. God be praised, and bring me some more grandkids!

Another one on the way!

Our first daughter, Rebekah, is expecting another grandchild. If it turns out to be half as fun as Joseph Courage, we will have to start taking double vitamins. Gabe, her husband, is a fine young man who walked in honor, saving himself for his bride. We are thankful to have him as the daddy of our grandchild. They recently came up from New Mexico, where they live and minister, to attend Shalom's wedding. It was great to see the three sisters together again. Having been married almost three years, Gabe and Rebekah are a wonderful example of a couple in one accord. What a blessing!



Rebekah, Joseph, & Gabe Anast



Zephyr & Nathan

Won't be long now!

When our second son, Nathan, got married, we didn't lose a son, we gained a delightful daughter. Nathan and Zephyr are perfect for each other. Zephyr is about to deliver our second grandchild. She is going to be a great mother, and Nathan is going to be a marvelous father. After two years they act as if they are still on their honeymoon.

One daughter left at home

Shoshanna is our last child at home. It is getting rather lonesome around here. It is so quiet now. Shalom and Shoshanna have been as close as any two sisters could ever be. They each deferred to the other and sought to promote each other. Before Shalom married, the two girls would spend every evening getting rowdy. They would talk, sing, laugh, wrestle, compete, debate, and laugh some more. Now Shoshanna just has to endure us old people, but she is using her time building up her herb business. She spends most of every day filling orders and organizing her business. She intends to provide better service and less expensive herbs than any other retailer in the country. In between times, she is an active soul winner, telling everybody she meets about Jesus. She does a lot of the housework and can turn her sharp wit into humor that keeps us in stitches.



Gabriel Pearl

Gabriel, the mountain man

Gabriel, our oldest son, the second of five children, is working and preparing his nest. He is a good provider—plenty of elk and deer meat. He owns his own home and is content to work hard, go on several mission trips each year, and hunt in the Rocky Mountains every fall.



Shoshanna



DEBI PEARL AND FRIENDS

STUDYING THE BOOK OF ESTHER

We have prepared this home Bible study for you to do by yourself or in the fellowship of other women. We would like to hear your comments and questions. If we find that this is popular, we will continue it in the next issue.

Read the first chapter of the Book of Esther and answer these questions.

FROM THE KING'S PERSPECTIVE

1. Who is Queen when the book of Esther opens?
2. How big was King Ahasuerus' kingdom?
3. How long was he in power before he assembled his kingdom to the feast?
4. Why does the Bible go into detail concerning his great wealth?
5. Why does the Bible go into detail about the number of days the visiting princes viewed the kingdom?
6. What would be the reason verse 8 states, "according to the law?"
7. What did the King request of his wife?
8. What was his attitude towards his wife?
9. What did he hope to accomplish by her appearance?
10. Give three words to describe how he felt at her refusal to come.

The King waits until the 7th day of the final feast to bring forth his most prized possession—his queen. He sends 7 men to escort her in grand style to his party. The Queen refuses to come. King Ahasuerus' humiliation is complete. All the wealth, power, beauty, and renown that he had spent 147 days and great expense showing the princes of his kingdom now mean nothing. He was like a common man who could not even get his wife to do a simple thing for him.

It needs to be understood that these 147 days of showing off to all the leaders of his kingdom was very important militarily. King Ahasuerus had only been king for 3 years. He was establishing himself as a strong leader. It is understood that as a man he was humiliated by his wife, but his personal feeling of outrage was not the most important issue. He knew that his family structure was the pattern for the rest of his vast kingdom. If he set a bad example, it would spread discord through the whole world. Rather than act independently, he turned to the men who knew the law and judgment and asked them, "What shall we do according to the law?"

THE PRINCES' JUDGMENT

1. What was the judgment given to the King concerning his wife?
2. How did the men of the country react to Vashti's response?
3. Explain how they viewed her rebellion as threatening to them and to their people.
4. According to verse 17, how would women feel when they heard of Vashti's deed?
5. What 2 things did the men fear would come to the land if Vashti was not dethroned?
6. How much of the kingdom would be affected by her deed?
7. When does the Scripture say, "Thus shall there arise too much contempt and wrath."? Who will express contempt to whom? Who will express wrath to whom?
8. What ripple effect concerned the princes?

FROM QUEEN VASHTI'S PERSPECTIVE

1. What was Vashti doing when her husband summoned her?
2. Why do you think verse 9 of chapter 1 includes who owned the house where the women's feast was taking place?
3. Why do you think Vashti did not go when commanded?
4. Do you believe Vashti had any idea of the ramifications of refusing to obey her husband?
5. How would she have felt if she had understood the effect her refusal would have?
6. The women who were partying with Vashti were the wives of the princes who were with the King. How do you think these women's future attitudes and actions might have been affected by their Queen's actions?
7. Do you think the fact that the men had been drinking caused her to refuse?
8. What do you think the women were doing at their party?
9. Looking back to the event, did it really matter if the men were drunk or not?
10. Why do you believe she felt so secure in her position as Queen that she could get away with publicly disobeying him?
11. How might she have altered her actions if she had considered the end results more carefully?
12. Why would it have been hard for her husband to forgive her? Was it too late?
13. Do you believe that the wife of a leader has undue influence on other women?
14. How will a woman's contempt for her husband translate into contempt for men in general?
15. How would the women view the King's authority if his wife had succeeded in her disobedience?
16. There may be areas in your husband's life that could draw contempt. How do the women with whom you associate influence your responses to your husband?
17. From knowing the story of Esther, do you believe a woman has the power to win the heart of her ungodly husband?
18. If Esther had been commanded as had Vashti, how would she have responded?

CONCLUSION:

Vashti's part in the book of Esther is one of contrast—first lady failed, second lady succeeded, same old man for both, with the second lady having the handicap of him already being angry at women.

There are two factors at work here, as Ahasuerus was both husband and King. It was a woman's personal contempt, and her contempt for authority. Queen Vashti's refusal was unexpected, for the king never would have made an announcement to all the princes of his kingdom that he was going to send for her had he had any reason to suspect she might refuse. Something unexpected altered Vashti's thinking. The Bible gives us a clue as to the source of her new perspective. She was engaged in her own social event with the wives of the men who sat before the king. She deemed her own agenda to be of more importance than the king's. We don't know, but there may have been cause for her to feel uncomfortable with the request, but to make such a public refusal would require a great deal of boldness and confidence.

In every gathering of women, there are those who are ready to assert their opinions about dominating men. Due to the responses of the princes, this appears to be the case here. These women-libbers became

Vashti's enablers. It was probably the collective contempt of the women that gave Vashti the resolve to believe that she had the right to refuse. It was the proliferation of this contempt that the men resolved to stop. This is an age-old story of an unchanging truth. Enablers often cause their best friends to grow contemptuous towards their husbands. The men respond in wrath and divorce will soon follow. Don't be an enabler, and don't listen to one.

The Scripture records why her deed was so evil (verse 18) "...thus shall there arise too much contempt and wrath." Whether the King's command was rude and insensitive is not of any consequence; only Vashti's feelings were at stake. The Bible clearly teaches Vashti's response was a serious error. From India to Ethiopia her response would be the trigger that would provoke women to view men with contempt, and thus bring much wrath (anger) to the land. Consequences would have been extensive.

Verses 20 and 22 give the moral of the story: **"...all the wives shall give to their husbands honour, both great and small. That every man should bear rule in his own house, and that it should be published according to the language**

of every people.” This was God’s will thousands of years ago, and it is still God’s will today regardless of the cantankerousness of the man to whom you are married.

This story of Vashti does reflect how all the men were threatened by her show of dishonor, which demonstrates that women and men can view the same event from a totally different perspective. The fact that God places this story in His word—one woman dishonoring and the other honoring, with radically different consequences, provides us with a clear example of how things should be. The Bible clearly teaches that a woman’s dishonor will reflect negatively on others. It should cause us women to question those who have provided our examples. How are they directing us? To be like Vashti, or Esther? A woman’s contempt for her husband reflects most immediately in the lives of her daughters. Which way does your example point your daughter?

These few verses at the beginning of the book of

Esther lay the foundation for the story to follow and make us aware of the difficult situation into which Esther was placed. The King would have gone into this new marriage angry and suspicious. It is important to note how he honored the law, because it will be his own law that Esther will have to face.

In later chapters we will see that the King was angry, lacked confidence, and was easily puffed up. We will see how these faults make him susceptible to others using flattery to control and manipulate him to evil. Now Esther, a young, beautiful girl who loves and worships God, is forced into intimate wifedom to this older, divorced, immature, powerful man. Her very life and those of all the Jews in his kingdom are in his hands. But we know the rest of the story. God grants Esther the humility and courage to win the heart of her husband and defeat the enemy. Verse 19 states it so well, “...let the king give her royal estate unto another that is better than she.” ❖

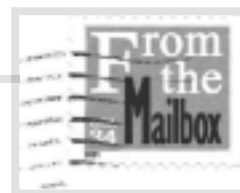
The Growing of a Man

Dear Michael and Debi,

I am writing in particular about my son. He is almost 11, and is becoming such a strong and manly man. When he was four, I would have given him to the first available taker. He was the sole source of my fatigue. No. Wait. My poor training was the source of our weariness...his and mine. I had decided that he was “strong-willed” (yes, I bought the book...it was better advertised than yours.) And, when problems began to arise during our school times, I recognized them right off as a result of a budding rooster under a hen’s tutelage. One year ago, after listening to your tapes, my husband and I reduced the number of hours that our son was to spend indoors and increased the hours he was to spend with the men, working hard physically, at the bottom of the pecking order. We live on a working cattle ranch. The change has been amazing. No longer do I have a child. He is a man in many ways, submitting to my authority this school year with a dignity and grace that is heartwarming. And now, school has begun and he sits across the folding table from me. His attitude is one of dignity and maturity as he faces his lessons, helps his little sister, and does household chores. His afternoons this fall will still be spent with the men as much as possible. Deep down inside, I had thought that after allowing him to spend more time with the men, I would lose my student. He has become a better student, a more diligent worker, and has, in many ways, left childish attitudes behind.

Sometimes, after reading your newsletter and the thankful letters within, I think, “Oh, well. All is perfect now in that home.” That is not true. I am still sinful. My children are still sinful. But, at least we have some tools to use so that our path is not as cluttered with simple daily living and we can focus on our Lord and His goals for us.

Thank you,
A in Texas



Hey Mike &
Debi,

Sure miss you folks! Love the newsletter better than ever! I’m surprised you didn’t hear me shouting for joy when I read “Three Cheers.”... What a God we serve!
Love ya,
T



The Man Christ Jesus



This tape will thrill Christians with God's eternal plan to duplicate many sons of God through the ministry of the second man, the last Adam. It is a great evangelistic tape, thoroughly presenting the gospel of Jesus Christ in a unique overview of God's plan of redemption through the Son of Man. This tape will bless your socks off. It's the tape I give anyone who has never heard the gospel and wants to know what the Bible is all about.

One tape \$4.00

REPENTANCE



When the Bible warns a sinner to repent or perish, what is the nature of that repentance? Precisely what is required? We agree it is a critical issue. Many wonder if they "did it right." Follow Michael Pearl in an

examination of all 112 uses of the word 'repent' as found in the King James Bible. This work is designed to put hearts to rest in Christ and correct error.

GENERATIONAL SINS



Michael Pearl addresses the faddish teaching on generational sins, sins of the fathers visited on the children, family curses, satanic footholds, etc. Allow the Word of God to free you from the curse of pop theology.

AUTHORITY PRAYING

Michael Pearl preaches on the believer's position in Christ and how prayer is based on authority that is ours in Christ.



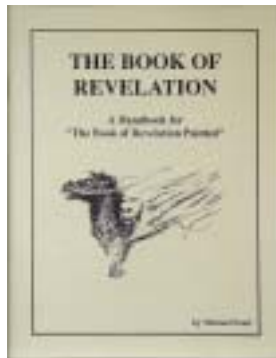
SABBATH REST



What does the Bible say about keeping the Sabbath, be it Saturday, Sunday, or Tuesday?

REVELATION

BY MICHAEL PEARL



Several years ago when Michael was teaching through the book of Revelation, he painted an eight-foot canvas depicting the events described by John. As Mike traveled and spoke on Revelation, many people requested copies of the painting. It was professionally reproduced by a printer who majors in prints of fine art. This reproduction is on thick poster paper, 38 inches long, suitable for framing, but is best used in personal or group Bible study. Mike has prepared a handbook to go with the painting, which makes it a great study guide. Verses are marked beside



PAINTING

the images on the painting, and the handbook gives additional references out of the Old and New Testaments. If you have always thought the book of Revelation was a mystery and too hard to understand, now is your opportunity to approach it in a way that makes it easy to study. You will be able to follow the pictures of what you are reading and look at parallel passages that will help you interpret this wonderful book. The poster comes in a hard cylinder, which protects it in shipping.

You get the book and the 38 inch poster for \$12.00



To shirk one’s duty and still be received in society, one must manufacture the appearance that he has done his share. He must procrastinate, make excuses, lie, connive, and blame others. To manipulate others into doing your duty is to place a low value on your honor and a lower value on the person forced to do your dirty work. It is pride.

A child who grows up facing up to his duty to work, grows into the concept of sacrificing for others and suffering for what is right, acting responsibly no matter how much it hurts, and paying the price to do what one ought to do.

Everyone likes a person who is the first to step up to the work. It is a compliment to others and an act of humility to step forward and clean up after a party, to work in the parking lot at church, to replace the roof, to cut the grass, etc. A man that always has a slick way of bowing out is viewed with disgust and distrust. He appears selfish and always seems like an outsider and a user. When someone tells us a bad rumor about a hard worker, we are doubtful that it is true. We

don’t want it to be true. It doesn’t fit what we know of his character. When the same rumor is told on one who shirks his duty with manufactured excuses, we think, “Well, I always knew there was something dishonest about him. He is just the kind of person who would do something like that.”

To go through youth avoiding work is an indulgence in the art of deception and blame. To come to adulthood having neglected responsibility is to come with a character that is shadowed and devious. There is no better context

cannot wait. Children will NOT do well working FOR YOU. They should be led to work WITH YOU. Always do more work than they do. Let their participation in work be in proportion to their physical and emotional strength. Don’t push them to the point of frustration and exhaustion. Don’t become a hard taskmaster with threatenings and intimidation. That is totally counterproductive. Work must be made enjoyable though social exchange. Working together to achieve a common goal can be fun. If you are not comfortable with putting your children to work, don’t spoil it by becoming overbearing. Look in our other writings for discussions on working children or wait until the next issue before becoming a Pharaoh and putting the children to making bricks.

In the January issue we will give you some ideas on how to get children and teenagers involved working. If you have any good stories or observations, I might be able to use them in my next article. Questions are welcomed also. ❖

TO GO THROUGH YOUTH AVOIDING WORK IS AN INDULGENCE IN THE ART OF DECEPTION AND BLAME.

in which to instill character in our children than in the performance of their duty.

We will have to save a discussion of the practical side of children working for our January issue. In the second half, we will give you some ideas about how to involve them in work, but for the moment, let us leave you with one critical principle that

FROM THE MAILBOX

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Pearl,

My wife and I had looked at several parenting helps, including books and seminars. Although they were all helpful in some way, we still felt something was missing. “No Greater Joy” & “To Train Up A Child” gave our parenting framework soft skin and a smile.

For the first time we were able to visualize firmness without a frown, and realize that training could be preventative more than punitive.

Your friends,

R & K



Mama's Red Raspberry Brew

by Debi Pearl

I was talking to a lady on the phone the other day concerning herbs, and she told me the most interesting story.

She had ordered a large amount of Red Raspberry herb. I thought she must be a midwife that delivered several babies a week. "No," she told me, "I raise goats." I was really surprised. She said she added 2 tablespoons of dried Red Raspberry herb to the feed of her female goats each morning. This seemed a strange and expensive way to feed goats until she told me the amazing results she had achieved. She said they have many goats and have not had to call the vet in over 4 years. After commencing the raspberry leaves, it has become normal for her goats to have 3 and even 4 kids at one birthing, with no complications. She said her goats yield record breaking volumes of milk that is creamy and delicious. Their little farm is known far and wide for the wonderful success they have had with goats. She believes the Red Raspberry is a very significant factor. She also uses a natural parasitic, which I will tell you about next time.

Of course, Red Raspberry has a medically proven and trusted track record in helping strengthen the womb of a pregnant woman, and it is also reported to be effective in restoring the womb after delivering. When I was



carrying my babies, I kept a pitcher of Red Raspberry Tea made up in the refrigerator so I could drink several glasses a day. I mixed Alfalfa herb with Red Raspberry herb so I could double the nutritional value of my daily tea. If I felt

bloated (like I was holding water) I would add Stinging Nettle to the tea. Peppermint herb was added for flavor and to aid digestion.

A simple way of having this tea ready is mixing dry herbs in a gallon jug.

1/2 gallon Red Raspberry
3 cups of Alfalfa
3 cups of Peppermint
2 cups of Stinging Nettle

You can make a cup of hot tea by adding 2 teaspoons of mixed herbal tea to one cup of boiling water, steep 2 minutes, strain, and add honey to taste. To make a pitcher of tea for storing in refrigerator, use 10 teaspoons of mixed herbs for 8 cups of boiling water, steep until cool, strain, and put in frig to drink over ice or reheat.

For more information, write to The Bulk Herb Store, 1010 Pearl Road, Pleasantville, TN 37033. **Do not put Herb correspondence in the same envelope with No Greater Joy's. The two are in no way related and are not located at the same address.**

to travel and shop in a third world environment. They will minister every day, study, pray, sweat, worship, and when their one or two years are up, they will have been tried and tested in the oven of the dirtiest, sin-sick city in the world. They will be missionaries.

This is not for people who are trying to decide if they want to live a Christian life. The attrition rate will begin even before they get to Bangkok. Younger men who want to enroll will have to go through a two-week wilderness "boot camp" and one-week Bible study here in the States. The boot camps will be held throughout the spring and summer of 2003. You do not need to be a "physical" person to qualify.

At present we are receiving only men—no girls unless with their husbands. You must be 17 years old or older to participate. We are praying that God will send forth laborers into the harvest.

If you want to be a missionary, and you are ready for hands-on training, contact us soon and we will send you an application. The first 50 to qualify will be admitted this next year. Send us your name, address, telephone number, and a brief testimony of your vision. We will contact you with the details. Send your letter separate from any orders, and on the outside write "Attention: Missionary School." ❖



FROM THE MAILBOX

Dearest Pearls,

I feel I have found a kindred spirit when listening to you. Living the life I did [before salvation], you can't shock me or scare me. Just give it to me straight, plain, simple, and honest. And you do! Thank you, thank you, thank you for not giving us a song and dance and a bunch of noise I have to sit through.

T

Dear Michael and Debi,

I want so much to thank you and encourage you in your ministry. Like K, who wrote to you in the May-June issue, "I Have Been Set Free", I too have been set free by the same message, The Jezebel Profile, in the Women's Special Edition.

Our marriage was practically dead. I could not believe what a truly sweet person he is after all, and to even have put up living in the same house with me for all those 12 years. It was my foolish, controlling spirit, which I've always denied whenever my husband confronted me with it, that choked the sweetness and goodness out of him. He is full of life and love again. TV and computer games have drastically gone down to normal or none, as he now spends a lot of time with me and our children, and even leading us now in regular bible study. My children, 10 and 8, are so happy and thankful to God. They are now seeing God's power in action.

Thank you so very much again.

D

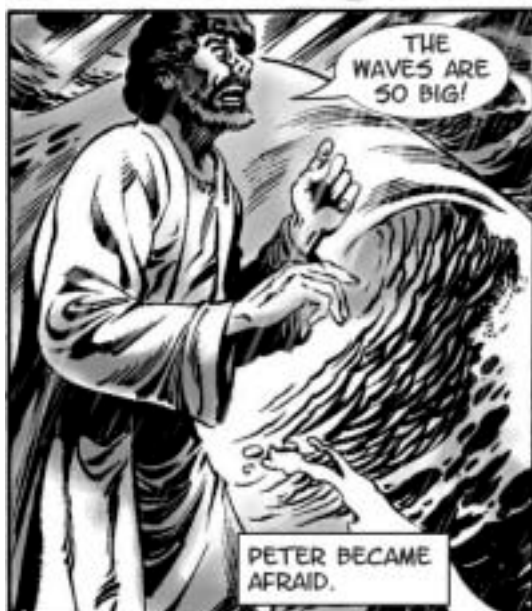
CHILD TRAINING VIDEO MAKES DIFFERENCE

I just wanted to make a quick comment on the "A wiser, older couple is troubled at what they saw." My husband and I used to be exactly like that young couple. We saw only the law of your book. Somehow, "Tying Strings" didn't stand out to us. About a year and a half later we were able to view your videos. What an incredible difference than the book!! We couldn't believe how relaxed ya'll were about training your children. Only one chapter in the book is dedicated to tying strings. However, it is threaded throughout your whole video. And you're absolutely hilarious! So from personal experience, for people like this, I would highly recommend your videos.

Thanks!

LW

THE ARTWORK FOR OUR ILLUSTRATED GOSPEL BIBLE IS COMPLETE. WE ARE WORKING ON THE TEXT AND HOPE TO BE FINISHED BY FEBRUARY.



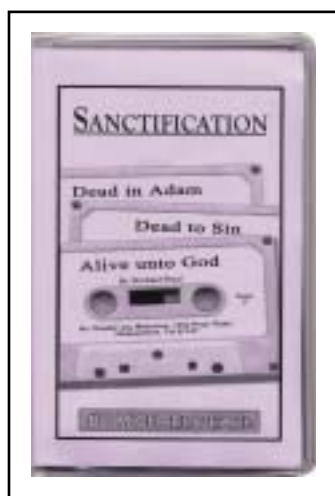


Sanctification

A new three-tape series by Michael Pearl

You feel lousy because you know that your children are suffering as a result of your sin. You have tried to manage your anger, your lust, your laziness, your intemperance, etc., all to no avail. You have gone to sin-management seminars and to counseling. You have cried out to God, asking him to take away sin's power, to change your heart, but he ignores you. It seems that the only power in Christianity is the power to persuade your mind. You cannot find the power to crush the unruly flesh. What good is a religion that condemns but doesn't deliver? What good is a sanctification that demands a commitment to righteousness but leaves one enslaved to burning passions? It's like pulling a man's day-planner out of the fire but leaving him there to burn. Let us be honest; either Christianity doesn't work, or you are missing something.

God hasn't failed. The gospel is still the power of God to deliver from not only the penalty of sin but the power of sin as well. The church at large has forsaken the gospel of



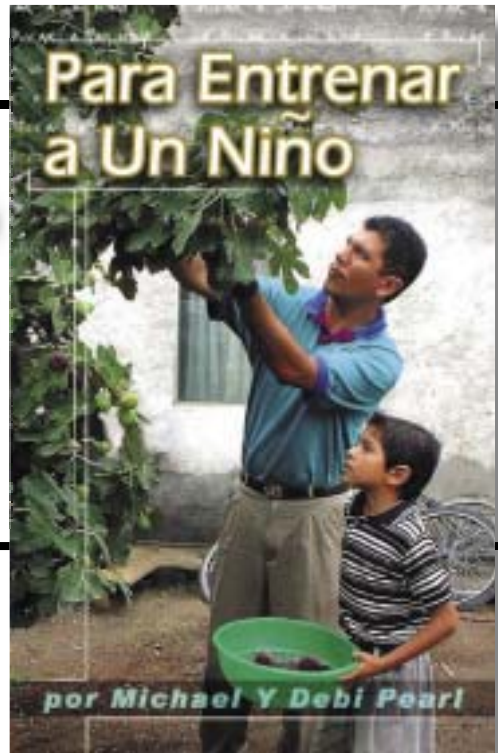
sanctification and has adapted natural methods to change behavior and preaches them as Biblical principles. If you listen to Christian radio, ninety-five percent of what is preached is sin management—how to manage depression, fear, guilt, anger, bitterness, etc. It is all about the methods we can apply to change certain habits or actions—a mixture of divine and secular wisdom, good in itself, helpful to many, but entirely dependent upon the resources of the individual. Though this principle-based approach to overcoming sin is presented with selected

portions of Scripture, it is no more Christian than Ronald McDonald. The wisdom of the world, as good as it may be, is limited to our ability to apply it. From a practical standpoint, for most people it doesn't work, whereas the gospel always works.

I have prepared three tapes containing three sermons on how to stop sinning. This is the gospel that is truly good news to those who want to stop being angry, lustful, etc. It is not new. It has been there all the time. You have read the passages, but you viewed them through religious glasses that replaced the power of God with principles that required careful and prolonged application, which boils down to self-control—something we never quite have enough of. These tapes declare the good news of complete and immediate deliverance from any and all sin by the miracle of the gospel alone.

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What is that fragrance?

Have you ever walked
down a country lane in the
springtime and suddenly
became aware of the most
delicious aroma? At first,
the odor carried on the
gentle breeze is so faint you



can't identify it, but as you
draw nearer you catch the sweet
honeysuckle fragrance. You don't
yet see the vine, but you know it is
there by the sweetness it spreads
over the land. Every time I have an
experience like this, I think of how
God walked in the garden with
Adam in the cool of the evening.

In seminars and homeschool
conventions, Mike often talks
about how joy is like a wonderful
permeating odor, reaching out to
bless everyone. How true that is.
Your joy is what makes children
respect you and want to please

you. I can go into some homes
and feel relaxed and happy. The
children have shining faces and
are eager to show you their new
drawing or make you laugh over
their new song. The mother is
smiling, and I see her exchange
delightful glances with her
husband. Their joy is intoxicating,
just like the honeysuckle in the
cool of the evening. I just want
to inhale the moment.

I go into other homes,
and it is like I just interrupted
something. Something is not
right, and I may not be aware
of it until I leave. It is like
a bad odor, slowly creeping
into your conscienceness.
People begin to shift positions,
looking around for the source.
Something unpleasant,
unseen, and intangible has
entered. Sometimes a house that is
constantly occupied takes on a bad
odor, and the people who live there
never notice it because the odor is
so much a part of their daily lives.
They come to accept it as normal.
Bitterness is like that. After the
moment of anger has passed, the
tension hangs on like a bad smell.
The family meets the visitor at
the door with a smile, pretending
all is well, never realizing that
their bitterness, like a putrid odor,
has invaded every area of their

home. Children never thrive in
an atmosphere of tension and
criticism.

When people leave their home
to go into public, they wash and
put on artificial chemicals to mask
their real odor. Likewise, many
people with anger and bitterness
put on a smile and spiritual airs
when they leave home. They are
able to think of themselves as kind
and loving because others believe
them to be so. In their heart they
want to be sweet and kind. They
convince themselves that their
children or spouse has caused them
undue stress, provoking them to
anger. They believe their outbursts
are justified. But over time, the
oppressive odor of bitterness will
become so overpowering that the
artificial perfume of hypocrisy
will no longer be able to hide the
putridness within. Anger never
stays small, nor will it forever be
concealed. At unexpected moments
it leaps from its religious cage like
an exotic monster. As anger and
bitterness begin to spread their
stink outside the home, the source
of the odor must find a socially
acceptable excuse—hormones,
emotional breakdown, etc.

Anger begins with blame.
Blame is just a simple five-letter
word, yet it carries a world of woe.
As long as we continue to blame,
anger grows.

by Debi Pearl

"My daughter defies me."

"My lazy son whines every minute."

"My husband is so selfish and belligerent."

"I can't stand that lady at church. She always treats my child badly."

"Their children are so cruel, I wish they would stay away."

"A really vile person did bad things to me when I was young, plus my parents were also angry, so I have a lot of pent-up hurt."

Who is to blame for MY anger? I or the one who has hurt me? Is it I or the one irritating me? I or the one who standing in my way? When we blame we become angry. Blame gives way to bitterness. Bitterness is a rotten stink to the soul. Even when you believe your anger to be justified, it still defiles you and those around you. Your anger will poison your body and sicken the souls of your children. Even the world's best psychologists have enough sense to know that the vast majority of depression, anxiety, stress, anger, and bitterness are adult ways of pitching fits because someone got in their way or prevented them from obtaining what they wanted. Angry people are chronic blamers. But they are really angry toward God. They want to cry out:

"God, why don't you just kill this mean husband?"

"Why do you let him continue to hurt me?"

"Why did you let my parents hurt me? Why are my children such losers?"

"Why did you let my son marry that terrible girl?"

"Why did you let my daughter get pregnant?"

"Why do you bless that awful person when he only deserves wrath?"

Are you mad at God, blaming him? Anger is destructive because

it is really directed at God. When you recognize it for what it is, and hate it like it needs to be hated, then you will turn the blame on yourself. Only then will you be able to forgive others and accept God's forgiveness for yourself.

You must come to the place where you can say, "Lord, I am an evil, bitter, angry person who yells insults

and demands at my children for their childish behavior. I am a rebellious wife/husband who bitterly accuses my spouse of

being insensitive, unspiritual, and selfish. I am a self-righteous tyrant who has blamed everybody for my family's failures. I am guilty. Although the church people might think I am helpful and spiritual, I know they only smell the artificial odor I have put on for the people outside my home. Lord, the real me is vile. I hate what I am. I know I have chosen to control the people I love best with my frozen hurt or my fiery anger. I ask that the blood of Jesus cleanse me and set me free from this sin that I have used to hurt and control people. From this point forward, when something doesn't go my way or someone else causes me grief, I will say, 'Oh Lord Jesus, set me free from this controlling hatred and cause me to rejoice so that I am forgiven. I believe I am dead in Christ; sin no longer has dominion over me and I am raised to be a new creature in Christ. I know I don't have to sin. I don't have to react in anger and bitterness or hurt and rejection. I can say, 'Thank God I am free to enjoy real joy and peace'."

Freedom can be yours. Not because you are married to the perfect spouse, have perfect

children, are blessed with perfect health, or go to a perfect church, but because you have chosen to reject the evil stirring of your mind, the ugly, complex foaming of bitterness, and you have chosen to fill your mind with thankfulness. Joy begins with thankfulness.

Thankfulness is expressed by saying "thank you," by smiling,

by laughing and playing with delight. Thankfulness is how you think; joy is the abundance it produces.

For children's

spirits to be fresh, clean, and free, they need to bathe daily in the cleansing of thankfulness and joy. Mama, you can make that happen. Make a habit of saying out loud, many times a day, "I am so thankful for my sweet little girl. I want to praise God he gave me a fine son like you. Thank God he has blessed us with a daddy who can take care of us. God has made such a beautiful day, let's run into each bedroom and say 'thank you' to God." While cooking, say to the children, "Let's thank God for all the different kinds of food he has given us." Wake up in the morning with a smile and in your spirit say, "Thank you, Lord. Thank you."

When your life is made up of thankfulness, when your mind is full of appreciation, when your words are crowded with praise, when your countenance beams with joy, then you will have confidence that God is there. Your children will grow up hungering and thirsting to walk with your Savior. Now, take a deep, long, breath. Can you smell it? That sweet, wonderful fragrance called joy? ❖

*Who is to blame for MY anger?
I or the one who has hurt me?*

*"Private reading spot."
Little Miss Hannah enjoys latest issue*

Dear Mike and Debi,
We found our daughter Hannah (2 yrs old) sitting on her potty reading your latest newsletter – just a day or two after it arrived in our mailbox. We got a huge kick out of her trying to figure out what her mom and dad get so excited about receiving in the mail. We thought you might think it was funny, too. Of course, we turned her for the sake of discretion, but you get the picture. ☺
Peace to you,
J&A



FROM THE MAILBOX

Dear Debi,

About a year and a half ago, we had a little girl who was terrified of ants. Psychologists would have said she had "anxiety attacks." She would wave her arms, break into a sweat, and all but hyperventilate. We fought back with Proverbs 6:6, which tells us to go to the ant and consider her ways. For a week, life was ants, ants, and more ants. Long story short, since getting to know them, our daughter now LOVES anything to do with them. So when we got the new No Greater Joy this week, I read your article "Eating Ants" to her.

Yesterday while we were outside, our daughter (now almost four) announced, "Mom, I just ate an ant." I thought she was teasing and said, "You did not." She assured me she did, so I shot back, "Okay, then eat another one." She proceeded to find, squash and eat a half dozen ants, only stopping because she couldn't find any more. (They were probably hiding!) I said, "How do they taste?" She replied seriously, "They taste like lemon." I'm still laughing.

Kids are only kids for a short time. Thank you for reminding us to relax and enjoy it.
Sincerely, K

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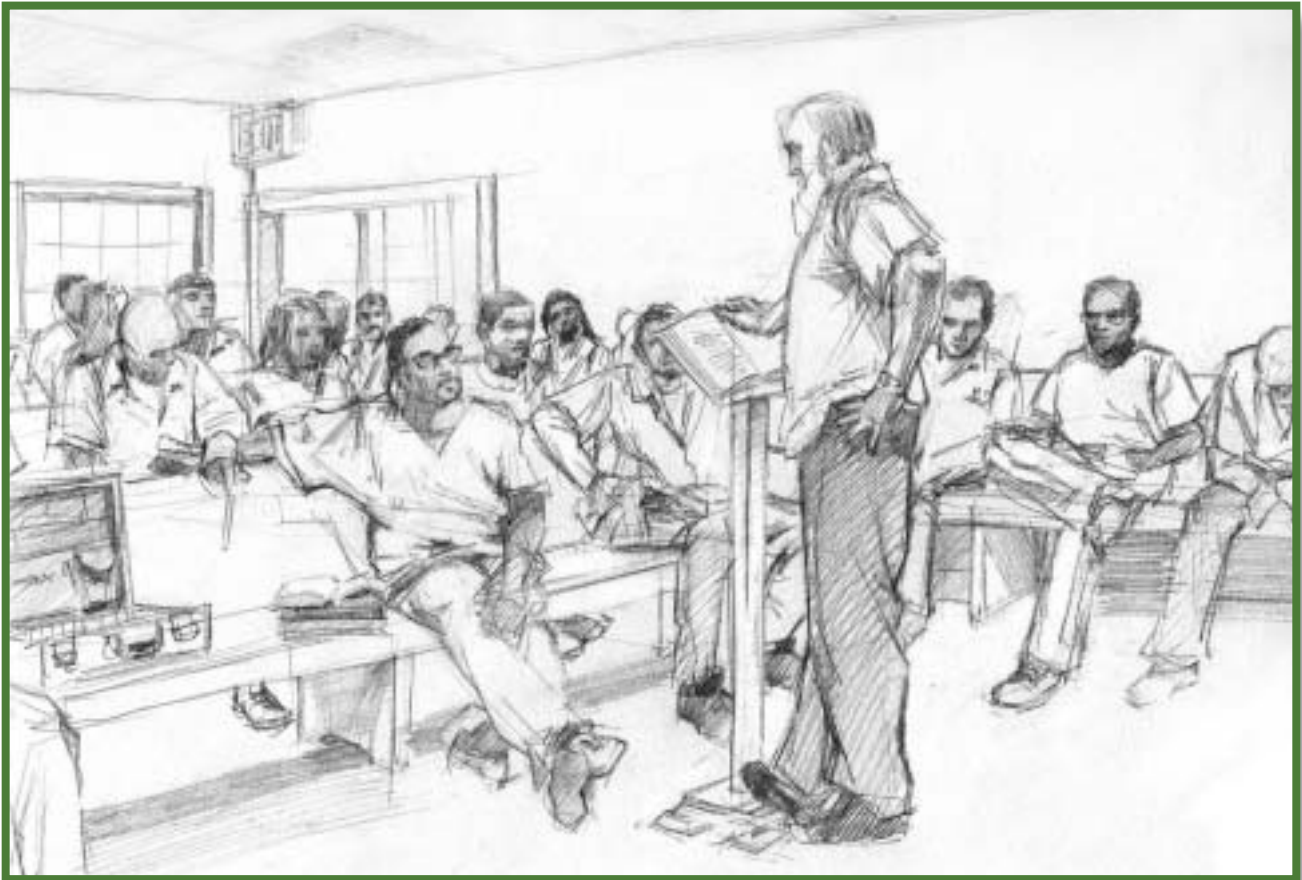
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MIKE PREACHING AT THE PRISON

Mike is seen in the drawing preaching in one of the state prisons where he has been ministering weekly for 9 years. They will not allow cameras in the prison, so Clint Cearley went along and sketched the men while Mike spoke. About 60 are in attendance every Saturday, and 70 or more attend on Sundays. Many of the men have been born again and make the best of citizens when they get out. Some will never get out until the rapture. Some will die in there and go into the Lord's presence to await their glorified bodies. Mike says that if he were somehow limited to only one ministry, he would choose the prison.

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