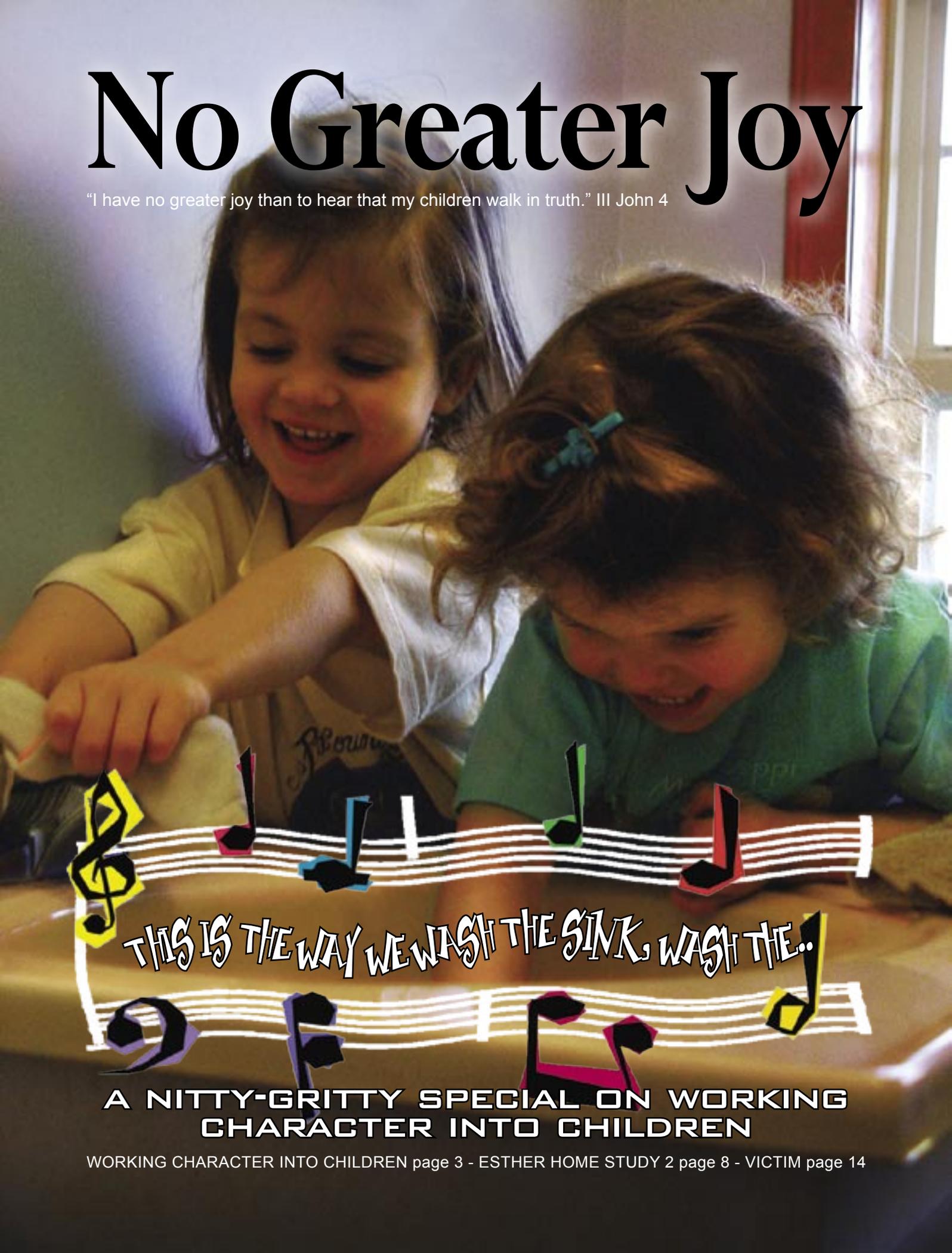


# No Greater Joy

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



THIS IS THE WAY WE WASH THE SINK, WASH THE..

**A NITTY-GRITTY SPECIAL ON WORKING CHARACTER INTO CHILDREN**

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JANUARY - FEBRUARY 2003  
VOL. 9 NO. 1

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

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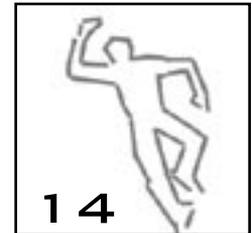
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Ministries Inc.  
1000 Pearl Road  
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# WORKING CHARACTER INTO YOUR CHILDREN - PART 2

BY MICHAEL PEARL

## What does the Bible say about working?

Working is godly. For God works. The Bible starts off in the second chapter of Genesis telling us about God resting from his work.

When Adam was in his original, sinless state, God put him in a garden and told him to “dress it and to keep it” (*Genesis 2:15*). That means *work* is part of our original image, our human nature. God never intended for men to be idle. After Adam sinned, God told him, “in the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread” (*Genesis 3:19*).

Paul told the believers in Thessalonica: “Study to be quiet, and to do your own business, and to work with your own hands, as we commanded you; That ye may walk honestly toward them that are without, and that ye may have lack of nothing” (*1 Thessalonians 4:11-12*).

In 2 Thessalonians 3:6-13 Paul is emphatic about the need for a man to work: “...if any would not work, neither should he eat. For we hear that there are some which walk among you disorderly, working not at all...” If a man does not work, it is considered to be **disorderly**, out of the natural order, contrary to our human nature. To sit down at a table and eat that which was earned by

another man’s labor, while exempting oneself from labor, is **dishonest** and **disorderly**.

Paul said to Timothy, “But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel” (*1 Timothy 5:8*).

Laziness produces lust (*Proverbs 13:4; 21:25-26*). The lazy man always finds a reason not to work. He becomes the master of excuses and blame. “The sluggard will not plow by reason of the cold; therefore shall he beg in harvest, and have nothing” (*Proverbs 20:4*).

There is something repulsive and disgusting about a lazy sluggard. Everything about him is a testimony to his lack of character. His vineyard is covered with thorns and his stone wall is broken down (*Proverbs 24:30-34*). He has “good” excuses, but when it comes time for harvest he will expect others to share their grapes with him. If they don’t *share*, he will accuse them of



being selfish.

Children who grow up indulged and not given meaningful, responsible work will never have enough and will charge their parents with selfishness and accuse them of being mean.

“Why can’t I have shoes like the other children?”

“Why can’t I have a thing-a-ma-jig like my friends?”

“Why can’t I have a car?”

“Why don’t you send me to college?”

And eventually, “So what are you leaving me in your will?”

## Why work?

Never lose sight of why it is so important to teach our children

to work. There are several very sensible reasons that have to do with success and happiness, but more importantly, work provides the tension on which character is built and maintained.

One's work ethic is a barometer of his character, but work is also the context in which character is developed. It is the battleground on which responsibility and irresponsibility compete. The way a child is caused to respond to distasteful duty determines whether he will be a sinful sloth or a saintly servant.

Character is never developed in a vacuum. When children are too young to understand or participate in the struggle between good and evil, they are nonetheless in a contest between lazy flesh and disciplined flesh. This is not a mock battle. The soul of the child is being formed. It is the same soul that will eventually have to face moral options. When a child is disciplined to win the struggle against his lazy flesh, he is much better equipped to win the coming struggle against good and evil.

If parents allow their small children to grow up in a permissive environment, being served but not caused to serve, their flesh will grow dominant and their spirits will grow lazy and self-centered. When they are eventually faced with moral choices, they will already be hedonistic hippies in their world-view. They will not have developed a will to suffer loss of fleshly fulfillment for the sake of duty. Through those early years of slothfulness and

immediate gratification, they will have developed a will to be gratified without pain or self-discipline.

They will expect all good things to come to them freely at no personal cost and without disciplined action.

If you are going to raise godly, responsible, disciplined children, you must begin early, before they are one year old, teaching them the rudiments of work. There is no alternative.

"It is good for a man that he bear the yoke in his youth" (*Lamentations* 3:27).

It is good for the man. As a parent you can give your grown son a precious gift, but it must be given when he is still a youth. He will be a better man for having shouldered responsibility when still young.

## How old should my children be when I start training them to work?

William is just eleven months old and stumbles around on chubby bowed legs. He can't keep his mouth shut and his chin dry, so how can he be expected to work? How can he carry a load in his hands when he is usually carrying one in his diaper? When you give him a command he looks at you and laughs like you were a clown that just did something terribly funny.

He eats, sleeps, wakes up at the wrong time, and expects to be the center of attention. He commands the services of his four willing sisters, (seven, three and two-year-old twins), and accepts their adoration as his due. In his little circle there is not responsibility or duty—just pleasure, the want of it or the absence of it.

In seventeen years, when William is eighteen-years-old, what will he have become? Hard working young man? Lazy jerk? Punk? Dope head? Missionary? Young and rich entrepreneur? Prisoner awaiting sentencing? Owner of property? Bum?

In our present society everything is designed to make William dependent and irresponsible. The conventional wisdom that bombards his parents through the media and social pressure comes from educators and psychologists who have never experienced a normal family and never raised happy, productive children.

But I am thankful to tell you that William is not overindulged, and he is being taught to work and perform his duty as part of the family. The other day William's family came to visit. The kids all headed to the toy boxes, which we keep on hand for just such occasions. They gave the little tot the big case full of model cars—all makes and models.

When it came time to leave, the seven-year-old sister told William to pick up the cars and put them back in their allotted slots in the box. Mother could have saved a lot of time by doing it herself, or Deb could have said, "Oh, it's alright; I will clean up after you are gone." But these two mothers, and the little sisters as well, were wiser than that. The three-year-old picked up a car and handed it to William, assisting him in placing it in the slot. She bragged on his accomplishment and,



**Work provides the tension on which character is built and maintained.**

as one of the other sisters passed another car to her, she passed it to William and together they placed it in the slot. The children had formed a relay, picking up the toys and passing them down the line until William placed them in the slots. To him it was great fun. All eyes were on him. He was getting what he wants most—everybody's attention. Just because it was fun doesn't mean it was not training him to work. William was learning to respond to command. He was learning to clean up his own messes.

The beautiful thing about this was that the girls not only accepted the responsibility to clean up the mess, but they automatically assumed that William should be involved. It was obvious that they were relating to him as their mother and older siblings had related to them. These two- and three-year-olds, along with the seven-year-old had not only been taught to work, but by example they had been trained to be trainers of their younger brothers and sisters. There was no friction or threats, just peace and fellowship. Everybody was having fun.

## Daddy couldn't believe we'd done it

The following letter is a beautiful example of a mother with the right spirit regarding working.

*"We just moved to Canada and are about to experience our first Canadian winter. On Wednesday a truck dumped 2 cords of firewood into our driveway. My husband had been working long hours and mentioned that he was not looking forward to stacking all of that wood. I'd been taught by your previous articles how to involve the children in work and how to be a helpmeet to my*

*husband, so I decided to get as much of that wood stacked as possible. I walked out with my 6-year-old daughter, my 4-year-old son and, their 18-month-old brother, and we surveyed the 'mountain' of wood in our driveway. In the spirit of fun I said, "Wow, look at that MOUNTAIN of wood! We're gonna have great fires with that! I'm gonna pay you guys to help me stack it by the side of the house. For every ten pieces you stack, I'll give you one piece of candy."*

*I really didn't know how much they could do. Most of their labor is putting away silverware, folding towels, and sweeping the floor. This was different. They rose to the challenge. It was really fun to see them excitedly running back and forth, making a race out of who could stack the most. I was surprised at the heavy logs they could lift. "You guys are SO strong. WOW, what great workers you are!" They'd count up to ten logs then we'd make a chalk mark on the driveway. "How many do I have now, Mommy?" The mountain slowly grew smaller. In the end, my daughter carried 240 logs, my son 120, and my toddler stacked the kindling. We made a safe place for him to watch us when it got to be too dangerous having him underfoot.*

*I got more than 2 cords of wood stacked. I learned some things about the character of my kids. My daughter is motivated by competition. My son tires easily and needs to work on perseverance (he petered out  $\frac{1}{2}$  way through, not from being tired, but from laziness) and my toddler needed more training to stay inside his roped-off area.*

*When my husband got home that night he said, "So, they didn't deliver the wood?" We all giggled and said, "Go look*

*at the side of the house." He couldn't believe we'd done it. It was so satisfying to see all that wood stacked. They got their payment in candy corn, but I almost think they had more fun stacking the wood. My heart leaps with joy every time I picture my kids carrying those big ol' logs "Mom, look at me!" I wish we had more work like that to do together as a family. Makes me want to move to the wilderness."*

There is so much wisdom to be gleaned from the above letter. Can you see that her children were made better by the experience? The family was blessed. The way she responded to her four-year-old son who got "lazy" when the job was only half done helped make him tougher and improved his self-image. The pride they felt when Daddy came home must have left them all with a giddy high. The children were basking in the admiration and appreciation of their father and mother. That one experience of enduring beyond the body's will to suffer the pain of work built character in the four-year-old boy.

If that experience had ended in anger and a job half done, if the boy had been allowed to drop out because he was "too little," he would have been weakened emotionally and spiritually, but by enduring he developed a confidence that he can go beyond the point when duty becomes boring and painful. It is impossible to imagine these children having a "bad" evening after that day's work. They would have felt good all over.

This was also a maturing experience for the mother. The countenance that her success produced would have made her more attractive to her husband. As they said in the old west about women highly favored, "She's a woman to ride the river with." Which means, she can row her

end of the boat. She will endure the rapids. She will be an asset to the trip. The husband would have been more attracted to his wife that evening, and she would have been more responsive to him, having felt her worth.

The father would have appreciated and respected his children more. He would be more patient with them as a result of that day. The sense of favor and fellowship would have been increased all around. The family was knit together through it all.

## The tiles of homeschooling

"My four- and six-year-old love to help me clean our kitchen floors. Although this game works as well on linoleum, our kitchen floor is made of large ceramic tiles. I divide the kitchen floor into two sections. With a dry erase pen on the four year old's section I draw numbers and letters in random order on the tiles. He has to clean each large square perfectly, thus erasing the letter or number on his square--but he has to do it in chronological order. His older sister has various words to read as she cleans each square, thus decoding a secret message (often a mini love letter) I have written to her. Sometimes we even make it a race. It's lots of fun and sure beats nagging the kids!

Valeri Marsh  
Payson, AZ

The previous letter is the way life should be lived. She said, "it sure beats nagging." Nagging is always counterproductive. It eats away at the soul of the family like moist rot.

Can you see that this mother is enjoying her children? It would no doubt be easier for her to clean the floor herself. Imagine mother

crawling around on the floor, writing on every tile, leaving coded messages. This is a woman that needs to have fifteen kids.

Consider what must be the world-view of this mother. What is the most important thing to her in the course of a day? Keeping her house clean? Absolutely not. She lives for her children. She is a builder of souls. She has a full time job, and she is determined to succeed above all else. She is a mother. That is the attitude you must have to train up your children in the way they should go.



## He could cook some mean pancakes

Dear Michael and Debi Pearl,

Everything you said in the article, "Working Character Into Your Children" was TRUE! When we had children, I was committed to raising them God's way. So I taught them to work. Mostly I was letting them help me as I was learning how to keep house, cook, etc. I never had any original ideas for what I did with them, I just read as much as I could and implemented it wherever I could. Mostly I asked God for wisdom, as it says to do in James. And so we worked together!

By the time our oldest son was nine, he could vacuum the entire house, shovel all the walks perfectly clean, take care of the dog, the cat, the hamsters, his little sisters and brother, wash dishes as well as me, wash the kitchen floor better than me,

and cook some mean pancakes.

There are a lot of lists out there of who should do what, and when. Downward delegation seems to be the key to keeping the littler ones learning to work so the older ones aren't shouldering all the work. The youngest child capable of/in need of learning how to become capable - that is the one that needs to do the task. In other words, don't send your 17-year-old to take out the trash when your 6- & 8-year-old boys are right there.

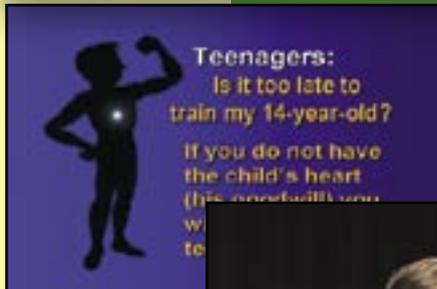
When our oldest was almost ten, we moved from western New York to Florida. My husband left the company he had worked for almost thirteen years, and wanted to work for himself. He loves to be outdoors and wanted to start a business mowing grass. He also desired to spend time with his parents who live there, and work with our family. We sold everything and went. He started from scratch, and built a good business in the twenty months we were there. Jack, our oldest, worked right alongside him. At just ten, he was mostly the water boy for Tom, but they were together. I missed him terribly; it was an adjustment for me having him gone from the house all day. But it was Tom's turn to have time with him.

I focused on the three girls coming up next, and their training (besides the toddler and baby).

Jack learned each tool, as he got big enough for it. First came the backpack blower (it hung down past the back of his knees!), then the edger, and by the time he was twelve he could drive the commercial mower on a big open lot. He wasn't much of a help yet, but they were together, and this was what my husband wanted to be doing with him.

*continued on page 10*

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BY DEBI PEARL AND FRIENDS

# THE BOOK OF ESTHER HOME STUDY 2

**I**n studying the first chapter of Esther did you notice the number 7 (complete and total) and a multiple of 7 are all related to the king in this incident with Vashti?

7<sup>th</sup> day of the final feast  
7 princes  
7 chamberlains  
147 days = 7 X 21 (multiples of 7)

**Read chapter 2 of Esther. Mark in your Bible all the numbers as you read.**

- ◆ How many times does Chapter 1 & 2 say that the king acted “according to the law”? Why is this significant? See Daniel 5:8, 12, 15 where it tells us of the strictness in which the Persians honored their law. What does this tell us about the king’s personal conduct at the feast and his invitation for Vashti to attend?
- ◆ **Verse 1-** What mixed emotions do you think the king might have had after he had time to cool off and think back to his wife, Vashti?
- ◆ What do you think the ex-queen/wife’s feelings were when she thought about her present state that resulted from refusing to do as she was commanded?
- ◆ How does Proverbs 14:1 apply to this true story? Can you see in your own life where you have been both the wise woman (buildeth her house ) and the foolish woman (plucketh it down)?
- ◆ **Verse 2-** The king’s servants must have cared about their king since it was their idea to find the best possible wife. Why do you think it was important to choose only virgins?
- ◆ **Verse 3-** Does this sound like a beauty contest? What was Shushan? Until this century it was common to turn some males into eunuchs, which means they had no sexual drive. Such was doubtless the case with Hegai the king’s chamberlain, keeper of the women.
- ◆ Why was it necessary for a year of purification?

During the first 6 months, the girls were to use the herb Myrrh. All down through the ages Myrrh has been used for oral hygiene, making the breath fresh and preventing tooth decay. It is also beneficial as an astringent, drawing out skin impurities. Myrrh has been used internally to treat colds, asthma, indigestion, gonorrhea, and sore throats. Too much Myrrh causes extreme diarrhea, which would help cleanse a person of parasites.

During the last 6 months, the girls preparing for the king were to use sweet odors and other things for purifying. Her skin would become soft as silk and saturated with the smell of pure sweet oils. This 12 months of cleansing could have been a part of a religious ceremony as well as a physical cleansing.

Leprosy, tuberculosis, and sexual diseases were common and usually meant death. In the early stages many diseases are not evident. One year was long enough to bring out fits, bad moods, selfishness, and uncontrolled tempers, bringing to light those unfit to be a queen. Even headaches or other such chronic weaknesses could cancel out a potential queen. Lice, fleas, scabies and other skin problems common in that time would be taken care of. The oils and the herbs would cleanse the girls of parasites (which would have also been a problem in old days.)

Because drugs for healing were not available, prevention was critically important. During the year of

purification, girls with any signs of physical, mental, or emotional problems would be eliminated. The new queen had to be perfect. After all, this girl would become the wife/queen of the King Ahasuerus, who was the king of the largest kingdom on earth.

- ◆ **Verse 4-** How did the king respond to his servants' proposal about how to find another queen?
- ◆ **Verses 5-7-** Verse 5 introduces a new character into the plot. How was Mordecai related to Esther? Look up Daniel 2:48-49, Genesis 19:1, and Deuteronomy 21: 19-20 to help you understand what Mordecai was doing in the palace.
- ◆ **Verses 8 & 9** History tells us that many virgins were gathered for the beauty contest. Each girl was given 7 maidens to help her prepare (one year of purification) for the night she would spend with the king.
- ◆ **Verses 7-15** gives us many clues to Esther's own conduct and how she positively influenced her 7 maidens assigned to her by the king. Hegai, the keeper of the women, liked Esther more than any of the other girls, and he showered her with blessings.
- ◆ She was: an orphan (7), beautiful and fair (7), influenced her maids to polite, kind behavior (9), very discreet in what she said or did not say (10), honoring of the chamberlains and other servants (11), in control of her mind and emotions to be able to do a difficult task (11), not greedy or selfish of things (15), poised and confident (15), had dignity and honor (15b), totally obedient and trusting to her adopted father (20). What other traits do you see?

After each girl finished her year of cleansing, she would wait until the evening that she was called to the king's chamber. The next morning she, along with all the girls before her, was sent to the second house of women to remain concubines for the rest of their lives, never to be called to the king again unless he happened to remember her name and call her back to spend the night with him again. Since there were many in this group of concubines, it is doubtful many were ever called again. The fate of most concubines would be to remain childless and loveless, and with little freedom or purpose in life. Esther was indeed put in a bad situation. There must have been fierce competition and bitterness among the girls, with each one trying to find the finest clothes, make-up, and jewelry. Yet, one of the defining things in Esther's character was that she did not require extra or special things such as "name brand" clothes to make her feel queenly. Winning the king's heart not only meant becoming queen; it also meant not ending up as a perpetual concubine.

- ◆ **Verse 17** tells us the king loved Esther above all others. Surely the king was influenced by Hegai's high opinion of Esther. He would have noticed how all his servants honored her. It is likely that Vashti, the dethroned, divorced queen, had ignored Hegai and the other servants or even treated them with contempt. The king had already had one beautiful queen. He knew from experience that beauty was only skin deep. He was looking for a woman with a pure, kindhearted, respectful, obedient spirit. He saw Esther's heart reflected in the faces of those who had served her for the last year. A beautiful face is admired, but it takes being loveable to be loved. Don't make Vashti's mistake and think it is your just due for your husband to love you just because you are the now reigning queen. Become lovable. King Ahasuerus showed his joy over his new bride by having a feast and giving gifts to the provinces.
- ◆ Esther had an important secret. Her Uncle Mordicai had instructed her to keep her secret. Even though she was now the wife of the king, she still obeyed her Uncle in this matter. Why was it so important to hold back this information?
- ◆ **Verse 21** a new plot develops. Retell this short story and describe Esther's part in saving her husband's life. At a later date God will use the story of this murderous plot to work his will.
- ◆ How strange are the workings of God to save the nation of Israel! Did God allow Esther to become an orphan so that she might be raised more carefully by her Uncle Mordecai? Did God give Esther unusual poise, beauty, grace and dignity so that she would win a beauty contest and become the wife of a divorced man? Could it be that if we read the last chapter of the book of Esther we will see that God's intent is much bigger than a girl named Esther? Is this true in our own lives? Esther's character was such that she played her part in a noble manner regardless of what was asked of her and without understanding the full scope of her part. Could the same be said of you? ❖

continued from page 6

When you start, whether as toddlers or a ten year old, it isn't EASIER to teach someone smaller! It's so much EASIER to do it yourself and send them off to play. But it's only as we persevere in this task of training them that we'll ever yield any fruit.

People look at Tom today - he has a very successful, small landscaping business back here in New York, and they see what he has and the fine young man he has working for him, and they think somehow he "lucked out." I am here to say it has nothing to do with luck. It says in the Scripture that "*It is good for a man that he bear the yoke in his youth.*" Lamentations 3:27.

My son did not always want to go off to work. But, for that matter, neither did my husband! They did it because it is what men do.

As a mother, I didn't like to see my little boy work so hard; it was so hot out! The day was so long! The tarps full of leaves so heavy his muscles would ache! But he didn't complain. And I knew better than to try and change my husband. I prayed more, for both of them, I trusted Jack to God, by trusting my husband's judgment. I used to feel privately sorry for Jack. I do not feel sorry for him any longer. I am so pleased with the young man he has become! I am so thankful for what he has been saved from! He has been too busy working with his Dad to get into trouble. His Dad has control over him - he respects his mother. He appreciates the lunch his sister Rachel packs for him (unless she forgets the spoon for his yogurt!), and the hearty breakfast Chelsea fills him with before he goes (she knows he likes pancakes best); and that Hannah takes care of his laundry, and tidies his

room. He thanks Thomas for getting his bird out of his cage awhile when he's gone, and Caleb for always thinking of him (Caleb asks the lady at the bank for an extra sucker so he has something to give Jack when he gets home.)

Michael Pearl, it's a beautiful thing to behold! You should be here to see it: Tom and Jack walk in from work, hot, dirty, hungry - the first thing Jack wants to do is hold baby Olivia! (He washed up first.) To see this 6'4" seventeen-year-old with his eight-month-old sister blesses my heart so! Work and Time. They're like the hammer and chisel in the hands of the craftsman.

My time is up! I must end here.  
Candy

Candy, you bless me as well. Take note of this mother's attitude. Attitude is the key to everything. She is PROUD of her son. In the second paragraph she brags on all his abilities before nine and ends by saying that he could "cook a mean pancake." Her spirit comes through her letter like early morning sun through the kitchen window. She was absorbed with leading her young son to excel in everything, and she was ready to brag and admire him for his abilities. She didn't allow her feminine sensibilities to contradict her husband's instincts to get his son out of the house and into the man's world.

Can you see that a child raised in such light and discipline is going

to have optimum confidence and security? He will never be a jerk or suffer from self-hate. Before

he was nine, before Daddy ever took Jack to work, his mother had made a worker out of him. He was not a slave to the family. He was the man of the house at five or six. He found pleasure in doing his part at home. Her son was no different from any other. He was not born liking work. Work becomes acceptable, if not

pleasant, when it is full of family fellowship.



**It is good for a man that he bear the yoke in his youth. Lamentations. 3:27**

## An old-timer speaks out

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Pearl, Your article on work is a needed message for this hour. Even among Christians, it is becoming an undesirable word. It grieves me to see teens "wasting" their could-be energy, loafing, pursuing pleasure or "easy" jobs.

Often at church, the men over 50 are the ones lugging chairs up and down stairs or doing jobs young people are very capable of. Not so our children! We won't allow it.

Having been born before WWII, work was not an option - it was a way of life, and a good one, I might add. My parents were in the restaurant business - you helped in whatever way you could, from picking up containers left in the yard by thoughtless people to doing dishes or waiting on customers. We had to "pull together" to make a living.

I'm so glad I had such an upbringing. It kept me out of trouble and from getting a set of wrong values. I never felt "deprived" when I couldn't go to

all the games and activities the other kids did. I had a place in the family.

Today's kids are missing out. Parents think they are protecting them and giving them what they never had (material things, really.) In reality, they are bringing up dysfunctional people. People without joy and confidence that a hard day's work gives them.

After having children, it seemed only normal to teach them to take care of themselves and join in the family work. Hubby was a logger and we burned wood. We learned to have fun and work together. Girls as well as boys can pile and lug wood.

In household chores, there were little jobs also. As soon as they can "toddle," they can "tote." Little ones fetched a needed item with a "big boy" or "big girl" to help them feel appreciated. They helped put away clothes or socks. As they grew, so did their jobs, until at a young age (maybe 7) they knew more about housekeeping than the average new bride of today. Our girls could cook and keep house wisely when they married.

Oh, that we could reach the heart and mind of parents today to get hold of the value of WORK!

Joyfully,  
CR

Well, CR has got my vote. I just wish I had invented that line "As soon as they can toddle they can tote." I am going to use that again.

She is correct. The country as a whole has lost its perspective and thrown away its values since the Second World War. Television, public schools, and industrialization have done more to destroy our values than anything else. Not because those things in themselves are evil, but they

have been the vehicles by which the socialist left has been able to propagandize society. Television and public schools teach a view of human nature and society that is anti-Christian and anti-individual responsibility. Industrialization is the tool that took the fathers away from the home and left the young

men exposed to the fruit of the leftists' agenda. Children are growing up not needed and they are creating their own meaning in life. An unneeded child is an unvalued child, is a child who doesn't value himself, is a child who doesn't value others, is a child who has no values except pleasure. We could learn a lot by listening to the blue haired crowd.



**As soon as they can toddle they can tote. -CR**

## Upside down blankets— right side up family

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Pearl, I have a three-year-old girl and a one-year-old boy. My main observation is that my daughter loves doing what mama does. After the meal is over, she loves to wash off the table. So I give her a dishcloth and she washes the table, sometimes the chairs, cabinets, oven door, and whatever else she thinks needs cleaning. She also loves helping with laundry. I'm working on teaching her how to separate things into separate laundry piles. I hold up the clothes and she tells me whether it goes

in the white pile or the darks, jeans, towels, etc. At first, this was tedious because I had to teach her and show her which pile everything went into. I usually just said, "See, this is a white shirt. It goes in this pile." Now I say, "Which pile does this go in?" and she grabs

it puts it in the appropriate pile. She also carries the laundry piles into the laundry room. And when it is time to put them on the clothesline, she hands me the clothespins.

Of course, three-year-olds can put away toys, but they can also make beds. My daughter can pull the blankets up to the top of the bed and smooth out the majority

of the wrinkles. Sometimes the blankets are upside down, but that's OK!

Despite all this, there are times that even when the mood is cheerful, she complains and doesn't want to. Is this a training issue or a spanking issue?

In Christ,  
B

No, No, No. It is not a spanking issue. You have done a great job so far. It blesses me to picture your daughter putting the blanket on upside down. No doubt it is the prettiest bed ever made. There will come a day, in about twenty years, when you would give anything to see that bed made with the upside down blanket.

It is to be expected that a child will complain about work from time to time. I complain when my wife

*continued on page 16*

# CLEAR AWAY THE DOUBTS

These tapes are \$4.00 each or you can get The Righteousness Album that contains all three tapes, four messages, in a vinyl album for \$10.00.

## TWO SERMONS ON A 90 MINUTE TAPE



### THE MAN CHRIST JESUS

This message explores the humanity of Christ in a way that will thrill you.

- Why did Jesus have to become human?
- Why did he always refer to himself as "The Son of Man"?
- How does his humanity save us—sanctify us?
- You will appreciate Jesus and love him more as you hear the Scripture expanded.

### SAVING RIGHTEOUSNESS

This message on the other side of the tape clearly defines God's method of making a person righteous enough to get to heaven. Many people from many nations have come to saving faith in Christ through listening to this tape. It is part of our foreign correspondence course. If you have had doubts about your salvation, this tape will answer the needful questions.

## IMPUTED RIGHTEOUSNESS

The great doctrine of imputed righteousness is the heart of Biblical Christianity. Michael covers the many passages on the subject and presents this doctrine in a no-nonsense manner. It will give you confidence in your position in Christ. If you are not saved, this tape is for you.



**NEW TAPES BY MICHAEL PEARL!**

## THE BLOOD

**New audio tape by Michael Pearl.**

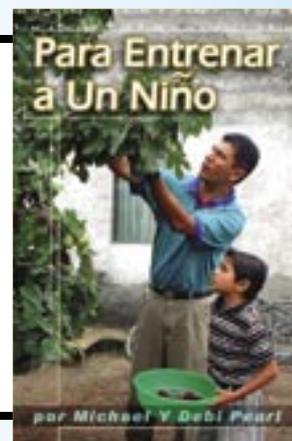
This tape will bless your socks off. Learn things you never knew about human blood and the blood of Christ.

- Why must man's blood be shed by man when he sheds the blood of another?
- Why did Christ need human blood?
- How does his blood speak better things than that of Abel?
- Why is it necessary for Jesus to stain the earth with the blood of sinners when he returns?
- How does the blood of Christ wash away sins?



**Updated Spanish translation of "To Train Up a Child" now available!**

*Book only \$5.00*



# SEMINARS, IN 2003

Many of you have written and requested for the Pearls to come to your church or homeschool group for a seminar. They have been reluctant to be away from their home, church, office, and garden for more than a couple weeks each year, so we could not honor most of your requests. But this year the Pearls have decided to accept more invitations. They will make about four one week trips sometime during the Spring and Summer. One circuit will take them as far north as New York. On another circuit they will go east as far as Virginia and Florida. In Late February they will make a swing through Louisiana, Georgia, & Mississippi. On another trip they will go south and west as far as Texas and Oklahoma. And on another circuit they will travel west toward Colorado. They may do California and northwest in the fall.

If your request was previously ignored, send us another one right away and we will try to include you in their itinerary. Make sure before you write that you have the authority to make such a request. Can you secure the building?

We have about 50,000 addresses on our mailing list. We will send out the appropriate number of invitations to fill up the building you reserve. Let us know how many seats are available.

When you send your request, include your address, telephone number, email address, fax, location and address of proposed seminar, number of seats, and any other pertinent information. We will contact you to confirm the date and discuss the details. Address your envelope:

Seminar Request (State)  
No Greater Joy  
1000 Pearl Road  
Pleasantville TN 37033

## PREACHER'S PASSION

**M**y dad's a preacher. You may wonder what passion flower has to do with preachers. Often after a service the family would come home tired, looking forward to a good night's rest. But dad's mind would still be going over and over the sermon he had just preached. On some nights I would lie in my bed and hear him walking back and forth. My dad needed to have something to help him wind down and relax. This is one reason my mom discovered herbal teas.

Here is one of our favorite sleep-time tea combinations.

**One part Passion Flower** is used because it calms the busy mind.

**One part Chamomile Flower** and plant because it relaxes and calms and has a sweet mellow favor.

**One part Oat Straw** is added to the tea because it relaxes muscles.

**One part Peppermint** brings full bodied favor, aids digestion and relaxes the smooth muscles, bringing overall relaxation.

We just mix ½ pound of each of the four herbs together in a clean, dry, gallon glass jug. This amount lasts our family all winter. You can make a cup at a time with a teaspoon per cup of boiling water or a pot at a time for the whole family. This tea can sure put my Big Papa to sleep and the whole family is glad.



By Shoshanna Pearl, owner of The Bulk Herb Store, 1010 Pearl Road, Pleasantville, TN 37033 \*Write for free Herb List\* (Herb Store and NGJ have separate addresses and offices. If you hope to reach the Herb Store then **DO NOT** combine mail with NGJ.)



# victims

Dear Mike and Debi

My husband and I have five children ages 2 to 16. There are four boys and one girl. The girl is ten years old. For the last two years my oldest son has treated her as though he can hardly stand her. He seems to want to isolate her from his life. He gets along with all of the other kids. This doesn't seem to fit with his personality. He treats everyone else with care and respect. I wouldn't be writing you if this happened only occasionally, but it seems to be the norm rather than the exception. When strangers comment on the fact that she is the only girl amongst all of the boys and that he will protect her when she reaches a dating age, I can't imagine it. We have home schooled our kids from kindergarten and family unity is one of the reasons that we wanted to do that. I tell my son that we are known as Christians by the love we have for one another. I do discipline her when she disobeys her older brothers or is intentionally annoying. What do you suggest? Am I making a mountain out of a mole hill?

## Debi Answers

There are many reasons why a young man may act this way toward his sister, but I will address the most common cause we see in our mail. For the sake of clarity I will call your daughter Susy and your oldest son Ben.

Some children have a tendency to be pitiful and play the victim role. It is often difficult for a parent to see this as a bad attitude. If a parent responds to the "victim" and runs interference, it weakens the child further. When you have a house full of girls and only one boy or, as in your case, a house full of boys and only one girl, you have a greater potential for the problem. Parents need to be vigilant to spank away any signs of self-pity.

Susy is the victim/manipulator, Ben is the rejecter, and you, Mom, are the defender/enabler. It is more common in families for the 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> child to be the

victim, and Dad the rejecter. It is not unusual for any child to play the victim and either parent to be the enabler or rejecter. Some mothers will reject their daughters and make their sons their soul-partners, bonding with them by protecting them and enabling them to manipulate others with their victim mentality. Less commonly, a dad will be the enabler for a victim child, and this can be most unpleasant for those who are forced to associate with the family. In a few very troubled families, all of the children are the victim/manipulators and both parents are defender/enablers. "The world is against us and we have to stick together." Depression and suicide often run in this type of family.

In many families, big brothers love and protect their only little sister. They think she is wonderful. Since Ben's relationship with the little sister

is not hostile, just indifferent, and since it is not his character to be rude or vindictive, I would assume that he is being consistent, and would expect the answer to be found in the continuity of his character rather than an exception to it. In short, Ben has a good reason for avoiding his little sister.

If you have on occasion run interference for your daughter, if you have forced her company and attention upon Ben, if you have allowed her to trample upon his rights, if you have protected her as the victim and crushed Ben when he resisted her, he has only two options: fight you and the sister, or retreat and ignore her.

Little Susy has learned to use pity to stir up your sense of fairness. Your relationship with her is close, and she tells you everything. Much of what Susy tells you is not exactly a lie, but it is not the whole truth either.

For the first six years of Susy's life she played the part of a victim and Ben always gave over. He has never really liked her because of it. In his heart and spirit he knew something was not fair or just, but he couldn't understand himself or your responses. To him, Suzy was a brat that needed a spanking. Instead, he was forced to give over.

Somewhere, around six or seven years old, Susy's intelligence and social understanding rose to a new high. In his spirit, Ben began to blame Susy. She was now old enough to enjoy the constant low grade conflict and control, but Ben's hormones were changing. With this change came a new sense of intolerance for the silly, childish conflict and manipulating half-truths. Ben probably tried to talk to you, but you already blamed him, so he gave it up.

Ben simply began to close the door psychologically. He stopped rising to Susy's bait. To him she came to be like an untrained, indoor animal, one that had to be endured but never endeared. He learned to live around Susy and avoid conflict. As protector for Suzy all you see is Ben's rejection and so you expect, Ben to repent and love his little sister.

A family becomes much more difficult to repair when daddy is the rejecter. Daddy becomes the rejecter when he sees a foul attitude

in his little girl and tries to correct it, but mama sees her little girl with emotional pain. Dad tries to be the head of the house, but mama plays the part of protector/defender/

enabler. Dad looks like the bad guy and feels

like the bad guy.

He does not like the role so he slowly begins

to reject the child until he has no natural feelings of protection. The child is always the loser. Mama's terrible sin of tender feelings will cause a lifetime of rejection and pain for her little girl. Sin comes in multitude of disguises.

So what can you do to bring healing? For as long as I can remember, Mike and I have asked God daily for wisdom. It is a precious, timely gift. Ask God for wisdom; he promises wisdom to those who simply ask. Give your son this letter. Give him time to read it alone. When he comes to talk to you, tell him you were wrong in how you have raised your daughter. Let him know you are the same dumb mama and you might still make the same mistakes but you are now open to correction. Let him give you ideas to help get the family on track. Don't "Oh, but..." him.

You are the one who has made the mistake and you are the one who needs to listen. If he agrees, then go to your daughter and tell her how you have made a mistake in raising

her but rejoice that she is young and will be in good shape in just a few days. Don't

criticize or reject her. Just stop running interference

and never talk about or show any concern

over her hurt feelings. Let Ben rebuke her and "tell her off" if need be. She might feel a little confused in the next few days but she will be better for it in the long run. Don't expect your son to fall all over himself "loving" your daughter. Men do not function like that. Let him find his own way as he sees you changing.

One day you will suddenly notice Susy racing to serve her big brother his tea, and you will hear him say with a little side grin, "Thanks, noodle head." She will glow in the knowledge that her big brother thinks she's fine. It is a relationship that will last for a lifetime.

I may have misinterpreted your situation completely, but I know from our mail that I have hit the mark for many of our readers. ❖

**To him she came  
to be like an  
untrained, indoor animal,  
endured but never  
endeared.**



Dear Pearls,

I just wanted to thank you & say that since my Mom read your books on child training, things have changed! My little brothers, sister, and I have heard less whining and complaining from each other. I bet we have had more cure all than anyone in the world! Your methods work. My mom has read other child training books and they don't work as well as yours do!

From,

Some in-training obedient brothers and sisters

Preston 2 ½, Sarina 9 months, Kailey 13, Zachary 9

*continued from page 11*

gives me too much to do. We only progress by reaching our former limits and then pressing beyond. When a child reaches the point of boredom, work becomes mentally painful; the body wants to rest and the mind wants to be engaged in more stimulating and satisfying activities. If you allow the child to set the limits, she will never grow or develop. You must gently press children to go beyond their limits, to climb higher, run faster, work longer, do a better job, endure monotony, do their duty, persevere, and triumph over their lazy flesh. There will be times when they will balk. If you ever begin giving in to their complaints, you will lose control and they will set the bar as they please, and it will get lower and lower.

Be careful that your demands are reasonable and within the child's physical and emotional capabilities. Keep a cheerful countenance, and they will accept your authority over their tendency to laziness.

Spanking is reserved for bad attitudes that won't go away with rebuke.

You are doing a good job. Keep it up.

## Tiny home

Dear Pearls,  
I would love ideas for teaching the work ethic for children ages 6, 4, and 2. We live in a very tiny home...no yard to mow, no garden, very little to clean. To empty the trash, wash dishes, make a bed, or pick up toys hardly seems like teaching them a "hard work" ethic for their future. We are preparing for the mission field as well. Also, what is the balance of play, work, and study at this age? Letting them just play seems as though they aren't "sticking

to" a task. I know they are small. I don't want lazy children. I wasn't taught to work as a child. It is very hard for me. I do work diligently, but I have a complaining spirit. I don't always enjoy what I should. I hope you can address this.

K

Yours is a most common situation. The best years for instilling a will to work in a child is before they are five, and it must be done before they are ten. Your small house and yard will not be a great hindrance until they get older. By the time boys get twelve or thirteen, they are going to need space and opportunity to work outside the home. You can prepare them mentally while living in a small apartment. Granted, you are not going to be able to impart any skills, but you can do well instilling the proper perspective. What you want to achieve is the sense of doing one's duty, of being a servant, part of a team, pulling together and not shirking responsibility. Teach them to keep the small home neat and clean. You might want to clean it like a hospital or military barracks. The idea is to press the child beyond his lazy zone, to cause him to develop a will to suffer duty cheerfully. This attitude instilled in the young children will translate into hard workers when the opportunity does arise to go beyond the walls.

### Now as to some ideas.

You could volunteer to clean the church once a week. If they have professionals doing the cleaning, volunteer to do something special, like painting or cleaning the church kitchen. Volunteer to cut the grass for someone in need, like an old couple. Go to the homeless shelter and volunteer to clean or cook. Start some kind of home project that makes money. You can contract to put screws in packages. You get paid per package, and you do

it at your convenience right in your home. No, I don't know the address for the business. I have seen the advertisements in the back of magazines and heard of people doing it.

As to your own attitude. You said you have a "complaining spirit." You are halfway to victory by admitting it. There is a tendency in all of us to complain and drop out of the work. Don't chasten yourself for *tendencies*. Life is about balance—overcoming the flesh and walking after the Spirit. Don't look for your tendencies to go away. Just expect to do what you ought to do regardless of how you feel about it. After all, that is exactly the point in training your children to work. You are training them to do their duty regardless of their tendencies to do otherwise. Maturity is not about feeling like doing your duty. It is doing it regardless. When you consistently do your duty, in time the flesh will surrender somewhat and it won't be so much of a struggle each time.

### As to a balance between work, play, and study:

The younger children are all play, even when you are involving them in work. As they get older (three or four) they can begin to actually do something that is of value, like picking up after themselves. By the time they are five or six, they can be washing dishes and sweeping floors, but they shouldn't be made to endure more than a few minutes unless they are having fun. By the time they are eight, they should be able to handle most of the household chores, working two hours a day, in several thirty-minute installments. By the time they are 12 they should be able to do anything you do and work half the day if need be.

These ages and times I have suggested are not at all firm. Children differ and families differ. Children can stand more labor when

they are truly needed and know they are making the difference. Poor children struggling with their parents to survive, or children raised on a farm can work longer and still feel good about it. Children from affluent families know that they are not needed, and they are more prone to resent work when they know it is arbitrary, simply to teach them something. Kings and princes expect to be served. Servants expect to serve. Wealth can be a curse when raising children.

## Working together

My Mom waited on us hand and foot. She has a servant's heart and unfortunately even let her children treat her like she was their slave. Delegating a task takes near superhuman effort for her.

Now that I am married and have four little children, I am at a loss in training them to work. I am especially baffled by your comment, 'Children should be led to work with you.' My focus thus far has been skill training, so they can take over household tasks on their own. Am I misguided in this?

AU

Maybe I was not clear. I am not suggesting that all individual jobs should take four hands. I was merely emphasizing that parents should not lie on the couch while their children are made to work. There should be a fellowship in work, especially with preteens. You do want your children to learn to do everything that is necessary to maintain the house, but more importantly, you are engaged in soul development. It is fine for one child to be doing the dishes while another is doing the wash and you are cleaning the floors, but you are within sight and sound of each

other. You can talk, sing, laugh, and have good fellowship. My wife and daughters worked together with the coordination and speed of a first responder emergency medical team. They could rush home from church and clean a dirty house and prepare dinner for large number of people while everybody else was just getting out of the parking lot. They each did their jobs and supported the other like acrobats. They were proud of their teamwork. Now that there is only one daughter left at home, they try to get me to join the team, but I stay in the parking lot until dinner is ready.

## Dilly-dally

My five-year-old dilly-dallies with a capital D. Is it effective to set the timer and spank her if she does not complete the task in the allotted time? But it simply isn't practical to use the timer every time.

Spanking is for attitude or rebellion. When your system is not working, don't just get a hammer and beat on it. It may be that you don't have all the parts, or that you put one in backward. Find out where you are failing and make changes before you blame it on the children. There may come a time when a child needs a switch to get him moving, but there are other ducks that need to be gotten in a row first.

First understand that your child dallies because work is unpleasant and so she is not enthusiastic about it. And it could be that you have given her reason to believe that your position is negotiable. Have you

allowed her to get out of work by slowing her pace? Have you given her less work for hope of enticing her? Have you jumped in to help her finish or made the other children assist her?

There is another thing to consider. Have you taken the fellowship out of work? Have you organized the home and work so the very thought of work has acquired a mean, negative connotation?

## How do you fix your problem?

There is a principle in child training which I have stated many times. Reward negative behavior by giving the child more of what she hopes to avoid. When a child disobeys or dilly-dallies it is an attempt to avoid the pain of work. So far, she hates work more than any consequences you have given. Since it is work that she is trying to

avoid, make sure she always gets more work for not working. Have a reward at the end of work. It can be rest, a snack, going out to play, anything that is stimulating and fun. If she doesn't get through in time, she misses out on the reward and has to continue her work until it is finished satisfactorily. And then add more work to her completed job as punishment for her tardiness. Cause her to know that the best way to avoid work is to work hard and fast. The key is consistency. If you enforce consequences nineteen times but allow her to avoid work one time, she will keep dilly-dallying until that one out of twenty times comes around again. You must be consistent. If you do use the rod, don't interrupt her work. Don't cause her to bend over. Don't talk to her. Don't threaten her. Just use the rod to herd her while she works. But try reorganizing first.



**Most children live their first five years as freeloaders.**

*continued on page 20*

# Have Bible will Travel

**Missionaries from The Church at Cane Creek are available to come and minister to your church.**

Expose your young people to the possibilities of taking the gospel to the regions beyond.

There are many nations of the world that are “last frontiers” for missionaries, yet so few Christians in the USA know anything about these nations. What can be done to evangelize a nation where it is illegal to talk about Christ? How can you and your church make a difference in the lives of people living in these countries? Are there ways to help the few Christians who live in countries such as this? If you have ever found yourself asking these questions, or if you have ever thought about starting a prayer group to focus on praying for these nations, we have an opportunity for you. There are two men from Cane Creek that will be available over the next several months to come share about missions in your home or church.

Jene has experience teaching Bible lessons and ministering to prisoners, has served in several countries, and has just returned to the USA. Over the past year, he has been ministering and living in one of the most anti-christian nations in the world. William has ministered in Honduras, Papua New Guinea, East Timor, as well as international events



**William with Indonesian athletes at an evangelistic outreach.**

in Asia. He is currently doing research and training for ministry in a closed country within East Asia. Due to the danger that missionaries face in the countries where William and Jene are currently involved, not much can be said about them in the newsletter. We cannot give you their full names or show you their faces because they often go into the most closed countries in the world, places where they would be arrested and deported if their true purpose was discovered.

These men would like to share a missions presentation that would help you to know more about what is going on in the world of missions, and have many personal experiences that they could share as well. If God has given you a vision for ministry in missions, this would be a good opportunity to talk about some training options. If you would like to expose your church to mission opportunities, contact us and we will arrange for one of our missionaries to visit your church. ❖

# Missionary training

The harvest is ready. We can help you get ready.

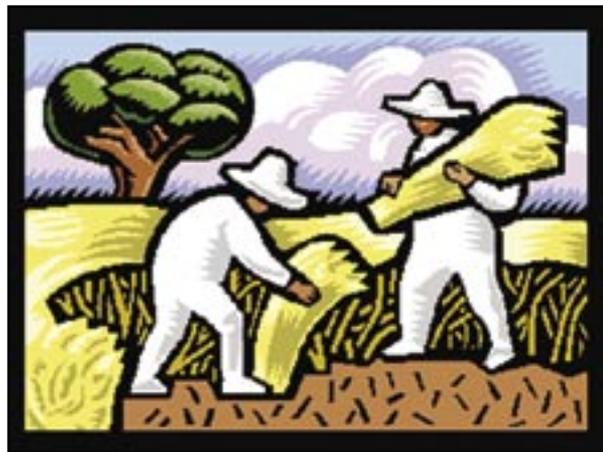
by Michael Pearl

The Church at Cane Creek; in cooperation with No Greater Joy Ministries, is already operating a very serious correspondence school in Bangkok, Thailand, with over 200 students. We are training nationals from many different countries to go back to their homes and spread the word. The needs are great and individuals and countries are ripe for the harvest.

We are in the church planting business, but not church pastoring. We don't pay nationals, build their buildings, or pastor their churches. We disciple young men, teaching them Bible doctrine, and send them back to their countries to preach the word. There are English speaking people in every country in the world. If we find one man who has God's hand on him and disciple him, we have planted a missionary that speaks the language and knows the culture. It would take an American 10 to 15 years to learn a language and culture to the point of being half as effective as a native of that country. But an English speaking American can train an English speaking national in three to six months to be an Apostle Paul to his own

people. Opportunities abound. We are praying for laborers. The doors are open. If you have a fire in your soul and you are constrained to tell others about Jesus, and you believe it is God's will for you to go to the regions

foreign countries to take in Bibles and literature. After one or two years in training you will be a missionary, ready to go anywhere in the world that God calls you and your church sends you.



**“..Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth labourers into his harvest.” *Luke 10:2***

beyond, we are ready to help with training and guidance.

We are not establishing a mission board. We are training independent missionaries so their church can send them out. Don't worry about finances. God supplies.

While training in Bangkok, you will participate in ministry to prisoners, college students, local churches, street ministry, and possibly travel to other

We begin classes next fall, but there is some screening and pre-training here in the States that you must complete first. Pre-training by correspondence will begin in February, so contact us and let us know of your interest. This is for men who are seventeen years

old (as of Sept. 2003) and older, including men with their wives and daughters. No single girls at this time—maybe next year.

If you are interested, just drop us a line with your name, age, address, telephone number, email address, and anything you feel is pertinent.

If pastors want more information, send me your name and telephone number. I will call you. ❖

continued from page 17

## Sorry, I'm busy, mother

Can I burn out my children by having them do errands, little jobs, throughout the day, always interrupting them from being engrossed in play, which they don't care to leave?

Your children need to have time of their own, just like you do. Try to schedule the work so there is a point when they are finished for a given period of time. But they should be flexible enough to be interrupted and do household chores without complaining. Just be sensitive to their humanity. Give them the same courtesy you would expect from your employer.

But remember that they are flesh, and their laziness will seek to control them and you. Kids are good psychologists and they will use it like the devil against authority and discipline. While being understanding, don't allow them to manipulate you with their frustration. There is a balance to be found that only someone on the job can know, and sometimes it is not clear. Ask God for wisdom.

## Organization

Dear Mike and Debi Pearl,

I have always known that my children were capable of work, but I never really made them do much until recently. When we started homeschooling, I realized that school and play could not be the only things we did all day, so we sat down and came up with ideas. We have tried all sorts of different experiments. First, we had a chore list with different jobs for each day of the week. That

lasted about 2 weeks. Too confusing. Then I tried regular daily jobs with each child, the same thing every day. That was better, but it wasn't quite what I was hoping for. Too boring. Finally, we hit upon the perfect arrangement for our family. The children get up, get dressed, brush their teeth, and make the bed before breakfast. Breakfast is served at 7:30 am. That means the milk goes in the cereal, the oatmeal in the bowl, the eggs on the plate, or what have you, at 7:30, whether you are sitting there or not. One soggy bowl of flakes or stone cold eggs is enough to ensure promptness from now on!

After breakfast, the fun begins. For about an hour or two each morning, I am the sergeant and they are my troops. I just start giving orders off the top of my head and they go running to whatever task I come up with. It's really a lot of fun!

They do get to do some new jobs and they perfect the old standbys like doing the dishes and cleaning bathrooms. I try to have a list of little 'projects' they can do - like organizing a shoe closet or emptying and tidying kitchen drawers - things that aren't urgent but could stand doing. This makes sure I am never at a loss for something to assign. They never complain about work because we are having a good time. I usually fold clothes or do some other job that can keep me in a central location so everyone can find me at all times - working right alongside of them. When we are done with our work, I give them about half an hour of free time before we start school, and boy, do they enjoy it. Thanks for reminding me why we do this. My little characters are developing character and they don't even know it!

LH

I can't add anything to that. If all mothers were like you, I could go back to farming for a living.

## How do I start over?

Some people think it is not work unless it is miserable. Work is miserable only to kids who were indulged until they were five or six and then made to work. Most children live their first five years as freeloaders. Their parents organize the child's world so that they are always served and exempted from responsibility. Suddenly at five-years-old the rules change. "Pick up your dirty clothes." "Sweep the floor." "Carry the garbage out." "Oh, do I have to?" "Why don't you make Suzie do it?" They look so miserable that Mother suffers guilt and decides it is easier to do it herself. She is sure that they are not old enough to work. "It is so hard on the little fellows; wait until they are ten; then they will be able to work." Yeah, but not willing. You have been duped, Mother. You have lost the psychological war. You are raising a sluggard. When he or she is fourteen and lies on the couch pouty and discontent with a poor self-image, remember, I warned you.

## No technique

There is no technique that will be effective to achieve the things we have described unless the parent has the right attitude. You must believe that learning responsibility and work is as important as learning to walk, talk, and read. It must be a constant part of your expectations. If your child were two years old and not walking, you would be constantly concerned. If he were five and not talking, you would be seeing specialists and regularly prompting him. You

must feel the same way about their learning responsibility and discipline. You should so believe in it that you would be alarmed to the point of continual concern if you have a child who fails to develop responsibility in a timely manner.

As the trainer, you must be having fun 95% of the time if the children are going to respond properly. They will accept temporary crises where you must become the dictator and rule with a rod, but you must grow beyond this as a way of life if you are to be effective.

I am not sure I can effectively convey this concept. It is something I feel in myself and see in others. Your children must be your “pride and joy.” You should be consumed with a desire to impart useful skills and discipline, and then beam with every inch of their development. When they learn a new word or a new skill, you should be delighted. Likewise when they show maturity in self-discipline and responsibility toward duty it should make you about as happy as anything can. It is a simple calling and a source of unlimited joy. If you are successful here, no defeat or failure can erase your spirit. You must have a desire for them to mature, to become independent, to join the adults as productive.

## Change your world-view

Most of my readers will admit that they need to teach their children to work. Many of you will make an

effort to change things, but it will be such a struggle to remember. You will be going up against entrenched habits that are not only part of the family; they are part of your world-view. It is exhausting to maintain constant vigilance against slipping back into the old comfortable routine. It requires you to check yourself and reverse course

a hundred times a day. Furthermore, even if you are superhuman in your emotions and patience, the children will sense your uncertainty and frustration. They will respond in kind, and you will fail to effect permanent change in the status quo.

There is a way that is painless and permanent. You must change

your world-view. You need a conversion of perspective. You have been thinking in terms of what you can get done most efficiently in the shortest amount of time. You are motivated moment by moment to follow the path of least resistance. You must change mantles. You can no longer be a one-person dynamo of efficiency. Resign from all of life’s callings. You are now a father or mother whose sole purpose in life is to produce beautiful sons and daughters of God.

There must be two changes; the first one is absolutely critical. Change your perspective and then you can change your lifestyle. With a new attitude toward the children and toward what must be accomplished in a given period of time. Arrange your lifestyle so

the children are needed and are effectively engaged in responsible work.

Children will resent being used, but they will grow when they feel needed. Both states may involve the same work. They may drag and complain in either case. They will need encouragement and sometimes threats or consequences. Either way they will grow weary and want to sit down, just as you do. But the end result will be totally different in the child that feels needed and the one that feels used.

## She says it best

There are so many wonderful, instructive things in the following letter. I will just let this mother speak for herself.

Dear Mike and Debi,

As I finished Debi’s last article on joy, my children were bringing birdseed into the house, hoping the sparrows that come on the back porch will follow it and walk right into the house. So, what’s birdseed all over the floor? We all know how to vacuum.

I loved your article on work. How encouraging. I have been reflecting on how much we have instilled in our children and am inspired to do even better. Sometimes I get frustrated or resentful at a lazy or selfish response. Then I take my attitude by the reins and say, “Get over it, self. I have much more practice at being selfish than they do, so why get upset?” So I smile and expect obedience, since I am the mom. It is so insidious to think we have no authority. Authority is a smile and a tone of voice, the rod, or another chore. I still have to remind myself.

I have had failures, but also a lot of success in teaching



**You can no longer  
be a one-person  
dynamo of efficiency.**

my children to work. Failures because it is so important to me, and I get afraid and intense; successes because it is so important to me, that I keep praying and trying.

When my oldest was as young as 3 years old, we memorized Ecclesiastes 3: "To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven:" Then my children knew that in our family there is a time to work and a time to play. When they forget and get selfish, I remind them of what kind of time it is and that if it is work time, we work as a team and everybody helps.

There are times when they complain or are not in the mood. But mood is so easy to change. With the Lord's help, I can keep my attitude right and the next minute they will be not only cleaning the breakfast table, but also sweeping the whole room and mopping the floors.

They love to surprise me,

with cleaning a room, making a meal, setting the table...that means I have some of my few precious glasses from our wedding broken. Our 4-year-old boy was trying to set the table with the prettiest glassware... so what's a glass compared to a boy's life? I kept my disappointment to myself.

One day our 6- and 4-year-olds decided to surprise us with lunch. I was not allowed in the kitchen. So as we are eating "oat balls," I asked them what they used to make them. They said, "Oh, we used the leftover oatmeal that was sitting on the counter." (I have gotten it out of the fridge and planned to heat it up because it was a bit old.) I did not say anything to spoil their accomplishments. I did not ask for seconds, either, and I just prayed we would stay healthy. We made it.

Now as I send in this order, I could go on as I reflect on

all my efforts of the past five years, but I don't have time. We are going through the children's bedroom. There are lots of surprises that a flashlight can reveal under and behind a bed. They are having fun! This may become an all day job...

By the way, I enjoyed the Bible study on Esther, did it with my daughters; it was enlightening for all of us. We love you and appreciate your ministry so much.

CL

The key is attitude, organization, perseverance, and attitude again. Relax. Be vigilant. Have fun. Enjoy the kids. Impart all that you know. Work and play together. Love and live. Pray. Grow together and be thankful. You can do it, maybe not perfectly, but sufficient to bring success. Now if you will excuse me, I hear my wife calling. I think she has work for me to do. ❖

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# LAURA ROSE PEARL

Lo, children are an heritage of the LORD: and the fruit of the womb is his reward. ~ Psalms 127:3



Nathan and Zephyr Pearl had their first child, Laura Rose—Mike and Deb's second grandchild and David and Kathy Zajicek's first. Nathan and Zephyr decided to follow in the family tradition and had their baby at home alone. They received midwife attention before and afterward, but for the birth it was just the two of them—and then three. Nathan so bonded that he will hardly share the baby with Zephyr, except to nurse. He changes Laura and takes care of her at night. They are a most happy couple, and there are two sets of very thankful grandparents. ❖



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