

# No Greater Joy

JULY-AUGUST 2004

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

# NGJ



- Training Boys
- "The" Wedding
- Certified

CHILD TRAINING • HOMESCHOOLING • FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS • BIBLE TEACHING

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

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James and Shoshanna Easling.  
Photo taken by Gabriel Pearl.



## Training Boys . . . . . 3

by Michael Pearl

*I am ever aware that I am molding them to become adults, and that it is my privilege to participate in determining the quality of a living soul. All our actions in the raising of our kids will reverberate in the halls of eternity. How could that ever be a sacrifice? I never viewed my boys as a burden. They were always an exciting opportunity, the core of my reason for existing.*



## “The” Wedding . . . . . 6

by Michael Pearl

*Some called it a production, others an experience they will never forget; everyone said it was the only three-hour wedding they ever attended that they were sorry to see end.*



## Plantain . . . . . 17

by Shoshanna Easling

*In a burst of joy, I stood up through the sunroof yelling like a wild Indian. I felt like a girl in a fairy tale. Everything was so perfect....ooow, ouch! I grabbed at my eye as it started to throb and swell shut. The pain was really intense.*

## Certified . . . . . 20

by Michael Pearl

*You are gullible beyond belief if you have in your home a computer with access to the web and it is not on a password, completely inaccessible to your sons. Every single boy from eight to sixteen years old—without exception—will get on the web and look at porn if he can find the opportunity.*

## Where do we start? . . . 16

Q&A with Michael Pearl

*We don't feel it is fair to start with the rod because we have not provided a stable and loving atmosphere. We just want our home fixed before it is too late, and are willing to do anything. We need some direction and advice to follow. I read your book but I am still feeling hopeless.*

# training boys

I am often asked how to raise boys. It has been so long since my boys were 12 and 14 that I had forgotten much of what we did, but because we have the Russian boys back with us this summer, relating to them again has refreshed my memory considerably.

The first time around, when training up my own children, I didn't reflect much on what I was doing or why (training was more intuitive). But, after having spent the last ten years answering parents' letters, writing articles about child training, and analyzing everyone else's methods, it has caused me to take special note of the way I relate to these young guys. It is interesting to observe myself interacting with them. It is like going back in time and viewing myself being a daddy once again—like getting a second chance. I think it has given me a fresh perspective on the basics—concepts that I can now relate to you in fresh ways and which may prove helpful.

I didn't do everything right the first time around. The grace of God and an exceptionally good wife made up for many of my inadequacies. Thanks be to God, our children all turned out to be a great blessing to us and all who know them. They are emotionally stable, happy, creative, godly, with excellent marriages and good kids of their own.

## Second time around

The most fundamental thing I see taking place in my relationship to

the Russian boys is something I often see missing in many father/son relationships. It is a difficult concept to convey, like trying to define water for a fish. Only now, late in life, do I clearly see it. There is no single word to define it, but I will call it *Passion*. Maybe the word *Intensity* would also be appropriate. The word *Commitment* misses the mark somewhat because it implies a conscious act, a stirring of the will. This spontaneous passion...intensity...zeal toward my sons (my daughters received this as well) began so early and was so uninterrupted that, until the presence of these two Russian boys brought it to mind, I never knew I had it.

As I think back to when my sons were first born, I can vividly remember its beginning. When I held my first newborn son, I knew that my life's mission and purpose had been inextricably altered. Everything, absolutely *everything*, took second place to my new role as father. My son became top priority



in my thinking and my schedule, above my ministry as a pastor, above my vocation as an artist and cabinet maker, and *far above* my leisure time and my convenience. The context and perspective of my life changed as much as it did the day I got married. My frame of reference changed. From that moment on I would never be off duty. I now had the highest calling on earth—that of *Father*. And the first time my little boy said “Daddy,” I knew I had chosen correctly. It was when my son handed me his firstborn child, that the circle was complete.

I never viewed my boys as a burden. They were always an exciting opportunity, the core of my reason

good time!” Then it dawned on me: They actually thought we were being noble and “dying to self.” Bless their hearts for the pity, but I count these boys as one of my indulgences, my deep pleasures and diversions. Some people go to the movies; I take the boys into the garden to work or down to the store for some ice-cream, or to the river to fish or go boating. I talk with them about going through puberty, and discuss how to make and save money, what to look for in a prospective wife, and how to show themselves honest and loyal in all transactions. Just this week I told 14-year-old Kolya that when he becomes president of Russia, or head

of the Navy, that he must invite Deb and me over to Moscow and give us the VIP treatment. He said he would. I told my wife later that I had better treat him well or he may send me to a collective farm to weed the potatoes.

I am ever aware that I am molding them to become adults, and that it is my privilege to participate in determining the quality of a living soul. All our actions in the raising of our kids will reverberate in the halls of eternity. How could that ever be

a sacrifice? It is an appointed—even a mandated— position of trust and honor, a position that promises glory if performed faithfully and successfully.

In the months I spend with these boys from another culture, it calls to my memory the thrill of raising my own sons. It is the excitement of being engaged in a wonderful project and, although you are enjoying every minute of the process, you can hardly

wait to get it finished for the pleasure that you know it will bring. One day very soon, these young fellows will be men. They will remember me and the time we spent together with better clarity than I will be able to recall. I am very aware that I am either contributing to the fine-tuning of their consciences or to the hypocrisy and deceit of a life that uses people and lacks temperance. In every situation that comes up, my own conscience is checked by the knowledge that I am leaving my fingerprints on their souls—spiritual forensic evidence that God will examine—and that it will all come back around one day. Before I know it, they will be men, standing over me...remembering...judging... and passing on what I have handed them. Wow! There is nothing boring in this calling!

I am convinced that this *Passion—this Spontaneous Commitment*—is the most basic answer to every child training need. Where this intense preoccupation with your children is missing, you will not be effective in bringing them to emotional stability and godliness. I have seen so many parents trying to redeem their children and their family-life by adding some principle or practice to their schedule, when the thing that is really missing is the passion, the zeal, the love and wonder of their high calling.

I think we can all agree that raising children is the greatest challenge and, potentially, the greatest blessing on earth. But, now let’s discuss how this fundamental attitude of *Spontaneous Passion* plays out in common experiences.

### Full-time job

The boys must be so important to you that nothing ever displaces them from your thoughts or plans for even a moment. That doesn’t mean that I cannot plan to have time to myself—to take off for a few hours—but never at the expense of their welfare. I can never simply dismiss the children from my thinking. When the Russian boys are here, my time is not my



for existing. But now, Deb and I have people come up to us, telling us how wonderful we are for “sacrificing” and keeping the Russian boys for the summer months. The first two or three times it happened, I just stood and looked at them in puzzlement, trying to understand *what on earth* they could be talking about. “Sacrificing? Are we on the same wavelength here? Where is the sacrifice? Surely there is no reward in Heaven for having a

own, and I wouldn't have it any other way. It is not a "principle" that I must make myself remember and practice; it is a gut feeling, a compelling and unavoidable responsibility. Just as when you are driving a car, you might take your eyes off the road for a moment, but only under circumstances that permit you to do so and still provide full control of the car. If children are in your care, your heart must always be on them, for their souls are in your hands as surely as if they were riding on the hood of your car. **"The rod and reproof give wisdom: but a child left to himself bringeth his mother to shame"** (Proverbs 29:15).

I can place the boys in the care of one of my daughters or sons for the day, and I can almost forget about them, knowing they are loved and protected as surely as if they were with me. Part of my responsibility for them includes knowing that a variety of social life will do them good. They might get bored with Big Papa after a while, and I certainly can't keep up with their pace every day; but all my plans always center around their growth and maturity. I cannot take a moment off until I have satisfactorily seen to their care.

Today, I dropped one of the boys off at Papa Glen's to cut the grass. He loves to drive the tractor, and he gets \$3.00 per hour...plus snacks and a good lunch. I was able to forget about him until it started raining, and it occurred to me that he would now be inside, and they always have the TV going. Older folks sometimes use the boob tube for company and don't even know what is playing. But a 12-year-old is very impressionable. I hastened over there



as fast as I could get out of the house. I could not continue with my schedule until I had secured the safety of the young man in my charge.

The 14-year-old was with my son all day, cutting his grass and trimming with the weed-eater. I know that Gabriel is sensitive to the needs of a young man, so I could relax, trusting him to bring Kolya home in better shape than when he left. The boys are my constant charge. The responsibility consumes me. *This is the foundation of raising boys.*

### **Camaraderie**

Their presence here with us now reminds me that when my boys were young, I felt it was important to maintain camaraderie with them, not to allow someone else to occupy the place of prominence in their hearts. The boys may go to work with my son Gabriel, or my son-in-law, Justin, or they may spend some time jumping on the trampoline with other boys, but I remain the central figure in their life. It takes much of my time, energy, and imagination to stay ahead of them, but, as with my own boys, I live with a sense that the world is a maze of pitfalls, and that they must keep me in sight if they are going to make it through safely.

Just the other day, when my daughter came home without the boys, I asked her where they were. She told me that they wanted to stay at the home of some fine people here in the church who have boys their age. When she told me that there were also several additional church kids there

and that they were all just "hanging out," I rushed over and brought the boys home. It was not because I had heard bad reports on the other kids, quite the contrary; they all have fine reputations. It was just that sense I had that they were without



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their shepherd outside the fold, in a place where their hearts *could* be stolen away. I don't want them to get accustomed to the lazy, "chill out", "cooling it", mentality of the average church youth of today. Two hours of that and they could lose their momentum, become dissatisfied with the more disciplined atmosphere that I had been providing. I do not want someone stealing away their affection. I am jealous, not for my sake, but for theirs. They need the stability and wisdom that adults provide.

I don't want to leave the impression that I isolate the boys from their peers. They have a social life, but only when the direction is clearly defined. They go camping with other kids their age, but only with my grown sons and daughters or some other Father whom I trust implicitly. They go fishing with other boys and jump on the trampoline, but when the momentum is gone, I send the other boys home.

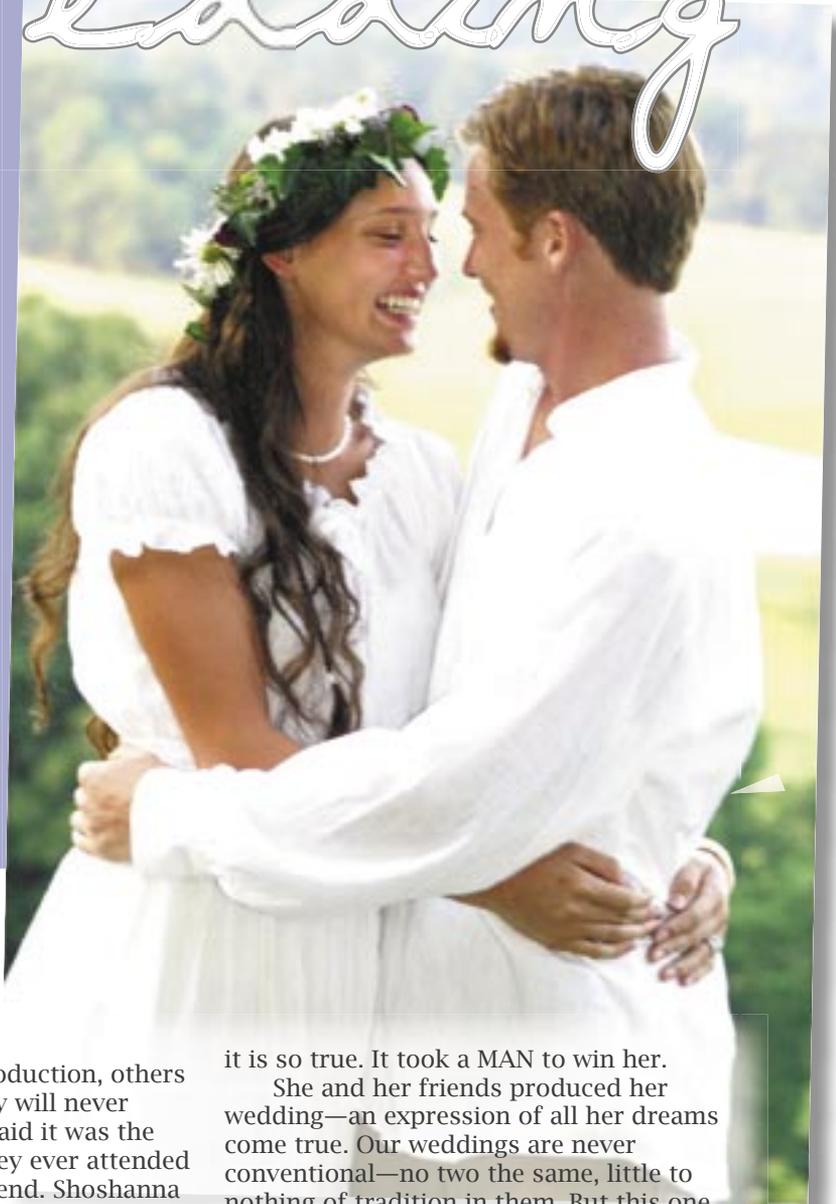
continued on page 10

“the”

BY MICHAEL PEARL

# Wedding

Our last daughter, Shoshanna, 20 years old, has joined the ranks of her married sisters. She is now Shoshanna Easling (husband James). There are weddings, and then there was Shanna's wedding.



Some called it a production, others an experience they will never forget; everyone said it was the only three-hour wedding they ever attended that they were sorry to see end. Shoshanna was beautiful. But that didn't help the groom any. The groom's father addressed the wedding attendees, disclosing to them that he had invested in his son, extolling all

his skills of mountain climbing and rappelling, airplane piloting, wrestling, martial arts, etc., which no doubt ably prepared him to marry Shanna. It was funny, because

it is so true. It took a MAN to win her.

She and her friends produced her wedding—an expression of all her dreams come true. Our weddings are never conventional—no two the same, little to nothing of tradition in them. But this one took the prize for originality. None of us knew the agenda, not even the groom and I. And I was so surprised by all that transpired, that I forgot my entire message and ended up speaking only about four lines before we actually pronounced them “man and wife”.

To begin with, it was outdoors at 7:00 in the evening, a cool day in June, situated on the very top of what we in middle Tennessee would call a mountain—actually just a tall ridge overlooking miles and miles of beautiful timberland, lakes, rivers, and pastures—not a house or road in sight. The guests, about 250 in number, sat among the wildflowers scattered about, some





*Her head was crowned  
with a wreath of  
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under the oak trees, others on the sloping hillside itself with the sun to their backs, looking into the ever changing backdrop of evening colors—a breathtaking panoramic view. James, the groom, and James senior and I stood under an arbor that Shoshanna had made from small trees with vines twisted around them, beautifully and artfully covered with wild flowers. It looked like the forest in which she grew up—something almost medieval.

James' siblings were playing stringed instruments, the violins dominating. It sounded like a

cross between Celtic battle music and a love song, nothing that you would ever hear at a church wedding.

We waited for fifteen minutes, and still the bride did not come out of her large tent set back in the trees. As the sun lowered, a stirring in the forest drew our attention, and there, silently emerging from the dark green of the tree line was a prancing horse being ridden bareback by Elizabeth, Shanna's best friend and cousin. She came out of the forest like a phantom, her flowing, silky gold gown trailing in the gentle breeze, blending with the clouds behind her, and her long golden hair gracing her shoulders and back. The horse and rider as one glided across the ridge top

toward us, and then, picking up speed, she swept past, seeming not to see us, as if we belonged to two different times and dimensions—an apparition, surreal, like something riding out of a story book. Many were now standing to their feet in wonder and awe, watching her silently pass. Ghostlike, she rode under an oak tree and disappeared into the deep foliage beyond.

The violin music picked up pace as if preparing us for the finale, and we all turned back to the tree line from which the first golden maiden had emerged. At first, we only caught a glimpse of flickering light passing through the deep green, and then out of the woods appeared a white horse carrying Shoshanna, also mounted bareback, her full white dress shimmering with the golden colors of the now-ebbing sunset, and falling across the hips of the prancing horse. Her head was crowned with a wreath of wildflowers, and her face glowed with the wonder and pleasure of the moment—her moment—the epic journey that divides life into two parts. It was magnificent, fabulously magnificent! But she did not slip past us as did the first rider, whose ethereal appearance seemed to have come as a silent announcement. The barefooted bride kicked her horse in the





flanks and put him to a gallop, reaching up one hand to secure her crown and then urging the horse again. The only sound was of the hooves pounding the grassy ridge and kicking up sod, accelerating as though there were an urgency to reach a long awaited destination. She raced past the awed assemblage without regarding us, past the groom and the two fathers, and back

into the woods where the first rider had disappeared. But then the horse and rider reappeared out of the trees on the far



Papa Glen and Daddy Bill



side and circled behind the audience until arriving at the head of the flowered aisle—the path that led to the arbor where the grinning fathers and groom awaited. The rider slid to the ground with the grace and ease of one raised to it. She looked like a gift from heaven, of which Eve would have been jealous. I sensed James starting to bolt—to run to her and scarcely restrained him with a quiet “Just stay here; she will come to you.”

As she reached the head of the aisle, she helped her two old granddaddies to their feet, 80 and 89 years old. Neither one of them are steady on their feet, and she is taller than both, so with one on each side, holding them up, she started down the path to the groom. I was looking into the most radiant face I have ever seen. Her walk and carriage were absolutely regal.

When they approached the arbor, I asked, “Who gives this woman in marriage?” The two granddaddies and I said in unison, “We do.” Shoshanna stepped forward and took the groom’s hand. I think everyone there must have felt as I did, that we were looking in on something very private and wonderful. I had a good and long message ready, but suddenly I felt like the tour guide at Niagara Falls or the Grand Canyon: No one wanted to listen to me. So, within three minutes, after an exchange of vows and rings, we two fathers pronounced them man and wife. James’ granddaddy brought forward the marriage contract and the glowing couple signed it in the presence of all. Then the parents and grandparents all signed the covenant of marriage. After kissing...and kissing...and...you get the idea, the two of them rushed back down the aisle to their waiting steed. They mounted together. This time she



All family but not all of the family.

was folded in his arms and they rode out before us against the now crimson sky. At that point, all I could think about was, "Don't fall off the horse! What could be worse than a slipped disk on your wedding night?" But they stopped

to sing a love song to her while she slowly danced around him. Now, you know we don't believe in dancing, as is commonly done at weddings, but this was beautiful. After James was well salivated, she reached up and passionately threw her flowered crown from her head. Hand in hand they ran across the hill to their waiting...no, not steed...car this time. And away they drove. We all stood there as if we did not want it to end. And it hasn't. They are now back from their honeymoon, glowing all around us, a wonderful couple of good-for-nothing

binding them together forever—until death. So when the sodomites have come to share in the state marriage licenses, which will eventually be the law, James and Shoshanna will not be in league with those perverts. And, while I am on the subject, there will come a time when faithful Christians will either *revoke* their state marriage licenses and establish an exclusively *one man-one woman covenant of marriage*, or, they will forfeit the sanctity of their covenant by being unequally yoked together with perverts. The sooner there is such a movement, the sooner we will have a voice in government. Some of you attorneys and statesmen reading this should get together and come up with an approach that will have credibility and help to impact the political process. Please contact me when you do and I will assist with publicity. ❖



David Easling oversees the signing of the covenant.

some distance from us, and there, still mounted on their charger and silhouetted against the dimly glowing sky, they kissed again.

But the celebration was just starting. As the light from the many lamps began to replace the fading sun, we could smell the barbeque cooking. After we had all eaten, there was a pie auction with a real auctioneer. Everyone got into it. Some of the young guys paid as much as \$95.00 for a blueberry pie. They raised several hundred dollars to help pay for the honeymoon.

After the cake cutting and more picture taking, when we all thought it was all over, Shoshanna persuaded James

newlyweds. And me, I am already waiting for more grandkids.

That is now the last of my girls, all well married. What a blessing! What a joy! If life were any sweeter, I would be a jar of jelly.

#### Postscript

None of my daughters or their husbands asked the state of Tennessee for permission to marry. They did not yoke themselves to government. It was a personal, private covenant,



More family on the way this Fall.

continued from page 5

## Access

The boys need uninterrupted access to me. When I am in my office working, sometimes one of them will come, open the door, and just look at me...waiting...offering a half smile...waiting for some signal, some affirmation of our relationship.



It is enough to smile and say, “I must finish this office work; why don’t you guys find something to do until I get through.” They just want to know that I am in control, that their day...their life...is ordered and secure, and I will be theirs in a very short while.

Most teenagers rebel against their parents, and when you ask them why, the usual answer is, “They don’t listen to me...they don’t care.” Parents are shocked, “When have I not listened? Anytime you had anything important to say, I listened. I never turned away from any serious discussion.” Kids don’t just come up and start talking about what is really on their minds (wives and husbands don’t either). They are always a little uncertain and want to feel you out first. They begin talking about irrelevancies to see if you’re even in a “mood” to listen. If you are, then they may get closer to the subject that is really on their minds. If you are still listening and do not interrupt them with a lecture or a cliché of “great wisdom,” they may begin talking about their problem in the third person, as if it were just idle conversation about someone else.

If you are still with them—as a real friend would be—they may finally open up and get to their issue. You are accessible. You listened. You cared.

But if you mostly ignore your children, turn them over to computer games, audio and visual media, telephone pals, and social events, they may continue to live in the same house, but you won’t find them on the same page. Jesus rightly called himself “the door” of the sheepfold through which the sheep could safely pass to green pastures AND return again safely to the fold. Fathers *must* be open doors to their sons—for their very life’s sake!

## Idleness

That old bit of wisdom, “Idleness

is the Devil’s workshop” may not be Bible, but it is surely the wisdom of time well said. I simply do not allow idleness to incubate mischief. If I see that the boys are bored, I either do something with them or guide them into some wholesome, creative activity that will keep their souls growing and developing. I never allow them to stay in their rooms unless they are using it as a workshop. Kolya will stay in his room on long evenings or rainy days putting model cars together. I know what he is thinking about when he is reading directions and lovingly stroking the plastic parts. It is a most wholesome exercise of the mind and body. Bedroom doors are without locks, and doors are left open except



**Boredom can be a killer, if not quickly detected and then properly directed.**

to change clothes—three minutes!

Boredom can be a killer, if not quickly detected and then properly directed. It breeds either creativity or discontentment and unthankfulness. When I see them bored, it alarms me, because their minds are adrift and looking for somewhere to land. Where will their imaginations take them? What form of stimulation will they turn to? The Devil and the world are ready at the first hint of “need,” ready, that is, to tickle the flesh to death. A bored child is without direction or purpose. He is drifting around looking for someplace to focus his soul—a very dangerous condition if left unattended. I try to provide many different opportunities to engage their imaginations and energies, so I don’t have to keep up with them, but if we run out of “fun,” I create something—bicycle riding, skate boarding, building something out of wood or metal, fishing, playing sports, musical instruments, auto mechanics, lawnmower repair, home repair, cleaning house, washing dishes, grass cutting, hunting, wrestling, horizontal bar, lifting weights, exploring the woods and creeks, boating and swimming, reading, hobbies—*anything but watching TV, playing computer games, listening to music, snacking, and “hanging out” with other kids.*

## Media influence

I do not allow them to play computer games, and if I did have TV capabilities, I would not allow them to watch it unless it was a pre-selected learning experience, something I deemed of value for their education,

*but with no commercials!* I do occasionally put on a DVD of Roy Rogers or Gene Autry and watch it with them. Most John Wayne movies are unacceptable. I have other selected videos that I may allow them to watch, one or two times a week, but everything is chosen to encourage righteousness and truth, or because of its character-building lessons.

Some people would call me “legalistic.” Not so, for my convictions don’t come from rules imposed upon me by my religious circle or through something I read. I am not trying to hold to some standard. Like all truly born-again Christians, the Spirit of God directs me to walk in truth.

I have observed the fruit of the potato chip/computer chip generation—kids raised indoors on media and computers. They are a sickly, weak, and effeminate herd, milling around in their imaginations, drifting in and out of reality, afraid of the real world and unable to cope with its challenges. Parents should be ashamed of themselves for allowing their children to “hang out” with a computer. And any parent who would allow his children to have one minute of unobserved access to the web is stupid beyond belief.

Yes, I think you should teach your children to use a computer. If they seek employment in any big city, their salary will likely be tied to their ability to operate complex programs. But a computer is a poor friend, a worse parent, and a soulless spouse, as many women who have husbands and sons immersed in one can testify. Media and megabits never make a man; they make shadows. If you want your sons to have substance, save them from being consumed by the glowing screen.

### **Work and money**

Many times we have written about teaching children to work. I notice that the boys love to work if it

involves fellowship with adults. They hate to work if they must work alone, especially if it is a repetitive, boring job. I am the same way. Certainly life will demand that we do boring jobs, but when you are teaching children to work—to love to work—you do not want their first (early) impressions of work to be extremely unpleasant. All work is pain and must be endured for the end that it provides.

Remuneration is a great end. I pay the boys for jobs like stacking the year’s firewood, or weed-eating the office grounds. They don’t get paid for doing the dishes or weeding the garden, since that is part of our daily needs. You must be careful to pay them a little less than they are worth. You do not want to give them a false sense of their value. You will need to raise their salary as they get older and can do more per hour. I sometimes pay them by the job—they work harder that way—but I usually pay them by the hour. The 12-year-old gets \$3.00 per hour, and the 14-year-old gets \$4.00 per hour. When the work is especially hard, like shoveling manure or stacking firewood, I give them a bonus if they do a good job quickly. They always have it in mind that they may get a bonus. If they work two and one half hours, I may pay them for three. I always strive to appear generous in the way I pay them. It is important to pay them immediately after work (Deut. 24:14-15).

Glory is another good inducement. If you brag on their work, they will work themselves into the ground to get that kind of



praise. A job that others will see, like painting the garage, will put energy into their work. Fixing a lawn mower or repairing a broken door handle can elicit praise and admiration. Any praise you give them should always be earned and related with their work attitude. If they try their best and the job is poorly done, accept it as perfect. God’s grace has extended to me in measureless ways over the years!

Artistic expression will push a man (or boy) to endure his hard work—like building a straight, white fence that he and others will enjoy viewing. Trimming a hedge, raking up leaves, and arranging the flower beds can drive one to enjoy his work. Painting your own room some exotic color that provokes admiration tends to make one forget that he is working. Some kids love to clean up old places—attics, garages, barns, etc. Others despise the job. Try to give each of them jobs that are suited to their likes.

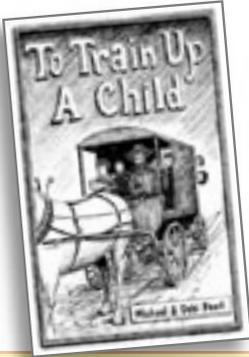
continued on page 14

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8 - 99 Copies of any one book	\$3.00 each
100 or more of any one book	\$2.50 each

## Free Ministry Tool!

Wish you could help the struggling parents you see around you? We have free, easy-to-use, full-color, business-size cards that can be given out to anyone without offending them. The cards direct the parents to No Greater Joy Ministries and all you have to do is write and ask for 10 free cards, or as many as you will wisely use to minister.



## By Divine Design

If you are philosophically minded, this book will appeal to you. Michael discusses some of the basic presuppositions that lead us to believe in and trust the unseen God. We are part of a great drama that is perfectly orchestrated by both the sovereignty of God and the free will of man.

**85pg. Book 2330-10 \$5.00**  
**3 Cassettes 2330-40 \$10.00**



## Repentance

When the Bible warns a sinner to repent, what is the nature of that repentance? Michael Pearl examines all 112 uses of 'repent' in the KJV. Designed to put hearts at rest in Christ and correct error.

**8 or more copies \$2.75 each**  
**44pg. Book 8120-10 \$4.00**



## Rebekah's Diary

Rebekah Pearl, daughter of Michael and Debi Pearl, tells the awesome story of God's guidance and protection as she, a 22 year old girl, all alone, where no white person had ever been, adapted to a primitive culture.

**106pg. Book 7810-10 \$5.00**



## Romans Chapter 1-8 Commentary

This commentary contains a careful word-for-word examination of every phrase, and addresses all the hard theological issues that have been the foundation of the Christian faith down through the centuries.

**222pg. Book 8140-10 \$8.00**



## Holy Sex

Michael Pearl takes his readers through a refreshing journey of Biblical texts showing that God designed marriage to be the context of erotic pleasure. The world and the devil have attempted to make the subject of sex their domain. No longer.

**82pg. Book 4125-10 \$5.00**



## Para Entrenar a Un Niño

Spanish Translation of "To Train Up a Child."

**102pg. Book 8610-12 \$5.00**

# Booklets, Videos and More

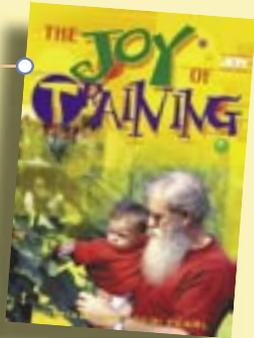
Order online at  
[www.nogreaterjoy.org!](http://www.nogreaterjoy.org)

## The Joy of Training Video

Michael and Debi Pearl tell how they successfully trained up their five children with love, humor, the rod, and a King James Bible.

The 2 DVD set contains the same high quality, digitally filmed content as the video set and hundreds of snapshots and video clips of family and children, illustrating the things being taught.

**2 DVDs 4910-75 \$26.<sup>00</sup>**  
**3 VHS 4910-70 \$26.<sup>00</sup>**



## Husbands and Wives Video

Husbands, learn how to sanctify your wife and cleanse her of spots, wrinkles, and blemishes. You have the power to bring your wife into the fullness of all that God intended her to be. Wives, learn the freedom of honoring and ministering to your man. You can help him become all that God intended him to be.

**2 VHS 4140-70 \$18.<sup>00</sup>**



## Revelation Poster and Handbook

This poster is a print of an original painting done by Michael Pearl which shows the events of Revelation in chronological order. It is 40"x19" on heavy, glossy paper. The handbook which accompanies it is filled with Old Testament references and commentary to the events in Revelation.

**8130-10 \$12.<sup>00</sup>**

## BOOKLETS

All booklets are **\$1** each  
**60¢** each for 25 or more of any one of the below

These booklets teach a lot and are great resources for teachers to use in Bible classes



### Pornography - Road to Hell

While most ministers avoid the subject, Michael Pearl addresses the deadly scourge of pornography head-on. He shows how repentance toward God and the power of the gospel of Jesus Christ can break the bondage of this wicked perversion through the abundant mercy and grace of a loving God. There is hope for the man caught in the snare of pornography and hope for the helpless, angry wife who finds it difficult to honor him.

**12pg. Booklet 7030-10**



### To Betroth or not to Betroth

All Christian parents want their children to have God's first and best in all areas of their lives, and this includes marriage. In an effort to avoid the dangers of the modern dating game, families are giving attention to the concept of betrothal. The dangers of the betrothal system are exposed with the light of Biblical truth, bringing objectivity back to an often-misunderstood subject.

**28pg. Booklet 1420-10**



### Justification and the book of James

James clearly teaches that works justify a man, while Paul teaches that a man is not justified by works. Are they contradicting each other? Which one is correct? This study resolves the issue once and for all.

**26pg. Booklet 4960-10**



### Baptism in Jesus' Name

There are those who insist that New Testament water baptism is not valid unless the one doing the baptism vocally utters the words "in Jesus' name." It is the conclusion of this study that the verbal utterance is never an issue in Scripture. It is erroneous to insist on any certain phrase being pronounced over the baptized.

**17pg. Booklet 1410-10**



### 1 John 1:9 the Protestant Confessional

A core belief held by most conservative Christians is that Christians who have unconfessed sins in their life are in need of forgiveness, are out of fellowship with God, and are walking in darkness. The underlying assumption is that God forgives only sins that are confessed. What does the Bible teach? Does God withhold forgiveness until sin is confessed? Not on your life.

**23pg. Booklet 4650-10**



### In Defense of Biblical Chastisement

Michael brings clear understanding back into the confusing and often-misunderstood subject of corporal chastisement. After firmly laying the Biblical foundation for chastisement, he then answers the question, "How do I apply corporal chastisement properly?" Finally, he shows the effectiveness of Biblical chastisement demonstrated in those families that practice it as taught.

**29pg. Booklet 4530-10**

continued from page 11

Your real goal is to raise a boy who has a will to work, who assumes it is his responsibility to provide for others, to do the dirty work, because he is THE MAN.

You want to stretch them, to challenge them, but not to break them beneath a load they cannot yet carry. That will come soon enough. Let's put it this way. A 3-year-old can work for maybe one minute at a time putting leaves in a basket. After that, it becomes misery. A 6-year-old can work



for ten to twenty minutes doing the dishes or cleaning up the yard. A 10-year-old might be able to work alone for about one hour, but he can work with you nearly all day as long as he has several diversions and breaks along the way and can quit early enough to enjoy the promise of a swim or a special treat, plus, a little

money as reward. A 13-year-old can go to work with his dad or someone else and keep at it all day—two or three days in a week, but he should not be made to work five days a week, eight hours a day. A 16-year-old can work like any man and should be so engaged. The ages and hours will obviously differ from one kid to another and from one environment to another. I am not trying to lay down rules that you must follow. I just want you to be aware of the principles that are so critical, and then you can adapt them to your circumstances.

We don't have the space or the energy to cover every imaginable subject, so I will simply list some of them. You can develop the thoughts yourself. I am sure that there are other points you can add to the list. Send me your suggestions.

### I teach them and train them. . .

- To enquire and investigate
- To be skeptical of all experts, from religion to medicine
- To have empathy and seek justice
- To forgive the repentant and fallen
- To maintain their honor in truth
- To choose a good name over riches
- To honor women and protect them
- To nurture and protect all children
- To see the humor in all of life
- To be thankful to God and others
- To tell others about Jesus
- To know their Bible better than any preacher
- To make money without being a slave to it
- To work hard, and then play hard—in that order
- To be tough and able, ready to defend themselves or others against violence
- To not denigrate or ridicule any man
- To stand on the Word of God, even unto death.

### But what about me?

Now my reader may be asking, "What about those of us who recognize that we do not have this "passion" of which you speak; can it be achieved by an act of the will?" You cannot simply *will* to be passionate, but you can consciously make choices that will change your heart until you come to be consumed with an intensity of thought and feeling.

Just as a man's passion for his wife (I don't mean sex) can be supplanted by excessive attention to work, to the computer, to pornography, to sports, to hobbies, or all of life's responsibilities put together, so can a father's passion be distracted from his high-calling as a father if he makes choices that will freeze out his intensity for his children. *It is true that the person makes the choices, but the choices also make the person.* You will give attention to that

which you love, but it is also an axiom that, you will come to love and feel passionate about that to which you give your full attention.

To put it plainly: If you had a proper upbringing and your heart is in the right place, you *will be* passionate about your children without anybody

telling you to do so. But the reality is that most of us had parents like ourselves. When you add to the equation the fact that we are all inclined to selfishness and lust, our children suffer from our deficiencies. However, although you may have come to the unsatisfactory place where you now find

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You cannot simply *will* to be passionate, but you can consciously make choices that will change your heart until you come to be consumed with an intensity of thought and feeling.

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yourself, in part, through unfortunate circumstances, and in part, due to your own bad choices, your future need not be enslaved to your past! *But it will if you remain indifferent, and in your present state of inertia!* You can change your heart by changing your actions. You can change your priorities by prioritizing your schedule. **“Commit thy works unto the LORD, and thy thoughts shall be established”** (Proverbs 16:3). Do what *you* ought and, in His time, you will find that *God* will have your heart where it ought to be.

I cannot close without addressing a question that I know we will receive in the mail. We will have two hundred and thirty-seven women write something like the following:

**Dear Mike,**

**I read your article on raising boys, and I know it is the truth. I can see where my husband has failed. I have tried to get him to take more interest in the boys, but he just retreats into his own interests. What can a woman do when she doesn't get any support?**

If a wife takes what I have written and tries to put pressure on her husband to implement the things I have suggested, or if she becomes critical of him for not doing them, it would be better if she had never read this article. The absolute worst response

you could have is to let the kids know that you are dissatisfied with them and their father.

It is a fact that most of the wives who read this are going to see their husband's shortcomings. If my wife were to have read it when my boys were growing up, she could have found cause to “exhort” me. I did not do everything right all the time. Thank God it is the long haul that determines the outcome, not the exceptions.

I do have a practical suggestion. First, try to get your husband to read this article without finding fault or accusing him of his shortcomings. Simply ask him what **YOU** can do to improve the rearing of your boys. Then drop it. Do not pursue your husband beyond his reading of the article.

Second, assume that the responsibility is entirely yours. Take steps to provide what you can, and leave the rest in God's hands. Maintain a cheerful attitude, and try to provide for all their needs. Do not become overly burdened trying to change things that

are out of your control. God has a way of making up for our inadequacies when we obey to our limit and then trust Him for the rest. When you have done all that you can humanly do, lay it down and dance. God will tap you on the shoulder and join you to make this monumental effort of training your boys a joy and a delight. ❖



## ALL HIS DOING

To dear Mr. and Mrs. Pearl,

We have begun to listen to the CDs on “Sin No More.” These have been so freeing, and we are looking forward to listening to the rest. I have been encouraged at how simple walking with God really is. It is all His doing - none of mine.

God bless you and yours,

VB



# where do we start?

## Reader's Question:

Dear Michael and Debi,

We have 3 sons, ages 6, 4  $\frac{1}{2}$ , and 3. We are ashamed of ourselves because it is blatantly obvious that our children are awful. We have not been good role models. We fight a lot. We have been very selfish and too busy doing our own thing that we put off the needs of our children. Don't get me wrong, we provide for them physically, plus, gives lots of hugs, but have avoid dealing with any issues of training. We are at the point now where parenting is not fun. We are tired, stressed, and need some normalcy in our lives. We yell, and spank in anger. We have created tiny misfits who stay up playing until they fall out, do not listen, never respect authority, and destroy their or others belongings. Things have to be fair or we end up trying to explain or cater to the losing party. Our kids are mean. They throw things, call names and say hateful things. They pitch wild, violent fits falling on the floor limp when it is over. They scream and cower like we are killing them when we try to bring peace. It is heart wrenching for us. One of our sons pretends to be sweet but is a total liar. We have heard him kicking and beating his little brother only to blame the other brother, with the sweetest saddest look on his face. It is scary to see his deceit. After the whole song and dance, I guess I really want to know, where do we start? We don't feel it is fair to start with the rod because we have not provided a stable and loving atmosphere. We just want our home fixed before it is too late, and are willing to do anything. We need some direction and advice to follow. I read your book but I am still feeling hopeless.

FL

## Michael's Answer:

Dear FL,

Buy the Alabama Seminar tapes (page 18) and a tape player. Let the boys listen to the tapes at night when you put them in bed. Just 15 minutes or so each night is plenty long enough. Ask them about what they learned the night before. Boys, even the young ones love the stories about snakes. You will be surprised how the little bit of information they glean from the tapes will make your job easier. After about one week of listening, sit them all down and explain how things are going to be different. Don't be

spiritual and preachy. Give the some simple examples of how many licks they will get for doing this or that. Explain that now they will receive training reminders in the form of fast unexpected stinging licks with a weed eater cord. Always have a 12 inch piece in your pocket ready to pull out a hundred times a day. Give them a comical demonstration on your own leg when you have your face turned, pretending to catch yourself by surprise. Let them see it is not punishment but a training reminder to do the right thing.

Then set up an entertaining scenario where you pretend to be one of them. Command yourself to go close the door, then whine or disobey, whack. Scream and jump around holding your whacked leg and then give yourself the same command and this time obey. Now let them practice. They need to see you as an authority and as a person who is not angry and lashing out.

If a child feels like you like them and have their good will in mind, they will quickly learn to WANT to obey you. ❖

# plantain

*The Wedding Saver*



It was Friday on a very beautiful day. The sun shone with a special delight on the black-eyed daisies, and the light breeze blew them very softly in the wind. They were dancing our wedding tune!

That very morning I had gone out with James' parents and picked about 300 black-eyed daisies along with many other wildflowers. It was now afternoon, the day before our wedding. You can imagine what I was feeling—excitement beyond your wildest imagination! James and I were in our Jetta, driving over to Gabe's house. We had the sunroof open as we talked about last minute plans. In a burst of joy, I stood up through the sunroof yelling like a wild Indian. I felt like a girl in a fairy tale. Everything was so perfect....ooow, ouch! I grabbed at my eye as it started to throb and swell shut. The pain was really intense.

All I could think about was that my wedding is in 24 hours, and here I am going to have one eye swollen shut. A bee or yellow jacket had stung me twice, on both the top and bottom lid of my eye. As I fell back into my seat, James slowed the car and asked, "What's wrong? Are you okay?" I was

groaning with pain, but I managed to blurt out: "I need plantain! Quick, get me some plantain!" I told him. Within one minute we were at Gabe's house, and I jumped out of the car, searching frantically for plantain. I found it and stuffed some of the green plant into my mouth and chewed it like a wild woman starved half to death. A few friends gathered to see the damages. I had a blister the size of the tip of my pinky on the top and bottom of my right eye. James' city friend looked at me in sheer bewilderment and repulsion as I spit the green slime into my hand and smeared it on my blisters.

Within 4 minutes of the time I was stung, the plantain was busy at work on my bee sting. Fifteen minutes later, the blisters were gone, and within an hour, most of the swelling was gone. By the end of the day, you could not tell I had ever been stung. Plantain. . .good stuff. You gotta have it!

Shoshanna is owner of the Bulk Herb Store (in no way related to NGJ). For a free informational newsletter and price list of herbs, write to [TheBulkHerbStore@TDS.net](mailto:TheBulkHerbStore@TDS.net) or The Bulk Herb Store 1010 Pearl RD, Pleasantville, TN 37033.

**Do not** send herbal questions to No Greater Joy, and **do not mix your herbal orders with No Greater Joy**. The two are not related and have different addresses.

notice: No Swelling!!



## A COMPLAINT (OF SORTS) 😊

Dear Pearls,

I'm just writing to voice a complaint. We ordered the ABC Bible Verses for our 3-year-old daughter and have now heard it approximately 549 times (OK, I haven't really counted). We can nearly sing the songs in our sleep. I can see I must be very careful before ordering anything from you. Thanks anyway!

Heidi



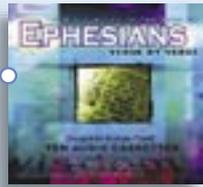
# Cassettes

www.nogreaterjoy.org

## ALBUMS

### Ephesians

Practical and Scriptural Bible teaching encourage the believer. Chapter 5 tape includes one tape on husbands and one on wives.  
**10 Cassettes 2930-40 \$30.00**

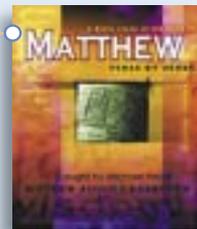


### John

Every verse is discussed, every critical word examined. Here is doctrinal and practical teaching to enrich your life.  
**24 Cassettes 4610-40 \$59.00**

### Matthew

Michael Pearl opens new insights as he teaches the Gospel of Matthew, describing it as the last book in the old covenant. A grasp of this unique book is essential to a proper understanding of the New Testament.  
**16 Cassettes 6020-40 \$45.00**



### Mail Bag

The Pearls offer candid answers as they open their mail and discuss your questions. Many readers say it is the most interesting and helpful information on child training we have.  
**6 Cassettes 5910-40 \$18.00**

### A-B-C Bible verse Songs

Beka and some of the kids in the church sing the A-B-C Bible verse songs that her mother taught her when she was growing up. Your little ones will want to listen to this day and night, and by doing so they will learn 26 Bible verses, with the references. This is the smilingest tapes you will ever hear.  
**1 Cassette 1010-40 \$5.00**  
**1 CD 1010-45 \$5.00**



### My Favorite Homeschooling Ideas

Debi Pearl discusses her best homeschooling ideas. Twenty-plus years of accumulated wisdom. This tape can remove your burden. It is our best-selling tape!  
**1 Cassette 6170-40 \$4.00**  
**1 CD 6170-45 \$4.00**



### Alabama Seminar

Two hours of Michael Pearl speaking on child training. These tapes are geared toward the father's role in the family. Tales of Mike and his sons' wild adventures. Boys love it!  
**2 Cassettes 8325-40 \$7.00**



### From the End of the Earth

Songs by Rebekah Pearl. All alone in a bamboo hut on the top of a mountain in New Guinea, the first white woman ever seen by the Kumboi village, Rebekah writes and sings songs about her God. She accompanies herself on a classical guitar.  
**1 CD 3020-41 \$8.00**  
**1 Cassette 3020-40 \$5.00**



### Authority Praying

Michael Pearl preaches on the believer's position in Christ and how prayer is based on the authority that is ours in Christ.  
**1 Cassette 1330-40 \$4.00**



### The Gami Akij Story

Your heart will be stirred as Rebekah Pearl recounts how God prepared a people for Himself. The story of her time in the mountains of Papua New Guinea, translating the Kumboi language. Young people love it.  
**1 Cassette 3420-40 \$4.00**



### Imputed Righteousness

The great doctrine of imputed righteousness is the heart of Biblical Christianity.  
**1 Cassette 4510-40 \$4.00**



### A Panel of Five

Five wives whose husbands have far-reaching ministries speak out on what a woman can do to be a helper to her husband.  
**1 Cassette 7010-40 \$4.00**



### Only Men

Michael Pearl speaks directly and frankly to men about their responsibilities as husbands. Wives should not listen to this tape. We don't want you taking advantage of your man.  
**1 Cassette 6650-40 \$4.00**



### Testimony of Darlene Rose

Hear the missionary story of Darlene Rose. Rebekah Pearl listened to these tapes when she was young. She says they helped mold her life toward missions.  
**2 Cassettes 8605-40 \$7.00**



# CDs and Cassettes (you choose)

There is dearth of Bible knowledge across this land. Bible teaching has been replaced with principle-based, self-improvement psychology. More than ever, we want to get these Bible messages into your hands, so we have priced them right down to what it costs us to provide them. In the course of the ministry, at our discretion, we give many of them away, the cost of which is covered by your gifts. All our CDs have been digitally remastered and re-edited to produce a quality higher than the originals.



## TEACHINGS ON BIBLE SUBJECTS & DOCTRINE

### Sin No More

The big question is: "So how do I stop sinning?" You have confessed your sins, received the baptism of the Holy Ghost with evidence of everything but ceasing to sin, yet you are still a Romans 7 Christian. I assure you, God not only saves his children from the penalty of sin but he saves them from its power as well. You can stop sinning.

**7 Cassettes 8315-40 \$22.00**  
**9 CDs 8315-41 \$28.00**

### Sanctification

Three sermons by Michael Pearl contain the good news of complete and immediate deliverance from any and all sin by the miracle of the gospel alone.

**3 Cassettes 8320-40 \$10.00**  
**3 CDs 8320-41 \$10.00**

### Sabbath Rest

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

**1 Cassette 8310-40 \$4.00**  
**1 CD 8310-45 \$4.00**

### Sinful Nature

These four messages answer some of the ridiculous teachings of an ancient heresy sometimes called "Calvinism." For too long, Reformed theology has robbed the church of the power of God. The petals fall off of Calvin's tulip when it is held up to the light of Scripture.

**4 Cassettes 8330-40 \$10.00**  
**4 CDs 8330-45 \$12.00**

### God's Eternal Program

Most of Michael's tapes and CDs are teachings. This one is a sermon preached at a camp in California. It is fun and a blessing.

**1 Cassette 3610-40 \$4.00**  
**1 CD 3610-45 \$4.00**

### Righteousness

Four messages on salvation: Blood, Imputed Righteousness, The Man Christ Jesus and Saving Righteousness

**3 Cassettes 8135-40 \$10.00**  
**4 CDs 8135-41 \$12.00**

### Security of the Believer

Michael teaches on the controversial subject of security of the believer. This is new material. Don't jump to conclusions. This is not old fare rehashed; you will be surprised at what you hear. The Church has been divided, both sides holding to a portion of Scripture while explaining away the other Scripture. Can one believe all the Scripture on both sides of the issue? Absolutely.

**2 Cassettes 8322-40 \$7.00**  
**3 CDs 8322-45 \$10.00**

### Generational Sins

Michael Pearl addresses the faddish teaching on generational sins, sins of the fathers visited on the children, family curses, etc. Let the word of God free you from the curse of pop theology.

**1 Cassette 3730-40 \$4.00**  
**1 CD 3730-45 \$4.00**

## TEACHINGS ON BOOKS OF THE BIBLE

### Romans

Verse by verse, word by word, this is a commentary on the book of Romans. We continually receive testimonies of lives changed and souls saved through listening to this greatest of all New Testament books. Until you know the book of Romans you don't know the Bible. If you have never listened to any Bible teaching by Michael Pearl, this is the place to start. Michael also has a printed commentary on Romans 1-8 which is much more extensive than the audio.

**17 Cassettes 8140-40 \$48.00**  
**20 CDs 8140-45 \$50.00**

### 1 Corinthians

Here is a book of radical answers for radical times. Michael covers every verse in 1 Corinthians in a straightforward manner. This is not devotional teaching. It is practical Bible doctrine on a host of controversial subjects. Paul answers questions put to him by the church at Corinth.

**8 Cassettes 2060-40 \$24.00**  
**10 CDs 2060-41 \$30.00**

### Galatians

Many professing Christians who don't have a personal relationship with Christ are seeking meaning in Rabbinical Judaism, keeping feast days and Sabbaths and resorting to using Hebrew words for God and Jesus. Many are "falling from grace" in their attempt to give the Law of Moses a place in their daily lives. God gave us the book of Galatians to answer this ancient and now modern heresy.

**6 Cassettes 3410-40 \$18.00**  
**6 CDs 3410-41 \$18.00**

### Colossians

If you enjoyed Romans, you need to hear Colossians. Learn about your spiritual circumcision. Rise to complete victory in knowledge that you indeed have risen with Christ and are an overcomer of the world, the flesh, and the devil.

**3 Cassettes 2050-40 \$10.00**  
**4 CDs 2050-41 \$12.00**



My son-in-law Gabriel and my daughter Rebekah came for a two-week visit. At my request, Gabriel examined the web history on my computer to confirm that I have not visited any porno-sites since the last time he was here.

Never erase my web history. Someone else does it for me after examining it. Someone may ask, “What is wrong, don’t you trust yourself?” My answer to them is, I want my wife to trust me. I want my son-in-law to trust me. I want you to trust me, and I want to make myself accountable to someone—just as you should. I don’t trust anyone who erases his own web history on a regular basis. Just think about it. God keeps a file of all web searches. Nothing is ever erased, except your entire past sins history when you got saved. After that, in the day of the judgment seat of Christ, you will give an account for every deed done in your body (II Cor. 5:10). No amount of confession and sorrow will prevent you from having to answer for every deed since you got saved.

By the way, I passed. I have never viewed as much as one single porno image on any computer—ever! My Lord and my wife deserve no less.

Having done what is required of me, I am just an unprofitable servant; I have only done that which was my *duty* to do (Luke 17:10), as any normal Christian does.

Dear lady, if your husband’s office was in the same building as a strip joint, just one curtained glass door separating him from the view, would you be comfortable trusting him to never pull back the curtain and look in on the smut? Would you trust your young untested sons—even when you are gone to the store, and they are there alone? That is exactly what the web is—a ready window to the most vile pornography that the devil and his demons can produce. It is pure Sodom and Gomorrah. And it is right there in your home, all the time, waiting day and night to reach through the screen and grab the lusts of a boy or man. I avoid it like Hell.

I cannot say this too forcefully. You are gullible beyond belief if you have in your home a computer with access to the web and it is not on a password, completely inaccessible to your sons. Every single boy from eight to sixteen years old—without exception—will get on the web and look at porn if he can find the opportunity. He will get up in the middle of the night. He will play sick and sneak in when you are gone to the store for medicine. He will arrive

home early, stay up late, rise before you do, or go to a friend’s house and get on their computer when they are not home.

If you are the best parent and child trainer, with the best of spiritual instruction, and the finest education, and your sons view pornography on the web, you have wasted your time. You lose. They lose. God loses. The devil wins.

Christian men develop the fortitude and discipline to obey God and walk in holiness against all temptation, but few boys before the age of eighteen have that kind of discipline.

Any husband that expects his wife to “trust him” is a scoundrel. Never put you wife in the position to have to depend on blind trust. Make every moment a walk in the light. I take my wife everywhere, or else she knows where I am and who I am with every moment. Every Christian man should invite his wife or a friend to view his web history on a regular basis. Every computer should be in a public place or facing an open door (or a glass door) where the wife and kids can see what is on the screen. A man who refuses to do so is guilty of something, if only pride.

Dear Christian brother, make yourself accountable to you wife and your friends. Sweet, gullible mother, get as mad as a mother goose and protect your boys and men. ❖

# Safeguarding the Internet

I have been looking for a simple, effective solution to controlling an internet connection for some time now. I have recently come across a simple, inexpensive utility called **Conntroll**. It works on Windows 2000 and XP, and allows one person

to control the use of the internet using a password. It completely blocks email, instant messages, web browsing, and other types of file downloads. It is primarily made for single computer environments and is extremely simple to install and use.

Please see the "Certified Porn Free" link on [www.nogreaterjoy.org](http://www.nogreaterjoy.org) for more information about obtaining and installing Conntroll.

-Gabe Anast

## Missionary Joshua Steele to be wed!

# "BRAVO!"



*If you want to read a wonderful story of how God miraculously brought two of his servants together, go to our homepage ([www.nogreaterjoy.org](http://www.nogreaterjoy.org)) and click on the heart button.*

*To God be the Glory*

Dear Pearls

A friend of mine called me to tell me of an article she had read called "A Husband for Laura Rose." I thought "bravo!" to anyone willing to raise up a husband for the Laura Roses." It encouraged me that I hadn't had my standards too high to be attainable. It was a boost to know I am on the right road. Now, when I shared it with my family, my mother was just as thrilled as I. My brother said he didn't think it fair to label someone saved and cleaned up as second class. My friend said "First there is the best and then there is the rest." We've had many discussions on divine and human forgiveness. I have decided to follow Jesus, though none go with me...if I never find anyone else to agree with me, I for one am going to be a Laura Rose and wait for the very best that God has planned for me. Thank you for the article, the debate it has spurned, the example it allows me to be, and the hope of what I can do with God's help with my own children someday.

R

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# NO GREATER JOY!



Dear Mike and Debi,

I read your book *To Train Up a Child* about four years ago. My husband was out of town for a three-week work assignment. We only had two children then—our three-year-old son and a one-year-old daughter. One morning I woke up and realized that I wanted to call in sick, I wanted to take a temporary leave of absence from my job as a full-time, at home mother. I wanted to abdicate my God-given role of nurturer, provider, and teacher of the blessings God had given me. I spent the morning early hours in prayer, when all of a sudden, it was as if a light went on. I had trained my children to be disobedient, to only obey when the tone got stern enough or the volume loud enough, I was teaching them to throw their emotional tantrums by setting a great example... I think I could have taught a course entitled *Tantrums 101: How to do it and do it right*.

I leapt out of bed, threw open the door to my three-year-old's room, stood him up on his bed and apologized for not doing my job as a mummy (I'm English) as God wanted me to. I explained that from that day on, things would be different... and they were. We went to 'boot camp', I lowered my voice, explained things clearly once, expected compliance with cheerfulness at once and administered quick rebuke for every infraction. We went to the playgrounds and played "come when called." We practiced bedtime routines and even ate cheese, without complaint. After three days of what can only be described as a controlled battle of wills, I was once again at the point of desperate cry, "God, how long will this last? Have I chosen a battle I cannot win?" Just at that point, a little voice came from the back of the car... "Mummy?" I answered "Yes," almost through gritted teeth as I prepared for another showdown at sunset... "You do a very good job being a Mummy!" PRAISE GOD!!! That was the first hint that the path we were

on was the right one.

Well, now we have both read your book, are almost through *No Greater Joy 3*, and still thank God for your faithfulness in penning these volumes. They make us smile, cringe and nod our heads but, most of all, they give us permission to do what we knew all along in our heart of hearts was right. They teach us to take back our children's hearts and wills so we can give them to God. They teach us to lovingly, and with humor, disciple our little ones. We now have two more, and there is indeed *NO Greater Joy!*

I still have to admit that there are days when I want the newspaper reporters to come and write about what a great job we are doing, and then there are other days when I am secretly relieved that the house is sound proofed. But that is how the training ground goes--the officers in charge have to be trained to lead the troops. Thank you for unlocking God's training manual for us.

In closing, I want to let you know that our "before and after" pictures show we have lost several pounds of guilt, stress, pain, sadness and frustration that we had piled on at the banquet table of the world's ideas and are now sitting down to the Lord's table regularly as a family. Our chief chef (my husband) serves us a gourmet feast of God's word and hymns of praise and our children are happy, secure, aware of their actions and responsibility for them and more importantly, they know of our love for them in no uncertain terms...and even more so, their heavenly, creative creator Father's love for them.

Thank you so much. I am sure you get many letters like this, and I am sorry this one is so long, but my heart is so full of thanks. I wanted to let you both know you speak into our lives. I wish you could observe our family and lead us further into the joy of parenting. God is using your written words to great effect in our home.

W & S

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# Homeschool Kid

## Sing My Song

Small children love to be identified, "you're a carpenter, you fixed my chair!" or "those are good brownies, you're our little cook." Just today my son re-adjusted a faulty toy and announced to his Mama Pearl that he is a mechanic cause he fixes stuff.

Some parents are better at bestowing loving identities on their children than others, but all of us have given our children identities that shape them. What do you remember being called as a child?

My Mom called me a good writer. I'm still wearing that particular name-tag with all the joy my eight-year-old-self felt when she first called me that. She also told me I would be a good wife and mama. Not only were those identities given with grand honor, they were accompanied with the tools to help them come true. Practical skills came hand in hand with the glorious titles we sought to earn.

One of my children's favorite ways of being "identified" by mama is with their own personal songs. When each child is born, I make up a song that is theirs alone.

*"Oh, there was a little boy,  
and his name was Joe;  
Joseph - Joseph Courage!  
He was strong as a lion, and  
brave as a bear; Joseph  
- Joseph Courage!"*

Just hearing his song makes Joe Courage square his skinny shoulders and stomp around the house with his tough-man face on. Then Rysha climbs in my lap, snuggles her head right beneath my chin, and starts humming to let me know that she wants to hear her song too.

*"Ryshoni Joy, joy, my joy; Ryshoni  
Joy, you're beautiful...  
Just like a song, song, glad song;  
just like a song, you're beautiful..."*



*Just like a flower, flower, bright  
flower; just like flower you're  
beautiful!"*

Then, as if I had just accomplished an award -inning performance, Joe and Rysha both pat me lovingly while three-year-old Joe announces, "Mom... you're... you're a good woman!"

-Rebekah Joy Anast

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