



NGJ

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

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Influencing Free Choice

How do we as fathers influence our children's free will to make the choice to love God?

Many young parents write, alarmed by the end results of other people's grown homeschooled children. They want to know how we raised our children to be emotionally sound, hard workers, free from sin's bondage, to have happy marriages, and, most of all, how they were swayed to follow the Lord. This letter from a young father named Rob is a good example of that heart-felt cry we are hearing.

The *Jumping Ship* articles were instruction on how to take your children into adulthood, knowing and loving the Lord. You will read in this article the testimonies/perspectives from the 5 Pearl children, as well as testimonies from 9 others who were homeschooled. The testimonies end with an ex-con, now a born-again father raising his sons and daughter to know the Lord.

To the Michael Pearl Children,

My name is Rob Sierk. I am blessed to have three small children, Abby, Ethan, and Jacob, all less than 2½ years of age. I cherish the heritage the Lord has given me in these little ones. As their father, my heart is extremely burdened for their souls, which prompts me to write to your children seeking answers. Soon after Abby was born, I realized I didn't know what it took to be a godly father, a father who could keep the hearts of his children; a father who could make his faith real to them, and ultimately, a father who could lead them to the foot of the cross.

My childhood is filled with bad memories of a father who left me when I was very young, and of an impressionable, naïve mother in her early 20s who was burdened with two young boys and with no real foundation to raise us properly. My mother lost the man she loved to another woman, and my brother and I were left without our daddy. I grew to be a resentful, angry teenager who could find no joy in the world around me. After about a decade of searching this world for happiness through alcohol, drugs, and bad relationships, I became weary, hopeless, and suicidal. Thankfully, the Lord had other plans. He reached down and pulled my soul from the miry clay, and quickened

me. Like the hymn writer put it, "My burdens were lifted at Calvary!" Glory to His name!

So there I was, holding my little girl on May 15, 2003 wondering what in the world am I to do with this little soul? "Lord, please give me wisdom, please help me" was my plea. The Lord did answer that prayer by putting me in contact with some great resources on how to have a godly home. But as my family has grown, and as I have watched children from good families choose this world rather than the God of their fathers, I have been asking myself this question, "What is it that I need to do to make my faith real to my children?" I had read the books, heard the tapes, and listened to my pastors, but I still found myself asking, "Yes, but how?" It's all great instruction, but why do some families have all of their children walking with the Lord, and some don't? What's the secret? It dawned on me that perhaps the answer is held with the grown children who did indeed follow the God of their fathers.

So, if you are receiving this letter, it is because your father has told me that you are grown now and have a family of your own, and you and all of your siblings are following the God of your fathers. My request is simple:

list three things your father "did" that made his faith in an invisible God real to you, so real that you felt compelled to want that same God as your Savior.

Rob

Youngest Pearl Daughter

Shoshanna (Pearl) Easling's answer

The things I remember about Dad's training was that he was not a permissive, love and forgiveness, type of dad. He taught us Bible stories straight, not "how does it apply to your life" stuff. He would read to us through the Bible, and when we got to a story like the one about God sending the bears to eat the kids who mocked the prophet of God, saying, "Go up

He taught us Bible stories straight, not "how does this apply to your life" stuff and my parents NEVER gave me assurance of salvation.

thou bald head," he didn't soften it. Quite to the contrary, he let us see that God was not tolerant of bully kids making fun of people, especially his servants. We knew it was God who sent the bears out to kill the child bullies. Through those stories, I came to know and fear a holy God, knowing that someday I would stand before him and have to answer for my life.

My parents NEVER gave me assurance of salvation. I remember when I “finally” knew I was saved. I came home and told Dad, “I got saved today.” He replied, “Well, we’ll know in about 6 months.” He always said that the only person he knew for sure that was saved was himself, although he thought Mom was too. He knew his personality was strong and that what he said might give us kids his assurance instead of God’s assurance.

Through his life and the Bible stories, I came to see that being saved meant knowing and loving God. It was NOT just a one-time experience, the event of asking Jesus into your heart. We understood that those who knew and loved Jesus were saved, and those who did not know and LOVE Jesus were not saved, no matter how sure they were that they were saved. I grew up knowing for a certainty that when you know and LOVE Jesus, then it is the most consuming thing in your life. I knew that to be so because I had seen it in my parents’ lives throughout my growing-up years.

The Philosopher Pearl Son

Nathan Pearl’s answer

A good friend of mine once asked me why I was making my 2-year-old finish her last green bean, and I replied, “So she will not smoke pot when she grows up.” He looked at me dumbfounded and asked, “What could green beans and marijuana have to do with each other?” The answer is, of course, quite obvious. When you learn to train and discipline the flesh at two years old, it doesn’t seem so outrageous for a young man or woman not to walk in the flesh at twenty. Now, that is the obvious stuff, because training our children to control the flesh is a very important part of discharging our responsibility as fathers.

The real question Rob wanted us to answer is this, “How do we as fathers influence our children’s free will to make the choice to love God?”

We pray. Pray. Pray. James 5:16 reminds us that our prayers avail much. Ephesians tells us to

put on the whole armor of God, “*Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints*” (Eph. 6:18).

I did not experientially know the meaning of effectual prayer until I first knelt with my wife over the bed of our daughters and asked God for their souls.

We set an example. When I was a kid, my dad had an old Dodge truck. Every morning we would go out with Dad 20 minutes before we needed to leave so we could tinker with the truck, trying to get it started. It usually took the whole 20 minutes, and when we finally did get it started, we jumped in and took off before it could quit. Now, as I write this article, I look out my window at the Chevrolet truck in my driveway, and I don’t have to wonder why I have never bought a Dodge. I was thoroughly conditioned to “feel” that Dodge trucks are a real pain. So this is my answer: there was no way for Dad to program, formulate, or to construct my free will so that I HAD to choose Christ. There is no recipe that you can subject your kids to that will cause them to love the LORD, but every day as I was growing up I saw and felt peace in our home. I could see that my Dad and Mom loved each other, and loved God, and that what they had actually worked—and worked well. Because of all of those things, I chose to know and love the God of my father.

Oldest Pearl Son

Gabriel Pearl’s answer

It is clear to me what motivates kids to rebel.

1. Hypocrisy in their parents.
2. Anger and/or bitterness toward kids, spouse or anyone else.
3. Authority out of balance.

Teenagers hate hypocrisy. If a dad teaches at church, then goes home and is angry with his wife or lazy in his work, it will breed bitterness in his teenage children. Bitterness will

generate into rebellion. If a mom puts on a show of spirituality at church and is disrespectful to her husband at home, that will breed bitterness in her older children. Hypocrisy generates



3 reasons for rebellion are hypocrisy in parents; anger or/and bitterness toward kids, spouse, or anyone else; and authority out of balance.

bitterness. If a man is lost but honest in how he relates to others, he will have better kids than a man who pretends to be what he is not. Years ago, we knew a lost family of pot smokers. They were open with who and what they were. Their children loved and respected them (although they smoked pot, too). When the parents turned to God, all their children wanted to know the Savior also. TJ Slayman, Bible translator to a closed Asian country, is their oldest son (see TJ’s sister Sara’s testimony later in this article).

Next is bitterness toward God or others. Parents who harbor anger or bitterness toward each other, extended family, people of the community or in the church, will surely pass it on. Children emulate their parents. No matter what the bitterness is caused from, it will always destroy. “*Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord:*

Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled” (Hebrews 12:14-15).

The third thing is keeping authority in balance. It is important for a dad to take authority and responsibility of the family. It is equally important that the wife respect his authority and be thankful for his bearing the responsibility. God set up the chain of command, and any other way is not God’s way, and the children will not prosper.

Sweetest Pearl Kid!

(middle daughter)

Shalom (Pearl) Brand’s answer

Dad was always teaching life as well as the Bible. When we drove down the street and saw a street woman, he would tell us that she sold her body to men, and that she had diseases that made her smell nasty. Then he would tell the story of the bad lady in the Bible who came to Jesus and fell weeping at his feet. He would remind us about someone that we had taken into our home to help and how she was now a different lady because she had come to forgiveness and now knew Jesus. He taught by example that when you know the Lord, you love Him and help others.

There is no recipe that you can subject your kids to so they will love the Lord, but everyday as I was growing up I saw peace in our home. I could see that my Dad and Mom loved each other, and loved God, and that what they had worked and worked well.

First-Born Pearl Child

Rebekah Joy (Pearl) Anast’s answer

1. My dad wept over the sin, death, and destruction of those who fell after having heard the gospel

(instead of gloating.)

2. He loved his wife and his kids more than his image and his public appearance (in actions and words.)
3. He wasn’t afraid of poverty, the government, the neighbors, the in-laws, the “church,” or of Mom (Ha ha).

Testimonies from young homeschooled adults

These are the first 9 people interviewed from an area, and were not selectively chosen (names withheld so they could speak freely)

Young Man #1

Parents who do not understand how to point their children to God will resort to some kind of formula to make sure their kids are saved. This causes kids to think they are saved when they are not just because they prayed a certain prayer or took the right religious steps. The kids then trust in a doctrine and their parents rather than the Savior.

The thing that was instilled in us kids the most was the need for repentance of sin, so I was always repenting. When I was still a young boy, I spent the first 10 minutes of every night when I got into bed trying to catch up confessing my day’s sins. I would go through everything I could think of that happened all through the day, and then I asked God to forgive me. I felt creepy because I knew I was doing the same things over and over, and I knew I was playing games with God. But it was all I knew. It was what I had been taught: If I confessed my sins, then I would be forgiven. This kept me from experiencing the fear of God over continued sin. The only time this fear would overtake me was at communion. I dreaded the Lord’s Table because I knew I had to be totally “confessed up” or I would “drink damnation to myself.” Could I be completely sure that I had not forgotten one of my sins? I did

have a sense of assurance based on the fact that if anyone ever made it into heaven it would be me, because, as far as most people could tell, I was a really good kid from a big homeschooling family. We were full of principles, rules, convictions in every area of living, and had many family-life stories of God intervening in our lives to help us. In fact, life-threatening or changing experiences were cornerstones of our Christian walk, yet I know that if my dad or some other important figure in my life had quit the faith, it would have shaken my own faith in God. I had no final authority outside of the experience of older people.

As a young adult, I met people who really loved God and knew Him in such a personal way. I began to see that I did not KNOW God. I knew a lot about repentance of sin, but I did

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not understand repentance TOWARD God. I wanted to know Him. I came to understand that Jesus paid for ALL my sins, and I was shocked to discover that the term “repent of your sins” was not even in the Bible—the concept of repenting of your sins as a precondition to being born again was completely opposed to the gospel of Jesus Christ. What I needed to repent of was “dead works.” Truth, the knowledge of the finished work of Jesus, has set me free.

Girl #1

(some siblings faltered)

All us kids had a time of frustration but not exactly rebellion. In our earlier years, our mom had a time of hypocrisy which really irritated us. She also had anger. I think she was frustrated because we were a part of a very strict group that taught that a

woman did not do anything but have babies and cook and clean. She had energy and vision to do many things besides that. If she could have been a part of Dad's business, she would have been happier, and we would have too.

Girl #2

(siblings do not walk in truth)

I think my parents felt that if they questioned our walk with God, they would be rejecting us or judging us. Therefore, they showed complete "faith" in our profession of faith, even in the midst of grave sin and rebellion in our lives. Their "faith" gave me confidence that was not from God. I thought, "Hey, I'm saved. I asked Jesus into my heart. So, you know, once saved always saved; that's the way we believe, so I'm okay." It's a scary, foolish thought that you can have no real interest in God, yet still have total confidence you are promised a place in heaven. I had the "good girl" syndrome, almost like God owed me. All my siblings would say they are "saved," yet they all have lived rough lives and have no interest in God now. My parents hold on to the fact that all their kids are saved because when we were 4 or 5 years old, we asked Jesus into our hearts. Their wishful confidence took the fear of a holy God away from us. Thank God, I came face to face with the reality of my lostness. It scares me how close I came to eternal damnation.

Girl #3

My dad was the most sincere man in the whole world. He wanted to do what was right. He always forgave us, never rejected us, although he had strict convictions. He was a good balance of conviction and forgiveness. I remember one time he came home from work weeping and could not eat. He told us God had worked in his heart over some issue, and he was torn up over it. I was just a small child, but the impact of his broken heart worked deeply into me.

Girl #4

(some siblings got into immoral sin)

I think the reason my siblings did not do so well was because my parents pretended that evil did not exist. We knew about issues such as abortion, pornography, and kids being molested, but our parents never discussed anything with us. It was like they thought they could keep us in a bubble and that if we didn't know about it, we would not get involved in it. If we could have freely talked to a parent concerning such issues it would have given us the wisdom we needed to avoid these pitfalls. They had great expectations of us and would be greatly irritated when it didn't all work out. Their relationship was not what I wanted when I grew up.

Girl #5

(all the children have serious problems)

Looking on the outside, we had a good family. But my dad was the most complete hypocrite that the world and Satan ever produced. We were a large homeschooling family. He made us girls wear coverings on our heads, even in our bedrooms and the bathroom. He made a big show in front of people, but he did not allow us to go to church because he did not agree with the doctrine there. The lack of church kept him from having to answer to eldership. He made sure that we didn't get to know anyone well enough that they might discover the dark truth of our family. Because of that, we had few friends. We worked all the time because it kept us busy. Our dad was into child pornography. All of us kids suffered; we all have deep emotional scars, and our mom should have known. We should have been able to go to her for help. Good families don't just fall apart—something is there tearing it up. There is a law of sowing and reaping.

Young Man #2

(family walks in truth)

My parents came from extremely ungodly families, yet they both decided to break the cycle and honor God. I admired their resolve. We had a very interactive relationship. We shared interests and hobbies. I always had a high regard for their opinion in every area. We were always regular in church, although we moved around several times seeking more like-minded groups. As new Christians, my parents did not have a clear

My parents felt that by keeping us kids from getting driver's licenses and jobs we would not be "of the world", but we became frustrated at being held back and began to have grudges toward our parents.

understanding of how to share with us the knowledge of knowing God, although their sincere appreciation of God caused me to seek Him. We were older than most of the up-and-coming homeschoolers, so we set an example, and I felt the load of duty to walk with honor. I think my good life made me feel safe before God. I loved God as much as the next kid, so I assumed I was saved. I really did not know what it meant to KNOW and LOVE God. It was as an adult that I finally got into the Word of God and realized I was lost and undone before a holy God. I came to know, love and trust Jesus as the overcoming Champion.

Young Man #3

(one sibling walks in truth, the others are really messed up)

Some of us kids made it, and some didn't—big time. My Mom provoked bitterness in my sisters by her being lazy, lying on the couch and expecting them to work while she took the credit for having a clean house and such. My Mom also worked up our dad to get upset at us kids, so we were

mad at him for believing her. She was not totally disobedient to Dad, but showed disrespect for him and did not serve him.

My parents felt that if they kept us kids from getting driver's licenses or jobs, we would not be "of the world," although all our friends at church were allowed to do these things. We were frustrated at being held back and so we had grudges toward our parents. They had religious whims peculiar to our particular church, which bugged us. We were probably as good as most families, and our track record is about the same as others. Looking back, I think maybe my Mom, though a very good Baptist, never came to know the Lord, and our dad was a struggling believer who was not real sure how to be a dad. Being in a good church with a good social circle helped keep us afloat—barely.

Raised by lost dope-head homeschooling parents

Sara, TJ, and the twins were raised by lost parents. When their parents turned to Christ (1990), so did all their kids. TJ was 17 years old at the time and had been doing dope since he was five. From the day he got saved, he has walked in truth and is now a missionary, translating Scripture into the language of a closed Asian country. Mike and I have spent hours discussing why Tom and Kathy Slayman's children were so open to the gospel and honored their parents, even when they were so terribly lost. Here is the family's story from one of their own girls. Learn something from her extraordinary account.

Sara (Slayman) Bailey

I can't remember a time when my parents DIDN'T do drugs and/or alcohol. They were children of the 60s (hippies) and never really grew out of it. Even as a young girl, I remember seeing them get high and not thinking much about it. Their fights bothered me worse than the drugs. My Dad is a visionary who was raised Catholic.

He saw a lot of "untruth" and so naturally questioned everything. My Mom was stubborn, raised by a woman who was "in charge." But she loved my Dad very much and knew what it took to be a visionary's wife.

I grew up living in buses, tents, OLD farm houses where you could see right through the walls, etc. **Even now I thank God that Human**

"He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the LORD require of thee, but to do JUSTLY, and to LOVE MERCY, and to WALK HUMBLY with thy God?"

Micah 6:8

Services didn't know we were there, because we would have doubtless been removed from our parents. What a terrible tragedy that would have been!

Now to answer Rob's question, "What three things did my dad do to cause all his children to choose the God of our father, even though his choice was late in life?"

1. Children spell LOVE T-I-M-E.

When I was young we were so poor, Spam (cheap canned meat) for us was like rib-eye steak. My dad loved us. He took the time to teach us to cook over a fire, shoot guns (which we all do very well, I might add), live off the land, and hunt. Basically, he taught us to enjoy life. We were #1 in his eyes and we knew it. He LOVED spending time with us and still does. (Although having all the grandkids at once get him a little edgy.)

Along with my dad's visionary tendencies, he was quite a thinker. He loved lengthy discussions about anything from solar power to speaking in tongues. Sometimes he would just sit down, pick up an encyclopedia, and start reading it to us. When I would get bored (it wouldn't take long), he would just keep reading. He studied Jehovah's Witnesses, Messianic Jews, Amish, Hay Bale houses, etc. He was always

looking for the truth. **He carried us kids with him in his quest.** He was preaching to us all the time and making us study (in a Good News Bible) to see what was true. That's how he met Mike Pearl. When Dad finally understood that Christ was his Savior, it didn't take long for the rest of the family to follow through. During a very short period of time,

God pulled one whole family out of the depths of hell and immorality into Life Eternal. I was about 12 when my family was saved (I thank God for this daily) and baptized in the cold waters of Cane Creek.

Here is Number 2... Once dad knew that he had found the truth about some subject, he was very free to share it with us. I usually believed it, only

because I knew it must be true for my dad to believe it so strongly. I trusted my Dad, knowing he wanted what was best for me. Even today I often go to him and ask his opinion about Biblical things, building things, gun things, etc. I have learned to study on my own and to be able to come up with my own conclusions, but they don't usually vary far from my Dad's.

Number 3... My Dad's faith is real. He loves the Lord with all his heart. His greatest passion is telling people about Christ and learning more truth. My dad was far from perfect, but he loved the Lord, he adored my Mom, and loved and enjoyed his children. Now, I am enjoying hearing him preach to my children. I know he used to preach to me like that too.

Redeemed in a Prison Cell

I only met my real Dad once. I walked up to him and asked him if he knew who I was, and he said, no. I told him I was his son. He didn't seem to care one way or the other. That's how I felt about most everything. I just didn't care. I didn't like my step-dad, so we didn't get along much. My Mom always had to play the middle man to keep us from fighting. Most of my time was spent on the streets, the only place for me. My first run-in with the

law was when I was about 10 years old. My life became one of violence. I was indifferent. I was kicked out of school for violence. During my teen years, I worked at different jobs but finally fell back to stealing guns and electronic equipment. One night a police officer noticed bullet holes in my car and pulled me over. He spotted a gun in my center console and then found that I had a trunkful of stolen guns. For the next 6 months, I sat in jail. While there, I met an older Muslim man and gave consideration to the cultural statement of the Black Muslim world. My mom bailed me out, and then I really turned violent. Guns, shooting, fighting, stealing, and all manner of evil became a part of my life. Within a short time, I was back in jail. This time the bail was a hundred thousand, and Mom could not save me from my sin. While there, someone gave me a small New Testament, and I started reading it. This time, God had my full attention. I fell in love with the Savior as I read the stories in the gospels. Strange as it sounds, the same Muslim man was still in jail, and he noticed the old worn-out Bible I had and gave me a new KJV. After almost a year in "holding," I was given a sentence of 16 years. Shortly afterwards, I was transferred over to South Central, and as soon as I got there, I asked about Bible studies and church meetings. It was there through Mike Pearl's Saturday morning Bible studies that I learned how to study the Bible. God's Word was real and became the driving force in my life. I read and studied all the time. I loved to share his Word. I spent the next 8 years, the rest of my

youth, there in prison studying the Word. It is powerful, effectual, and able to change a man. When I got out of prison, I married, and started a family. I am thankful that *"he [God] is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness"* (1 John 1:9). I have now been out for over 4 years. God has blessed me with a wonderful wife, 3 children, and a desire to serve him in ministry. My sons and daughters will know that God reached down his hand and brought me out of terrible wickedness.

In conclusion: When I read the letter from the young father named Rob, asking for wisdom from children of successful dads, I could understand. I, too, have that plea before God. But one thing I have learned through the Word is this: there is no formula to salvation. It is simply coming to know and love the Savior. For me, it was the reading of the Word and discovering who Jesus was that caused me to turn to God.

When my son was five years old he came to me and said, "Dad, I believe in Jesus" I looked down at him with no emotion and said, "That's good son, now go and feed the dog." This may seem indifferent, but I did not want to give him the sense that he had now "arrived." If I had looked at him with delight and said with great confidence, "Oh, son, I am so glad you are now saved," I would have been bringing to a conclusion that which was not yet concluded. I want his heart to be moved toward God

until he comes to a place where he clearly understands God's amazing grace and forgiveness. God will do His work. My work will be to pray, walk in truth, and be an example to



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my children and minister and share the gospel to others with them. I will continually show thanks to God for his unspeakable love and forgiveness. I will read God's Word and teach my family God's stories so that they might come to see who God is by how he has related to the human race. My sons and daughters will see how much I treasure having an opportunity to have God's very words to read. I will do my part, and God will do his. ❖

Dear Pearls,

We want to thank you for your ministry. We are missionaries working in Hong Kong. Your magazines are always so encouraging to us, especially in a world where we don't receive a lot of encouragement for the family. Living here, homeschooling, and being financially supported as missionaries definitely has its challenges. But what a joy to mature together as a family while serving as encouragers for other missionaries working in Asia.

Our supporting churches collected a love offering for us just before we left for the states. The enclosed gift is a portion of that special gift, which we have prayerfully decided to give for your ministry to families. May God grant you wisdom, perspective, protection, and joy as you serve him in such a strategic ministry.

Missionary Family

Bulletin

Did you know?

In Canada, there has been a growing legal battle over parents' rights to spank their children. **It was the self-declared homosexuals who led the fight against spanking.** The same organizations also successfully campaigned to lower the consensual age of sex to 14 years old for boys. Now that they have their way, a stranger can induce a 14-year-old to submit to bondage and whipping, and it not be a crime, but if a parent were to lightly spank their 14-year-old, the parent would go to jail. That is perfectly as it should be in their worldview—until they can lower the consent age even further. Their primary goal is to take away parental rights and destroy faith and morals as the foundation of law and social order.

For the last 30 years homeschoolers have battled for the right to maintain jurisdiction over the education of their children. The battle lines have now changed and the stakes are higher. The very concept of parental rights are now the issue, and parents are losing — one inch at a time. *“For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but*

against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places” (Eph. 6:12).

Ministries like ours are under daily attack. In the last year there has been a concerted effort to discredit our ministry and to boycott our literature. I don't know if there is any connection, but in the last year our sales have tripled, and our subscription list has doubled.

Our favorite homeschool magazine, *The Old Schoolhouse*, which has printed some of our articles, has shared the persecution because of their association with us. The haters have done all they can to put this marvelous magazine out of business, but all to no avail. God gives special blessings to those who are faithful to the truth. If you are not receiving *The Old Schoolhouse*, you are really missing a blessing. You can subscribe at www.thehomeschoolmagazine.com or send request for information to The Schoolhouse Store, The Old Schoolhouse Magazine, LLC, PO Box 10 White Pine, TN 37890.

So Saying This:

We would encourage you to take seriously the admonishment found in Ephesians 6:13-20: *“Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to **withstand in the evil day**, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God: **Praying always** with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints; And **for me**, that utterance may be given unto me, that I may open my mouth boldly, to make known the mystery of the gospel, For which I am an ambassador in bonds: that therein I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.”*

Blunders:

- In our last issue (with our military letters) we featured a photo of some soldiers on a tank. Shortly after, we received a letter from one of our military readers who kindly pointed out that we had featured a Russian tank! We sincerely apologize for this mistake and mean to be more attentive in the future.
- Also, one of the letters we printed had an indiscretion that passed our editors—we apologize.



Start an NGJ Home-based Business

Why not combine ministry and business, while teaching your children the ins and outs of business? The staff here at NGJ has been busy putting together a business plan, with simple to follow instructions, that will guide you as you organize and manage your business. You will become an authorized distributor for No Greater Joy materials. There will be a start-up purchase (no returns policy) and a minimum order as you choose from the limited

distributors order blank. You can sell at home, school book fairs or establish your own contacts. You can even sell over the web. This would be great for small Churches, even established book stores.

If you are interested, go to www.nogreaterjoy.org to read a special report that explains in precise detail how this program works and how to get started. Or, you can send an email with your name and mailing address to freereport@nogreaterjoy.org.

“To God only wise, be glory through Jesus Christ for ever. Amen.” Romans 16:27

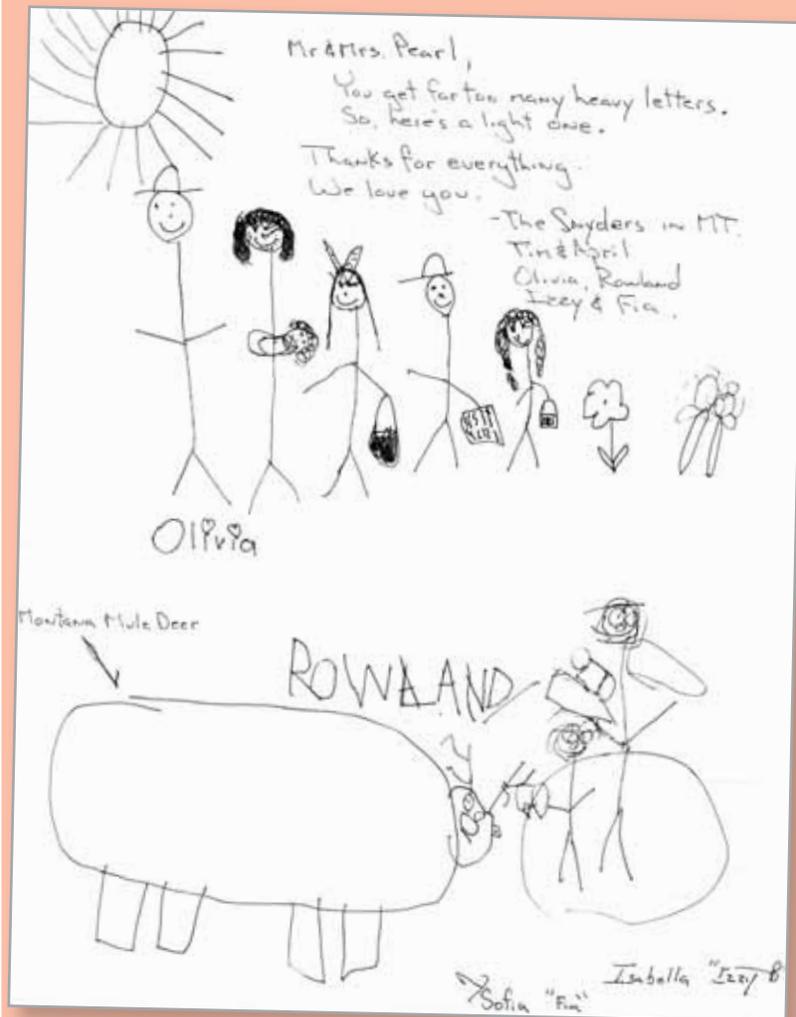
Dear Mike and Debi,

Your books, tapes and magazines have changed my perspective entirely over the past 10 years, beginning with *To Train Up a Child* and most recently continuing with *Created to Be His Help Meet* and *Holy Sex*. With our six children and my Mr. Command, whose work is erratic, it is a rare occasion for me to be a true help to another woman. In my years of foolishness, this was a positive thing. Now, with all the wisdom I have gained and desperately want to share effectively, I can be used to make profound changes simply by passing on your materials.

It is fascinating how we have permitted the devil to blind us to so many of the simple and beautiful ways of God. Thank you for revealing the truth, turning me from being a bitter victim to being a grateful overcomer!

Michelle

Has *Created to be His Help Meet* changed your perspectives and caused you to want to spread the word like Michelle? We've created a free flyer for just that purpose. It contains a condensed version of chapter 8 "Who is Your Man" and can be requested for free on our webstore under *Free Ministry Tools* or check the number desired on the centerfold order form. No purchase necessary.



Trainer story – Zoned Out

I have four children, ages 10, 8 (twins), and 2, and although they all had assigned work to do each day, I had been noticing a few problems. I kept finding things lying around or discovering jobs that were done carelessly. What I needed was a specific, organized plan of action.

I sat down one morning and drew a map of my house. With brightly colored markers, I highlighted four different areas of my upstairs, one color for each child. When they woke up that day, I showed them the map and told them that from now on, they were responsible for everything highlighted in their color. I went over each area carefully and made sure they were aware of what was expected.

It worked so beautifully that, a few days later, I highlighted the downstairs areas as well, and put the plan into action there also. To my delight, it was just as effective as the upstairs plan. Everyone knew what to do, and if they forgot, they just checked the map.

Now, I only have to say, "Everyone go check your zones!" and they all spring into action. A messy house becomes spotless in a matter of minutes. Yes, there are times that I still have to urge them along or have them go back and repeat something that wasn't done correctly, but even that is easier because it is obvious who is the responsible party. Now I am running a more organized household, and it has been a real blessing!

-Leah Hillman

Too Young to Spank?

When is a child too young to spank? The answer is obviously dependent on your definition of the word “spank.” Some parents practice spanking in a manner that is inappropriate for any child at any age. They strike out in anger and seek to punish the child for the offense the bad behavior has caused them. This is unacceptable at any age, but it is especially egregious when directed at very young and immature children. Spanking at any age should only be administered by those who have a proper philosophy of spanking and are not emotionally-driven. Our booklet *Biblical Chastisement* thoroughly discusses the philosophy of the biblical rod, but there is an additional point that we must make regarding age-appropriate chastisement.

First, let’s get our terminology about spanking correct. Terminology is particularly important, because our subconscious is highly influenced by the definitions we assign to the terms we commonly use in the training of our children. For that reason, no matter the age of the child, we do not speak of “corporal punishment,” as do some, but rather of “corporal chastisement”—a biblical term found in the New Testament in the twelfth chapter of Hebrews. Emotionally stable parents, when disciplining their children, do not view themselves as instruments of the wrath of God falling on deserving young sinners. Parents emulating the nature of God have no desire to punish (to execute retributive justice) small children. A teenager who commits a violent act may need punishing, but a small

child, not yet having developed a moral perspective, cannot do anything that deserves punishment. The **application of punishment assumes responsibility and accountability.** Punishment is not about training or correcting behavior; it is about returning “an eye for an eye.” The concept behind the principle of



punishment is, “You caused pain and suffering in others, so you will receive pain and suffering as a means of paying for your wrongdoing.” So, let’s ask the question again, “When is a child too young to spank?” If, based on your terminology, you mean “spanking to inflict punishment,” all young children are too young. Until a child is old enough to know right from wrong, good from evil, heaven from hell, obeying the law from breaking the law, he is too young to punish.

Before we address the issue of age appropriateness, we must make clear the vital principle that proper biblical chastisement, at any age, is not the infliction of pain so as to create a deterrent. It is true that some ten-year-old boys may be forced to obey out of the fear of a painful spanking, but

in most cases, they will be motivated more by either their passion to disobey or by a learned desire to obey. Older children (ten and older), like most adults, live more by their own values than they do the fear of police or parents; whereas, young children (under three years old) are not usually intellectually mature enough to

remember and calculate the possibility of consequences for their actions. They pretty much live by whim and habit; they are not that calculated and premeditated in their thinking, which is why fear of spanking is not a very good deterrent. Furthermore, obedience rendered out of fear of spanking serves no purpose higher than preventing the child from doing the bad deed again. It does not train and it does not build character.

The best child-training manual ever written says, “*The rod and reproof give wisdom*” (Proverbs 29:15). Reproof is delivered in words. Reproof is designed to impart wisdom and understanding. Reproof corrects the child’s perspective and gives him a reason to obey that is higher than fear. The rod alone may create fear but reproof creates wisdom.

However, just as the small child is not mature enough to remember to associate disobedience with the pain of spanking, neither can he receive the words of reproof, for he does not yet possess a command of the language, nor can he effectively think in terms of philosophy or principles. In short, the small child under three years old is not fully capable of profiting from either punishment or reproof. Are we parents then left without recourse?

Of course not! God has provided us with the instrument of training, with very occasional use of corporal chastisement, provided it is not related to punishment.

While we can reasonably agree that the small child is too young to be punished, and we can understand that he is too immature to profit from reproof, are we to leave the child to himself until he gets old enough to discuss his fleshly actions and riotous ways? “...a child left to himself bringeth his mother to shame” (Proverbs 29:15). Too young for corporal punishment and too immature for reproof? What’s left to us is “Training.” “Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it” (Proverbs 22:6). Biblical training will incorporate the principle of the rod as a reinforcement to parental commands. By the term “rod,” I mean spanking. The Bible never uses the word “spank,” but it is bold in its use of the word “rod” in regard to child training. “Foolishness is bound in the heart of a child; but the **rod** of correction shall drive it far from him” (Proverbs 22:15).

Notice, it is a **rod of correction**, not a rod of punishment. The rod that corrects is the rod that trains.

We have made the point here that children under three (give or take six months or so) cannot profit from corporal punishment, but we have made the point elsewhere that small children do profit from the application of the training rod.

How are they different? In both cases, the child is being swatted with an instrument. There is a great deal of difference in both the severity and the number of “licks,” and also in the parents’ expectations and perspective. For that reason, we cannot arbitrarily specify a suitable age and declare that it is fitting to spank a child beginning

at that point. Children differ, spankings differ, circumstances differ, and parents differ.

A six-month-old boy is capable of throwing a fit, demanding to have his way, but he is not being “a bad boy.” He cannot be declared morally bad with his limited intellect and zero moral perception simply because he acts in a socially unacceptable fashion. Although he can make it uncomfortable and inconvenient for his parents he cannot be blamed; for to consider punishing a six-month-old is absurd—a total failure to grasp reality. But all of his demanding behaviors and disruptive outbursts become a heavy (sometimes embarrassing) burden for parents to bear, often leading them to ignore him, or worse yet, allow him to develop a deeply imbedded selfish attitude. It is obvious to any parent that the six-month-old can be demanding and angry. He can demand his way, even when it is not good for him, like crawling on the floor in a

restaurant, or eating what he ought not. He can demand to have your glasses, which he will immediately destroy, and scream defiance if you do not comply with his lusts.

These “partly wise” parents know that the little blustery ball of bouncing boy is intellectually beyond the profit that comes from punishment or precept, so they allow him to practice

his intimidating tactics for the next year or two until his language skills develop and they are unavoidably convinced that he can now understand rebuke and appreciate responsibility. But by then he has perfected his pernicious ways. When parents are finally convinced that it is time to crack down and make demands, the

child is able to crack back and win. By the time parents realize he can reason, he is beyond reasoning. He is a hardened, hedonistic heathen, steeped in fleshly practices and convinced that the world is centered around him. In the first three years, he has developed a worldview that

The Bible speaks of “the rod of correction,” not a rod of punishment. The rod that corrects is the rod that trains.

puts him at the center and makes gratification the chief end of his life. By default, he has learned that people exist to please him; after all, that has been the order of things for all three years of his life.

Sometimes, parents suspect that their one-year-old knows more than is obvious. It is as if he has the devil in him. They began this journey not believing in spanking, but now they feel like striking the “little brat.” The sudden rise of their rage shocks them: “What kind of monster am I to feel like hitting my child?” They should be shocked. Such unchecked feelings can only lead to abuse. Parents with convictions and some degree of self-control find themselves jerking the screaming child up by one arm, sitting him down a little too forcefully, with their monster screaming back in anger. Their red faces and the haste and anger with which they deal with the child testify to their sense of helplessness. But they resist taking the dreadful step of spanking. When they hear about someone else “spanking” a one-year-old, they are offended, for they know that if they were brought to the place where they lost control and spanked their child, it would be a definite act of violence against the little one. They have a concept of spanking that was derived from their own frustration and anger, which in some cases is added to what they remember as a child when their father or mother had even less self-control than they do, and



they ended up on the receiving end of violence in the name of spanking. Their own experiences have left them with a warped perspective. They see all spanking through the scarlet of their own colored glasses. There is a common and painful experience, but there is another way.

It is the way of peace. It is a path without anger or loss of control. It is the method of training, the walk of discipline. First, the parent must be trained to exercise personal discipline, and then he is capable of constraining the child to walk in discipline—sometimes by application of the rod of training. The child grows up emotionally secure, with no self-loathing, wrapped in a bright beam of love, and walking securely on the ground of self-respect. It is a journey that ends with exceptional adult children who bless their parents.

“When is a child too young to spank?” Based on my definition of “spanking,” I can answer the question. **A child is too young to spank when spanking is not profitable to the child.** Of course, the same applies to a child of any age.

Let me give you an example of the application of the “rod of training.” A six-month-old throws his food bowl on the floor because he doesn’t like what is in it. This is the early stage of self-will and defiance. If the little guy gets away with it and if his parents don’t constrain him to do otherwise, then they are normalizing such behavior. Furthermore, they are allowing the seeds of defiance to grow in the child’s soul. Rebuke here would not be effective, nor would punishment. The child would not make any connection between his action and any suffering that you inflicted. If he were spanked hard enough to create significant pain, he would become so distracted with the pain and so fearful and emotionally disturbed that he could not be trained to any end. Remember, the child is simply expressing his will by dumping the food in the floor. I have had food set before me that I felt like dumping on the floor, but it would have been socially embarrassing to

take that action. The child has no social consciousness, so he does whatever he feels like. Dumping it is not a great offense for a six-month-old, but he will not always be six months old, and it won’t be cute for long. It will make you downright mad when he is three years old and flings a whole plate of food into your lap.

So we watch him, knowing his propensity to selfish compulsion. When he seizes his bowl with

intentions of dumping it, swat the offending hand with a little instrument (light wooden spoon, rubber spatula, flexible tubing less than a quarter inch in diameter, or any instrument that will

cause an unpleasant sting without leaving any marks). As you swat the offending hand, say “No” in a normal commanding voice. The tone is more important than the word—not angry—but decisive. Children understand the temperament in your tone before they are born, and will recognize it. This swat is not punishment. Probably, it will not even cause the little guy to cry. He will be shocked and stop any action in which he is engaged. Explain to him that he is not to throw his food onto the floor. If he again makes an attempt, swat his hand again and say, no. The third time is the charm. He now knows that “No” uttered in a commanding tone, is something serious. He will not try that stunt again—at least not for this meal.

Understand well, if he has already dumped his food onto the floor, it is too late to swat him. He will not make the intellectual association, and any spanking would then be “punishment” for past deeds, entirely counterproductive for a small child. If you didn’t catch him as he was attempting to spill it, then you must put the plate and food back in front of him and be ready to respond when he tries it again. This is training for the purpose of discipline. The child will actually profit emotionally from this

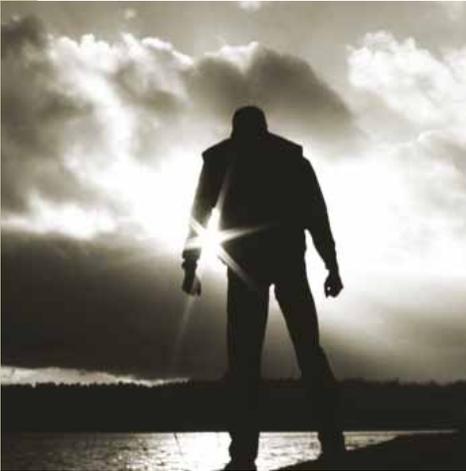
exercise, for he is constrained to act in ways that will make him more loved and cause him to find wide approval from everyone he is around. A child with unacceptable habits becomes a rejected child, then a dejected child, and eventually a self-loathing kid who feels that he can never please anyone and that no one likes him. I am sorry the psychologists and secular child advocates don’t get it, but then if all parents practiced child

training as I have suggested, there wouldn’t be any need for abnormal psychologists or child protection agencies. A lot of people would move on to more practical

kinds of work, and there wouldn’t be any more crime or war.

Yes, we spank our little ones, but only as we define spanking, not as others might imagine it to be. We obey God in applying the rod of training, not because we are gullible and blind religious fools, but because the Word of God has made us wise beyond our secular peers. We know what is good for our children. We know it from experience, our own and the experience of our forefathers who walked in wisdom applying the rod of correction to our backsides. Some of us don’t remember any of the much-talked-about “cruel beatings” that are attributed to our “strong disciplinarian” forefathers. We remember loving parents who cared for our souls. They applied the rod with firmness and dignity. To us, they represented the law of God, and they stood for everything that was good and wholesome. They called us to the higher path and chastened us when they felt we needed a little reminder to walk by the rule of law rather than by our passions. Today, we thank them, just as our children now thank us. Since our Heavenly Father chastens us (Hebrews 12), could we do otherwise than to emulate his child-training methods? ❖





Recovering the skills of manhood

I can't tell you how many letters I have received from men telling me that they grew up never developing the manly skills. They do not want their boys to grow up to be sissies, but they feel inadequate as mentors of their young sons.

It may be a bias on my part. Okay, I will admit that it is. Although I know better, I do have this inescapable, underlying sense that a real man is one who can stand alone against the forces of nature and survive. There is great personal confidence and security in knowing that you are not dependent on the conveniences of civilization, that if for some reason you find yourself alone in the primitive wild, without so much as a knife, you will not be afraid or insecure. You will feel more like “you have come home.” You will find water, make tools (a knife, hatchet, spear, etc.) and you will build a shelter before the sun goes down. You will find something to eat, and you will build a fire to cook it over. Within a week, you will be a well-equipped resident in command of your environment.

I know that God doesn't measure us that way. Maybe it was just the way I was raised. Possibly, it is the Old South mentality, but I have seen the same perspective in Minnesota, the Dakotas, Texas, northern

California, and many other places outside the reach of TV signals and cell phone reception. I know from a long list of personal acquaintances that there is a unique quietness and security exuded by men who possess some degree of outdoor skills.

When my boys (and girls, for that matter) first came into the world, I saw them as students. I wanted to impart all the knowledge and skills that I possessed, and much more. I wanted them to be competent in any situation, never at a loss for words, ideas, initiative, or skills. Never whining, never making excuses, and never blaming someone else. I worked to make them ready for anything the world or circumstances might throw their way. Whether it be academics, economics, general physics, or primitive survival skills, they must be prepared to triumph. This was not a decision that had to be put on a list and referenced. It was a consuming, constant passion. They were my charge, and I didn't relate to them as if I had eighteen years to teach it. They must know how to swim a river by the time they are six, get out of a burning building, avoid being kidnapped, know their address and phone number and other personal and family information, be able to talk to an adult and ask questions, how to react to a wound or broken bone, how to gather and prepare food in the wilderness, how to build a shelter against the elements, how to stop an adult from assaulting them, how to recognize and avoid sexual advances, and any and everything that might come their way under adverse and unexpected circumstances.

Nothing on this “list” sprang from paranoia. It is born from the love of life, of overcoming, of enjoying the fruit of your own hands. I know that all my children are better for it. Their confidence and quiet poise is testimony to their inner security. From the age of seventeen, between the five of them they have traveled to primitive and war-torn countries all over the world, worked in orphanages, and worked one year in a ministry in Israel. They have stayed up at night with AK-47s and guarded missionary compounds to the sound of gunfire, nearly capsized on a ferry at sea traveling from Italy to Albania, hiked over the mountains into Turkey, ridden out storms at sea in small sailboats, boated up rivers in rain forests, been nursed back to health by primitive natives in distant jungles, survived malaria and dengue fever, hunted game in foreign jungles, eaten snakes, lizards, and live grub worms, and some stuff you would bury quickly to get rid of the odor. They have been awakened from sleep in a grass hut by a six-inch fuzzy spider dropping on their face. Together, they could nearly reconstruct a world map with the places that they have traveled. They have bagged game with bow and arrow and guns and traps. They've spearfished in the South Seas, off the coast of Thailand, in Central and South America, Australia, New Guinea, in the Atlantic, Pacific, Gulf of Mexico, and the Caribbean Islands. They have learned primitive languages, translated Scripture, and smuggled Bibles into closed countries. I could go on, but you are beginning to get

the idea. My kids are not backward, nor are they wimps. They have far exceeded me in their experiences. They have grown well beyond their parents' accomplishments and it is a delight to see it so. Debi and I not only gave them life, we equipped them to live it to the fullest.

Gabriel is the biggest outdoorsman in the bunch. He is twenty-nine years old and has been concerned about the large number of homeschoolers who are "mama's boys." At every opportunity, he guides young men into appreciating outdoor skills. He has a vision to acquaint larger numbers of young men with the things he has taken for granted from his youth. Gabe has devised a program that he says will acquaint fathers and sons with the drama and beauty of outdoor life, and is inviting fathers and sons to join him and a dozen other outdoorsmen next February for four days of unforgettable outdoor experience. This event will take place on a nine-thousand-acre ranch located in South Central Texas, known to hunters the world over as "The Golden Triangle." Professional guides will provide father and son with a gun and accompany them on a hunt that will surely end in success. Picture you and your son driving up on a four-wheeler with your deer strapped

to the back. Under supervision, your son will skin it out with a knife you made from flint rock, just like the Indians used. Everyone will sit around the steaming, big pot of venison stew hanging from the rack over the open fire. Stories will be told and adventures recounted. Tomorrow morning, you will go quail hunting with a shotgun that is provided, and maybe later catch a mess of big bass out of the lake. At night, you may go out and shoot coyotes. The next day, perhaps you will go wild hog hunting and then join the crowd learning to throw knives and tomahawks, and finish off the day popping a few of those pesky jackrabbits. There will be outdoor camping, but for the dads who want to stay a "little bit sissy," there will be a warm, dry indoor place to sleep and eat.

Your son will go home having chipped out his own arrowheads, killed and cooked his own game, and learned to handle several varieties of guns provided by expert marksmen. It is going to be expensive, but it will be the best time of your lives – father and son, the hunters, the survivors. That young man of yours will never



be the same. You don't need to have previous knowledge or skills. This is a controlled and measured introduction to outdoor skills, both primitive and modern. This is not a function of NGJ, but my son comes highly recommended. If you can afford it, check it out at pearloutdoors.com or contact Gabriel Pearl at pearl@pearloutdoors.com or Pearl Outdoors P.O. Box 309 Lobelville, TN 37097.

Most of you won't be able to afford a fantastic event like this, but then, I never could either. I took my boys into the woods and swamps at least once every week. We donned knives, machetes, and tomahawks along with our food and other gear we needed to hike, hunt, fish, or just explore. We learned together. It is all about sharing the experience of discovery. In the past, I have talked a lot about tying strings of fellowship with your children. There is nothing better than a good tale of conquest to unite father and son. You can climb a mountain, swim a stream, catch a coyote in a trap, kill a snake and tan the skin to hang in the den. It doesn't matter that you know nothing. Get out and learn with your sons. ❖

Beautifying Your Feet

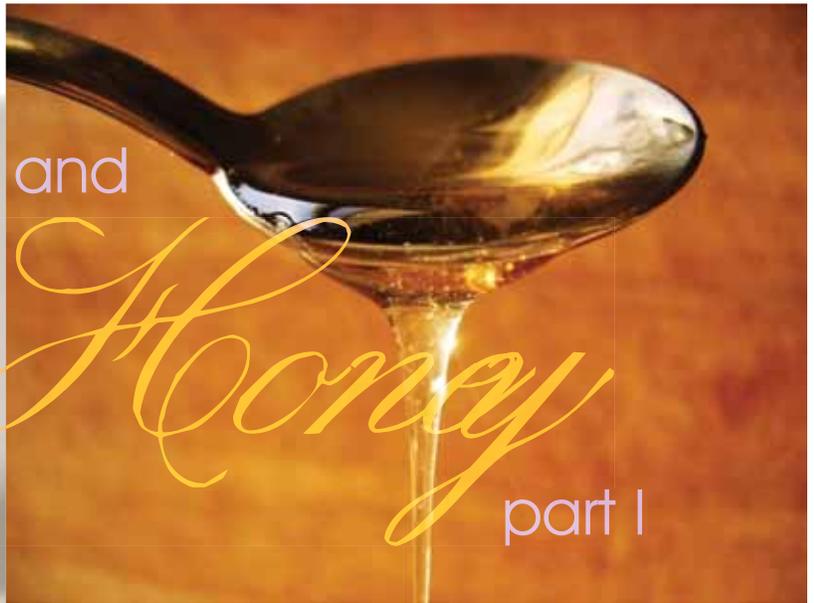
The best advertisement is by word of mouth from someone who has really been blessed. When we put out an appeal in our last issue, asking you to pass out our free magazines and brochures, to send us names of friends who might enjoy a free NGJ, or send us addresses of any small publication you are aware of (for example: mailed to 30 people or so). The results were remarkable. Over 4,000 new people are now receiving this free magazine. We receive letters every day from women saying a stranger gave them a small brochure which provoked them to order *Created to be His Help Meet*, and God used it to save their marriages. Now THAT is a true ministry! It is the lady at the doctor's office, your friend next door, or a small group of homeschoolers that we will never be able to reach—but you can. So, if you have a small email group, yearly family update, or if you are a part of a small homeschool group that has a monthly letter or a blog, we have free materials and ads for you to use to minister to those in your path. Contact us at: ngj@nogreaterjoy.org. Put "Aaron and Hur" in the subject line or send a letter to No Greater Joy, 1000 Pearl Rd, Pleasantville TN 37033. Consider this your "sending."



"And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!" Romans 10:15

By Rebekah (Pearl) Anast

Land of Milk



When God chose to describe to the children of Israel the perfect land he was going to give to his people for an inheritance, he did so by saying, *“And I am come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land unto a good land and a large, unto a land flowing with milk and honey”* (Exodus 3:8).

When the spies came back with word of the land that God had sent them to claim, they described it by saying, *“And they told him, and said, We came unto the land whither thou sentest us, and surely it floweth with milk and honey; and this is the fruit of it”* (Numbers 13:27).

When Moses began to give God’s people the daily laws of the land, he did so by reminding them of God’s judgment for breaking the law and then of God’s blessings upon keeping his laws: *“And he hath brought us into this place, and hath given us this land, even a land that floweth with milk and honey”* (Deuteronomy 26:9).

A strange and beautiful prophecy tells us that the very act of eating butter and honey gives moral strength. It is a prophecy concerning Jesus. *“Butter and honey shall he eat, that he may know to refuse the evil, and choose the good”* (Isaiah 7:15).

My great-grandparents enjoyed

cornbread in homemade buttermilk as their evening meal almost every day of their life. They rounded out their breakfast with biscuits, butter, and honey. In spite of the hard labor and lack of available modern miracle drugs, my great-grandfather lived to be 99. He scandalized the family when he was 96 because he wanted to marry his housekeeper (Great-Grandma had died 3 years earlier). He either had amazing genes or was doing something right in his lifestyle.

Fermented milk products like yogurt, kefir, and buttermilk are said to be the significant contributing factor of longevity in countries like Bulgaria, Romania, and Turkey. Over 15% of the population in Bulgaria live to be over 100 years of age!

It is important to know that more than 60% of fatal diseases in the USA are related to the gastrointestinal tract (GI). A steady diet of naturally fermented dairy products protects the GI from these diseases.

Conversely, homogenization of dairy products is linked to an impressive range of diseases: from autism, to irritable bowel syndrome, chronic fatigue, and heart disease. Homogenization is the process in which the cream particles in milk are broken down and separated so that they will not rise to the top or lump together in the milk. The problem lies

in the fact that the fat particles are broken down to be so tiny and “sharp” that they can now penetrate through the walls of your intestines and get into your bloodstream. This results in the laceration of your arteries, cholesterol build-up, and “leaky bowel syndrome” type of symptoms. Milk can be your best friend or your worst enemy.

In ancient times in Middle Eastern countries, dairy products were usually derived from goats. Fermented goat milk in the form of yogurt or kefir is the single, most powerful food therapy for the GI tract.

Here is an amazing story from **Tissue Cleansing Through Bowel Management** by Bernard Jensen, D.C. Ph.D, Nutritionist:

“John Harvey Kellogg performed an amazing experiment demonstrating this fact. He immersed a one-pound piece of raw meat, slightly tainted, in buttermilk. The milk was changed at regular intervals. The meat remained perfectly free of decomposition for some 20 years!!! This demonstrates the efficiency of an acid medium for inhibiting decay-producing, putrefactive bacteria. Soured milk is also called turned, fermented, curdled and clabbered milk. The Bulgarians call it yogurt; the Turks call it kefir; and the Russians call it matzone.”

This is what fermented milk can do for your stomach: inhibit putrefactive bacteria! Not being a real fan of the goat flavor, I prefer to take my fermented goat kefir in capsule form as Tummy Tune-Up₈ (see details at end of article).

Fermented dairy products are the most basic and natural form of probiotics. Probiotics are available encapsulated or powdered. I think of probiotics as being the opposite of antibiotics. Antibiotics kill all the bacteria in your GI tract—the good and the bad. Probiotics replenish your GI tract with good bacteria.

This year, when our whole family got a 7-day stomach flu, I sprinkled powdered Tummy Tune-Up₈ Original Blend probiotics on their food at each meal. It is tasteless, but just as powerful as eating kefir or yogurt, and the effects of the flu were completely negated. I kept thinking we must be over the flu now, but when I stopped giving us all the Tummy Tune-Up₈, we became ill again, and the vomiting would start all over.

I recently heard from two different mothers who suffered from severe morning sickness; they claimed that taking probiotics cleared up their nausea. A few others said that probiotics sprinkled in their baby's milk bottle, or just on the breast before nursing, cleared up colic and either upset tummies or tummy aches.

Easy Yogurt at Home, by Maria

Heat one quart milk to 180°F stirring frequently (you don't have to heat the milk, but it makes for a thicker yogurt).

Cool the milk to 110°F.

Set aside a small portion of milk and add one tablespoon of yogurt.

Mix very well and pour back into remaining milk. Too much starter will result in a sour, watery yogurt.

Pour into a quart-size canning jar, and screw the lid on very tight.

Place canning jar in a preheated insulated cooler (I use a small insulated water jug) and fill with warm water. I like to wrap the container in towels to help keep



it warm.

Check the yogurt in 8-12 hours. If it isn't thick, add more warm water to the jug and let set 4-8 more hours. You can also add more starter if it doesn't set up. Save some yogurt for your next batch. As your starter gets stronger, the yogurt takes a little less time to "set."

I used this recipe for years but just recently received a Yogourmet yogurt maker for my birthday. I like the fact that I can now make a half gallon at a time.

Happy yogurt making! *Maria.*

Milk Kefir, by Dominic Anfiteatro

INGREDIENTS AND UTENSILS

For culturing 1 to 2 cups of kefir:

- 1 to 2 tablespoons of kefir grains. (Purchase online or at your health food store.)
- 3 to 4-cup glass jar with lid (qt jar).
- Nylon or stainless steel strainer and spoon.
- A suitable container with wide mouth for straining the kefir into.
- 1 to 2 cups of fresh milk (Most milktypes are acceptable, including whole milk, fat-reduced, non-fat, pasteurized and homogenized. However, I personally prefer and enjoy fresh, certified bio-dynamic whole cow's milk or goat's milk to culture kefir).

THE COMMON METHOD FOR CULTURING MILK-KEFIR

- Pour fresh kefir grains into a glass jar, and fill the jar $\frac{3}{4}$ full with fresh milk. (Do not fill any fermenting jar more than $\frac{2}{3}$ - $\frac{3}{4}$ full.)
- Place a loose fitting lid on the jar and let it sit at room temperature out of direct sunlight for about 24 hours, or until the milk has coagulated or has become sour.
- Pour the contents into a strainer, and strain the kefir into a suitable container to separate the grains from the liquid-kefir. The strained liquid is kefir ready for consumption.
- Wash the jar, then place the kefir grains left in the strainer back into the pre-washed jar.

Note: To avoid damaging kefir grains, never add kefir grains to a hot jar after washing the jar with hot water! In this case, it's best to pour cold milk into the jar first, before adding any kefir grains.

This simple process is repeated for each succeeding batch. Many great kefir recipes and ingredients are available at this link:

<http://users.sa.chariot.net.au/~dna/Makekefir.html>

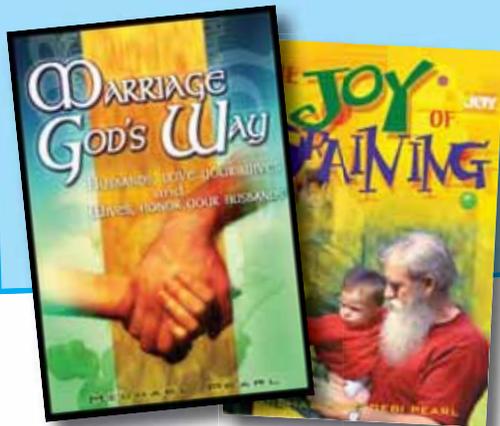
A few good books to read on gastrointestinal health are, *The Maker's Diet*, by Jordan Rubin; a strange, but useful, book is, *The Cure for All Diseases* by Dr. Hulda Clark; and a gross, but detailed book, *Tissue Cleansing through Bowel Management* by Bernard Jensen, Ph.D., Nutritionist. These books can be found in most libraries, at www.amazon.com, or at your local bookstore. NGJ does not sell these books.

Tummy Tune-Up probiotics, levels 6, 8, and 12+ strength are available at www.beeyoutiful.com/probiotics or write to Beeyoutiful, 4056 Montreal Loop NE, Rio Rancho NM 87144. More information on probiotics, dairy products, and general health are discussed daily on <http://WellTellMe.com> by Rebekah and other NGJ readers.

DVD set Special

From July 1st until September 4th, get *Joy of Training* and *Marriage God's Way* videos together for the special price of \$35.00, plus S&H. That's a \$11.00 savings! This makes a great holiday gift to bless friends or family. Offer good only July 1st through September 4, 2006.

DVD Set Special **\$35.00** #2500-00



Four-Book Special

Get the *No Greater Joy Series* and *To Train Up a Child* in this four book set at a special reduced price! This is a perfect gift for friends or anyone who is seeking help in parenting. Offer good only July 1st through September 4, 2006.

Four-Book Special **\$12.00** #3200-00



Trainer of the Month - Hillary Crandall! (2nd time winner)

Hillary is designated *No Greater Joy's* Trainer of the Month. She will receive a \$50.00 gift certificate and a formal document suitable for framing. If you have a successful story of training, send it to us and we will consider you for our monthly award.

- Training on Shyness -

After reading "Shyness Answered" I wanted to share our experience. My oldest daughter was terribly shy. By the time she was two years old it was downright embarrassing. She wouldn't look at adults when talked to, wouldn't give her name when asked, wouldn't answer simple questions, and would run from grandparents when asked for hugs.

When she was 2 1/2 my grandparents were coming to visit for Thanksgiving. I excitedly showed my daughter pictures of my grandparents and told stories of me as a little girl sitting on Grandpa's lap pretending to comb his hair. Then we set to work playing "Grandma and Grandpa coming to visit." I would pretend to be Grandma coming in the door and give

hugs and she would hug back.

When the van pulled up for the much awaited visit, my daughter ran down the sidewalk like an airplane with her arms extended for hugs. Later my Dad called and said we were the heroes of the family and thanked me for honoring him by honoring his parents. That was our best and last Grandpa visit as he went on to be with the Lord shortly after that visit.

I realized I was on to something with this practice so we started "practicing" conversation: "Let's practice going to church," I would say to my little girl, "Hi, my name is Mama. What's your name? How old are you? How are you doing today?" Then I would grab the stuffed monkey. "Let's pretend he is Pastor Lindsey. You can look at

him and say "hi" and even give him a hug." Sometimes we sit in the living room and set up practice while other times we practice answering simple questions while eating or driving.

Recently I overheard my daughter confidently chatting with a nurse as I paid for my doctor's visit.

"My name is Gracie."

"How old are you?"

"I am 3," and she holds up 3 fingers.

"This is my brother and he is 1, but almost 2."

"Where do you go to school?"

"I home school."

The nurse later commented how mature she was for her age. I smiled thinking how far we had come.

Hillary Crandall

Bible Doctrine

Audio, Books & Booklets

There is a 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 of our CDs have been digitally remastered and re-edited to produce a higher quality than the originals.

Books of the Bible

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
24 CDs 6020-41 \$65.00
MP3 (1 CD) 6020-55 \$12.50

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

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
MP3 (1 CD) 8140-55 \$12.50

FREE DOWNLOAD

Go to our website to download Mike's entire teaching on the book of Romans in MP3 - FREE!

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.

222 pg. Book 8140-10 \$8.00

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 \$26.00
10 CDs 2060-41 \$30.00

1 CORINTHIANS & COLOSSIANS

Two books on one MP3 CD.

MP3 (1 CD) 2060-55 \$12.50

EPHESIANS

Practical and scriptural Bible teaching encourage the believer. Chapter 5 includes one tape on husbands and one on wives.

10 Cassettes 2930-40 \$30.00

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 \$12.00
5 CDs 2050-41 \$18.00

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 \$21.00
6 CDs 3410-41 \$21.00

HEBREWS

This is a book that will bless you like no other. As you study the book of Hebrews, you will not only learn about faith, you will actually have faith built into you by the Word of God.

11 Cassettes 3800-40 \$36.00
12 CDs 3800-45 \$36.00
MP3 (1 CD) 3800-55 \$12.50

All audio versions read by Michael Pearl

Dear Pearls,

I have just finished listening to the Hebrews CDs. I have never heard such clear, concise teaching in my life. There wasn't a denominational agenda, just the life-changing gospel of Jesus Christ. I thank God for leading me to your website.

Carla

Bible Topics

AM I SAVED?

This three message set: Born Again, Am I Saved? and Repent, discusses the nature of repentance and faith as it pertains to salvation.

2 Cassettes 1310-40 \$10.00
2 CDs 1310-45 \$10.00

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 \$5.00

BALAAAM & HIS ASS

Insightful and entertaining story of Balaam and his ass.

1 Cassette 1405-40 \$5.00
1 CD 1405-45 \$5.00

BODY, SOUL, & SPIRIT

Five messages discussing the nature of man, temptation and sin, the sovereignty of God, and the free will of man. Illustrated diagram included.

3 Cassettes 1435-40 \$12.00
3 CDs 1435-45 \$12.00

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.

85 pg. Book 2330-10 \$5.00
8-99 copies each \$3.00
100+ copies each \$2.50
3 Cassettes 2330-40 \$12.00

CHRONOLOGICAL PROPHECIES

The infidel is silenced with this irrefutable testimony of the Bible's accuracy.

1 Cassette 2080-40 \$5.00
1 CDs 2080-45 \$5.00

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 \$5.00
1 CD 3730-45 \$5.00

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 \$5.00
1 CD 3610-45 \$5.00

GOD HATES SINNERS

It's time you knew the truth.

1 CD 3615-45 \$5.00

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.

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

RIGHTEOUSNESS

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

3 Cassettes 8135-40 \$12.00
4 CDs 8135-41 \$15.00

SABBATH REST

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

1 Cassette 8310-40 \$5.00
1 CD 8310-45 \$5.00

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 \$12.00
3 CDs 8320-41 \$12.00

SECURITY OF THE BELIEVER

You will be surprised at what you hear. The Church (at large) 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 \$10.00
3 CDs 8322-45 \$12.00

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.

3 Cassettes 8330-40 \$12.00
3 CDs 8330-45 \$12.00

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 \$24.00
9 CDs 8315-41 \$28.00

SIN NO MORE & SANCTIFICATION

Two books on one MP3 CD.

MP3 (1 CD) 8315-55 \$12.50

SONS OF GOD AND GIANTS

Little known and forgotten facts of early human history

1 Cassette 8336-40 \$5.00
1 CD 8336-45 \$5.00

WHEN FORGIVENESS IS A SIN

There are times when to forgive someone would be a grave sin.

1 Cassette 9580-40 \$5.00
1 CD 9580-45 \$5.00

Bible Doctrine

Booklets & Posters

Booklets

All booklets are \$1 each or 60¢ each for 25 or more of any one of the below. These are great resources for teachers to use in Bible classes.

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.

23 pg. Booklet 4650-10 \$1.00

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.

17 pg. Booklet 1410-10 \$1.00

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.

29 pg. Booklet 4530-10 \$1.00

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.

26 pg. Booklet 4960-10 \$1.00

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.

12 pg. Booklet 7030-10 \$1.00

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.

28 pg. Booklet 1420-10 \$1.00

Posters

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.

Poster 8130-10 \$12.00

Other Authors

WHICH VERSION IS THE BIBLE?

Author: Floyd Jones. Answers all your questions about Bible versions. Proof that the King James Bible is the perfect Word of God to the English-speaking people.

Book 9510-10 \$10.00

THE OTHER SIDE OF CALVINISM

Author: Laurence M. Vance, Ph.D. This is a detailed historical examination and critical biblical analysis of Calvinism. Extensively documented from Calvinistic authorities, this book presents the other side to the over 400-year-old debate of the doctrines of Calvinism. Mike Pearl states, "This is the best book exposing the heresies of Calvinism. If you are a Bible believer concerned about TRUTH, this is a 'must-read.'" Hard bound book of 788 pages.

Book 6610-00 \$19.50

Tracts

GOD MADE JESUS TO BE SIN

Illustrated Gospel tract. Spread the Good Word of salvation. The first 200 are free upon request, plus \$2.00 postage.

DIOS HIZO A JESÚS PECADO

Panfletos ilustrados del Evangelico. Comparta la buena palabra de la salvación. Los primeros 200 son gratis enseguida sean pedidos, más \$2.00 por el envío postal.



THE JOY OF TRAINING

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 \$26.00
3 VHS 4910-70 \$26.00

TO TRAIN UP A CHILD

From successful parents, learn how to train up your children rather than discipline them up. With humor and real-life examples, this book shows you how to train your children before the need to discipline arises. Be done with corrective discipline; make them allies rather than adversaries. The stress will be gone and your obedient children will praise you.

Book 8610-10 \$5.00
 8-99 copies each \$3.00
 100+ copies each \$2.50
3 Cassettes 8610-40 \$12.00

Spanish Translation

Book 8610-12 \$5.00
 8-99 copies each \$3.00
 100+ copies each \$2.50
5 CDs 8610-40 \$18.00

NO GREATER JOY - VOL. 1

Reprints of the first two years of No Greater Joy articles. Covers the subjects of sibling rivalry, pouting, bad attitudes, and much more.

Book 6230-10 \$5.00
 8-99 copies each \$3.00
 100+ copies each \$2.50
3 Cassettes 6230-40 \$12.00

NO GREATER JOY - VOL. 2

Let your children listen to great bedtime stories. Covers the subjects of rowdy boys, homeschooling, grief, and much more.

Book 6235-10 \$5.00
 8-99 copies each \$3.00
 100+ copies each \$2.50
3 Cassettes 6235-40 \$12.00

NO GREATER JOY - VOL. 3

Children learn wisdom and enjoy listening to the stories as you read to them volumes 1, 2, and 3. Covers the subjects of marriage relationships and how they affect children, joy, much more.

Book 6240-10 \$5.00
 8-99 copies each \$3.00
 100+ copies each \$2.50
3 Cassettes 6240-40 \$12.00

FOUR BOOK SET

Get the *No Greater Joy Series* and *To Train Up a Child* in this four book set. This is a perfect gift for friends or anyone who is seeking help in parenting.

4 Book Set 3200-00 \$12.00

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

MY FAVORITE HOMESCHOOLING IDEAS

Debi Pearl discusses her best homeschooling ideas. 20-plus years of accumulated wisdom. This tape can remove your burden. It is our best-selling cassette!

1 Cassette 6170-40 \$5.00
1 CD 6170-45 \$5.00

REBEKAH'S DIARY

Rebekah Pearl, (now Rebekah Anast) 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.

106 pg. Book 7810-10 \$5.00
 8-99 copies each \$3.00
 100+ copies each \$2.50

STARTING OVER

The basic message, "Okay, I know I've messed up in child training, now what do I do?"

1 Cassette 8338-40 \$5.00
1 CD 8338-45 \$5.00

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 \$8.00

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 \$5.00

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 tape you will ever hear.

1 Cassette 1010-40 \$5.00
1 CD 1010-45 \$5.00

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 \$8.00

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

Marriage Resources

CREATED TO BE HIS HELP MEET

What God is doing through this new book is amazing! We are receiving thousands of letters from people giving testimony to marriages restored and made new. Pastors, bookstores, and teachers are ordering and reordering cases. 296 Pages.



Book 2020-10 \$12.00

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Now receive 2 extra books FREE with each case!

FOR WOMEN ONLY

This book by Shaunti Feldhahn is based on surveys. It was a real eye-opener. Michael says it will help women understand men's thoughts and struggles.

Book 3210-10 \$8.50

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.

82 pg. Book 4125-10 \$5.00

8-99 copies each \$3.00
100+ copies each \$2.50

MARRIAGE GOD'S WAY

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 DVDs 4140-75 \$18.00

2 VHS 4140-70 \$18.00

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 \$5.00

PANEL OF FIVE (LADIES)

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 \$5.00

YOUNG ADULTS & MARRIAGE

This message, spoken by Michael Pearl in California, was given to help parents and their young adult children make wise decisions concerning marriage. It has the story of all five of our children finding their mates.

1 Cassette 9810-40 \$5.00

1 CD 9810-45 \$5.00

Dear Mr. & Mrs. Pearl,

I just finished reading Created To Be His Help Meet. What a change it has made in my marriage! It is amazing how far off the world is and how many Christians follow suit from God's ideal marriage. I have been married for 28 years and many of those years were turbulent and painful. Now we are falling in love all over again; this time we have the blessings of God as I submit to his will and ways. I now realize my husband was trying to love me and lead but I thought I knew how to do it better. I recognize how much he really loves me and when I accept that love it is fulfilling for both of us. I now understand his physical needs also. Thank you so much for writing in such a clear and practical way on how to be a help meet.

Sincerely Karlene

Dear Debi,

Thank you for Created to be His Help Meet. It helped me see where I went wrong on my part in my marriage many years ago which finally unraveled with adultery and divorce. During the bad times I thought, "Oh, it would be so peaceful if he weren't here." Having been divorced now for many years, I have come to the conclusion that I would rather be in a less-than-desirable marriage situation than to have the dubious peace of living alone and managing my own life. There is something good, almost indefinable, but surely present when the man is in the home, whether he is a good man, a jerk, or something in between. And if one has the Word of God and a good reminder of God's plan for a wife as is in "Created," why, wonderful things are possible! A relative recently went through a terrible time of family trouble – adultery, drunkenness, porn. It caused much heartache, sorrow, and damage to the wife and children. It would have been easy to encourage separation, even divorce. But I remembered my own present estate. With this in mind, I encouraged the wife in steadfastness in what God says to wives. Great wisdom was needed at times but God was faithful to give it to the wife when asked. Things are looking up. God is working.

I have been on both sides, and I would encourage you ladies in what you feel are less-than-perfect marriages, even bad ones, to steadfastly obey God's directions to wives, trusting him. Make his words to wives and His promises your heart's daily bread.

SuLynne

Sobering Issues

A friend of the ministry answers:

Dear Debi,

I have truly enjoyed your book *Created to Be His Help Meet*. It has been a blessing to me and many of my friends. I have given it to many ladies, and some have questions about the way you put things. Some ladies take exception to the story of the lady who wears the tight skirt and the man's reaction. They say, "She makes it sound like Lydia (Bathsheba) is responsible for his actions. Why didn't the young man go for counselling? I don't believe a normal young man has a constant, day to day sexual struggle against visual temptation. They don't have to regardless of how a girl is dressed. This sounds too much like "If you dress like that, you are just asking to be raped."

My husband downloads your messages, and he and his boss listen to them at work. He loves his job.

Leslie

Response:

A woman who does not believe a young man struggles daily against visual temptation is simple. Go look up "simple" in a KJV Bible to see what God thinks of "simple" people. I'll go ahead and explain from my perspective, of once being sunk in the mire of visual temptation. A man's eyes are drawn to pleasing shapes: the curves of a Corvette (1971 Stingray, being my favorite), the flowing stream as it goes around a bend, or the hips revealed by a tight clothes, tight enough to reveal whether the "lines" are there or not.

As a saved family man, I must adhere to the Bible command to entreat or regard "*the younger [women] as sisters, with all purity*" (1 Timothy 5:2), even if those sisters are dressed in a way that catches my eye. If I give in to the temptations based on what I see, I am guilty of sinning. However, you women who think you

are absolved from responsibility in this area are wrong. Why make it difficult for me and your brothers? Why not love me as a brother in Christ and dress in a way that does not make me conscious of what I used to do and be? Mike has commented in the past about alcoholics who get saved. He admonishes them to stay away from places like bars, because the flesh has been conditioned to enjoy alcohol's powers. Likewise, as a former porn reader, porn movie viewer who liked self-gratification to satisfy his wild drive, I don't want to see those curves. I keep my eyes up. My wife edits magazines we get (like *Popular Mechanics*) which have those kinds of pictures, before I or my sons get to look at them, and that's the way I want it.

I tell my boys about the dangers of a woman who dresses like "Lydia." My son, 6 years old, sees women in public and observes how they dress.

"Daddy, is that a 'strange lady?'" He's referring to the "strange woman" of Proverbs 7. I answer, "I don't know if she is, but she certainly dresses like one." And we have seen them at "church." Do you want my son to look at you and think of you as a "strange lady"? How about your daughter, would my sons think she is strange? My sons won't marry a woman who doesn't respect a man's propensity to visual temptation. They'll marry a woman who reveals herself to them and them only.

My daughters won't dress like a strange woman either. Mine, at only 9 years old, knows that she should keep her body from a man's eyes, reserving it for her future husband. In the grocery store one day, when my daughter was wearing a skirt that flowed around her ankles, she heard another little girl (dressed in shorts) point to my daughter and comment to her own mother, "Look, Mom, she's beautiful!" Why not dress beautifully rather than like a slut? You should get out of your ignorance before your dinner guest looks at you or your daughter then visits the bathroom. Well, that's probably already happened.

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

On the Cover: Gracie Brand waters the flowers in Mama Pearl's herb garden

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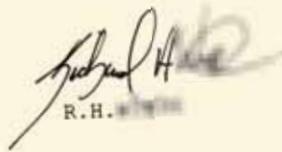
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IN REPLY REFER TO
1000
CHAP
3 Apr 06

From: Battalion Chaplain, 2d Battalion, 11th Marines
To: No Greater Joy Ministries

Subj: LETTER OF APPRECIATION

1. As a military chaplain, God has put me in a unique place to minister to Marines and Sailors.
2. The divorce rate for first enlistment Marines and Sailors is 75%. Your gifts will prove to be a valuable resource of strength and truth to so many in need.
3. On a weekly basis I counsel with couples who are experiencing problems, but you have provided me tools that will directly impact the lives of military families. Thank you for being a blessing to me, my family, and especially to the Marines and Sailors who are serving their country during these turbulent times. Only in heaven will we know how much our lives have changed the people He has brought our way. I pray that God will continue to use everyone at No Greater Joy Ministries as vessels fit for the Master's use.


R.H. Hester

Send us the name and address of an active military and we'll send them a free packet of our best materials!



Sign up at our website for email notification of the online release of our latest newsletter.

WEBSITE ADDRESS: WWW.NOGREATERJOY.ORG

No Greater Joy Ministries, Inc. *July - Aug 2006*
1000 Pearl Road
Pleasantville, TN 37033

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