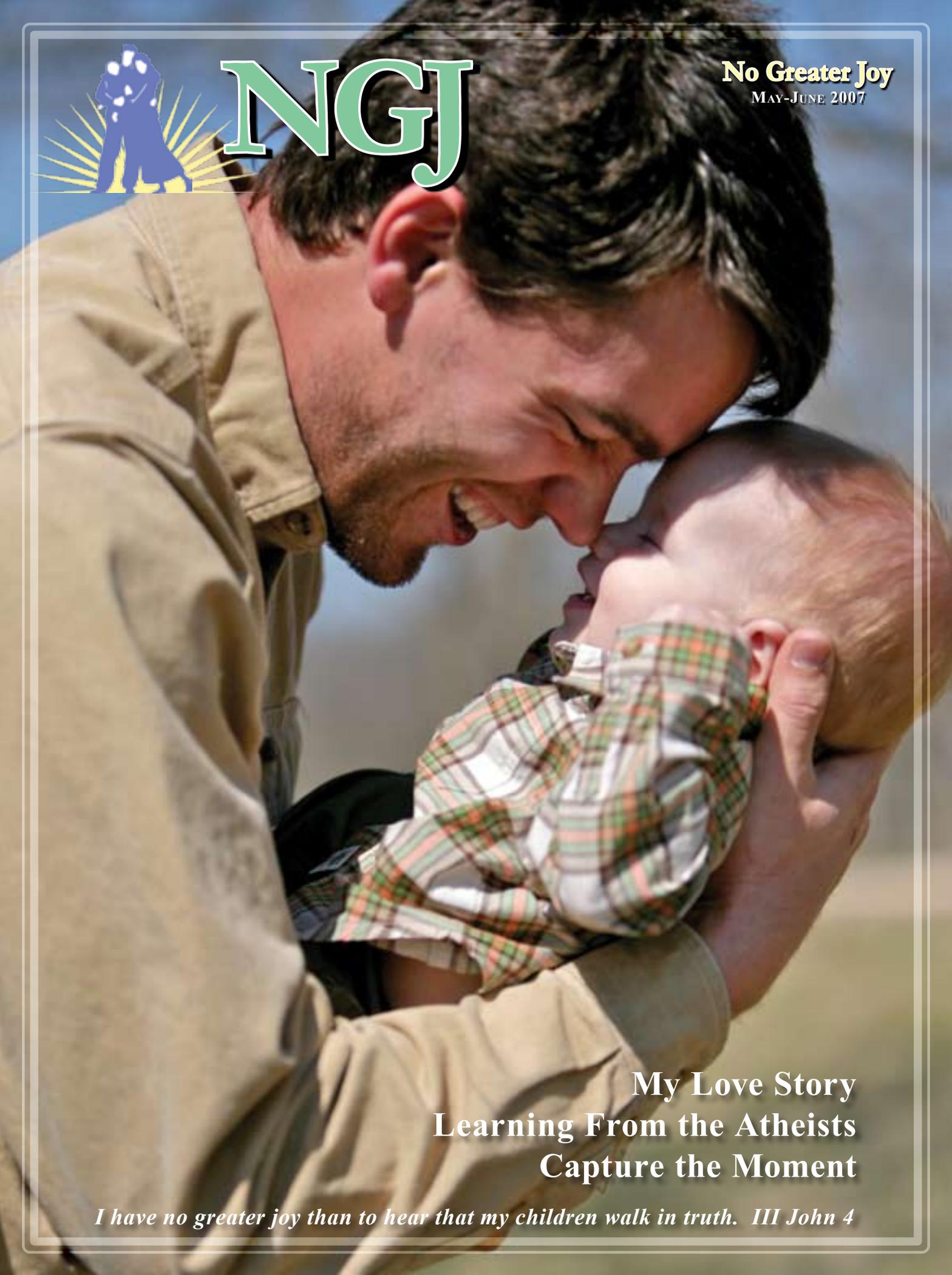




NGJ

No Greater Joy
MAY-JUNE 2007



My Love Story
Learning From the Atheists
Capture the Moment

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



My Love Story

by Shalom Brand



Every girl I know who has a desire to find a good man and raise a family has the same fear. Will I find the right one? Is this the one, or what about him? That guy is nice, too. A lot of girls make a list of what they want, or what they think they need. I can tell you, we girls don't have a clue as to what we really need.

When I was at the end of my nineteenth year, I met the man whom I would come to love and call My Man, but at that time, I could not have picked him out in a group of five. He was just one of all the other guys who hung around our community. It was over a year later that I would come to see him as the man for me.

From the time I was quite young, I knew that I would need lots of wisdom, and my parents' guidance, in choosing the man to whom I would say "yes." I am a very gullible person. I still remember falling for the line, "Did you know that the word "gullible" is not in the dictionary?" My brothers would never leave me alone, thoroughly loving to trick me and lead me on. It was this trait that eventually caused me to pray for wisdom and be totally open to counsel.

There was a steady stream of young men asking for my hand in marriage, and I would have most likely fallen for some of them if my parents had not had the wisdom to protect me, or if I had not gained the wisdom to obey them. My parents knew there was only one man out there good enough for their girl, and they were going to make sure I found him.

Along about this time, my dad held a one-week men's Bible and missions training camp. All of us girls helped with the cooking. Justin Brand was there among the rest of the young men for that week. It was the first

time we had met, even though I cannot really remember him from that week. His parents had asked him to go to this Bible camp, and he had found work excuses not to go, until the man he worked for decided to take the week off. Since he couldn't work that week, he decided to get in his truck and come on down to check it all out. He was only nineteen, and just a boy at heart. His parents had told him that the Pearls had a daughter about his age and had hinted for him to check me out. He did, and he loved me from that brief beginning.

That week, a group of men, Justin among them, signed up to go on a mission trip to Thailand. My brother was among them on the same mission trip, so Justin and Gabe became friends. Justin did not see me again until a few months later at a seminar near his church. His parents came also, hoping to meet me, because Justin had gone home and told them that he was going to marry me. At the seminar, my Dad, being funny, told the crowd of young men that he was taking applications for his daughters' hands in marriage. Justin, as soon as the meeting was over, came running back to the book table to fill out an application. We all thought it was funny. Time passed.

My brother, Gabriel was planning a young people's June weekend camp, and he invited Justin and his brother to come down for it. They lived a couple hours from us. The next few months, Justin found one reason or the other to come down to visit. He worked in the children's ministry

for his church. At that time, my sister and I were making puppets to use as a ministry tool, so he would use that as an excuse to come and borrow the puppets to use in his ministry. He got to know my family during that time.

I worked long hours and would come home tired and really never thought about him as a potential husband. I actually did not know a lot about him, but I knew by this time that he liked me a lot, because my brothers were always laughing at how obviously in love he was.

A whole year passed, and he came back for the June camp. It was on my parents' property, and all of the girls stayed at their house; the guys slept on the grounds around the creek. We had lots of activities during the day, including volleyball, hiking, swimming, and canoeing. Every chance Justin had, he was right there telling me what he wanted out of life, and what his goals were. I found it cute that he was so persistent; most guys would have given up. But he knew what he wanted, and he was determined to keep trying.

I had always prayed for wisdom so that when the right man came along, I would just know God's will. I also knew that when my parents finally said "Yes" to someone, that meant something, for they had said "No" to several good, godly men. My dad does not value what most men value. He is not impressed with appearances, money, schooling, houses, jobs, family ties, future possibilities, etc. I cannot explain to you exactly what it is that my dad looked for in a man, but I knew, without a doubt, that I could trust him to make a wise decision. I had been praying for some understanding, and I knew that God wanted me to have a man who

would love me as much as "He so loved me."

It was at the end of the camp week, while I was visiting my brother and just getting ready to leave, that Justin pulled up in Gabriel's driveway. Justin had just returned from dropping someone off at the airport. I later learned he had called his parents and told them that he was going to talk to me about getting to know me, with the idea of marriage in mind. If I said "Yes," he was going to stay the weekend, otherwise he was coming home.

Well, it was about ten o'clock at night, and I was in the car ready to leave when Justin came flying out of his truck and said, "I need to talk to you." I still had no intention or interest at this time to get to know him, but said I would walk with him so he could talk. He talked and talked about everything he could think of. I had always thought I would marry someone who was in a ministry. But as he talked, he kept saying, "My family will be my ministry, no matter what I do or where I go; they will come first. My children will know that they mean the world to me. If I lose one of them, then I will lose my heart." He said this with tears in his eyes.

At that moment, God gave me peace in my heart about this persistent young man, and I knew that he was God's man for me. If he loved his children, then he would always do what was right for them and me. Nothing else really mattered. I didn't know his parents, and I had never really known what he did for a living. He still lived at home, and he had not really thought much about the future, except that he wanted to marry me, and have children who walked with the Lord. So, after about an hour of him talking with me, I told him, "If my dad says 'yes' then I say 'yes'."



He turned to me and started to pray and thank God for his blessing, asking God to bless us as we were seeking to do his will. He reached out and took my hand as he prayed, and I knew then that I would be marrying this man. God had put complete peace in my heart.

The next morning, Justin showed up at the house before Dad was awake and waited outside for him to come out. I do not know what was said, but all of us girls were watching from the herb garden. After about two minutes, Justin came running down the hill yelling “Yes!” It was such a fun day! He spent the weekend hanging out with me, and the family. I shocked him by introducing him to my grandparents as “My Man.” It shocked them too, because two days earlier I had no thought of having a man, and now I was preparing to marry him.

God is such a Big God, and he likes to bless those who want his will and seek after him. Three weeks later we were engaged. Two months after that, we were married. We will have been married five years this coming September 2007, and I can tell you honestly that every moment has been a wonderful blessing. God knows what he is doing. All I had to do was trust him. 

“Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.”
Proverbs 3: 5 & 6



Justin, Shalom and Gracie Brand.
Baby number 2 is on the way.

God is Changing Marriages!

*I wanted to share a “Created to be His Help Meet” story. Almost two years ago, my husband gutted our master bathroom. It is still not finished (and no sign of finishing soon). And all 4 of us (and a toddler) share our other bathroom. We have 2 older boys who are messy, and I really detest sitting on a wet toilet seat if I forget to check! But, because of the influence of your book, I have determined never to say anything to my husband about it. My reward came the other night at a party we were at with his co-workers. I overheard him (he didn’t know I could hear, as I was in another room) telling his boss, maybe bragging to his boss, about how I never nag him about finishing it, even though he knows I hate it. His boss was so impressed! I felt 10 feet high after hearing that!! Sincerely,
Jamie*

*Dear Debi,
I am in utter amazement at the incredible exactness in which you described a marriage with a steady husband. Yes, shame on*

*me...it has taken me 26 years to truly admire my steady husband. Thank you for your wonderful insight. It has been a pleasure to read helpful information rather than a lot of fluff!
May God richly bless you,
Nancy*

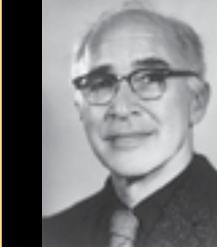
*A year ago, I received Created to be His Help Meet from a wonderful lady. I could not afford the book at the time. She gave it to me for free. Little did I know how great a gift she was giving me. It saved my marriage, a marriage that had bitten the dust!
Thank you for the work you do for Him,
Heidi*

*The “Created to be His Help Meet” saved our marriage. We teach at a Bible School in the jungle, and I jumped for joy when I found this in Spanish! Thank you, Thank you!!
Jennifer*

*We are starting our Book study on Help Meet tomorrow and we bought a case of “Created” and The Help Meet’s Journey Workbooks....oh, the joy. Wow! We are all excited as we have already seen several marriages completely changed by the power of the Word through this book.
Linda*



Marriage Resources. See page 27 for description.



Learning from the **ATHEISTS**

| *by Michael Pearl* |



Over a period of 50 years, I have spoken with many professing atheists and agnostics. I always find the encounter most interesting. I must say that I am more pleased when a man or woman boldly professes to disbelieve in God than when someone glibly claims to believe. I like talking to the atheists or agnostic. They are thinking. They have taken a position and boldly testify. They have reasons. I want to hear their reasons. When anyone claims to believe anything, he has made himself vulnerable. He has thrown his core beliefs into the public area for examination. So examine them we will.



Most people think the way to god is through religion. Not so. On the contrary, getting to god through religion is like getting to history through a hollywood production. All religions are based on a true story, with a whole lot of liberty taken with the facts and a good deal of imagination to make it interesting.

Lazy intellectuals are fond of saying that all religions and philosophies are just different roads leading to the same place. Only in fairy tales do all roads lead to the same place. Religions differ, and things different are not the same. A Texas map cannot guide you to Chicago, Illinois. If all religions lead to the same place, then sincere rejection of all religion will lead to that same place as well. . . . Wherever that place is. So why bother?

As different and confusing as religions are, they all have one thing in common—their starting point—the correct assumption that all of us should be good—morally good, socially good, ethically good, good husbands, good wives, good neighbors, good in our business practices, etc.. Even nonreligious philosophers and scientific intellectuals are unintentionally in agreement with religion on this foundational principle—love and justice are good; selfishness and hate are wrong.

It is a point of truth, profound in its implications, that no society has ever debated which end of the moral spectrum is to be extolled and which is to be condemned. No people at any time in history have ever gotten it backward. It is a basic assumption of the human psyche that it is our duty to love,

have mercy, be kind, honest, just, and all those human character traits that we have universally recognized as good. There is no confusion on this point. It is the starting point and deciding factor for nearly every argument on every subject, no matter one's philosophical or religious profession. Both sides of any debate appeal to an assumed standard of ethics to validate their conclusions.

You may think that there are some evil men who have a reversed moral worldview, but it is not so. I have been to prisons to visit the inmates over 850 times. I have spoken to the worst of the lot, and I have never known one to pull out a picture of his son or daughter and brag on those qualities we all know as evil. The most defiled devil of a criminal is proud of any true virtues among his family members. As bad as they come, I have never known one to get his moral perspective backward; good is always good, and evil is always evil, even when a man's passions provoke him to consistently choose the evil.

Atheists believe—or so they claim

Even the atheist or philosophical skeptic must resort to moral presuppositions as a starting point for his argument against the existence of God. He reasons that any god worthy of the name would have to be all good and all powerful. He reasons further that a good and powerful god would be obligated by the very nature of goodness to exercise his unlimited power to stop evil and to eliminate human suffering. Therefore, since suffering and evil do exist, and there is no indication of any god doing anything about it, there must not be a god. Given the evidence he has considered acceptable,

Some of the major religions of the world represented above: Shinto, Buddhism, Islam, Taoism, and Judaism

his point seems well taken; would not a good human father do all that was within his power to relieve the suffering of his children, if he were able? How much more so should an all powerful god do likewise? In the atheist's thinking, if there is a god responsible for all this mess, he would have to be evil; but an evil god is unthinkable. Yet, he sees no signs of a good god doing what a good god should, so he has condemned god to non-existence for not acting as he ought.

Pigs in space

It has often been noted that the atheist's position divests man of meaning. If, indeed, there is no god, if we are a chemical accident, and our thoughts are the random formations of temporary matter, then our eventual or immediate extinction will be of no more consequence than the composting of a potato peel. If we are but organisms, we should stop imposing moral boundaries upon our actions. Our only law should be that of expediency; "Thou shalt not do anything that diminishes personal pleasure." We should be thankful to know that when we are dead we are dead, and that's the end of it. So having been freed from foolish faith, we can get on with being the pigs we are, no longer having to constrain our animal natures. The concept that there might be a judgment day has been limiting the full expression of our glorious lusts. The conclusion that must be drawn from the atheist's position is that the child molester is not sick or evil; he is liberated. There is nothing wrong and nothing right—no good or evil—no better or worse, except in the sensations of the moment.

The constraints of belief

One's core worldview will indeed influence his actions. A believer's actions are influenced by his

conviction that he will one day stand before God and be judged for every deed done and every word spoken. He is also motivated by a concern for the eternal well-being of all. Not so the atheists. Death ends the illusions of life, with vast nothingness to follow. If it is done in secret and he gets away with it, all well and good! If he really applies his atheism accurately and consistently, the only thing that would constrain his conduct would be a concern for how his present actions will affect future gratification. If he actually lived his declared worldview, his lusts would run unchecked. If he were bold, with no conscience to constrain him, he could be a monster—like some of the celebrated mass murderers, rapists, and sex addicts we read about.

But the average atheist is not a monster. He is just like the rest of us; he loves his children with the same fervency and trains them to be good. He finds pleasure in music and art, approves of the good and lovely, and condemns the hateful and vulgar. He tries to make the world a better place, and shows an average amount of compassion.

When confronted with the suggestion that his atheism makes him a bad person, he will point out that the quality of his life is not diminished by his rejection of God. To the contrary, comparing himself to some of the religious people he knows, his unbelief has liberated him from the hypocrisy and bigotry he sees in fanatics. In other words, in his estimation, his atheism has made him a better person—a more righteous person, more of what we humans ought to be

according to the universal standards of goodness. Observation demonstrates that in individual cases he is correct. For obvious reasons, a non judgmental, "live and let live" philosophy doesn't generate much offense.

Why the disconnect?

I am not suggesting that in practice the atheist is shallow and empty—quite the contrary; he is no less a caring human than the next man. The big question is why doesn't he live his profession? Why this disconnect between his philosophy of meaninglessness and his meaningful life? How is it that, in contradiction to his beliefs, he shares a moral perspective with the most fervent religionists? He is compelled from within, by an unnamed force, to conform to a righteous standard. This underlying moral necessity cannot be explained by his philosophy. He judges God for not being good; and he judges Christians for being hypocrites; he preaches righteousness in the political arena, and supports governmental policy in conformity to his assumed code of conduct. Where did he get that set of laws by which he boldly judges God's character and calls religious people hypocrites? He feels no need to justify his moral presuppositions. He just assumes that all



Sky photo: Holger Dieterich, ssc.hu

moral agents should act in a certain manner if they are to be respected. He is just as quick as the religious person to express his intolerance of ideas contrary to what he thinks is right.

I accuse the atheist of being a reverse hypocrite. He espouses a doctrine of meaninglessness and then lives as if there is meaning to life. He claims there is no one to judge our actions, yet he is quick to make judgments, assign blame, and express vindictiveness for evil. Here we have an amazing thing: a man professing to believe there is no God, yet believing exactly as God does, exactly as believers in God do. He acts and believes precisely as one would if he were indeed created in God's image. He believes there is an unchallengeable, all pervasive standard by which all free-will actions are to be judged. How can that be so, unless it is stamped on his human nature—on all human nature—by God himself?

Given the universality of this innate moral instinct, and the obvious value we place on righteousness, we cannot but conclude that this psychological phenomenon is not acquired knowledge; rather, it is an essential part of our human nature to know right from wrong and to value the good and wholesome and to condemn the evil.

Unbiased witness

Therefore, I call the atheist to take the stand as star witness on behalf of the Creator. His credibility as a witness for God is established by the fact that he has gone on record as not being in sympathy with belief in God. Yet, try as he may to divest himself of a Creator, his conscience testifies that he is indeed the creation of a personal God. By ruling out the lawgiver, he should have ruled out the law as well, but the Creator has so endued our natures

with moral principles that we cannot but assume the necessity of the law, even if we deny the lawgiver. It is as though we are all recipients of a telepathic message from beyond—encounters of the first kind.

My contention is that, despite his outward profession of unbelief, the atheist is exactly as we would expect him to be if he is in fact the creation of a loving and concerned god. The moral nature he shares with every other member of the human race indicates a hardwired psyche that cannot be accounted for other than that he, too, is the product of an intelligent and concerned Creator. To deny the existence of a lawgiver is to deny your own nature—which is an impossibility, except among the mentally insane.

Universal values

Again, the issue is not the atheist; it is what he reminds us about human nature—and that, apart from religion. His condemnation of God reveals his true values. He has rightly supposed that righteousness is more than static conformity to a standard of conduct. That is, goodness is more than just avoiding doing something evil. Righteousness should be proactive. When one is aware of a need and has the power to address it, true goodness must act, even at one's own discomfort. He faults God for his apparent aloof righteousness, i.e., his remaining uninvolved. Furthermore, the atheist faults himself for his moral failures, and he faults others when they are evil or selfish or liars or drunks, or when they are hurtful and cruel.

The atheist is right about good and evil, about our duty, our obligation to serve others—to “love our neighbor as ourselves.” Jesus said this was the first and greatest commandment, that all the law was found in that one commandment,

for he said, “Love never works ill to his neighbor; love is the fulfilling of the law.” The atheist and Jesus agree. The consciences of all men agree with the universal laws of righteousness, which laws are found recorded in philosophical and religious writings, and perfectly defined in the Bible.

The salient truth is not that the atheist has a good case against a god, but that he has established a good case against himself. For when he thunders down condemnation and concludes that any god at all should not exist, he has given us an example of how he expects the worthy to respond to the unworthy.

The atheist's judgment works both ways. What he holds true of God is true for himself, as well. Once a man has called another man a liar, he will never be able to plead ignorant of the law “Do not lie”, nor will he be able to claim that it is an unjust law. The law of the conscience cuts in both directions, and so does condemnation. According to the atheist's code of morality, if a person is not good, he doesn't deserve to exist. Could it be that the atheist and God are in agreement here? The question is, which one has the right to exist? Which one has acted wisely and benevolently, and which has acted in self interest? The atheist is sure of his conclusions. So is God. This difference in opinion will be resolved in the first day of eternity.

Resident Judge

The principal lesson we have learned from the atheists is that we don't need any religion to tell us right from wrong, good from evil. And regardless of all the good things we have done and the bad things we could have done, but didn't, there have been occasions when we have failed to live up to those standards we hold to be good and true. I am



McGill University

not talking about failing in religion, but about failing in life, our life, the way we think it should be lived. I am not talking about someone condemning you, but about you condemning yourself.

You and I, just like the atheists, have, at some time or another, been unkind and mean-spirited. We have hurt others with our anger and selfishness, even the people we love. We have misused our bodies in food or substance abuse—that is, according to our standards. And, even when we didn't do a foul deed, we had foul thoughts that we are glad no one knows about. We are ashamed, just as much as the atheists are. We share something with the atheists and the rest of humanity, the thing that stimulates so much religion; we know ourselves to be guilty of breaking the common rules of human nature, rightly suspecting that those rules represent God's standards as well. The proof of that charge is that you are uncomfortable with the idea of possibly meeting a holy God and having to account for your life. In short, if there is a heaven and a hell, at the very least, you are not at all sure you will get a passing grade.

You believe, just as do all religions and most philosophies—as

the atheists do—that humanity is broken and in need of fixing.

Sincerity

Many people readily admit to their need before God, but when confronted with the suggestion that one religion or another may be the answer, they are not comfortable making a commitment to any one religion—understandably so. So, they fall back on the only hope that is left to them, a resignation expressed in the often said words, “It really doesn't matter what you believe as long as you are sincere and do the best you can.” That is not a thoughtful position, grounded in sound reasoning; it is the default position, provoked by confusion and uncertainty. It is a defense against further consideration, a confession of consternation. Would sincerity be enough to fix a computer, or would repairing it require precise action? Is the condition of the human soul so inconsequential that wishful thinking and good-hearted hope will cure our broken condition? Sincerity is not even enough in personal relationships and in a doctor's diagnosis. How then will it remove guilt and cause us to do as we ought?

No doubt, like nearly everyone, you consider yourself to have been sincere all your life, but it has

not proven enough to purge your conscience of your sense of moral failure or to give you the power to do what you know you ought. It is your very sincerity that causes your guilt. When you are honest with yourself—which is sincerity—you know that you have failed to be all that you could have been, all that you should be. You sincerely know that you are a sinful human being. Don't we all?

Don't judge me

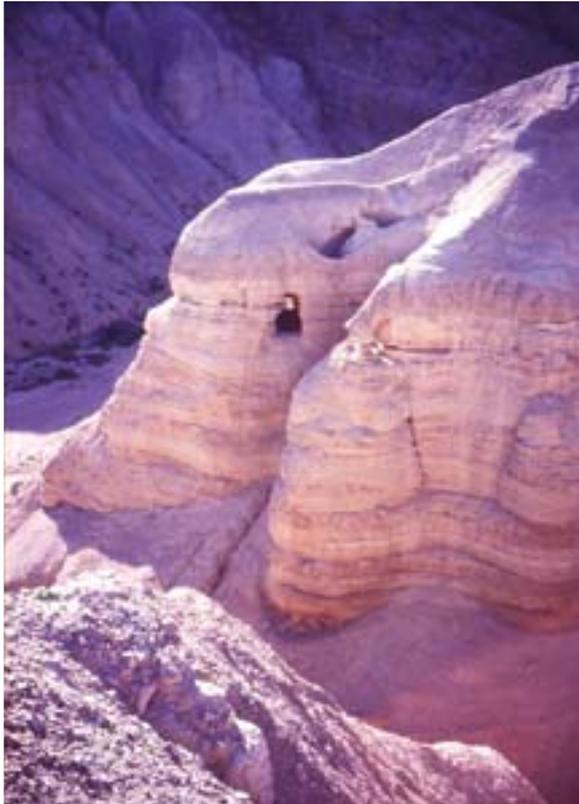
We resent other people judging us. So we judge them for judging us, because their judgment seems unkind. Yes, we are all judges—unavoidably so. For we constantly place a moral value on everything that is said or done, whether about ourselves or about others. There is a resident divine judge in each of us, and we have made ourselves the defendant. We stand self-accused of falling short of our moral duty as human beings. There is a word for this, it is called conscience. The conscience is the mind knowing itself and placing a value, one way or the other, on personal conduct and character. Conscience is to the soul what pain sensors are to the body—a warning from within that the soul is suffering damage. A man is unaware of this function of his soul until he defiles himself with evil thoughts or deeds, and then his conscience comes roaring out with punishing accusations. If left unattended, guilt becomes a psychological complex, and the soul grows sick with anxiety.

Relief from religion

I don't blame you for not trusting your eternal soul to any religion on the face of this earth. When you need rain from heaven, “holy water” sprinkled on you by another mortal man is an insult to your intelligence. When you need God's forgiveness, kneeling before or

confessing to another sinner is such a cheap substitute. When you need righteousness, having someone tell you that if you join their institutionalized religion, God will give you an inside pass on judgment day, that is a deal too hard to swallow.

down the aisle. I have nothing for you to join, but I do know of a cure for all that ails your soul and body. It's free. It's sensible, and it works. Read on and laugh with delight. I have been enjoying the trip for fifty years.



Caves at Qumran where the Dead Sea Scrolls were discovered.



Matthew 5:8 from the Syriac translation.

So what is left? Do the best you can and hope for the best? Granted, that is how most people cope, like men blindfolded, negotiating a dangerous, narrow mountain trail. But I didn't write all this just to affirm our universal hopelessness. There is something that has satisfied the longings of the human heart over the past 6000 years. It is not religious, and you don't have to go to a church or synagogue or temple. You don't have to be a fanatic or go to a Billy Graham crusade and walk

were nothing less than the words of God, as the prophets claimed. As the books are printed today, they are 39 in number. Jews call them the Tenach, and Christians call them The Old Testament. They were written approximately between 1500 B.C. and 400 B.C.

In the mid-first century, the disciples of Jesus Christ wrote an additional 27 books in Greek and Aramaic, which they declared were nothing less than the inspired words of God. As a collection, they

are called The New Testament. The key historical books of this collection were all written before A.D. 67. This Hebrew, Greek and Aramaic collection (Old and New Testament together) of 66 books, called The Holy Bible, was penned over a period of at least 1600 years by forty different human authors, on three different continents, and maintains a beautiful continuity as if it were written by one brilliant author. The old King James Bible is the only English version that is entirely faithful to the original autographs.

Who wrote it?

Many people have brushed the Bible aside with the remark that the Bible is just a book written by men, full of contradictions and errors. Without any evidence to that effect, they boldly assert that the stories were passed down from mouth to mouth until they were finally written down, and, since being written, have been altered from time to time.

There has been a great deal of paper used up trying to prove that the Bible was written much later than it alleges. Many hours of TV have been devoted to "specials" on the Bible, suggesting that the Bible is of much later origin than it claims for itself. A lot of money has been spent to discredit its historical dating. Why? Because the Bible records many detailed and perfectly accurate prophecies which testify that their authorship must surely be divine.

There are hundreds of prophecies, including the rise and fall of kingdoms, with facts and particulars that read like history written after the fact. Daniel 11, written in the 6th century B.C., gives an amazingly thorough account of Alexander's Grecian kingdom, divided first into four and then two competing

The Book

We have in our possession an ancient book called "The Holy Bible." There is a preponderance of evidence that the Bible is the words of God to man. It contains the information you need to make sense of the world, of yourself, and to know God. For that reason, I know that my first responsibility is to prove to you that the Bible is of divine origin and worthy of your confidence. I do not recommend blind faith. If I cannot convince your intellect that the Bible is God's word, then I have no grounds for telling you anything with any certainty. In the space allotted, I cannot be as thorough as I would like to be, but I can give you an exciting window that may stimulate you to further study.

Ancient Israel believed that the Hebrew books they received from their prophets were nothing less than the words of God, as the prophets claimed. As the books are printed today, they are 39 in number. Jews call them the Tenach, and Christians call them The Old Testament. They were written approximately between 1500 B.C. and 400 B.C.

In the mid-first century, the disciples of Jesus Christ wrote an additional 27 books in Greek and Aramaic, which they declared were nothing less than the inspired words of God. As a collection, they

factions after his death. It predicts details of the struggle between the Ptolemy and Seleucid empires for a period of 160 years, right down to the advent of the Roman Empire. That is why the skeptics used to claim that the book of Daniel could not have been written before 164 B.C., but now we have proof of a much earlier writing yet.

The prophet Isaiah (44:28) gave the name of a king not yet born and of a kingdom not yet instituted and of an event that would not take place for another 150 years. He predicted that a king named Cyrus would commission the rebuilding of the temple in Jerusalem. Cyrus did come to the throne in Persia, and in the first year of his reign in 538, he issued a decree that the temple in Jerusalem should be rebuilt. (See: 2 Chronicles 36:22—Ezra 1:1-3. This prophecy described in the Bible is confirmed by the discovery of a Babylonian inscription.)

And Cyrus' timing was impeccable, for Jeremiah (29:10) had predicted that Israel would be carried into captivity by Babylon and would remain there for 70 years (2 Chronicles 36:21; Daniel 9:2, 25), after which they would return, bringing the temple vessels back with them. So while Israel was in captivity, Persia conquered Babylon, and, amazingly, the first year of Cyrus was the 70th year of Israel's captivity. King Cyrus released them to go back and commissioned the rebuilding of the temple; he also sent back the articles of the temple, exactly on the date that had been predicted by several prophets more than 150 years earlier.

And this is just the surface. The prophecies are even more complex and detailed, Daniel actually gave the time when Christ would come into the world and die. Daniel (9:24) predicted that Messiah would be

cut off (die) 483 Hebrew years after the issuing of the Persian decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem. Artaxerxes Longimanus issued that decree on March 5, 444 b.c. (Neh. 2:1-8), granting the Jews permission to rebuild Jerusalem's city walls. This, too, is confirmed by archeological discoveries. Four hundred eighty-three prophetic years (360 days to a year) and seven days later, Jesus was crucified as predicted. How could a prophet accurately predict the date of Messiah's death hundreds of years before it took place, unless he was the "voice" of God as he claimed?

So, the prophets predicted the very dates that their conquering kings would decree both the restoration of the temple and the rebuilding of the city walls. And the prophets linked the time when the Messiah would die to those very decrees. Only an all powerful God could communicate those dates to the prophets and then constrain the heathen kings to act on the very days the prophets had predicted hundreds of years earlier.

These are just the highlights of one cluster of prophecies. There are literally hundreds of details given concerning the nations, even down to our present day. I don't know of anyone who has ever pursued an intimate study of the Bible's prophecies who did not become a believer. The facts are irrefutable. The only way for skeptics to denigrate these prophecies is to declare that the Bible must have been written after the supposed fulfillments. That is why organizations like National Geographic attempt to cloak their unbelief in scholarly terms, presenting a case that the prophecies cannot be older than the fulfillment, because, they reason, no one can tell the future as the Bible appears to do.

Old things

Formerly, the Bible believer's position was weakened in the eyes of the skeptic by the fact that up until the middle of the twentieth century, the oldest Hebrew Scripture known to be in existence was dated in the ninth century A.D., 900 years after Christ, 1300 years after the last book in the Old Testament was written. That is a big gap. A lot can happen in 1300 years. Prophecy is not prophecy unless it is recorded prior to the fulfillment. The Bible made a claim, and there was plenty of support for its antiquity for those who investigated, but the skeptic demanded hard evidence.

That evidence was obtained in 1947 when a Bedouin shepherd boy, wandering in the remote deserts of southern Israel, threw a stone high into a small opening in the rock face above him. He heard a clang, like the sound of breaking pottery. Knowing the value of old things, he climbed up to investigate. What he found in that cave,



The Torah

and what archeologists found in ten other nearby caves during the next 18 years, would shock the world—hundreds of large jars containing an entire library of over 600 ancient books, many of them dating back to the 3rd century B.C., and none later than A.D. 70, when the community that owned them was wiped out by the Romans. Knowing their impending doom, the Qumran



Dead Sea Scrolls

community hid their precious library of books, including many copies of the entire Old Testament, in nearby caves. Most books of the Old Testament were represented by ten to fifteen or, in some cases, as many as thirty or more copies each.

The ancient book of Isaiah, completely intact, was found etched into a copper scroll. It is now on display in Jerusalem. It proved to be the same text that we have today. If it were not the Word of God, it would be amazing beyond belief that after 1300 years and many successive copies the text should remain the same. This has held to be true for all the Biblical texts.

The book of Isaiah is especially significant because it contains such detailed prophecies of Israel and the nations around them, and, specifically, prophecies of Jesus Christ, prophecies that were fulfilled during his life on earth. Prior to 1947, skeptics, aware of these prophecies, declared that the book of Isaiah could not be older than the first century, refusing to accept that it has foretold so many future events.

No ancient book has ever had as much manuscript support as does the Bible. The Bible is represented by over 5,250 ancient, original language manuscript portions. Some contain nearly the entire Bible; some contain individual books, and some are as small as single phrases that have been found buried in ancient ruins, enabling archeologists to date the text to no later than the destruction of the ruins in

which it was buried. One fragment of Matthew has been recovered that is dated in the mid first century.

In addition to Greek manuscripts, the antiquity of the New Testament is supported by several very early translations into other languages. Syriac, Latin, and Coptic versions were made in the middle of the second century. Those translations are represented in copies that are available to us today. Several ancient Syriac versions exist, among them Tatian's Diatessaron (a.d. 170), and the Old Syriac (a.d. 200). For the Bible to be translated into other languages just 50 years after the last book was written, and for those versions to verify the text as we have it today is as scientific as you can get in upholding the antiquity and accuracy of the Bible's text.

Christians and Jews have rejoiced in this treasure of ancient manuscripts found in the Qumran caves in southern Israel in 1947. Hundreds of books and scrolls had been lying there for 1900 years, waiting to confirm our faith. The antiquity and authenticity of the Bible is settled once and for all. Here is indisputable physical evidence that the Bible's prophecies were recorded hundreds of years before their fulfillment. No one but God could do such a thing.

Culture of Skepticism

You may wonder, "If the Bible is so well supported by facts of science, why do organizations like National Geographic sponsor TV

programs that throw doubt on the integrity of the Biblical text? And, why do so many academics reject it if the proof is so substantial?"

In the nineteenth century, when hard evidence was not as apparent as it is today, a culture of arrogant skepticism got such a strong foothold in academic circles that, for many, their conclusions came to be accepted as objective science. So, today, when there is finally scientific proof of the authenticity of the Holy Scriptures, the earlier established views of the skeptics still



One of the clay jars that held the Dead Sea scrolls

reign in the literature and thinking of the intellectual. Few dare challenge the prevailing unbelief for fear of being ridiculed.

It started with the Enlightenment in the 17th and 18th centuries—a most needed reform. But as a by-product, in the 19th century, atheists like Voltaire and agnostics



Voltaire

like Ingersoll became famous with their aggressive challenges to belief in God. Some atheists held large open meetings where they zealously preached unbelief. Many were good debaters and highly entertaining, drawing large crowds in city auditoriums. They ridiculed feeble arguments for faith and promoted skepticism. There were times in their arrogance when atheists even gave evangelistic style invitations for people to come down the aisle and renounce their faith in God—with some even responding. It was a heady time of casting off traditional faith.

And in addition, in the late 19th century, Darwinian evolution began to sweep away already shaken faith in the Bible. There was a feeling in the air that almighty science was the answer to all things and that religion was an unfounded superstition.

Added to the hard sciences, in the name of science came psychology, offering a plausible alternative to the Biblical view of sin and guilt. Modern medicine could heal the body; psychology could heal the soul, and science could explain our origin and save the world. Who needed feeble faith? “It’s just a crutch,” they declared.

Religion in academia was embarrassed. Even many Christian colleges were drawn away by evolution and were overcome with a lack

of certainty concerning the historical authenticity of the Bible. They tried to salvage their faith by constructing something called Theistic Evolution. With these relentless attacks, faith slinked away, mumbling that it was right anyhow, but not able to bolster the proof necessary to mount an effective challenge in the public arena. With the other side of the debate in retreat, by the early 20th century, academia rested its case. Religion was defeated and no longer any fun.



Charles Darwin

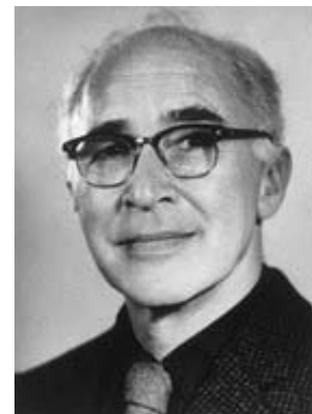
The fruit of the new worldview began to manifest itself in the roaring twenties with promiscuousness; then came drugs, beatniks, hippies, existentialism, rock music, abortion, Vietnam, children on Ritalin, mothers on Prozac, fathers on pornography, homosexuality, pedophilia, rebellious youth without any values to guide them, a soaring divorce rate, a multitude of conflicting English translations of the Bible, and the growth of large churches that are embarrassed to hold up a Bible—any bible—and say, “This is the perfect, infallible word of God, without error of any kind; I believe every word in it.”

Still digging

Let’s go back to the late 1800s. While skepticism was celebrating

its triumph over the very concept of truth, the archeologists were still digging. Bit by bit, they found ancient Hebrew inscriptions on clay and pieces of papyrus, validating the Bible as authentic history. In time archeology would prove that the Bible was accurate in all historical names and dates. But the evidence came slowly, and the divide that existed between the believing community and skeptical academia allowed the skeptic to rest unchallenged in his infidelity. And then in 1947, with the discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls, the preponderance of evidence already available advanced to irrefutable scientific proof; the prophecies of the Bible were indeed written before the events they foretold. But the facts did not change the conclusions of the then-silent debate.

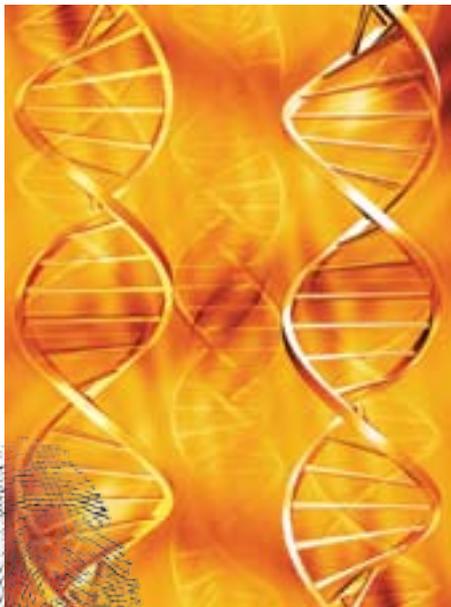
As evidence for the authority of the Bible was accumulating, many scientists who were not satisfied



George Wald

with the evidence for evolution continued to test the generally accepted theory. Many new things came to light, especially with the advent of genetic studies. By the late 20th century, the different fields of science had debunked spontaneous organic evolution as a possibility, and with increasing knowledge of genetics, it became clear that organic evolution was a total impossibility.

In time, every single Darwinian argument for evolution would be tossed aside by the very proponents of evolution. New arguments would



be created to bolster the ill-supported theory, and one by one they, too, would succumb to developing knowledge.

Nobel Prize winner George Wald made the following admission:

“There are only two possible explanations as to how life arose. Spontaneous generation arising to evolution or, a supernatural God.... There is no other possibility. Spontaneous generation was scientifically disproved 120 years ago by Louis Pasteur and others, but that just leaves us with only one other possibility . . . that life came as a supernatural act of creation by God, but I can’t accept that philosophy because I do not want to believe in God. Therefore I choose to believe in that which I know is scientifically impossible, spontaneous generation leading to evolution.”

George Wald, the evolutionist, finally evolved into a corpse in 1997, still a man of faith, believing the impossible, because he was

prejudiced against God. And it had nothing to do with evidence; it was a choice based on personal preference—blind and stupid faith.

Now that the evidence has turned around, the evolutionists are afraid to debate the creation scientists, for now they are the ones who are embarrassed at their lack of evidence, and so they, like George Wald, must proceed on blind faith. They are absolutely terrified to have scientific creationism taught alongside of their debunked evolutionary theories, for even a fifth grader with rudimentary knowledge of genetics could see through their foolishness. Today there are thousands of scientists who can demonstrate with science that creation is the only possibility for the existence of matter and life.

But with all the advancements in true sciences, a funny thing happened. Those atheists and agnostics who were so publicly bold and ready to enter into debate, suddenly slinked into the woodwork behind their old books containing outdated evidence. They won’t come back to the arena of debate and reopen the case. They made their point when there was less evidence on the side of Bible believers, and now that there is a culture of unbelief, they are quite content to leave well enough alone. Skepticism controls the schools, the media, entertainment, and the pop culture, so they have nothing to gain by reviewing the evidence.

As it stands, an innocent man has been convicted (the Bible) by a highly prejudiced jury on circumstantial evidence, and now that we have “DNA” proof that ‘he’ is innocent, many intellectuals will not reopen the case for fear it will expose their shoddy evidence and false conviction. They would rather stand on arrogant ground and scoff

at the Bible believer as “unscientific” than to enter into intelligent debate where the only issue is hard evidence. I appeal to you to search out the facts and judge for yourself—that is, if you have the courage to believe in a round earth when the “scientific” view is that it is flat. It is not the Bible against science. That is the way the skeptic spins the debate. It is true science and the Bible against the skeptic’s blind faith.

Don’t be prejudiced

Don’t prejudge the Bible. It is the most misrepresented book ever. It is maliciously misrepresented by its enemies and affectionately misrepresented by its friends. Of the two, the most damaging to its public image is that of its friends. Ministers and churches have tarnished the Bible’s image by representing it as the source of their religious gimmickry. The only way you can know what it says is by reading it yourself—from cover to cover in the old King James Version.

The message

The message of God is wonderful beyond comprehension, contained in a book that is a mingling of history and prophecy—about two thirds history and one third prophecy. Archeology has proven the history to be correct and time has proven the prophecies to be true.

The Bible tells us that God created all things for his own pleasure—as does any artist. He created many things that live entirely according to their natures. We call it instinct. A chicken is predictable, always doing what chickens have always done for six thousand years.

They say a dog is a man’s best friend. God could have limited his creation to animals that love anyone who feeds and pets them, but he was not satisfied with instinctive love. He wanted creatures of the

same kind as he, someone with whom he could hold conversation—someone with whom he could sing. He wanted associates who had the capacity to invent and play musical instruments. He wanted to love and be loved. He desired friends and family. So he created creatures in his own image. Nothing God created is all powerful and all knowing, but like him, humans were created eternal, with a mind, a will, and with emotions, just like his.

The Bible tells us that the first man Adam was created “in God’s image”. The remarkable thing about the creatures in God’s image is that they are independent of any programming. They are not limited to living by instinct. They can, in a sense, create themselves. They can think freely, separate from any predisposition of their creator. When God was creating a creature who could freely choose to love, he of necessity was creating a creature who could choose to withhold that love or direct it elsewhere.

Humanity—personhood—is a chancy thing. Those of you who have had children know that, just because they are the creation of your body, and you love them very much, and you desire only what is best for them, they have the power to choose to ignore your wishes or to reject you altogether. Their souls are free of your control. Persuasion is your only tool. That is the nature of this thing we call life and love. It is the nature of humanity. If you are not satisfied with that, get a potted plant or a cat.

“Why does God allow all the pain and suffering? Why not create a world where all is good and right, where no one ever dies, gets sick, or is sad?”

He did. God did indeed create a utopia where there was no sickness or death. Read about it

in the first three chapters of Genesis. But the very first man, Adam, out of a desire to be independent, divorced his Creator and took all his posterity with him into a life of lonely estrangement. And, just as though they agree with that original decision, few people are actively seeking to be reconciled to their Creator. Blaming the Creator for our present condition is not unlike a man jumping off of a pleasure cruise ship into the middle of shark infested waters and then blaming the captain for a lousy trip.

“But, why not create a world where that couldn’t happen—where all is love and peace all the time, with no possibility of us messing it up?”

What kind of circumstances would it take to guarantee that no one would ever make a wrong choice? If all our thoughts were preprogrammed, there would be no thoughts except those of the programmer. If all choices were predetermined, there would be, in reality, no choice. Only in the absence of free will, which is equivalent to the absence of our humanity, would it be certain that no one would choose wrongly.

“But God can do anything!”

Can he? Can he make a mind that thinks but doesn’t think at the same time—that chooses but is not able to make a wrong choice? If God would make free will (which is the essence of individual personality), he cannot make the will free and not free at the same time. A will that is indeed a will, is able to violate the will of its designer. The power to creatively think is the power to creatively choose, which means a person has the power to love or, on the opposite side of choice, the power to hate. It is inconceivable to imagine a human mind existing

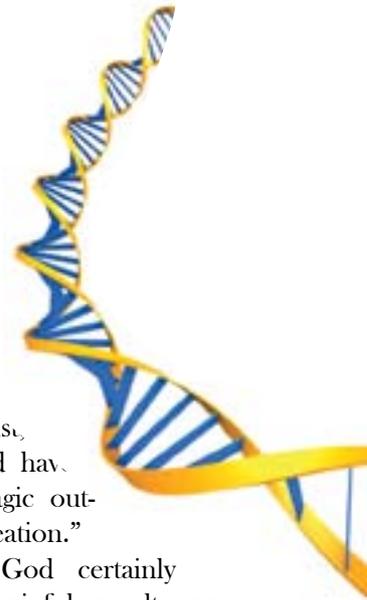
in a free and joyous state not having the ability to think independently.

“But if God knows all, as he must, then he would have known the tragic outcome of his creation.”

Granted, God certainly foresaw the painful results and therefore could have chosen not to create personalities with their inherent ability to make tragic choices. But for reasons that are obvious to all of us who love life, God did choose to inaugurate this tenuous thing called life. And, having decided to make people in His own image, he could not do other than make autonomous individuals like Himself.

To create a thing that can only do what it is programmed to do is not to create a person at all; it is to create a machine. Can a machine love you? Can there be any satisfaction from the loyalty rendered by a program? No one ever thanked an ice maker for giving them ice, but if your daughter brings a glass of ice water to you when you are working in the heat, there is love, thanksgiving—there is a life. There is meaning. No machine has ever been called a hero or had a medal pinned on it for bravery. That a person could love without choosing to do so is an oxymoron.

When God created a stairway up, he was creating a stairway down. There could be no giving without the power to retain, no in without an out, no day without night, no right without wrong, no beauty without ugly, no pleasure without pain, no giving without taking, no caring without indifference, no saints with-



out sinners, and no heaven without a hell. Righteousness would not be possible in a world where sin was not possible. Music is made with different sounds, not one fixed and constant hum.

Yes, God could have created a world where sin was impossible,



Photo: Erin Harrison

but it would have also been a world without expression of any kind, a world without success or glory or satisfaction.

When a free will creature suffers the consequences of his free and unhindered choices, and then turns to blame the one who created him with that free will, he is arguing for his own nonexistence. Life is certainly precious and valuable in and of itself, but everyone has the power to end it at any time, though few do. The road to recovery is to stop blaming the Creator for giving us the power to choose, to take responsibility for the choices we make, and to discover God's road to reconciliation. That is why this treatise was written.

Pinocchio

In the popular children's story, Pinocchio, the lonely old puppet maker Geppetto wanted a little boy. So he made a life-like puppet of wood and then, skillfully handling the strings, he danced with his creation. But, alas, his heart

was not satisfied with the feigned fellowship he had manufactured, for he longed for a real boy who could reciprocate his love, one who could choose to dance and choose to please. When the magical fairy came along and imparted free will to the wooden boy, the little fellow did indeed choose to dance to the delight of his father. But in time, he also chose to disobey. He rebelled, indulged his appetite wantonly, and then ran away to live a life of self-gratification. The sinful life twisted the boy into manifesting attributes of a jackass, and eventually took

him to the bottom of the ocean where he would die for his sins in the belly of a whale. His father loved him still, pursued him, delivered him, and persuaded him to have a change of heart, ultimately saving him from his self-made destruction.

Someone may have asked why the puppet maker would create a puppet that could descend to such low depths, resulting in pain and suffering for everyone. "Why not create a puppet that could do no evil?" The puppet maker had fifty such puppets hanging on pegs in his shop, their strings and limbs lying limp, waiting on the master to pull them in whatever direction he pleased, but they gave him no pleasure, and they experienced none.

The creator had made his choice to cut the strings to his creation, and now Pinocchio was running around on his own, freely choosing his path to glory or shame. The only control Pinocchio's creator had was that of influence. All that was left to him was to encour-

age his son to make wise choices, and allow those choices to run their course. We humans are living with the hurtful consequences of our choices and blaming our Creator for allowing us to choose.

Would Pinocchio blame his creator when his sin caused his tail and ears to grow like those of a jackass? Would he say, "Why did you make me thus?" To ask that question is really stating an excuse—passing the blame. It is the opposite of coming to the Creator for a cure. Ask the suffering heart of the old father if it was worth the "risk," worth the suffering to have created a real person. Is not life its own reward, all things considered? In spite of the complaints, almost all living persons cherish and choose life.

Glory

Yes, God could have played it safe and kept everything in his creation on strings that he could pull like a puppet master for his own entertainment and then lay them aside when bored. The villain and the hero alike would fall onto the stage floor and lie side by side with no knowledge of their existence and no responsibility for the roles they had played. They would have no guilt for anything the puppet master made them do, nor would they know any glory.

God could have made the world totally flat so no one could fall from a mountain cliff, and no one could stumble into a hole, but he made many mountains, some dangerous and nearly impossible to climb. Most people will never climb them. Many say they can't; but oh, what glory for the few who do reach the pinnacle!

In a flat world, there would be no rivers, lakes, or oceans. No one would ever drown, but neither would they build sail boats and conquer the raging seas.

Human condition

Like Pinocchio, you are disappointed with choices you have made. As you suspect, your Creator is disappointed with you as well—disappointed with all of us, with what we have done with the divine gift of free will. We have rejected the care of our Creator and used our powers to give ourselves over to selfish pleasures. We turned free will into willfulness, free love into free lust, free choice into evil choices. We have chosen to act irresponsibly, and have thus placed ourselves at odds with the Creator and his creation. We have become termites on a wooden ship, viruses in an otherwise healthy body, rats in the pantry. We are a problem that needs fixing. All our human efforts and the best intentions of all religions have failed to bring peace and redemption. Thankfully, our Creator is also our fixer, but he can only do so if we are willing to cooperate. If you stand off in defiance and demand that God fix everything so as to enhance your on-going pleasure, you will perish by your own hand; but if you cooperate, he will cleanse and heal your soul, elevating it into the highest possible experiences of life.

“Why must the Creator get bent out of shape over our so-called evil choices? Why not just leave us alone to indulge and get along as best we can? If God just allowed us to continue in our pleasures, there would be no problem. We could live and lust forever, a paradise of doing what feels good, with no consequences.”

That question is based on the false premise that the painful consequences of sin are direct acts of God. To the contrary; if God took a one-million year vacation into another dimension, leaving us to our own devices, sin would still end in

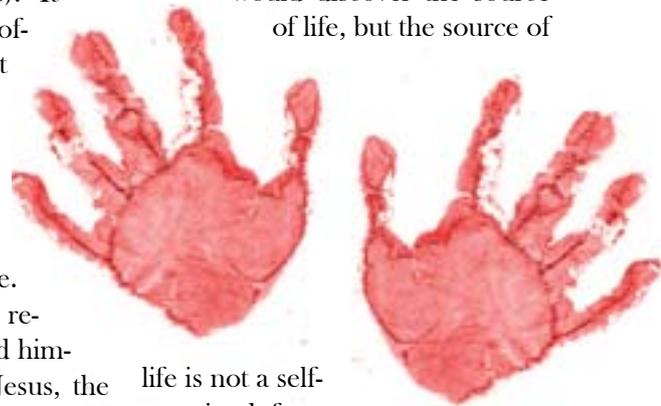
suffering and death, for it is contrary to the very nature of soul and body. Sin is its own evil reward. Hate erodes the capacity to love. Lust replaces wholesome passion. Greed takes the pleasure out of possessions. Anger steals peace. The quality of our life is diminished in direct proportion to the degree of our selfishness. God is life, love, creativity, wisdom, beauty, and all things truly good. When we choose to live independent of him, we choose to separate ourselves from the source of life itself. We are like a cell phone that decides not to go back to the charger, to go it alone. In time, the God-given life drains out of us, and all that is left is a reminder of what was, and what could have been.

The Bible says it many ways. “The soul that sinneth, it shall die” (Ezekiel 18:4). “The wages of sin is death” (Romans 6:23). It is not as though God is offended and so angry that he is going to kill us for not obeying. Life is not an independent power within itself. All life comes from and is sustained by a single life force. Life is not just molecules relating to one another. God himself is life. Speaking of Jesus, the Bible says, “For as the Father hath life in himself; so hath he given to the Son to have life in himself (John 5:26). “In him was life, and the life was the light of men” (John 1:4). “I am... the life” (John 14:6).

We humans on this planet have something in common with the astronauts in the international space station now orbiting the earth. As they are absolutely dependent upon resupply from the earth, we are dependent upon resupply of life from God. If the astronauts were to rebel, or just become indifferent,

breaking off communication, and saying to earth, “If you don’t bother us, we won’t bother you.” NASA would not have to shoot a rocket at the space station to kill them; they would die in good time from lack of resupply. They were put there with the intention that they should be resupplied, just as we were put on earth with God intending to resupply us with life and continued good health.

Death wouldn’t come suddenly to the astronauts. It would come slowly, as their systems began to break down and their food and oxygen dwindled. Likewise, the human race is slowly dying. The planet is dying. Nature is breaking down. The body is degrading into ugly old age and crippling diseases. We were not meant to live independent of our Creator. We as a planet have been trying it, hoping science would discover the source of life, but the source of



life is not a self-contained force residing somewhere in chemicals and genetics. It is found only in Him who alone is life.

“Why does God allow all the human suffering?” Now you know. We haven’t allowed him to do otherwise.

It is not as though he didn’t get it right the first time; he was working out a grand design that, after a period of conflict, will produce great glory. God’s magnificent drama includes tragedy before the triumph, the struggle of hate and love, the

conflict of good and evil, bravery and cowardliness, passion and sacrifice, shame and glory. The Bible describes the human condition in a most interesting manner: “For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:23). God designed us for glory. What a wonderful thing!

So, what does God expect from me?

God expects just what you expect from a relationship that is important to you. Honesty, faithfulness, loyalty, respect, good will, trust, patience, the benefit of the doubt, etc. All of us, as we grow up, develop self will, a spirit of defiance and mistrust. We become skeptics

“repentance.” God cannot repent for us. We are responsible to make that decision. It doesn’t require us to do anything—like get our life straightened out. It is a requirement of the mind and heart. If we want to know God with all our heart, and we readily take the blame for our condition, and we believe the answer is in God (which is what the Bible calls “repentance toward God”), then God is ready to receive us as we are.

Jesus Christ

God’s cure for humanity is Jesus Christ. Eternal God placed his divine seed in the womb of a virgin Jewish girl, impregnating her with the eternal Son of God. God became a man with flesh and blood and a human soul for a threefold purpose. The first was that, as a member of the human race, he should succeed in the game of life where Adam and all others had failed. God wanted a successful and overcoming man, a prototype, a forerunner. This new, human Adam needed to overcome all temptations, to overcome the weak body of flesh, and to overcome Satan. He needed a man to wrestle with every human foe and triumph altogether.

In order for Holy God to deal with the sinful human race as his client, he needed an inside man with legitimate human credentials who qualified to fellowship with his Creator. This man should be worthy to sit with God on his throne. As the overcoming man, he would qualify to assume authority over the planet that was originally given to Adam. Jesus became that representative man, the answer to God’s desire for human fellowship—the first human son among many.

He died for me

The second reason Jesus Christ was born of a virgin and became a human of flesh and blood is that he might become an acceptable sacrifice for the payment of sin. Sin is not just a personal affront to God; it has judicial consequences as well. God’s vast kingdom is much bigger than just the human race. He is the governor of the universe. He cannot govern capriciously and still maintain the respect of his subjects. For the sake of all intelligent creatures, God’s government must be ordered according to the standard rule of law—the rule that we all share, that same universal standard assumed by the atheists when they faulted God.

We are all aware that ongoing evil must be stopped at any means. We as humans are prepared to forgive, as is God, but only if the evil one comes to repentance and reverses his course of action. We do not forgive the child molester whose sin is ongoing. We condemn him to prison. We do not forgive the serial killer who still stalks his innocent victims. We wish death upon him, as we should. A study of the human psyche reveals to us that there is a universal law to which we all adhere: “The wages of sin is death; the soul that sins should die.” It is God’s duty to oversee the demise of sinners, to see that all rebels get the death penalty.

But, even God himself cannot forgive the repentant sinner until his sins have been paid for. Jesus came to pay for and die for the sins of the whole world. It took the violent shedding of sinless human blood to pay for sins. Only Jesus, the perfect man, the everlasting man, the God/man, was qualified to die on behalf of all sinners of all times. God laid all sins on Jesus when he died. He paid to heaven’s court all the debt



Photo: Erin Harrison

and defiant of authority. We grow lustful and greedy, sometimes hateful and mean inside. It could be summed up by saying that we have become self-centered. We don’t like those traits in our children or our spouses. God doesn’t like them in us. We wake up one day, hopefully, to realize that we are estranged from God—divorced from life!

And, what does God want of us when we come to this realization? He wants reconciliation. But, like us, God will not accept reconciliation in name only. He expects a real change of heart. Would we respect him otherwise? This change of heart and mind the Bible calls

that sin incurred. Jesus took your place on the cross so you can be seated with him in his place in heavens. "God made him to be sin for us" (2 Corinthians 5:21). He wore your sin to the place of death so you can wear his crown to the place of life. He became what you are now—a child of Adam—in the likeness of sinful flesh, so you can become what he is—a sinless child of God. He died as if he were the sinner. You live as if you were the saint.

Down with death

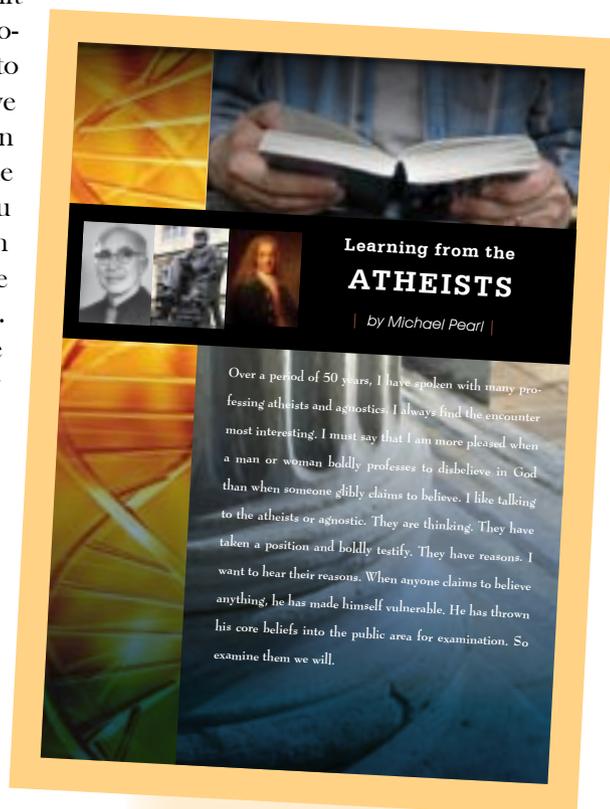
The third reason Jesus Christ lived 33 years as a human being and then died as if he were a common sinner was that he might conquer death. Death has reigned over this planet ever since Adam refused to obey his Creator. Death is an awful and cruel enemy. Jesus submitted to the clutches of death and descended into the dark place of the damned so he could complete the human experience and suffer the entire consequences of sin. But when death had done all it could to this "son of Adam/Son of God," the Heavenly Father raised that overcoming man from the dead. Death was defeated. Hell's fury was stayed. He arose from the dead and returned to the earth where he had lived his perfect life. After spending 40 days with his friends and disciples, he, the perfect man, the forerunner, the archetypical man, ascended into heaven in his resurrected human body and

sat down on the right hand of God the Father. Earth now has one of its own strategically placed in heaven's embassy. He represents his clients in heaven's court. He is the inside man bringing outside sinners into God's presence.

Walking in the light

The Bible says, "The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life" (Romans 6:23). If you desire to know God, and you believe that Jesus is the God/Man come in the flesh, that he died and rose again, you are invited to believe on Jesus Christ and receive God's gift of eternal life. It is free only because the great price has already been paid by Jesus. If, as you read this message, you have believed this good news, and you find great hope and satisfaction in it, you may have already received the gift of eternal life. If not, if your soul is troubled and you would love to know God and receive the forgiveness of your sins, then right now find some place to talk to God. Tell him that you believe and that you desire to be his child, forgiven of all your sins. He will do a miracle in your life. You can now walk in the light as he is in the light every day, enjoying the presence of God.

If you have come to know Christ through this message, write me and tell me about it, and I will send you some Bible teaching CDs absolutely free of charge, and if you tell me that you do not have a King James Bible, I will send you one—also free.



This article is available in booklet form. They are \$.75 each, 25 or more for \$.65 each, and 100 or more for \$.50 each.

He wore your sin to the place of death so you can wear his crown to the place of life. He became what you are now—a child of Adam—in the likeness of sinful flesh, so you can become what he is—a sinless child of God. He died as if he were the sinner. You live as if you were the saint.

Dear Michael and Debi,

Recently, my son was killed in Iraq. He was a fine Christian young man. A memorial fund was set up in his name. We don't need the money, but we would like to use it for a cause that reflects what was important to him, namely, the Lord Jesus Christ and the advance of the Gospel, his country whom he fought for, and his fellow soldiers. I understand that you send packages to soldiers overseas. We would like to help fund that effort on our son's behalf. It is IMPORTANT to me that these funds be used in that fashion. We felt this ministry may be a good way to do that.

A grieving Father



*In tribute to
James Joseph Holtom*

Sometimes good men die so that others may be free

Dear Brother,

When I (Debi) was a teenager the Vietnam war was in full swing. We lived in the town with the largest inland Naval base where the guys went through “A” school. The hospital was very old, but it was always full of returning wounded soldiers. The wards were contained in long buildings protruding like fingers from one main hallway. The main hall must have been at least a thousand feet long, and each ward was so long I could not see who was on the other end. As best I remember, each ward was only about 20 feet wide, with beds down both sides of the walls, making the middle of the building a long, wide walk. When I walked down the middle of the ward, every seeing eye turned my way. There were about 20 wards altogether; there was the eye injury ward, the burn injury ward, the lower limbs missing ward, and so on.

My dad had fought in World War II. People had been good to him as a young soldier, so both my parents looked for ways to serve the young soldiers. This included regular Sunday dinners for 30 men, special meetings, all day ballgames and any other activity that they could help with. My mother was a regular volunteer as arts and crafts lady at the hospital. She had a rolling cart loaded down with all kinds of card making supplies and she would go from ward to ward and bed to bed helping the young men to make cards and write home. Most were 18-year-old draftees. I often went with my mom so that each guy could have his picture taken with a “chick” to send home. I would sit on the side of their beds and talk as if everything was as normal as normal could be. I laughed and talked about what happened at school, the weather, asked about his parents and little brothers and sisters, or any nonsense that came to my mind, just to

make him forget, even if just for a moment, that his legs were gone and his face was scarred. I wanted each boy to see himself the way I made him think I saw him—just a normal 18-year-old guy. Every day I would ride back home with my mom feeling the burden of a thousand sorrows, but knowing I would go back again tomorrow because I could do no less.

Even at my young age, the wisdom of grief made me sober about war. I remember praying over and over again that God would never give me sons if there was going to be a war when they turned 18 years old. God answered that prayer. Thankfully, the draft also became obsolete, so that the men who went to war were men, not boys, and they were warriors, having chosen to fight.

As my teenage years passed, so did the war. The hospital slowly became an empty shell and soon fell to the bulldozers and landscapers, erasing all signs of ever having existed. But over this great land there are thousands of aging men

who remember those long halls. And I remember. There is now a new generation of young men giving their lives to protect our country, our freedom, and our way of life. Every day here at No Greater Joy Ministries a dream of paying back is fulfilled. Toothbrushes, hairbands, children's animal books, and piles of our ministry books and CDs are loaded into boxes and sent to the families left behind, as well as our men in harm's way. We have made contact with many companies that sell to non-profit organizations at a very low price, so we can send lots of different goodies to the children. When we first started sending out these boxes, our staff wondered how we would be able to pay for all the things going out, not to mention the very expensive postage. We knew that we could not keep giving what we did not have to give. We were in for a **BIG** surprise. Old soldiers began writing saying they wanted to help send these boxes to the military. Some support came in from parents of young men who are serving, and some came in from young families wanting to help.

There are no words to tell you just how wonderful it is to read the letters from the soldiers or their children who write to say how much they enjoyed the boxes of books and supplies. Many of the men are very moved that their wives and children also received a box of goodies. Any kindness done to their children is overwhelming to them.

We have received letters from wives telling us that their children's daddies did not survive. They are always letters of appreciation of how NGJ ministry has blessed their family. It is so humbling to be a part of such lives.

Why do I tell you all this? I don't know. I sit here at the computer crying and remembering back. When I read your letter over

again I felt your intense sorrow; it brought back the same burden of a thousand sorrows I felt as a girl riding home from the hospital each afternoon. There was never an answer to the sorrow.

My daddy is now an old, old man. His mind wanders and he is very unsure of himself. About once a month an old Navy buddy calls him and I am amazed at the sudden strength in his voice and the clarity he seems to have for that one brief call. I wonder if the old man on the other end of the phone is also suddenly awakened. Once when I was young and greatly troubled about a soldier who lay dying in the hospital, my dad, never one for great eloquence of speech, told me simply, "Sometimes good men die so that others may be free."

As to answer your question about ministry, Mike has two main loves in ministry, and neither is homeschooling, even though that is the ministry that has made us famous and allows us to be able to minister as we do. Mike loves to minister to military and prisoners. He spent every weekend for 25 years volunteering his time ministering to military men. Nowadays our only ministry to the military is through sending boxes and answering letters.

We moved up here to the country 20 years ago and Mike started volunteering as a Saturday morning chaplain at the CCA prison. Tremaine, one of our packers and now one of our writers, is one of Mike's Bible study men

from the prison. As I sit here at my

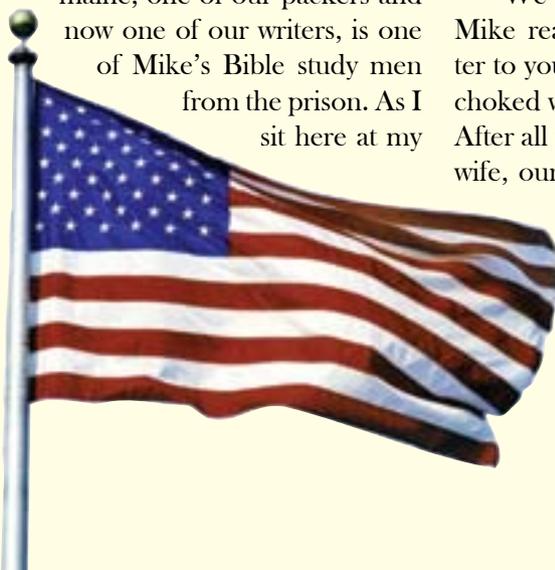
desk, I can hear Tremaine's little girl's cheerful voice as she talks with her daddy while he packs hundreds of boxes. I can hear Mike's tractor as he grades the drive. Mike is more comfortable on a tractor or throwing knives than wearing a clean shirt and talking to people. He could care less for riches, fame or niceties. We are hillbillies—plain and simple.

When we were just a young couple we began dreaming of sending Chick tracts (illustrated Bible comics) to every prison in America. We would brainstorm how we could make a million dollars so we could make it happen. God promises to give us the desires of our hearts. At the beginning of this year we started sending out three copies of our new book *Good and Evil* to every prison library in America (120 prisons a week). *Good and Evil* is a large comic book starting with Creation and going into the end times. This same book is being translated into 17 languages this month (our goal is 100 this year) and being taken into countries where the Bible is not available. We would love Iraq to be one of these countries.

Our office staff has set up a computer system that isolates gifts to the designated ministries. Every penny that comes in for military goes to sending boxes to military men or their families. Money that comes in for missions goes toward the translation project, etc.

We will pray for you and yours. Mike read your letter and my letter to you and told me, with a voice choked with emotion, to send it on. After all these years as husband and wife, our hearts are so in tune, we speak almost as one.

Fellow Soldiers,
Michael and Debi Pearl



Supporting Our Troops



Each month NGJ sends out hundreds of boxes to our soldiers in harm's way and to their families waiting for them. It is your gifts that make this possible. Our newest gift item to the soldiers is a music CD by Norm Schmidt. The opening song is a tribute to our warriors, sung in a "Rocky Mountain" style. (This new CD is also available to our readers for \$12.00. See order form).



Military Testimonies

Thank you so much for sending my husband and me the military gift boxes. I am listening to the "Created To Be His Help Meet" CD right now & I am being greatly encouraged by it! I just wanted to let you know that your gift has brought some happiness to days that often feel very long. I ordered boxes to be sent to one of my friends and her husband who is with my husband [in Iraq] and we have been working to disciple them in the Lord and His plan for their lives! - Sheila

Michael & Debi,

Thank you for your service. I was able to benefit from a package you sent someone else. I'm glad they were able to share. Just wanted to say, 'thanks'. God Bless!
- MAJ Don

Dear Brother,

The soldiers of ___CAV join with me in extending to you our deepest gratitude for your support. It is a significant boost to the morale of the soldiers. You have contributed to the war effort and made a difference in the lives of our men here in Iraq. Thank you for praying for us. Pray for our safety, for our families, pray for our mental, emotional, and spiritual development. Pray that God will use this time here to grow us, and that it will be a positive experience. Pray that we will grow closer to our families and the ones we love during our time away from them.

The graphic scriptures (*Good and Evil* book) went like hotcakes! The boys loved them! Sincerely,
- D.R. Chaplain, US Army
Iraq

Prison 'Good and Evil'

Greetings! I am writing this letter on behalf of the men incarcerated here at T. Correctional Institution. After receiving your donation of "Good and Evil" I wanted to contact your ministry in hopes that your ministry could help us further. We are in great need of any more materials you could donate. These materials will be an effective way to help the incarcerated men and equip them with a better foundation upon release. The Department of Corrections does not allocate funds to purchase religious study or reading materials. We depend on donations. Our population here is

2,500. I would like to thank you for your time in this matter. Anything you can do would be a great help. Your support and care are truly a blessing.

- Working for Him,
D.M., Chaplain Supervisor

On behalf of all the brothers here at Calipatria State Prison "B-Yard," I wish to express our thanks and gratitude for the copies of "Good and Evil."

Personally, it gives me joy to see that though we are gone or separated from society, we are still remembered and prayed over by brothers and sisters throughout the State. If possible, can you please

send us a couple of copies of "Good and Evil" in Spanish for our non-English-speaking brothers here in B-Yard.

Again, thank you so much for the donation of the book and also thank you for the consideration of donating the books in Spanish.
- In Christ, Steve

Hello. I am currently incarcerated in a Federal Holding Facility. I am wondering if you have any books. I am learning about the Lord, with a 15-year prison sentence. I would really appreciate the time and support.
- Thank you, Robbin



Capture the Moment

by Tremaine Ware

Tying strings of fellowship with your children is your most certain tool for keeping their hearts. The other day I learned anew that it is so easy to become preoccupied and miss those wonderful opportunities.

As my wife drove the family van to town, I was sitting in the back seat with the kids, caught up in what I was reading. But I couldn't help noticing that Thessa, my 2½-year-old daughter, was intently staring at me. After about a minute, she finally said to me in a lovely, heartfelt tone, "Are you going to talk to me?"

What does a father do at a time like that? I turned to her with a huge smile and said "Sure, Thessa. What do you want to talk about?" She responded with the same tone, "I don't know—just talk to me."

How many times do we parents respond, "In a minute"? When that minute is gone, it is gone forever. I am told by parents with older children that there may come a time when I would give anything for a moment of openness like that. That day, my little girl had a genuine desire to touch my soul, to walk with me for a moment, to give and receive.

Adults can sit silently in a car for hours and still feel a sense of bond and fellowship. But children are developing fast and need to hear, see, and feel things that make them feel secure and to know that they are appreciated. Thessa had a genuine desire to connect with me. What a loss for me (and for her) if I should miss it.

Most parents are good at providing for and protecting their children. That may be good enough for plants growing in a greenhouse, but children need constant cultivating. Just as we thrill at the

first word, first step, first complete sentence, or the first time they figure out what we are spelling, so we must capture and document and remember that first time they reach out to touch our souls in fellowship. Capture the moment, savor it; and like two lifelong friends, be refreshed by it.



Tremaine, Teresa, Trajan, Thessa, and Thaddaeus Ware. Baby Ware is expected in June.

Tremaine is a preacher of the Gospel and a great child-trainer. He is available to speak at homeschool conferences, churches, or home groups. Contact him at ware@tds.net

Artist Needed!

SIXTY YEARS AFTER JESUS' RESURRECTION, JOHN WAS THE ONLY APOSTLE LEFT. HE WAS EXILED TO A ROCKY ISLAND CALLED PATMOS. THE SPIRIT CAUGHT JOHN UP TO HEAVEN WHERE GOD SHOWED HIM THE FUTURE.

JOHN, I WILL SHOW YOU THE THINGS THAT ARE GOING TO HAPPEN IN THE FUTURE. WRITE DOWN WHAT YOU SEE AND PUT IT IN A BOOK AND SEND IT TO THE SEVEN CHURCHES OF ASIA.

WHEN THIS AGE IS NEAR THE END, JESUS WILL COME BACK AND OPEN THE GRAVES OF ALL THOSE THAT ARE HIS CHILDREN. THEY WILL ALL RISE UP TO MEET JESUS IN THE AIR AND WILL REMAIN WITH HIM FOREVER.

IN THE END OF DAYS, GOD WILL VISIT THE EARTH WITH TERRIBLE CALAMITIES. FIRE WILL FALL AND THERE WILL BE OTHER PLAGUES THAT WILL DESTROY MOST OF THE PEOPLE LIVING ON THE EARTH.

A MAN WILL COME WHO WILL CLAIM TO BE THE MESSIAH, AND HE WILL DECEIVE MANY PEOPLE. HE WILL CAUSE PEOPLE TO SHOW THEIR LOYALTY TO HIM AND HIS GOVERNMENT BY RECEIVING A MARK IN THEIR FOREHEADS OR ON THE BACK OF THEIR RIGHT HANDS.

THOSE WHO DO NOT RECEIVE THE MARK WILL BE KILLED BY DECAPITATION. IT WILL BE A TIME OF GREAT SUFFERING FOR THOSE WHO ARE LEFT ON THE EARTH.

YOU ARE THE MESSIAH! I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN.

WILL UP THE DOM!

1 THESSALONIANS 14:4, 4:16-17; 2 THESSALONIANS 2:3-4; REVELATION 1:9, 11, 8:1-13, 9:18, 13:16, 20:4

No Greater Joy Ministries is looking for an artist to do the coloring for our Good & Evil project. Artist must have own equipment and be able to work independently at home. Work will be on a contract basis.

Work at Home



FROM THE MAILBOX

Testimonies

I am ordering the second copy of *Good and Evil* for my son. He loves it and reads it all the time. It has been a great way for him to understand the Bible as a whole, and how everything fits together. There is a family we know that is leaving this week to go to Africa on a missions trip. My son sent his *Good and Evil* book with them so they could leave it at the orphanage at which they will be working. Thank you very much for the blessings your books have brought us.

- Heather



You sent both my husband and I your military package and we are both so thankful! He was so impressed with all of the material, especially the book *Good and Evil!* We are now ordering copies of *Good and Evil* so he can pass them out, and copies of *Holy Sex* to give to the married men where he is stationed. Thank you so much! I can't tell you how this has changed our life. You have truly blessed us.

- In Him, Katherine

And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation; Revelation 5:9

Artist must be able to work in layers (psd) in Adobe Photoshop CS2, on PC or Mac platform. Please visit www.nogreaterjoy.org for further details and application process. No phone or email inquiries please.

🎵 A-B-C BIBLE VERSE SONGS

Beka and some of the kids in the church singing 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
2 CD 8325-45 \$10.00

BECOMING A MAN

This message is for parents concerned about raising their boys up to be men, and for encouraging boys and young men to take the steps to manhood, and it is for fathers who never learned to be real men. It tells you what you need to do to become more than just an adult—how to become a real man.

1 CD 1417-10 \$5.00

🎵 FROM THE END OF THE EARTH

Songs by Rebekah Pearl. All alone in a bamboo hut on the top of a mountain in New Guinea, the first white woman ever seen by the Kumboi village, Rebekah writes and sings songs about her God. She accompanies herself on a classical guitar.

1 CD 3020-41 \$8.00
1 Cassette 3020-40 \$5.00

BEST 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 ea. \$3.00
100+ copies ea. \$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

TEACHING RESPONSIBILITY

In this Seminar, Michael Pearl uses humorous stories and practical examples to illustrate the simple process of training your children to work without complaint. Cut into his speaking presentation are hundreds of video clips and photos that help illustrate his message.

2 DVD 8500-00 \$19.95

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

Spanish Book 8610-12 \$5.00
8-99 copies each \$3.00
100+ copies each \$2.50

Spanish 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

Dear Mr. Pearl,
 My husband asked me to write you to let you know how very blessed he was by your booklet "To Betroth or Not to Betroth."
 - Mrs. Casey

Marriage Resources

Audio, Books, Videos & Posters

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 **\$16.00**

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. UPDATED—The book now contains a word index at the back of the book to aid you in topical searches. 296 pages.

Book 2020-10 **\$12.00**
Box/24 books 2020-99 **\$172.80**
9 CDs 2020-45 **\$28.00**
1 MP3 2020-55 **\$12.50**

SPANISH TRANSLATION OF CREATED TO BE HIS HELP MEET

Debi's best-selling book is now available in Spanish. Every page has been carefully translated and features the same great quality and original design. 295 pages.

Spanish Book 2020-12 **\$12.00**

THE HELP MEET'S JOURNEY

— *Workbook for "Help Meet"*

Our Companion Journal is 123 pages of studies and diary pages to work with all year long. Extra pages for memory-making, recipes or doodling. The Journey is a year-long companion journal for Created To Be His Help Meet. There are special pages for

your stories, doodlings, studies, and pictures where you will create a lasting memory of the miracle God is doing in you. This is a perfect study guide for individuals or women's study groups.

Work Book 2030-10 **\$10.00**

HOLY SEX

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

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**
1 CD 6650-45 **\$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**

Magazine/General thanks

Your ministry has touched my family immensely. I used to regularly cry out to God, "Please show me how to live this life!" I was in my late 30's, married with 4 children, physically weak, constantly depressed, foggy-headed, confused. The FLEE syndrome (as I call it) would come over me. I was overwhelmed and incapable of coping so I would become desperate to FLEE from my husband and children.

NGJ was one of my answers from God. I was exposed to *To Train Up A Child* and *Created to be His Help Meet* by a friend. I am being transformed into a healthy, energetic, confident, joyful, peaceful, homeschooling, help-meetin' Momma. Thank you for giving me the practical tools I have desperately been seeking.
— Leah

Thanks

My daughter (7) listened to parts of the homeschooling ideas CD with me and was so impressed with the talk of exploring for bugs and also using them to run races on the world map table! She's crazy about bugs and was glad to hear someone else found them so interesting! Thank you for opening your lives to help others!



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.

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

Go to our website to download Mike's entire teaching on the book of Romans in MP3 and a year's worth of messages 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 MP3

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

MARK

Michael teaches through the book of Mark verse by verse.

MP3 (1 CD) 5950-55 \$12.50

Bible Teaching

I thank God daily for your ministry. Through your Bible teaching, I now understand that my life is "hid with Christ in God" (Col. 3:1-3) and I've set my "affection on those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God".

- GC

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

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This collection of essays on the subjects of King James, his Bible, and its translators is the result of painstaking, original research, with an emphasis on primary resources.

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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.

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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.

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Books about the Bible

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The Bible speaks of eight kingdoms. You can't see one of them. One is coming but you can't be a part of it. Another must be resisted. You have been removed from another. You must honor another that is evil. One is now fighting for its life. One is going to smash all the others and reign forever on the earth. If you don't want to be challenged, don't bother buying this book.

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All booklets are \$1.50 each or \$1 each for 25 or more of any one of the below. These are great resources for teachers to use in Bible classes.

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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.

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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.

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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.

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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.

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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.

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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.

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Bible Teaching

Thank you for your Bible teaching! You have given my husband and me confidence that we don't have to be educated clergy or Greek scholars to understand our King James Bible. - P.B.

After 8 years of religion I was born again last summer after listening to Mike's Romans and Colossians series. It has been about a year and I am still walking in victory, free from sin!! - Bryan

We loved the Sabbath Rest cd. It really answered a lot of questions we had about this topic. Looking forward to hearing the Galatians cds. - J.G.

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

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

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

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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.

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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.

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1 CD 3610-45 \$5.00

GOD HATES SINNERS

It's time you knew the truth.

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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.

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

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

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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.

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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 MP3

Two sets of messages on one MP3 CD.

MP3 (1 CD) 8315-55 \$12.50

SONS OF GOD AND GIANTS

The Jews have taught it for 3,500 years. The church fathers believed it and wrote of it. It has been commonly believed by Bible Believers down through the ages, but it is too radical for our present generation. They will ridicule you if you believe it.

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

WHEN FORGIVENESS IS A SIN

The Bible does not teach that Christians are to forgive everyone. In some cases it would be a sin to forgive. See what the Bible says and free yourself from the bondage of modern psycho babble.

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

FROM THE MAILBOX

Mom has read your books for years. We are missionaries to the Navajo Indians. We were traveling across country for meetings several years ago and someone handed her one of your books. She has used your teachings on child training ever since. I am 20 now, and teach Sunday School in the mission church. I have two brothers that are 18 and 16, who teach Junior Church and even preach meetings for other churches when given the opportunity. One feels called to Africa and the other to take over a church for my Dad. There are 7 of us kids and we really enjoy and love each other. I have grown up thinking that home is a calm and sweet place to be. We have had a lot of fun and laughter growing up together. I have a daughter now, and want to raise her in such a way that will honor and glorify the Lord. I want her to see that serving the Lord is fun and I believe buying your books is a good way to start. Thank you for all you do.
- Sincerely, Rachel Harjo

Hi, my name is Emma Waugaman. I am the oldest of 7 children. I am 10 years old. My family loves to learn about God. We have bought your books, tapes, herbal teas [from Bulk Herb Store] and my brother has a knife-throwing set [from Pearl Outdoors]. My family likes to get together to read the "Good and Evil" book. I had an idea. Why don't you make a "Family Package." It is when you get some of your books, Good and Evil book, maybe a knife-throwing set, calendar, and a magazine in a package, then sell it at an affordable price. You may even want to put in more than that. And if the buyers like your products, they might want to buy more. It is just an idea. Please, respond if you can.
- Emma Waugaman, 10

Just a quick note to say that my husband made this comment to me today, "I wish you would get that Debbie Pearl book out and read it again. You acted 'right' after you read it...it was great...read it again please!"

So, I thought I would order the companion book to go with it and really study it this time. He sure didn't have a problem with that :) - Thanks, Lora

We purchased "Created to be His Help Meet" for our three married daughters. Our oldest daughter talks about the confidence her husband has gained in the military where he is stationed. He has been in the service for more than 8 years, and had few promotions. After our daughter reading the book and applying God's Word, he is being promoted in two months and she is seeing differences in her marriage and care for the their two children.
- Gratefully, A.M.

Dear Michael & Debi,

Thank you for sending the gift box to our family. My daughter loved the books, Bible and head bands. My eldest son loved the Good & Evil book. No one has ever said the kind things to us that were in our letter. Thank you again for supporting the military and our families. - Bob & Christy

This is our son, Joseph, enjoying the free flyer of Good and Evil. Just to let you know, Joseph does not read without being prompted and when I found him reading on his own and enjoying it, I had to snap a photo. Needless to say, we bought the book

Good and Evil and the children love it! Thanks for the wonderful book!
- Dr. Jerry and Jen Kruba



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

Send us your pictures and we will put some of them here next time. Emailed photos must be at least 4" x 6" at 72 dpi.

What Are YOU Waiting For?



Photo by Nicole Kotschate
(sxc.hu)

Last July we started two new home-based business programs custom-made for families just like ours. Our website, www.nogreaterjoy.org, gives a detailed outline, how it works, the cost, and how your family can get started right away! This is a good way for you to minister and to make extra income at the same time.

NGJ now has over 140 Distributors and Master Distributors in 12 countries.

In the U.S. over 31 states are represented. We are adding new features to make the program even more profitable.

Existing Distributors: If you would like a listing of home school conventions in your area, email or call:

Mel Cohen, CFP, RFC General Manager

- Phone: 931-593-2484
- Email: melcohen@hughes.net

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