



NGJ

ministries

MARCH-APRIL 2008

**I have no greater joy
than to hear that my
children walk in truth.**

III John 4



Mike Answers



9th Grader Seeks Humility

“I’m a homeschooled 9th grader. I have a question not related to child training. Is it possible to be humble, but confident at the same time? It seems that whenever I try to be humble, I lose all self-confidence and self-esteem and get so depressed... to the point where I cut [verbally] myself. But then, that’s not very humble, is it? When I’m confident, I’m often prideful, and it shows. If there is any way to be both humble and confident, please let me know how to do it. I’ve prayed and my mom has prayed, but that’s about all.” —Becky

Michael Answers:

Becky,

Humility is not the trait of thinking of self as being of less worth. Humility is not thinking of self at all, whether good or bad. Humility is thinking of others and seeking their advancement. For you to be thinking about your condition and trying

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Jared and Emma having fun on the dock. Photo by Elizabeth Stewart.

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Building On Rock

BY SHALOM (PEARL) BRAND

I have heard it said many times that the foundation of a house is the most important part of the structure, so above all else the foundation must be laid correctly. The foundation is soon covered and forgotten, but the integrity of the house continues to depend on it.

I have told my husband more than once that I hope the Lord will come back before my children reach teen years, so that I will not lose any of them to the world. Then yesterday, I realized my perspective had changed and I told him, “I have no fear of losing my children.” In shock, he asked me what had changed my mind. Smiling, I told him, “Because they will see the same thing in my marriage that I saw in my parents’— LOVE.” Now, I am not talking about just mushy or passionate love; I am talking about real love all the way down to the bottom of the soul, the very foundation of love. When you see it, you say, “That is what I want.” I think I can speak for all

my brothers and sisters in saying that the one thing that gave substance to what my parents taught was their example of love for each other.

When it came time to find a mate, there was never a time that any of us kids did not go to them for advice. We never had any desire to go out and date and give our purity away, for we knew there was a better reward and a better future if we kept ourselves

pure. Why waste our life on cheap thrills when there were so many blessings and rewards by keeping ourselves pure? We knew and saw the consequences of sin by hearing our friends talk about how their parents were always fighting and how much they just wanted to get out of the house. I was sad to leave home, and I still love to go for visits and take my own children there. That is what I want, and it is how I want my children to feel one day toward me. I want their foundation to be strong.

Before I met my husband, Justin, he felt the same as I did, so when everyone around him was busy dating, he waited for the right time. He waited for ME! His parents were saved right before he was born and raised him to love the Lord. They told him how sin hurt their lives and that he could have something better if he kept himself pure.

I want all you young people to know, I have learned from my experience that there is nothing more beautiful in this life than to stand before God and your family on your wedding day and kiss for the first time. Some of you are saying to yourself, “That is ridiculous; a kiss is just a kiss.” No, it is more, it is the beginning of a road that should be shared with just one person during their natural lives.

You might say, “Shalom, you are just naive and don’t know what you are talking about.” If that be so, then thank God for it, for now I have a



Feistal Family

the one thing that gave substance to what my parents taught was their example of love for each other

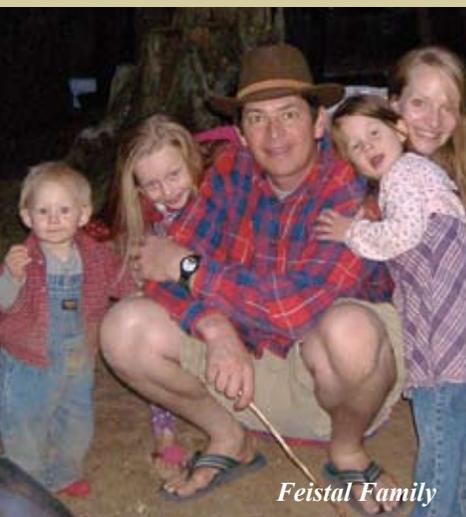
wonderful marriage, and one day I expect to have my girls stand beside me and wash dishes and think that there is no place better than being there with Mom talking and cleaning house together.

For those of you who are married and are having a rough time, get my mom's book, *Created to be His Help Meet*. It will not only make your marriage better, it will save you from a lot of heartache. Especially when your children are teens and they decide that the only way to get away from you is to move in with some guy or girl whom they think loves them more than you do.

There comes a time when parents must let go of their children, for the child has become an adult, accountable before God for the choices he or she makes. You must let them choose based on the foundation you have laid for the past eighteen to twenty years. When they step out from under your wing, if they do not respect you, no amount of pressure and nagging will make up for the poor foundation. How can we as parents look at our grown daughter as though she is still fifteen? If our training is not bearing fruit when she is eighteen, we must assume the blame, since we laid the foundation.

Respect

I realize that the love my parents demonstrated engendered respect from us kids. Even as I write this, I see things I can do to ensure that my three-year-old will continue to respect me when she gets to be a teenager. *I must listen with respect to her three-year-old ramblings.* Just a few days ago, when she was sick and asked me for candy, I told her no, and then explained in a very grown up way what sugar does to your body when you're sick. She listened intently. One hour later, having forgotten our conversation,



We never had any desire to go out and date and give our purity away, for we knew there was a better reward and a better future if we kept ourselves pure.

she again asked for candy. I answered her by smiling and asking her what she thought she should do. She smiled back and told me that sugar was bad for her and that I should not give her any. I praised her for choosing wisely. Then when Daddy came home, we told him about her wise decision. I was showing her respect and

training her to choose to listen to what Daddy and Mama have to say. Later in life, she will choose to listen to our counsel and wait for the right man. I believe that when that time comes and we send her off to follow her dreams, we will be able to trust her to take responsibility and choose wisely.

I worked at an orphanage before I got married. They put me in charge of two boys 9 and 13 years old. I was to be their "Mom", seeing to it that they obeyed the many rules. The thirteen-year-old had the street smarts of a sixteen-year-old and was very angry toward authority, especially his former female leaders who tried to tell him what to do. He was mad at me before we even met, just because I filled the position of the demanding houseparent. The first thing I did was sit down with him and tell him that from now on, he was to be as much in charge of the 9-year-old as I was, that I expected him to be a man and act like one, that he was too old for me to baby-sit, and that I would need his help to teach and keep an eye on the 9-year-old who was below his age level in schooling.

He continued to express angry resentment for about two months, but when he realized that I was going to continue to give him the respect he FELT he deserved, he began to reciprocate in kind. He started doing very well in school and taking respon-

sibility for the younger boy. He started honoring me as his authority. He knew the rules much better than I, for he had been there most of his life. When I befriended him and just backed off emotionally, letting him take responsibility for his actions, there came a point when he did not want to let me down. There were times when in youthful exuberance he failed and had to face the predefined consequences. Respect is the key. Listen to your children. They are human beings, with all the drives and responses of an adult—only more volatile and less logical.

Sharing responsibility

While growing up, we always worked as a team to maintain the home front and to put food on the table. We learned responsibility by being made responsible. We never felt as though work was an unwelcomed exception to life; it was life itself. The tomatoes we planted, weeded, watered, picked, packed, and sold were a necessary part of living. We did not just play and watch our dad do all the work. Yes, we played and had more fun than most kids I know of. We would all work together, and then we would play together, Dad right in the middle of everything, cheering us on to be the best at our antics, whether dropping into the water from a rope swing or trying to catch a chicken. I have modeled my home after my life experiences, and just as it worked for my parents, it is working for me.

Gracie knows she is a huge part of this family. Just a few days ago, as Justin and I were having a serious discussion on the need to get more work and increase our income, Gracie chimed in, “Daddy I will help you in the shop to make money.” Last night as Gracie was getting ready for bed, Justin came in from the shop to tell us that he would have to work for a while longer to finish a job. Gracie, with great concern, asked him if he needed her help. He tried not laugh, but sincerely thanked her for offering and told her that she could best help by assisting Mom in putting Laila to bed. She gave him a great big smile and set to the task of helping prepare her little sister for bed. Whatever affects us affects her, and she knows that she is an integral part of this family.

I have sadly watched as parents try to prop up their ever-tilting, sliding and crumbling homes on foundations that will never sustain an enduring structure. Their teenagers begin to fall like stone chimneys built on sand. Against their parents’ most earnest pleadings or loud ravings, the kids flee the crumbling structure. They run off prematurely to try to build their own home, hoping for something better, but they carry the example with them, and they, too, build on sand, repeating another generation of foundationless homes. Not I, for one, because by God’s grace I am daily laying the stones of love and respect deep and wide. My home will be strong like the one in which I was raised. I am filled with hope and expectation, not fear or dread.

I am not yet skilled in many areas, I have much to learn, and yes, life might throw me some surprises. But what I don’t know is not nearly as important as knowing that I am building a foundation that will sustain my children in any storm that may come. I hope that my sharing these thoughts with you about this vital issue will encourage you to give your kids the foundation they will need to face their uncertain world.

Many thanks to the Feistal family for submitting the pictures used in this article.

Two New Messages on CD by Michael Pearl

Repentance, True & False \$5.00
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For more information, see page 37.



Mike Answers *continued from page 2*

to be humble is pride itself, for it is valuing yourself above others, that is, measuring yourself against what you perceive they are thinking about you. Stop considering your humility and use your energies and confidence to help others.

There is nothing wrong with doing something well and knowing it—like music, art, sports, etc. Pride would be to use your successes to put others down and make them feel of less worth. It is fine to say, “I am the best violin player in the orchestra,”—if it is well known to be the case; but then you should use your skill and influence to raise the skill level of others and to encourage them. Then, if one of the others should surpass your skill, true humility would acknowledge that you are now second best, and you would rejoice in their abilities while continuing to improve yourself.

Bad-mouthing anyone, either yourself or others, is pride. Lifting everyone up—others first and then yourself—is true humility. But then, the truly humble person usually does not know he is humble, nor does he care. To strive for humility and believe you have reached it is to arrive at pride. To strive for humility and not reach it is to wallow in self-pity and condemnation, which is just another expression of pride.

Pursuing humility is like pursuing the pot of gold at the end of the rainbow. It moves when you move and can never be attained. If one did pursue humility and actually attain it, it would be because he had forgotten his own personal aspirations while serving others, and he would be unaware of having achieved humility. Wow, this is rather philosophical for a ninth grader. Hope you can understand it. I must say, you caught my interest. With tongue in cheek, I say, “Let me know when you get to be humble.”

Your friend, Michael Pearl

Pulling The Baby Apart

I am in a blended family (marriage has been rocky since the start) and believe that my husband degrades and humiliates my daughter. Is it my job to continue to be his help meet and trust that God will protect my daughter?

My husband and I have participated in counseling, and I have been told by 3 of 4 counselors that my husband is very controlling. No surprise; I lack boundaries. I am having difficulty finding the balance of doing what God has called me to do in terms of my relationship with my husband, protecting my daughter, and not losing myself. My husband is a bit of a dictator regarding parenting, and I am a love and logic kind of parent. My daughter's counselor, who is a Christian, has stressed that what I am modeling for my daughter is not healthy. Any information you could provide would be greatly appreciated.

Michael Answers:

You are too sweet and passive, and your husband is too hard and cold. The child is caught between. This is a recipe for disaster. You pull one way, and he is pulling the other. The more he is hard and controlling, the more you try to bring balance by acting in the opposite manner. Likewise, he sees your lack of boundaries and discipline, your passive acquiescence, and he tries to bring balance by being tougher and more demanding. Each of you is making the other act in a more extreme way. Neither of you will allow yourself to moderate in the other direction, because of your perceived need to keep balance. You are pulling against each other, and the child is going to be pulled in two. Both of you are immature, each trying to find your own balance in life. It is time to give up your personal struggles and think of the child.

How is this to be accomplished? You must come to the peace table with your husband and discuss without anger or accusation the difficulties the two of you have caused. Until both of you see your deficiencies and agree to seek a Godly balance, you will continue to pull the baby apart. Talk. Discuss. Analyze. Both of you need to moderate your convictions. If you have a partner who will not talk and is so competitive that he is jerking the child in only one direction, then your road will be harder, but there

is still hope. If you can find balance and get good results because of it, in time he will see the wisdom of your approach and come on board with you. When you stop pulling against him, he will stop pulling against you. It is better to release your end and leave the baby intact than to keep the contest going.

Hard Speech

I have had something on my heart for some time now that I was wanting to share with you. It is a question, really. But first, I must start by saying just how blessed our family has been because of your family! THANK YOU! I thank God often for leading me to your materials. I have so much respect for you and Debi and the work that you do.

As you can tell from my above statements we have been blessed and have found IMMEASURABLE good in the materials that you write. However (my question), I feel that in your writings, you often say things in a way that comes across very harsh. I appreciate your being clear and direct, but I disagree and do not understand when your anger/disgust seems not to be just for the sin, but for the sinner as well. Jesus tells us to speak the truth in love (Eph 4:15). I know that you know His word very well, so I was wondering what you thought about that verse? I feel able to take the immense amount of good from your materials and overlook the harshness that I feel is inappropriate, but what saddens me is that I do not feel as free to share it with others as I would like to, because many are not able to overlook these things. I know you are a very busy man, but I would greatly appreciate hearing your response if you are able. Thank you so much.

Michael answers:

If my personal manner of communicating were like James Dobson's, there would be no need for my ministry. I am an ordinary man who speaks my heart to ordinary men and women. I do not seek popularity.

"And as they departed, Jesus began to say unto the multitudes concerning John, What went ye out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken with the wind? But what went ye out for to see? A man clothed in soft raiment? behold, they that wear soft clothing are in kings' houses" (Matthew 11:7-8).

Sin disgusts me, as it should any Christian, and I make that fact known in a small measure. We live in a day when the church normalizes sin by responding to it "in love and understanding." This was not Jesus' response. While he was preaching, he called those "religious" leaders who heard him fools, blind, liars, hypocrites, whited sepulchers full of dead men's bones, blind guides, serpents, a generation of vipers, and he advised them that they were of their father the Devil and were doing his will, and that they could not escape the damnation of hell (John 8:44, 55; Matthew 23 :13-33). I feel like a compromising pantywaist compared to him. If you have been offended again, you should listen to my taped message, *When Forgiveness is a Sin*.

Food on the Floor

I was reading one of your articles about emotional self-control. My 3-year-old daughter is constantly throwing her food on the floor. As you can imagine, it makes us very angry. We have yelled at her and given her time-outs (neither of which have worked)! Do you have any suggestions on how we should handle this?

Michael answers:

Never yell unless they are about to step in front of a moving vehicle. Yellers are never trainers; they are competitors, the other side of the street fight. Parents are cool, confident, poised, always in control. Kids yell at each other if they are not trained. But

then, if it's the parent who is not trained.... Never give time-outs. Time-out is what you do for fruit when you want it to ferment. Time-outs are statements that you are not in control and that you have called for a truce, hoping the other side (a little 3-year-old!) will deal with the problem before you are both in the same room again. No, I cannot imagine that her throwing food on the floor makes you angry. You had to tell me that, because getting angry at a child for doing what you trained her to do should never make anyone angry. I suspect very much that you are often angry over many things, not just the child's behavior. Anger is a personal issue that must be resolved with God's help. It is not caused by someone else, especially not a small child.

Now that I have scolded you sufficiently, I will tell you how to train the child not to throw food on the floor. This is profound. Don't pick it up and don't give her any more food. And don't show any emotion one way or the other. Just grin, and go about your eating, because you know that you are going to win. When she discovers that this is not a game with two players, that all she is doing is depriving herself of food, she will hang on to every morsel. If she comes to the table hungry and you put before her only what she can and will eat, she will not throw it away. Her innate selfish instincts will lead her to be protective of her food. Now, if you are prone to feed her sweets or greasy snacks between meals and after meals, then I can understand perfectly well why she throws broccoli and spinach on the floor. Smart kid. She is entertained and empowered when you get mad and scream. It's fine with her as long as she gets the sweets later. But if you limit her food to healthy fare that she only eats at meals, it would not be in her interest to leave the table hungry and have to wait until the next meal.

Imputed vs. Imparted Righteousness

There is a man in my community who claims to be a preacher. He is preaching that Romans 5:9 means that he is perfect. Now I know this is not true, but he has others believing this. I don't want to see these people burn in hell because they believe this. I would appreciate any information you can give me on this matter.

Michael Answers

Much more than, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him. Romans 5:9

I do not know what this preacher is trying to say regarding Romans 5:9, but I will attempt to clarify popular and prevailing conceptions regarding Biblical salvation. No matter our theological persuasion, we all start at the same place: a conviction that the entire human race lies in sin and is lost without some act on God's part. Man cannot remake himself into a condition that would make him acceptable to God. This you surely believe, and presumedly the man in question also believes. But doctrines diverge at the point of how the grace of God works to save a sinner. There are all shades of differences, but basically two opposing positions. The one belief that is most popular—believed by 99% of Christianity—is that the grace of God works in our hearts to bring us to repentance of sin and faith in his son, Jesus, transforming us into obedient children, thereby making us acceptable to God. This we can call Imparted Righteousness. That is, God by his grace imparts to our experience his righteousness so that we are changed into sons and daughters of God. This is the Roman Catholic position as well as what most Protestants believe in practice. It is also the position of most Plain people, Mennonites and Amish. Since this view is based on God transforming the individual, no one can ever say for sure that he has been sufficiently changed so as to be in a saved state. The sinner must be constantly engaged in repentance and confession, trying to maintain a proper humility and fear, keeping his sins confessed, making sure he doesn't die with any unconfessed sins, and not daring to presume that he has arrived at that place of unqualified acceptance. The person under this system cannot know that he is saved. He lives all his life in doubt and confusion. Such a one is often the most religious and devout among us, and they make great neighbors, for they labor for their own salvation. Sad to say, this

belief is a vain hope. It is purely human in its basic precepts, and it is dead wrong. The contrasting view, held by very few, was the belief of the early church and of the reformation fathers. In contrast to Imparted Righteousness, we call this position Imputed Righteousness. That is, God sees us as too sinful to be transformed into anything that could remotely be acceptable. We are without hope in our sin, but God sent his Son Jesus to take our place as a son of Adam. Jesus received our sin upon himself as if he were the sinner. God “imputed” our sin to the perfect God/Man Jesus. He died as if he were the sinner and was raised from the dead because he was indeed righteous. God now imputes the righteousness of Jesus to all who will believe upon him. This is called “the gift of righteousness.” (Romans 5:17).

Here is the contrast between the two positions: Imparted righteousness changes the individual so as to make him righteous. Imputed righteousness just changes the man’s legal standing with God. Imparted righteousness is the man’s own experience. Imputed righteousness is God’s experience of righteousness placed to the account of the sinner as if it were his. Read 2 Corinthians 5:21: “For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.”

You can listen to my *Righteousness* set of CDs and get this message in detail. The single message *Imputed Righteousness* discusses this subject in detail. If you want it in print, the last half of my book *Divine Design* covers this subject quite well.

Now, back to your preacher who claims to be sinless according to Romans 5:9. Anyone who claims to be sinless is a liar (1 John 1:8-10) and you need listen to him no further unless you just want a laugh. That is not the same as claiming to overcome sin, as did the Apostle Paul. All believers have the power to sin not, and it is normal for a believer to sin not—but the power to sin not is not the same as being sinless. To claim sinlessness is to claim to NOT BE ABLE to sin. A Christian is able to SIN NOT on a moment by moment basis, but he will always be ABLE to sin until he gets rid of this fleshly body.

Could it be that the preacher actually said something like this? “Based on the imputed righteousness of Christ, God sees me as sinless. God counts me as if I have never sinned. It is a free gift of perfect righteousness that God reckons to me.” If so, he is correct.

Any preacher worthy of the name should boldly profess to be enjoying the complete gift of God’s righteousness, and he should also testify that God is delivering him from the acts of sin on a daily, moment-by-moment basis.

God made Jesus to be something he wasn’t—sin—so that he can make us something we are not—righteous. Just as Jesus received our sin in an act of faith, we receive his righteousness in an act of faith. My sin took Jesus where he did not deserve to go—death and hell—so his righteousness can take me where I do not deserve to go—eternal life and heaven.

See my gospel tract *God Made Jesus to be Sin*. It is free and downloadable from our website www.nogreaterjoy.org.

Witnessing

I am a homeschooled teenager involved in several of the local public high school’s programs – track, math, etc. I have a tremendous opportunity to witness to my unbelieving peers. Last year, I tried many times to witness to my teammates, but their hearts are so hard. They became angry, or didn’t listen, or took it all at a purely intellectual level. I can’t blame them, though. Oftentimes, I find that my own fear, pride, and stubbornness prevent me from speaking to them when I should. I pray for them often, but nothing I say to them, nor how I try to stand apart from the spirit of the world seems to affect them. I am thinking that I, being a “weird homeschooler” (at least in their eyes), am tainting their view of who God is. How can I effectively witness to my non-Christian peers, especially when they have such alien worldviews and anti-Christian attitudes?

Michael answers:

There are two ways to witness. The first is the most direct and is similar to what a street evangelist would do. You get right to the point, discussing sin and righteousness and the consequences of dying without Christ, challenging them to repent toward God and believe the gospel. You can expect most of them to reject your message, but you keep fishing, knowing that out of the hundreds, there may be one who will be prepared by the Holy Spirit to believe your message. This is not normally the approach you take with co-workers, fellow students, next door neighbors, or family members. If you have the time, the most effective method of reaching someone for Christ is to:

1. Treat everyone you meet as if they are Christian brothers and sisters who are dear to you. In short, love them as they have never been loved.

2. Be continually joyful. Everyone is attracted to joy, and no one will fault you for it. They will want what you have.

3. Be successful. Be the best at whatever you do. Everyone admires success and sincere effort. They will respect you for it.

4. Be helpful. Pour something into the lives of everyone you meet. Make them feel better about themselves in a clean and pure way.

5. Be generous. When others see you giving, they will recognize God in it.

6. Be gracious and cheerful in your righteousness. Don't be prudish and standoffish in your convictions. When you decline to participate in sin, don't do so in a way that says "I am better than you, and you are a dog."

7. Be open. People are scared of the unknown. Let people get to know you and see that you don't bite, you're not "preachy", and you don't have any secrets.

8. Don't do religious things to be seen of men. Let your righteousness be purity of heart and intention.

9. Speak of God and Jesus occasionally when it is spontaneously true. For instance, you might say, "Isn't it a beautiful day God has made?" or "God has blessed me with good health." Upon occasion, you might say something like, "If it were not for Jesus Christ, I would be on my way to hell."

10. Follow the Holy Spirit's leading in knowing who is ready to receive the message. In time, someone will open up to you and ask a question like, "Why are you always happy?" or "Why don't you XXXX?" Answer them honestly, telling of your commitment to Christ and of your conversion. When the moment seems right, tell them the gospel story in detail. Win just one person, and it is all worth it.

Don't think in terms of impacting the entire school. Just one needy soul is enough. And when you have one convert, it becomes much easier to impress others with Christ.

*Just wanted to let you know that your book, *Created To Be His Help Meet*, has changed my life!! For 20 years I have been a controlling wife. I was sexually abused as a child/young adult and thought that by controlling my husband, children and all those around me, I could control the pain and hurt of life. Your book has taught me to let go and let God be master of my life, so I can love my husband and let him be the godly man he was meant to be... THANK YOU, THANK YOU, and THANK YOU!!! – Y.T.*

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Compiled and written by: Mel Cohen, CFP, RFC, mcohen@nogreaterjoy.org



DAUGHTER OF SARAH

Dear Mrs. Pearl,

I am a daughter who would like to thank you for writing *Created To Be His Help Meet*. When I read the letters from people who had read the book, I prayed that my mom would somehow get to read it. I was very surprised when someone gave her your book. Our lives have changed. Mom and Dad are acting so different, and I respect them

both much more now. It's like they love each other! I don't know what's in that book, but it must be good. – Thank you again, A reader's daughter

I recommended your *Created* book to a dear friend in Ireland, and here is a portion of an email she sent to me: "Once again I must tell you - the Pearl book is still doing its rounds. One lady [said] that it has revolutionised her marriage and she has ordered her own copy. [One sister] has developed the saying, 'a Pearl moment' for times when she needs to submit! What a blessing it has been - there'd be nothing like it available here in Ireland!" – God bless, Jenn

Dear Debi,

Thank you for sharing your life and heart in *Created To Be His Help Meet*. Who would have guessed that a trip to the library could totally transform and ignite your marriage. I couldn't wait to read your book. Instantly I started following your advice. My husband and I have been married for 12 years and had a great relationship, but now it is absolutely incredible. – Sincerely, H.C.

I wrote to you about 9 or 10 months ago about my husband's adultery with over 10 women. You replied, and I gave prayerful thought about what you said. I chose to stay and treat my husband as if he were an unbeliever.

I stayed because I feel that the Lord wanted me to. In my prayers I was shown that to divorce would be to let a harlot win. She would have my husband and possibly my children on weekends. Her lust and my husband's would be an ever-present evil force in my children's lives. My place by my husband would be replaced by a sleazy, depressed, drug addicted adulteress.

I could not let the Devil come in and destroy my family, so I fought back with the gospel and every ounce of grace the Lord could squeeze from me. God was the one that had to squeeze, because I could never have been so full of grace and mercy on my own. I thank you for the wisdom that God has imparted you and you to me. May God richly bless you all and your families and this Ministry. – Gratefully, a Wife

FROM A READER

Many times I've wanted to write you regarding something I've read in your NGJ magazine, but always found it too "inconvenient". I cannot use that excuse this time. The BLAME article in your Nov/Dec.'07 issue hit me like a ton of bricks.

Many times while taking communion I would ask myself, "Is there someone I need to forgive? Is there someone who needs forgiveness from me?" and I would find that on the "forgiveness" end, all is very well with me. But, after reading BLAME, I'm reconsidering my innocence. I WILL be asking my husband and especially my children if "I've been unreasonable and hasty in blaming them". I'm scared to do this, but I want this out in the open. Sin is so deceitful, all in itself, isn't it? Thank you. With all my heart, Mr. Pearl, thank you. – K.P.

TAX TIP: If you had church employee income of \$108.28 or more you will need to file a federal tax return.

Training Children to Minister



Would you like to have a ministry that would bring thousands of people to our Savior, a ministry that would transform your children from nice homeschoolers to ministers of the good news?

Here is how two families have done just that. One lady ordered a large number of Good and Evil books and gave them to a prison located in her city. Most people send us money and we send the books to the prison, but she wanted to mail them herself. It was a very wise move, because it allowed her family to really SEE what God can do if someone only takes the messages of salvation to the lost. One sees the need up close and is moved to pray. God says in Psalms 29:18, "Where there is no vision the people perish." Parents have a vision of homeschooling and raising godly children, BUT what parents do not realize is that their teens HAVE to have a vision that is BIGGER than themselves. If they don't, they will grow up selfish or disillusioned. That missionary lady gave her books to the prison and she received the following letter from the chaplain. We receive many such letters and share some of them with you, but think what a blessing it would be if your family received a letter like this lady did. Children would be transformed, knowing that the books they sent out and prayed over actually got results and caused the angels in heaven to rejoice.

Dear Mrs. Flage,

I cannot begin to express sufficiently our heartfelt prayers of thanksgiving to God the Father for your generous gift to His Kingdom in our care. The 12 cases of Good & Evil, 2 cases of the same in Spanish and 200 booklets arrived last Friday and were delivered to the Chapel today.

I rejoice that as I walk cell to cell greeting the men, I frequently find them looking through the Good & Evil book. My point here is that when one is placed with an inmate it is read and reread. Furthermore, of the new men who arrive from the other 4 cell houses, there is the oft heard request for that "comic book Bible" they have heard about.

We believe this book to be the best tool we have seen for reaching out evangelistically to the inmates. Those that read through it tend to do so again & again. And the result is a fairly good grasp of redemptive history. Thus, they encounter the claims of Christ and are forced to decide.

We both pray God's bountiful blessings on you and No Greater Joy Ministries. God alone knows the treasure you are storing up in heaven. Ponder prayerfully the wondrous promise made in Daniel 12 about "they that lead the many to righteousness." Through your gift you are joining in partnership with His ministry at the Correctional Center where 3600 souls hang in the balance of eternity.

We will be in contact with "ministry updates" that you might be informed of the practical impact of this tool. We remain your fellow laborers in Christ Jesus.

For Christ's Crown & Covenant,

Chaplain Jim

Another family ordered a number of Spanish Good and Evil books and took them to an orphanage while on a church mission trip. As you can see in the pictures, the thankfulness from children that have so little is heartening. You can feed children and make them feel better, but when you put in their hands a gospel book that can be read by hundreds and then re-read for years, you have changed eternity. Such a visit will put eternity in your OWN children's eyes.

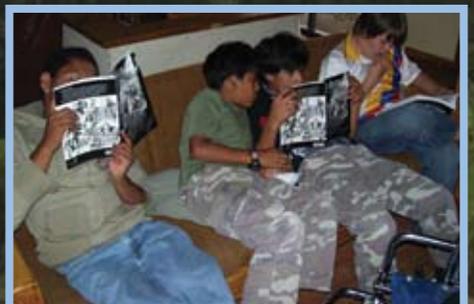
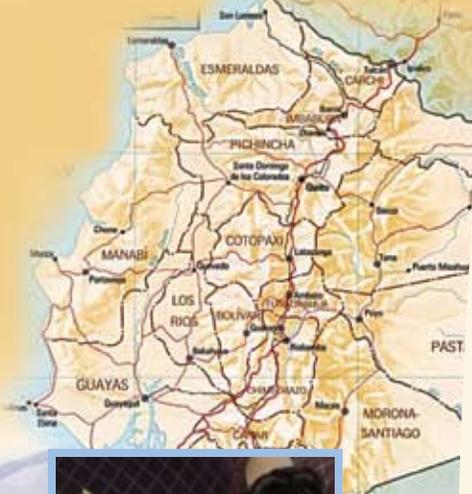
Will YOU join hands with us? Order a few books and donate them to the local library. Take a few to the laundromat or bus stop. Leave some in the waiting room of the hospital. Hand some out at a junior high school in the afternoon. Mail one to a serviceman in Iraq (get his address from your local newspaper). Take them to the local jail house and ask if you can walk back to give them to the people in the cells. Look in the phone book for the address of juvenile detention halls and mail them a few.

Our family just got back from doing a mission trip to an orphanage in Riobamba, Ecuador and the surrounding villages. Here are some pictures to show the Pearls and everyone at NGJ of how the kids at the orphanage we went to just devoured El Bien y El Mal.

Our friends Dale and Vicki Halteman here in PA gave us a box of Good and Evil to take with us. Thanks to them and thanks to all of you for all the time and work you put into this illustrated Gospel. It's a thrill and privilege to be part of the gospel going forth in such a well-received and creative way. Everytime we went to the orphanage there, there were always 2 or 3 kids reading it at any given time.

Thank you and God bless,

Tony, Chris, Alex and Mercedes Amaya



The Nuts and Bolts of NGJ

BY GABRIEL PEARL

It felt extra cold this morning on my way to work, so I decided to go through the McDonalds' drive-thru to get a hot cup of coffee.

The guy at the microphone responded to my order quickly. He sounded highly intelligent, about 35-40 years old, probably a college grad. When I drove around to the second window, I was surprised to see a scraggly-haired, 18-year-old, thin-skinned, pencil-necked sissy with bad complexion, but he had a great voice. It got me to thinking: I wonder if people have any idea who they are talking to or what we look like here at NGJ. I know that I've always enjoyed seeing what the people look like at ministries or companies we buy from.

So, for your viewing pleasure, I present No Greater Joy Ministries. Well, not quite yet. First, let's go back to where it all started. In the early spring of 1994 Mrs. Penny Mullins of Fort Worth, Texas wrote my dad a letter asking how he got his children interested in missions. At the same time, Bill Bell from the same church in Fort Worth gave Dad an old 286 computer, which was as strange to us as men from Mars. But Dad learned to type on it while answering the question.

The response went from one page to five pages to a book. At that time, Dad's typing skills matched the slow computer, so it took several months to finish it. We were living on six to eight thousand dollars a year, growing nearly all our food, shooting deer for our meat. Times were austere, to say the least. The county in which we lived had only one red light (now we have two) at that time.

My dad's brother-in-law, Bubba Stewart, paid for the first printing of three thousand copies of *To Train Up A Child*, which was about the longest response to Mrs. Mullins' letter you could imagine. It has been nearly fourteen years now since that first letter. We have gone from using our enclosed back porch as the office to what we have today. The office is still only 25 feet from our house. After using the sunroom/porch as an office for a good while, our first constructed office building was about eight hundred square feet, almost completely built by volunteer adolescents. It seems like about every other year we add on to it, trying hard not to make it look too ridiculous.

Last month, my dad and I were standing out in the yard trying to figure out where we could put a three-thousand-square-foot new warehouse that we needed. It suddenly dawned on us that this beautiful farm we moved to some twenty years ago was pretty much beyond hope now. He said, "Look around, this place will never be good for anything else; there is so much concrete and gravel everywhere, we might as well put the warehouse where we need it." So, as of this month, where the old fruit orchard used to stand, there is a big, new shiny building which, by the way, is already completely full of books. The properties on which all the buildings stand are now in NGJ's name. It was

a necessary step to comply with the 501(c)(3) laws. Dad organized it as a nonprofit corporation so all excess funds could be used for missions, whether domestic or overseas.

It all started with all of you (Mrs. Mullins first, of course), your e-mail or snail mail, requesting guidance from us about family issues. Carolyn



and Pat (We call Pat the heart of No Greater Joy) read the mail and sort it.

Almost every day, Dad and Mom read a big stack of letters. The pressing or dangerous issues are addressed at once; some of the more common problems, Dad reads and an-

swers on the public forum of the web (daily or weekly). If the questions have already been dealt with through previous writings, then Carolyn will write, advising the person where to look on the web. Pat posts letters on Createdtohelpmeet.com for our readers to learn from each other.

When you place an order, it is received by Kathy or Annette, where they process the order and send it down to Bob in Shipping. Bob is one of these older guys whose body seems to defy the need for sleep. He gets to work around 4AM every morning. He pulls the orders from the previous day and gets things prepared for the rest of the shipping staff who arrive at 7AM.

Tremaine packs the majority of the orders (occasionally with the help of his 8-year-old son Trajan), keeping his hands busy all day, while his mind is occupied listening to Bible tapes or planning messages.

Elizabeth is the youngest of the full-time staff. She is my cousin, and it was her daddy who paid for the first printing of *To Train Up A Child* 14 years ago. Elizabeth spends her days packing special orders for the military and prisons, and all the huge distributor orders. She also takes a lot of the pictures you see in the magazine. (Quite the talent...guys.)

Yolanda, the workaholic, does a lot of cleaning and helps with the shipping. (The ruby of No Greater Joy is still single.)

FOOD. What can I say? NGJ is known for its gourmet foods. You probably know that we live out in the sticks, which is the reason we “make” lunch every day instead of going to a fast-food place. And, this is where my sister, Shalom, comes in. Although talented at many other tasks, at the office her daily specialty is whipping something together that is pleasant to the palate. I might add, this is all done with baby Laila on her back and Gracie by her side, unless she is outside with her daddy. And, this is where Justin, Gracie’s dad, comes in. He is a jack of all trades, keeping the forklifts and trucks running, moving pallets of

books, keeping everything in tip-top condition, and this is just skimming the top of his duties.

In the mean-time, he is learning how to do and run everything.

Hugh, Annette’s husband, is the computer engineer. When you are in the middle of typing something

important and your stupid computer freezes, Hugh is the man of the moment. He has a special room that looks like the back panel of the Star Trek *Enterprise* with wires, little flashing LED lights and panels every-



Kathy

Annette



Bob

Tremaine

Trajan



Elizabeth

Yolanda



Justin



Gracie, Shalom & Laila

where. He is what makes everything high tech run smoothly.

Lynne had a heart for No Greater Joy before she ever came to work here, and has proven to be very faithful designing and laying out the magazines and books so that things are enjoyable to read and are tastefully done. Aaron is basically a cyber cowboy who moved into camp a year ago and has been excellent for us. But, like most young cowboys, he has been feeling the need to drift on to see new country. By the time you read this, he will have



Hugh

already moved on, but we felt compelled to mention him because he has done a great amount of work for the ministry. We are looking for a super geek to replace him.

Mel is the numbers man, the guru of finances, the brain of economics, the salesman of all times, the man with the plan, the whip behind



Aaron



Lynne

the whole office. If there is a vacuum anywhere to be filled, he'll find it, or if there is a deal, he'll seal it. It is his professional expertise that enables No Greater Joy to continue to offer low prices and still put thousands of dollars into missions each month. I have often wished I knew half of what he knows in finances.

And, then there is me, oldest son of Mike and Debi Pearl. I am not on staff at No Greater Joy, but am often here. When I am not writing, which is most of the time, I am either building things back here at No Greater Joy, working with my wife Lori at our own business, **PearlOutdoors.com**, or I'm out in the woods.

Dad and Mom would love to be able to invite all of you to come by to visit us sometime, but that is not possible if we are going to continue to do what we do best—minister. When they are not off ministering at churches or seminars,



Mel

which is most of the time, Dad and Mom like to be together, just the two of them. They shut the door on us kids when we were young, and they still run us off now so they can do whatever it is that



Staff Lunch break



Debi writing her new book

“old people” still do. Beats me! Talking about old people, here's Dad—you know all he does.



Mike and his buddy Jeremiah

Y'all will be glad to hear that Mom and Dad are both writing new books (!) which means that they won't be able to answer as many letters as they would like for a while.

1 & 2 Peter Taught by Michael Pearl

1 & 2 Peter introduces subjects that the Apostle Paul never touched on. Exotic, some people call it. Learn about election, adding to your faith, Paradise, the seven baptisms, Christian suffering, corrupt shepherds, and much more. There are more practical teachings in these two letters than one can imagine. Thirteen messages totaling over nine hours of teaching.



7010-45 (13) Audio CDs \$38.00 7010-55 (1) MP3 CD \$12.50

A PREDATOR'S PERSPECTIVE

Dear NGJ Ministry,

Greetings in the name of our wonderful Lord Jesus Christ. I just finished reading the Nov/Dec '07 edition of your newsletter. As always, it was a blessing. This letter is in regards to Gabriel Pearl's article "Becoming A Bear." The article spoke of a close encounter with a predator. Being the family-minded ministry that you are, I had to ask myself, what does NGJ know about predators? Would NGJ go further with the issue of predators by allowing space to warn parents about the damage?

This letter has nothing to do with me; it is God's will in my life to use my past (as a predator) to bring enlightenment and comfort to others, with the objective to save as many victims as possible so that they will not be subjected to that awful cycle of life any longer.

Here are some statistics concerning molestation of children.

- A. One in every six boys will become a victim.
- B. One in every four girls will become a victim.
- C. The age average is between 8 and 11 for most victims.
- D. It will be by someone the child knows well, 90% of the time.
- E. Mothers, fathers, uncles, brothers, sisters, best friends, teachers and coaches make up 90% of the predators.
- F. Only 10% of the molestations are done by total strangers.
- G. Abusers come from all types of backgrounds. There is no profile for anybody to be a sexual offender.
- H. Twenty-three percent of offenders are under 18 years of age, 77% were adults.

There are more statistics, but the issue that concerns me most is that these predators almost always know their victims intimately! The victims trusted, loved, and were close to their violators 90% of the time.

If parents were to simply ask the right questions at the appropriate time, be prepared to take the proper corrective action at that time and not hinder the process of the cycle being broken, we can make a difference.

I ask, can we afford to wait for our children to question the values they have trusted in? Or shall we instill in them values which in turn will help them experience less trauma!

Thank you for your time. May God continue to guide us and lead us into all understanding. See the following for further information:

www.safersociety.org www.brokenyoke.org www.purelifeministries.org

– In His Service, R

IN THE REALM OF

Truest Love

I saw true love today

Not on a movie screen—

No passion clogging reason,

No clinging to be seen.

I saw true love today,

Walk through a waiting room

Where I was sitting by myself.

Disguise it did assume...

An older man, an ugly man

Tall figure worn and bent;

No dashing prince with golden

crown

To beauty's side was sent.

A woman who was fat and

grey,

No fairy princess she!

Moved by the side of that old

man—

She wasn't much to see.

And yet, they caught my

notice,

... heirs together of the grace of life - 1 PETER 3:7

Kathy & Tom Slayman, married 38 years, parents of T.J. Slayman

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March

FEBRUARY 2008

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**READ ONE,
 SHARE ONE
 SPECIAL**
Good
March 1-14
 See back page

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**MOM'S DAY
 SPECIAL**
Good
Mar 29-Apr 18
 See back page

The quaint and ancient pair.
 They took my full attention
 Though they were unaware.

For as they lingered by the door
 He held her coat for her.

And then he went and fetched
 the car—

The ice made her footing un-
 sure—

And when he brought the car
 around

For her, the door he gained
 And placed a step before it
 That her body not be strained.

They drove away that morning
 And though they could not
 know

They left me with a picture
 Of how true love should go.

I saw that day no handsome
 prince;

No princesses were seen
 But in the realm of Truest Love
 I saw the King and Queen.

~ by *Mary Beth Hackett,*
Faribault, MN



*Lo, children are an heritage
of the Lord: and the fruit
of the womb is his reward.*

- PSALM 127:3



Baby Wipes Recipe

For regular size (store bought) diaper wipe box:

1. Put dry paper towels (folded) in box
2. Mix in separate bowl:
 - ♥ About 1/1/2 cups of water
 - ♥ 2-3 Tablespoons of Olive Oil
 - ♥ 2 drops of Lavender Essential Oil
 - ♥ About 1.0 ml of Grape Fruit Seed Extract
3. Pour liquid mix over paper towels and use as needed.

I make a new batch every 3 days or so. I have not noticed mold (natural wipes can mold), but I have a newborn that poops 20 times a day. I use these wipes A LOT. ~Kristen

Check out:

www.Backtobasicspodcast.com

A free podcast where you can learn about natural health and fun home projects! A great resource for Moms!

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1 MOM'S DAY SPECIAL Good Mar 29-Apr 18 See back page	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19 KID'S FUN PACK SPECIAL Good Apr 19-May 2 See back page
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MARCH 2008							MAY 2008						
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“I Am Going To Kill Myself”

Is there hope of heaven for one who commits suicide?

Dear Michael

Do you believe there is hope of heaven for people who commit suicide? If you think there is then please explain in your next newsletter. I will cut out your explanation and put it with the brief notes I write for my husband, children and parents. Maybe it will help them a little bit. If you think there is no hope (personally I don't) then disregard this letter.

I'm going to kill myself no matter what, sooner or later, one way or another. Do not attempt to 'save' me. It won't accomplish any good except maybe make you feel virtuous. For someone who is hell-bound anyway, a few more years makes very little difference if indeed, you did intervene. If you'd recommend counseling, I'd probably shrug and go along with it, but in the end it's still all the same end. I might as well go now as later.

I'm not sure yet how I'll do it—I'd like to save my family, etc. the heartache of knowing for sure that it was a suicide. In front of a truck, perhaps?

I hate the person I have become. Here is a briefing of what brought me into this trap of the devils.

I have tried hard to cut loose but I guess I just don't know how. I've fought and fought but accomplish no good at all. The devil is stronger than I and I lie defeated and at his mercy which is no mercy at all...

Through poor communication and my stubborn un-submissiveness, my little girl's name got changed from Naomi to Fannie. She is now nearly three years old and my sin still haunts me constantly. My husband says he forgives me, whether God did or not I do not know. I do know that I have not forgiven myself. I tried, believe me, I tried. I even wrote you before and carried Debi's note with me and tried hard to follow her advice but I still think of my sin nearly every time I call my daughter Fannie. My little girl is so much like a dear friend named Naomi (who died) as well as my husband sister who is named Naomi. Other people keep mentioning how much she is like one of them and it hurts when they say it but I think, Lay it on...I deserve every thing you can dish out and then some.

Fannie is not a nice name. Imagine being called a behind all your life. I wanted to please my mother by giving her this name but how much better it would have been to please my husband.

Therein lies my sin.

I have tried to forgive myself. I can't. I don't want to go on carrying this guilt. For other people's sake I go around wearing a smiley face but it's so hypocritical. The cup is clean on the outside but it is fitly inside filled with bitter poison more like it and it is a thin cracked cup. It bursts it'll hurt everyone close to me. I don't want to be responsible for dragging other with me into the anguish of hell. That is why I want to go now before I do any more damage. It will be awful for my family for a while but not so awful as if I stayed and then took them with me through my bad influence, subtle as it is.

I thought of re-changing her name, I don't know if that would help or not but it is a long expensive legal hassle.

Mother of Fannie,

I write to you publicly because you gave me no choice. You did not give me a return address and you said that if I did not respond you would assume that my answer was that there was no hope for your soul when you commit murder against yourself. You said you would seek counseling if I suggested it. There are several things I want to say to you.

Firstly, to clarify a misconception, it is humorous that you should think the name Fannie is demeaning. The name Fannie is a Latin word, used in French, meaning “free”. Though, in English it sounds the same as the slang word *fanny*, which is sometimes used to mean buttocks, it is not the same word at all. One of the finest women I know is named Fannie. She is my “over the ridge” neighbor. She has birthed and trained a whole coop full of kids that are all examples of Christian duty and charity. There are more smiles in her family than buttercups in Tennessee. No one thinks of a body part when they call her name. They think of dignity and grace, duty and perseverance. Why should anyone think of your little girl any differently? Unless, of course, you murder yourself, and then she will carry the guilt of knowing that it was her name that killed you. You will give her the most horrible pain that a child can have. Your thinking is quite selfish. You say you will jump in front of a truck. What about the driver? Would you make a killer out of him? Would you give him the life time grief of knowing that he sent a woman to hell?

You said, “Do not attempt to ‘save’ me. It won’t accomplish any good except maybe make you feel virtuous.” I don’t need to feel virtuous, but I would like to save you.

Now I will answer your question, “Do you believe there is home in heaven for people who commit suicide?” The answer is that if you kill yourself you will go to hell and suffer the fires of eternal damnation for ever and forever, but not because you commit murder, for you are not and never have been a born again believer. You are only religious. That is why you have fallen for the devil’s lies.

You suppose your sin to be disobeying your husband in regard to naming your daughter. You are a sinner for many reasons more serious than that. You need forgiveness for being a self centered person who has chosen to believe the devil rather than believe God.

You said, “The devil is stronger than I am and I lie defeated.” The devil’s only weapon against you is lies. The reality is that you are blinded to the simplicity of the gospel of Jesus Christ. You try to forgive yourself when that is impossible. You struggle and fight when the battle has already been won by Jesus Christ. The devil has no power except that which he convinces you that he has through his lies. It is your guilt that gives Satan a place in your mind.

There is only one way open to you. It is a plain and sure way to peace and forgiveness. You must believe God regarding the sacrificial death of Jesus on your behalf. I will make this as plain and to the point as I possibly can.

1. You overrate yourself by pretending that your greatest sin is the naming of your daughter, when deep down inside you are unclean in every thought and act (Isa. 64:6). You ooze of pride. That you contemplate committing murder, leaving your family and the truck driver to suffer, is a statement of your utter self centeredness (Mat. 22:39). You are indeed a sinner who has offended God and are worthy of eternal damnation. There is nothing good in you (Rom. 7:18); and no reason why God should be merciful to you (Ps. 5:5).

2. Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners just like you (1 Tim. 1:15). He lived the life you should have and did not live. He overcame the devil and his own flesh, living a perfect life (Heb. 4:15). In contrast to all the rest of us humans, after proving himself for 33 years, the perfect man Jesus was fully qualified to enter heaven as a man (John 3:35).

3. But before he entered heaven, Jesus went into a garden and, kneeling before the Father, he received your sin onto his own body (Isa. 53:6). Every one of

your sins was placed on Jesus (1 Pet. 2:24). He felt the shame and weight that you now feel (Heb. 12:2). On the cross he felt deserted by God as you now feel (Mat. 27:46). God made him to be sin for you (2 Corinthians 5:21). He took your place at the place of execution (Isa. 53:4-5). You do indeed deserve the wrath of God, and so Jesus stood in your place and took the full wrath of God upon his own body (Isa. 53:10).

4. You can know what God think of your sin by looking at how he responded to his son Jesus. God does indeed hate sin as seen by the cross. That was you hanging on the cross, dying for your sin (Galatians 2:20). You were punished in the body of Jesus (1 Pet. 3:18). God did not forgive you until the steel of vengeance was plunged into Jesus' flesh, and his life's blood all ran out (Eph. 2:13; Heb. 9:14; 1 Pet. 1:19; Eph 2:13).

5. You can also know what God thinks about you the sinner by the resurrection of Jesus Christ. God accepted Jesus' payment for sin as seen by the fact that God raised him from the dead and received him back into heaven to sit on the Father's right hand as the overcoming man (Eph. 1:20; Col. 2:12-13; Heb. 9:12; 1 Pet. 1:21)

6. When God raised Jesus from the dead he also raised you from the dead (Rom. 6). Every sin you have ever committed and will commit were placed on the body of Jesus when he died. You sin has been paid for in full (Heb. 10:10, 12, 14). God remembers your sins no more (Heb. 10:17).

7. The devil, and maybe even your church, would have you to believe otherwise. There is no such thing as forgiving yourself or personally overcoming the devil. You cannot fight a battle that has already been won by our representative elder brother—the Lord Jesus Christ (Col. 2:15).

8. The last step is yours. It is called believing, repenting, giving up, trusting, yielding, calling on the name of the Lord Jesus Christ to be your Savior. You can make this complicated, as you have done, or you can confess that you are a hopeless, hell bound sinner who does not deserve forgiveness, yet one for whom Christ died and rose again. If you look inside your soul, as the devil would have you do, you will only see darkness, but if your look without to the one who died for you, there is eternal home and assurance of forgiveness (John 3:14-18; 1 John 1:9; Acts 16:31).

9. I have prayed for you. I do believe that you are going to be saved and send me a letter of rejoicing (1 John 5:14).

Thanks for all you do! I have a little story for you. My husband owns a construction company, and one of his subcontractors was going through hard times (they have seven kids). So around Christmas time of last year, we put some money on a Christmas tree, wrapped *Created To Be His Help Meet* and the *Only Men* CD, and left it on their doorstep, knocked on the door and left.

Well, a couple of days ago I met his wife for the first time, and we got to talking. Over the last several months I could tell her husband seemed down (we are building a house and he is our framer). I asked her if he was ok.

She went on to tell me they had not been getting along for the last couple years and she was about to leave him, but then she went on to tell me about the mysterious Christmas money tree and gifts. And that she never did read the book until about a month ago. She told me how it has changed her life.

Now she wakes up every day not thinking about how she is going to raise 7 kids by herself, but how she is going to honor her husband that day!!! Wow, it took everything I had not to cry and laugh at the same time.

She says she still doesn't know where those gifts came from, but she is convinced that they came from God. How right she is!!! Isn't it amazing how much he loves us!! Thanks again for being his hands and feet. - J.W.



MILITARY

Thank you for your AWESOME care packages!!! I'm currently an Active Duty Air Force member that you have "adopted" while I work in the Chapel. I have been sharing the wealth of your packages with all the members serving over here away from home. Every time we receive a care package from you, it's like a piece of Christmas for us. We appreciate and miss the simple things in life that we cannot get here in Iraq, such as a simple Hershey's chocolate bar, a cup of flavored oatmeal, pop tarts, tea for our running noses, coffee for our mornings, bubble gum to chew, lollypops, and all the other warm wishes you put into each package of Love. We most appreciate the reading materials, cds and books you send, and last but not least, your prayers. We appreciate you; we appreciate what you do for us, and we simply downright Love you! We are very well taken care of due to all the items each and every one of you send; regardless of what you put into each box, every item is golden to the troops and soldiers over here. We also appreciate the notes of smiles and positive words from back home (we miss the USA). Thank you so much for thinking of us and warming our hearts, making not only our holidays a little more special, but each and every day a little more uplifting. - THANK YOU, From Unit1/Chapel Staff, Sincerely, MSgt. Melissa S.

Thank you for the package. I am unsure how you knew about my husband's deployment. I was put to tears to see that someone made the effort to thank us. Freedom is certainly not free. The package arrived at a very opportune time. Today is my anniversary, and it has been a very hard day, being that my best friend and lover is so far away. My children will really enjoy the books. We appreciate everything! Thank you for your thoughtfulness. - R.M.

Thank you and the NGJ family for all your support and prayers, enthusiasm, generosity, and love for us all. There are some happy faces over here in Kuwait - with new Bibles. The Third Country Nationals here are witnessing to others every day. It's beautiful to see the Holy Spirit working through them. God bless you all, and thank you also for your patriotism. - J.W., US Navy

I'm a chaplain in the USA, presently deployed to Baghdad, Iraq. It was there that I found an edition of the Good and Evil illustrated Bible. What an excellent illustration, and a great tool to familiarize the reader with the Bible and God! I want to obtain a case of this ministry product. - W.N.

Thank you so much for the military wives package that you sent me. I have already learned so much from *Created To Be His Help Meet* and from *To Train Up A Child*. I truly believe when my husband comes home, he will come home to a brand-new wife. I enjoyed the gifts you sent me immensely! I think what you are doing to help military families is wonderful! - Wendy

TAX TIP: 2007 Filing Requirements for Most Taxpayers—you must file a federal tax return if your income is over the below amounts.

- | | |
|---|--|
| - Single under 65 \$8,750 | - Married filing separate (any age) \$3,400 |
| - Single over 65 \$10,050 | - Head of Household under 65 \$11,250 |
| - Married Filing Jointly under 65 both spouses \$17,500 | - Head of Household 65 or older \$12,550 |
| - 65 or older one spouse \$18,550 | - Qualifying widow(er) with dependent child under 65 \$14,100 65 or older \$15,150 |
| - 65 or older both spouses \$19,600 | |

Why Would God Allow This To Happen?

BY WANDA HUGHES

My grief washed over me like a tidal wave.

Scenes flashed across my memory: There was the time when I was at a highway rest stop and saw an elderly mother leading her handicapped adult son out of a stall. I thought, “I could never cope with that.”

At night, when the children and my husband were asleep, I was left alone with my ponderings. I didn’t want to know this pain.

God must have made some mistake. We don’t have the resources, the patience, the skills or the abilities. We aren’t great parents. We are just simple, common folk. We aren’t equipped to make these decisions. If we truly love this child, would it be better to hand him over to someone who IS capable? If so, why did God place him with us? I looked back over my pregnancy and tried to figure out a cause, as though having an event to blame would help.

Was it something I took? Did I eat too much protein? Or the wrong kind of protein? Did I not eat enough vegetables? Was it because I ate contaminated foods? Was it something to which my husband or I was exposed?

During my pregnancy we had refused screening because, “We aren’t going to send him back,” we flippantly responded. “We will take whatever God gives us.” But now, I truly wondered if it hadn’t been a way of protecting us from the temptation of abortion. In my swirl of emotions, I wondered how far our fear and doubts would have taken us. I trusted we wouldn’t have done it, but now I wasn’t so sure.

As I sobbed, I wrapped my arms around myself to steady my shaking. My stomach was twisted in knots. The tears flowed, but they weren’t healing tears. This was a sorrow without answers. I heard my keening as though I were listening to someone else sorrowing. I struggled to put my thoughts together in light of my faith.

Was there something we should have said, done or prayed? Was this because of our past sin? Or our current sin? Or sin we weren’t aware of? Is this God’s wrath displayed in our child’s suffering? “And his disciples asked him, saying, Master, who did sin, this man, or his parents, that he was born blind?” (John 9:2). The words that had once been an interesting Bible story now haunted me.

Was God trying to tell us something? Or was it a random occurrence? Could I dare to think that Jesus’ answer to his disciples would apply to my son? “Jesus answered, Neither hath this man sinned, nor his parents: but that the works of God should be made manifest in him” (John 9:3).

I thought of my family: What about our other children? This isn’t fair to them! They have bright futures before them and now our limited resources will be strained further. We aren’t young. We were planning to retire one day and enjoy our twilight years together with grandchildren around our feet. Those dreams will be changed.

What about our marriage? I thought about the flawed areas of our marriage. We had rough spots. Would this be too much? Would our love be broken in a way that was beyond our ability to mend? Would we lose each other? I didn’t WANT to lose my husband! I NEEDED him! I ached for him.





Zechariah and Norman Hughes

He was dealing with his own swirl of emotions. In his way, he did for me what he needed. He gave me space while he went to work and put in a new floor. He dealt with his pain privately and in his own way. It felt like I had been abandoned. I knew I wasn't, but it felt terribly lonely. Thankfully, I was too occupied to lash out at him. It would have only made matters worse.

The books I had collected since childhood, planning to share them with my children, now sat on the shelves in their neat little rows and seemed to laugh at me. I wanted to joy in the academic accomplishments and the smartness of my children. Now, I would see other children breeze past milestones that my child would likely struggle to master. I didn't know if he would ever be able to read.

So many people said, "these children" are blessings. If this was a blessing, why was I dying inside? I saw a news report about a boy who was the biggest fan of a sports team. He was called an inspiration, instead of a kid who liked football. I didn't want to mother an inspiration, I wanted a *son*.

HEALTH CONSIDERATIONS

What happens if he dies? What happens if he doesn't die? What happens to him if we die? In my heart I wondered if he would die from physical complications. In a way, it was the only thing that made sense. My son would die; we would grieve, and we would somehow move on. Our friends would comfort us. I would sorrow over the loss, and we would honor his memory by becoming better people. Surely that's what God had in mind. Now I was negotiating which sorrow I could better manage.

And if he lived? How would we teach him? What if he can't learn? What if he can't understand about God? Will he understand enough to have faith for salvation? The sobs shook me again. My mama's heart said to hold that baby. Bond with him. MAKE him respond. I had done that, but NOW . . .

I was afraid to look at him because I didn't want to see any features that hinted at his condition. I only wanted to see my son, but in looking at him, I knew the day would come when strangers would only see a diagnosis when they saw him. I knew this because I had been one of those people. Now other mothers would do that when they saw MY child.

We had only been his parents a few months. People had spent lifetimes studying his condition. We were faced with mountains of documents while I was still recover-

ing from giving birth, coping with a new baby, dealing with hospitals, doctors, surgery, etc. There was so much to learn. How was I ever going to decide what to believe when the experts didn't even agree?

While I was still trying to cope with the diagnosis and struggling to manage his care, I began to wonder if I would ever get to be just his mom. I wondered if his little arms would ever encircle my neck and if he would ever utter a joyful declaration of his love for me.

EARLY INTERVENTION PROGRAMS

Many voices told us to get him into an early intervention program as soon as possible. He wasn't even six months old yet! The dictionary defines intervention as an action that comes between two parties by force or threat of force to maintain or alter a condition. While I believed that these workers had the best of intentions, I held my little one closer and refused their "helps."

Instinctively, I knew that anyone or anything that tried to move this child outside of the authority of his parents would also remove the protection he desperately needed. I would learn later that in my area, the therapists who coordinate services for children with special needs are also backlogged with children who suffer because of a lack of stimulation. This means that they can begin to treat all of their cases as though they are working with children of parents that are "ignorant" or "unwilling" to help their children. Later, we would utilize various services, but always at our direction and discretion.

THE TASK OF BECOMING INFORMED

I tentatively glanced over medical literature and cringed. The words were delivered with clinical heartlessness: "mongoloid," "mental retardation," "thick tongue," "low I.Q.," "poor health," "poor social skills," "congenital defect" . . . I would later learn that much of the information was terribly outdated. The sick feeling returned to my stomach. If this is what they EXPECT from my child, why would I want them to treat him?

Someone must have been praying for me in that moment. In my soul, the tiniest seed of faith stood up and said, "I don't know what to believe, but I know WHO to believe. I want to know what He has to say." So I pulled out my Bible and read in Psalm 127:3, "Lo, children are an heritage of the LORD: and the fruit of the womb is his reward." Whose reward? His? That is referring to God! I looked again at the words in the medical reports. They were in stark contrast to the WORD.

The experts all said my child was a disappointment, a defect. The Psalmist said that God had fashioned this child as His own reward, a divine trophy.

"And the man of God answered, The LORD is able to give thee much more than this." II Chronicles 25:9

I recalled how God used the stone that the builders had rejected. Psalm 118:21-23 stated, "I will praise thee: for thou hast heard me, and art become my salvation. The stone which the builders refused is become the head stone of the corner. This is the LORD's doing; it is marvellous in our eyes" (cf. Matthew 21:42; Mark 12:10; Luke 20:17).

I remembered the Syrophenician woman who was glad to be called a dog if it meant she got crumbs from Jesus' table (cf. Matthew 15:27, 28). The word began to

wash over me, “But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty” (I Corinthians 1:27).

Strains of a childhood hymn came to me:

Jesus loves me! This I know,

for the Bible tells me so.

Little ones to him belong;

they are weak, but he is strong.

I determined to measure my and my child’s success or failure by God’s measure, and none other. The difficulties and challenges were still there. The circumstance didn’t change.

But now, we knew something that all of the experts (and many in our fellowship) did not know: This was no cosmic accident caused by sticky chromosomes or rotten eggs. This was a trust, a commission, placed within our hands – just like all of our other children. God would teach us what to do, tell us when to do it and provide the means to accomplish the task as we sought to serve Him. In the midst of our past and the future uncertainties, we clung to “I AM.”

As we prayed and sought God, He directed us to the resources that offered our son hope and fit our family. We changed our diet and got creative in how to find the highest quality foods at the lowest prices. I began to read about natural health and herbal remedies. Instead of running in fear from our child’s diagnosis, we were now pursuing the hope. Predators tried to take advantage of us and said things like, “Purchase our product so your son will develop normally. See our pictures? Read testimonies from other parents!” We refused hope in a bottle and chose to hope in Him.

A secular organization of neurodevelopmentalists trained us to think of brain development in a whole new way. We knew they were an answer to prayer when they said, “You are the expert on your child. We are the experts on brain development. We will teach you what we know, evaluate your child and show you how to apply our techniques at home.” God provided the funds for us to use their services for two years. When the funds ran out, we were armed with information and able to move forward.

A book on the politics of nutrition educated me about food. A book by a mother of an autistic son showed me how to track down the cause of odd behaviors and symptoms in a systematic way, investigating the effects of certain foods on our child.

It would be deceptive of me to make it sound like it was an easy ride. It hasn’t been. There have been stretches when we weren’t sure if we were making the right decision. God has patiently taught us how to follow Him by various means.

Sometimes a series of tiny adjustments have led us to places we would have never set as our goal. More than once I’ve had to purpose to follow after my husband in obedience to God’s word when others quietly wondered if he wasn’t being foolish. I’m proud to say that if he is a fool, he is God’s fool. God has proved more than equal to the task of teaching my husband all He needs him to know to lead us.



Have we been overwhelmed? Oh yes! This is far too big a task for us. Thankfully, “I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day” (II Timothy 1:12).

God is big enough to handle your hurts, your anger, your doubts and your fears. Jesus is the only One who truly understands, and He knows just what you and your family need. “But when Jesus heard that, he said unto them, They that be whole need not a physician, but they that are sick. But go ye and learn what that meaneth, I will have mercy, and not sacrifice” (Matthew 9:12,13).

When you think about it, ALL of God’s children have required extraordinary measures. “Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light” (Matthew 11:28-30).

HELPFUL RESOURCES

Books:

Available at The Bulk Herb Store
<http://www.bulkherbstore.com>:

Unraveling The Mystery of Autism by Karyn Seroussi, Broadway Books

Nourishing Traditions by Sally Fallon, New Trends Publishing Inc.

Other Helpful Books:

How To Teach Your Baby to be Physically Superb by Glenn Doman, Square One Publishers, 2006

What To Do About Your Brain Injured Child by Glenn Doman, Square One Publishers

Websites:

ICANDO

<http://www.icando.org>

Neurodevelopmental Training,
National Association For Child Development

<http://www.nacd.org>

For parental support &

homeschooling helps,

Homeschool Legal Defense Association

(article on homeschooling a struggling learner)

<http://www.hslda.org/strugglinglearner/default.asp>

NATHHAN

National Challenged Homeschoolers
Associated Network

<http://nathhan.com>

For natural health questions & research
by other moms,

WellTellMe discussion forum

<http://www.welltellme.com/discuss>

My blog:

Learning At The Potter’s Wheel

<http://potterswheelschool.blogspot.com>

Local Library or Amazon:

Film (video):

The Woman Who Willed a Miracle

(1983), is an ABC television after school special starring Cloris Leachman.

TAX TIP: 2007 Filing Requirements for Single Dependents under age 65 or under age 65 and blind:

- Your gross income was more than the larger of:

* \$850, or * Your earned income
(up to \$5,050) plus \$300

- Your net earnings from self employment income (excluding church employee income) were \$400 or more

- Your unearned income was more than \$850

- Your earned income was more than \$5,350

TAX TIP: Standard mileage rates for 2007 for operating your car is 48.5 cents per mile for all business miles driven in 2007 (50.5 cents for 2008). You can also add parking and tolls to that.

If you’re an employee you cannot deduct car interest expense, but if you are self employed you can deduct your proportionate share of business interest expense.

Fight for your man.

I have tried to read your articles to find an answer to my problem, but I have not been able to find one. So, I write to you in secret. My husband has been talking with another woman for several years without my knowledge. I just found out, and I'm so hurt. My husband says he's sorry and that he tried to stop several times, but could not get victory.



Stella Levi, sxc.hu

This is the second time this has happened. My husband is a saved man in the ministry, and this girl has a high position in the ministry as well. I have decided to keep my mouth shut, because I don't want my husband's ministry to have a scar. I need help though, because I'm so hurt inside and have no one to talk to. I have to face this girl every week and act as though nothing is wrong. My husband has to work in the office with her at least once a week and act as if nothing is wrong. I don't want him to talk to her, look at her, or even smile at her, etc., but if he acts funny, I know suspicions will arise in me.

My husband said that he would start being open with me when I ask him questions or ask to see his phone. But I feel like he's starting to get irritated with me already, as I keep asking and I'm scared of his temper. My husband admits that he has a problem with wanting attention from women, and I fear that it may happen again. I feel so alone and I'm fighting so much with bitterness, anger, thoughts of their conversations and wondering why I wasn't or am not good enough for him. I feel so betrayed.

I love my husband and our children, and I want him to do the Lord's work. I don't want to do anything that will destroy his ministry. Please help me with some advice.

MICHAEL ANSWERS:

Fight for your man. Go to the woman personally, and tell her to get another job or you will make her wish she had. Tell your husband that you expect either him or her to quit and go somewhere else. If not, go to work with him and don't let him out of your sight.

THE MAN

Dear Pastor & Mrs. Pearl,

I just wanted to extend my thanks to the both of you for such wonderful publications! My wife and I are excited about all of your materials, and we look forward to your magazine publications.

We first came to know of your ministry through *Created To Be His Help Meet*. My wife ordered the book shortly before we were wed. I cannot thank you both enough over and over many times. Our marriage has blossomed because of my wife applying these life skills to our marriage. We both fully believe that a marriage cannot succeed without God at the center. There have been times when I have come home from work and my wife will meet me at the door with tears in her eyes, a hug and a kiss waiting. She'll usually follow up this greeting with "I love you so much and am so thankful for you!" In which I reply, "You've been reading your 'Help Meet' book, haven't you?" I'm right every time.

I am also growing to be a better husband for her. We have your two-DVD set about loving the wife and honoring the husband. I am filled with love and joy, knowing that when I am loving my wife the right way and giving her 100% of my love, I am pleasing God in the meantime. I am so thankful for all of your work. May God continue to bless your ministry. Thank you for so much for everything. - Justin

A-B-C BIBLE VERSE SONGS

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

1 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 CDs **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**

BEST HOMESCHOOLING IDEAS

Debi Pearl discusses her best homeschooling ideas. 20-plus years of accumulated wisdom. This message can remove your burden. A best-seller!

1 CD **6170-45** **\$5.00**

JUMPING SHIP

There is a troubling trend showing up among some of the "homeschool crowd." Their children are discontent and rebellious, jumping ship as soon as they think they can survive without the family—some as young as sixteen years old. Michael Pearl addressed this issue in a series of NGJ magazine articles in 2006. These have now been compiled into this book, along with new material and an additional two chapters covering further issues.

106-pg. Book **4940-10** **\$5.00**
8 or more copies ea. **\$3.00**

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 or more copies ea. **\$3.00**

STARTING OVER

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

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 DVDs **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**

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 or more copies ea. \$3.00
3 Cassettes 8610-40 \$12.00

PARA ENTRENAR A UN NIÑO

Spanish Translation of To Train Up A Child, Mike and Debi's best-selling book.

Spanish Book 8610-12 \$5.00
8 or more copies ea. \$3.00
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 or more copies ea. \$3.00
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 or more copies ea. \$3.00
3 Cassettes 6235-40 \$12.00

NO GREATER JOY - VOL. 3

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

Book 6240-10 \$5.00
8 or more copies ea. \$3.00
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 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-pg. Book 2020-10 \$12.00
Box of 24 books 2020-99 \$172.80
9 CDs 2020-45 \$28.00
1 MP3 2020-55 \$12.50

CREADA PARA SER SU AYUDA IDÓNEA

Spanish Translation of Created to be His Help Meet, Debi's best-selling book.

Spanish Book 2020-12 \$12.00

THE HELP MEET'S JOURNEY

— *Workbook for "Help Meet"*

The Journey is a 184-page year-long companion journal for Created To Be His Help Meet. There are extra 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 or more copies ea. \$3.00

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

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 CD 9810-45 \$5.00

Become a distributor and receive up to 60% off our materials! See page 39 for details.

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.

Books of the Bible

1 & 2 PETER **NEW!**

1 & 2 Peter introduces subjects that the Apostle Paul never touched on. Exotic, some people call it. Learn about election, adding to your faith, Paradise, the seven baptisms, Christian suffering, corrupt shepherds, and much more. There are more practical teachings in these two letters than one can imagine. Thirteen messages totaling over nine hours of teaching.

13 CDS **7010-45** **\$38.00**

1 MP3 **7010-55** **\$12.50**

1 & 2 THESSALONIANS

These two letters written by the Apostle Paul contain teaching on departed loved ones, the rapture, the second coming of our Lord as well as some of the most practical teachings in the New Testament.

8 CDS **8440-45** **\$25.00**

MP3 (1 CD) **8440-55** **\$12.50**

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.

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.

20 CDs **8140-45** **\$50.00**

MP3 (1 CD) **8140-55** **\$12.50**

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.

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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.

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Two books on one MP3 CD.

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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**

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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.

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 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

Download Mike's entire teaching on the book of Romans and other FREE messages on our website! www.nogreaterjoy.org

not only learn about faith, you will actually have faith built into you by the Word of God.

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**

Posters

REVELATION POSTER & 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

KING JAMES, HIS BIBLE, AND ITS TRANSLATORS

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.

Book 5200-10 **\$8.00**

WHICH VERSION IS THE BIBLE?

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

Book 9510-10 **\$10.00**

THE OTHER SIDE OF CALVINISM

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

788-pg. Book 6610-00 **\$19.50**

Books about the Bible

EIGHT KINGDOMS

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. This book would be a gift your pastor would truly enjoy.

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Written by Michael Pearl and featuring spectacular artwork by former Marvel Comic artist Danny Bulanadi. Over 300 pages illustrated in comic book format show the Bible stories in a chronological approach. Great for any child, teen or as Sunday School material.

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GOOD AND EVIL - COMIC BOOKS

Our popular book, Good and Evil, is being colorized and printed in 13 comic books. Order your copy of this exciting story book-perfect for "holiday" giveaways. Kids will beg you for the next chapter. 6 1/2" x 10 1/4" 28 pages each, soft cover, **full color**.

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Chapter 3 3763-10 **\$2.99**

Spanish

Chapter 1 3761-12 **\$2.99**

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GOOD AND EVIL - KID'S COLORING BOOKS

Your children will love coloring the pages of these four books! Based on the popular Good and Evil book. Sold separately or in a 4-Book Set.

Book 1 3775-01 **\$2.99**

Book 2 3775-02 **\$2.99**

Book 3 3775-03 **\$2.99**

Book 4 3775-04 **\$2.99**

4 Book Set 3775-02 **\$6.50**

THANKS FOR MATERIALS

I ordered Good and Evil for my children to read, but I was the one who actually ended up reading it. Wow! I thought I knew the Bible, but was humbled by how much I learned and how easy it is to read. – Carol

Booklets

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

1 JOHN 1:9 THE PROTESTANT CONFESSIONAL

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

23-pg. Booklet 4650-10 \$1.50

I just read a very short article on your website concerning Spurgeon and Calvinism [see Daily Letters, "Calvinists Answered"], and I'm so excited. Years ago I "met" some people on the internet who were Calvinist. In discussing this deep topic, I wound up very confused and eventually quit corresponding with them. I felt very much that their doctrine was wrong...deeply wrong, but every verse I showed them was explained away, almost dismissively. They would say that God wants to save everyone, but it's not His "will" to save everyone, so on and so forth. I eventually broke all correspondence with them, realizing that this was not profitable. But I have to admit, they left me somewhat confused on a number of things, and I've been searching for good study material on this topic ever since. One good thing I can say that came of this "meeting" was that I studied my Bible more ever since. Thank you, thank you, thank you for that short article on Spurgeon and Calvinism. – Blessings, Michelle

BAPTISM IN JESUS' NAME

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

17-pg. Booklet 1410-10 \$1.50

IN DEFENSE OF BIBLICAL CHASTISEMENT

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

29-pg. Booklet 4530-10 \$1.50

JUSTIFICATION AND THE BOOK OF JAMES

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

26-pg. Booklet 4960-10 \$1.50

PORNOGRAPHY - ROAD TO HELL

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

12-pg. Booklet 7030-10 \$1.50

TO BETROTH OR NOT TO BETROTH

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

28-pg. Booklet 1420-10 \$1.50

Bible Topics

AM I SAVED?

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

2 CDs 1310-45 \$10.00

ANGELS, GOOD AND BAD

This is everything you ever wanted to know about angels, demons, Cherubim, heavenly beasts, living creatures, and UFOs. These

messages are not going to sanctify you, but they will excite you to study your Bible.

2 CDs **1315-45** **\$10.00**

I have been thoroughly blessed by your teachings! I praise God for His opening my eyes to truths that I have missed for years. Not knowing these kept me in a life of Romans 7 living, something our Lord never intended when He placed us in Him at the cross. Blessings, Glenn H.

BALAAM & HIS ASS

Insightful and entertaining story of Balaam and his ass.

1 CD **1405-45** **\$5.00**

BODY, SOUL, & SPIRIT

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

3 CDs **1435-45** **\$12.00**

BY DIVINE DESIGN

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

85-pg. Book **2330-10** **\$5.00**
8 or more copies ea. \$3.00

CHRONOLOGICAL PROPHECIES

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

1 CD **2080-45** **\$5.00**

GENERATIONAL SINS

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

1 CD **3730-45** **\$5.00**

GOD'S ETERNAL PROGRAM

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

1 CD **3610-45** **\$5.00**

GOD HATES SINNERS

It's time you knew the truth.

1 CD **3615-45** **\$5.00**

REPENTANCE

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

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

REPENTANCE, TRUE AND FALSE **NEW!**

Undoubtedly the most misunderstood word in the Bible. Have you repented? If you haven't you cannot be saved. Did you know that the most oft used phrase, "Repent of your sins," is not to be found in the Bible even one time? Then what is this vital act that God requires as a condition of salvation? Michael Pearl explores this subject in depth and gives definitive Biblical answers. This message could be the one that will change your life forever and forever.

1 CD **8125-45** **\$5.00**

RIGHTEOUSNESS

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

4 CDs **8135-41** **\$15.00**

RIGHTEOUSNESS, TEMPERANCE & JUDGMENT **NEW!**

When the Apostle Paul had just one opportunity to communicate the gospel to the pagan ruler Felix, he spoke of righteousness, temperance, and judgment. Felix was so moved he trembled. Preachers need to go back to the source and redefine their message.

1 CD **8138-45** **\$15.00**

SABBATH REST

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

1 CD **8310-45** **\$5.00**

SANCTIFICATION

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

3 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.

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 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.

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 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 CD **9580-45** **\$5.00**

MINISTRY THANKS/TESTIMONY

Your ministry is a breath of fresh air. I have written you all before thanking you for your biblically sound advice/encouragement. We truly consider you like-minded “friends”, as they are few and FAR between. The Bible says that in the last days believers will follow all sorts of winds of doctrine. What Truth! We are missionaries in Africa and are currently in the States on furlough (first time in 2 1/2 years). We have lost many friends to the so called “Emerging Church Movement.” The closer it comes to the Lord’s return, the more heresy we witness. May we stay on the straight and narrow-and one day be able to hear Jesus say, “Well done, my good and faithful servant.” Again, THANK YOU for your ministry. I personally bless women with your literature, and sometimes it is returned (oh, how the truth cuts), but more often than not, women are blessed by the Truth which sets them free. - S.M.

It’s rather ironic that I would sit here today and pen a thank-you note to you both. For I was once a staunch member of the anti-spanking/non-punitive discipline/grace-based discipline, etc. cult. My daughters were running absolutely wild. I had completely relinquished my authority. Because of my failure to train my daughters, I was anything but a joyful mother. I lived from nap to nap, couldn’t wait until her bedtime, and woke up despairing of another day. Eventually, I got so frustrated that I called out to God and sought his Word on how to train my children. I did an in-depth study of the use of the “rod” in Scripture. I had been taught in the “cult” that it was figurative, but now I saw it was literal. I eventually started to read what was on your website. I could not get over the love in your writings. I had wrongly listened to others about you being a cruel behaviorist type. Slowly I began to understand the whole concept of tying strings and training of children.

*The biggest change was when I read the *Jumping Ship* articles on the site. Actually, it was more like a kick in the buttocks. God showed me that if we didn’t change course, my children would jump ship. So I repented and began to start over. I take full responsibility for the behavior in my children. Many times my husband had warned me about certain websites, but I failed to obey and reaped the consequences. He read your article on Biblical Chastisement, thoroughly agreed with it, and has given me permission to subscribe to the magazine. Our family is being thoroughly blessed. My daughters love me to read the articles.*

Join the Explosion

In about a year and a half over 270 individuals and families in 12 countries have joined us to become authorized Distributors for No Greater Joy. The details are explained on our website. Please review the website before calling, www.nogreaterjoy.org as many of your potential questions will be answered.

Your family can get started right away—within a week we can have you in business! This is a good way for you to minister and to earn extra income at the same time.

Our goal is to have at least 300 distributors over the next year. We are adding new features to make the program even more exciting and profitable for you. After reviewing our website call Mel Cohen at 931-593-2484 to answer questions or to sign up for the program. Email questions to: melcohen@hughes.net.

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Available upon request:

- Your complete contact information on our website
- A listing of home school conventions in your area. Home school conventions are usually from February to August each year.
- Images and product descriptions for you to use on your website or advertising
- Answers to your merchandising or marketing questions

For more information or to sign up, contact our General Manager:

Mel Cohen, CFP, RFC

Phone: 931-593-2484

Email: melcohen@hughes.net

TAX TIP:

Provisions that were to expire in 2006 have been extended through 2007:

- The deduction from adjusted gross income (AGI) for educator expense
 - The deduction for qualified tuition and fees
 - The District of Columbia first-time homebuyer credit (for homes purchased before 1/31/08).
 - The election to include non-taxable combat pay in earned income for figuring the earned income credit.
 - The itemized deduction for state and local general sales taxes.
-

I'm also seeing the power of the truth, because their behavior changes for the better when I read the articles to them. I'm finding an incredible peace as I involve the girls in my day, remain consistent with discipline, and actively seek to train them. "Thank you" seems such insufficient words to express the gratitude I have for your ministry. —D.N.

Michael and Debi,

I had to write you a quick note to thank you so much for your ministry. I just had what I call a "Pearl" moment (my shorthand way of referring to those times that could be lost in simple work, but instead are captured in doing simple work with our children and building a memory and relationship). I just unloaded our dishwasher with my 4-year-old daughter and then we re-loaded it with dirty dishes. Very simple, no fanfare, but Millie Jane (my little one) wanted to "chat" with Daddy. So I said to her, "Let's unload the dishwasher for Mommy and then put in the dirty dishes for her. We can chat as we work." And that is just what we did. It took twice as long, but I chatted and taught along the way. We both got wet, but it was a ton of fun. Through this special time I was thinking to myself that, truly God has given us great gifts in our children and if I had not been made more aware of these fleeting opportunities through your books and by attending one of your seminars, I might have missed it! Thanks so much for all you do. I know you and your wife are embattled every day, but just know that the Lord is using you beyond what you can comprehend and that I am thankful! – Jason

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Look for the Specials!

Check out our March and April calendar pages and look for the dots for specials. There is sure to be something for everyone!

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Good March 1-14

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SPECIAL \$15.00

Save 40%!

7800-05

MOM'S DAY SPECIAL

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Special includes:

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SPECIAL \$25.00

Save 43%!

6110-05

TEEN PACK SPECIAL

Good March 15-28

Special includes:

Rebekah's Diary (book), *Jumping Ship* (book), *Becoming a Man* (CD), *Young Adults and Marriage* (CD) and *Am I Saved?* (CD set)

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Save 40%!

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Good April 19-May 2

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