



SEPT-OCT 2008

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



This Issue:

As we look back over our early years of ministry, so many of our dear friends have lost one or more of their precious children to sin. So, I ask myself, “Is it that complicated; why didn’t they get it right? What went wrong? Who went wrong? Why? And very personally, what could we have done to help those families overcome?” At the time, we were all young and naively expected the best to happen to all of us. After all, weren’t we all Christians? Didn’t we love the Lord and pray for our children? Yet the world seeped in, or was invited in, and sometimes came crashing in with tragic results. And, just as surely as it came, it found willing flesh . . . fodder for hell.

Yet some of the most unlikely couples blossomed and bore fruit in every single one of their children. Seeing this unusual result, we were compelled to do a survey, to ask questions—both of the parents and of the children now grown and having children of their own: “What was different about your family? Why did you honor your parents and choose their God and their values as your own?” The answers were far simpler than we expected. In this issue and in subsequent magazines you will hear what we learned from some of those adult homeschooled kids.



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Eternal

BY MICHAEL PEARL

Have you ever been present when history was made—at that precise moment when decisions are made that will change lives forever? I have been, but I don't ever remember being aware that the momentous was taking place right then and that I was there to witness it, to be a part of it; that is, not until last night when five of us sat at the kitchen tables in NGJ and launched a new project. About seven or eight years ago when I first caught a vision of producing a pictorial novel of the Bible, it was such a big idea that I couldn't see the end of it. Eight years later it is in color and is being translated into nearly 100 languages. We have sent numerous copies to over 1000 prisons and to thousands of our military men serving overseas and to their wives and children at home.

A missionary sent out by our church just returned from the Philippines. When he arrived here we showed he and his wife a copy of *Good and Evil* in the Filipino tongue. She wept, and he lay down on the floor like one who had passed out. When he got up his face was shining and red. He said, "Do you know what I can do with this?" He has a vision to put one on every fishing boat in the Philippines. Everyone has at least one fisherman in the family. The boats stay out to sea for three or four months with seventeen or so on board. One book will be read repeatedly by all, and then it will go back home to a large family who will all read it, and so on. Many have been saved through this one book and many more will be, but that is a vision being fulfilled. In that meeting last night we launched another vision just as big.

Missionaries have expressed the need and we have responded. *Good and Evil* is going to be animated, complete with dramatized voices and coordinated music and sound effects and put in HDV format. The character will not move, but the camera will pan the pictures and produce light effects, and focus on the faces of the character as they speak. We have already done an amateur version of one chapter and even it is impressive.

In that meeting was another of our missionaries who is stationed in Southeast Asia in a "closed", communist country. He speaks and writes the language fluently, but is not allowed to bring in Christian books or literature. However DVDs of American movies flow across the border freely. Where there is electricity or a generator there is a DVD player. Because there are so few movies in their language, they will watch anything you give them, again and again. We can produce these digital missionaries at a fraction of the cost of a book. They are highly smuggleable. I coined that word. Further, we will make this finished product available on the web in many languages, including Arabic. Free! Millions will view and hear the gospel for the first time.

In that meeting last night was a professional videographer (he films movies and commercials). He is willing to oversee the project so that the end result is entirely professional and can be readily adapted to other languages. However, it is going to cost us about \$150,000 or more to get the studio work done. No Greater Joy sells its material at just barely enough to cover the cost of operation from one month to the next, so when we take on a project like this we need help. If you want to be a part, know that every cent will go as you designate it. This will happen. It is God's idea—his heart. He will provide. The question is whether or not you want to share in the eternal reward. ■

Cloistered Homeschooled Syndrome

BY MIKE & DEBI PEARL

The Foger family came to stay with us one spring about 12 years ago while they were on furlough from Mozambique. Their eighth child was soon to be delivered. Although I had just met the family, I was highly impressed by them. The oldest daughter, 19 years old, was a joyful, hardworking, energetic, blue-eyed beauty. The next, a 17 year old son, was cut in the mold of his father, dedicated, reserved, and very mission-minded. The five other children were 13 years old and younger. The family sang together with strong, forceful voices, no bashfulness among them. The two oldest children provided the instrumental accompaniment. It was an experience just listening to such a group.

They all understood and spoke two languages. The oldest two children spoke three languages. The father had left South America after ten years of mission service to move to another country, which meant learning another language. The parents still stumbled around slowly learning the Portuguese language. The two oldest children were invaluable in the new ministry, which was already showing promise.

They seem to think that grown children are God's gift to them rather than their gift to God.

While we sat around one evening, the mother casually asked us to pray that their daughter find a husband before they left for Mozambique in the Fall. I asked in a shocked manner, "Why on earth would you want her to marry now? She is such a

blessing to you and knows the language. Surely you need her to help you with the other children." The mother lifted her arched brows as she pondered how she would answer me. Her look conveyed her surprise at my lack of understanding. "We will be in a foreign country for the next 4 years. All that time she will be at the prime of her marriageable age. We feel it is best for her to marry an American. God called my husband to Mozambique as a missionary...not our adult children. We have obeyed God and raised them up to serve HIM...not US. We don't add; we multiply. It is time for her to live her life."

That next year we received a mission card with their picture. There were only six children in the picture. The mission letter briefly stated that the oldest son was in Bible school and the daughter was married.

Over the years I received their missions update. I noted that the parents were growing fatter and grayer. The children disappeared from the picture, one or two every year or so. It was sad to see the diminishing of such a magnificent family. The mission letters were filled with gospel film presentations to prisoners and villagers, church camps, protracted meetings, people getting saved, and only a brief mention of their now grown children. They would write something like, "Joshua and his wife are in Romania serving as missionaries; Peter and his wife are in Russia working with the something ministry; Sara married this year. Her husband is the pastor of a church." And so it went.

Today we receive mission letters from their now grown and ministering children. I see their families expanding. Their joyful, energetic, blue-eyed beauty of a daughter is now the mother of six children. Her family is growing up in Cajun country. I know if I meet them I will be very impressed. I heard that they sing like soldiers...with power and command.

I am thankful for the testimony of the Foger family as well as other families that have come into our lives. They are a prototype to help us understand the problems that are arising among some older homeschooling families. We call it by different names. Today it is the Cloistered Homeschooled Syndrome. Briefly, it is the failure of the parents to understand, appreciate, and respect the individuality of their adult children. They sacrifice the individual identities of their children on the altar of their own emotional needs, making them nurse when they should be killing and dressing their own food, making

them obey when they should be learning to command. They seem to think that grown children are God's gift to them rather than their gift to God. Through letters and personal contact, we see more and more of this cult-like isolationism, parents demanding absolute allegiance to the family group, and fearing outside contact might break up their "fellowship." Adult kids who want to launch out on their own are told that they are rebellious and disloyal and are causing grief to those who have nurtured them. Emotionally needy parents manipulate their grown children into remaining loyal to the unit. Thirty-year-old daughters sit at home acting as surrogate mothers, watching their prospects to ever be a mother dwindle.

You cannot stop a tree from growing without killing it or deforming it. Likewise, every year of one's life up until about the age of twenty-one or twenty-two is a year of radical change and development. Some parents are trying to stop that development, clinging to their teenagers like they were six years old. We have observed the victims many times. They either flee their chains in anger, or they are slowly smothered into inordinate submission, and their personalities die as they merge into the ego of their dependent parents.

This medieval hierarchy is preached as Bible doctrine. Father and Mother as King and Queen of their little kingdom preach the divine right of Kings and parents—"Obey me without question, for it is your manifest destiny." Their "patriarchal" status is the only expression of their significance in an otherwise disconnected world, and they milk it until their children are dry and lifeless in spirit, or until they fly away to breathe fresh air.

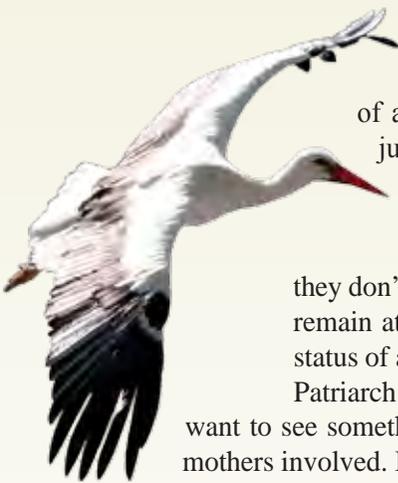
For over a year we have been discussing this subject, thinking about how to address it. We have talked with many young adults who are, or were, held captive, the rebellious and the subdued, those who are disciples of Christ and those who are worldly and lost. We have spoken with families who lost their children early, in their teens, and families who lost a child to the world in their twenties or later.

How did this happen? It is the old pendulum at work. Thirty to forty years ago Christian parents were losing their children to the world through public schools, public churches, and public play. The family was disconnected and dating was the norm. We rebelled against the soul eating monster and took charge of our lives. Our children would not be raised on the TV. They would not lose their virginity in a school bathroom or under the stairwell. No more evolutionary philosophy and godless history and science. We took our children home and taught them from used books and the Bible. We created culture anew, abstaining from mega churches with their youth groups and revolving boy-girl relationships. We parents became the principle influence in our children's lives, selecting their friends and ours with care. No overnight sleeps or backyard playhouses with closing doors. Family worship and Bible study took the place of Television. Once again parents were in charge and there was hope.

It felt good to be in control of our own destiny, to not be a victim, to know that our children would escape the sin and shame that some of us had to go through before we came to Christ.



There was a vacuum, a need for leaders to arise and define what had become a movement, to clarify our journey and give us direction through uncharted waters. First, curriculum was written, then seminars. Sub-movements arose to flesh out the new culture, specialists addressing every conceivable issue—head coverings, dress, doctrine, spanking, scheduled nursing, Kosher foods and Jewish practices, and the list goes on. Books were written, some good, some not so good. Then someone pulled from ancient Chaldean and Sumerian culture, also practiced by Jews of that day as reflected in Scripture, a system of Patriarchal rule. It was the way nomadic clans were held together, a necessity of the times, but never taught by Moses, the prophets, or Christ as God’s divine plan.



I laughed the first time I hear of the Patriarchal Movement. “It will never fly,” I said, “People are not that gullible.” But they were. Daddies who were never in charge of anything, maybe not even their wives, were finally given justification for assuming the throne. Yippee!

It is now become a disease of epic proportions. We call them PDFs, Patriarchal Dysfunctional Families. The children are treated as permanent property of the parents. If they don’t marry, and many of them never have the opportunity, they remain at home as a sort of indentured servant, never rising to the status of an adult, always under authority of the head of the clan, the Patriarch Daddy. Don’t snicker. A lot of kids are hurting. And if you want to see something scary, try to conduct a betrothal with two patriarchal mothers involved. It is uggggly.

PDF is an emotionally crippling disease.

Daughter sits at home serving the younger children and doing Mama’s chores—waiting for God’s choice. Daddy and Mama hold their merchandise guardedly, waiting for a buyer who never comes.

What is pitiful is the whole process is done in hopes of getting the perfect will of God, but one vital ingredient is missing—encouraging your children to become responsible, autonomous, well educated, and experienced adults as soon as possible. You should have trained your sons to be men by the time they are fifteen, independent by the time they are eighteen. Your daughters should be capable of living apart from the family by the time they are eighteen and should be allowed to make their own life’s decisions somewhere between the ages of eighteen and twenty. Unmarried, grown (18 years old) children may remain at home; it is good if they do; but the parent-child relationship should evolve into an adult-adult relationship by the time they are sixteen to eighteen years old. Parents should have earned the right to give advice, and kids should have grown in wisdom enough to ask for it. But a parent should never invoke his parental authority on a grown kid. It is demeaning to both and akin to not being potty trained.

To teach a student to drive or fly a plane and then always make him be in the company of his parents is degrading. You teach them so they can become independent of you. Whose need is being met when a Father treats a 22-year-old girl like a child, dictating the parameters of her choices?

The glory of a parent is to work himself out of a job, to stand back and see his kids fly solo. I expected to have supplanted myself by the time my kids were eighteen. And so it was. Long before that, I began to confer with them adult to adult. I have stepped back and allowed them to make decisions that I knew were not the best choices, and sometimes I was wrong; they were wiser than I.

Space does not allow us to say more at this time. More will come later. Sit down and talk with your nearly grown kids. Ask them what they want, feel, aspire to. Don’t express hurt, and don’t emotionally manipulate them. Encourage them to pursue their dreams and support them in their effort.

In 1996, our daughter Rebekah Joy, then a 20-year-old in training to be a linguist, wrote this poem. At the time, the poem was the future; it was full of promise and hope.

*There is a mighty army
Being trained to stand and fight.
A Battlefield of soldiers
Learning what is right.
A Company of warriors
That will boldly take the Word
To every tribe and nation
Til every soul has heard.
There is a mighty army,
I've seen them everywhere.
Most are wearing diapers
And dragging Teddy Bears.
Infants in the training
Drilled in right and wrong.
Mom and Dad are making
Soldiers brave and strong.
There is a mighty army
Trained in righteous war:
Cheer them on to victory,
Children of the Lord!*

At 22 years old, Rebekah went into a remote mountain range of Papua New Guinea to study the language of a tribe who had never even seen a white person. Her 19-year-old brother, Gabriel, went for a few months, then was replaced by Nathan, her 17-year-old brother. Nathan stayed for a few months until he believed that she would be safe. She was left alone on that mountain with the unreached tribe. After two years, others came to help, and she came home.

It was her understanding of languages that gave us the information needed to pass on to veteran missionary Tom Gaudet. He is a publisher of Bibles into obscure languages. He sent out an appeal on the web for any translator that might have been working on a common language of that area. He received 14 replies. One was from

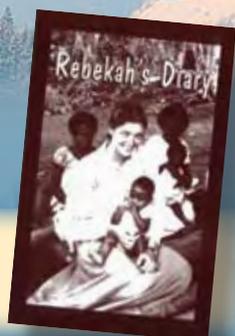
a missionary who had spent 35 years translating the Bible, but when he went home he couldn't raise the money to get it printed. Tom pulled together all the translators, had them correct each other's work and settle on a finished manuscript. We raised the money to get 20,000 printed and shipped.

Sending a beautiful, unassertive, young woman is not God's usual way. He was proving a point. He was making a statement to her, to us and to you. "If I can protect and use this young girl to win a remote tribal people, then I can do the same for you."

Rebekah kept a diary of those years, which we read when she came home. We wept at her courage and resolve. We wept that we had the honor of being her parents. We published *Rebekah's Diary* in 1997. She was such a regular, normal girl until God gave her the vision of reaching a tribe. A few years ago, missionaries contacted us and told us that there are now seven strong villages of believers on that mountain and that the village men proudly carry their Bibles under their arms.

*Because a young girl went willingly...
Because we, HER PARENTS, didn't say no.
Because she would have obeyed us and stayed home.
But we cheered her on to victory...
There are new names written down in glory. ■*

Read the awesome story of God's guidance and protection as a 22-year-old girl went where no white person had ever been. **Revised book available October 1.**





A Promise

BY DEBI PEARL

Little Molly and her Mommy were filled with anticipation of Grandma's visit this afternoon. While Mommy cleaned the kitchen, Molly picked up all her toys and straightened her books. She then drew a picture for Grandma while Mommy vacuumed and cleaned the rest of the house. Molly knew Mommy was going to bake a cake for Grandma, but Mommy waited until Molly took a nap so that she could focus on the task at hand and keep the kitchen spotless. Molly missed being a part of it.

When Molly woke up, it was only 30 minutes before Grandma was due to arrive. Mommy took Molly out to the garden and into the field to pick flowers. The big brown vase waited on the old wooden table on the back porch where the flowers would be arranged into a beautiful bouquet. Molly was not allowed to pick garden flowers, but Mommy told her she could run into the field and pick those flowers. It was fun. Mommy's skillful fingers put the tall flowers in the back of the vase and arranged the others in a beautiful cascading spray of color. But Molly noticed one tiny spot on the bottom where there was no flower at all.

"Look, Mommy, an empty spot. My flower needs to go here." Molly stuck up her hand, which held tightly to a purple-topped clover flower. With her other hand, she pointed to the spot where her flower could be inserted.

Mommy's response was immediate and abrupt, "No, it will mess it up the whole bouquet. Go throw that weed over there."

Molly's small body first went stiff with surprise and then deflated with disappointment, "But Mommy, my flower would look nice there for Grandma. Please Mommy, just one flower."

But Mommy was staring at her beautiful handiwork, admiring her skill and the coordinated colors. She did not understand Molly's eagerness to be a part of it. She did not perceive the crushed look on little Molly's face. Within seconds, Molly's joy had disappeared and in its place was anger, frustration, and disappointment.

With Molly's meltdown came Mommy's stern rebuke, "Molly...shame on you. Why do you have to have a bad attitude, today of all days? What is wrong with you that you would ruin this wonderful day by being so selfish and demanding? Now, go to your room and get control of yourself. Grandma will be here in just five minutes. She will be so disappointed in you for pitching a fit."

The little girl fled to her room, not able to get control of herself because she was a child...not yet capable of sorting through her emotions. Instead she brooded. She looked at the now-crushed flowers she still held tightly in her hand. She flung them to the floor as if they had hurt her. She wished her Grandma could just come into her room and hold her without Mommy being around. Soon, she heard the sound of a car

coming up the driveway. Molly's shoulders sagged as she heard Grandma's welcoming voice ringing in the foyer, "Such beautiful flowers...you have such a gift...so beautiful...so full of color, but where is my sweet Molly?"

Where, indeed? A question asked many times by broken-hearted parents, "Where did it go wrong? What happened to my sweet Molly, my Linda, my Mary, my Elizabeth, my Joy?" In our haste to be productive and "perfect," we are all guilty from time to time, but when it becomes a pattern, you can expect the child to develop anger and frustration, brokenness and defeat—depending on their personality. Frustrated parents don't have a clue as to why their children are suicidal or why they use drugs. Rebellion is planted in their little hearts one seed at a time and watered regularly.

I know that most parents are sincere, but just self absorbed. It takes wisdom from God to know our own hearts and to keep the hearts of our children.

"Wisdom is better than rubies; and all the things that may be desired are not to be compared to it. I wisdom dwell with prudence, and find out knowledge of witty inventions. The fear of the LORD is to hate evil: pride, and arrogance, and the evil way, and the forward mouth, do I hate. Counsel is mine, and sound wisdom..." (Proverbs 8:11-14).

Here is what could have been, the other road not traveled.

Molly and Mommy spent the morning baking a big chocolate cake. After that, Mommy cleaned the bathroom while Molly picked up her toys and books. Then they had lunch together and talked about how nice the cake looked. While Molly took a nap, Mommy finished vacuuming and cleaning the kitchen.

When Molly woke up, they went out into the garden to choose flowers for a bouquet for Grandma, and brought them back into the kitchen to arrange them in a nice vase. Mommy's eyes were glued to her creation as she fluttered one flower up and pushed another one back a tiny bit, making the arrangement look just perfect. Molly had found some small flowers off to the side of the sidewalk, and she knew her Mommy would like them. "Mommy, I see a hole where my flower needs to go."

"No, Molly, that is not a hole...it is a spot that allows the eyes of the beholder to move into the whole bouquet. It is a necessary part of the art of flower arrangement." The little girl's voice took on an urgent plea, "But Mommy, my flowers, they would look so nice in that spot! Could I please put my flowers in the vase for Grandma?"

Something in Molly's voice caught the ear and heart of her mother. Suddenly, the flowers were just decaying vegetation, here today and gone tomorrow...a passing project...a thing to be used to grow a child or to crush one.

Mommy looked down into her daughter's pleading eyes, "You know Molly, I think you are right. Here, let me help you up on the table so you can add your flowers all by yourself."

The wilted clover looked incongruous in the beautiful bouquet, as Mommy and Molly walked proudly together to set the vase on the table in the hall. They took a quick, last-second tour to check on and admire the clean house, the chocolate cake, and the flowers. "Everything looks so nice, Molly. We did a real good job." When Grandma walked in minutes later, Molly threw her arms around her, and almost shouting, said, "Oh, Grandma, look at the flowers me and Mommy have for you!" Grandma obediently stopped to admire the beautiful flowers, at once noticing the wilted, drooping clover hanging over the side. Grandma's eyes looked down, drinking in her beautiful granddaughter. "They are so lovely. I especially love the purple clover. I bet you put that one in." Then, Grandma's shining eyes looked into those of Molly's wise mommy. "They look like a promise of things to come."

Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it. Proverbs 22:6 ■



Thank you so much for your ministry. Your book *Created To Be His Help Meet* is changing my life. I learned so much that I just did not know about being a wife. I have always tried to live in submission to my husband, but now I realize that my attitude was wrong. I want to give this book to my daughters and my friends so that God can use it to help their marriages too. Thanks again for being a faithful teacher to us younger woman. – May the Lord bless you, Kim

I was doubtful about reading your book, *Created To Be His Help Meet*, just because I knew in my heart that I was stubborn and unhappy and was going to remain that way until my husband changed. What I wanted was for him to submit to MY WILL. A group of women that I am close friends with have read this book, and we are making changes in our own lives that is bringing happiness to our families. Now I can submit joyfully. I'm happier. My husband is DEFINITELY happier, and I know my children sense this too. I have two teens, and while they are wonderful children, obedient and respectful, I don't want them to grow up thinking marriage is all about women being grumpy. And I'm blessed in this area too, just because with my mean, do-it-my-way-or-it's-the-highway (dimwit is the acronym or close to it) attitude, they have actually turned out okay. I'll be ordering more books, plus some of the *Good and Evil* books to pass out when I get some extra change in my pocket. – K

2008 magazine] about the difficulties this couple encountered in their marriage. I can relate to the author's sentiment when she says, "I disliked the book (Help Meet) from the start". Truth be told, all women dislike the book! I can't tell you how many other women I have discussed your book with and we all agree; it's worth hating!!! Why? Because it goes completely against the grain of society. We've been constantly fed the idea that we are "equal" and we do not have to bow down to any man. But when we all apply the biblical principles found in Debi's book, we find that it works. What do you know? God actually knows what He's talking about! All of us who have decided to give the ideas a try have experienced a measure of pain and humility, only to awaken a love in our husbands that we never thought possible. I have come to realize that the pain and humility I felt pales in comparison to what Jesus suffered for me. This brings me comfort and confidence to continue on the journey I've begun with my husband. Thank you for challenging all of us to God's call on our life as wives. I would encourage all women to read this RIDICULOUS book...If they have the courage! – Lisa

I reluctantly picked up your *Created To Be His Help Meet* book after a friend recommended it to me. Frankly, I was offended by what she was telling me about submitting. I started reading the book with NO expectations of improvement; after all, we already have an awesome marriage! The first two weeks after starting the

Fresh-Picked From Our Mailbox

I gave your book *Created To Be His Help Meet* to a friend who is serving with her husband in Romania as church planters. This is a portion of her email a few days ago that I thought you would enjoy reading:

"Also, I've wanted to tell you since last fall that the book you gave me, *Created To Be His Help Meet*, blessed my life so much that I used parts of it in leading the wives of our Strategy Coordinators in a morning session on, "Three types of Men-Which One Did You Marry?" All of them said it gave them insight they'd never had before and are so grateful for what we read and discussed together. So, dear friend, you were used to bless the lives of eight missionary wives, who in turn have shared it with others of different cultures and nations! Isn't God too wonderful for words?! He just multiplies and multiplies the little part He gave us to do in the whole scheme of it all!"

I have been receiving your magazine for some time now, and own the book *Created To Be His Help Meet*. I recently read the letter "Sweet Victory" [May-June

book were really hard. My eyes were opened, but I was worn, tired, and depressed. I thought, there's no way I can be the wife my husband deserves (he is one of the ones who really deserves it). Then something clicked! I was cleaning the bathroom one day, and I was asking God to help me fix my problem. He told me to stop trying to do it by myself! I was working in my own strength to get it all done with a smile, and then be a fantastic lover at the end of the day! Now I talk to and Praise the Lord all day, and He helps me. It has been amazing how my attitude has changed. I am now seeing the fruit of being a good submissive wife. My husband told me that he thought I was being very loving and I should know he is taking note! Thank you, thank you for writing this book - J

I am reading your *Created To Be His Help Meet*. I just finished the chapter on being chaste, and it reminded me of a situation that happened to me. I was approached by a very dear friend who told me there was a young college age man (unmarried) in our church who thought I dressed inappropriately at times, and was feeling tempted. I was taken aback, because I thought I was always very careful with what I wear. It wasn't that it was revealing; it was the fabric. I have a few nice silk tops, and to this young man, it made him think of women's sleepwear. Who could have known that this could have been so damaging? Even my husband thought it was strange. My friend felt the need to tell me and let the Lord show me what to do. To this day I still don't think I was inappropriate but out of respect for my husband and this poor boy that I never intended to cause to stumble, I have stopped wearing certain articles of clothing. After reading the chaste chapter, I know I made the right decision, and I'm sure this young man is thankful for that. The bottom line is, we never know what others are thinking, and we all need to be very careful. I know I wasn't wrong, but this young man allowed the enemy into his mind, and if there is something I can change to relieve that temptation, why wouldn't I do it? If I wasn't willing to change, then I would be allowing my pride to take over and say he is in sin, not me. Honestly, is it that big of a deal to stop wearing a few tops to church? NO! I'm sure my husband is thankful, too. Thank you for all your hard work. - God Bless, Stacey

A few weeks ago I went to my pastor's wife looking for advice. I was having "problems" with my marriage. Instead of the answer that I thought I was going to get (yes, your husband is doing wrong, I am having my husband talk to him), she handed me a copy of *Created To Be His Help Meet* in Spanish. It's like someone changed the chip in my head's computer! I can't tell you how far I have walked from God's perfect will, but I know his mercy is new every morning, and your book came to me before I destroyed my marriage. My husband is a great man, caring and sweet; he is a visionary, and I was trying to "bring him back to earth" and was always questioning his crazy decisions. They are not really crazy, but I was judging him as if I were perfect. It's amazing! How have we let the world's opinion about marriage get into our minds and hearts even when we know God's opinion and perfect plan for it, even when we know the Bible verses by memory? I was still reading the book, when one day my husband said, "I am glad you are reading that book; you are more joyful since you started reading it". God is just too good! He didn't mention the fact that I was treating him better, but that I was happier. I really am. I can't say it has been easy; it is a big challenge. But I have decided to do things the right way. I know it's God's will, and it will make my husband and me happier! - F.M., Mexico



Tantrums

My wife and I have read your books, and we are training up our children. We just were blessed with our 4th child in 4 years. Our two-year-old has reached the age where we need to discipline him. But when we do, he has a tantrum. I don't know what to do except to be consistent and pray for help. – Bruce

Tremaine Answers: I remember observing a woman and her child in a mall food court. Her son was screaming his head off for one reason or another. His mother just sat there eating her meal as if the child's actions didn't bother her. BUT, it sure bothered me.

A tantrum is a manifestation of anger. It is a means of control. This sort of behavior usually comes when a child has had a history of not being consistently denied what he wants (when he pitches a fit). He has only received token swats that were as soft as cotton balls, which only proves to irritate the kid and convince him that authority is of no consequence, making his desires the supreme force. Such behavior in a child can be very provoking to you as a parent, so it is important that you maintain mental and emotional control of yourself. An emotionally out-of-control parent can't hope to bring emotional control to the child. Children are far more capable than we suppose. We unconsciously know this...which is one reason it "bugs" us so bad when they have a tantrum. We know that it is innate selfishness on their part, not immaturity.

So, when your child of any age starts throwing a tantrum, NEVER, NEVER... I repeat, NEVER give in to their demands. Your denial of their lust, coupled with a good stinging swat or two, will cause the child to see the futility and helplessness of his demands. When your child is convinced by your consistent response of enforcing negative consequences for negative behavior, he will cease his vain and tiresome behavior, employing some other means to achieve pleasure.

Fits are just high-pressure demands falling slightly short of violent action. It is not a stage or something they will grow out of. It must be dealt with decisively. ■

Good and Evil

I read *Good and Evil* from cover to cover several times in a row and learned so much about the Bible that I had never understood before! (And I've been a Christian for a long time!) I know this gift of twenty-five bucks isn't much, but I hope it helps someone else to get their paws on a copy of this wonderful Bible story book! – Michelle, United Kingdom

My brother and sister-in-law are missionaries in Thailand. They have seen these comic books all over, and they are a big hit. Their son has seen them and wanted one in English. He is developmentally challenged. Anyway, the books are doing very well in Thailand. Thought you might like to know. – Suzette

I am using the *Good and Evil* products as prizes in our Children's Church. We are just finishing up a series on Good vs. Evil. I also previously gave the *Good and Evil* books to 2 young men who were Bible Quizzers in our church, and they are enjoying them still. – Thanks, Mickey



Coming Oct. 25!

The long-awaited color version of *Good and Evil* will be available October 15. The same dramatic black and white images come to life with the extraordinary color.

Paperback 7" × 10.5 "
3760-10 \$19.95

Beautiful Story of God's Grace

Hello, I am from the Czech Republic. When I was in Southeast Asia more than a year ago, I got a book *Good and Evil* from a missionary. He gave me also a King James Version Bible. A few weeks after that, I was saved by our Lord Jesus Christ while lying alone in a bed in a hotel room in Beijing, China and asking the Lord Jesus to take my life but save my soul, that I don't want to end up in hell but want to be with Him in Heaven.

Right after this prayer had left my mouth, a beam of a warm light touched my heart and spread everywhere; my heart disappeared. The same happened in my mind. The headache had suffered for three days prior this just disappeared. With all this an unspeakable joy I never experienced before engulfed me. This joy is incomparable to anything I had experienced on this planet and I can tell you I tried many things like drugs, meditation, yoga, sex, dedication to a woman, etc., to calm down the thirst of my heart.

To make the long story short, there is a big desire in my heart to tell others about our good Lord. I met a bunch of teenagers on the street and I shared with them my story. They are thirsty for something good in their lives but evil has got them in his vicious hands. Many of them asked me to pray for them. These kids are very impatient, cannot stay focused. One has to speak to them with the language they understand. Therefore I want to ask you for a Czech version of your comic book *Good and Evil*. Can you, please, send me a contact to a person who is making the Czech translation so I can see how we can help each other

May God bless all you do to glorify His Holy name. – Pavel

Thomas James is visiting in the States at this time. His mama, who works here at NGJ, took this letter to Thomas James to see if he remembered giving the man the *Good and Evil* book and Bible. As soon as Thomas James and his wife Kham read the letter they both started crying.

Today Kham came to the office and told me the rest of the story. She said that while they were helping a missionary in Thailand on the translations of *Good and Evil* they met a Czech woman who spoke fluent English. They witnessed to her and gave her a copy of *Created To Be His Help Meet*. She did not like the book but said she would like her boyfriend to meet them as she thought they were nice.

Several days later, Thomas James and his wife left their children at home with Kham's sister and went out for the evening. They had only gone a little way when Thomas James suddenly stopped and told his wife, "Honey, I have a strong feeling I need to go home right this minute." The couple returned home to find the woman and her boyfriend standing at their door. Thomas James spent the evening sharing the gospel with the man. As the man was leaving, Thomas James gave him *Good and Evil* and the Bible. The next day the woman showed up at their door. She was irritated. She told them that the man had left for China without her. She said that he was totally changed. He had told her that he would no longer use her as his woman and that she should return to her own husband.

This all happened in the summer of 2007, then this letter came to us this week. God is moving in the hearts of men. He asks us to pray for laborers, people who will spend the evening sharing the gospel; people who will translate the gospel into another language; people who will pay to get the new translation printed. Will you pray? If NGJ had two million dollars right now, we could invest every cent of it in foreign printing within the month. We are engaged in the translation of *Good and Evil* into over 80 languages. There are several languages finished and waiting to be printed.

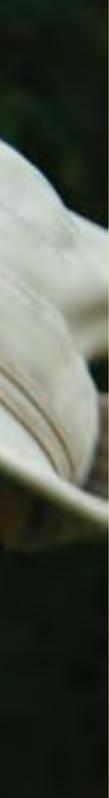


FRIENDSHIP AND FATHERHOOD

Today I am a 36-year-old man enjoying a blissful marriage. My wife and I are having the time of our lives watching our three children (ages 4, 3, and 18 months) grow up. It is our honor to be allowed to savor each moment of our kids' development, enjoy good health, righteous laughter, free air, and the privilege to travel around a bit and enjoy meeting and fellowshiping with God's people. Currently we are in the States, enjoying and relaxing under wonderful freedoms and liberties. Truly we feel most blessed to experience such a rich life that God has graciously granted.

I have been serving God (with mixed success) as a missionary for 12 years in a closed Communist country in Southeast Asia. Doubtless it has taken its toll upon us. Heat, dust, rain, mud, corruption, long waits, miscommunications, misunderstandings, betrayals, deceptions, dangerous roads, malaria, risky foods, and the never-ending weight and pressure of trying to advance God's Kingdom under the pressure and oppression of both Communism and Buddhism—not to mention a multitude of straight cultural differences. These are all things that we deal with on a day-to-day basis in *****, and we aren't alone. Many people, upon seeing conditions as these, marvel and make mention of "sacrifice." Personally, I don't feel I've given up or lost anything, and think the term "sacrifice" to describe our joyful life is over-dramatic.

So, why do we continue to live, love, and serve in *****? I believe it is because men have a tendency to transpose their relationship and assessment of their earthly father upon their Heavenly Father. We have seen children of alcoholics, upon conversion as adults, have a difficult time trusting God with the most basic things (food, clothing, money, etc). Perhaps because Daddy would come home raging drunk from time to time and couldn't be trusted. Whether Daddy's heart was towards his children or not was always in question. We have observed kids from very conservative, religious backgrounds raised up to perform to high expectations in the public arena of "church" in order to glorify their parents. Upon reaching adulthood these kids usually (if not rejecting God completely) live a lukewarm life of hypocrisy, thinking their Heavenly Father only wants a performance a couple times a week to make Him look good, all the while missing out on the true joy of being a child of the King, and living an overcoming life of holiness and service. Parents, take heed!



Joy is not something that can be found or “obtained.” Joy is something that you will one day discover by accident (and perhaps realize you have had for some time already) after you have denied yourself and given yourself over to serving God and others. True joy cannot be sought after, but will be experienced after you have forsaken your own self-interest in the course of fulfilling God’s will.

Ever since I can remember, my Dad has always been my best friend. I cannot begin to describe how much fun we have had together. There was never any doubt concerning authority or his being in charge of the family, but the overriding theme and flavor of our relationship was friendship and involvement.

We were NOT Christians. Mom and Dad were hippies. I may have gone to Mass with my grandparents a half dozen times or so, but Dad was agnostic. Drugs, philosophy, and humanism describe the environment and philosophy in which I was reared. The only times as a child my dad would talk about God were the times we would see a crippled person. Dad would stare upon this person with unfeigned compassion, nearly tears, and always say the same thing to me: “But for the grace of God, there walks I.” Dad made sure we watched the programs on PBS that showed the poverty of Africa, Cambodia, etc. Growing up, we were always aware of poverty and that we were very fortunate to be living in the wealthiest nation on planet Earth. Dad grew up a military kid in post-war Germany and Japan, and like many of his generation, his childhood ended forever in Vietnam.

Looking back as an adult now, we were very, very poor by American standards when we were growing up. But we didn’t know it then. We never felt poor or underprivileged at all. We were always the lucky ones, because we were always doing things with Dad. Dad was ALWAYS doing things with us. We were his life and passion. I remember being 4 years old riding on the motorcycle with Dad to college and sitting next to him in class. That was fun. I was the only kid there! Oftentimes Saturday was special because I would get up early and go to work with Daddy.

Mom and dad were always in love. They were (and are today) inseparable. From time to time I would hear my dad’s friends talk of an up-coming trip or outing as a “chance to get away from the wife and kids.” This was a strange, foreign concept for me. Dad would always take mom along. They often worked together, leaving us to public schools and babysitters. They were the only constant in our lives. We moved from town to town and state to state often. I attended 13 different schools by the 7th Grade. Often we moved three times during one school year. It’s no wonder we were close to one another. In the early years we were never in one place long enough to develop strong bonds outside the immediate family.

In 1984 we moved from Colorado to Tennessee and things just got better. I was now 12, entering manhood. Our time was filled with school (public school), archery tournaments, hunting, and working construction during the summers with Dad.

My dad was a financial failure due to the amount of time he spent with us kids. As said before, Mom and Dad were hippies, and as such disdained materialism and the amassing of wealth. In the final analysis Dad valued time spent with us over dollars and financial security. We were HIS kids, he was paying for us, and he was bound and determined to get his money’s worth of fun out of us. *“Take heed, and beware*

There was never any doubt concerning authority or his being in charge of the family, but the overriding theme and **flavor of our relationship** was friendship and involvement.

of covetousness: for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth." Luke 12:15. Countless times he would take off from work, or leave early, for sake of my archery tournaments or for hunting. So many times the weather wouldn't permit dad to go to work. Strangely, those days always happened to be the days when I was too ill to go to school. Oddly, about a half-hour after the school bus came and went I'd feel somewhat better and we would pack up and go hunting. After all, if you're going to be sick, you might as well be sick out in the woods having fun, right? Mom would just roll her eyes over the whole thing and write out a "sick note" for me to take to school the next day.

My early teenage years were just working and playing and working and playing and working and playing with Dad. I made good grades in school, but usually referred to the place as The Concentration Camp. Once we were driving down the road, stoned, when Dad read out a sign on the side of the road, "Hickman County Board of Education." "We sure are" Dad dryly added. I laughed myself to tears.

Being lost, I'm sure my parents made many mistakes raising us kids. And they are the first to admit such. That being said, I believe the reason all four of us siblings have gone on to love God and one another is because there was never any doubt that Dad's

One man's heart
that is right
towards his kids
can change an
entire church...
community...
nation.

heart was towards us. It was never doubted that Dad had our best interests at heart. "... *what man is there of you, whom if his son ask bread, will he give him a stone? Or if he ask a fish, will he give him a serpent? If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him?*" Matthew 7:9-11.

In 1989 we sold everything we had and moved onto a bare piece of property in Cane Creek. We lived in tents, then an old school bus that we set up on blocks. We bathed, laundered, and drank out of the small creek that ran thru our land (drinking UPSTREAM of all other activities), cooked over an open fire, read to each other by oil lamp at night (when sober enough to do so), and fished and hunted for much of our food. We also had a number of little pot gardens here and there that provided some much needed income in the fall (Sorry folks. Historical fact. Wish I could change the past, but I can't.)

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People thought we were crazy for trying to pioneer homestead in this day and age. We knew how people thought about us, and it didn't faze us a single bit. Looking back, much credit must go to my mom. People were amazed that she willingly endured such, but she determined to enjoy it as much as anybody else. She had followed my "crazy old man" for so long already, I think she was hooked on the wild and woolly ride. God bless a good mama!

After living this way for a year, a freaky big lumberjack kind of guy named Mike Pearl introduced us to the gospel of Jesus Christ. My father and I were both born again on the same night, at the house of a man named Conrad. I was 18 years old. After my conversion it was easy, in fact, natural, for me to fully trust God's will and design for my life, as I had always trusted my earthly father's. I left for the mission field in 1996 with less than \$300 promised monthly support and around \$800 in my pocket. After 12 years on the field I testify to you this day that God has always taken care of me and been faithful. And God is aware of my needs on a much deeper level than food and raiment, just as my dad was always more concerned about our hearts and souls than foods, fashions, and vehicles.

In summary, my dad may have "lost out" concerning many things the world has to offer, but he managed to keep those true treasures of things eternal. *"For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it.*

For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?" Matthew 16:25-26. We are all grown now and raising our own families, yet we remain today a tight-knit bunch with 13 grandchildren among us. I have heard Mike Pearl refer to my dad as his "best friend." We have all come a long way.

In conclusion, I implore parents, especially fathers, to carefully evaluate your life's priorities, and where you will invest your time and heart. Ask God to grant you understanding in your own situation, and repentance where needed. Ask God to open your eyes to the true, lasting treasures and riches of your children's eternal souls. One man's heart that is right towards his kids can change an entire church. One church with strong families can affect a whole community. One city or state can influence an entire nation. Let's consider the very last verses of the Old Testament: *"Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD: And he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse."* Malachi 4:5-6 ■

The above author's full name and country of service has been withheld for he and his family's safety. If your church is interested in learning about missions and would like the above family to come visit while they are now in the States, please contact Kathy at orders@nogreaterjoy.org.



In my Bible study, we are reading a book by Kay Arthur Lord, *Is It Warfare?* What is your teaching on spiritual warfare? I've looked up to see what the Bible says and am not finding very much on the topic that supports the idea of demons attacking Christians in the way that the author suggests. Does Satan put thoughts into our minds? Are demons lurking? The book uses Ephesians as the basis of its study, especially Ephesians 6. - Pam

Mike Responds: **If you didn't find it in the Bible, why are you asking me? I didn't write any additional Scripture. Did Kay?**



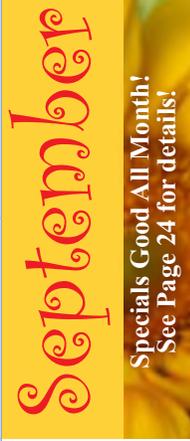
Sunflower Jungle

We are city-slickers. One summer I wanted my toddler to have a feeling of jungle adventure. I walked outside to my small yard to survey, consider and make a magical place for him to play. Our yard is fenced, so I decided to plant sunflowers all along the fence. Then it came to me. At the corner of the yard I could tie a string from one side of the fence to the other and also plant sunflowers along the string line. This would result in a small shadowy triangle with tall sunflowers on all three sides. In the spring, the sun shone on my son as he played in his sandy corner of the yard. By summer I had to tie up the huge plants so they would not fall. He played in their shade. By the heat of summer

his jungle was complete. Tall imposing sunflowers kept his jungle in total shade and him feeling the



Then Isaac sowed in that land, and received in the same year an hundredfold: and the LORD blessed him. Genesis 26:12

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mystery of being in a secret place. Once in a while I would crawl into his make-believe place and leave a surprise, like a large ham bone hidden in his sand. With a book from the library we would read about archeology and then he would take his bucket and shovel to discover what he could find in his jungle world. Imagine his surprise!



A small packet of seeds, a leftover bone from dinner, a plastic bucket and shovel...who needs the country when we have an imagination! ~ Micky Wilhite



Photography by Elizabeth Stewart

Thaddeus Ware peers out from his sunflower jungle, Sister Thessa and friends Gracie Brand, Carolyn and Judith Anne Beachy help to mulch the growing garden.

Oatmeal Chocolate Chewy Balls

2 c. old-fashioned oats
Up to 3/4 c. chunky natural peanut butter
Up to 1/2 c. raw honey
Up to 1/4 c. of chocolate mini-chips
Stir first four ingredients together in a medium-sized bowl.

Optional ingredients. You may add any of the following:

- 2 - 3 T. raw wheat germ
- 2 - 3 T. finely shredded coconut
- 1 to 2 T. unbleached flour to help hold the mixture together
- 1 T. (or more) sesame seeds, hulled, raw
- 1 - 2 T. roasted or raw almonds (“powder” in a blender first)
- Up to 1/4 c. raisins or currants

Crisp rice (for a crispier consistency) Stir in each optional ingredient into the first mixture, adjusting amounts until you like the consistency. Form tightly packed but chewy balls in any size you wish.



IS
THAT ONE
CLIP OR ONE
TEASPOON?

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
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Thanks to Sarah and Summer Fogg and Thessa Ware for making this delicious dessert for the office!





Hands-On Boys Weren't Raised On "Sugar-Toys"

Messing with junk is an inexpensive way to allow them to develop **confidence and creative imagination.**

BY THE OTTO BROTHERS

Tim Otto writes:

Most men work with their hands. Even those who are stuck with an office job tinker around with a lawn mower or garden on the weekends. Boys have a natural inclination to want to investigate, discover, and build. Every parent, including single moms, can answer this call by providing for their son some junk...yep, you read it correctly...junk.

Allow your boys time and space to build things out of cardboard boxes, discarded wood, nails, hinges, wheels, rope, gears, motors, bikes etc. "Junk" is several steps up from Legos, Lincoln Logs, Erector Sets, and similar prefabricated learning toys. It's more like real life, where it doesn't all fit together so perfectly and you have to use your imagination to improvise. And it never gets boring. Real stuff has to be cut and drilled, sanded and fitted, carved and shaped, glued and clamped, torn down, tied together, rebuilt and bolted in, cleaned up and soldered, welded, sanded and painted. And the great thing about boys creating something out of junk is that they are allowed to make a wrong cut, or some sort of "oops", without wasting what would otherwise be expensive and important material. There is no condemnation in failure.

Messing with junk is an inexpensive way to allow them to develop confidence and creative imagination. Furthermore, when a boy is consumed with his latest project, he will not be wanting to watch television or play some electronic game. He will be highly motivated from daylight to dark, rising early to "get back to work."



Chris Otto's sons rebuilding a jeep which the oldest (14 years old) bought at a garage sale.

I was recently speaking with my older brother Chris, whose parenting I highly respect, and he recalled his early experiences of “playing“ with junk as a kid and how he developed strong mechanical skills at an early age. So I asked him to write about it and to tell us what he’s now doing with his six boys.

Chris Otto writes:

When I was a kid, my mom used to give me old junk appliances, radios, blenders and all sorts of stuff to take apart. I remember that, at first, I could never figure out how to get the stuff open, so I would take a hammer and break it to see what was inside. I didn’t understand what all the different stuff was, but I remember I liked breaking the old tubes inside TVs because they made a loud pop (Later they told me that was pretty dangerous.)

The junk kept arriving, and in time I learned how I could get it apart with a screwdriver and other simple hand tools. As I continued, I learned to pull off switches and buttons to make my own inventions, like an electric shocker doorknob to surprise my younger brother (Later they told me that was pretty dangerous, also.) As I got older, my interest shifted to cars and motors. I knew very little about how an engine worked, but was offered the opportunity to work for a well-respected mechanic who lived nearby. I started out just washing parts and cleaning up, but before long there was a blue AMC Hornet that came into the shop. I will never forget it. It started up, but it ran rough and choppy. My boss diagnosed the problem and did a lot of work on the motor, expecting to solve the trouble. But still, it continued rough and choppy. Twice this happened, and the second time my boss got mad and took a trip into town to get something, leaving me there alone with the car.

As I sat there thinking it over, I considered what I knew about how an engine worked, and what might be happening. Then it occurred to me, “Maybe the exhaust is plugged!” So I proceeded to disconnect the exhaust to see what would happen. Sure enough, I was right. I had solved the problem, and gained the respect of my boss when he returned. Those were important years for me, even though I didn’t pursue a career as a mechanic. When people hear about the many things like this that I have done, they

say, “How did you know that?” But as I’ve thought about it, it’s really not so much about experience and knowledge as it is confidence, confidence I had gained much earlier, through tinkering with old appliances.

What happens then when the microwave oven doesn’t go on, or water doesn’t come out when you turn the handle at the sink? The standard answer is “Time to buy a new microwave!” and “Call the plumber.” I know many of you are thinking or saying, “I have more important things to do with my time.” But your sons are not going to develop confidence and self-reliance in practical living if they are not exposed to creative repair and construction.

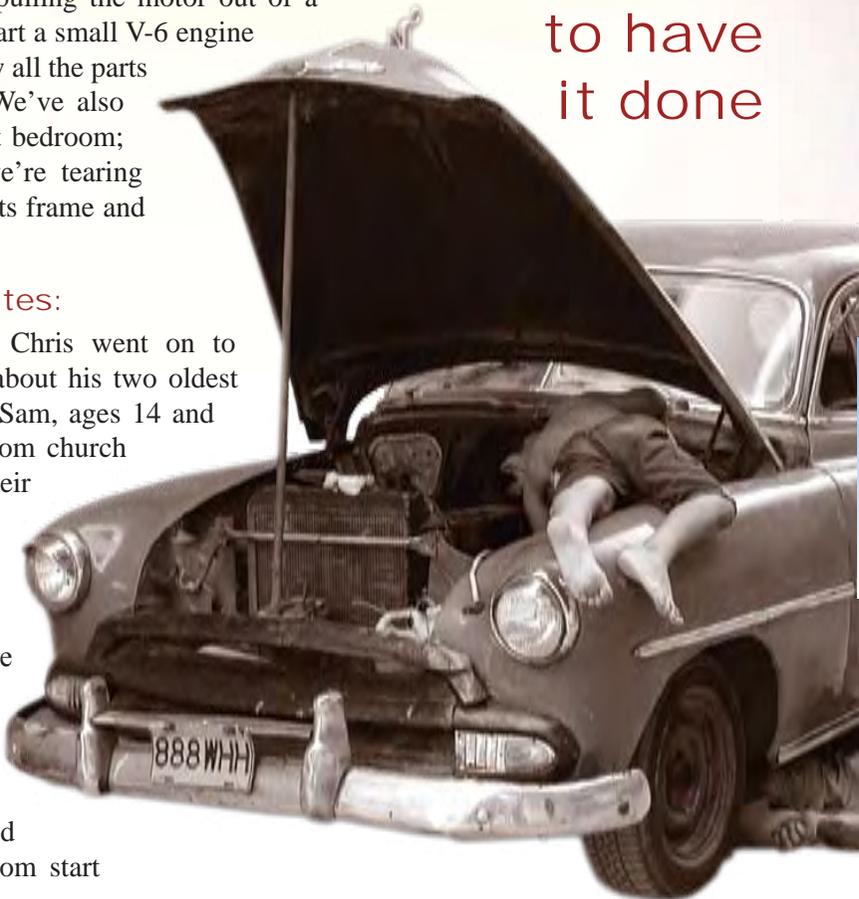
There will be many broken items that we dads cannot fix, but at least we will know what went wrong, and we will not be at the complete mercy of the repairman. The first response that runs through the mind of a man when the microwave doesn’t come on should be, “Let’s open it up and see what’s wrong with it,” not “I wonder how much a new one will cost me?”

Father, and even single moms, you may protest that you are too ignorant to fix anything. Don’t be afraid to do something just because you have never done it before. Start out with some of your old junk, like a broken vacuum cleaner, blender, food processor, or fan. If you don’t have any of this stuff and you don’t want to wait around for yours to stop working, talk to a friend or neighbor or go to a second-hand store or a garage sale and buy something just to “tinker with it”. If you have a friend who is a bit handier with repairing things, he’s likely to be able to answer your questions or steer you in the right direction. Try setting apart a couple hours every week just to tinker together on a project with your boys. We do this a couple times a month on Saturday mornings. We invite any young boy who has any desire whatsoever to work in the shop with us. We have done things like fixing the recoil on a chainsaw, taking apart old appliances, pulling the motor out of a truck, tearing apart a small V-6 engine and learning how all the parts work together. We’ve also built a basement bedroom; and currently we’re tearing a Jeep down to its frame and rebuilding it.

Character
is built in
repairing it,
not in paying
to have
it done

Tim Otto writes:

My brother Chris went on to tell me a story about his two oldest boys, Zach and Sam, ages 14 and 12: A woman from church pulled into their driveway with a couple boxes of brake pads, asking if they could help fix the brakes on her car. Zack and Sam jacked up the car, and totally completed the brake job from start



to finish, as my brother watched in his clean church clothes. "I didn't get a spot of dirt on me," he recalled with a grin. "They really did it all. All I did was make sure all the bolts were tight enough when they were done."

Not every boy is going to choose to work with his hands when he is grown, but I contend that it's a much more constructive way to raise boys than allowing them to "play" with those "sugar-toys" I see advertised out there. I've generally kept that candy-colored trash and those electronic nuisance-toys out of my house. I think it creates a buzz that runs contrary to natural order. Besides, the abundance of it in a home leaves less room for a child to be creative with scraps of wood, cardboard, or other available resources.

Recently, my 9-year-old boy wanted to give his sisters a ride around the driveway in the wheelbarrow, but he found that it was still a little too big for him. So he went ahead and made his own wheelbarrow out of some scrap wood and a junk wagon wheel. He was pretty tickled to show me what he had done, and I savored the revelation of his spawning ingenuity. My friend's son (13 years old) showed me the beginnings of a pontoon boat he's building out of wood from his dad's sawmill. His first attempt sank to the bottom of the creek, but he's back at it, working out a better design. These boys are being taught to use real tools and materials, overcome difficult obstacles, and to solve real problems.

If you see the value of raising "hands-on boys", then be a "hands-on dad". When a parent allows their child's course to be set by the wind of chance, the current of the Nile, or the vapor of mere academics, they're either praying for an unlikely miracle or are guilty of neglect. So, train up your boys in the way they should go, and a few positive experiences can lead to a few thousand more. Watch over them. Teach them to be safe. Help give them what they need to succeed, and let their appetite for manhood begin! ■

Dear Mr. Pearl,
I would like to give you a one-hundred on your article, "Silly Boys." My Mom keeps on reading it to me, and every time I feel more sober. Even the Bible says it: "Likewise, exhort the young men to be sober-minded." One last thing, I love the pictures! - Sincerely, Mason Jones

September - October Specials

Prices good September 1 - October 31, 2008

TO TRAIN UP A CHILD 8 PACK SPECIAL:

8 books. Great for a parenting study group. **\$26.00 (\$3.25 each)**

Save 45%!
8620-20

SPANISH G&E PLUS 5 SPECIAL:

Great for Sunday School or giveaways.
El Bien y El Mal - Book, Comic Part 1,
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4, Comic Part 5 **\$19.50 Save 35%!**

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3766-15

DVD 3 PACK SPECIAL:

Marriage DVD, Joy Of Training
DVD, Teaching Responsibility DVD
\$50.00

Save 25%!
2500-05



Squeaky Clean Apprentice

BY KRISTEN VICTORY

In less than 5 minutes, I taught my 3-year-old daughter, Amanda, to efficiently use a dust buster! The dust buster now lives securely behind a chair, and Amanda knows she has the authority to suck up any dirt, leaves, lint, or grit she sees on the floor. I also taught her how to use a dustpan, so whenever she sees me sweeping, she runs to get her tools. Amanda is aware that a clean floor is important to me, and because of this, she knows she is REALLY helping Momma by maintaining it. While my squeaky-clean floor standards have been lowered a bit, when the job is not done correctly the first time, I do not go back

and do it for her; she must redo it—to her delight. I've found that kids take pride in completing tasks and truly being in charge of something; they will know if parents are sneaking back and redoing all of their hard work. My Amanda is already learning the skills of responsibility and housekeeping, and I am truly impressed by her work. I have no greater joy than to be happily working alongside my best little buddy. ■



Open Two Eyes

BY JOHN TAYLOR, SR.

I came into the house as darkness drew near. I had been out feeding the animals and was tired from a day's work. I sat down, pulled my boots off, leaned back in the old recliner and closed my eyes for some rest. I had only been there a few

minutes when my 2-year-old daughter began her climb into my lap. I kept my eyes closed, pretending to be asleep.

She finally worked her way into my lap and said "Open your eyes, Daddy". I opened only one eye. She said, "Open the other eye". I did, but closed the other eye. We played this little game several times with me leaving only one eye open at a time. Finally, she got weary of my playing and said, "Open two eyes, Daddy!" So I did, and then I grabbed her, kissed her all over as she laughed and giggled and squirmed. This went on for a few more minutes and she was off to do something else, but by this time there were two more children ready to take her place for their nightly romp on Daddy's lap. I sure am glad that they love their daddy, because I sure do love them!

Are you walking through life with one eye open? Men, when it comes to your kids, you had better have both eyes open. This world we live in is competing for your children, and the world is surely trying to make it look appealing to them. You had better have those little hearts loving you and wanting to please you. If you don't make them part of your world as they grow up, they will wander off to see the world for themselves, and leave you wondering what happened.

Keep both eyes open at all times so that they'll know Daddy is watching, and that he is watching because he cares. ■

Who's the Man?

BY GABRIEL PEARL

There's an aura that can't be touched or seen that makes a father appear the most powerful, smartest, fastest, and wisest person on the earth. Who knows when it starts or how long it lasts, but it is an integral part of turning little boys into godly men.

That mysterious conviction is what causes the farmer's son to think that growing corn is the coolest thing on earth, or what makes the veterinarian's son love to work with animals. And it is what made me as a boy want to please my dad and try to emulate him. It wasn't until I was about 14 or 15 that I began to see his imperfections and to understand the looming curse of mortality that was upon him. My dad was just a man of temporal flesh. He was going to die...just like everyone else. And I realized that he was not perfect. But by the time reality set in, he had instilled in me enough integrity and morality for God to form my soul into what I am today. This might be the single most important task of parenthood—to lead by example, to elicit emulation. You see, you don't have to be taught not to steal if you see your father chase down a thief and throw him to the ground to be hauled off to jail. When I saw this, I was compelled to stay on his side of the law. I always loved the Bible stories he read to us at night, so I just naturally grew up with a desire to be a godly man and to be the same kind of dad for my kids.

So, show those boys that you are on top of the situation—that you can diagnose a disease and save a sick cow, or you make that hard sale that propels the company into the big time, put a beautiful finish on an old truck, or cheerfully deliver the mail on time. Make them proud to be their father's son. www.PearlOutdoors.com ■



Herbal Tidbit

By Shoshanna Easling

Wild Cherry Tree

Have you ever wondered why many throat drops, sprays, and syrups come in cherry flavor? The fruit and bark of the Wild Cherry Tree have been used for centuries to make soothing and healing throat remedies. Every spring, Wild Cherry Trees are loaded down with tiny berries, making the trees take on a maroon color. When the berries are ripe, they stain roadways they fall on. Wild Cherries are easy to harvest by putting a ground cover under the tree, then shaking the branches. Mom makes a Cherry tonic every year for Dad's speaking voice. It tastes great! The next time you go to the library, find an Herb Book that will tell you more, or you can check out Bulk Herb Store's website for a fantastic book called *Practical Herbalism*. www.BulkHerbStore.com or 1-877-278-4257 ■



In our prison unit, after an inmate has checked out and read a certain number of books from the library, he can, out of a selection of books, choose one book to keep permanently. A fellow inmate filled his library card last week and there was only one book in the selection group. It was your *Good and Evil* book. Since he is reading another book at the moment, he offered it to me to read first. I love it. This past May, my son cut his own throat in a suicide attempt. Many ministries and I along with prayer warriors here on the unit have been praying that he would come to accept Jesus. Then this tragedy occurred. God is working, and my son agrees. A pastor has volunteered to spend one day a week with him to help him. My son's mentor while I am in prison is his cousin who has an extensive collection of classic comic books. I have been trying to reach my nephew with the gospel and lead him to Christ. I have many family members who would benefit from your book. I receive funds periodically and would like to know how the cost so that I can make gifts of them to my family members. I am reading the book and truly love it and know that God will bless your ministry greatly for this work. – God bless, S.M.

From Prison

Chaplain's response to Good and Evil books sent to this prison: Thank you for your generosity!! I am overjoyed, and I'm sure the men will be as well. Thank you for building into the lives of the least, the last, and the lost.

*Rev. David Mingus, Chaplain II
Mack Alford Correctional Center
Oklahoma*

*I saw a copy of your Good and Evil and was amazed! Even I could understand and read it. Will you please send me a copy?
– Thank you, Richard*

I'm an inmate at the Work Ethic Camp. One of the other guys in the program shared with me the *Good and Evil* comic book. I think it is a great idea to have it in that form. I can't read very well and the pictures help me out a lot. If you could please send me a copy of your *Good and Evil* comic book, I would really appreciate it very much. I am trying very hard to live a righteous life. – God bless you, Herman

*One of my brothers blessed me by showing me two very precious gifts he received through your ministry. The book titled *Good and Evil* brought the Word of God so clearly to me, that I knew God was speaking to me in that still small voice. I got the chance to use that book along with the Bible you sent to him. I would really like to have copies of my own. PLEASE! Both of these will not only help me in my growth, but also in my attempt to strengthen my bond with my Saviour. – M, San Quentin State Prison*

My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me.
John 10:27

TWO NEW PEARL GRAND-CHILDREN!



Nathan & Zephyr Pearl's new baby, Gideon Levi Pearl!



Gabe & Beka Anast's new baby, Chaiyah Anast!

Soldier's wife gets saved after listening to cds from the soldier's NGJ military package he brought back from Iraq.

Dear Pearl Family,

In Galatians 6:3, Paul says, "Let him that is taught in the word communicate unto him that teacheth in all good things." So I want to share with your family that your teaching of the word recently led to my salvation.

I am a homeschooling mom who thought she knew enough about God to be considered one of his; but I could never get over this nagging feeling that if I was really saved, I wouldn't be angry with my family so often. I read child-training books, marriage books, Bible studies, and went to church regularly. But I only felt more guilty when I failed. I considered past expressions of mercy, when God had brought me through certain trials, and thought maybe that was evidence of my salvation. But even then, there was an underlying irritability (the proof of my selfishness) that made me keep questioning my relationship with God.

Recently, my husband came home from Iraq with the books and tapes from your care package. I was hoping "he'd" have utilized them so he would have a "closer walk with God." I decided to listen to them to see what they were like. Well, after about ten minutes of "Imputed Righteousness," I knew I wasn't saved. For twelve or more years, I thought I was a Christian who just didn't try hard enough. At the moment I knew I wasn't saved, I also knew that God wanted me to be so, so I kept listening, over about a week's time, I guess. God was softening my heart, making me know that all of the dead works I was doing weren't going to get me closer to him. But then, one day, as I finished listening to "God's Eternal Program," I heard the words "The man Christ Jesus," and something wonderful happened. My second birth happened. There was a peace that entered my soul and has been with me ever since. I kept expecting it to go away as it had in the past after I'd listened to a good sermon and tried to put what was taught into practice. I realize now that it was like the birds that came and snatched up the seeds in Jesus' story. This time, the gospel found good ground and took root in my soul.

As you discussed in the book *By Divine Design*, the tree in the garden wasn't there to trick the first folks; it was there to remind them that God was able and good and present each time they passed it. So there have been things in my life since the day of my new birth. Things have NOT been easy, but feeling that peace that passes all my understanding working through me has been simply awesome (I am trying to pick my words carefully to avoid the religious clichés that I was so accustomed to in times past.). I believe that Christ is now in me and that when he was crucified, I was crucified. I am dead to the world, so my flesh can't work its works upon my spirit. The Spirit that is in me is God's, and I can no longer sin willfully against my new Spirit. Mature Christians locally have counseled me that I will still sin accidentally in moments of weakness because I still live in the flesh, but that desire to find my fulfillment outside of God's life in me (in sin) is gone completely. Even reading over my own writing amazes me at the boldness of the claims we have with faith in Christ.

Again, I just wanted to let you know that your family is ministering the gospel to the Pharisees of our day (my old life) and adding many to the kingdom of God. Thank you for my husband's new Bible – it's on loan to me and is an answer to a prayer of mine for a new KJV. – Warmly, Debbie

"Again, I just wanted to let you know that your family is ministering the gospel to the Pharisees of our day (my old life) and adding to the kingdom of God."

TRAINING STORY

I had the opportunity to watch your DVD, *Teaching Responsibility*, at a homeschool meeting the other night. It was SO wonderful. We have read and used your child training materials for years now and have been happy with the results, but this past year brought a new challenge...twin girls!! ...

We have 4 children, now aged 13, 11, 11, and 4 (when twin girls were born!) Now that the girls are a year old, things are a little easier than when they were newborn, but I still felt as though I was missing something with them.

Every day I enlisted the help of my older children to mind the little ones while I got dinner ready. This seems to be a good system, but soon I realized that the way my kids “watched” the babies was much the way I had fallen into caring for them—they would settle them with a pile of toys or a snack and

try to snatch five or ten minutes of time to themselves until the baby would fuss, and then it was on to another diversion. I justified this on my part by saying that I needed to get things done, the house still had to run after all, babies or no babies. But I expected more out of the kids, and seeing the way they cared for the babies was very disturbing to me. In my heart I knew that I had taught them this technique, and that I was no better than they were.

Anyway, I saw the responsibility video, and there was something about seeing it on the screen there—watching your daughter do dishes with the little one on the counter with her, sweeping with her, Debi with a baby on her hip while she cooked—I had read all of these things in your materials before, but there was something about seeing it—I don’t know, something just clicked!!

I realized that having two babies doesn’t give me an excuse to neglect training them to be good workers! I had gotten stuck into this idea that if I carried the girls around they would become spoiled and whiney, so I would let them fuss and cry on the floor while I worked—talk about whiney!! The day after I watched the DVD, I changed that. I held a baby all day long—sometimes both of them, though it’s hard to work with NO hands!! But instead of holding them and wandering aimlessly about the house doing nothing, I WORKED with them. I got things done! And they were so happy! Do you know how fascinating a toilet brush is to a one year old? Or running water? It’s amazing!

That day, instead of calling the other kids in for “3:30 time,” I put the babies on the kitchen table with a butter knife for them, a real knife for me, and a pile of green peppers and onions and mushrooms that needed chopping. I sat down and began to chop, passing some of the scraps to them. They watched me intently for a few moments and then began to chop at their own vegetables with their butter knives. They kept looking at each other



This is soooooooo Cane Creek!

with sheer delight, big smiles all around, as they worked with me. If one would try to stand up, I would say “No, sit down” just like we say in the bathtub, and they would sit. They began sampling all the vegetables we chopped- they ate green peppers and onions! They did spit out the mushrooms though :) They sat there for over half an hour and didn’t fuss, whine, or try to crawl around. We had so much fun! And we established that the kitchen table was a place to sit only and not try to crawl around or stand. I often sit them on the table now while I fold clothes or do other chores.

That first day, when I got them down, they were so content, they just played nicely with each other and ran around. Every once in awhile one of them would toddle into the kitchen to check on me, and I would pick them up and show them what I was doing and they’d stir the vegetables on the stove or wash a dish...it was just so fun!!!!

Your bible teachings—God’s teachings!—changed our lives, and we will be forever grateful to you for that. May the Lord bless and keep you both, we love you!! – L.H. ■

*I just wanted to say that I think you are so right about the next generation forgetting [see “God Doesn’t Have Any Grandchildren”-May-June 2008 magazine article]. My husband and I have been searching for a church where we could hear Christ preached. We have been to so many. The last one was in financial need, the people were so unfaithful and the Pastor was praying for revival. Sunday he preached on why we should not eat pigs. “Sir we would see Jesus.” Thank you for your steadfastness.
– Praying for you, The B Family*

Thank you, No Greater Joy, for making me look 15 years younger! I was recently standing in line waiting for the dreaded picture for my new license and was enjoying a conversation with a young woman with a 24-month-old. We were speaking about our kids when she informed me her kid would be the only one she would have. I told her that was too bad since I have three kids ages 2 to 16. A look of shock covered her face when she told me I did not look like I was a mother of a 16-year-old. She thought I was her age, which she told me was 23! Thanks to you and your books that has been applied into my life! You are right: smilers ARE always on vacation! Thanks for teaching me to feel and look young! – Lisa. P.S. Saw my license and I do look rather young in it!

I just wanted to tell you that your warning to so-called second generation Christians (“God Doesn’t Have Any Grandchildren” May-June 2008 magazine) hit home for me. My parents were the first-generation believers you mentioned, and just like you said, I have always assumed that if it worked for my parents and their kids (me and my siblings) then it will work for me and my children. My eyes have been opened! I have to admit that it is the biggest challenge for me to do what is right - my husband has long ago begun the fight against his flesh, but I am still struggling. I watch too much TV and I excuse my anger problem as just me being “passionate”, but I will no longer allow my selfish, sinful behavior to endanger my two young sons’ spiritual lives! I am only 20, married at 17, and I feel like I have so much growing up to do. Thank you for showing me how I can be a submissive, loving wife and a joyful, disciplined mother. – Heather

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** **\$5.95**

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** **\$10.95**

Thank you for offering the "ABC Bible Verse Song" CD. My girls love it, and are quickly memorizing the scriptures. We love having godly music in our home. What other children are in Wal-Mart singing Ephesians 6:1? – Jill Y.

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** **\$5.95**

EE-TAOW & NEXT CHAPTER DVD SET

This is a remarkable story of a native tribe being won to the Lord. The gospel is presented chronologically and the results are spectacular. It is a great video to watch with your children, grandchildren, Sunday School students, etc.

2 DVDs **2910-75** **\$19.95**

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** **\$8.95**

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** **\$5.95**

Thank you for your Bible teaching materials. I've just recently discovered the free mp3 downloads on your website, and it's helped me a great deal. It's refreshing to hear the teaching of the Word of God in plain and simple language, which even my children were able to understand. God bless you, and keep up the great work!
– Chris

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** **\$5.95**
8 or more copies ea. **\$3.57**

Abandonando el Barco

(Span. Jumping Ship) **4040-12** **\$5.95**
8 or more copies ea. **\$3.57**

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** **\$5.95**
8 or more copies ea. **\$3.57**

STARTING OVER

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

1 CD **8338-45** **\$5.95**

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** **\$2.00**

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** **\$5.95**
8 or more copies ea. **\$3.57**

PARA ENTRENAR A UN NIÑO

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

Spanish Book **8610-12** **\$5.95**
8 or more copies ea. **\$3.57**

Spanish 5 CDs **8620-45** **\$21.95**

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** **\$5.95**
8 or more copies ea. **\$3.57**

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** **\$5.95**
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I recently ordered your *To Train Up a Child*. I wish I could have read this 16 years ago! My husband and I both come from non-Christian homes, but we had tried our best to apply the Bible and good old-fashioned common sense. Unfortunately, I will admit, humanistic advice from well-meaning friends and relatives combined with inconsistency has reaped some weeds that are hard to pull! Thanks again for the book. I already see a difference in the boys (our four youngest), and even the 8-month-old, knows what Mama's calm "no" means, and I have seen him obey! Amen – Jodie

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** **\$13.95**
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9 CDs **2020-45** **\$34.95**
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I had *To Train Up A Child* given to me by a friend. After the first day of training my children, I saw instant results, and my stress level was lowered to normal. Praise God. I am a pastor's wife, and so I'm buying a book for every mother in my church. Some of them have four to five children, and I know they would appreciate the knowledge from this book. Thank you so much for this book! – Amanda

CREADA PARA SER SU AYUDA IDÓNEA
Spanish Translation of *Created To Be His Help Meet*, Debi's best-selling book.

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The Journey is a 184-page year-long companion workbook/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.

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I just wanted to thank you for your child training materials. They have turned my home around and by God's grace I am a happy and thankful mother now. I have been listening to some of the Bible teachings you have graciously made free online and I am learning from those too. Thank you also for the article on how to study the Bible, it has made me realize I can study my KJV and learn God's truths without having to figure out which commentator is "right." – A Reader

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

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Phone: 931-593-2484

Email: melcohen@hughes.net



New arrivals:

The Gap Fact booklet

Coming mid-October:

Good and Evil Color Paperback

Military

Dear Pearls, I am a military wife to my awesome husband who is deployed for the third time! Second time to Iraq and there was one other time he was gone for a year in the states, in our 5 year marriage. I am 24 and have four children ages 5, 4, 4, and 3. I thank you all for the gift to military wives and husbands. It has brought awesome encouragement to my home and to my husband in Iraq, and for that I thank you. You have saved my marriage, delivered me from anger and helped me save my unsaved husband, who is now walking with the Lord. I thank you all from the bottom of my heart. My neighbor has benefited from your gift as well! May God bless you all!
Kaylan J.

I am a military wife and have recently received your care package. I was so thankful to get it. All the books and cds are such a blessing. It was on my birthday that it came in the mail. Talk about a nice surprise. I want to thank you for your support to our military. It is very encouraging. I love your literature. I am especially grateful for the Help Meet book which I am learning how to apply with my wonderful Mr. Steady husband. I am starting to read your child training books and DVD, and now we are preparing for when we have children of our own. Thank you again. – Holly R

SEPT-OCT 2008



No Greater Joy Ministries, Inc.
1000 Pearl Road
Pleasantville, TN 37033

JOE COURAGE TO THE RESCUE



Submitted by Benjamin Aprile, age 14

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