



NGJ
ministries

July-August 2011

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



No Greater Joy

Have you discovered our daily **Bird's Eye View** on NoGreaterJoy.org? Our photographer slips around trying to catch our staff in odd moments. If you ever wondered “who, what, when, or where” about us; wonder no more. Check out the Bird's Eye calendar for past postings. Bird's Eye is, hands-down, our most visited venue. Visitors are welcome. www.nogreaterjoy.org/daily



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Photo: Elizabeth Stewart

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Old Tom

By Michael Pearl

Why does a child training magazine contain a picture of an old goat like that?

Tom is a sheep, not a goat, although he was a goat when I met him 22 years ago. No Greater Joy might not exist today if it were not for Tom and his wife Kathy.

When we moved to Cane Creek twenty-three years ago, I discovered the Slayman family living on a few acres in a little valley beside a creek. They were the hippies that never gave up. It took about two years of weekly Bible studies for Tom and Kathy and their four children to come to faith in Jesus Christ. Tom continued his study of the Word and grew into a faithful soul winner for Christ, becoming my best friend.

About four years later, I wrote *To Train Up A Child*, not even dreaming that in just a few short years it would open up an international ministry, reaching people with the message of Christ in about 40 languages.



From the beginning, Tom believed in the book and he began to plan for its success. From a small ad in a magazine, orders began to pour in. Monday through Friday for the next two years, Tom and his wife Kathy filled those orders as volunteers, receiving no pay. Tom insisted we needed an office, so he commandeered

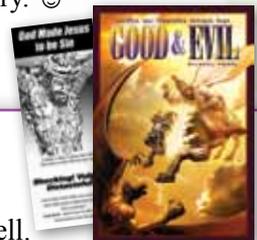
three untrained teenagers and employed them in the construction of our first office and warehouse.

When he was fifty-two years old they went to Thailand as missionaries, but that is a whole different story.

Tom and Kathy's story will be posted on our **Bird's Eye View** on June 15th. Anytime after the 15th it will be in the Bird's Eye calendar. Come read the rest of his story. ☺

Tom's Witnessing Tips

- See everyone as an eternal soul, bound for Heaven or Hell.
 - Test to see if people are open by asking, "Hey, where are you from?" If they look away or ignore you, they're not open. If they talk with you, they're open.
 - Give them your testimony.
 - Give books to interested youth.
 - Give out a tract.
- Witnessing tools** (See p. 35 for products)
- God Made Jesus To Be Sin Tracts
 - *Good and Evil* with a tract inside







Apprenticeship

By Michael Pearl

Little Adults

It may be the experience of years that causes me to view all children as little adults. They will mature so quickly. The stumbling, foolish ten-year-old will be an adult in just ten years. In twenty years it will be obvious to him and others whether his life is a success or a failure. Will this little guy or gal running around the church yard think of me favorably ten years from now? What will be his memories of me? Will he remember me as a grumpy old man that spoiled all his fun, or as someone who took interest in his life and was a friend as he was growing up? Will he come to me for counsel or say, “He is the last person I want to talk to”?

I feel the need to address all children as people of worth, as souls soaking up their surroundings and forming worldviews with every experience. Each of us is a vital part of the mold that forms eternal souls. It is a grave responsibility.

I still have unpleasant memories of several adults, dating back as early as four years old—some brief word

spoken in passing, a slight or dismissal, a rebuke I felt was not warranted. Uncles, cousins, church leaders, school teachers, ministers, friends of the family, they knew not that in one event they left an impression by which they are still judged today.

The disciples felt there were too many children crowding Jesus, preventing adult conversation, no doubt making too much noise, not appreciating the gravity of the moment, so they rebuked the adults for allowing their children to press in upon Jesus. “But when Jesus saw it, he was much displeased, and said unto them, Suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God” (Mark 10:14).

If we ignore the children until their untoward behavior demands our attention, we are foolishly wasting human resources. Better to bind what is not yet broken than to try to repair the shattered and wasted lives of adults.

Go love a child today; see the adult in them and plant seeds that will bear fruit long after you are gone. ☺



Throwing Anger In the Garbage

By Shalom Brand

Laila was becoming more and more frustrated and it has led to her being angry. Her frustration was due to Gracie teasing her, or me being busy and not responding to her right away. She became conditioned to getting attention by whining, crying, or getting mad. Then I would react and she would get in trouble for the whining or for being mad. It just made her madder.

Overtime I could see that her response had become a habit that we had created. The first step was to take away things that were frustrating her, at least as much as we could. I talked to Gracie (big sister) about the problem and we agreed to do all we could to help Laila.

The second step was to figure out how to break the angry response that

she had learned to use to get attention. I knew that spanking her and other types of discipline would not be productive. I asked God for wisdom to help my little girl to learn to control her emotional reactions of anger. The next time Laila got angry I set her on the couch and told her that anger was a bad thing. I explained that anger made little girls not be sweet and that anger

wanted to hurt her and be mean to her. I told her that Mama wanted to get that anger and throw it in the garbage where it belonged, so that it could not hurt my sweet girl anymore. I told Laila that we could tickle it out of her, or kiss it out, or spank it out, depending on how much anger was there. The whole concept caught her imagination. She told me that she thought we should tickle it out of her. I agreed. She was smiling and I was laughing by

Now three weeks later there is less and less anger and she tells me that anger cannot hurt her any more.

the time I started tickling while chanting, “Anger, Anger, go away, do not come back to hurt Laila any day, you mean old ugly anger.”

Gracie knew I had been thinking about what to do about Laila’s anger so when she walked in she quickly followed my lead by running to hide in the closet. I asked Laila, “Where do you think the anger is? Do you have anger still in your heart?”

“No,” she said, “it is in the closet.” So I grabbed my switch and off to the closet we ran. Out jumped Gracie, screaming like she was angry. I proceeded to chase her through the house with Laila right behind me. We chanted, “Let’s get that anger and throw it away.” We caught Gracie and tickled her to the ground. It was all great fun.

The next day Laila shut her finger in the door. She ran to the couch and sat down with her arms crossed like she was mad. To my shame I was cooking and not paying attention again. She looked up and said, “Mama I think you need to spank the anger that is in my heart and make it run away.” She was so sincere, it was so

cute. I stopped cooking and asked her, “Do you have anger in your heart?”

She said, “Yes.”

I grinned at her as I said, “Then I will kiss it out of you.” I started kissing and hugging her and she started laughing while trying to talk, “My anger is gone. I think it jumped into the garbage can.”

We have been chasing and kissing and tickling and even at times when the anger is really awful and it will not run away I have to spank it out. Now, three weeks later, there is less and less anger and she tells me that anger cannot hurt her anymore. Some days when I see frustration begin to build in her I catch her in my arms and spin in circles while saying, “Go away anger and leave my little girl alone.” She knows my heart is to bless her and make her life better, so she responds to that caring call. There have been several times now that I have seen an angry response coming and told her, “Remember, anger wants to hurt you; do not let it grab you. Ask Mama for help and push that anger away.” Over and over I have seen her gain control of her negative emotions. She is learning self control. This training will follow her all her life. She will be healthier, happier and a greater blessing to others for learning self control. ☺

Tips

Read these articles at
www.NoGreaterJoy.org:

- The Will to Dominate
- ESP Training-Explain, Show, Practice
- My Little Knuckle-head
- Poor Little Fat Girl

We Say Good Morning

By Michael Pearl and Jeremiah James Easling

Live and learn.

Five-year-old Jeremiah stayed with us for four days while his parents attended a funeral out of state. He is a very sound sleeper. Nothing wakes him once he goes out. Just tell him to lie down and in one minute he goes bye bye. But he sometimes wets his bed during the night, so his mother has him sleep in an absorbent garment made for older kids who wet themselves.

The first morning as he got up and was stepping out of his pull up diaper I said, “Did you wet yourself?” As he pushed his absorbent garment to the floor he said, “Na” and walked off. But then I smelled something awful. Picking it up I said, “Yea, you peed on yourself; better go wash up.”

Something similar took place the next two mornings as well. On the fourth morning, he got up without me noticing and was coming from the bathroom. I said, “Did you wash yourself off?”

“Yeah, I washed my butt.”

“Well, your butt is not enough; you need to wash all over.”

“Naah, that’s enough.”

“You need to wash the front too; I can smell you.”

“It’s okay; it doesn’t stink.”

“You might not be able to smell it but I can, and it stinks.”

And then he said, “At my house we say good morning.”

At first I thought he had changed the subject, and then it dawned on me that he was rebuking me for not beginning the day with good fellowship as his parents do at home. Apparently they don’t rag him about his bed wetting. Wow! Shut my mouth! Live and learn. ☺





See page 35

From the Mailbox

This copy of *Good and Evil* is being donated to a homeless shelter in Los Angeles' Skid Row area. Thank you and we hope to order more in the future. God bless you! - California

Hi! I just read "Yes, I Am Normal". Loved it! I am that girl too - raised in a spanking-happening-but-loved-like-crazy home. I was home schooled as well. I can't even count the times I have heard people comment on how I could possibly come from such an oppressive home like that and come out so unscathed. I usually have to say that that's why I AM so unscathed. How blessed we truly are that our parents were wiser than the culture and confident in the Word of God rather than our pop psychologists. I may have to take this article around with me and hand out copies... it will save my breath! Many thanks and giggles as I read this! :O) Thank you for what you do! - P. Smith, Lexington, VA

I would like to show my appreciation toward your ministry and extend my deepest sympathy in regards to the humanistic slander that has been spreading around. This, I'm sure, has been a true test of faith. I encourage you to hold fast to the things of God and persevere to the end. For in our trials is when we can be closest to our Saviour. The Devil is at work, but God always comes out winning. Our day is so corrupt, but you are a light in which He shall greatly reward. Even through the darkest moments we shall find joy. Joy in the Saviour and abiding in His truth. May God shine His many mercies upon you and give you rest and peace in a darkened world. - In Christ, K. Hanson

Want To Help? Support NGJ by going on places like Amazon and post your comments. Don't let the devil's crew be the only voice !

NGJKids

Truth Above All Things

By Gracie, with a little help from Mama

M My name is Gracie, and I am six years old now. I love to drive my mom's golf cart. One day when I was driving with my little sister and my cousin Jeremiah, I did not pay attention. The other two jumped off, fell, and got hurt. I knew that if they told my mom, I would get in big trouble. So I did a bad thing: I told them not to tell Mama.

Later that day Mama Pearl asked me, "Why does Jeremiah have a bruise on his knee?"

I told Mama Pearl and my mama what had happened and that I had asked my sister and Jeremiah not to tell. Mama explained to me that not telling is

the same as lying; it is called being deceitful and dishonest. She said that when I hide something from her, it is just as wrong as lying and sometimes even worse! The Bible says in Jeremiah 17:9-10 that "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it? I the Lord search the heart, I try the

reins, even to give every man according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings."

So when my heart is deceitful, God is the one that I will be in trouble with. He can see into my heart, and he is a lot bigger than Mama!

Read the rest of Gracie's story on page 22, The Power of a Story!



Photo: Elizabeth Stewart

Words TO KNOW

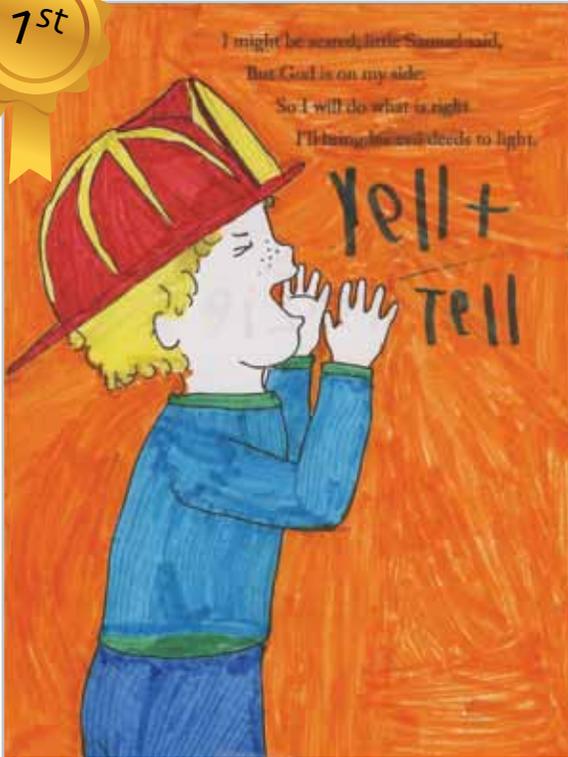
Match up the words with the definition. One is already done for you. Give it a try!

- | | |
|-----------|---|
| Lying | A purple spot on the skin that hurts. |
| Truth | Covering up a lie and pretending it is true. |
| Bruise | The hidden part of a person that God watches. |
| Golf cart | Telling what actually happened. |
| Deceitful | A vehicle that drives like a car. |
| Heart | The story you make up to avoid the truth. |

Art Contest!

May-June contest winners!

7th



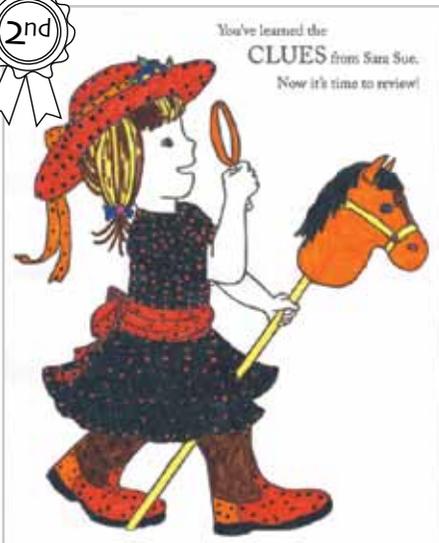
FIRST PLACE
Ethan MacKenzie,
Age 8, Carver, MA

SECOND PLACE
Alvina Grigoryeva
Age 9
Salem, OR

THIRD PLACE
Emma West
Age 8
Crimora, VA

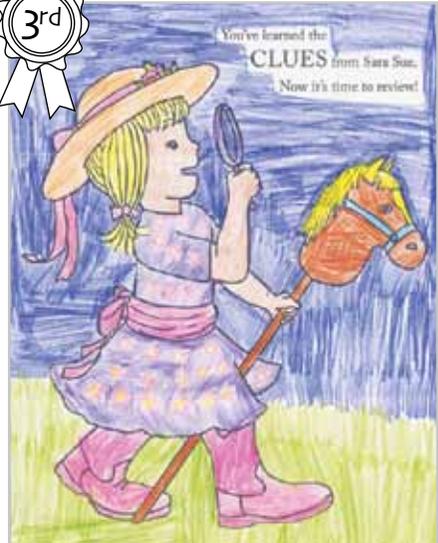
Ethan MacKenzie

2nd



Alvina Grigoryeva

3rd



Emma West

View all art at YellandTellbooks.com/contest.
See page 32 for Sept-Oct contest rules.



Mirror of Our Reflection

By Shoshanna Easling

Look at your reflection and smile. It is a two way mirror.

From the time Jeremiah was a baby, the moment he wakes I cheerfully say, “Good morning sweetheart!” He always smiles back in delight, and I go on to talk to him about the wonderful day ahead. This sets the tone for the day, and every day is a good day. Happy, confident, aggressive, as a toddler and then a small child, he knew his mama loved him. He has grown up so much. Now he is five and I say to him, “Do you know you are the best kid ever?” “Yes!” he says. “I know, Mama. Do you know you are the best Mama ever?” We laugh and hug. I have found I am raising my reflection. Now Penelope Jane has joined our play. She is eight months old and delights in her brother as he does in her. I see my son starting his sister’s day off with a smile as he talks with her and delights in her.

My children reflect everything I do. The way I greet and talk to Daddy; the way I treat others; the way I live life; everything I do, everything I say, they look at me and learn. By the time a child is five years old his brain is 90 percent developed—and his soul is 90 percent developed as well. The heart is well on its way to learning empathy, love, kindness, goodness, gentleness, courage, strength, and steadfastness—or anger, laziness, pouting, envy, greed, and lust.

I look around and I see parents everywhere raising their reflections. Each child is unique, but still reflects who is raising him. I look at myself and I ask, am I what I want my kids to be? “More is caught than taught,” my daddy always says. Your children are your reflection. Look at your reflection and smile. It is a two way mirror. ☺

Good and Evil Episode One Complete!

The NGJ Video Team

As many of you know, the *Good and Evil* graphic novel is being made into an animated series. The goal of this project is not to create entertainment for Western Christians. It is a tool missionaries will use to teach the Bible chronologically to those who know little or nothing about God. People must understand who God is before they can understand the gospel. This often takes months of teaching, especially in foreign cultures different from our own. Using the *Good and Evil* DVD will shorten the teaching time to about four and one half hours of viewing. We are spending extra time and money to produce it in layers, allowing adjustments to be made when it is translated into other languages. The language can be changed while maintaining the sound effects and the original musical scoring.



It has been a monumental project, involving dozens of people, many of them professionals who have either volunteered their time or worked for a very low rate. We had to produce the voices of over 650 characters with about 30 actors, each one changing his or her voice to match several characters in the book. Auditions were held, and people from all over the Nashville area tried out. The carefully selected crew worked long hours for more than a week in a professional studio in Nashville. The producer, director, and audio technicians worked about 16 hours a day to get all the recordings done. Even though most of the people working on the project were Christians, a few of the men kept proclaiming, “The Bible says WHAT?!” Then they looked up the references found in *Good and Evil* and were amazed when they read what the Bible actually says.

The film will be separated into 13 chapters, each about 22 minutes long. The chapters can be shown over the course of days or weeks, with the missionary taking extra time to elaborate on the stories. People all around the world will come to know the Bible’s central theme of sin and redemption from Genesis to Revelation.

The first chapter is now complete! It is available as a FREE download to eNGJ Email Subscribers. If you are not a subscriber go to NoGreaterJoy.org and subscribe. See the sign-up instructions on page 25.

Missions

ANOTHER KIND OF MISSION

Several teams of Cane Creek volunteers took time out of their busy schedules to help out some of the people devastated by the Alabama tornados. They were able to make significant contacts with the people they helped.



“Where do we go from here?” With nothing left, many residents hit by the tornado had to begin life all over again, many in their 60’s and 70’s with little to live on.



▲ Some of the men took heavy equipment which really helped alot.

◀ Two of the ladies served 2000 meals in one day. All donated (as it was needed) and cooked on a grill.



Victims seemed dazed and didn't know where to start.



Once a neighborhood. Now it looks like a landfill.



Some from Cane Creek Plain community always volunteer.

Read more online: www.NoGreaterJoy.org/ministrypage



“Go Love Yourself?”

By Michael and Debi Pearl

Dear Pearls,

My wife and I are on different pages. The only thing that is keeping us together is the common goal of wanting the best for our fantastic daughter. When she leaves for university I intend to leave my wife. Am I wrong? Here is the situation:

- 1) I save; she squanders thousands.
- 2) I have been faithful. Yet for most of our 20 years of marriage she has pushed me away sexually and tells me repeatedly to go to the bathroom for release.
- 3) She claims I cannot be trusted and have to earn her respect.
- 4) She does not work. I make a six figure income. We are comfortable, but cannot afford the lifestyle she expects.
- 5) After work I am expected to help with housework, meals, and laundry, which I do. But the house is always a mess. She is a hoarder. There is a room of junk you cannot even get into.
- 6) Once she said she was going to report me as being abusive. I told her I would be glad to call the police on myself or report myself to the church. She said to call the church. I did. The church leaders knew the charge was bogus and said they wanted to stay out of the matter.

When my daughter goes to university I intend to give my wife 75 percent of the assets, walk away, and put my daughter through university. Is that reasonable?

- John

Michael Answers:

Since I am hearing only one side of the story, it is impossible to judge in the whole matter, but you have given me enough information to ask some pertinent questions of you and to make a factual observation concerning your wife. The most glaring revelation as to the root of your problem is your statement that, “She claims I cannot be trusted and have to earn her respect.” She reveals that lack of trust and respect, in brushing off your advances and suggesting a disgusting alternative. Her desire to “report you for abuse” suggest she wants outsiders—the government or the church—to acknowledge something she cannot get you to acknowledge: that you have hurt her. Her hoarding suggests she is insecure in her future, although that could be the leftovers of an impoverished youth. Her failure to clean the house indicates a lack of self-respect as well as thanklessness for your lavish provision all these years. It is a slap in your face.

Your wife is deeply pained, broken as a human being, unfulfilled as a woman and very lonely. She blames you. She may not think you are the source of her problems, but, at the very least, she blames you for not being the cure.

Understand that this is not a question of who is right and who is wrong. It is a question of what you can do to heal her of deep hurts and fears. It is obvious that you have been making sacrifices for the sake of your daughter, but are unwilling to make the same sacrifices for your wife. I understand that she has affronted your masculinity and you just want to get away from the hurt. Try to understand her pain and it will invoke compassion in you.

It is very clear that your wife thinks you are duplicitous in your life

and commitment to her. You were careful to say, “I have been faithful... for almost 20 years of marriage.” I am assuming that 20 years represents the entire marriage and not just the length of time you have gone without further unfaithfulness. Your characterization of her is typical of a woman that has lived with the shame of being rejected for another woman, or of a woman whose husband has molested his child, or is into pornography.

So far, your entire approach, as expressed in your letter, is to be concerned with your own needs and how you can meet them.

If none of these are true, the next thing I would consider is, did you create guilt in her by engaging in premarital sex? It is often the case that a highly principled virgin who surrenders to her passions and engages in shameful sex before marriage takes that guilt into the marriage and comes to identify all sex with shame and guilt. The association is missed because the inhibitions are not manifested immediately after marriage. It usually takes several weeks or months for the passion to subside and some additional factor of little consequence to trigger the guilt and cause it to override the passion. Once the guilt threshold is met, the only thing that will remove it is complete confession to each other and expressions of shame and repentance. If she sees you ashamed of your sin, confessing you were wrong, her trust can be restored, knowing that hypocrisy no longer lives in you.

Whether I have tagged the root or not, the key is to get her to open up and express to you why she is angry, hurt, and bitter. She will be reluctant to



open up to someone she doesn't trust, and you can only restore that trust by becoming transparent yourself. She must become convinced that you are no longer the man that hurt her, that you are approachable, that you will not condemn her or shut her out, that you are interested in her as a person, not just for physical intimacy.

So far your entire approach, as expressed in your letter, is to be concerned with your own needs and how you can meet them. You are self-centered, and insensitive. I understand how years of rejection can work on a man, but getting divorced is not going to meet your needs. Your need is in your heart, and you will take that with you wherever you go. You need to listen to my messages "**Sin No More,**" listen to the audio "**Only Men,**" and watch the DVD "**Marriage God's Way.**"

Debi answers:

Dear John,

You are a wimp, and even in your threat of parting you are not doing what is good for your wife, but what

makes you LOOK like the honorable victim. My advice is practical. It involves simple life changes. But until you repent, begin to seek God, study his Word and honor him there will not be a soul change. True joy comes from peace with God.

Your wife doesn't respect you because you don't respect yourself. She says you "cannot be trusted and have to earn her respect." I couldn't respect a man that made love to himself in the bathroom either. Furthermore, she doesn't like herself any better. She is depressed. Both of you are at fault for the lousy marriage. You are heirs together in this life, and together you share the blame. As the man, it is your responsibility to save your wife from her fear, guilt, and hang-ups. When a man leads his wife in love and goodwill, she usually knows it is in her best interest to follow. On rare occasion, a man's wife is a harlot or full of bitterness and there is not much the man can do about it, but that is not the issue here.

You neglected to lead! You have allowed a no-win situation to continue

for 20 years. From the beginning, you should have helped her grow as a person by putting her in the position of having to learn self-restraint, accountability, and work ethic. These lessons are best learned by being a HELPER. In a good marriage a wife is a helpmeet—a suitable helper. She is busy helping her husband in his business, trying to save for a joint vision, and basically being his indispensable right-hand woman. Your wife has had none of the above. She was given a position (wife) and never given the glorious victory of helping you become a success. It is enough to take the hope and accountability right out of a lady.

You will need to artificially jumpstart her idle drive. But this is only to re-set the situation. After she gets motivated, you will need to make room in your life for her to be a very necessary HELP to you in all areas of your life.

At this point you just want out of your miserable marriage, so I know it is hard for you to believe, but, as many have proven, relationships are so much richer and more satisfying when restored. Once “the grace of life” rules in your marriage, you and your wife will look back a thousand times and give thanks that you chose to fight for your marriage. Both of you will be thankful for the other and for the forgiveness that you have toward the other. It will not be easy, but it is worth the effort. At first it will cause hard feelings, but if you show dignity and honor she will come to see that what you are doing is out of good will and is best for her and your marriage.

My radical answer is a response to the radical direction you say you are headed—divorce. Your wife needs to learn what she should have learned years ago. You have enabled her to be disrespectful by tolerating her abhor-

rent behavior, which is probably due to your own guilt of knowing she is reacting to your sin. Sin begets sin.

My radical answer is a response to the radical directions you say you are headed--divorce.

First, you need to deal with your own sin. She needs to see you are seeking to walk in truth before God and man. Openly admit you have been wrong and are seeking to set right the things you have blotched. Make sure she hears you listening to **Sin No More**. After a few months of your changing she will begin to believe you are seeking to honor God; then she will not fight you when the correction to your marriage begins to affect her.

Take her out to eat one evening to a nice place. While there, explain to her that you know that your sin of not walking in truth and not being a leader has not been good for her. Tell her you sought advice and have diligently been seeking to honor God in all that you do. Tell her you were advised to do several things; some of which will affect her.

Tell her you have closed all your credit card accounts and are now paying them off. If she wants a credit card it will be in her name only. Tell her to establish a bank account in her name so she can pay off her own card as it comes due. Ask her how much money she thinks you should put in her account monthly. Explain that the agreed amount will be set in stone. You are doing this for two reasons. The first is to help you get control of your bad habit of looking over her shoulder and nitpicking at what she is spending. The second is so she can learn to live within her means. If during the coming



months she needs more allowance, then suggest that she get a part-time job. Remind her how smart and capable she is. She will need to see you have her good in mind.

So don't think of quitting but instead start planning on how you can bring your lady alongside you and keep her there.

The evening of your talk concerning the money, bring up the housekeeping issue. Tell her a messy house really disturbs you and when you come home from working all day you are just too tired to clean it. Talk about the idea of hiring a housekeeper two days a week. If the housekeeper idea doesn't work, you might have to set up an area of the house that is yours.

For twenty years, your wife has felt that she is a loser. And in fact, she is. So are you. As heirs together in the grace of life, the only living sign either of you have succeeded is your daughter. You think your daughter will not need her mama and daddy after

she goes to college, but you are wrong. Her world is about to expand and more than ever she will need both of you as a compass. A broken compass always points in the wrong direction.

You think you can just divorce the "loser" and marry again and everything will be just wonderful, but that is not true. You are half the problem, and as such you will always be that same problem, only with a different lady who has other problems. Sadly, you can't divorce yourself. It is much better to face these hard issues head-on and deal with all the emotional turmoil and fighting that will occur until the two of you grow up.

Your wife will find all this change disturbing yet stimulating. She might step up and decide she likes being married and start acting like she is a wife with a man who is, after all, a real man. With a few nice compliments and a little encouragement she might do the right thing. I suspect she has goodwill toward you, but she appears to be a little lazy and self-centered. This fault can easily be fixed with some motivation and should have been fixed long ago. So don't think of quitting,

but instead start planning how you can bring your lady alongside you and keep her there.

The two of you are heirs together. Is it grace you are inheriting or defeat? Your daughter is a direct heir of the life you and your wife create together. What will she take into her marriage? Will it make her a better wife? Will she be a happier person because of the love she has seen in her parents? It is past time to do the right thing.

The suggestions I have made are only a beginning, a hint at the direction you should take. There will be surprises and adjustment required. Don't stop here. Get your wife involved in your life, your work, your interests. Find her an exercise class; study health and herbs together; encourage her to volunteer with the elderly or teach Sunday School. If she is handy with crafts then talk with her about helping in a preschool art

class. See if she is interested in going to back to school to study something that would help you in a side business, then start a business. Be sure to have a hobby together. Plan a mission trip abroad to change your life's vision and be heirs together in the grace of life. Life is too short to miss a single day.

Your daughter is a direct heir of the life you and your wife create together. What will she take into her marriage?

Let her know that she is in fact, the love of your life. You need her. You bless the day she came to you. You think she is beautiful. You are amazed how feminine she is after all these years. Mush, mush, and more mush. Women love it if they can only believe you mean what you say. Every woman longs to be cherished, and every loved woman wants to bless her man. ☺

Resources

- Pray for your spouse's wisdom, peace of mind and that their heart would be set on the Lord.
- Read:
 - 1 Corinthians 13
 - Ephesians 5:25-33
- Watch:
 - Marriage God's Way DVD
- Listen:
 - Sin No More
 - Only Men
- Buy:
 - Roses



See page 31, 32, and 34 for product information



The Power of a Story

By Debi Pearl and Shalom Brand

Telling stories is an important tool in a parent's child training kit. And the most potent story is one involving personal experience when you were a child. (This is the rest of Gracie's story about the golf cart, so if you didn't read her confession on the children's page 10 you might want to glance back before reading further.)

The evening after the golf cart incident the repentant Gracie asked me, "Mama, did you ever do anything deceitful when you were a little girl?" I had thought it through, so I was ready with a story of deceitfulness and truth. "Well, I remember once when we were little girls Shoshanna was very deceitful. She let everyone believe a lie for two weeks." I'll tell you the story.

One hot summer day, Mama Pearl had all five of us children helping shuck and cut sweet corn. It is a long, tiring job. Shoshanna was only five years old at the time, two years younger than I was, and she was not much of a worker. She quickly grew

weary of the hot job. She said to Mama Pearl, "I'm too tired and hot to work. Can I quit?" Mama Pearl told her she was free to go in the house and take a nap.

When the corn was finished, we went to the creek to wash the sticky corn off as we took a refreshing swim. Mama Pearl went in the house to tell Shoshanna she could go, but surprisingly Shoshanna was still fast asleep.

It was then that Mama Pearl noticed that the large red wall hanging that hung over where Shoshanna slept was cut all the way across the bottom. Ugly gashes from some kind of large pair of scissors had ruined the beautiful blanket. Mama Pearl won-

dered, “Who could have done such a thing? And why?” At first it seemed too hard a job for such a small girl as Shoshanna, and where could she have found scissors? Mama Pearl said she considered all the different people who had been to their house that day. Who could have done the bad deed if not little Shoshanna?

Mama Pearl waited until everyone was together at the dinner table that evening before mentioning the red wall hanging. “Did you see that the red blanket was cut today? Who could have done such a destructive thing?”

I jumped to my feet and raced out of the room to see. Shoshanna followed me. I couldn’t believe how awful it was, and wondered who could have done such a naughty thing. Shoshanna was loudly agreeing.

Mama Pearl told me later that she was almost sure it was Shoshanna who cut the blanket, but she knew that it was possible the blanket had been cut for several days and no one noticed it. If that was the case, it could have been someone else. She decided to wait until Shoshanna told the truth. Every day Mama Pearl told us a story about how important it was to walk in truth. She told us Bible stories and stories about the time she lied about flying in a helicopter when she was six years old.

I knew she was trying to help Shoshanna know how important it is to walk in truth. Cutting the blanket was bad, but becoming a liar was much worse. Every day Shoshanna would carry on about being afraid to take a nap in the room in case the bad person who cut the blanket came back while she slept. All us kids started to almost believe that maybe someone did come in and cut the blanket, because Shoshanna seemed so sincere and truthful when she talked about it. Who could lie that well?

One week passed, then another, and still Shoshanna worried about the bad guy coming in the while she slept. I could see that even Mama Pearl was beginning to wonder if someone else had cut the blanket. But why would anyone do anything so silly and mean as cut a wall hanging?

Every day Mama Pearl told us a story about how important it was to walk in truth.

Then one evening Shoshanna climbed up into Mama Pearl’s lap. Mama Pearl hugged her tight and started scratching her head as she hummed a song. Even though Shoshanna was big, she was still the youngest kid and she really liked sitting in Mama’s lap. I saw when Shoshanna turned her head and heard her whisper in Mama’s ear, “Mama, I cut it.”

Finally, after more than two weeks she had admitted the truth. What a convincing liar she had become! All us kids thought about how she lied to us and we did not like it. How would we believe her next time? Who can trust a liar?

Mama Pearl was glad Shoshanna had finally told the truth, but she knew Shoshanna needed to be chastened for being so great a deceiver.

I heard Mama Pearl whisper to Shoshanna, “I’m glad you finally told the truth. Being a liar is a terrible thing, much worse than cutting the blanket. But even though I am glad you told the truth, you must be spanked for destroying the hanging and for lying all these days.”

Mama took the hidden scissors and put them away. They were large and very sharp. Mama Pearl explained to Shoshanna how dangerous they were and how glad she was that she

had not cut herself. It was good that she had finally told the truth.

So Shoshanna got a spanking every day for two weeks—the number of days she had lied. And every day Mama Pearl reminded her how more than anything we wanted her to walk in truth. And that’s the story of why it is important to tell the truth.

Gracie might not remember an admonition, scolding, or even a spanking, but she will remember the story of the red blanket.

My simple story of the red blanket made a grave impact on Gracie and Jeremiah. They both related to the child, Shoshanna, who harbored deceit for two long weeks. They both felt the burden of sin weighing down on them. I could see Gracie was glad she had come clean about the golf cart so soon. In the future this incident might cause both children to be cautious rather than foolish when they start driving vehicles. They learned that there are consequences in life.

There are consequences for deceit.

Wisdom gained young is so much better than regret suffered later.

God chose storytelling to teach us about himself. The Old Testament is a storybook. It teaches us who God is by the things he did with the Israelite people. It teaches the consequences of sin and the blessings of obedience. Stories are powerful tools for parents to instill wisdom.

Gracie will always remember the story of the red blanket. A story like that will cause children to value what you value. It will help them see that God highly values truth. Many times as parents we skim over a child’s lies, but each lie molds evil into the soul. Each truth builds the soul in justice, honor, and honesty. Habits of lying are instilled early, as are habits of truthfulness and honesty. Gracie might not remember an admonition, scolding, or even a spanking, but she will remember the story of the red blanket. When tempted to deceive, she will reflect on the stories, and the knowledge of truthfulness will help her be a wise girl. ☺

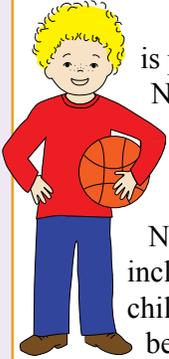
Storytelling Tips

- Tell the stories that happened when you were young.
- Read *Good and Evil* to your children
- Farmer Johnny’s kids love The Pond stories. www.lifeatthepond.com

Let another man praise thee, and not thine own mouth; a stranger, and not thine own lips. **Proverbs 27:2**

NEW!

Announcing Our NEW E-NGJ Magazine, coming this July!



What does THAT mean? The regular No Greater Joy Magazine is printed in January, March, May, July, September and November. NGJ Magazine is costly due to printing and mailing, so we do not send it out every month. Beginning July 15, we will publish 12 magazines a year, with every other being available in digital format only.” The new E-NGJ Mag will be like the hard copy NGJ Magazine with new articles and pictures, but it will ALSO include links to short video clips with Mike and Debi or one of their children answering your questions. The link to the E-NGJ Mag will be automatically e-mailed to all our E-Partners starting July 15th, and every other month thereafter. Got it?

Not an E-Partner? No Problem!

To become an E-Partner, go to **NoGreaterJoy.org**. Enter your e-mail address in the box that says “Join our e-mail List.” Once you subscribe, you will receive a confirmation e-mail with a link. You must click this link to activate your subscription. Then you will automatically receive an email saying you are an E-Partner along with the link to the current E-NGJ Mag. Congratulations! Each Friday you will receive an NGJ E-blast and, starting July 15th, you will receive the bimonthly E-Mag.

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Functioning Community

By Michael Pearl

No doubt about it: effectively training up children in this current society is the toughest job you'll ever have.

Their growing up is inevitable, but growing into righteous, emotionally stable, productive human beings is a miracle that requires extraordinary sacrifice, commitment, and wisdom on the part of parents. There was a time when there were small, close-knit communities composed of extended family and friends, where the church and school reflected and enforced Christian values, where children just naturally grew up to be stable and well-trained. No more. Those times are gone forever. Every government agency, form of entertainment, electronic device, and educational entity is now designed to mold children into the image of hedonistic heathens with self-gratification as the

chief end of life. Trying to shield your children from exposure to evil is like trying to sandbag your house against the rising flood waters of the Mississippi River. You have to teach your children to swim against the rising onslaught of pollution and not swallow any of the putrid water in the process, because the world will definitely seep in on your children.

I have now lived long enough to have observed the entire process and can document the results of various proffered solutions to the problem of raising up righteous, overcoming children. One panicky approach that has failed miserably is retreat and isolation. It illustrates a dilemma: children must

be raised in a functioning community, but community is generally deprived. If we retreat and throw up barriers to the world, our community may become so small as to cause the children to feel trapped and deprived, resulting in their longingly looking beyond the artificial walls to the exciting world beyond. They must feel that all of their needs will be met within their community—spouse, home, work, entertainment, worship, entrepreneurship, individual expression, education, etc.

I have observed too many isolated families produce angry, resentful children that flee into the arms of the world at the first opportunity.

One of the outstanding marks of the family that isolates itself and criticizes those on the outside is that the children fail to get married. They will have eight children, half of them over 25, with several still living at home.

The girls, more than the boys, get bypassed for marriage. The guys are prone to take flight and satisfy their hormonal urges, but the girls just wait and wait and wait for that miracle to happen—but the prospective grooms are just not shopping at their little boutique. Even when the girls venture out into the light of day where guys will see them, they are often bypassed. I have asked the young men why they are not interested in such a lovely, disciplined, hardworking young lady, and they just shrug and try to put their thought into words, and then I realize again that they have no thoughts regarding the young lady, no opinion, no interest—she just isn't there. She lacks personality, vivaciousness, charm, attractiveness. She reflects the small, dull world in which she was cloistered. She is a nun fresh from the convent.

I have observed that it is not altogether the isolation that causes rebellion in the boys and discontent in the girls as much as the attitude of the parents.

When children are raised in remote areas, like on a horse ranch in Montana, or the outback of Alaska, they are not as likely to jump ship and reject their families. They do not take their family's isolation to be self-imposed, as if their parents are deliberately depriving them of their due. They are more likely to be needed as working members of the unit, sharing the struggles and the joys of the family business.

The attitude difference between deliberately cloistered children and incidentally isolated children is the attitude conveyed by the parents.

When these isolated kids come out of the mountains or off the farm to the big city, they may be a little awkward and ill at ease at first, but they are never dull. They possess confidence and poise in their body language and interest and curiosity in their eyes. They are likely to excite the interest of the opposite sex because they have a depth to them that the deliberately isolated do not have. Even as they may leave the old life behind and seek broader opportunities in the larger world, they are more likely to cherish their upbringing and appreciate their parents.

The attitude difference between deliberately cloistered children and incidentally isolated children is the attitude conveyed by the parents. In a fenced-in home where the parents are paranoid about the world beyond and always criticizing those on the outside as a means of keeping them from accepting other influences, children grow up with small souls, and when they discover that outsiders are not so bad, their parents try to build the fences even higher, warning them against opening up to the evil without. The children, already suspicious of

the world, grow bitter at their parents and find themselves alone and lonely in a world that has passed them by, or they plunge into a social circle with no skills to survive and are consumed by forces they do not understand.

Sacrifice everything, including your comfortable way of making a living, to create a wholesome context in which to raise your children.

Again, the dilemma: do I isolate my children from the evil without and face the possibility of them becoming dysfunctional in the world and unfulfilled in love, or do I allow them to freely socialize and risk their developing a hedonistic perspective? I appreciate the complexity of the problem you face. There is a way to victory, even in this present world.

Foremost, before you give attention to training and guiding your children, give them what they most need—parents who love each other and enjoy life together. Most parents who cloister their children are themselves unhappy and fearful. If you are not in harmony with your spouse, you will create insecurity. I know young people who say they do not want to be married because their parents marriage was so painful and contentious, but they do want sex. Lady, read *Created To Be His Help Meet* and believe it this time. Put it into practice. Mister, stop trying to rule your wife like she is your slave and start loving “her as Christ loved the church, and gave himself for it.” Delight in your spouse and your spouse will delight in you, and your children will delight in being a part of the family.

After making the family a fun love factory, adopt the world without as your project. When you live in fear and are in retreat, you have stopped

trying to convert the world to Christ and have forfeited the opportunity to make a difference. In short, you are fearful and selfish—not good ground to raise children. Instead of retreating, start meeting the needs of others. Give your children meaning by doing things outside the home that are meaningful. Touch the lives of those in need. Share the gospel with the lost.

Then you need to join yourself and your family to a fellowship of believers that share your goals and perspective. Build community. This takes on different forms to different families, and I cannot tell you exactly how this should occur in your unique circumstances. But you must have a circle of daily acquaintances with whom you can share your life.

Know for a certainty, when Christians form an intimate circle, there will always be a family that pushes their way into your life that will bring the world and all its ugliness into the inner sanctum. You must be vigilant as a parent and be prepared to hurt someone’s feelings if necessary. It is one thing to take your children without the camp to minister to the needy, but is quite another to allow sin into the camp where your guard is down. So many parents have ruled over the damnation of their children through their forgiving hearts with the excuse, “Well, shouldn’t we minister to them as well?” Ministry takes place when you put on the whole armour to stand against the wiles of the devil. Never allow your children to play with kids that were not raised in the Spirit as are yours. Think of the darkness in other children as ten times as powerful as the light in yours, and you will stand a better chance of them not being exposed to pornographic images or talk.

You must create community that is protected and sanctified while ministering to the world without. Two or three families does not a community



You must create community that is protected and sanctified while ministering to the world without.

make. Arrange your job, the location of your residence, your church life, the schooling of your children, and your social engagements so as to maximize righteous community for your children. If you send your children to public or Christian school, you have relinquished all control and allowed them to form community without you. Their schoolmates are their community and will be the determining factor in their development. You have placed their souls in the hands of other children.

In our church, every family homeschools. If someone came into the church whose children go to or have gone to public schools or church schools, their younger children would never be allowed into the inner social circle with our kids. There would be zero fraternization, even on the church grounds after meetings. We have built community and will not allow it to be corrupted. The stakes are too high. But we readily reach out to others and receive every stripe of sinner who repents toward God and believes on the Lord Jesus Christ.

Most parents don't have the guts to form community and protect it. Before they will take a painful stand, they will sacrifice their children on the altar of social politeness.

There is enough evil arising in the hearts of our own children; we do not need to accelerate the process by unguarded association with children that have been prematurely immersed in the Devil's culture.

Older kids—sixteen to seventeen years old—who have been to public school and have demonstrated true conversion and commitment to Christ may enjoy full acceptance by the other kids, for by the time our young people get into their middle teens, most of them are quite capable of standing firm against temptation.

More than ever, I encourage you to create community. Sacrifice everything, including your comfortable way of making a living, to create a wholesome context in which to raise your children. The greatest day of your life is the day you come home from a wedding with one fewer kid, knowing that you completed your task; you planted another godly family in this sin cursed world. The greatest achievement in life is to “train up a child in the way he should go” so that “when he is old he will not depart from it.”

Reread *Jumping Ship*. Give a copy to a friend in need. ☺

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**Terms: Art submissions MUST be received by July 5, 2011. Due to the GREAT number of submissions, we are not able to return original artwork. Coloring pages are only available online. If you do not have internet, your local library can download it for you. Please do not call the order-line regarding the art contest.*

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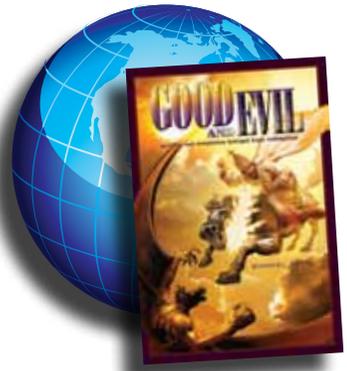
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Dear Michael and Debi,

I just have to tell you that my nine year old son cannot put the **Good and Evil** book down! Not only that but he wants to know everything there is to know about it and is constantly asking his dad and me questions. THANK YOU! WOW! We are accomplishing the most important thing in our children's lives and we cannot thank you enough for your ministry! - A. O.

GOOD AND EVIL UPDATE

By Chuck Joyner, Asst. Gen. Manager



To God Be the Glory!
 Nearly all of the 12,000 copies of the Hindi *Good and Evil* are spoken for to be distributed by missionaries and nationals in India. Punjabi and Urdu, both of Pakistan, are only a few weeks behind Hindi in beginning distribution. A fragile peace exists between the countries of India and Pakistan but the message of the peace of God through Jesus Christ will now be presented to Indians and Pakistanis through the distribution of *Good and Evil* in the language of millions. Thank you for your prayers and support in making this a reality.

The following demonstrates how your input is instrumental in the completion and distribution of the many languages of *Good and Evil*. “Thought that you’d all like to know that the Chichewa *Good and Evil* has arrived safely in the country Malawi. We are working with about 10 different missionaries to get the books distributed. Most of these missionaries contacted us after you put our story in your newsletter. We’re setting up a date where they can all come at once to pick up their books from our translator partner.” - Sincerely, Kyle Felmley

Contacts have been made with individuals that are interested in helping with translation of Italian and Creole (Haiti) that we hope will breathe new life into the work on these languages.

If you or someone you know is bilingual and willing to help with the *Good and Evil* Translation Project please send the contact information to NGJ at: cjoyner@nogreaterjoy.org

Good and Evil Printing Report

Good and Evil has been printed in:

Burmese	Karen	Russian (color)
Cebuano	(S’gaw Karen)	Spanish
Chinese	Khmer	(Latin
(Simplified)	Korean	American,
English	(South Korea)	Mexican)
Falam Chin	Lao	Thai
Hawa Naga	Lisu	Ukrainian
Hmong	Lithuanian	Vietnamese
Jinghpaw	Mongolian	Wa
(Kachin)	Nepali	Zaiwa
	Rawang	

At the Printer Now:

Hindi, Punjabi (Pakistan), Urdu (Pakistan)

In Final Proofing:

Afrikaans	Russian	Tswana
Bahasa Malaysia	(black & white)	(complete
Castellano	Mongolian	book)
Japanese	(complete,	
Romanian	revision)	

Finished/ Looking for proof-readers:

Catalan, Tibetan, Shan

Portions Printed: Mongolian, Sotho, Tswana, Tswana

In Progress:

Ahka	Hebrew	Samoan
Anung	Hungarian	Sichla
Bislama	Italian	Sinhalese
Chin, Hakha	Indonesian	Slovak
Dai	Khmu	Sotho
Czech	Kyrgyz	(complete book)
Dutch	Lahu	Swedish
Dzonkha	Liang tu	Swahili
(Bhutan)	Luo	Tagalog
Finnish	Maru	Telugu
Finuntutuk	Mongul (China)	Tetun
(Philippines)	Ngochang	Tongan
French	Norwegian	Turkish
French Creole	Pidgin (Tok	Urdu (India)
(Creole, Haiti)	Pisin, PNG)	Zande
Georgian	Polish	(Africa)
Guji Oromo	Portuguese	
(Burma, China)	Romanian	

2 or More Printings:

Burmese	Chinese	Spanish
Cebuano	(Simplified)	Thai
English	Khmer	Vietnamese

New Languages: Amharic, Bengali

Negotiating with translators: Oriya, Tigrinya

Please see the order form for donation to the Good and Evil project.

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By Chuck Joyner, Asst. Gen. Mgr.

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