



NGJ
ministries

March-April 2012



Filling them with Wonder

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



No Greater Joy

1 I did something to my man this past month, something I never believed possible: I put makeup on his nose. Yep, you heard me correctly. The news folks said he needed a little lipstick, but that is where he drew the line. You will never know how difficult it has been on the old boy . . . and he did it for you!

Read the full story on page 12.



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My little sister. Photo: Elizabeth Stewart

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

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Photo: Elizabeth Stewart

This is an excerpt from a book in progress called
Traditional Child Training

Be a Door Opener, Not a Door Shutter

By Michael Pearl

Think of ways to open doors of delight and you will not have as many occasions to say no to their naughtiness.

Sometimes the grandkids come over when I am engaged in study or writing. My office is removed from the living room where the kids will be visiting. When they discover I am in my office, they come and open the door. After I greet them and explain that I must be busy for a little while, they will walk away and be happy as long as I leave the door open. But if I shut the door, they are

uncomfortable until they get it open and look in on me. At about two years of age they have the ability to open a door but cannot understand my need to shut it, particularly if they are left on the other side. I have come to see that kids do not like a shut door, especially if it is directed at them.

Think for a moment. How do your children view you—as a door

shutter or a door opener? Do they know you as the one who gives them pleasure through opening interesting and exciting doors of opportunity and learning, or do they know you as the one always saying no and shutting them out? You will “Train up a child in the way he should go” so that “when he is old he will not depart from it” (Proverbs 22:6) if you are a door opener and not a door shutter.

1 do remember quite well my “Yes” grandmother’s funeral, the one who opened so many doors for me.

Don’t be a *no* person. Be a *yes* person to your children. The Apostle Paul tells us that Jesus is God’s “yea” and “Amen.”

“For all the promises of God in him are **yea [yes]**, and in him Amen, unto the glory of God by us.”
(2 Corinthians 1:20)

Jesus is the *Yes* of God. In him is life and liberty. At his right hand there are pleasures forevermore

(Psalm 16:11). People embroiled in religion, be it heathen or Christian, view God as the *No* in their lives. They know him through the negative commandments—“Thou shalt not...” To them the Christian life is a series of shut doors—things one cannot do lest he be damned. Their God is distant and out of reach, critical and displeased. He must be placated with contrition and religious works. Such people cannot love God. Their guilt and humility cause God to be paramount in their lives but always out of reach, though their lives are dedicated to appeasing him. Their desperate fervency causes them to appear to be the most devout among us, but no one who knows them well is drawn to their God, for even they are not sure of his love or forgiveness.

Children raised by “religious”-tempered parents are the most miserable of all. So many doors are locked to them. I am not suggesting permissiveness or worldliness; I am talking about the many little things of life.



Kindling play

Photo: Lynne Hopwood



I knew both of my grandmothers well. One I remember with the utmost fondness, and the other I could have done without. I never did like her. I cannot remember one pleasurable feeling in her presence. She was never mean or angry. She was always proper and pleasant. But she had a gift for saying no. I knew that when I went to her house I would be in the way—as in “children should be seen and not heard.” She never said such, but that is the way she made me feel.

“Don’t put your feet there.”

“Take off your shoes.”

“Stop making that noise in the house.”

“Don’t you ever comb your hair?”

She did have a beautiful garden that fascinated me, but she slammed the door shut when I tried to walk in it. I remember her as a door shutter. She never taught me anything. She taught manners *at me*, but they didn’t stick because I did not want to please her in her interests when she was never pleased with what interested me. I know that is immature,

but I was immature at four ... and seven ... and nine ... and twelve.

When I got old enough to know better, I spent time with the other grandma who was ready with a laugh and a “Have you ever heard of ...?” or “Come over here and look at what I have been working on.” Many a time my yes grandmother said, “Can you help me with this?” I can think of no sweeter words, nor have I known a more interesting person, for she was interested in *me*. I always wanted to please my yes grandmother. I didn’t care one way or the other about my no grandmother. I think I went to her funeral, but I can’t remember. I do remember quite well my yes grandmother’s funeral, the one who opened so many doors for me.

My daddy was a door opener—a yes daddy. When I asked if I could use the scrap lumber he brought home

Continued on page 14



The Responsibility Train

By Shalom Brand

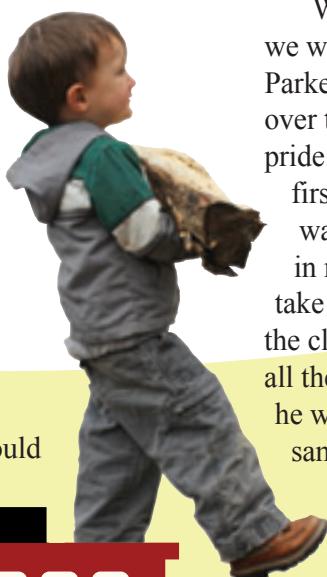
He is quite happy being a part of the family train, and we are so happy to see him moving up in position.

My two-year-old son Parker loves to build trains. He has a big “Tom the Train” set, and he is always looking for someone to sit down and build a long track so he can push his train over the track while he makes chug-chug, choo-choo sounds.

I can remember when Parker first joined our family train as the caboose, just being pulled along behind the rest of us, enjoying the ride. It was obvious from the start, that he knew without him we would

not be a whole train—that he was needed to make us complete. As he has grown older, he has moved up in his responsibility, and it is a good thing, for soon a new caboose will take his place. Our “baby” boy has become a working train car.

When he was first learning to walk we would tell him, “Go close the door, Parker,” and he would crawl or waddle over to the door, doing his job with pride. If one of the girls got to the door first, he would cry, for he knew it was his job, not theirs. He moved up in responsibility when he learned to take the garbage out for me, help carry the clean clothes, help wash dishes, and all the other things that let him know he was on the same track, pulling the same load as the rest of us. We are working together as a family



to promote each child to a position in the train that is closer to the engine. Dad is the engine that keeps us moving forward, and we each have to do our jobs and follow behind.

This last summer Parker spent lots of time in the garden helping pick the tomatoes, corn, and beans, and then he would help can them. After we were finished canning, we carried them to the basement to be placed on shelves. He was a part of everything we did, for he is on the same track as we are, all going the same direction.

We have a pear tree in our yard that bears lots of fruit. Parker and his sisters picked up the fallen fruit and carried it in to be canned. This winter when we open a can of pears, he talks about the pear tree and the process by which the delicious fruit arrived on our table. Even though we understand very little of what he says, his excitement and gestures indicate he is delighted to have been a part of the food train that feeds the family.

We go out as a family to cut wood for our fireplace. My husband cuts the wood while the kids and I pick it up and put it in the trailer. Parker works harder than the girls when it is outside, "boy work"; he loves to help his daddy. He will go for the biggest piece of wood just to show his daddy how strong he is. We back the trailer up to the porch to unload it. I stand on the trailer and the kids make a train that reaches from me in the trailer to their dad on the porch who does the

stacking. They think it is the greatest fun in the world. If they were left alone to do the job, they would think it slave labor, but when we all work together, it is pure enjoyment.

When we all work together, it is pure enjoyment.

A train goes nowhere without an engine and an engineer. Granted, the train moves much slower with all the extra cars. A two-, four-, and seven-year-old plus a round-bellied mama toting the next caboose are not very efficient, but thankfully we have a patient engineer (Daddy) pulling us along.

We cut some of the wood small enough that even Parker can carry it. It is his job to haul it into the house each day and stack it by the fireplace so Mama can put it on the fire to keep us warm and cook the beans that he so enjoys. He is quite happy being a part of the family train, and we are so happy to see him moving up in position. One day, he will be an engineer and command his own train with confidence he gained little by little, the same way he gained responsibility.

Loving my train,
Shalom

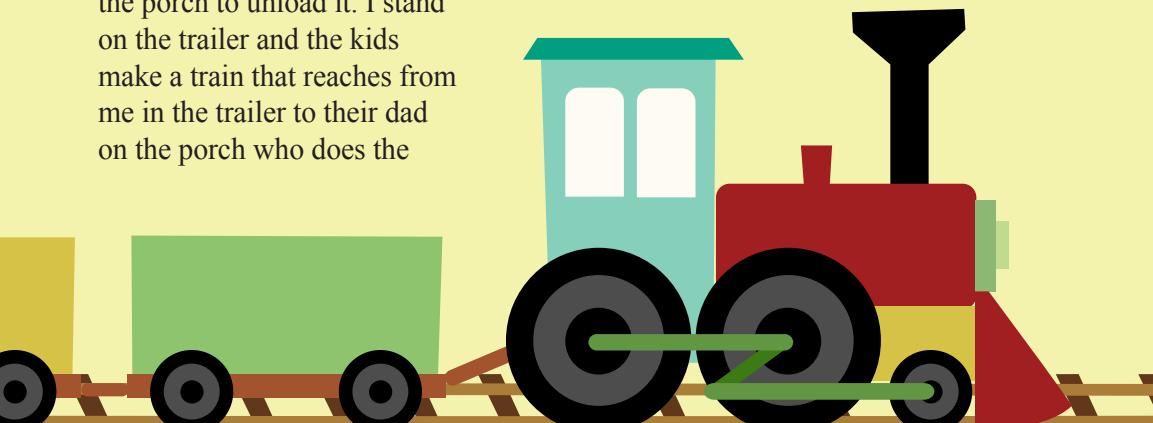




Photo: Elizabeth Stewart

Nuts & Nuturing

By Big Papa

Children love to be involved.

One cold winter evening last week, Deb and my daughter Shalom were going out and leaving me home alone. Knowing that two-year-old Parker would not be happy at the meeting, Shalom decided to park him with the old codger. When she brought Parker into the kitchen and told him he was going to be staying with Big Papa, he took one look around the empty and boring old farm house and started grabbing for his mother. When she tried to free herself from his clutching hands, he uttered a desperate cry that sounded forlorn, like a pup being culled from the litter. He wanted Mama, not an old man who couldn't even roll on the floor.

Instinctively, I knew just what to do. I sat down at the kitchen table and poured out several varieties of nuts. Picking up the cracker, I looked over my shoulder at the crying two-year-old and said, "Hey, Parker, let's crack some

nuts." He instantly stopped crying and jumped up on a chair beside me, grabbing nuts in one hand and a nut cracker in the other. We spent the next hour creating a pile of shells and dining like two fat fox squirrels.

When the shelling got boring, I said, "Hey, Parker, lets roast some nuts." We carried a handful over to the wood-burning stove and scattered them across the top. Pulling chairs up close, we took a poker and a spoon and busied ourselves turning the nuts and scooting them around to control the rate of heating. When they were roasted just right, we slid them off the top into a bowl and returned to the table where we juggled hot nuts as we continued shelling.

Some of the nuts were hickory nuts we had gathered in the woods. Their shell is thick and hard to crack, and the meat is even harder to dig out, coming out in little pieces with the aid

of a pointed tool designed for just that purpose. Parker's manipulation instinct kicked in and he was as happy as a popsicle-sucker in July.

We had a grand old time, and when Mama returned we were still sitting at the table having our squirrel dinner. Parker, with lots of hand gestures, immediately launched into an exciting tale about his experience, spoken in a strange language not yet documented by linguists. Mother was delighted that he was delighted, and I was delighted she had returned. I had eaten about 1000 calories beyond my daily limit.

Research now confirms what I have been saying and writing for 17 years: Positive affirmation used as a manipulative tool has negative consequences.

It has been nearly three decades since my children were small, so I have forgotten much about the everyday ways of relating to them. But having 19 grandkids (and more on the way), I am constantly refreshed in my thinking. As I do what comes naturally, I remember relating to my children in precisely the same manner. Good parenting is not a set of principles we execute; it is instinctual nurturing.

Kids love to be involved. Write this on every wall in your house: Children love to be involved. I remember clearly involving my children in everything I did. If they were in the house, Deb involved them in all her activities. They were never "in the way." Life was about them, and we strove to communicate all the wonders of life and love, training them to assume responsibility as adults.

Research now confirms what I have been saying and writing for 17 years: Positive affirmation used

as a manipulative tool has negative consequences. Children have their worth affirmed by doing something worthy and by being a congenial part of adult activities. Children left to themselves bring their mother to shame (Proverbs 29:15). Children involved in daily life know they are valued because the big, important people talk to them, play with them, seek their assistance, and have mutual pleasure with them through shared experiences.

My children grew up with a strong sense of security and purpose because they knew they were valued for reasons beyond maternal instinct; they were making indispensable contributions to the quality of life of everyone around them.



Photo: Elizabeth Stewart

When Justin splits firewood, he always splits some very small pieces that Parker can carry into the house. If he were just shoved out of the way while others carried firewood, he would feel diminished and rejected—leading to his acting out in negative behavior; but when he feels he is a part of the process, he is motivated to live within the social rules of the clan. He wants to stay on the good side of the ones in charge because they are the source of his deepest pleasure. You can gain momentary compliance with threats and intimidations, but to gain eternal, heart compliance you must become a child's source of delight. ☆

NGJ Kids

My Recipes

Healthy Caramel Corn

1. Have already popped: 20 cups plain popped corn

2. Melt in a pan & simmer for 5 minutes:

- 1 cup sucanat or rapadura (or brown sugar)
- 1/4 cup honey (or corn syrup)
- 6 oz. pastured butter (or any butter)

3. Remove pan from heat and add:

- 1/2 tsp. vanilla extract
- 1/4 tsp. baking soda

4. Pour warm liquid over popcorn. Mix to coat evenly:

Bake uncovered for 15 minutes in a large pan like a turkey roaster at 300°. For a sweeter treat, use less popcorn. For a less sweet corn, add more popped corn. Use sea salt to taste. A sure winner!



Happy Train

For the next art contest

Go to ngj.me/coloring for May-June train art download and contest rules!



Art Contest!

January-February contest winners!



1st

Jamie Sims

2nd

Jennifer Sims



3rd

Alaina Sky Inglis

FIRST PLACE
Jamie Sims, Age 9

SECOND PLACE
Jennifer Sims, Age 11

THIRD PLACE
Alaina Sky Inglis, Age 6



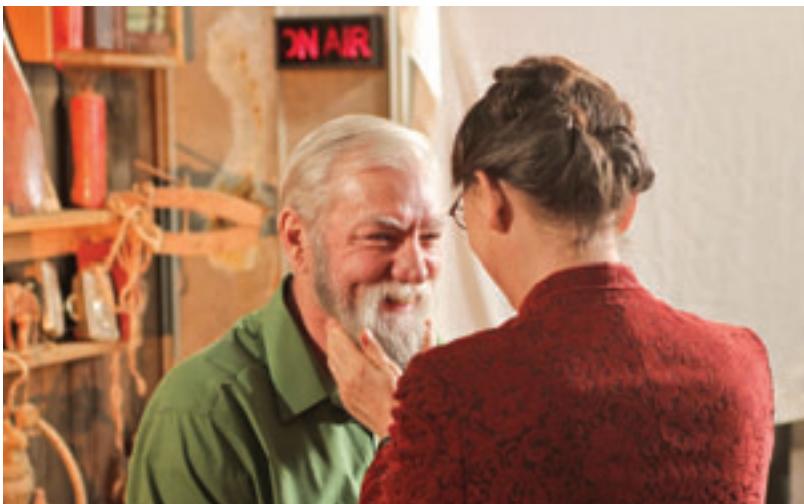


Photo: Elizabeth Stewart

Continued from page 2 ...

In the News

By Debi Pearl

You will never know how difficult it has been
on the old boy ... and he did it for you!

This battle with the press reminds me of the days back in the early '80s when we were forced to meet the press over the homeschool issue. It was bad in those days; even the conservative Christians felt that anyone who homeschooled was rebellious. After all, a good Christian always obeys the powers that be, and in those days homeschooling was breaking the law. Really, at that point there was no law for or against homeschooling, only the law of truancy from the government-mandated public schools.

Do you know that NOW your liberties are being threatened in

a much greater way? There is a group of elitists that would like to take away the rights of the parent. They want to get in the home. They don't believe you know how to raise your children. They lost the homeschooling battle, so they chose a new inroad—spanking, which they call "hitting." It is a way they can take control of the family, and it is downright scary. Sweden passed laws against all forms of corporeal punishment 33 years ago, so it is the ideal laboratory in which to observe the consequences of abandoning traditional child-training methods. The generation raised on positive affirmation is now

in their early thirties, and over 50% of the children are in some kind of therapy. Teen violence, crime, and antisocial behavior have risen 600%. In addition, parental violence against

The generation raised on positive affirmation is now in their early thirties, and over 50% of the children are in some kind of therapy.

children has risen dramatically. Yet the law remains in place as people police-spy on each other and report any parents who would dare use any form of corporeal discipline upon their children. In accord with a UN mandate, 28 other countries have made it a crime to physically discipline children. Parents are placed in jail (and children are put into the government system) for practicing traditional child training. It is coming to the US. The question is when? Five years from now or twenty-five? I don't know, but the media has chosen Mike and No Greater Joy as the representatives of traditional parenting, and they are

coming at us with lying vengeance. Mike did two TV interviews last week and one on the radio. Tomorrow a crew is flying in from the East Coast to do their best to promote their socialist, progressive, anti-family agenda. So tomorrow, again, I will dot makeup over Mike's old, spotty nose and he will stand on your behalf and fight the battle for parents to be free to raise their children in the admonition of the Lord. Pray for him. Your children need him to win this battle.☆

Resources

- Great ideas for homeschooling moms! Best Homeschooling Ideas CD, \$7.95. Why not buy one for a friend?



New! Luke Audio

Mike teaches verse by verse on the book of Luke. 1 MP3 CD, \$12.95, item #5640-55. Listen to a sample: Scan the code on the right with your smartphone or go to ngj.me/luke-sample





Photo: homesteadcommunitypost.com

Be a Door Opener, Not a Door Shutter, continued from page 5

from the job, he said yes and offered me hammer, saw, and nails as well. When I asked if I could have the red paint that was left over, he found some old brushes and blue paint to go with it. When I went to the job with him and met someone for the first time, the stranger would say something like, “So you are the boy Ed is always bragging about. Heard you can throw a knife like Tarzan.”

Think of ways to open doors of delight and you will not have as many occasions to say no to their naughtiness.

When I was fourteen, I suggested I needed a horizontal bar in the backyard. My daddy hired someone to make it and he and I dug the holes and concreted it in place. It became the center of my after-high-school activity. When I remember my father, I remember a *yes* daddy—a *yea and Amen* daddy.

How do your children view you? On this one point hangs all of your parenting. I can say with certainty, if you have a good relationship with

your children and they want to please you, it is because they think of you as a *yes* daddy or *yes* mama—a door opener. If there is tension and they are stubborn and rebellious, it is because they know you as a *no* daddy or *no* mama—a door shutter. In our next digital magazine (April issue) I will discuss how you can become a door opener, not a door shutter. In the meantime, think of ways to open doors of delight, and you will not have as many occasions to say no to their naughtiness.

To receive our free digital magazine, [ngj.me.digital-sign-up](http://ngj.me/digital-sign-up)

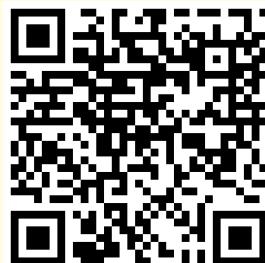
Resources

- Strong in Spirit, \$9.95



Now on MP3 audio!

Nathan Pearl reads Mike's newest book,
Created to NEED a Help Meet
-1 MP3 CD NEW! \$12.95, Item # 2025-55
Listen to a sample. Scan the code at the
right with your smartphone or go to
ngj.me/created-to-need-sample

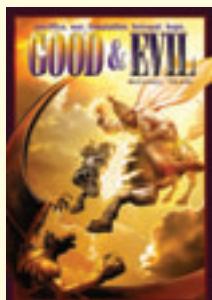


Excerpt from *Created to NEED a Help Meet*

Marriage is the second big challenge of life. Maintaining your virtue was the first. Marriage is like a three legged sack race. You cannot win by leaving your partner and crossing the finish line alone. When she falls you must stop and recover your partner before you can proceed. The winners are the ones who learn to cooperate and work together, running in rhythm, feeling your partner's every step and holding her more tightly when she is prone to stumble. Your strength becomes her strength and both of you become a crutch to lean on as you keep your eyes on the prize and the glory set before you. There are many winners. All you must do is cross the finish line together still smiling and on your feet with your legs in the same sack. You can't win by getting in the sack with someone else. ☆



From the Mailbox



Dear Michael and Debi,

A quick note to say how thankful we are for *Good and Evil* in color.

Our children find the highlight of their homeschool morning is "Good and Evil time!"

We have read through the black and white version two times and are now going through the color version.

We have had countless moments of thrill to our souls as the Bible truths penetrate our hearts.

In Deep Appreciation,

Tamara K.





MISSIONS

We therefore
ought to receive such,
that we might be
fellowhelpers
to the truth.
3 John 1:8

God's Helper ... and Mine

By Debi Pearl



Photo: Esther Stewart

Many young people lollygag away their youth waiting ... waiting ... and waiting for something to happen ... hopefully marriage. It is like living in a state of suspended animation until life can really begin. Dull, dumb, slow wait. Your youth should be the most productive time of your life. Young men should be training in several vocations as well as helping out in missions. Young ladies should be looking for ways to bless their families, church, and other ministries. This time should be spent in training for office work, medical work, midwifery, gardening, herbs, and many other practical skills. Once

you are married, your time will be consumed with meeting the needs of your family, so there will be little time to learn or give to others.

So, while you are waiting, pour yourself out for Christ's sake.

Consider Liz. She is my right-hand handmaiden. If I am cooking for the office personnel and I am called away to respond to an urgent issue, I don't fret that something will burn, because I know she has my back. If I am trying to come up with ideas for the magazine, she is ready with a list of things that I have mentioned over the last few weeks and forgotten. If I have to go to Nashville, she is the designated driver and has the list of what has to be done, the phone charged, and directions to where we are headed. I don't tell her what to do; she just does it because she is my helper. I can minister to my fullest because she makes sure I am in top form. She ministers to families to whom NGJ ministers.

She is also a missionary to the 35 other countries that have the *Good and Evil* book because she was part of the team that made it possible for

the language groups to be reached. Liz is single, waiting on the love of her life to show up, but she is NOT lollygagging her time away while she waits. Through her ministry as my helper she is learning things that will better equip her for marriage.

In addition to being my helper, she is involved in a ministry trying to stop child sexual slavery **EndSlaveryTN.org** here in America. Yes, it shocked me when she told me that right here in our small area there are children being used as sexual

slaves. Truck drivers are buying the use of children while their trucks are at gas stations. The children that escape the sex rings are emotionally scarred and need a lot of healing. Liz is involved in helping bring support for them. She is serving as a volunteer to help those who need someone.

There are so many ways you can make a difference—an eternal difference. So, while you are waiting, pour yourself out for Christ's sake. To get involved check out **PolarisProject.org** ☆

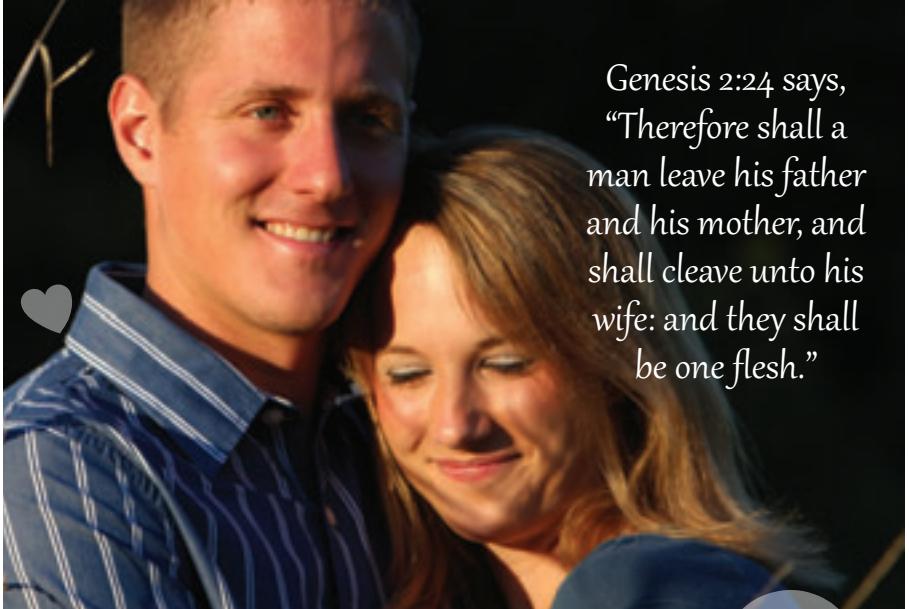


Good and Evil in Nepal

Dear NGJ,

We have just received the 1000 copies of *Good and Evil* book. We have already distributed 2000 copies of this book. Our people really like it. This is a very good gift for our non-Christian friends. We have a great opportunity to share the gospel through this books. Thank you for helping us by providing these books. You will see many dear people in heaven because of our ministry together to help them to get the Word of God.

In His Service
G. TAMANG



Genesis 2:24 says,
“Therefore shall a
man leave his father
and his mother, and
shall cleave unto his
wife: and they shall
be one flesh.”

Photo: Elizabeth Stewart

Leaving and Cleaving

By Michael Pearl

Dear Pearls,

I have struggled to have a relationship with my mother-in-law since I met her. She tends to be manipulative, unkind, and judgmental. On many occasions, she has told me who I am not and what I should be, that I am undeserving of her son, and how I am not a good wife. She also tells my husband the same things about me in an attempt to pit him against me. My husband is a strong man and does not tolerate that from her, but he does see it as my duty to create and maintain a friendship with her regardless of her treatment of me. I feel that if she wants to have a real friendship, she should make the effort to treat me kindly.

I want to respect my husband and be able to show love and compassion to his mom, but I also do not want to be abused by her. It is hard to believe the one thing in my marriage that brings me sadness is my mother-in-law. What are your thoughts?

Michael Answers:

What are my thoughts? I am thinking, “What a wimp!” No one should be abused, but some people just ask for it. You are asking to be treated with contempt because you do not stand tall with dignity. You cower and ask your husband to defend you. If he does take action to defend you, she will just express more contempt for your pitiful weakness.

As I was reading your comments, I was thinking a woman who would treat another human being with contempt could do so only from a heart that is dark and troubled.

A woman who would treat another human being with contempt could do so only from a heart that is dark and troubled.

My advice to you is determine to stand up to her tongue and put out the fire with kind, loving rejection and disregard for her ugliness. Treat her as an unruly child who needs a firm hand—firm, but not hard. She must feel her littleness in the shadow of your strength. It will be quite appropriate for you to calmly tell her, “You have personal issues that you need to deal with, and I would appreciate it if you would not come into my house with a critical spirit.” Say to her, “I am a great wife and your son is lucky to have me.” When she says you are not what you should be, tell her, “Maybe not, but I do not have a critical spirit as do you, and God is helping me do better; let’s pray and ask him to help you not be so critical and mean-spirited.”

Remember to pray for her daily. Ask God to humble her, and ask him to give you the courage to not be offended by her littleness. When you can smile with pity at her criticisms, she loses her power and her words will no longer matter to you. Only then will you be able to minister to her needs.

In my new book, *Created to Need a Help Meet*, I have a whole chapter on this subject. Your husband needs to read it.

Leave and Cleave

Dear Mike and Debi,

The love of my life and I got married about four months ago. We are happy as larks and are reaping the heavenly fruits of marriage. Life really cannot get any better. I love him so much, and I want to be everything I can for him. My world revolves around him and I want it to be that way. But it seems that others simply don’t understand my infatuation with him or think it is a good thing.

I’m writing to ask you what is proper as far as leaving and cleaving. I don’t know if I am going overboard or not. When I married, I moved a few states away from my family. Although my parents are thrilled with my choice of a husband, the distance between us is very hard for them. If I don’t call, she feels like I don’t love them or miss them. She needs constant reassuring that I do miss them.

It’s not that I don’t love or miss them—I do. I’m just very involved being a wife and, bottom line, that’s where my attention lies. I don’t have a pressing need to call my friends and family any more. My need is my husband. But is it wrong for me to “leave” so thoroughly? Should I be reassuring them with regular ties? Is there such a thing as cutting the apron strings too much?

Totally in LOVE,
Happy Wife

Dear Happy Wife,

Someday you will have a daughter and will invest the greater part of your adult life in raising her.

You will be her entire life for about 20 years. You will be her best friend, meeting a need in her that is deep and abiding. This is the perspective from which your mother looks at you. Then one day, to make you even happier, she was delighted to give you away in marriage, but she didn't really want to give you away; she just wanted to expand her family—her love circle—adding a son and lots of new babies. And then poof! You're gone. Her best friend is gone. Her days were organized around you, and now they are empty. You belong to another. You look to someone else to have your needs fulfilled, but she hasn't traded one close bond for another—she is just alone and empty. She wants to share your joy. She knows better, but that doesn't change the way she feels.

She weaned you once. Now you must wean her. Let her down easy. Give her time to organize her life around other people and other things. Tell her you will call on a certain day every week and talk for an hour. It will help her if you will occasionally call for advice on any issue. Let her know she is valued for her wisdom. In short, let her know she is significant to you.

But at the same time, never allow the family you have left, come between you and your husband. You should indeed "leave and cleave." Again, my new book, *Created to Need a Help Meet*, deals with this subject from the man's perspective.

Following is a little Bible study on the word cleave:

Genesis 2:24 says, "Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh." *Cleave* is an interesting word in Hebrew. It is *dabaq* and is used 54 times. Thirty-two times it is translated

"cleave" in the English; five times it is translated "follow hard," meaning someone is running and the other person is pursuing them, very intent on catching them and is right behind them, will not slacken his pace, and is near to grabbing them, stays with them, won't let the person out of his sight, following hard after them. It is translated "overtake" three times, connoting that the pursuer followed after until he came along beside the person. Then it is translated "stick" three times as in two things sticking together. It is translated "keep fast," don't turn it loose. Then it is translated "together" two times, "abide," as in stay there, one time, then "close" one time, "enjoined" one time, "pursued" one time, then "take" one time. So if we take all these together, what could we sum them up as? Cleave unto your wife means stay close together, be inseparable. It means mingle, follow hard, stay very close by, keep fast, hold on to, don't turn loose, be near to your woman. So God commanded



Photo: Elizabeth Stewart

that man was to leave his father and mother, and cleave unto his wife only.

“That thou mayest love the LORD thy God, and that thou mayest obey his voice, and that thou mayest cleave unto him ...” (Deuteronomy 30:20). That is that same Hebrew word *dabaq*. Just as we are commanded to cleave to God, God commands us to cleave to our wife. It’s a sacred and a holy thing, the same word used with both God and wife, equating our passion for our wife with our passion for God.

The next two questions and answers are taken from Mike’s new book, *Created to NEED a Help Meet*.



Honor to Whom Honor Is Due

Dear Pearls,

How do we set boundaries gently while maintaining relationship and honor with our parents? My mother-in-law redecorates my home to her liking, meddles in our finances, belittles my husband, telling him he’s foolish to spend money this way and that. My other stepmother throws fits when we aren’t “fair.” Both women want 100% loyalty and subjection from us. My mother examines the kids for bruises and marks, and uses the “examination” as a tool to threaten calling the DHS when things don’t go her way. Help us.

A Reader

Michael Answers

Dear Lady,

God tells you to submit to your husband but there is nothing in the Bible that remotely suggests you should submit to your mother-in-law,

and you need not respect her any more than she respects you. When she tries to “decorate” your house, tell her you are happy with it the way it is and sweetly decline. When she insists, you insist. When she gets huffy, keep your dignity and quietly ask her to leave and not come back in your house until she is willing to respect your domain.

How could she meddle in your finances unless you give her the reigns? Gently tell her in so many kind words that it is none of her business.

As to your mother examining the kids for bruising, I do hope you are not bruising them; if you are then you are out of control and need to seek counsel. But if her threats are an attempt to intimidate you into surrendering to her will, tell her in no uncertain terms that her visiting privileges are terminated until further notice. If I had a parent or in-law that without provocation threatened to call child protection on me, I would move to a different state and not leave any forwarding address. Where are the men to allow a cantankerous old battle-ax to intimidate the family?

Mice or Men?

You won’t believe this one, but I print it because it is a common absurdity.

Dear Michael,

I am thirty years old. I would like to know when, if ever, is the authority of the old parents no longer in force over an adult son, especially if the mother is not in authority to her husband? Although I am not married, I have been on my own for many years, and I am well established in my career and ministry. My mother is a divorcee, so I have provided for



her over the years. My dad has not been a part of my life for many years. Mother can be very spiritually manipulative. I have met a young woman whom I believe would make an excellent wife and mother to my children. She is not only a good choice, but she has my heart, and I believe I have hers. Her family is wonderful. They would be all for our marriage. My mother, on the other hand, does not like the idea. A while back, my mother did pick out a wife for me. She was sure this was the girl God had for me to marry. I was willing to talk to the girl's parents, although I was not in any way attracted to her. As it turned out, the girl was already asked for and soon married. Do I, as a grown man, submit to my mother, or should she, a woman without a head, submit to me?

The Last Straw



Photo: Benjamin Earwicker sxc.hu



Photo: alherrit sxc.hu

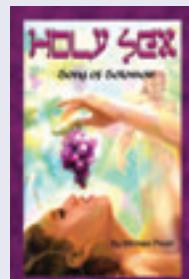
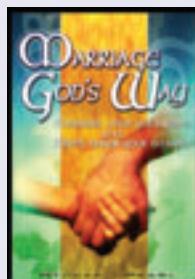
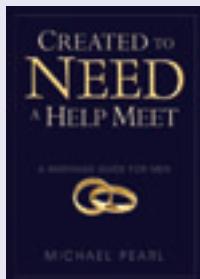
Michael Answers

Should you submit to her or should she submit to you? Neither. There is one statement you made that I do question. You said you were a "grown man." ★



Marriage Resources

- Created to NEED a Help Meet, \$14.95
- Created to Be His Help Meet, \$14.95
- Marriage God's Way 2-DVD Set, \$19.95
- Holy Sex, \$7.95

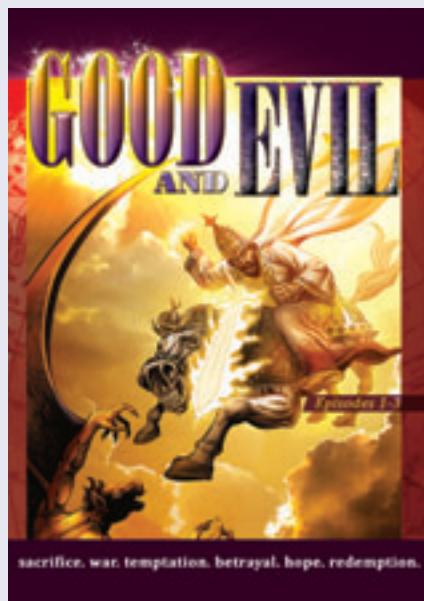


NEW! Good and Evil Animation Episodes 1-3

After nearly 3 years in the making, Episodes 1-3 releases on April 2, 2012! The animated Good and Evil presents a dramatic visual experience, awesome narration and special sound effects. The episodes include: The Beginning, Abraham, and Moses. Over 80 minutes of video from the popular award winning Good and Evil illustrated Bible storybook that has blessed and excited hundreds of thousands of people around the world in their native language.

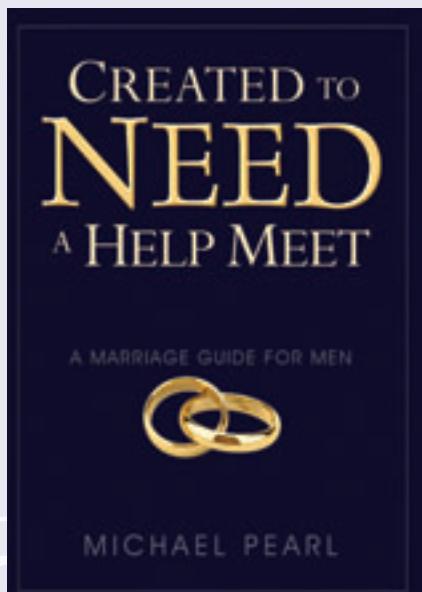
Retail Price \$14.95

**Preorder by April 1, 2012
for \$10.99 and save over 25%!**



Amazon Promotion March 6-8

Mike's newest book *Created To NEED a Help Meet* has had a phenomenal start. Purchase the book on Amazon between March 6-8 and be rewarded with:



Over 40 SPECIAL OFFERS!
Go to ngj.me/amazonpromo
to see the details.

Discounts from our partners will range from 25% to 75% off plus free downloads.

The promotion has been designed to provide you with numerous offers. Partner participation does not imply a No Greater Joy endorsement. Discounts cannot be combined with other already discounted items or advertised specials. For questions on this promotion, contact Mel at mcohen@nogreaterjoy.org or phone him at 931-593-2484.



Photo: Karen S.

Nate no longer knitting, and his dad.

Knittin' Nate

By Debi Pearl

“But he is MY son, and he is knitting; who taught my son to knit?”

Dad, a Visionary who thinks he is a Command Man, came in from work and passed his son without speaking. He is known for his remarkable self-control—sometimes resembling an explosion that happens inside an unexpandable enclosure. Passing into another room, he stiffly leaned over and whispered into his wife's ear, every word stiltedly punctuated in a monotone voice that had been carefully stripped of any emotion, “Do you know what my son is doing?” Mom answered without bothering to look up, “Sure. He is knitting himself a neck scarf.”

“My son? Knitting?” he uttered, still only inches from her ear. “But he is MY son, and he is knitting. Who taught my son to knit?” the word “knit” spit out like unwelcomed foreign matter bitter to the palate.

That event occurred about 20 years ago, though Knitting Nate's

mama just got around to telling us the story last week when she was visiting our home. Considering how the knitter turned out, we had a grand old laugh at the telling. It's funny NOW. It wasn't so funny to Dominant Dad when first-born son Nate was seven years old; it was confusing. Knitting Nate's dad is a man's man and he does not knit—never knitted; the only person in his family up until that point who ever knitted was Grandma, and she died early. It was painfully difficult for old tough-guy Dad to understand how his SON could be interested in something as “girl-like” as knitting. Like I said, it's a funny story now because Knitting Nate today is nearly a foot taller than his dad, standing close to six and a half feet tall, and has a man-size job that Dad is extremely proud of. He is working in highly classified

military intelligence. For that reason we changed his name. Today he is the kind of son that makes Mama smile and Dad breathe a deep sigh of satisfaction.

Boys are different. Grown-up Knitting Nate is a 100% Steady Man (see *Created to NEED a Help Meet*). He is Priestly in his relationships with others, helpful, kind, considerate, and dependable. He was a Priestly little boy, but his Visionary dad, who is very prophet-like in his relationships with people, found it difficult to understand exactly what made Nate tick. I can only guess what Mike would have done if he had observed one of his sons knitting, not that we didn't have to make a few mental adjustments ourselves when raising our sons.

Gabriel came into this world born to dominate. Mike related to him from the beginning. As a young boy, Gabe drove me nuts bossing me around. As a young, servant-type mother I had to finally stand up to him and tell him who was boss. After that, he was protective and gentle toward me. Now that Gabe is grown I would think he is at least 60% Command Man and 35% Steady, with just a tiny bit of Visionary. Unlike those of you who have read

our books *Created to Be His Help Meet* and *Created to NEED a Help Meet*, I didn't have the opportunity to understand why my son bossed me around. I also didn't have a clue why my husband didn't see it as a problem.

Show her mercy, but pay no attention to her unhappy criticism. Consider the source and the fruit.

Nathan, our second-born son, was very different from Gabe. He came into the world, literally, with a smile on his face. In his youth he liked to go hunting and fishing with his dad, but only so he could be in the woods; he didn't want to harm the animals. Often, when Mike came back from hunting with his two sons, he would scratch his head as he whispered, "Nathan said he didn't like to hurt the animals so he didn't want to shoot." I guess he whispered because the telling was so odd that saying it out loud would have been offensive. A disinterest in hunting and fishing was not the only thing different about our Nathan. When Nathan was about four years old, Mike and I would often look out our windows to the play area and see our

NEW BOOK!

Help Us Help You!

We are going to write a book on the three types of boys—Command, Steady, and Visionary, but we need your help. We need illustrations and questions. We are waiting on you to send in your stories. If you do not want your name used, please put that in your story or change the names to protect the "guilty". If you are OK with seeing your son's name in 500,000 books in 15 languages then include it. We are waiting on you.

Write to us at BoysBook@nogreaterjoy.org

tiny little guy with his hands lifted up to the sky, walking while loudly praying with tears streaming down his cheeks. To say we were bumfuzzled is an understatement. We thought he would grow up to be a real-live, modern-day prophet, or, weird as it seemed, a Pentecostal preacher. While we watched his strange behavior, we hoped that was all that would come of it.

As I said, at that time we had not come to an understanding of how God created man in his own image and that image included all three sides of God's nature, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Even at such a ripe young age—or maybe due to his young age—his Prophet/Priestly image shone especially bright. Nathan still loves prayer. He is very Priestly, wanting to help and heal those in need, but the little-boy Prophet is now a man Prophet. And he is so amazingly normal.

Being old has its perks. There is peace in seeing the end results, at least when the results are good. I have lived through those times when I didn't have a clue what to do or how to do it. I didn't understand the whys and wherefores of my sons. Now I know that there wasn't much to fear after all. As parents, we just needed to honor God, love each other, and enjoy our children the way they were. Then we could watch God give the increase. My boys are now quickly approaching middle age, and both are strong, well-balanced men, good daddies, and loving husbands.

I could have enjoyed the moments more if I had had the understanding of the three kinds of images manifested in boys and men. It would have taken the confusion out of the moments in

life when our sons were different from what we supposed was normal. Our daughters, although all three are strong personalities, are not so pronounced or confusing. Our oldest is dignified, reserved, and creative. The next daughter was born serving and caring for others—and still does. Our last daughter is a wild hare, scheming, creative, and full of new ideas. It is good that she was born last in that she has kept us entertained and holding our breath. This past week we were cleaning out an office that once was her bedroom, and we laughed as we studied the walls. They are still the bright, mint green she painted. They are covered with other bright colors and painted flowers and designs. Clearly, she leaves her mark. But with all her expression, her personality is not so pronounced as are the boys'.

Many people have written in, concerned about a young son's shyness or bossiness or wild ideas. I read their letters and laugh and wish I had time to write to give them the answers we have learned. As my friend Karen (Knitting Nate's mama) and I talked about our sons, each telling funny stories, we came to a solid conclusion: there should be a book for moms and dads on how to raise the three kinds of sons.

That is easier said than done. I need your help. I need you moms and dads to send me stories of your sons. I need young parents to ask questions that I can post and have older parents tell us how they helped their young Steady boy grow bolder, or how their crazy Visionary son learned to harness his imagination and keep his feet on solid ground. I need to hear from those of you who have learned to channel the energies of your bossy,

Command son. If you want a book, then help us write it. Mike and I will learn from you and do our part. Share this article on your Facebook page so your friends can jump in and help. With a thousand examples and as many questions, we can sift the information and provide this next

generation with some real answers. So when your husband comes with an outraged face asking, "Do you know what MY son, my SON is doing?" you can smile and say, "Yep, he's knitting, and someday he will be protecting this nation. Here, read all about it." *

From the Mailbox



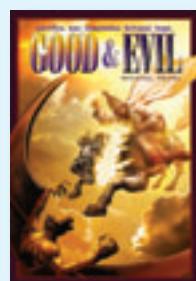
Dear Mrs. Pearl,

My name is Holly and I'm 14 years old. My family homeschools and about a year and a half ago my mom gave me and my sisters each a copy of your book *Preparing to Be a Help Meet*.

We started doing the Bible study in the back and reading a chapter each week and I just wanted to let you know what a blessing it was to me. I learned so much from it and I'm very grateful to you for writing it. It gave me a desire to be more pure for my future husband. I really enjoyed doing the Bible study with my sisters and mom too and I just wanted to let you know how much I appreciated it. Thank you so much again! May God bless you! Love, Holly S.



Dear NGJ, I bought 5 *Good and Evil* books for my 5 sons for Christmas. The 3 youngest, 6, 8 and 10 constantly have their noses in them! In fact, homeschooling them is getting more difficult as they always want to read them or be read to or have questions about content in the book all day!



This is not a bad problem to have. Anyway, just thought I would share this with you. Maybe you can pass this on to Mike.

Thanks and keep up the great work in the name of our Savior!

- Marv R. (a long time subscriber and customer of NGJ)



No Greater Joy Finances

By Mel Cohen, General Manager, CFP, RFC

Each year No Greater Joy Ministries, Inc. (NGJ) undergoes a full financial audit by an independent CPA firm. This past fiscal year was the cleanest audit we have received since we started the process. The financial statements for this past fiscal year have been presented “fairly in all material respects”.

The bottom line; NGJ are good stewards of the resources you, our readers and supporters, provide to us. This past fiscal year was a very difficult year for NGJ. To minister

globally at the high level we have ministered at over the past several years, NGJ spent \$239,650 more than we received.

This represents about a 2 month operating surplus which we keep on hand for emergencies. Fortunately we had this surplus accumulated over the past few years that we could use for this year. Going forward we no longer have our emergency fund cushion. The worst economy since the great depression, finally took its toll on our finances.

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2011 (Rounded)

REVENUE AND SUPPORT

Sales	\$1,156,000
Contributions	509,000
Loss on disposal of fixed assets	(67,000)
Misc Income	5,000
Total Revenue	\$1,603,000

EXPENSES

Program Services:

Cost of Goods	467,000
Printing and publications	495,000
Misc program services	193,000
Supporting Services	688,000
Total Expenses	\$1,843,000

EXPENSES OVER REVENUE

\$ 240,000



CHANGES

We made changes! We looked at every expense and analyzed our business to see the sources of our income. Our goal is to continue to minister worldwide at the highest and most efficient way possible.

Over the past few years, our sales shifted almost exclusively from NGJ readers to about 20% of our sales coming from our own distributors, Christian Book Stores and online merchants such as Amazon. This shift has resulted in less individual order taking and shipping by the case rather than by the unit. This coupled with a more efficient Webstore, has unfortunately caused us to have to reduce our loyal staff.

We eliminated a fulltime employee in the order department and cut the shipping department hours in half.

Other support employees have had their hours reduced by 37% to 50%. We had two employees come forward and volunteer to cut their pay substantially with one of them donating to the general fund from each paycheck.

We have cut our commercial advertising by about three quarters, and have eliminated one trade show entirely as well as cut out a day from another show. We also cut out all of our employee benefits except for paid holidays.

These savings amount to over \$300,000 per year. If our income levels remain the same we should be able to accumulate our emergency fund safety net by December 2012.



CONTRIBUTIONS

Contributions to our general fund allows us to use the funds where most needed. Contributions that are designated to a specific area of our Ministry are used in their entirety for that purpose. Unlike other ministries, we do not reduce the amount by an administrative fee.

Our largest single ministry expense is the *Good and Evil* Project. We continue to add new languages, move forward with the animation project, and offer large discounts to organizations and individuals that use *Good and Evil* for their prison ministries. We have reduced this ministry expense by \$1,000 per month, hopefully just temporarily. We have not cut back on our military ministry, prison ministry and ministry to missionaries and church leaders worldwide.

SALES

About 70% of our revenue is from the sales of the over 100 products that we offer. In addition to adding to our income, these products minister biblical truths. Many use the materials as a part of their own ministries. The sales of our material cover our operating expenses as well as much of the ministry work. This is how we avoid administrative fees on contributions.

Please contact me if you have any questions or feel led to financially help NGJ.

Mel Cohen, CFP, RFC, General Manager

Editor Note: Mel is a certified financial planner and a registered financial consultant and has vast experience in corporate finances for both nonprofits and for profit organizations. If you have any questions on our ministry's finances contact Mel at 931 593-2484 or email him at mcohen@nogreaterjoy.org. ☆



The Happy Family

Family Resources

Family Books

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 old loves rekindled.

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All men know that they need their wives sexually. What most men don't know is that they need their wives emotionally, spiritually and mentally in order to be well-rounded, thoughtful, balanced and motivated men. You will be a better man once you come to see the whole truth concerning this matter. If you are a man, this book is for you.

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This is not a time for weak spirits. Some call it intestinal fortitude. I call it guts—spiritual guts. The timid and afraid will fall victim to their appetites and not have the moral earnestness to be men and women of character. The greatest gift you can give your children is to train them to be strong in spirit, courageous, unbending in the face of adversity and temptation.

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

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Books of the Bible

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By Mel Cohen, CFP, RFC, General Manager

Since the last Magazine we signed up ten new Distributors worldwide, bringing our count to 620. This is a great time to start a business or ministry as a NGJ Distributor! There is plenty of opportunity. As a business you can confidently sell quality materials of lasting value to an ever expanding marketplace. Many families become Distributors to teach their children about finances and business. As a ministry you can share our expanding amount of Bible based materials. You can become part of this and operate as a Business and a Ministry as well as a Business or a Ministry. To learn more about partnering with us by becoming a Distributor, go to nogreaterjoy.org/distributors. After your review email or call Mel with questions.mcohen@nogreaterjoy.org or 931-593-2484.

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- A listing of homeschool conventions in your area. Homeschool conventions are usually now through August of each year.
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Good and Evil UPDATE



By Mel Cohen, CFP, RFC, General Manager

Good and Evil gives everyone with a heart for missions an opportunity to make a difference. One family recently paid for the second printing of 1,000 copies in Nepalese for distribution by a missionary friend in Nepal. Nearly 3 years ago this family had been instrumental in funding the first 5,000 copy printing, many of which were distributed by their missionary friend. When he needed more the family contacted us, and now 1,000 more “paper” missionaries have been printed to be distributed to the people of Nepal. Everyone involved is storing up treasures in heaven. You too can store up treasures with your support of the *Good and Evil* Translation Project by donating to the general fund or a specific language.

Print on demand (POD) has greatly expanded this ministry opportunity. A man just purchased 20 copies of the Arabic *Good and Evil* to take to XXX when he visits in March. Others are purchasing single copies to minister to individuals. Whether it is a server in a Korean restaurant, the Hindi owner of a convenience store, a prisoner, or Burmese or Cambodian refugees, you can minister the Gospel with *Good and Evil*. Who do you know that needs the Gospel presentation of *Good and Evil* in their native language? The list could be endless! Check out the over 20 languages that are now available on the NGJ Webstore.

A supporter was impressed with the work of the LAMB Services Prison Ministry in California. He designated \$1.00/book, up to \$3,000, for every copy of *Good and Evil* that they purchased from February 1-15. This allowed them to purchase 25% more books. From the Texas prison ministry, “A lady from our church went into one of the women’s prisons last week to minister and saw tons of women carrying around *Good and Evil* books with our names in the front. They are all reading and talking about it between the cells.” Praise God!

For more details on how you can support NGJ or the *Good and Evil* project, call or email Mel at mcohen@nogreaterjoy.org or 931 593-2484.

Good and Evil Printing Report

Good and Evil has been printed in:

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

Finished/ Looking for proofreaders:

Catalan, Tibetan, Shan, Japanese (finished but had to start over on proofing)

In Final Proofing: Bahasa Malaysia, Catalan, Tswana (complete book)

Ready to Print/Negotiating with Printers:
Punjabi (Pakistan), Castellano, Cebuano (reprint), Czech, Afrikaans, Romanian, Mongolian (reprint), Russian (black & white)

2 or More Printings:

Burmese	Chinese	Spanish
Cebuano	(Simplified)	Thai
English	Khmer	Vietnamese

New Languages: Kekchi (Mayan dialect spoken in Guatemala and Belize), Pashto (Afghanistan)

Negotiating with translators: Oriya, Tigrinya

Portions Printed: Mongolian, Sotho, Tsonga, Tswana

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

From the Mailbox



Here's a note forwarded to us from a reader concerning some friends that visited her. I thought you would enjoy seeing the bread cast upon the waters bearing good fruit.

Hey, just thought I'd let you know I think of your family often. I really enjoyed our stay with you; thanks for taking us in. I've tried so hard since then to try to simplify my life and cut back in so many different ways. I try to remember that I don't have to keep up with the Joneses or really care what the Joneses think of us for cutting back and keeping things simple. I have loved homeschooling and consider it one of the best decisions I have ever made. I love my boys now and really enjoy hanging out with them . . . not the case up until recently. I've been able to train them more easily not having their little naughty school friends teaching them things. I've had the time to teach them how to help with housework. Brett struggled with reading, which is why we initially started homeschooling, and now he can read really well (so much work and emphasis this past six months, but it paid off) . . . now I need to work on his writing the next six months. I have my work cut out because he is partially dyslexic. The greatest reward I've gotten from Brett is when he gives me a hug and says he is so glad he homeschooled and wants to do it again next year. Jesse and I are now having a very positive, successful relationship. I think it's because the kids are trained (mostly) for him to enjoy, and I'm not stressed out because they help and obey pretty well now. I'm not exhausted from long days of naughty children and mad he won't help, and because we homeschool, he gets to spend time with them. I am so very glad we switched to homeschooling! I attribute 50% of our success to visiting you guys, making changes for simplicity, and training the kids from all the books I read from NGJ; and the other 50% to homeschooling, which allowed us to make the changes and training so much easier to pull off. I don't want to say we've arrived, because I'm sure we are far from it (LOL) . . . but it really seems like it because of how far we've come. :) I am one happy chiquita lately. :) I think I have far, far fewer friends than before because of all the time I've spent with my family this last year, but I don't care—I'm happy! I'm also very happy I really don't have to spank my kids much anymore . . . I've become much better at consequences—figuring out what they were trying to accomplish with their negative behavior and making SURE they don't get it. ;)

Thanks again!

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