



NGJ

ministries

July-Aug 2012



Passing the Torch

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



No Greater Joy

In 1977, Mike told me that we were going to homeschool our children. I was puzzled and asked, “What’s that?” When I called A Beka Book to buy curriculum, they said, “You can’t buy curriculum; you’re just a mama, not a school!” Then the state authorities called. “What do you think you are doing not sending your children to school? Show up in court Monday, or else!” And then the media found out. They ran story after story, and Mike wondered, “Is this about US? It sure can get twisted.”

I was afraid to stand against such a tide, but then the phone started ringing. Fresh, young families by the hundreds were asking, “How do you homeschool? Where do I buy books? Could you help me since you know all about it?”

So we wrote a book . . .

Contents

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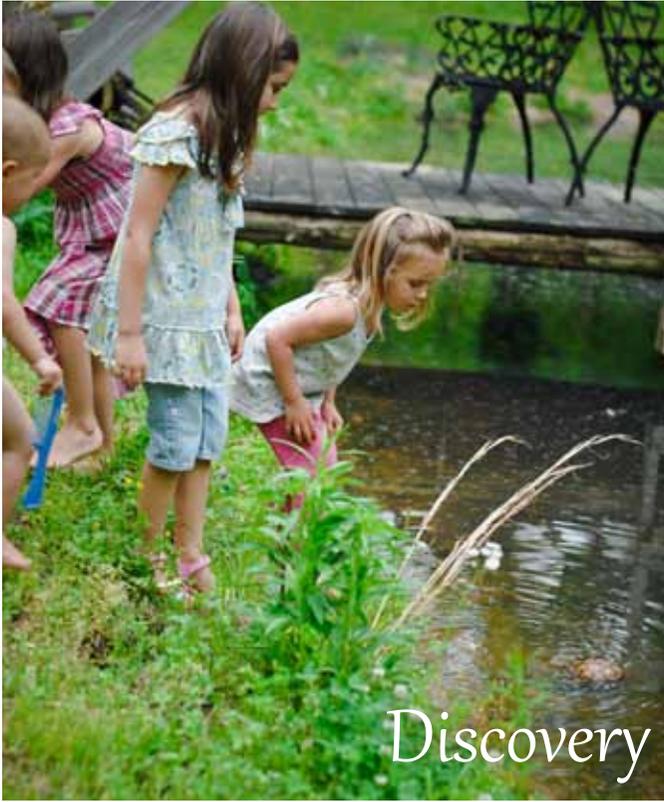


Photo: Laura Newman

Greater Expectations



By Debi Pearl

Knowledge—real, firsthand knowledge that says
“I know because I experienced that”
—imparts power and confidence and a greater
desire to learn and share.

What makes some people seem to soar, excited to learn, to grow, to take on one challenge after another and still be capable of more? What makes a person so satisfied and enthusiastic about life that he wants to share his knowledge with everyone,

knowing he has something worth sharing? How can you take your children to that place? For that matter, how can you get there yourself?

God did not design us to idle away in endless boredom with no challenges, waiting for life to happen.

Nor are we designed to exist in a state of distraction, always being entertained. We were not created to live like pigs in self-indulgence. God expects more from his creation. There is no joy or satisfaction apart from personal growth, fulfilling the yearning to know. God instilled in us the drive to excel.

Winners feel better than losers, and God created us to win—not in a contest with others, but in our struggle against the world, the flesh, and the devil, against the demons of doubt, ignorance, and inaction.

Life is best in the pursuit of knowledge and wisdom, in sharing what we learn, in hopes and dreams and a struggle to overcome. Winners feel better than losers, and God created us to win—not in a contest with others, but in our struggle against the world, the flesh, and the devil, against the demons of doubt, ignorance, and inaction. As we strive to know, we will grow. This brings glory to the one in whose image we are created, and it prepares us to be worthy and interesting sons and daughters in his coming kingdom.

We should be constantly stimulated with possibilities. Man performs best when focused and committed. How can I build a better boat, construct a more effective website, write a better musical, or win the world to Christ? Perhaps I

shall do it all! Ah, but when a couple shares a dream and the burden of making that dream come true, they are functioning in the highest calling. When the entire family—with all the children—shares the pursuit of a vision, it grows the children into strong leaders. This is what sets some families apart from all others—a vision, a purpose, and a willingness to work together to realize something greater than themselves. A family that lives unto itself with no vision beyond surviving will wither and waste away while the children peek through the curtain at the world they distrust and fear.

The truly successful family shares a dream and pours its combined energies into making it reality. I have observed families excel in this regard. No one had to tell them they needed a dream; it was just a natural part of their makeup. I know other families that have raised well-educated but useless daughters and weak men who lacked confidence. Both extremes were sincere and wanted what was best for their children, but one family invested their talents while another buried them out of fear.

Children's success starts with Mom and Dad. It starts with the parent (one or both) ready to lead the charge. Most things are more easily caught than taught. Living a life with vision is one of those things that must be caught. A child can catch small visions from a friend, a pastor, or another kid, but vision comes most readily when parents take the little guys by the hand and say, "See? Isn't this neat?"



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Photo: Elizabeth Stewart

The Wonder

For example: As I sit here typing, I look out the window down to the herb garden and watch Jeremiah playing with the other children. He suddenly lunges into a prostrate position, landing with his face inches from a small pool of water. I can tell that he is lost to the noises and movements around him and the hard, chilled feel of the rocks beneath him. He is still and silent, watching as the first tiny tadpole escapes its transparent cord. From where I sit I can't see the tadpoles, but I know they are there because we have studied the cluster of eggs for the last several days and have excitedly observed the transformation as they develop into tiny fishlike creatures.

Jeremiah's fascination with tadpoles did not start at this moment. Although he would not remember the occasion, it started before he was two years old. I know because I was there when the mystery of the tadpole was first discovered. He was just a stumbling toddler the day one of his older cousins (a four-year-old) took

him by the hand as they made their way along with five or six other small children to watch a thousand tadpoles all wriggle free into the murky waters for their very first swim. He was there again, standing at the side of the mudhole, when tiny frogs began to hop out onto dry land. He was at the water's edge that day because he had been there every afternoon watching and waiting for the coming day. The reward was breathtaking. To those children, the wonder of watching tadpoles turning into frogs transcended the ordinary. The children came away wiser than their less-experienced peers because they had seen with their eyes, touched with their hands, and discussed with adults this miracle of life.

It is these moments of discovery that bring satisfaction to a soul. They satisfy the need God put in us to know. This should be an hourly happening in a child's life. Something as simple as learning to turn the water tap on and off, breaking an egg into a bowl, flushing the commode, or an-



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Balancing Chores

Every child needs to have his mind full of possibilities. Every day, on every occasion, open the door and share real life with your children.

Answering the phone in the proper manner and bringing it to Mama can all be moments of growth for the child.

A child who is highly involved in the adventures of firsthand learning will be less self-centered and more interested in the world around him. A child left to himself is inclined to be silly, self-conscious, and have feelings of inferiority. Knowledge—real, firsthand knowledge that says, “I know because I experienced that”—imparts power and confidence and a greater desire to learn and share.

Today’s child is prodded out of his warm bed and told to dress for school. He is fed a bowl of sugared cereal and loaded into a vehicle. At school he is just one of the herd; he sits in a row, stands in a line, plays on asphalt with all the other sad, bored kids. When he gets home in

the afternoon he sits in front of a screen in a dumbed-down state, watching some other kid sing, dance, have an adventure, or do something interesting or heroic. But he feels himself to be the guy outside looking in through the window. The wonder in his soul lies dormant; he FEELS that life happens to the cool kids. Adventure is not his. He never considers that he might hold a tiny frog in his hand; he can’t conceive that he might watch a snake slowly swallow a mouse. All he knows are the animals at the zoo boringly observing him observing them. It is a freeze-frame experience. Most children live regulated, packaged lives, never feeling the awe of the moment. Their young life is spent “killing time” and trying to stay out of trouble.

Children need an environment that stimulates the natural wonder in their souls. They need time to investigate, play in the mud, share a song, dream a dream.

Wonder is as close as a flushing toilet. I remember the day our



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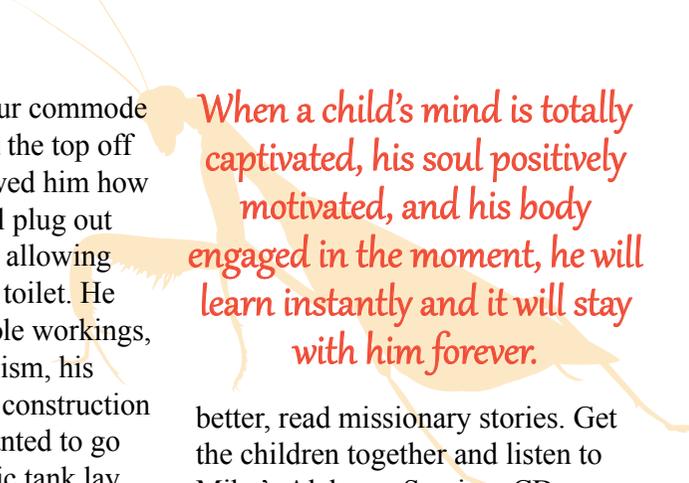


grandson Laife flushed our commode for the first time. I pulled the top off the water closet and showed him how the chain pulled the small plug out of the hole at the bottom, allowing the water to rush into the toilet. He seriously studied the whole workings, manipulating the mechanism, his mind captivated with the construction and flow of water. He wanted to go outside to where the septic tank lay deep in the ground. Every day, every occasion, every new thing should be squeezed for all you can get out of it. Children need to know why, how, what, and they need to participate.

As a parent you are the commander-in-chief of your child. Commanders communicate vision. Most dads are at work during the day, so Mom becomes the default vision imparter. The sad fact is that many moms live in a fog of nothingness. They lead halfway lives. They halfheartedly **homeschool** the kids while they intermittently scan their Facebook page, reading and writing useless messages for people they don't even know. These moms are trapped in a net of daily boredom, so they have little interest in unearthing the unknown. It is a continuation of their youth—still killing time. They experience nothing to share with their children.

Hey, Mom, you were created to reflect God. It's time to start living with eternity in your eyes. You can't impart a vision to your sons and daughters unless you have one yourself. Regardless of your youth experiences, you CAN have a vision.

Start today pouring into your children. Tell them stories of your youth or the exciting, challenging stories of a person in history; even



When a child's mind is totally captivated, his soul positively motivated, and his body engaged in the moment, he will learn instantly and it will stay with him forever.

better, read missionary stories. Get the children together and listen to Mike's Alabama Seminar CD or watch the *Good and Evil* DVD. Take a walk of discovery and stop to examine the things that capture their imagination. A follow-up trip to the library or the Web is usually in order. Don't spend your time talking on the cell phone while stealing the light of discovery from your children. This is a moment of change. Take them to a farm and ask the farmer if you can help clean a stall with your children. Show them firsthand where the eggs and milk and chicken you eat come from. Pick strawberries and blueberries, and then go home and plant your own.

When you happen to see where beavers have built a dam, by all means STOP and investigate. Go home and watch old YouTube videos or documentaries about how beavers changed the landscape of America, making it a more fertile land. Let the children dig ditches in the yard and run water through them, adding beaver-like dams to show other children how beavers have played an active part in the ecology. Facilitate enough learning in your children that they become the teachers.

Dance in the rain and then study what weather patterns bring the rain. Build a fire pit and cook out once a week, letting the children plan, prepare and cook the food, and then clean up. Get old cooking magazines



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from yard sales and let each child start making his own cookbook from cut-out recipes glued into notebooks.

Learning facts fills the brain, but hands-on learning builds confidence that you can know and do anything.

Plant a garden, but first study with your children several seed catalogs. Talk about the evils of GMO (genetically modified organism) seeds with your four- and six-year-olds. Tell them how God created seed but man changed it to do weird things that are now known to harm the human body, animals, and insects. What? You don't know much about GMOs? Where have you been, Mama? Wasting your minutes, hours, and days screen-gazing or standing outside a window watching someone else have a life? No more!

Homeschooling has lost its edge. Now it is just school done at home. What a drag! What a loss! Before the age of "ten thousand curriculums," there was the library

or the second-hand store for books. It was a glorious age because kids still had space to learn real stuff like where a butterfly comes from. They learned not out of a book, but by catching caterpillars and putting them in boxes. When a child's mind is totally captivated, his soul positively motivated, and his body engaged in the moment, he will learn instantly and it will stay with him forever. I guess if I had to narrow it down I would say learning facts fills the brain but hands-on learning builds confidence that you can know and do anything. Leaders are not born; they are created through experiencing knowledge, thus gaining the confidence to lead.

Small discoveries turn into middle-size dreams, and middle-size dreams realized turn into eternal visions. And it all starts in Mama's arms. One little guy is waiting for you to open up life to him so one day he can step out on a huge mission with the confidence you built into him one shared discovery at a time.

As eternal beings, we were not designed to function in an endlessly

boring, non-challenging daily life—kids included. Nor were we designed to exist in a state of entertained distraction—kids ESPECIALLY. God put into us a yearning to grow to be like him, to learn, to discover, to share, to plan, to struggle to make our vision come true. He made us with a desire to rise above the mundane. We were designed after God’s nature, in his image, to be like him, to be his friend. We were not meant to just survive. Every one of us—man, woman, and child—can be satisfied only by living on the cutting edge of discovery.

This is the skinny on child training: Every child needs to have

his mind full of possibilities. Every day, on every occasion, open the door and share real life with your children. This is where wise sons and daughters are made, leaders opening the door for all others. Take your children by the hand and set out on a journey of discovery. ☺



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Marriage Resources



Created to NEED a Help Meet - \$14.95



Created to Be His Help Meet – \$14.95

Dear Debi,

I purchased your book, *Created to Be His Help Meet* when it was first published in 2004. I read it then but was highly offended and hated it. Last week, the Lord spoke clearly to my heart to pick up the book again, read it again and take it to heart. I was so convicted and have been poring over every word, praying to be the help meet my husband needs. We will celebrate our 26th anniversary this summer and we have been through every trial a marriage can go through. Only by the grace of God and the love we have for each other have we been able to survive. I have been all those negative things a wife is that you describe in your book and am so grateful for this second chance and that the Lord prompted me to become the wife my husband needs and deserves. Thank you for your brutal honesty that spoke straight to my heart. If only I had dealt with the very issues that offended me 8 years ago when I first read this book...well, I will not dwell on the past but praise God for the work He's doing now through you and others. Blessings to you, my sister in Christ. - Sincerely, L.L.

FREE Online Marriage Seminar with the Pearls! See page 17.

NGJ Kids

The Good Shepherd By Shalom Brand

When a baby lamb is born, it follows behind its mother, and the mother ewe follows behind the grandmother ewe. The baby lamb learns about life from its mother. Sheep are quite placid mammals; they need gently flowing water to drink and shade to shield them from the sun. Loud noises scare them. The sheep learn to come to the shepherd's voice when he calls them in at night so he can protect them from wild animals.

The Bible says we are like sheep and God is our shepherd watching over us. While you are still a child, you must learn to listen

to God's voice when he calls. Like a lamb that follows its mother into the sheepfold at night when the shepherd calls, so should you learn from your mother how to hear the Good Shepherd's voice and come to him when he calls you.

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

PSALM 23:1-3

Craft



Lamb Mask

1. Take a large paper bag and cut holes for the child's eyes.
2. Glue a white piece of paper for the face. Cut out and glue ears, nose and mouth from pink paper.
3. Paste cottonballs dipped in glue around the face to create the wool.

Art Contest!

May - June contest winners!



7st

Arora Humphries

FIRST PLACE
Arora Humphries,
Age 5

FIRST PLACE
Zachary Kaplan,
Age 6

FIRST PLACE
Annika Wolf,
Age 8

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Dad or Mom working!
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Zachary Kaplan



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Passing the Torch

By Shalom, Shoshanna, and Nathan

We asked our kids to list a few things we had taught them that they knew they wanted to pass on to their children. Here's what three of them said.



The Gullible One By Shalom (Pearl) Brand

I learned so much from my parents as a young girl, certainly more than can be shared in a single article. But the most important things they taught me are these:

#1 – Wisdom

“For wisdom is better than rubies; and all the things that may be desired are not to be compared to it.” (Proverbs 8:11)

For some, learning comes easy; for others, not so much. I was one of those kids who had to work really hard to learn. My brothers or sisters would be told, “This is the word love,” and they would never forget it. I would hear the same

thing, read it, write it, and still have to sound it out. But instead of my mom saying, “Why can you not remember that this is the word love? You have seen this word and read it over and over again!” she would say, “Good job sounding it out, Shalom; now what do you think that word means? How would you show love to someone? How did Jesus show us love?” and then, “That is a very wise answer Shalom. Did you know that it is more important to show love than to read the word love? God gives us wisdom to know how to show love to others.”

As I grew up there was no way I could have avoided learning joy from my parents.

I wanted this wisdom; it was something I knew I needed more than other people did, for I could not rely on knowledge. I needed something that only God could give me. I started praying for it every day when I was just a young teen. I know that it is what made me who I am today. I pray with my children every night, and for each of them I pray something different. But because Gracie is just like me, from the time she was a baby, I have prayed that she will have wisdom. She also asks God for wisdom and knows that wisdom is better than rubies.

#2 – Joy and Thankfulness

“Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all ye lands. Serve the Lord with gladness: come before his presence with singing. Know ye that the Lord he is God: it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his

people, and the sheep of his pasture. Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name. For the Lord is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations.” (Psalm 100)

As I grew up there was no way I could have avoided learning joy from my parents. Being joyful and thankful was just part of life; it was who we were. My parents had the joy of the Lord in abundance and passed that joy down to each of their children. One thing that brings me even more joy now that I am a mom is seeing my own children being joyful and thankful. Singing, dancing, and just enjoying life is what created a joyful and thankful attitude in me—and now in my own children as well.

#3 – To Keep My Heart

“Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life.” (Proverbs 4:23)

I am a very gullible person, and when I was young I believed what everyone told me. That is where wisdom aided me most—to discern truth. One time my older brother told me that the word gullible was



Photo: Elizabeth Stewart



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not in the dictionary, and of course I believed him 100%, to his great joy. I proceeded to tell a friend my newfound knowledge only to be laughed at for being so gullible. I laughed at myself as well, and then tried to come up with a way to get my mean old brother back for his trick. Too bad I am terrible at practical jokes, so I don't think I ever did pull anything off on him.

Another time, a close friend told me she had written a song and sang it to me. I was so amazed at how good it was, and the next day when we were at the volleyball court, I told everyone she had written this wonderful song and sang a few words of it. Everyone started laughing and told me it was a very popular song on the radio. I soon learned I needed to have wisdom to know truth from lies and to keep my heart from being led by those who just wanted a laugh.

My parents, knowing I was gullible and easily taken in by others, were careful to monitor what friends I had and at times stopped me from going places that would have been fine for any other person but not for me, for my heart was soft and needed protection.

I remember as a young teen making the decision to keep my heart for my future husband and focus on serving the Lord first and foremost as an unmarried woman. The passage quoted above goes on to say in verses 24–27 to keep your eyes straight, to not look to the left or right, and to ponder your path, and all your ways will be established.

As a child my parents taught me how to keep my heart and to walk with my eyes straight before me, to have my ways established in God alone. As a teen, I continued to choose to keep

I soon learned I needed to have wisdom to know truth from lies and to be joyful in every part of my life, and to keep my heart from being led by those that just wanted a laugh.

my heart from any outside influence even if that meant not going to the volleyball court to play with friends. The Lord has richly blessed me for it. I have already observed the need and taken steps to keep my own daughters' hearts safe. I am teaching them even now to put God first in their lives, even before friends. I am so thankful I learned to keep my heart and so is my wonderful husband. I am thankful for the wisdom and joy God has so abundantly given me, and now my own children as well.

Shoshanna's Pearls

www.bulkherbstore.com

By Shoshanna (Pearl) Easling



Respecting

The other day I went outside where I keep my organic carrots and found about five pounds of them scattered, broken, and muddy. I'd had kids over the day before. One of the kids found my carrots and got one, and another kid followed the example. It became a carrot war of "you got one and I want one, too." Carrots were flying, covered in mud, and many were wasted.

Wanting to make sure my children would never do such a thing, I took this as a good opportunity to teach Jeremiah. I asked him, "Whose stuff is in your room?"

"Mine!" he said.



Many thanks to Shoshanna Easing for this photo

Making Memories

James, Jeremiah and Penelope Jane

It is so much fun to teach Jeremiah and watch him grow in wisdom. My dad says, “There are no bad children, just bad training.”

“If all the kids came in your room and took a piece or two of your Playmobil® outside to play—one kid played in the woods, another on a dirt pile, one on the driveway, and another in the grass—at the end of the day you would not have enough Playmobil® pieces to do anything with. They would be gone. Adults work hard to buy land and food, build houses, gardens, flowerbeds, and more. When someone takes our stuff and plays with it, messes it up, or even uses it without asking, it is not ever nice.”

You could see the wheels turning in his head. He was connecting the dots everywhere they led. It is so much fun to teach him and watch him grow in wisdom. My dad says, “There are no bad children, just bad training.” Every child is capable of embarrassing behavior. I know mine are. I just want

to be proactive in training them to love their neighbor as themselves.

Thankfulness

It always takes my breath away to experience Jeremiah’s sweetness. He is so kind, thoughtful, and thankful. He often comes in and says, “Yummy! That smells good! Thank you, Mom, for making us food.” He probably thanks me five times a day for things most adults would not think about. Why? I have always talked to him about anything that would help him grow. When I see him manifest a bad action or attitude, I talk to him about why, how, and what he can do differently. He soaks it up like a sponge. It is a little scary because I want to make sure I teach him the right things. I pray for wisdom every day.

One thing we have seen a lot of is ungrateful kids, parents, employees, and friends. That is a lesson that is very important to teach. When the situation comes up, I talk to Jeremiah about why they are ungrateful, what



Photo: Elizabeth Stewart

Respecting Others

they have to be thankful for, and what we have to be thankful for. It opens his eyes to those that are grateful and ungrateful around us.

Keep in mind that we do not discuss the faults of others as if we

Jeremiah and Penelope work together and play together. Why?

From the time they were born we have always had them in the middle of everything we do.

are better than they. Nor do we speak of them in a spirit of rejection and criticism. We love our family and friends and each other, but we live in a world of fallen humanity, and we are all sinful creatures trying to do better.

Standing for Righteousness

The other day we were at the volleyball court. I was playing ball when I saw Jeremiah and two of his friends walking toward the cows in the field. The cows were running way. Any half-wit farmer knows you should never chase a milk cow. I called Jeremiah in and his friends followed. I told him not to ever chase cows. He had been telling his friend that she should not be chasing them. So he followed her, telling her all the way. I saw this as another one of those great

teaching moments and told him, “Even when you know something is wrong and tell them, when you stay there and let it happen you are participating. If someone is doing something you know is wrong, then tell them. If they do not listen, then walk away so you do not participate in it.”

I remember when I was a child, sometimes my family would sit around and take turns reading the Bible. I remember learning the lesson Jeremiah did this week: “Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.” (Psalms 1:1)

Joining in Work

I love my wonderful kids! The other day I was cooking when Jeremiah came in. “What can I do to help you, Mom?” I smiled at my amazing kid and handed him a cutting board. Later on that day, I was cleaning the living room, and he came in and started to help. That made me smile again! Later, James was folding clothes and told Jeremiah to put his clothes away. Penelope Jane heard and came running to help. She would get the clothes and bring them to Jeremiah in his bedroom so he could put them away. This made me laugh with joy!

Jeremiah is 6 and Penelope is 19 months. They work together and play together. Why? From the time they were born we have always had them in the middle of everything we do. Even when they could not walk, we would hand them a pair of socks, bring them to the drawer, help them put the socks in, and praise them for doing such a great job. As they grew, their jobs did, too! Nothing has changed; we do our chores together and it's fun for all! Dad says, "That's child training at its best."

Knowledge and Beginning of Wisdom

By Nathan Pearl



Choices are not made aimlessly. Our choices come from what we value and what our minds have been devising. Often when our choices lead to regret, we blame others, but everyone knows that life finds us on a road of our own choosing.

Choices issue from our minds based on our loves and fears. Emotion is the great facilitator of most action, but wisdom based on knowledge is the best catalyst of choice. As my children mature, I am profoundly aware that I am building into their minds information that will form the basis of their present and future choices. I want them to mature into adults who avoid the ugly pitfalls the world constantly shoves in their way. I can profoundly affect their choices.

The first thing that influences our choices is a body of knowledge. As we grow and learn, we add to the body of knowledge. I cannot make a choice outside of what I know, so as my body of knowledge increases, so does my range of choices. Think about this: a child who sits in front

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Photo: Elizabeth Stewart

of the TV for several hours a day, day after day, year after year, is being reared on unsavory knowledge that will someday play a key role in how he as a young adult will make choices. No wonder so many young adults are foolish.

(My son) is learning to say yes to good things even when it does not please his flesh.

My parents chose to fill our minds with Bible stories—things God did with his people or to his enemies. Now as an adult, most of my choices are highly influenced by that body of knowledge. When I hear someone mock another person, I remember the story in the Bible of the children who mocked the prophet's bald head, and I know what God thinks of mockery. When I have the choice to pray or not, I think of Daniel praying for 21 days for wisdom to know how to answer the king. My body of knowledge is that Daniel was a man who was greatly loved by those in heaven, that the angel of God had to fight to get through a host of the enemy of God to deliver the answer to Daniel, and that Daniel prayed even though it might mean his death. All this and a lot more comes to mind, and it causes me to want to be like Daniel. For this reason, every day I tell my children the same stories my parents told to me. As a father, I want to give my children that body of knowledge that God chooses to teach us by—stories.

Another influential factor on my future choices is the pattern of choices

I have already made. For example, if I come to a situation in marriage where there is dissension and I am given a choice to get angry or be a healer, what I have done before will play a role in how I respond this time.

As a father, I know that my children are watching their mother and me respond to each other. A thousand times they see us choose to love, forgive, appreciate, and serve. This will play a part in how they respond to their spouses when they are married. I know this because the sweetness that I saw in my parents toward each other naturally influences how I relate to my wife. Again, I am building a bank of emotional reaction in my children that will play a part in the choices they make. When I slip with a wrench and hurt my hand, my sons see me react in pain but not anger. My desire is that I pass down to my children good things, not evil.

Now you can see that choices are made from a person's memory bank. I am profoundly aware that my choices, good or evil, will give them a history on which to base their own. The wisdom they are learning is not their wisdom or even God's wisdom; it is simply my learned wisdom as it is passed on to my sons and daughters. This comes to bear in simple, everyday activities. For instance, I make my son eat green beans. Even if he says he doesn't like them, even if it makes him cry, I compel him to eat them because I know he will be healthier and learn self-discipline if he has a history of eating green beans. I tell him while he eats his green



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beans, “They are good for you and will make you healthy. You need to eat them because I said so.” Then my son makes a choice; it is against his will, but he chooses to eat the beans because he knows we want him to be healthy and because he wants to please me. I have his heart. He is building on a body of knowledge and experience. The choice translates to his soul and his habits. He is learning to say yes to good things even when it does not please his flesh. When he is a teenager and someone offers him drugs, it will be his habit to make choices based on a body of knowledge and a history of previous choices. He can still choose to do evil, but he will not be easily led astray because he knows and cherishes a better way and has seen the fruit of honoring God in my life as I saw it in my father’s.

What about those of you who have never learned God’s Word and have no idea of the God who prepared the worm, the breeze, the vine, the fish, and the storm? You don’t know about the earthquakes or chariots of fire, yet you have a heart to know God. The Bible is his book; it is his letter to

As a father, I want to give my children that body of knowledge that God chose to teach us by—stories.

you. It is God telling you his stories. It is still there, readily available. I have known young men raised on video games and TV who pick up *Good and Evil* and from there become avid Bible students. They listen to all of Dad’s (Michael Pearl’s) CDs and then move on to their own study. These individuals cram a lifetime of knowledge into a year or so. God gives them wisdom from his Word.

As they come to know God through his Word, they begin to make wise decisions based on God’s truth, creating a whole new history from which to nurture all future choices. They might have issues in their marriage, something I know nothing of, but they build a new line of choices one day at a time, and they create a new history for both themselves and their children. As for me and my house, we will serve the LORD as my father did before me. ☺



Contend for Your Faith

Join Nathan Pearl for Bible Study on Tuesday nights at 7:00 pm CDT:

ContendForYourFaith.com



Thank you!

Passing the Torch and several other fine photos came from Erin, who has a delightful website called **Homesteadcommunitypost.com**.



Photo: Laura Newman

Preparing Kids to Soar

By Karen Sargent, NGJ Editor and very good friend

Like the little bird, they must be personally involved in the living of life.

I was driving past a big hayfield the other day when I noticed a couple of good-sized birds dodging and darting around in what looked like a battle between two fighter jets. Then I noticed a much smaller bird in the midst of them and thought

maybe the two bigger birds were attacking it. Fascinated, I pulled the car over so I could see the outcome. After observing a few more minutes, I realized I was watching two parent birds teaching their youngster to fly. The baby would flap its wings

furiously and stay aloft for a few seconds, and then when it began to fall, one of the parents would swoop down underneath it and give the fledgling a boost, keeping it in the air. It was the most amazing display of natural child-rearing I had ever seen, and it brought tears to my eyes.

He had no chance of survival if he couldn't escape from predators on the ground.

Baby bird was being taught to fly like his life depended on it. It did! He had no chance of survival if he couldn't escape from predators on the ground. He needed to learn to find food, to shelter himself from the elements, to find a mate and produce his own nest full of hatchlings. And it all began with flying.

That baby bird would never have learned to fly by sitting in the nest listening to Daddy lecture him on the finer points of aerodynamics—he had to get out there and learn it firsthand. He had to build strength in his little wing muscles and feel the air coursing through his feathers. He wouldn't have gained confidence in his ability to do what God created

him to do by hiding under Mother's wings. Mother had to take him out to the open field and get him involved in doing the task. He learned by taking action, not by watching someone else perform it. He may not have flown very high or far on that first day, but with practice, he will soar through the skies and fulfill the very nature God created in him.

And so it is with children. We cannot expect them to get excited about life when we park them at a table with nothing more than books to learn from. We must build enthusiasm for life by putting it into their hands, setting it before their eyes, and letting them soak up information with all their senses. Like the little bird, they must be personally involved in the living of life. This is when children begin to soar. ☺



Photo: homesteadcommunitypost.com

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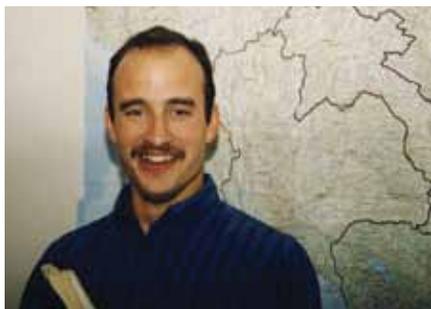


MISSIONS

**Go ye therefore, and teach
all nations, baptizing them
in the name of the Father, and of the Son,
and of the Holy Ghost:
Matthew 28:19**

How a Missionary Was Made

By TJ Slayman



TJ SLAYMAN

Serving in SE Asia and beyond

Dread, discouragement, and despair—those were the weights I was carrying back in 1988. I was sixteen at the time and was haunted with knowing God would soon destroy the earth. I was raised in a tight-knit family of hippies, always moving from state to state with little more than the clothes on our backs and a box of *Mother Earth News*. One night the whole family was hanging out in the laundromat waiting for our clothes to dry when we picked up a worn-out, dated copy of Hal Lindsey's book *The Late Great Planet Earth*. At that point we had heard nothing about end times. The book shook us up like nothing before. We already had the survivor's mentality, being faithful liberal tree huggers. We had consigned ourselves to living on a planet being destroyed by its inhabitants. We scrounged around and hunted down a *Good News Bible* and started searching to

see if that was what it said. After asking different preachers, rabbis, priests, Jehovah's Witnesses, and Mennonites (all of whom knew virtually nothing about the future and even less of what we should do about it), we had nearly given over to despair. The future was dreadful and lack of interest among professing Christians was discouraging. The idea of growing a mountain of pot and numbing out to the whole situation was becoming more appealing. We were close to giving up and turning back when God gave us a clue. In fact, it was a custom "sign," just for us.

*My dad and I finally know what
God says about the end-times.
We are not crowded into a bunker,
storing up food and preparing
for the coming end times as
we were contemplating
23 years ago.*

At the time, our family was house-sitting in Tampa, Florida while my uncle was undergoing back surgery. One evening I was killing time with my little brother and sisters at a neighborhood playground. Since my uncle's house was on a military base, we couldn't have any dope. So I decided to go ride the merry-go-round for a cheap thrill. As I spun around, my eye caught sight of a piece of

paper lying in the sand. Around I went and I saw the words, “The Beast.” The next time around I was off the ride and grabbing the small booklet that I would later know as a Chick Tract. It was a very short, illustrated, graphic story of end times. It bore witness with everything we had been reading in the Bible. We didn’t have a single friend, relative, neighbor, or ANYBODY who knew anything about this stuff. But this little book! It proved that we weren’t crazy and that others knew as well.



My dad and I read and re-read the tract over and over and then started looking up the Bible verses listed in the booklet, “The Beast.” It awakened in us a real need to know what God had to say. We became genuine seekers of God. God promised that all who seek him should find him.

Shortly afterwards we met Mike Pearl, and he began coming to sit around our campfire several nights a week, teaching us the books of John, Romans, Revelation, Genesis, and all kinds of wild stuff. “Far out, man!” was often heard during the Bible studies (eventually we learned to say “Amen!”). I was the first person in the family to understand the gospel. For me, there was no going back. I was a blood-bought child of the Living God, the Creator of heaven and earth, the Beginning and the End, the Eternal One who will one day judge the whole earth. I couldn’t get over the fact that Jesus loved me enough to die for me. I never felt so small and unimportant and yet so loved at the same time. Soon my mom and dad and brother

and sisters came to know the Lord. There was one thing my family was strong on, and that was loyalty. We highly appreciated the man who had persevered in telling us about Jesus. When Mike wrote the book, *To Train Up a Child*, my dad galvanized us to be Mike’s personal volunteers to make the book a success. And it was.



Missionaries Nathan Pearl, TJ and Bob Slayman, 1996.

As a young man, I continued in the Word, and the more I studied the more I wanted those who had never heard to have the Scriptures. Fast-forward through ten years of study, college, linguistic training, and then translation of the Scripture into a language where the Bible was contraband. One day Chick Publications contacted me and asked me to translate several of their tracts and a full-length movie into the languages that I had studied. God had brought me full circle.

Nowadays my four little children love the small illustrated booklets. As I read to them, they sit glued as I once did. People often wonder, “Does anyone ever really read those

For a complete list of missionaries we recommend, or to find out more about how you can help, visit our website, www.NoGreaterJoy.org.



Missionaries TJ Slayman, Jesse Beal and co-laborers, 1996.

little tracts? And even if they read them, aren't they just stories without enough to really tell anyone about Jesus?" The answer is yes, people read them. And they are much more than just cute stories. God used a worn-out book we found in a laundromat to plow the ground, and then he used a small, dirty tract to plant the seed that caused our family to seek him. I am a missionary today, having translated the Bible into the language of a country "closed" to all Christian ministries. An entire nation of people has portions of the Holy Scriptures in their language because someone took the time and money to give out a simple gospel tract, which I as a dope-head teen found lying in the sand at a playground.

My dad and I finally know what God says about the end times. We are not crowded into a bunker, storing up food and preparing for the coming tempest as we were contemplating doing 23 years ago. But we are prepared nonetheless. Our feet are shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace. Daddy tells everyone about the Savior. My mother continues to be a vital part of No Greater Joy Ministries. My life has been given over to Scripture translation and development of Christian literature for Southeast Asia. We are praying for more laborers to do the same. The end is nigh. Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth? ☺



Resources

Children love the stories in Chick tracts! If you have not read one, you can read them online for free or order an All-Tract assortment for \$15.95 and start leaving them around. It's fun *and* eternal!



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Blessing of the Lord

By Shalom Brand

My dad saw himself getting busier and busier, and he wanted more for his family, and “more” wasn’t material things.

1 It is spring again, and my children are enjoying the warm weather and budding flowers so much. They spend every day swimming in the spring-fed creek by the garden, playing in the herb garden with their cousins, jumping on the trampoline, canoeing or fishing in the pond, and building forts in the woods. They come home covered in ticks and dirt. Yesterday they spent two hours making mud pies in the powdery dirt by the house. The tracks on my floor testified to their play. My floor is regularly tracked up with footprints, wet or dirty, and either I or one of the trackers is sweeping the floor all the time. I am thankful I do not have carpet, that’s for sure. Everyday life is an adventure. Most days Parker and sometimes the girls get to jump in the Jeep with Big Papa and ride

around the property as he works. Most every day the kids help Mama Pearl in the garden. They consider that time a real treat.

Gracie has been making tea using the spring water with an assortment of herbs she finds. She picks dandelions, mint, wild roses, or whatever she thinks will taste good. She squeezes the leaves by hand in a bowl of water to get the herb juice out, and then brings it home for us to taste. With lots of prayer, I am not sick from it yet, so I keep tasting the concoctions she comes up with. As I watch my children enjoying their lives, I think how blessed they are. They are reaping the blessings of the decisions my own parents made when I was a very small child.

Before my family moved here, we lived in the city in a nice, big house my dad built. He had a big

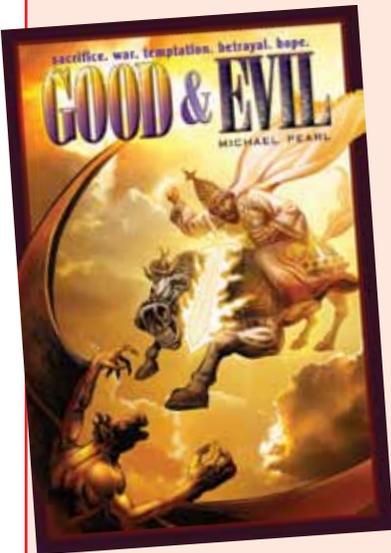
shop and a growing business as a cabinetmaker. But my dad saw himself getting busier and busier, and he wanted more for his family, and “more” wasn’t material things. My parents sold everything and moved to the country. For the first few months we lived in a 20- by 14-foot shack. Mom and my sister Rebekah washed our clothes in the creek. Mom cooked over a fire, and we ate way too much corn and cabbage. Dad cut the trees on our property and sawed them up on a sawmill he constructed, and then with that lumber, we built our house and barns and shop. In time we learned to farm the land. I didn’t know it at the time, but as I look

back I realize we were quite poor for a while. Our extended family thought we were crazy. “What sane man would put his family through all that? Who lives like that?”

My dad had a far-reaching vision. Now I can see that his plans included my children. My parents’ choices have now passed down to me and mine. Every day I thank God for his blessing on my children. I know that he was building a foundation for my family when I was yet a child. I can hear my children’s laughter and loud singing as they swing down at the herb garden. Thank you, God. Thank you, Mom and Dad. ☺

- Shalom

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From the Mailbox



Dear NGJ/Pearls,

My name is Sara. I love NGJ. Back to who I am, I'm 9. I am soooo for you all. At night I read my mom's NGJ magazine. I LOVE THE ONE ABOUT THE BACON GREASE. LOL. I live in Missouri. I live in the country. P.S. We have no TV or Internet so the magazine is how I communicate.
Sincerely, Sara D.



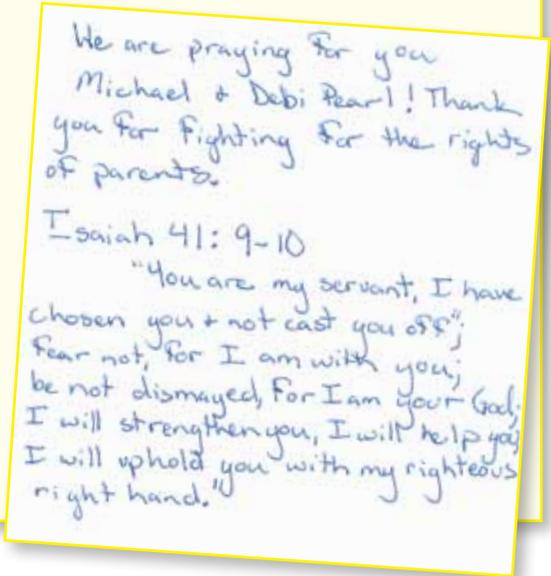
Dear Pearls,

My name is Becca. I like your magazines. They're good. I'm six. This is a picture of me.
Becca D.



The *Good and Evil* books are a wonderful tool in spreading God's word. We have seen its effectiveness especially with teenage boys. Since September of 2011 we have given or shipped to others to give over 1100 books in 7 different states, praise the LORD! There are two camp organizations that we will

be using *Good and Evil* this summer. How God will use it at the fairs and festivals is exciting just to think about. Please pray for each book that we have placed, that children and adults will be saved, encouraged in their walk and stimulated to share it and the message with others.



For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables. 2 TIMOTHY 4:3-4

GRAND GRANDPARENTS

By Michael Pearl

Nineteen grandkids are sometimes exhausting—wonderfully exhausting. I go to work and do physical labor to get some rest. God gave kids to young adults because they can stand up to the rigors of raising a family. But we grandparents have our own special place. We may tire and have to take a nap or send them home early, but for a time we are able to devote 100% of our attention and energy toward the little ones.

shelling and grinding corn or changing the water.

Another benefit of being a grandparent is that we don't have to see the kids at their worst—bored, hungry, tired. Nor do we bear the primary responsibility of training. They are pretty well trained by the time they are big enough to hang out with us. But we do have a great responsibility that falls to us entirely. We should guard against spoiling what the parents are trying to instill in their children. Grandparents can be a great blessing or a curse to their grandchildren. So I am going to give you the three laws of grandparenting.

1.) Always communicate great respect for the child's parents and deference toward their rules and manner of raising the kids.

There is a tendency in grandparents to compete for the affections of the kids by denigrating their parents. It is a subtle thing that those who are doing it would

deny. Satan denigrated God by asking Eve, "Yea, hath God said?" "Did your parents say that? Why would they say that?" The implication is that I, the grandparent, would never deny you something that would make you happy. Any attempt to embrace the children by loosing the embrace of the parents is an evil of great magnitude. It does not hurt the parents nearly as much as it does the children, for parents are God's surrogate potentates, representatives of all law and justice. To diminish respect for parents is to diminish respect for



Photo: Elizabeth Stewart

I will admit, when the grandkids are present I am useless for anything else. They make me run here and there and laugh until I am worn to a frazzle. I play music while they dance. I rig fishing poles, bait hooks, take fish off the line, and then clean them. We go for rides in the woods in my little buggy, read books, eat, go swimming, and I fall down exhausted while they turn to Mama Pearl for more excitement. She takes them to the garden or gets them involved doing house chores or taking care of the chickens—things like

authority. It makes rebels of the children while giving the grandparents a false and temporary sense of being special.

2.) Never say, “Now, don’t tell your parents.” It seems like an innocent bit of intrigue to develop a club-like atmosphere of “us and them”; it makes us appear to be a special group that maintains secrets from the rest of the world, especially overly-rigid parents who would deny pleasure to their children. But it is not innocent or harmless. It may be fun to the grandparents to form a secret club of junk-food eaters, TV watchers, or whatever with the children, but the expense to their character is too great. Secrets from authorities are lies, and rebellion breeds a worldview that says “live in pleasure regardless of what the authorities say, for they cannot be trusted to seek your best interest. And when the rules don’t suit you, just do as you please and keep it a secret from those in oversight.” As a child relates to his parents, so he relates to all authority, including God. If you loose a child from the moors of authority in order to tie them alongside your boat, the day will come when he will cut loose from all in the safe harbor and sail into a storm from which he will not return.

3.) Never second-guess the parents’ rules regarding food, dress, entertainment, etc. God gave the parents the responsibility of raising those kids. He gave you a rocking chair and lots of idle time. Don’t let your idle time become the devil’s workshop.

Never allow the children to violate the rules parents have set down. If they say no TV, that is final. If they say no playing with the neighbor kids, stand by it. If they say no climbing in trees or no bicycle riding on the sidewalk, then it is the law of the Medes and Persians. When we allow a dispensation of lax law, we communicate the concept that

law is arbitrary and capricious. We grandparents must be surrogate parents in the image of their own parents.

I remember as we raised our children, we tried to deny or severely limit their intake of junk food like candy bars and Cokes. But they loved to go to Grandma’s house because she kept the junk just for them. For a while we constantly griped about it, but we soon learned that it was a hopeless battle, so we resigned ourselves to allowing them to indulge while there. That was less harmful than their being aware of our contention with the “sweet” grandparents.

Now that I have assumed the role of grandparent, I understand what drove them. As soon as the smiling kids walk in the door, I want to delight them with a treat. It does purchase a lot of immediate good feelings. But our house never contains sweet pop or candy bars. If it did, I don’t see how I could resist lighting up their faces with a dose of toxins. Yes, we are better-informed than earlier generations, but the principle remains the same. Grandparents want to purchase praise and love. But the purchase must be within the rules the parents have set down.

We grandparents are only grand when we act grandly. We can be a great blessing to our children—allowing them a little time off, a night alone, a short honeymoon once a year, a break during the day, or a place for the kids to stay while Mama is screaming, “It hurts too much; this is the last baby I am going to have.” So lets perform our roles to the glory of God and the encouragement of the parents who alone bear the full responsibility for these children.

Personal note: Most of my grandkids are better trained than were my children. It is a deep pleasure to see them all faring so well. It is like reaping the sweet fruit of many years of labor. ☺



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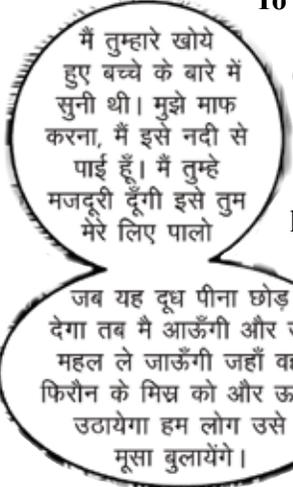
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Good and Evil UPDATE

By Chuck Joyner, Assistant General Manager



“To Know God and Make Him Known”



Most of our readers cannot understand the bubble text (left). But because of your ongoing support of NGJ and the *Good and Evil* Translation Project, it can now be understood by the over 250 million native speakers of Hindi plus the 165 million that speak Hindi as a second language. The languages that *Good and Evil* have already been translated into are spoken as a first language by over 3.65 billion people. That represents more than half of the world’s population of over 7 billion people. Millions more can understand these translations as their second language. That’s great news, but there is “the rest of the story.” Only about 500,000 combined copies of *Good and Evil* have been distributed worldwide.

That comes to only one copy per every 14,000 people in the world. As important and difficult as the initial translation work is, without printing the books, and without missionaries and nationals willing to distribute them, much of the work would be in vain.

Our ministry is not about numbers, but about presenting the gospel message of Jesus Christ to the souls that those numbers represent. Your donations and purchases are what make it possible for us to continue translating new languages and printing and distributing languages to a world without hope. You can donate to a new language, an existing language, the Translation Project, or general fund with confidence that it will be used for the advancement of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

For more information on how you can support the *Good and Evil* Translation Project or the other ministry projects, call or email Chuck at 931-593-3115 or cjoyner@nogreaterjoy.org. Donate online at shop.nogreaterjoy.org/donations.

Good and Evil Printing Report

Good and Evil has been printed in:

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

Finished / Looking for proofreaders:
Tibetan, Shan, Japanese

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

Ready to Print/Negotiating with Printers:

Punjabi (Pakistan), Castellano, 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), Pashtu (Afghanistan)

Negotiating with translators: Oriya, Tigrinya

Portions Printed: Mongolian, Sotho, Tsonga, Tswana

Please see the order form to donate to the *Good and Evil* project.

THE TORCH

By Mel Cohen, General Manager, CFP, RFC

How do you let your light shine?



This year's lighting of the Olympic Torch took place on May 10, 2012. The torch will travel through 1,019 cities covering about 8,000 miles in 70 days before it reaches its final destination in London. This year marks the 30th edition of the Summer Olympics which started in 1896. The plan is for 205 countries to participate in 300 events. All of this is fascinating, but it is only temporal. NGJ's goal is to see the light of God carried to all nations.

Jesus said, "You are the light of the world. Let your light so shine before men." How do you let your light shine? When parents communicate their faith and vision to their children, they are passing the lighted torch. As children observe their parents sharing the Word of God with others, hear them praying for the lost, and actually assist in passing out gospel literature, the next generation quickly learns to share the light of God.

Using gospel literature is a way of passing the torch. As in TJ's story, *How a Missionary Was Made* (page 22), it was a simple piece of literature that caused his family to seek to know God. It was old and dirty, yet the gospel message was still giving light long after the light giver (one who left the tract) had gone.

When you buy NGJ books, much of the money made from the sales goes to produce gospel literature for

prisoners and military, or for translations and printing for people groups that have little gospel message. Just by purchasing from NGJ you are being a missionary. When you make a donation to NGJ, all of it goes to your designated purpose.

Many families give to the *Good and Evil* translation project. When I see a note from a child who has sent their hard-earned dollars for this mission project I know that that child's parents are pouring into their children the heart of God for those who have never heard. The Bible says, "He that receiveth a prophet in the name of a prophet shall receive a prophet's reward." When you give to make it possible for the *Good and Evil* Bible Story to go into another language you are a missionary to that people group. Your torch is being passed to many.

Now with over 635 NGJ distributors in 14 countries, men and women are making available NGJ material. This family-based literature teaches fathers to turn their hearts toward their families and wives to honor their husbands, resulting in thousands of marriages being restored.

After 18 years of family ministry we are seeing the second generation of homeschoolers raising their children to be light-bearers. God's eternal light is traveling around the world lighting the hearts of men. This is eternal. ❖



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