



NGJ
ministries

SEPT - OCT 2012

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

*Two Shall
Become One*



JOIN US AT THE
BIG TEXAS SHINDIG!



No Greater Joy



The homeschool movement has turned into a homeschool marriage market. All over the nation and even the world there are thousands of girls in waiting, and young men are dragging their feet on the issue of how to know God's will in finding the right help meet. The upcoming **October Shindig** being held on the **ALERT** campus in Big Sandy, Texas, will be great fun and (I hope) an opportunity for the cream of the crop as well as their families to meet each other. After all, that is where the next generation is going to come from!

"Where are the men?" Shalom asks in her article. I say they had better be at **ALERT October 25-28!**

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For the last 25 years we have observed the grace of God on Tim and Rachel as they got married, came to the Lord and have raised their 5 children, two of which are now married with babies.

On the Cover 12 The NGJ Texas Shindig!

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NO GREATER JOY MINISTRIES, INC.

1000 Pearl Road • Pleasantville, TN 37033

www.nogreaterjoy.org

SEPT-OCT 2012
Volume 18 | Number 4
Printed in the USA

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Pearl grandkids off to the swimming hole

Respecting Your Little Ones

By Michael Pearl

Be careful to never betray their trust, to never be the source of consternation or fear.

It has been so long since I trained small children that I have forgotten many of the little details, but as I observe my children now training their little ones, I am reminded of the small things that make a big difference.

The other day I was down at the creek swimming with about eight or ten of the grandkids and their parents. Several of them are at that two- to four-year-old stage where

they are just learning to swim. The five- and six-year-olds try to be helpful in ways that are not always welcomed by the tots still fearful of getting in over their heads. I observed two different mothers tell a five- or six-year-old, “Do not do that if he doesn’t like it. When he says no, respect his rights.” It brought to mind how I related to my kids when they were learning to swim. I was careful to never betray their trust, to never be

the source of consternation or fear. If they wanted to “swim” the two feet from shore to my hands, I always provided that certainty of safety, never allowing them to become desperate. They always felt I was safe and trusted me to protect them. I see that the grandkids now view me the same way. If Big Papa takes them out into the deep water, he is going to protect them. If he says, “Jump,” he will be there to catch them.

Three weeks ago, two-year-old Parker didn’t even want to

stand close to the water. He is now confident in wading up to his neck. Next week he will be putting his face in the water, and by the end of the summer he will be trying to dog paddle. It is loads of fun to observe the progress of all twenty grandkids. As the swimming kids observe us parents and grandparents carefully protecting the rights of the little ones, they develop a respectful worldview of their own. More is caught than taught. *



Photo: Shoshanna Easling



Photo: Pat Cohen



Photos: Elizabeth Stewart



Photos: Shoshanna Easing

The Confidence to Try

By Michael Pearl

We are not going to always do and say the right thing at just the right moment, but there is one thing we can get right every time without fail...

Dear Mr. Pearl,

I read your book *Training Children to Be Strong in Spirit* and it made me wonder what is wrong with my children. Your kids seemed so excited about life. My children hang around the house and fuss about this or that. They do not want to go out on adventures. I hate to admit it but compared to your children, they seem insecure and afraid to try anything new. How can I get them enthusiastic about life?

- A Reader

Michael Answers:

One of the greatest disservices we can ever do to our children is to blunt their need to try. No parent would ever intentionally discourage a child from trying to perform better, but parents are just old kids who may not have learned much since the second grade. Lack of discernment is a natural state common to all. It takes years of redoing our failures to get smart about human nature—especially the delicate nature of children.

I remember my father with utmost fondness and pleasure. He



Photo: Elizabeth Stewart

was very wise and discerning, but I remember one of his goof-ups quite well. I must have been about fourteen years old when I decided to write a poem about a weeping willow tree. I sensed great romance in the name and appearance of the tree. I worked on my poem for a couple days, and when he asked what I was doing, I read part of it to him. He walked off, and in about an hour he returned and read to me the world's most brilliant and moving poem about a weeping willow tree. I felt strangely discouraged. I laid down my pen and was careful not to share my poems with him until I had finished them. Now I know why the willow tree wept: its father had blunted its need to try.

I tried to learn to play the violin in my old age. I enjoyed it and thought I was making great progress. My wife seemed well pleased. Then one day a young girl, about seventeen, was at the

If we provide opportunities and encouragement to launch out on the sea of investigation, they will know they deserve the praise, and it will encourage more risk taking, not less.

house and I played for her. Afterward she took my violin and produced music like I knew I never would. The violin didn't hold the same pleasure after that. My need to try was blunted by her excellent performance.

Don't send me your psychoanalyses. I am 66 and as stiff in my psyche as I am in my back. I didn't have to tell you these things about myself. I could have pretended to be above it all, but I want you to consider: if a fourteen-year-old boy who could whip a man in a wrestling match could be discouraged from writing poetry and a sixty-year-old



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man could be discouraged from learning a musical instrument, then what must it be like for our developing children?

Emotionally healthy children are filled with desire to do what adults do—to develop skills and become independent, contributing members of society. Their enthusiasm and inquisitiveness is unbounded. It is our responsibility to provide the context and the encouragement for them to succeed in fulfilling their dreams.

They are encouraged to try when we praise their efforts. But as they get past six or seven years old they begin to see through our empty “Good job, Gabriel!” and expect to be praised only when they have, in fact, done a good job. Studies have shown that children raised on empty “positive affirmation” are actually discouraged from trying harder because they fear that failure will result in loss of the regular unfounded praise. If they are praised for doing nothing, why take the risk of doing something at which they might fail? If we provide opportunities and encouragement to launch out on the sea of investigation, they will know they deserve the praise, and it will encourage more risk taking, not less.

We parents are not all wise and are not always attentive to the emotional needs of our children. We are not going to always do and say the right thing at just the right moment, but there is one thing we can get right every time without fail: we can delight to see our children enjoying the process of discovery. When they try and fail, we can tell them of our failures the first time around and assure them that if they keep trying, all things are possible. Praise their past effort and be enthusiastic about

their continued effort, but always link your praise to genuine effort and accomplishment.

I remember going to work with my daddy when I was only about ten years old, and upon meeting me, several people said something like, “So you’re the kid Ed is always bragging about?”

“I hear you’re a great artist.”

“I hear you can throw a knife like Tarzan.”

We are not going to always do and say the right thing at just the right moment, but there is one thing we can get right every time without fail: we can delight to see our children enjoying the process of discovery.

“I hear you’re quite a builder.”

“I hear you’re a Bible student.”

I remember being surprised the first time I met his friends at work and heard how he bragged on me. But it made me try harder to succeed in everything I did.

I bragged on my kids to others. I think my children always knew I thought they were the best. But it was not just empty words designed to manipulate their frame of reference. I actually stayed involved in their lives, teaching them to succeed at many things. They were willing to try new things, succeed or fail, because they felt good about their abilities to face difficulties and overcome.

The worst thing we can do is find fault or criticize when they think they did a good job. If the five-year-old washes the dishes and proudly presents you with the results, and you see he has made a mess of it,

don't dare let him see you redoing his failure.

The public schools of America are turning out children who are afraid to try. They expect someone else to take care of them and they retreat to social media and video games to live in a world of make-believe where they cannot experience the pain of failure. Thank God there are millions of homeschooled children in America who are growing up with confidence to climb the steepest grade and stand on the top, alone if necessary.

Kids thrive on positive attention, and when they become accustomed to pleasing you with their antics, they will also want to please you in every other way.

In regard to the letter, children will enjoy what you enjoy. You cannot SEND them out on a mission of discovery; you must TAKE them along on your safari. They delight

in what delights you. They learn by emulation.

If you don't want the cat trying to get in the house, always feed him outdoors and never pet him indoors. If you want your children to enjoy the great outdoors, then get rid of the indoor entertainment and organize outdoor activities that are creative and fun. Press the limit of their comfort zone and they will toughen up to the point of having boldness in the face of challenges.

I have observed my grandkids performing all kinds of antics until I stop watching and wander off. Then they follow me to see what I am going to do. Swinging on a rope with one hand is only fun if it produces lots of laughs and praise. Kids thrive on positive attention, and when they become accustomed to pleasing you with their antics, they will also want to please you in every other way. When they capture your face and eyes, you capture their hearts and wills. *

Family Resources



Training Children
to be Strong
in Spirit \$9.95



Jumping Ship
\$7.95



To Train Up a
Child
\$7.95



Photo: Elizabeth Stewart

My Mama Adores My Daddy

By Debi Pearl

The following was written 12 years ago when Amy (Amy's parents are on the cover) was four years old.

Four-year-old Amy said to me last Saturday, "Can I take a vitamin C to Trajan (two years old)?"

"Trajan is not here today. He did not come to work."

"Why?" Amy asked.

"Because today is Saturday, and Trajan does not come to work on Saturday. Does your daddy work on Saturday?"

"No, but sometimes he does. But it is terrible when he has to work because my mama likes him to be with her."

"Your mama really likes your daddy, huh?"

"Oh yes, my mama just adores my daddy. You know what I'm going to do when I grow up? I'm going to get married."

"Yep, and I bet you are going to adore your husband too."

"Yep, I sure will. Mama Deb, would you like to be my flower girl? Or will you be an old lady when I get married?"

Precepts, principles, studies, lectures, and good training cannot accomplish what example can. It starts with Mom and Dad being friends and lovers. ✱

NGJKids

Little Men Will Be Big Men

By Shalom Brand

Remember the story of David and Goliath how he took on the Philistine army. He was just a young man not trained to fight, but the Bible says that he was a mighty valiant man and prudent in matters. He was responsible for his father's sheep to keep them safe from any harm. When a lion and a bear came to eat his sheep he killed them. When the

king asked him to come and work, he did so without complaining. He played a harp and carried the king's armor. When the Philistines mocked God he stood up to them. Those around him, even his brothers told him not to fight Goliath, but he would not stand by while his God was mocked. David was a little man that grew up to be a big man. ✱



Scripture Memory Look up the verse below, fill in the missing words and memorize it!

Proverbs 20:11



Even _____ is known
by his _____, whether his _____
be _____, and whether it be _____.

Art Contest!

July-August Contest winners!



FIRST PLACE
Duke Neubecker
Age 6



FIRST PLACE
Annika Wolf
Age 8 1/2



FIRST PLACE
Garrett Streeter
Age 11

Next Contest! What do you want to be when you grow up? Draw yourself as you want to be when you are older!

Mail your entries early!

Go to Nogreaterjoy.org/magazine/coloring/ for details!

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BIG TEXAS SHINDIG

WHEN? October 25th - 28th

WHERE? ALERT Academy in Big Sandy, Texas

WHAT? 4 fun-filled days of teaching, on marriage and child training, visiting, testimonies, music, sports, activities, and family fun.

HOW MUCH? Seminar fee: \$19 per person or \$69 per family for the seminar (includes children under 21). For more information or to register online go to <http://ngj.me/shindig-details> or call 1-866-292-9936.

PLUS: Lodging and recreation fee: ALERT fees go to <http://ngj.me/shindig-details>





Let me give you my perspective on the Texas Shindig. My dad always said he started looking for what he wanted in a help meet when he was seven years old. I think he is serious. He teaches that isolating your children from other good families keeps them from developing a healthy hope in love. Because of this, he

was always taking our family to different events (he calls them different ponds full of more fish), so from an early age we could meet good-quality possible future mates. It worked.

I met my husband at a bash in New Mexico. It was an extreme sports event of climbing cliffs, caving, camping, and getting to know other like-minded believers who appreciated this lifestyle. As you can see in the picture, it was a smashing success.

My sister Shalom met her husband in Tennessee at a young men's mission conference where she was the cook. Nathan met Zephyr at a missionary conference in Texas. We didn't go spouse hunting, but we did go where potential spouses might be hanging out. You get the idea?

The Texas Shindig is for the entire family. The kids will be thrilled with Bible stories and games. Dad and Mom (Mike and Debi Pearl) will be teaching mamas and daddies how to rekindle their love for each other. Nathan and Shalom will be teaching those in the "searching and preparing" stage of life, and I will be teaching herbs classes. We have also invited a few special guests who will be speaking in their own areas of expertise. Mel from NGJ will be teaching on self-publishing and how to start a home-based business.

The Texas Shindig will be a joyful gathering of families growing in the grace of God, and will be an opportunity for your kids to meet their life partners. Bring the kids, your smile, and your musical instruments. We'll see you there!

-Shoshanna Easling





WHO'S TEACHING WHAT?

MICHAEL PEARL: Men & Marriage, and Winning the Hearts of Your Children, and Knife-throwing

DEBI PEARL: Women & Marriage

SHALOM PEARL BRAND: Young ladies, Preparing to Be a Bride

NATHAN PEARL: How to study the Word of God and Loving Your Woman, Young Men Searching

**SHOSHANNA PEARL
EASLING:** Herbs and Healing

JOSHUA STEELE: His Love Story... "Mail Order Bride", and Men of Honor

GREGG ROZEBOOM: Kids story, The Sin Robe & Love Story

MEL COHEN, CFP, RFC: How to Start a Home-based Business
How to Publish, Market and Distribute
Your Own Books

AND MORE....





Photos: Laura Newman Photography

COME SEE US AT THE **BIG TEXAS SHINDIG!**



Photo: Elizabeth Stewart

MUSIC GATE KEEPER Calling musicians! If you plan to perform, contact Aaron Aprile at aaprile@nogreaterjoy.org for details.

DRESS Conservative dress please! No uncovered thighs, tummies or cleavage.



ALL OF THE DETAILS

<http://ngj.me/shindig-details>

Lodging, Meal Plans and Activities are Available from ALERT.

For Lodging, Meal Plan or Activities call 903 636-2000 and ask for Camps and Conferences 9-5 M-F central time.

www.alertacademy.com/iaa/campsandconferences/housing



Photo: Laura Newman Photography

Where Are the Men When You Need One?

By Shalom (Pearl) Brand

The girls are ready, trained, and waiting for their man to come find them, but the men are not finding them. Why?

When I was a young woman, the older women were always teaching me and all the other young women what it meant to be a wife, a mother, and a God-honoring woman. As I have gotten older, traveled to many churches, and talked with families, I have seen one overall theme everywhere I go. There are young women walking with God, trained from childhood to serve God so that one day they will make the best wives and mothers possible. They are ready, trained, and waiting for their man to come find them, but the men are not finding them. Why?

These girls are told to wait: *He will find you . . . Stay home and help Mom with the kids . . . One day that perfect man will come along.* But then

he does not come and the girls become frustrated and, at times, impatient. The question I hear all the time is, “Where are the men?” Yes there are men, but few are real men—men who were raised to love God, work hard, and make good husbands and fathers. Why?

While mothers have been training their daughters to be good wives, many families stopped raising their sons to be *men*, instead producing overgrown *boys*. A large percentage of the boys/men over the last 30 years have been raised to serve the flesh. They were not raised to work; most are soft, sweet-talking, sissy boys. Some are cute and stylish, and silly girls think they are soooo good-looking. Other guys are backward,

clumsy, going-nowhere types, and very uncool. But they are the same lazy, self-pleasing, big boys.

It is a very sad truth and I am sorry for you girls out there. I am guilty of telling girls to be patient, that he will come, to just serve God and wait for him to bring a husband. But the truth is there just might not be a man out there that God thinks is worthy of you. As a single girl, you can serve God. But as a married woman, you are told to serve your husband so he can better serve God.

“There is difference *also* between a wife and a virgin. The unmarried woman careth for the things of the Lord, that she may be holy both in body and in spirit: but she that is married careth for the things of the world, how she may please *her* husband.” (1 Corinthians 7:34).

I know this is not what you want to hear, but God calls each of us to serve him first. For some of you it will be by serving your husband some day, but for others it might be serving God as a single girl. Start serving

the Lord, and if God sees fit to bring you a husband, serve him with just as much joy as you served God in your unmarried state.

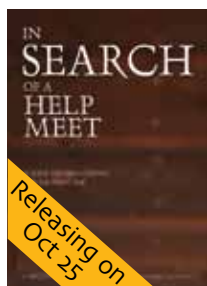
A Desperate Call to the Fathers Out There Raising Sons

Now as a mother with daughters, I would like to put out an appeal to all the families raising sons. Please teach them to work, love God, and be men—not big boys—so that when my daughters and other families’ daughters are grown, they can serve God through a God-fearing man. My husband and I are raising two little men of our own now. Parker is well on his way to being a man, and our new little one will soon be following in his footsteps. They say boys will be boys. I say *little men will be big men.* *

Tip for moms raising sons:

Create a chart with your sons chores on it. Instead of mom bossing him around all day telling him what to do, creating tension and stress; he can be a man completing his own responsibility.

Men’s Resources



In SEARCH
of a Help Meet
\$14.95



Created to NEED
a Help Meet
\$14.95



Only Men CD
\$7.95



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Are YOU My Fellow Laborer?

By Debi Pearl

Yesterday I walked into my garden. It has been almost three weeks since I had the time to even step into it except to pick a daily basket for dinner. The long, 100-plus-degree days had destroyed most of the locals' gardens. Mine, due to deep ground covering, was still lush and heavy with all manner of fruit, but it was also being swallowed up in morning glory vines—so much so that it was difficult to wade through. I considered just walking away from it; with Mike just home from the hospital, office work waiting, and my house and animals in need of care, the garden was just too much even to pick. But I bent my back and started filling boxes with tomatoes, pulling away vines as I went. After about 20 minutes, I was seeing the impossibility of my task, but then the Brooks' van pulled in. I had called their son, Isaiah, who has been Mike's young sidekick for over a year, to weed-eat this afternoon. I was so glad to see he had come, but then all the kids and Mama came into my fenced-in garden and began to work. With only a brief hi, everyone in this homesteading family—down to the four-year-old—bent down and began to weed, tie up huge pepper plants, and pick the vegetables. My eyes swam with tears; it was too wonderful to question. I just kept doing what needed to be done as they cheerfully labored beside me.

Just a short hour later I stood talking to Jennifer (Mama Brooks). I couldn't help but look back over my shoulder at my reclaimed garden. "You know," I told her, "I was almost ready to give up when you drove in. It would have been such a loss. I would have missed having my favorite part of the garden—the late autumn harvest—plus, I would have missed the fruit of my mid-summer work."

She just laughed and said something to the effect of "many hands and hearts make short work."

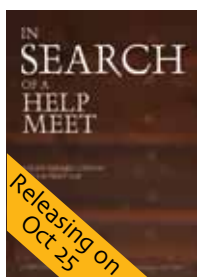
Suddenly I knew I had to tell you that No Greater Joy needs a helping hand. NGJ is in the late summer of ministry. It is loaded heavy with fruit, some even overgrown, and there is a need for many hands and hearts to finish harvesting and replanting the fall squash, broccoli, carrots, beets, and cabbages. Without you we grow weary. If we have made a difference in your life, then it is time you bent your back for the next generation.



Find us at:

www.facebook.com/NoGreaterJoyMinistries

Sweetheart Resources



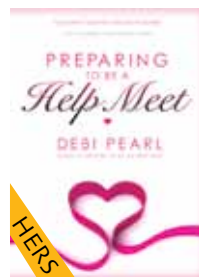
In SEARCH
of a Help Meet
\$14.95



Created to NEED
a Help Meet
\$14.95



Created to Be
His Help Meet
\$14.95



Preparing to Be
a Help Meet
\$19.95



Missed the Marriage Webinar? Watch the archive:
<http://ngj.me/marriage-mini-seminar-video>

How can you help?

Would you be willing to go to a homeschool meeting **or maybe even send your older children** in your stead? Take pamphlets or have a card that gives NGJ's web address and give a short appeal. Stand up and tell the new families that you were in their chair 10-plus years ago. Tell them that homeschooling is hard, but it is impossible without a working marriage and obedient children—that is the foundation on which success in homeschooling rests. Give testimony of how the teachings of NGJ saved your marriage and helped you enjoy and focus on your children. Challenge young families to get out their iPhones and sign up as you speak. Give out your email address (set up a new one for the occasion) and have them send you an email with their name and address while you are standing there talking to them. Be bold, aggressive; they need you to care enough to call them in. Also, make it a habit to regularly use Facebook to encourage young, struggling families and show them where to find help.

When you heard the NGJ message, our voice was only one of hundreds. Now we are one in hundreds of thousands, but most of the noise vying for the new homeschoolers' ears is just that—NOISE. If they are to hear from whence their Help cometh, it will be from you.

Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest. (Matthew 9:38)

From the Mailbox



Dear Debi,

I have read your Help Meet book a few times. Every time I read it I am blessed. I come from a family where my mom didn't honor my dad really at all. She always acted like he was a burden to her. She is a bitter, controlling woman. I have been married for 11 1/2 years. I got the Help Meet book about 9+ years ago. What a blessing to break the cycle of sin! I am so much like my mom, and it is only through the power of the Holy Spirit that I have changed. My husband is a pretty passive guy and it would be (and I'm sad to say sometimes is) easy for me to be my natural controlling self. Joe leads by example, and a Godly one at that. I have had to learn to submit to his leading by watching his example and not anticipate too many verbal directives. Anyway, I am writing to you to tell you about a recent blessing. We have terrible trouble with cars. I mean if we didn't have bad luck we would have no luck at all. A few weeks ago Joe's car went. Then within a week the car I usually drive had the alternator go. It was going to be really expensive and we just didn't have the money. We knew that God would have to provide because we couldn't see a way out. Joe said he thought he could do the work himself (I shudder). So he went and got the part. He started into it. I knew he needed help, but I really, really do NOT like to work on cars. However, this was now our only car and Joe would need it to go to work. So I went out and asked if there was anything I could do to help. Joe was pleasantly surprised to see my cheerful face offering to help. So, I spent the afternoon working on the car with Joe and blessing him. And wouldn't you know, we got it fixed, saved \$400, and got to spend the afternoon talking and flirting. So, you tell all those women out there to go get their hands dirty and bless their husbands. Thanks! J. M. PS~ That was not the first alternator I have help Joe install:)

Just wanted to tell you thanks . . . thanks a million to the Pearl family and NGJ staff. You feel like family although we've never met (can't wait to gab in heaven!) Your ministry has been such a blessing and encouragement to our home and even to my extended family. I don't know how to thank you enough for letting the Bible and it's truth shine . . . it's true about if Jesus is lifted up He will draw all men unto Him. Thank you for all you've done . . . the Lord has made our life so full and joyful thanks to your ministry.

I can think of nothing I want more than someone
to truly love me.

- From Preparing to Be a Help Meet



Photo: Elizabeth Stewart

Justin Miller, The Whacker, 19 years later.

A Generation Later

By Michael Pearl

It was about eighteen years ago that Deb and I wrote *To Train Up a Child*. It has sold about 750,000 copies in the United States. It has also been translated into 12 languages and printed and distributed worldwide. As you know, it is full of stories drawn from the church and community. The little Volleyball Bawler is now grown into a beautiful young woman, married and with a child of her own. She turned out to be an excellent human being.

You may remember the story of the little wrench-whacker whom my wife struck back and taught a lesson. He, too, is now grown and married with a child. He stopped by the house to chat not more than 20 minutes ago. He no longer whacks people with anything and is a most peaceable father.

I have thought about making an updated edition of *To Train Up a Child* and including pictures and testimonies of all the ornery little kids spoken of in the book. They are all grown and every

one of them is a great human being today. I see most of them regularly. I am now watching them train their children just as they were trained.

So I want to encourage you. If your kids are not perfect, if you have had some failure, if you occasionally feel like it is hopeless, that somehow you failed while everyone else is succeeding, know that “love covers a multitude of sins.” Kids are made of rubber. They bounce back if we don’t get frustrated and throw them away. Never allow yourself to get angry and despair. When you have done all you know to do and they are just not right, don’t spoil what is left by coming apart at the seams. Retreat to your quiet place, pray, relax, come out smiling, and give them a little time and a few more years to “see the light” and adjust their course. “Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it.” Proverbs 22:6 ✱

Mike's New Book Releasing October 25!

All single men are searching for that perfect woman. It is a drive as old as Adam when he named the animals. In today's world, finding that perfect woman is a difficult art, or maybe a far-out gamble, though it doesn't have to be that way.



Making a good choice starts with knowledge of your needs, and then you must know how to spot the gal who has your number. Choosing the type of woman who not only turns you on but also relates well to you is the key to a glorious marriage. Most guys never get past the concept of settling for the first (or second or third—or latest) girl that turns them on. Are you hearing me? Most guys don't have a clue as to what makes a woman tick and so have no idea of what to look for in a bride. For that matter, most young men don't know themselves well enough to know what they really need in a wife. For instance: Are you created in the image of God the Father, God

the Son, or the Holy Spirit? You don't know? You've never even thought about it? How, then, are you going to make a wise choice when choosing a life partner?

Making a good choice starts with knowledge of your needs, and then you must know how to spot the gal who has your number.

This is the most important decision you will ever make. The choice you make will influence your success in business and in life. So ask yourself, would you like to know what makes some marriages really, really good? Would you like to know before you take the plunge? If you have a dime's worth of brains, you will read this book.

In Search of a Help Meet, written by Michael Pearl, is a clear, focused plan for becoming the right man for the right lady, and choosing with your head, not just your heart. Michael and his wife, Debi, have been happily married since 1971 and have authored many blockbuster books on Christian love, child training, sex, and marriage. This one was written by a man to future husbands. ✱

In Search of a Help Meet – \$14.95
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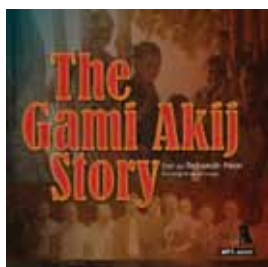
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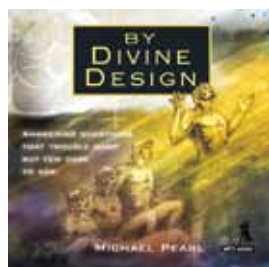
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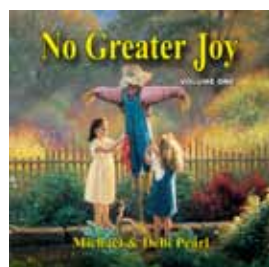
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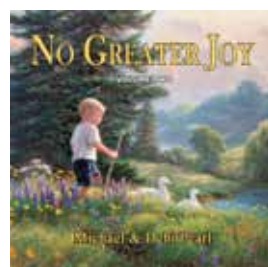
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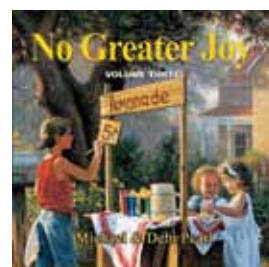
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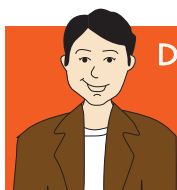
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Photo: Rachael Valet

Mommy, What's a Manifesto?

From Michael:

Way back in 1999 I wrote *Infant Manifesto*. This young family gave us the audio and pictures of their girls doing a dramatic reading of the script. We all had a big laugh. So here is their letter telling us about what they did. Your children will love hearing this 5-year-old and her big sisters do a really professional job reading.

Dear Pearls,

At our little home studio, as I was attempting to clean up some of the Pearl's ancient tapes, I came across the articles *Infant Manifesto* and *Infant Maniwhatso*. The flash of memories of the first time I read it made me giggle. It was if I was hearing little kid voices using all of these big words, and it made me laugh all day just imagining it. As soon as my husband got home

from work I rushed to read it to him and we both had a big laugh. The obviousness of the child training principles, along with Mike's sometimes obnoxious wit, was just what our family needed to really solidify some of the basic mindset of the need for consistency and what it looks like.

The obviousness of the child training principles, along with Mike's sometimes obnoxious wit, was just what our family needed...

With this memory fresh in my mind, I called my girls into the room and asked if any of them wanted to record a monologue. My girls were going to have some fun and learn some skills that a lot of adults will never have.

One at a time, the girls came into the little studio and climbed up onto the stool to speak into the microphone. They had to sit still so that their rustling around wasn't picked up in the recording. They had to enunciate their words, play the part of their character, and repeat the same phrase occasionally even fifteen times until they got it right. All of this, they had to do without getting nervous or embarrassed. My littlest one, whom we call Nomies, went first and after about forty minutes had to take a break. Her sister, Eden, then took her turn and did her whole article in one session. She just couldn't wait to hear it played. They watched as I showed them how to reassemble all of the phrases and lines so that it would sound, at least somewhat like it was a continuous speech. It really gave them an appreciation for what goes into a project. After a few hours *Infant Manifesto* was complete and all of our girls were in the office giggling to their heart's content (except for Eden who was laughing so hard one might think she was going to injure herself) as they listened to their voices over and over again.

After that, little Nomies reminded me about every half hour that she needed to do her next recording session. After all, her article was longer than her

big sister's. The next chance we got, we were back in the studio and she finished her article. In the first session she had become a little frustrated as she had to keep redoing lines, but this time she could barely contain her excitement. It took the rest of the day, and all the next morning before slow old mom had *Infant Maniwhatso* ready for her to hear. The technical knowledge and speaking confidence these girls learned this week will be with them for the rest of their lives, solidified by good old fashioned laughter and more new exciting projects.

Mike and Debi, we hope you enjoy our rendition of your articles, (we didn't exactly ask permission first) but really, it was worth it.

- Rachel Valet



Mikes article,
"Infant Manifesto":
<http://ngj.me/infants>



The Valet girls'
monologue:
<http://ngj.me/nfantsudio>

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Photo: Laura Newman Photography

Count Your Blessings

By Debi Pearl

God gave instruction concerning thankfulness over 3000 years ago. It is an important subject that is so easy to take for granted and even dismiss. He says, “Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name” Psalm 100:4. This ageless, wise advice has shaped the lives of millions. It is only in the last few years that secular health researchers have discovered that thankfulness makes us healthier and happier.

It was while I was sitting in the hospital waiting room, whittling away my time reading secular magazines, that I stumbled across several articles concerning this very subject. It appears that research now confirms that people who show gratitude are healthier, sleep better than their ungrateful peers, have better relationships, and generally have more productive lives.

Voilà! One such research test was done at the University of Manchester, England, where 401 people filled out questionnaires that rated their gratitude. The response showed those who scored highest in gratefulness slept longer and better than less-appreciative participants.

Thanksgiving is an outpouring of the very root of the soul. It is a reflection of the heart. It reveals peace. It is the presence of goodwill toward others. It is easy to understand how a person who goes to bed with negative thoughts will be too troubled to sleep well. As I thought about thanksgiving, the ramifications were endless. Thankfulness is key to honoring God, worshiping God, and serving God. It paves the road to a wholesome life, a restful life, a peaceful life—a happy life. Wow, how important such a simple thing as being thankful can

be! How easy to lose sight of this simple act, and it is an ACT of the will, something you CHOOSE.

Thankfulness is an act of the will. It is making a conscious decision that God is worthy and should be praised and thanked no matter what the circumstance. When we have that attitude toward God, we stop having a critical attitude toward others. We look at every event as an occasion for learning.

Have you ever felt like your life is just wasted? You are treading on unthankful waters. Expect to sink.

Have you ever just brooded and wished he wouldn't . . . ? Go easy, it sounds like a lack of gratitude is stealing your peace.

Would you like to see someone fail, really hit the floor? Hmmm . . . read on for SURE.

Thankfulness

Several years ago some old missionaries sent me a book they had written called *An Attitude of Gratitude*. What they lacked in ability in writing, they made up for in a life of thankfulness. As I read their story, it struck me how they found joy in the smallest things of life and covered a multitude of sorrow with thanksgiving. On the cover, their old faces were wrinkled with lines as they smiled at the camera. As I stared at their picture, I felt their thankfulness. I am sure it was and still is a sweet savor to God. I have often asked myself, is my life a reflection of that kind of gratitude?

Our natural bent is to be unthankful; most people go through life feeling unhappy, and this is an affront to God. It is a silent scream that we are dissatisfied or unthankful. It is a child's natural reaction to whine and gripe about his food, clothes, or any other thing he wants. To ignore this as an

ugly attitude that will pass is training him to dishonor God with a spirit of unthankfulness, and it is setting up his life to be one of discontent. But how can we train our children to be thankful if we, ourselves, live in that state?

When my oldest daughter was about 12 years old, I suddenly woke up to the fact that she lacked joy in her life. As a young mother, I wanted her to be happy, to thrive, and to find great contentment in creativity, but I had no idea how to make this happen. One day I was reading aloud Psalms 30:9–12 when I noticed my younger children dancing around with their hands in the air. I glanced down and read again,

Thankfulness is key to a wholesome life, a restful life, a peaceful life...a happy life.

“What profit is there in my blood, when I go down to the pit? Shall the dust praise thee? shall it declare thy truth? Hear, O LORD, and have mercy upon me: LORD, be thou my helper. Thou hast turned for me my mourning into dancing: thou hast put off my sackcloth, and girded me with gladness; To the end that my glory may sing praise to thee, and not be silent. O LORD my God, I will give thanks unto thee for ever.”

That day I set up a homeschool project for my daughter. She was to find all the words in the Bible that were connected with the word JOY. Over the next few weeks, her notebook was filled with verses on thanksgiving, dancing, laughter, sacrifice, and gladness. She taught me as she studied. What impressed me more than anything was the fact that thanksgiving was a sacrifice of praise and worship. Sacrifice—something I did that was



not a natural happening. The opposite would also stand true. Being down-in-the-mouth was unthankfulness, which would be an insult toward God. I have a naturally upbeat personality, but there were times when I was stressed and I immediately recognized it as what it was—unthankfulness.

So I ask myself, what is a source of stress or ingratitude in my life? Sometimes, it is a simple thing, such as being under too much pressure to perform—basically, too much to do with too little energy to see it through. Mike always says life is better if you organize and manage. Hiring a young girl to help homeschool, clean house, and cook helped me get focused on important issues. I traded vegetables with her mother because we didn't have money to spare for paying a helper. The results were wonderful. As my daughter continued her study on joy, I continued to search my life for ways I could dwell on thanksgiving. God began a work in both of us; really our whole family benefited from this study. The word of God was quick and powerful in our lives as we sought to honor God through being thankful.

Bitterness

For some people, the issue of unthankfulness runs much deeper. I must admit after all these years of

counseling that my first thought when I think of an unthankful person is that bitterness has taken root.

Bitterness is a very troublesome word and certainly a taxing state of mind. The worst thing about bitterness is that it is so catchy. It is like the pandemic flu that all health officials dread. Some people spend their whole life in a state of bitterness and never recognize it for what it is. They are just vexed in their souls about so-and-so or this-or-that.

Bitterness causes a person to perceive hurt. Hebrews 12:15 says, "Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled." God says look diligently because it takes real focus to avoid catching the flu of bitterness.

A young man is bitter at his parents, and he marries. Bitterness does not allow his brain to ever really rest. His mind is forever devising contrived conversations that will convince everyone how terribly he has been treated. These unsavory thoughts spill out, defiling those around him. It is sad how bitterness defiles whole families, following generation after generation. A mother who is bitter with her husband passes it along to her daughter and causes that young girl to be irritated and take offense, often blaming her hormones for her anger. Her life becomes one of being annoyed. Her husband walks on edge, wondering what will set her off. Or in many cases, it is the man who is mad at the world and makes his family miserable. Bitterness never stays put; it eventually spreads to taint how you react to your spouse, fellow worker or boss, and folks at church, and as you raise your children, you will become

bitter toward them and they you. They grow up viewing life through your bitter, ungrateful eyes. Sleep eludes the bitter soul. Restless nights give evidence of a troubled mind and an unthankful heart.

Don't let bitterness eat away all that is joyful and good in your life. Take a good look at yourself instead of looking at others, and declare war on unthankfulness.

God can do for you what he did for me. He is waiting to hear you say, what is it in my life that makes me unthankful?

His WORD is effectual. It is alive and working, able to change you as you study it. Open your Bible and do a study on joy or thankfulness. Look up every time the words appear, and list the words it is coupled with. Then

began to choose thankfulness—all day, every day. Practice saying thank you to God. When you feel sad, mad, depressed, or irritated, STOP and (out loud) thank God that he is able to change your heart and break this chain of unthankfulness.

*God says look diligently
because it takes real focus
to avoid catching the flu
of bitterness.*

Our lives are meant to be filled with joy, gladness, thankfulness, and rejoicing. It is praise to God for us to live our lives in this state. Anything less is . . . well, we will not go there. Enough said. Rejoice; and again I say, rejoice. *

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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**

Continuing to Make an Eternal Difference

By Chuck Joyner



THE FELMLEYS

Bearing Fruit in Africa

In 2006, the Felmley Family embarked on an adventure to translate and print *Good and Evil* in the Chichewa language for the people of Malawi (Africa). In 2010, their efforts and investments bore fruit when they printed 5,000 copies and began distribution in Malawi. NGJ advised them and provided technical support, but the Felmley's raised all of the finances and supervised the printing and distribution through their own contacts.

Biswick, a Malawi national, had this to say about the impact that the

Chichewa *Good and Evil* is having in Malawi.

“As for my experience on the impact of *Good and Evil*, this is what I can say:

- It has proved to be a great inspirational material to use for devotional purposes and for the growth in spirit and in Bible content.
- Some (i.e., Muslims) have confessed Jesus as Lord and Saviour.
- It is a material that is also rooting children in the faith of the risen Lord.
- It will also contribute to the promotion of the reading



culture (which is dying) among Malawians as many people like to read it and follow its story closely

- Great and small, rural and urban Malawians, educated and uneducated, rich and poor, Christians and non-Christians love to read *Good and Evil*.
- Primary school pupils, secondary, college and university students who have come across a copy of *Good and Evil* love to tell its story; the story of life and Joy in our Lord Jesus Christ of Nazareth.

Kind regards,
Biswick”

Now two years later the 5,000 books have been distributed and the Felmley’s have already raised the funds to print another 2,500 copies at \$2.99 each. Being a good steward, Kyle sought to negotiate a better deal (a tactic learned from NGJ’s General Manager, Mel Cohen). The printer offered to print an additional 2,500 copies at \$1.79 each making the total cost of the 5,000 copies less than \$12,000.

Your donation can help us, to help them make up the difference. There are over 15 million Malawians, most



Chichewa *Good and Evil* going into its second printing

whom have never heard the Gospel. Each copy of *Good and Evil* has the potential of transforming not only individuals, but families and villages. The souls that are redeemed through its distribution are the treasures stored in heaven of everyone involved in making it available to those that are lost and without hope.

Donate today and be a part of making an “eternal difference”!

You can read more about the beginning of the Felmley’s adventure in the online article, *A Regular Family Makes an Eternal Difference With Chichewa Good and Evil*.

Contact them at
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Good and Evil UPDATE

By Mel Cohen, CFP, RFC General Manager

"Go ye therefore, and teach all nations"

There are 33 languages of *Good and Evil* in different stages of completion on the computers of those that are working on the *Good and Evil* Translation Project. The staff is simultaneously working with a graphics team, translators, proofers, and editors, all before the book gets to the printer. At any one moment in time, the project coordinator is waiting on either translators or proofers to finish their work before the document can move on to the next phase of completion. In addition to these 33 languages, there are 20 more that have been started that have not had the initial portion return for proofing.

Rick Batson is our homegrown missionary in the Philippines (population 100 million plus). Rick has distributed over 11,000 Cebuano *Good and Evil* books. Cebuano is the first language of over 20 million people. Tagalog, also known as Filipino, is spoken as a first language by about a third of the Philippine population and by most of the rest as a second language. This is the language that our missionary is excited about getting,

since he has about a 6-month supply of Cebuano on hand and will receive the Tagalog version before he runs out of Cebuano. Between these two main languages, we will be able to minister to most of the 100 million people in the Philippines.

We want to present the gospel message of Jesus Christ to the lost souls of the world. Your donations and purchases are what make it possible for us to continue translating into new languages and printing and distributing to a world without hope. You can donate to a new language project, an existing language, the Translation Project, or the general fund with confidence that your money 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, the *Good and Evil* Animation Project, or the other NGJ ministry projects, call or email me at 931-593-2484 or mcohen@nogreaterjoy.org. Donate online at shop.nogreaterjoy.org/donations. Check out our website for the *Good and Evil* printing report.



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