



NGJ
ministries

MAR - APR 2013

Creative Kids

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



No Greater Joy



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The themes will be...

CHILD TRAINING, STRENGTHENING MARRIAGE,



THE



AND THE



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The Miller family of Cane Creek

Photo: Elizabeth Stewart

Only One Life

By Ben Sargent (life-long friend of the Pearls)

*“Only one life twill soon be past;
only what’s done for Christ will last.” C.T. Studd*

Man, it’s quiet around here. Deafening actually.

Mansquared, the baby of the family, left a week ago today for his first semester at a four-year college. He gained that moniker, Mansquared, from his big brother Firstborn because, well, he’s as strong as any two men multiplied. Firstborn’s a sizable fellow as well, just a tick under six-feet-five and an established military man. He finished his degree in political science and is

now improving the world by making us all safer, having just completed his second deployment in a faraway land. Two mighty men, almost ten years apart, who have kept their virtue. Oh, and we also raised three virtuous daughters as well, who, thankfully, look like their mother. Our eldest daughter Punkin’ and her husband Mr. Perfect are busy raising two sons with a third grandbaby on the way. As singles they both served the Lord as missionaries, and

did so again as a married couple. Our middle daughter Peaches is the family brainiac and an English fanatic (another trait she gained from her mother), who super-achieves in all she endeavors to accomplish, and who glorifies the Lord with her violin. And then there is Miss Gail. She is the family artist. Only God himself could give talent like she possesses from two parents who can't draw a box if you spot them the first three sides. She can draw a picture that looks like a photograph, or a caricature of it, too, if she's in the mood. All five children have honored the Lord in foreign missions as well as in the local assemblies where they have lived. And we couldn't be more pleased. As my friend Donny has said many, many times, "We didn't have 'em to keep 'em." But man, it's quiet around here.

We sure didn't have them to keep them. We just didn't realize that 28 years was going to go by so quickly or that the quiet would be so incredibly loud. The boys aren't playing their guitars, Peaches her violin, or Miss Gail the piano.

Punkin isn't directing traffic in the kitchen or challenging anyone to follow her on the next mission trip to... wherever. "The Lord will provide!" she would say, and sure enough, he would. No one is asking, "Daddy, what does it mean if your car..." There's just quiet.

"The wife hath not power of her own body, but the husband: and likewise also the husband hath not power of his own body, but the wife." 1 Corinthians 7:4

Too often this is where Mom and Dad look at one another and think to themselves, "Who on earth are you?" They raise kids until their tongues are hanging out from exhaustion and lose sight of each other. Even worse, they lose sight of their first ministry, which is to each other. 1 Corinthians 7:4 says, "The wife hath not power of her own body, but the husband: and likewise also the husband hath not power of his own body, but the wife." Serving one another and caring for one another can easily be lost if raising the kids



John & Terri at Cane Creek

Photo: Elizabeth Stewart



Photo: Laura Newman Photography

becomes the priority in the home. Worshipping God and honoring him should be the priority. When that is done, then Mom and Dad have the opportunity to rally together to bring up the children in the “...nurture and admonition of the Lord” (Ephesians 6:4).

Eighty percent of leadership is our personal example. We wanted our children to know we loved one another and that we were still in love. There was that and, well, we wanted to stay in love. We wanted to be like that couple we saw when we were traveling. We were young with all of our stair-step children. The couple was not young, but they held hands. And they matched colors. They looked at each other with their age spots through their watery eyes with utter adoration. As we

approached them with our little herd they stopped, looked up at us, and the old man said, “You’re so rich!” I said, “So are you, to still be in love.” The old lady proudly proclaimed, smiling, “We still work at it,” and I could see that was true.

So we worked at it—worked hard at times, and at others just enjoyed the fruits of our efforts. Our first night alone I said, “Well, we did it. We raised a family.” She put her head on my shoulder and said, “Dad, that was fast.” It was indeed. And now as the deafening quiet has set in (at least we can finally hear each other!) we look at one another with hearts broken from joy that we had such a wonderful privilege, but with equal joy that we got there together, in love. ~ Ben *



The Power of a Box

By Debi Pearl

My whole life of creativity, writing, art, homeschooling, and child training reflects those wonderful boxes of opportunity.

My father's extended family was not rich, but we were quite well off, so Christmas was a time of fashionable gifts. I really don't remember any of the many fine gifts, but I do remember the non-posh gifts from my Aunt Grapelle. I smile as I write this because I also have this clear memory of the rest of the family making light of her yearly gifts to me. Even as a young child I was outraged by their attitude and lack of appreciation; how could they think that her gifts were anything less than magical?

My Aunt Grapelle was a seamstress, and not just any

seamstress—she was a creative genius, and everyone knew it. She made dresses for balls, weddings, and all things spectacular. I thought she was wonderful and always looked for ways to please her. You would think by the way I speak of her she lived next door and was a vital part of my life; not so, I only saw her a few times each year, and then she was busy visiting with the other adults. But, oh my, every Christmas I knew what my gift would be from her. Each year she packed a large box of bits and pieces of silky and gauzy material that she had left over from her many sewing

projects. Ribbons and bows, snaps and buttons, and occasionally a piece of material large enough to make a baby-doll a dress—it all made Auntie’s gift thrilling. And to make it extra special, she always included needle and thread, scissors, pictures of ideas, and any other thing I might need to make my visit a time of creative wonder. Sometimes she

would slip away from the adults to find me sorting through the box, and she would give me simple instructions on how to make this or that. My whole life of creativity, writing, art, homeschooling, and child training reflects those wonderful boxes of opportunity.

~ Debi *



Missions Update: TJ

With great humbleness, my husband and I would like to say THANK YOU to all who gave to TJ and his family these last few weeks, months, and years. He has been so dedicated in his work for the Lord. He has been translating Scripture and various materials into an Asian language for almost 16 years. But even as TJ has been faithful in his commitment, God has been MORE faithful. TJ always knew that as long as he did his work, God would provide for his needs; and God has certainly used a great many of y’all to show that love and kindness.

He finally has a print shop, so that was a major milestone in his ministry. He can now purchase THREE vehicles and have some money to add much-needed shelter for his family on their little farm. They have a very small house and the children are sleeping in tents right now. (They still think it’s fun!) But monsoon season is coming and they would like to have some hard shelters built for them. They have one shelter almost finished and are waiting on funds for the second one. Two years ago they prayed

for a farm and God provided AGAIN. They have lots of people visit them on the weekends, some to get out of the city and somewhere quiet, some for the Christian fellowship, but mostly for both. They have two other families living with them on the farm, so that deters any thievery, but it also puts a burden on TJ to provide for them. He is responsible for at least 20 people at any given time.

So with tears of joy at the outpouring of support for TJ and his family, please remember him on a daily basis in prayer. Pray for their health. Pray for strength because they come under Satan’s attack so often. Pray for wisdom as he continues to translate the rest of the Bible and other materials into the local language. Pray that TJ and Kham can keep ministering to all the families and young men by their example of righteousness, joy, peace, and love that can only come from a true relationship with Christ. With great humility, we thank you again!

~ Tom & Kathy Slayman





Amish Coming to the Light

By Michael Pearl

The Spirit of God is moving and the words of God are finding lodging in good ground.

In the middle of January, Deb and I and our designated drivers and helpers drove up to Lancaster, Pennsylvania to speak at two different locations. An all-day seminar on Saturday took place in a theater that seated 640 people. They charged an admission fee of \$10 a seat to pay for the theater rental, yet every seat was filled and, sadly, some people were turned away. The Amish seemed to outnumber the “English,” as us outsiders are called. It was delightful to meet so many Amish who had been born

again, some from having listened to my audio messages, especially the book of Romans taught verse by verse. Their testimonies were all sprinkled with stories of persecution and banishment. Many had been shunned, losing their property and contact with family. The Amish do not allow anyone to come to God through Jesus Christ alone. They think there is one mediator between God and man—the Amish church.

Many who came to the meetings thought they would be the only ones attending. One woman whispered



to Deb, “I just had to come, but I couldn’t let any one know or they would put me in the ban. Then when I came through the door I saw all of the black-clothed people. Many of them I know, and they, too, would be banned if anyone found out, but they won’t tell on me and I won’t tell on them.”

On Sunday morning the theatre was again filled with Amish or previously banned Amish comprising a large part of the congregation. I preached the gospel as clearly as I have ever presented it. I heard testimony from several who were greatly moved to consider trusting in Jesus Christ alone. I do not offer them another church or an alternative to their chosen lifestyle. I seek no following and shun any who would tend in that direction. I offer them Jesus Christ in all his forgiveness



by faith alone without the works of the law, and it is a message that resonates with those bound up in dead works and man-made rules.

The gospel actually works to free men from guilt and empowers them to live holy in this life.

The gospel I preach, the one Paul preached, actually works to free men from guilt and empowers them to live holy in this life. This gospel works in the prisons where I preach. It works with a hitchhiker I pick up. It works on prostitutes and sodomites, dopeheads and murderers, to deliver them from sin and to birth



them into a new life of godliness. And it works on the Amish and Mennonites to free them from the fear of man and the bondage of a religion constructed on intimidation.

Sunday afternoon we drove to central Pennsylvania to conduct meetings Sunday and Monday night. A large number of the Amish, many of them members of the church in good standing, hired someone to drive them to the meetings. They sat shoulder to shoulder to hear the messages. Wow! That’s what I am talking about! The sense of responsibility and opportunity was

overwhelming. Souls hanging in the balance—that may have been the only opportunity they would ever have to hear the good news plain and simple. They were “plain people” and I had a plain message. The Spirit of God moved and the words of God found lodging in good ground.

If I had another life or the energy, I would go there and stay for weeks or months to share the good news. The harvest is ripe. Pray for the Amish and Mennonites that their eyes will be opened and the seed of the Word will bring forth fruit unto eternal life. ~ *Michael* *



Photo: HomesteadCommunityPost.com

New Audio: Gospel to the Amish!



by *Michael Pearl*

Also available for instant download at our web store:
<http://nogreaterjoy.org/shop>

In January of 2013 Michael preached the gospel of Jesus Christ to the Amish in Lancaster County Pennsylvania. These two messages are tailored to the needs of the Amish in particular. The first message is taken from the book of Romans and covers the subject of sin and imputed righteousness. The second message is part two and discusses the book of James concerning faith and works. Is a man justified by faith alone or by faith and works?

Gospel to the Amish
 1 MP3 CD - \$12.95

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Plain Talk/
 Amish Meeting
 (MP3 CD)
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Homesteading for
 Beginners #1 (DVD)
 \$19.95



Image: istockphoto.com

School Adventures

By Shalom Brand

*School is fun when you look at it as an adventure
in discovery and learning*

School time is never without some new adventure in the works, and this last week was no different. We were sitting around the table working on math when my nephew Jeremiah, who was looking out the window daydreaming, exclaimed that it was snowing. We all ran for the door, but to our disappointment, it was not snowing but sleeting. Snow and sleet are very rare where we live, so the children were too excited to continue with school as usual—if there is a usual. Gracie and Jeremiah wanted to go out and pick up the sleet, which they did. Seeing this as an opportunity to teach them something, I brought them back into the house and told them we were going to learn why it was sleeting and where it comes from. I started

by putting in an earth science DVD that my sister had brought over to share with us. They had watched this before, but it had not sunk in. It was about five minutes long, and the kids were amazed at how sleet froze in midair and hail was just tossed around before it fell to the ground. We then went to the computer and I opened the weather app and showed them how the different colors meant different things. They saw that we were in the sleeting color and that it was snowing north of us and raining south of us. We then went to the porch and looked at the thermometer to see how cold it was. We talked about the temperature and what it meant; they saw that it was above freezing right then. After this they *(story continues on page 14)*



Vampire Bats!

By Shalom Brand

“Whatsoever ye would that men should do to you,
do . . . to them.” Matthew 7:12

Be fair and always share.
Be kind and you will shine.
Be a dear and you will
always have friends near.
Being sweet is very neat.

Have you ever read about a vampire bat? It is a type of bat that lives in South America and has sharp little teeth. When I think of bats, I think about them being ugly little animals, and they are! But a vampire bat is kind and good to its bat family. If a mama bat dies, another mama will adopt the children and take care of them. A bat family stays together until the baby bats

are grown and make their own families. They can only live for two days without food or they will die. If one bat finds food and the other bat does not, then the one that found food will regurgitate some food to feed the other so it will not die. But if in the past the bat has been selfish and has not shared when there was a need, then the other bats will take note and not share with him if he is hungry. Even an ugly little bat knows that being selfish is wrong, and that if you want friends to be fair, then you, too, must share.

~ Shalom *

Art Contest!

January-February Contest winners!

The 9-year-olds really took the cake this time!



7st

▲ FIRST PLACE
Seth Brouger
Age 9



▲ FIRST PLACE
Ruth Peyton
Age 9

1st



7st

▲ FIRST PLACE
Joshua Shaw
Age 9

Next Contest:

Go to <http://ngj.me/coloring>
to get instructions for our next contest!



went outside to look at the sleet again and to bring in bowls full to examine.

It has been a week since that day. I just asked them questions about how sleet and snow are made, and they have not forgotten a thing. School is fun when you look at it as an adventure in discovery and learning.

We also have a science kit where we mix different elements to make dancing water or a colorful waterfall, or just watch red cabbage water turn blue when you add baking soda, or turn pink when you add citric acid, then turn clear again if you let it sit for a few days. It raises questions that they want answered. Questions are the root of all learning.

Last week we mixed baking soda and citric acid together to make carbon dioxide gas, and then we talked about it. Afterward the kids watched a ten-minute science show on the lungs and how we inhale oxygen and exhale carbon dioxide. Today as Jeremiah was doing school he was reading in his second-grade pace science book about fish and how they take the oxygen out of the water. He stopped reading and asked, "How do they get rid of the carbon dioxide?" So we stopped working

in the workbooks and went to the computer. With great excitement all five kids stood around me, and with the baby in my lap we looked it up on the computer. Soon we were learning all kinds of fun facts. The kids were interested and asked if they could make some more carbon dioxide. So back to the science kit we went. From my eight-year-old to my sister's two-year-old, we all sat around the table again and watched the baking soda and citric acid bubble and fizz. It is when children ask questions and we take the time to answer that they learn the most.

But some questions I am happy to leave for another day. Today as Jeremiah was reading his book on fish, out loud at the table, it said that fish lay their eggs in warm water when the days grow longer. Gracie, who was listening along as she did her school at the table, interrupted. "How do they make the babies? Are there daddies? Do they kiss under water?" Jeremiah excitedly jumped up and said, "Lets go look it up on the computer!" ~ *Shalom* *

Creativity Killers

- Don't patronize children by offering rewards for their creative labor, for it will steal their pleasure.
- Be careful not to make your child a nervous wreck by unconsciously setting up expectations of grandeur. Be practical in your expectations, and let his vision of what he can do grow with his abilities.

What Is Creativity and Is It Important?

By Debi Pearl

Creativity begins with imagination, conceiving a thing that is not but should be, and then taking steps to make it a reality. It is facing a problem and envisioning an original way to solve it satisfactorily. Creativity can be born of practical necessity or artistic expression, but it is something original—not done before, or not done in the same way.

Without creativity there would be no innovation, no progress, nothing new or different. Think of the tools and trades that never would have existed without creative thought. Man would remain in the Stone Age—no houses, cars, computers, planes, or even light. Disease would have no cure. There would be no music or storytelling.

Fact

From the perspective of CEOs, creativity is now the most-valued quality in a potential employee. In an IBM research study, about 60% of the CEOs polled cited creativity as the most important leadership quality.

Just a few years ago, operational efficiency was the yardstick of market success; today it is all about anticipating consumer demands. This translates into the insight to conceive of a heretofore-unknown product that meets a need, or at least a new way to market an old product.

Is Creativity an Inborn Gift?

Why are some people creative and others not so much? I have often heard people say, “Oh, I just wasn’t born with the gift for creativity. I

am better with numbers and facts.” This statement simply is not true. Researchers have found environment to be more important than heredity in influencing creativity, and a child’s creativity can be either strongly encouraged or discouraged by early experiences in life and in school—including homeschool.

Q?

Are you homeschooling your child in a way that cultivates creativity or that stifles it?

God is creative. We are the proof of that. Being in his image, it is our nature to create—to endlessly strive to come up with something that amazes and gratifies.

Creativity is associated with happiness and success in life. Creative people are interesting people; the lack thereof makes one a wallflower.

Photo: Lauren Brandt



Fact

In the world of business, studies prove there is a strong connection between trust, character, and creativity. Trust in a company, a family, and even in a government, unleashes creativity. The knowledge that we are all working to make a better life for everyone causes an individual to reach for greater ways to serve others. This environment of goodwill allows followers to take risk. Risk is associated with creativity. Where there is no scary risk, there is no creativity.

Are Your Children Creative?

Ask a group of eight-year-olds if they are creative and 95% of them will say, “Yes.” Ask twelve-year-olds and only 50% will say, “Yes.” By the time students finish school, only 5% say they are creative. The fact is we are all born with creativity, but it is pulled, wrenched, strangled, pried, screamed, and bored out of us by the time we are adults. Creativity can’t be tested, so it has generally been abandoned. Yet now, by questioning large numbers of successful people, it has become apparent that creativity is the key to their success.

Homeschooling began as a creative explosion that was pulling children from the ranks of sameness and giving them a vision of possibilities. Then came homeschool curriculum—same old, one-cover-fits-all books and tests. Then quietly, the homeschooler began to fall back into the line of uniformity. What a crying shame!

How Can We Unleash Creativity?

Every child is born to be an artist, a storyteller, an inventor, and an explorer. Expanding creativity in children takes place when we turn them loose and teach them to have grit, determination, perseverance, and belief in what they are doing. Adults have a tendency to want to

see the end of a thing, but creativity comes in bits and pieces. A creative person rarely sees the whole, only the piece he is touching at any given moment. Creativity can’t be hurried.

Anything rushed is just a stamped-out repeat, and is not part of creative genius.

Many years ago when I was in school, my art teacher made a dumb mistake. She had a class of gifted artists. She came to class one day and gave each of us three pieces of colored paper and told us to create a picture using those papers. She wanted us to be creative, but the idea she had in her head was just that—in her head. The three-colored project was a boring, frustrating experiment for the whole class. If the teacher had been wise, she would have shown us two or three examples of how an advertising company used three colors, and in doing so would



Photo: Lauren Brandt

Q?

Is your household structured to encourage creativity?



Photo: HomesteadCommunityPost.com

have unleashed a ton of creativity. The most powerful way to develop creativity in your children is by example—your example and the examples of what other people have done.

There is real pleasure in creativity. In studies, children who are allowed to be creative associate joy with making something new. Sometimes all a child needs to get started on a project is a good question. Instead of making a suggestion, ask a question: “Does this blue remind you of sky, water, or a pretty dress?”

You might notice a child staring at a pattern on the kitchen wallpaper, so you ask, “Do you see something? I think I see an alligator in that pattern.”

Homeschooling mamas are almost always in a hurry. Hurry and creativity cannot sit in the same seat. Stationing a baby or toddler in a puddle of warm sunshine that is pouring through the window, where he can stack blocks, paper, and various objects, is a simple, soothing, creative afternoon activity. Letting children play in the dirt, making roads, bridges, lakes, and buildings is creating the next generation of builders and makers. Sitting them in front of electronic media, even educational media, is

Creativity Killers

- When your children are involved in creativity, don't hover over them instructing them on how to improve their creations.
- If your child is making something, don't feel compelled to evaluate his project.

killing their genius and dumbing them down. Sitting them down with a stack of workbooks that bore them silly is creating silly. Consider this: Any project that they get involved in—whether it be music, painting, mud building, writing, storytelling, stacking, making tents, performing plays, making cameras, or whatever—that results in someone being able to say, “Wow, that is interesting. What are you going to do next?” is creativity.

Old School, New School

As children mature, creativity will begin to involve long-term projects. Songs that need hours of careful trial and error, poems, stories, articles, term papers, research, building projects, etc. can lead to frustration or despair without patience. Encouraging a budding



Photo: HomesteadCommunityPost.com

Q?

Are you so regimented in finishing school books that you leave no place for developing creativity, leaving your children to face a dull life, not becoming accomplished in business?

Fact

Creative individuals are naturally more unafraid of experimenting with new things. They think more about ideas and less about what people think of them, thus they are often less susceptible to peer pressure. Studies show creative people tend to be self-reliant and willing to go against conventional “wisdom.”



Photo: Laura Newman Photography

mind to persevere is critical. An important lesson in life that will be reflected in all areas of maturity and godliness is learning that life is work, and that rewards for greatness only come with time and energy. You don't immediately become an expert musician, artist, writer, or builder. Good things come to those who stick with it. This lesson could be called discipline: learning to harness your feelings and drives for the greater good of tomorrow.

Schoolbooks are set up for short-term accomplishment. “Finish your pages and then you will be through,” I have heard said a hundred times. The end of today's torment is near... yeah! This type of schooling does little to teach children the value of delaying gratification. School projects are a much better way of teaching, and they are certainly more conducive to developing good character.

In today's society, knowing how to research is a thousand times better than knowing facts. Information is now at our fingertips. We live in a different world than we did 25 years ago, yet homeschooling curriculums are developed in the old world of knowledge. Once, schools were the gatekeepers of knowledge and memorization was the key to success. We tested a child's ability to regurgitate facts and formulas.

That day is over. Yet even in the old-school program, children came home each evening to run and play, chase the wind, and build doghouses. There were hours of creativity that children don't experience today due to electronics.

I would that all children become tinkers and thinkers. If we are to remain a free, strong, and confident people, then this next generation needs to dream, create, work hard to make it happen, and then take the next risk. ~ *Debi* ✱



Creativity Killers

- So you're an adult and can show your child how to do it better—don't. Let him have the joy of discovery. It is much more valuable than the outcome.
- Please don't set up creative projects that suit your house-cleaning habits. Take the kids to the library and turn them loose on ideas. You might sit on the floor and look through “how-to” books with them. Let them come up with ideas they would like to try. You can coach but don't poach.



Photo: Elizabeth Stewart

Why?

By Michael Pearl

Q

- When I tell my 4-year-old son to do something, his first response is always, “Why?”

How should I deal with this issue?

A

- When a child is told to do something that he doesn’t want to do, he will often ask, “Why?”

In most cases the question is not prompted by a spirit of cooperative inquiry but by a spirit of independence and maybe even rebellion. The question is thrown at the parent as a challenge to his or her authority. A wise parent will know that the character of the child is better served if the question is left unanswered. The child should trust the wisdom



Photo: Elizabeth Stewart



Photo: Elizabeth Stewart

When he says, "Why?" it sounds as if he is saying, "I don't want to."

picked up the "why" habit from Mama challenging Daddy. You might want to change your style, now that you are raising children.

You can come to discern your child's heart by telling him to do something that he loves. If you say, "Let's go play ball," is his first response, "Why?" or is it, "Yeah!" If it is why, then you know it is just an ingrained habit that you need to help him break. Simply explain the problem and tell him that every

and good intentions of his parents. The child who is in fellowship with his parents doesn't demand a seat on the decision-making committee; his respect leads him to obey without



Photo: Lynne Hopwood

Photo: Lauren Brandt

challenging the wisdom of the authority.

Some children get in a habit of asking why. It is their first response to any command, popping out even when given a command to do something they would like to do. Maybe they



"Why?" will result in him doing five jumping jacks or something of that nature. The consequences are jovial but are something that helps him remember.

If his whys are only thrown out when he is told to do something he doesn't want to do, then explain to him that you don't want him

challenging you when you give an order, and that when he says, “Why?” it sounds as if he is saying, “I don’t want to.” Then make it clear that negative consequences will ensue when he challenges your authority. When you get the big “Why?” thrown at you, pause and punctuate the moment with a stare, and then require him to speak his obedience: “Yes, I will be glad to do as you say, and I am sorry for questioning you.” If the inclination to question you is deeply ingrained and he shows any lack of heart compliance, then you should follow with negative consequences like cleaning the kitchen floor or some other chore. If he drags around on the chore, expressing his lack of heart compliance, then give him three licks with the switching instrument of your choice and remind him that it is his attitude that is causing the extra work. As I have



Photo: Lauren Brandt

said many times, “Meet all negative behavior with negative consequences and the negative behavior will go away.”

There is an exception of which you need to be aware. A very few children have an insatiable desire to know why and how about everything. I had one of those little fellows and I fixed his “Why?” problem the first day I decided it was a problem. When he said, “Why?” I sat down and gave him a long, boring, drawn-out, logical adult reason that strained his patience to the limit. A little while later I told him to do something else and without thought he said, “Why?” I turned and immediately started another lengthy, academic explanation, but he stopped me mid-sentence, saying, “That’s okay, I already know.” The smart kids learn fast. ~ *Michael* *



Photo: Elizabeth Stewart



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The Well

By Debi Pearl

*Training means instructing a child
in how to master the issues of life*

1 I have very fond memories of my grandmother training me in the art of making biscuits. Teaching me seemed to make her happy. Each morning she would pull out the biscuit board drawer that was built into the cabinet. It was a board, like a table top, mounted like a drawer. It was always covered with flour. Once the board was extended she would mound two cups of flour on it. Then she would explain to me as she pushed a hole in the middle of the flour, “First make your well.” The well was just a hole in the middle of the pile of flour. To my young ears, calling the hole a “well” sounded so fine—mysterious-like. Into the well she dumped slightly warm lard, and then she added homemade

buttermilk. With her thumb and index finger, working only in the well, she worked the lard and buttermilk, gradually incorporating the flour until it formed a soft dough. She rolled the dough with a rolling pin a few times, and then patted it down to about half an inch thick. With her biscuit cutter she pressed out about ten biscuits. She always had a big black skillet with butter in it warming in the oven. Each biscuit would quickly be turned in the warmed butter before she added the next one. While they baked in her hot oven, I played with the leftover dough, learning how to cut out biscuits. I can clearly remember standing there, almost eye-level with the countertop, working with

the dough while drinking in the wonderful aroma of baking biscuits.

Her joy in helping was immeasurable; and more important, she was being trained to love working with her hands.

My grandmother trained me to make biscuits. She trained me to laugh while making biscuits. My mischievous streak was developed in that kitchen as I conferred with my grandmother in how we could scare Papa when he came in for breakfast. Ask my staff—I am well trained in making biscuits and in the art of scaring distracted office workers. I am the queen of “BOO!”

Oh, how dearly I loved my grandmother! As I look back, I know I must have left her floor covered with flour, yet she included me. I can’t remember a time I disobeyed my grandmother. I wanted to please her.

Today I sat at the kitchen table making guacamole out of 600 avocados. You read it correctly...600 avocados. A man in the church was able to buy a hundred boxes of avocados for a ridiculously low price.

I bought ten boxes from him. My daughter Shoshanna and 3-year-old granddaughter Penelope dropped by while I was in the middle of my green venture. Penelope didn’t hesitate a minute. She was up in my lap, and where once there were two hands working, suddenly there were four. She imitated my every move. It slowed me down considerably, and green goo plopped on the floor a few times, but her joy in helping was immeasurable; and more important, she was being trained to love to work with her hands. It was Proverbs 31—Training Class 101.



Photo: HomesteadCommunityPost.com

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

Many parents get so worked up over making their children be obedient in all things they forget that training doesn't mean discipline; it means instructing the child in how to master the issues of life. Training is the art of imparting skill sets and worldviews. Training a child in the way he should go involves taking a child by the hand and allowing him to be a part of your productive life. If you cook a meal and don't have your little girl standing beside you as you talk her through every step of the process, then you are NOT training her up to be a good cook. If you clean house, shop, sew, have a Bible study, or any number of productive activities and you don't involve your children, then you are not TRAINING UP your children in the way they should go.

God stated it correctly when he said, "Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it." When you train a child to enjoy cooking, she will always enjoy cooking. When you train up a child to work, he will

always enjoy the accomplishment of a job well done. When you train up a child to notice what needs to be done, to be on time, to be respectful, to work as a team, to use time wisely, and to put his shoulder to the plow, he will always be responsible and productive.

Training a child in the way he should go involves taking a child by the hand and allowing him to be a part of your productive life.

It is not a strange turn of events that one boy grows up to be lazy and another is a worker; that one woman is bitter and the other is full of joy; that one person is productive and the other expects others to pay his way; that one man is lustful and the other is self-disciplined; that one woman is emotionally crippled, and the other is wise and thoughtful.

Train up—not spank up or fuss up or even instruct up—it is TRAIN UP. Train her how to make biscuits. It starts with a well and results in a life well lived. ~ Debi *



Memories

By Michael Pearl

It was one of those special spring days that comes early in a late winter. The sun pulled everyone outdoors, and three families of grandkids herded the hillsides above our Tennessee farm. As Deb and I watched over several of the little ones, we could hear sticks breaking and last year's leaves rustling as a string of kids, all under eight, cut an excited path to where we stood looking over our soon-to-be-planted garden. Jeremiah exclaimed first, "Big Papa, Big Papa. You have to see this. It's a mystery!" His cousin Gracie joined in, "Way up in the woods, there is a name on a tree!" "Yeah, it's a secret place," Jocelyn breathlessly proclaimed.

Deb and I exchanged looks of pleasure as they urged us to come see. But then they pointed uphill. And I mean UP HILL—Middle Tennessee hill, the kind that gives hillbillies their name; only a billy goat would climb it. After hemmin' and hawin' I could see that they would have it no other way. We had to share their "secret place" and solve the "mystery" of the ancient writing on the tree.

Led by several running four-to seven-year-olds, I grabbed up a toddler and Deb scooped up a "sitter" and we headed out on a great adventure. When we passed Shalom's house, she, too, loaded her hip with another sitter, clinging like a little monkey, and fell in behind. After slipping and sliding and using small trees for handholds, we arrived at the old beech tree sitting on a point halfway up the ridge.

"There!" one of them pointed, "Somebody named Feb something. Who was that?" The carving was well above their heads and the years had stretched and distorted it, but it was still quite readable.

I read aloud, "February 22, 1991." And as I moved around the tree to the downhill side, now about eight feet above the eroded ridge side, I read the rest of the carving, "Gabriel Pearl." Jocelyn screamed, "Gabriel Pearl! That's my daddy!"

The mystery was solved, but she wanted an explanation. I said, "Let's see, that was two years after we moved here, and your daddy is now 37 years old; so that means he was 15 years old when he carved his name in that tree."

The wonder and awe were pervasive. It was one of those memories made when kids are discovering the "mysteries" that we overlook.

Seeing that Spring day through their eyes took me back to another time when my own children were young and it seemed that the best of life was yet to come. And come it did—so very fast. And, yes, it has been the best of times. Every year filled with wonderful memories, most forgotten until a grandkid discovers history carved in a tree.

~ Michael *



Photo: istockphoto.com

From the NGJ Archives



Emotional Manipulators

By Michael Pearl

Reprinted from the June 1995 issue of No Greater Joy.

What irritates the mother about her child is actually a developing character flaw in the child.

Just this week, a family was visiting us in the herb garden while their children played in the yard. The four-year-old girl seemed to be pouty and moody. For a while, she just watched the other children having fun, but didn't participate. She was the smallest and often couldn't keep up. After a time, making an attempt to chase after the others, she fell on the thick carpet of grass. She immediately began to scream as

if the goat were eating her favorite hat. At the same time, she was doing a stumbling, "pitiful" run to her mother. "Poor child." The mother, drawn by the desperate, defiant screams, did what all mothers are expected to do, she sympathetically rushed to her "wounded" child. The four-year-old psychologist was well aware that, with others looking on, the mother's reputation was at stake.

Though it was not outwardly

visible, I knew that the mother was irritated at her child. She didn't really feel sympathetic. She was probably thinking something like this: "What's wrong with the little brat now? She's such a crybaby. I know she is not really hurt. Why does she pretend to be?" And then the guilt feelings hit the mother and she lies to herself: "Oh well, she is just a little thing and even though there is no scratch or bruise, and the ground is not hard, maybe she is hurt."

The mother intuitively knows that what she is hearing is not a cry of pain, but of protest.

The mother intuitively knows that what she is hearing is not a cry of pain, but of protest. She can't sort out all these feelings and facts, so she pretends to be concerned. The mother's pretense and buried feelings are putting steam in the boiler that will later, in private, boil over into anger and irritability toward her child. The mother, in this situation, actually doesn't like her child. This causes her to feel inadequate because she knows that her attitude renders her unfit to properly mother her own child. The fact is, the thing that irritates and even disgusts the mother about her child is actually a developing character flaw in the child.

By the responses of the mother, this little girl has been trained to be an emotional manipulator. When she can not get her way, she will pretend to be hurt — or take a small hurt and make it into a big one. The mother will rush to the child and tell the other children to let her play or to not run off and leave her. This further compounds the sibling relationships

because the other children don't feel kindly toward a "crybaby" who forces limitations on their play.

When the child begins to scream her defiance or hurt, the mother should just ignore her. Don't be moved by it. Don't pick her up. Tell her that there is no reason to cry, so go away and play. If she demands treatment, ask her if it hurts. If she says yes, then reach in your purse, pull out a terrible tasting herbal potion and give her a spoon full. After she gets through gagging on her vitamin and mineral supplement, tell her that she is now completely healed and invite her to come back for another dose if she again gets hurt. If you don't have an herbal remedy, use something that is very unpleasant, yet good for the child — like apple cidar vinegar with garlic.

Don't laugh while she is looking. Remember, you are doctoring a serious attitude problem. Three doses is guaranteed to forever cure emotional manipulators and also prevent the development of future hypochondriacs. If crying and running to mom does not advance her own agenda over others, she will learn to make her own way and accept the normal unfairness and hardships of life. Everyone will like her better, including her own brothers, sisters and parents. Furthermore, she will be happier.

~ *Michael* *





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**

Carpathian Mountain Outreach

By Joshua Steele

*This year's CMO team is already being assembled,
and the call for laborers is going out.
Young man, will you join us?*

In the summer of 2005, I embarked on a ten-day backpacking trip with fellow missionary Nathan Day. Our objective was to visit villages located in the Carpathian Mountains of Western Ukraine and determine how to best reach those people with the gospel. The result of that trip was the birth of an annual outreach that has become one of our most effective and far-reaching. We call it simply Carpathian Mountain

Outreach, or CMO for short.

Our first CMO project took place in the summer of 2006. In addition to our full-time missionaries (Jessie Beal, Nathan Day, and me) we were joined by eight young men from the United States, including a father-son team. Together, we began making weekend trips into the mountains, showing Christian films, preaching the gospel, and inviting our audiences to enroll in Bible First,

our correspondence Bible course. On weekdays, we conducted large-scale literature campaigns in our base city of L'viv and other urban centers in the west.

The outcome of that first CMO project was far beyond our expectations. One after another, Ukrainians began requesting our



Photo: Joshua Steele

Hiking the Carpathian Mountains of Western Ukraine



Bible lessons, and our enrollment climbed quickly into the hundreds. The American men who assisted us received hands-on evangelism training and returned to the States with new vision. Several of them are now in ministry, and one even started his own correspondence course!

Each year, God has blessed us with outstanding groups of men who travel to Ukraine for one to two months at a time, assisting us in advancing God's kingdom in places that are truly gripped by spiritual darkness. Since 2006, our CMO teams have reached over 60 mountain villages with the gospel message. In addition, over 885,000 pieces of gospel literature have been distributed throughout L'viv, mountain villages, and other cities in Western Ukraine. As a result, we maintain an active enrollment of around 500 students in our Bible correspondence course.

This year's CMO team is already being assembled, and the call for laborers is going out. Young man,

will you join us? If you feel that God is directing you to respond to this opportunity, there are several steps you can take right now in order to prepare yourself for Carpathian Mountain Outreach.

1. Watch the new CMO movie. It will give you a much clearer understanding of the project.
<http://bit.ly/cmomovie>
2. Visit the CMO page on our website and download the 2013 Application and Info Pack.
<http://euroteamoutreach.org/cmomovie>
3. Apply for a U.S. passport if you don't have one already.
http://travel.state.gov/passport/passport_1738.html
4. If you have any questions, email me:
josh@euroteamoutreach.org

We look forward to serving with you in the harvest fields of Ukraine!

~ Joshua *



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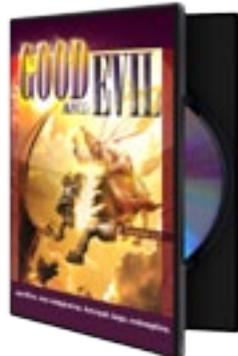
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Do You Know Where Your Children Are?

By Mel Cohen, CFP, RFC, RTRP, General Manager

Starting in May, NGJ will offer a service that lets parents filter what their kids see and send on mobile devices.

Can you always answer the familiar question “Do you know where your children are?” The question is no longer easy to answer, even if they are sitting just a few feet away. You can change that with a new NGJ service that will address the problems with kids and their phones. According to a new study from Nielsen, kids have gone mad with texting, data usage, and application downloads on their mobile devices. Nielsen analyzed the mobile data habits and surveyed more than 3,000 teens during April, May, and June of 2012. The numbers are staggering! Teen females sent an incredible 4,050

texts per month, while teen males send an average of 2,539 texts.

The primary reason parents provide their children cell phones is for safety! Yet parents have unknowingly put their children in harm’s way by not understanding the risks associated with these communication devices. The immaturity level of children means they do not ascertain threats or have enough discipline to limit usage, and most parents have no idea how dangerous unlimited access is.

Jesus said, “The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might

Parents have unknowingly put their children in harm's way by not understanding the risks associated with these communication devices.

have life, and that they might have it more abundantly” (John 10:10). Evil is walking through an open door (your child’s mobile device) and stealing children away with intent to destroy.

What Is the Solution?

Starting May 1, 2013, we will be providing a service that will allow you complete control of everything going into and out of your child’s mobile device. The service will provide parents the ability to:

- Manage up to 10 different devices, including phones and tablets.
- Locate your child remotely using his/her phone’s GPS.
- View calls and texting logs to make sure your kids are not talking to an unknown person.
- Restrict Internet surfing to only approved sites. For example, you may say no to specific websites with unsuitable themes, language, or pornography.

The service will also be enhanced over time, including features like:

- 24 hour tracking, which allows you to view a log showing where your child has been over the time frame of your choosing.
- Geo-fencing—setting rules based on geography. For example, if a child should be in school between 8 am and 4 pm and he/she leaves the protected area outside of the geo-fence, you will be notified via text message and email.
- Content filtering, allowing parents to restrict specific content across the Web, not just restrict specific sites.
- Support for additional mobile platforms.

In May the service will be made available free for 30 days with a simple download. The cost after the trial is \$49.95 per year, covering up to 10 phones or tablets per family. You pick the 10 devices you want to protect. For additional information or to get your free trial, contact us via email at info@mobilesafekids.org.

It is time to shut the door and lock it and to keep the thief from accessing a door leading directly to our children’s hearts and minds. “My son, let not them depart from thine eyes: keep sound wisdom and discretion” (Proverbs 3:21).

~ Mel *

“The thief cometh not,
but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy:
I am come that they might have life, and that
they might have it more abundantly.”

John 10:10

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