

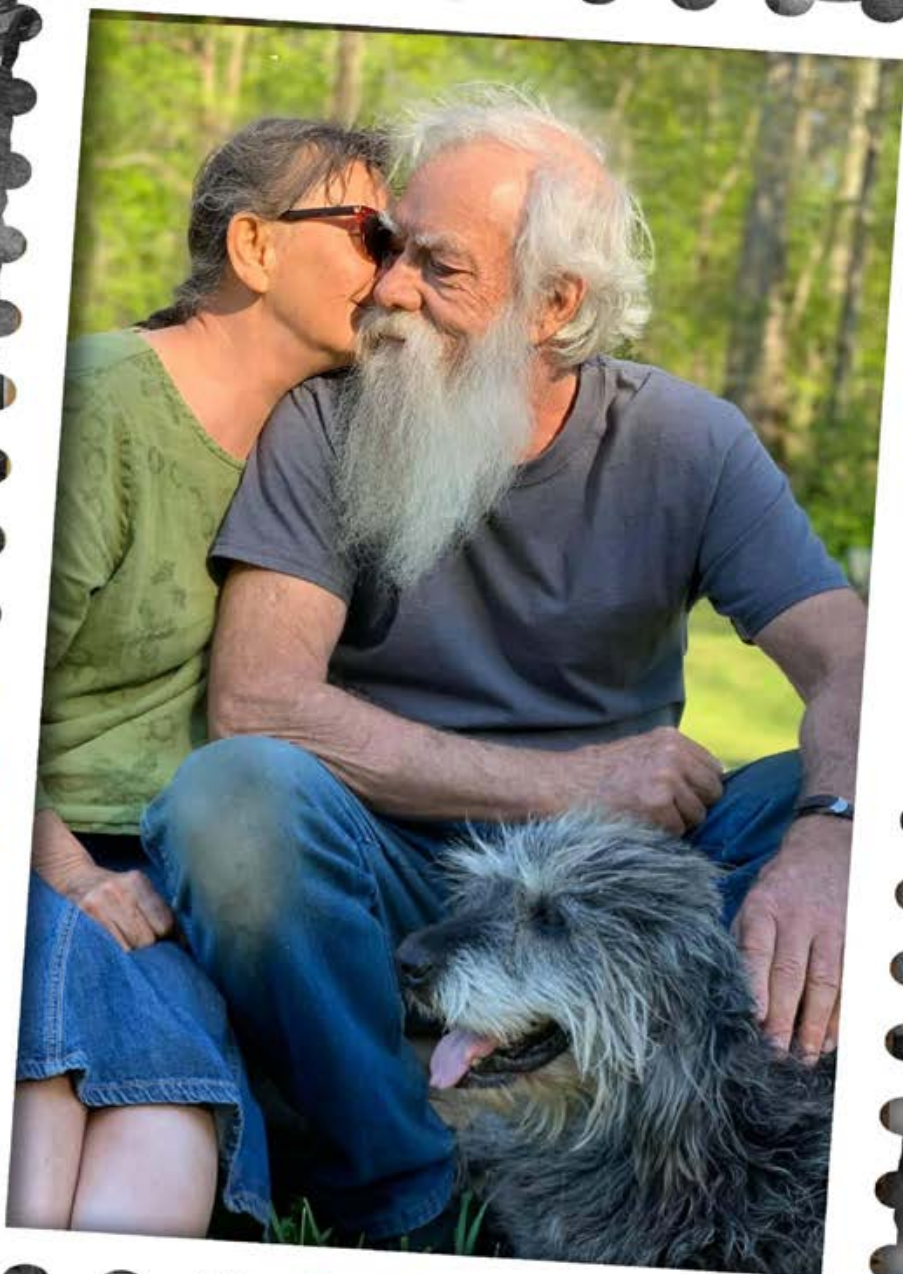


30 YEARS NO GREATER JOY

1994

2024

March - April 2024



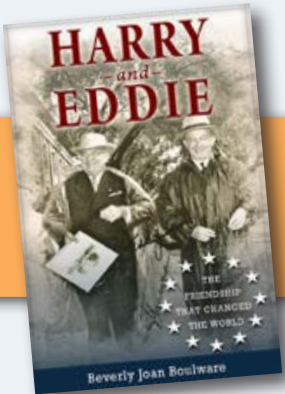
"I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth" (III John 4).

God loves Israel because he chose Father Abraham and his descendants, through Jacob, to be the eternal recipients of his grace as a means of revealing God to the world. God promises to bless those that bless Israel and curse those that curse Israel.

After two thousand years, God did several miraculous things to bring the Jews back to the Promised Land. Most people do not know how the creation and survival of the Jewish nation hinged entirely upon the profound friendship and mutual respect of two young men, one a Baptist and the other a Jew. It all started as they fought together in WWI. It sent chills up my spine when I read it. It is a miracle that needs telling, especially in light of what is happening in Israel today. I really want your children to know what God does behind the scenes to bring about his will.

A lady named Beverly Boulware told the story in her small book called *Harry and Eddie*. She is not a first-class writer, but her incredible story is truly first-class. It is based on first-hand knowledge from the old folks who lived to tell it. Clearly, it was a miracle that only God could have orchestrated.

We obtained copies of this book and are making them available to our readers.



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WHAT ARE YOUR RIGHTS AS A SPOUSE? | PART 2

Saying NO

by Michael Pearl

Saying “No” and Meaning It

In her book *Created to Be His Help Meet*, Deb did a great job of presenting the biblical role of a wife. Thousands of women testify to having transformed their marriages upon fulfilling their God-given role—the husband responding in kind. But at the time, we heard of only a few cases where the husband would take advantage of his wife’s willingness to submit and just run away with his adultery, pornography, perversions, or violence. Back then, it was the rare exception. But no longer. The last decade has seen a cataclysmic erosion of natural humanity. Reprobacy abounds. More and more men are coming to be “without natural affection” (Romans 1:31).

You might be asking, “Why would the couple who ‘wrote the book’ on wives submitting to their husbands now challenge the very

notion of it?” **Wives are commanded to submit to the spiritual headship of their husband, but nowhere is the husband granted the authority to submit his wife to himself, or to even assume submission on her part.** It is not a relationship like a king and his subjects. It is a relationship like a bleeding savior to the beloved for whom he gives his life.

Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it. (Ephesians 5:25)

*So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself. For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but **nourisheth and cherisheth** it, even as the Lord the church.* (Ephesians 5:28–29)

The biblical principle we have advocated is that submission voluntarily given is a precious gift of grace that should be received by the head of the house with humility. When

a wife makes herself vulnerable by submitting to her husband's headship, it should render her precious in his eyes—a sweet soul to be guarded and protected, even served. We have seen tens of thousands of testimonies to that effect. A cantankerous wife decides to obey God and honor her man. When he sees her Christ-like spirit, it reveals to him the ugliness of his abusive behavior, and, in time, he is humbled by the gesture and tamed like a thankful puppy. He then takes his place as the humble, cautious leader of the family.

The mark of this transformation is that in time he asks his wife for her opinion on family matters, and the marriage settles into a practical dual headship. In issues where there is not common agreement, after discussion and understanding, they both recognize he has the last say and bears the responsibility of his decision. When she disagrees, after stating her case, she follows his lead even it makes her unhappy at the time. Of that large number where the husband is sincere but misguided, I assure you that most of the time when a wife displays a calm, cooperative spirit, it disarms him and allows him to see himself and make amends, resulting in a functional, satisfying marriage. The marriage comes to be a reflection of Christ, the humble savior, to the church whom he purchased with his own blood, and he now leads the family to the Promised Land. See *Created to Be His Help Meet*.

But there are husbands of whom there is no hope that they will ever fulfill their role as savior of their

wife. They cannot hear the truth (John 8:43–45). They are “reprobate concerning the faith” (2 Timothy 3:8).

In my previous article, I addressed the question: “What are your rights as a spouse?” This treatise is made necessary by a cascading trend revealed in the many letters we receive and discussions taking place on social media. To frame this second part, I quote the first paragraph of the previous article:

*“What are your rights as a spouse?
Answer: All the rights of a human being. You didn't forfeit any of your human rights when you married. Your God-endowed humanity is unalienable; which is to say, your personal dignity and liberty can never be conveyed to another—even when by all measures it appears so. One may forcibly subjugate another, and one may yield control to a bullyman (or woman), but that does not convey human rights to the controller. When you married you did not lose your humanity, your autonomy, your dignity, your rights to your body and mind. Neither the husband nor the wife has the right to physically, emotionally, or spiritually dominate the other. A spouse that intimidates or manipulates their ‘less significant’ other into subjection is a merciless, selfish bully, expressing the opposite of love.”*

I am not going to address the full gamut of abuse suffered by both husbands and wives, just the most common in Christian circles—abuse of wives justified by perverted Bible doctrine. It is all too common for

emotionally and physically abused wives to reveal they have suffered in silence for many years, believing it is their duty as Christians to obey their husband “in all things”—regardless. And abusive husbands reinforce this notion by regularly quoting Bible passages, such as:

Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as it is fit in the Lord. (Colossians 3:18)

Likewise, ye wives, be in subjection to your own husbands . . . (1 Peter 3:1)

When a selfish son of Adam employs intimidation and constraint to force his wife into submission, he is no longer in the role of Christ; he is sharing an office with Satan. Tyrannical men read, “wives submit yourselves unto your own husbands . . .” and then decide what they want that to mean. This is personal with us, having happened close to home.

The telltale characteristic of inappropriate husband dominance is his desire for his actions to not be publicly known. Think about it; if he is fulfilling his godly role as head of his wife, why keep it a secret? Shouldn't he be proud for people to know how he is constraining her to do what she ought? The telltale sign of a bamboozled wife is that she doesn't tell anyone how she unjustly suffers. Acts of light need not be clothed in darkness.

NOW TO THE HEART OF THIS ARTICLE

We have come to see that there are intolerable situations that a woman cannot resolve by changing herself. Many women are coming to realize

that their husband is an unregenerate sex pervert, sadist, child abuser, or psychopath. There are things a woman should not tolerate. She cannot correct them by being a “good wife.” When a porn addict demands anal sex, or practices some form of perverted abuse, or any unnamed deviant and degrading acts, she should know that he is no longer the Christ figure she should obey. She should just say “No, I am worth more than that.” Do not follow him down the dark path to depravity. Wives should obey their husbands in all things “as unto the Lord,” not as unto the devil.

Sometimes it is physical abuse. One woman wrote that her husband occasionally got angry and hit her. Deb told her to stop protecting him. Tell him, “No more; I will call the law; you will go to jail.” Deb said, “Tell his mother. Tell the church. Tell everybody.” She stood up to him and announced it was over; he would never hit her again. He was devastated when she confronted him, and confessed that he was raised that way and felt it was normal. From that day forward he stopped hitting her and expressed his regret. She saved her body and her marriage. But it doesn't always work out so well.

To the woman married to a demoniac, you stand on the threshold of the rest of your life. There are three ways this can go.

I. YOU CAN CONTINUE AS IS, suffering abuse for the rest of your life, pretending to family, church leaders, and friends that all is well. You will become a sour old lady having never

been cherished. In time your marriage will probably end in divorce.

2. YOU CAN ASSERT YOUR HUMAN RIGHT to not be abused or degraded. He may see himself in the mirror of your emphatic response and repent. Or, he may divorce you. *“But if the unbelieving depart, let him depart. A brother or a sister is not under bondage in such cases: but God hath called us to peace”* (1 Corinthians 7:15). But know that most of the men out there looking for a cast-off wife are also cast off for reasons that could be worse than the former.

3. YOU CAN STOP STRIVING, lay down your bitterness, and decide you are going to be the woman of God and the ideal wife, regardless of what he does. In so doing you will realize one of two outcomes. First, accept the possibility that he may never change, but you will reap great reward, akin to that of a martyr, in heaven. Second, the more likely outcome, he will be converted to become the man of the house that you always dreamed of. He may not be perfect, but he will come to cherish you. The Word of God advocates this third option.

I know that some rebellious Jezebels are happy to read what I am writing. They are looking for biblical justification for their pre-notions about their independence and autonomy. They resent the very concept of submitting to anyone for anything. When I try to swing the pendulum back to a balance, they squeeze into the vacuum and find support for their rebellion. I have

come to realize that there is no cure for willful rebellion—which is as the sin of witchcraft (1 Samuel 15:23). So a word of caution is necessary.

If your husband is unreasonable and causes you misery, you have grounds to deny him but not grounds to leave him. If, due to your incompatibility, you find the relationship personally intolerable, and you think you would be happier without him, then know that the Bible commands you to remain unmarried for the rest of your life. Also, if you dissolve a marriage with the intention of changing partners, upon re-marrying you commit adultery (1 Corinthians 7:10–16; Matthew 5:32; 19:9; Mark 10:11–12). However, if your husband abandons you, divorces you, or commits fornication, you are free to divorce and remarry (1 Corinthians 7:15; 1 Corinthians 7:27–28 with 1 Corinthians 7:2, 9).

The sin of fornication, which is grounds for divorce and remarriage, is a much broader category of sexual sin than is adultery. Note the distinction in Galatians 5:19. Sodomizing is not adultery, but it is fornication, as is cross dressing, same sex erotic expressions, pedophilia, and the such like—too numerous and degrading to name.

I know I have not addressed the subject fully. If you have a doctrinal question, leave a comment, and I will address the pertinent issues in the next magazine. ■

If you have been divorced, justifiably or not, and are confused as to your marital status, get my book *The Bible on Divorce and Remarriage*.



MR. *Visionary*

(PROPHET - HOLY SPIRIT)

by Karen Sargent

*"And God said, Let us make man in
our image, after our likeness:..."*
Genesis 1:26a

*T*his morning I was reading in the book of Joshua where Israel was going to fight against Ai.

Joshua sent a couple of guys out to spy on Ai and see how big the city was, how many men were there, and basically how much of a fight it was going to be. The spies came back and said, full of confidence, "It's no big deal. Don't send everybody, just two or three thousand. We won't have any trouble taking them out."

So Joshua sent three thousand men, and the short story is that Israel got their behinds handed to them and wound up running like scared babies. There was more to the story (which you can read in Joshua 6-8), but the spies totally underestimated what it would take to beat Ai.

In the margin of my Bible I have written "2 weeks, 700 bucks," and if you've spent any time with my family, you've heard us say this, laughing.

If my husband is nothing else, he is confident. I'm not sure where he got

all this self-assurance, but he has it in spades, way more than one man should. He has been like this as long as I've known him, which is more than two-thirds of his life. Aside from the moment we met and he forgot his name, I have almost never seen him unsure of himself. He can do anything—just ask him.

When we were first married and about to have our first baby, we had only one car, which Ben drove as a field service technician, fixing bank computers all over upper-east Tennessee. He decided I should have a car too, but field service didn't pay a lot back then and we were on a serious *budget*.

So Ben found a 1976 Ford Thunderbird that had some, um, issues. He decided the best way to fix all the issues would be to rebuild the motor. I had never heard of this, having come from a family that calls a mechanic when the car doesn't work. I was doubtful and expressed my doubts to him. He replied with his now-famous line, "Two weeks, seven hundred bucks. No problem."

We have photos of our first child in a rolling walker (remember those?) in the driveway watching his daddy tear this car apart and put it back together again. It spent many more than two weeks in the driveway with a sheet of plastic over the engine compartment, the hood lying in the grass.

In his defense, Ben worked very hard on the project, but these things always come with unforeseens, don't they?

Six months and many more bucks

later, my beautiful T-bird sort of ran. If you stopped at a light, you had to keep one foot on the brake and one on the gas to keep it going. If you slowed down too quickly, it stalled. It would cough and choke itself to the grocery store, but it was a little more than I could handle. Call me a princess, but I like my cars to run smoothly. I can't handle panic at a busy intersection with an infant in the back seat. My driving issues started young.

After moving to New Jersey and then back to upper-east Tennessee, dragging the Bird both ways, it was parked behind a friend's warehouse until Ben could find time (and more bucks) to fix it, when it was mercifully stolen, never to be seen again. May it rest in peace. Amen.

Somehow that did not dampen Ben's confidence in the least.

Years later when we were an enlisted Navy family with five children and on the brink of starving (we actually qualified for WIC and food stamps, thank you Jimmy Carter), Ben told a gal at work he could remodel her bathroom for her and save her a lot of money. When he informed me of this new project, I said, "You don't know how to lay tile . . ." and he answered, "I'll figure it out."

On someone else's bathroom. With the tile someone else has bought and is paying you to install.

Now you know where my stress comes from.

Then there was the bunker on six acres we bought in the backwoods of middle Tennessee that we were

going to turn into a house. It was 1200 square feet, constructed of concrete block, reinforced with rebar and poured solid, set into a hill so that all you could see was the front, which was one continuous bank of windows so you could see the "gubmint" coming and get a good shot, and I am not even kidding. That was the intended purpose of this property.

What on earth? I have been told by Ben and others that my greatest reward in heaven will be for holding it together through all of these life experiences. You, too, can have them: just marry a visionary and never say no.

Believe it or not, that bunker did eventually become a 3-bedroom, 2-bath ranch after we hired a guy with a backhoe to dig it out around three sides, then completely gutted and rebuilt it.

We won't talk about the scorpions and brown tarantulas and the toilet that sat a full 6 inches out from the wall. It was functional, and we actually had some fun there. Then we moved away and sold it to a widow, after which a tree fell across it and put it out of its misery.

Years later we lived in a house with a lot of pine trees, and there was one dead one in the back yard that Ben decided should come down. So we all backed up to watch the proceedings. There is not much Ben loves more than cutting down trees.

When I voiced my concern about where the tree would fall, Ben stepped back with his chain saw and asked, "Where do you want it to go?"

I looked around and answered, pointing, "Right across that pampas grass."

He said, "Okay," and went to work cutting a notch. The tree fell right down the middle of the pampas grass and I had to be impressed. This was the same chunk of pampas grass Ben had tried to burn up by setting his pants on fire, but that's another story for another day. Never tell the man he can't get a fire going

after a hurricane when everything in twelve states is soaked from all the rain. He will prove you wrong.

Then came the infamous cow conversation wherein I protested that we knew nothing about cows and what was he thinking, wanting to raise them for beef? I may have actually called him crazy, which I think he deserved much earlier in our marriage but I could write a whole book explaining why I never said it before this. His reply of, “You put them in the field and they eat grass. How hard can it be?” will go down in the annals of history.

You would think by now Ben’s confidence would be slightly tempered by age and experience, but at 62 he decided the last (ha) big project of his life would be building a dream house for his wife. Please believe me when I say I did not ask for this. I know better. But there we were on that sunny March day, when family and friends so graciously showed up to frame our house in one week.

While we were taking a break for

lunch one day, our friend Jerry (who had just finished building his own house six months prior but who was smart enough to do it while he still had all his children at home to help) asked Ben, “When do you think you’ll be in it?”

Ben replied with all the confidence of a 20-year-old professional house-builder, “We’ll be in it in six months.”

Jerry raised an eyebrow and asked, “So, have you ever built a house before?” and Ben answered with “Pfft,” and walked away.

Sixteen months later we moved our belongings into our somewhat unfinished house and here we are. I would not say the experience has broken Ben, but at almost 64, he has begun to admit—at least privately—that he has limitations. That doesn’t mean he listens to them, but at least he acknowledges they exist. It’s progress, right?

Finally, I share this quote for every wife of a visionary out there: ■

**“YOU GAIN STRENGTH, COURAGE AND
CONFIDENCE BY EVERY EXPERIENCE IN WHICH
YOU REALLY STOP TO LOOK FEAR IN THE FACE.
YOU ARE ABLE TO SAY TO YOURSELF, 'I HAVE
LIVED THROUGH THIS HORROR. I CAN TAKE THE
NEXT THING THAT COMES ALONG.' YOU MUST DO
THE THING YOU THINK YOU CANNOT DO.”**

—ELEANOR ROOSEVELT

You can read more of Karen’s writing at www.karensargent.com.
Subscribe for free to receive every newsletter straight to your inbox.



MR. *Steady*

(PRIEST - JESUS)

"And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth."

John 1:14

by Jeff Vowell

Since I am new to these pages, it behooves me to introduce myself. My name is Jeff Vowell. Debi and Mike often refer to me as Jeffro, a nickname from 50 years ago. Debi and I grew up together when she was still Debi Smith. In fact, my father was one of her high school teachers. I have a very funny story about Debi and my father's "board of education," but that's a tale for another time!

In our senior year of high school, Debi invited me to a shindig at Southside Baptist Church that proved to be my undoing as a phony-baloney, goody-two-shoes, so-called "Christian" who grew up in the Baptist church. I reluctantly agreed to come, and when I did, I ended up hearing Mike preach a message that cut through me like a knife. For the first time, I saw that my goodness, my church membership, my being from a good family didn't amount to a hill of beans in God's economy. His standard was the absolute sinless perfection of his only Son, Jesus Christ, and what

he had accomplished FOR me on the cross. That night, for the first time in my life, I quit trusting in the wrong thing and started trusting in the only ONE who could get me to heaven and present me acceptable

future mother-in-law, Melba Morris, who would later become my spiritual mother and mentor. They were there with the local children's ministry, Child Evangelism Fellowship. Linda and her family also

If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God

before God the Father. That night, with real understanding I called upon the Lord to save me and be MY Savior and my only hope, and he did just that.

That started a huge chain reaction. First the direction of my music began to change. Before I got saved, I had wanted to get into rock music, but now that desire was gone. I ended up joining the church where Mike was pastor and soon became immersed in intensive Bible study. As I grew in the Lord, I got involved with the Christian music ministry called *The Scarlet Thread*.

I first met my wife when *The Scarlet Thread* was set up at the Mid-South Fair in Memphis, Tennessee. We had a big, old, converted U.S. Mail van that had a stage extending off the side from which we would perform and Mike would preach. I was doing some equipment prep on the edge of the stage, when suddenly the cutest little gal came sauntering by with the prettiest blue eyes I had ever seen!

"Well, hello there!" I said. The conversation didn't last very long. As it turned out, Linda (the beauty's name) was there with her mom, my

attended Southside Baptist, so it was pretty easy to follow-up. It was several years (11 to be exact) before we married but true love prevailed!

The Enlightening

I began to learn some very valuable spiritual lessons when I got married. Here's one of the first, one that applies to ALL men.

Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them [your wives] according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered. (1 Peter 3:7)

Here's the thing that God showed me from this verse: when I got married, there were some things (a LOT of things actually) that I did not KNOW about my wife, about marriage, about emotions, about relationships in general, etc. In other words, AS A MAN, there are some things that I need to KNOW, that I need to learn, that I need to gain knowledge of and acquire wisdom in. It is a problem that most men fail to recognize, and if they DO recognize it and seek God for help (*If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God,*

that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him. James 1:5), God will provide. And, for me, he certainly did.

Now, it wasn't instantaneous, which, of course, is true of all relationships. Growth in a marriage takes time, and some of that growth can even be painful. We struggled through learning to communicate with one another.

I am thankful to God that my dear wife did not see my hesitancy in communicating as a refusal to communicate, but rather a longing to communicate that simply needed to be nurtured. In the end, her Steady Man became her CALM in the storm (she often referred to me that way, the one who calmed her down). But in the beginning? Oh boy . . . Katie bar the door! I may have been a Steady Man, but Linda was NOT my steady counterpart. No sir-ree! If she had been a man, she would have definitely been a Command Man through and through! A regular General Pattonette! Now don't get me wrong; she was a sweetheart in many ways. Of course, I was not a perfect angel either.

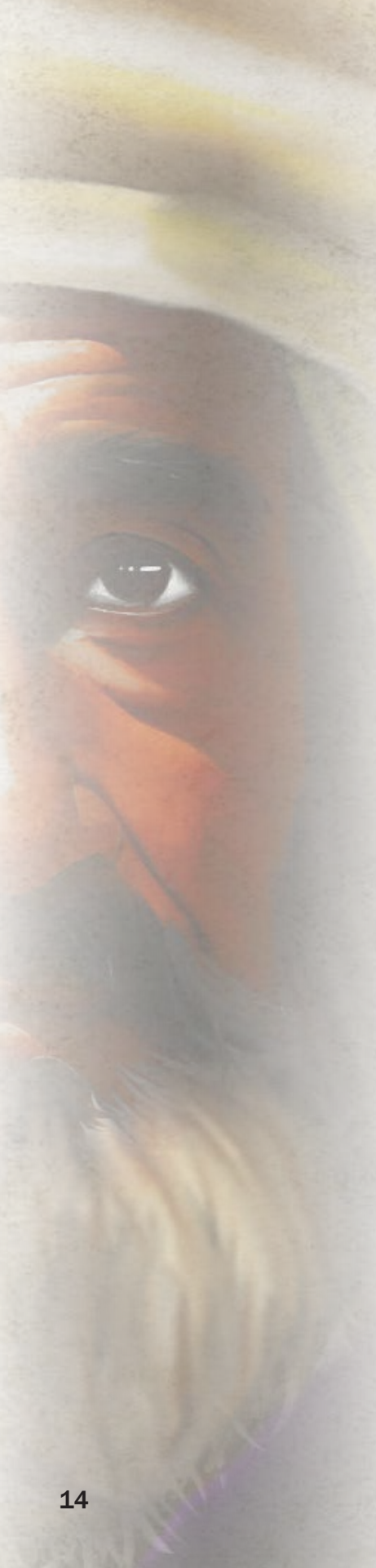
I remember one time in Walmart balking at the idea of buying a couple of fish for the aquarium . . . a couple of measly fish! Oh, you don't think she hit the roof over that? This Steady Man had to learn to bend a little on the finances. Two fish . . . c'mon, man. And then there was the time I tried consolidating her February 13th birthday and Valentine's Day. I needed my "Get Out of Jail Free" card again! And I could

be such a procrastinator too. I had purchased a huge bunch of timbers for the yard to go around our above-ground pool but left them languishing in the backyard. I never heard the end of it! Now, I know she probably shouldn't have given me grief over it (the generalissimo in her had taken over), but I had definitely fallen down on the job. Did I finally do the job? Of course, but I learned that it is much to my advantage to do the task sooner rather than LATER. Believe it or not, it is still something this Steady Man struggles with.

I Could Shine

I did have my good points when I could shine. If there was something she knew she couldn't handle or was just too tired or emotionally drained to deal with, she would look to me as her bulwark, her "man for all seasons." That time came soon and with a greater vengeance than either of us could have expected.

Linda was a wonderful wife and mother, a gifted high school teacher and talented pianist. But all that would come crashing down around her when a debilitating illness slowly robbed her of those abilities. She was only 43 years old when she had to quit teaching and was officially declared disabled. She chafed against that, and I tried to keep her calm. Soon her health began to affect her piano playing and even her ability to teach her Sunday school class. Her world began closing in around her. I knew more than ever that she needed me to be her rock in the midst of a terrible physical



storm! I witnessed my wife go through one of the most severe trials of a person's will and faith that anyone would ever be called upon to go through. As a Steady Man, it was easier for me to do all I could to encourage and minister to my wife's needs. God knew she would need me, and I am thankful I was there for her.

In the spring of 2013, I retired early from my job with FedEx so I could be with her 24/7. Our remaining ten years together were bittersweet, fraught with medical upheaval and uncertainty. But underneath it all was still the calm assurance of Romans 8:28, *"And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose,"* even though it was a hard pill to swallow. Linda, with tears in her eyes, would often look over to me and say while in the midst of great pain, *"You keep me so calm!"* And I would reach over and take her hand and tell her how much I loved her. Or, on many occasions, I would simply kneel in front of her chair and reach my arms around her and hold her, reassuring her of my love, telling her it would all be okay, while her tears wet the back of my neck.

Her disease took its toll, and my priestly role as Steady Man was coming to an end. My heavenly Father was calling my sweet darling home.

Linny and I had been married just shy of 42 years when God took her home. It had been a long battle for both of us. When death finally came for Linny, it came as a blessed relief and release. Her struggle was finally at an end. No more tears, no more pain, no more days of abject discouragement and depression. She was now at peace, finally, truly home. We do not sorrow as those that have no hope. I know I will see her again. Until then, I want to share with you what she taught me.

What Linny Taught Me

My childhood was good and full of many wonderful memories, but we were never a very emotional family. We were never given to shows of great affection—hugging or saying, “I love you.” That ALL changed when I got married! Again, it took some time, but slowly, in measured steps, she began to draw me out of my shell and reveal the side of me that had always been there. Now, I didn’t become some overwrought, emotional freak show; rather, I just learned to mete out my emotions with a bit more regularity than I might have otherwise considered previously prudent. In other words, I learned to be the best I could be emotionally, which meant from a balanced, whole perspective.

In the end, I like how Debi recapped it in her book *Created to Be His Help Meet*. In Chapter 8, in

finalizing her talk on the Steady Man, she says the following:

“A man who is created steady brings peace and safety to a woman’s soul. Your husband’s gentleness is not a weakness, it is his strength. Your husband’s hesitation is not indecision, it is cautious wisdom. Your husband’s lack of deep spiritual conversation is not a lack of caring, it is simply the cap on a mountain of intense emotions.”

One thing that developed in my relationship with my wife (as a Steady Man) was a more expressive side of my emotional being. I knew it was always there and it often came out in the music I wrote.

One poem in particular that I wrote for my wife perfectly illustrates this point while underscoring the whole aspect of the Steady Man’s seemingly hidden emotional qualities. It is unabashedly a love poem: ■

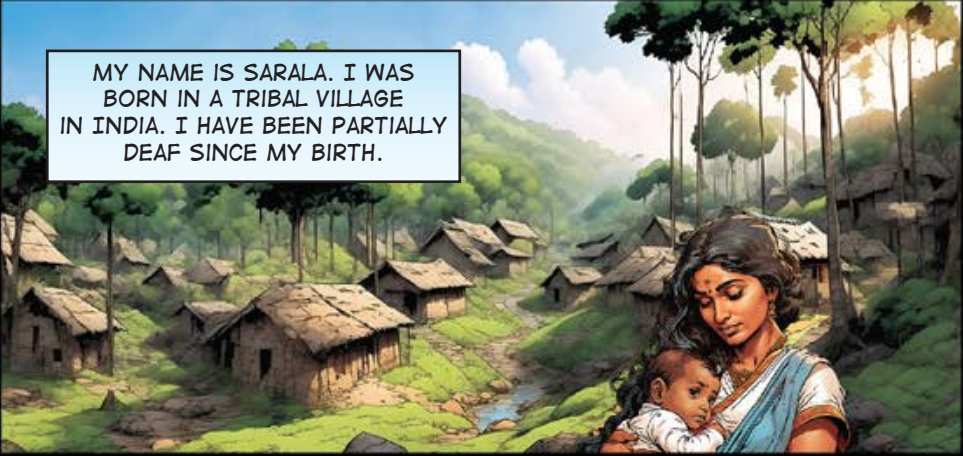
Ode to Linda

*Roses are red—a passionate hue,
Reminding me of my passion for you.
Though not as apparent as feelings should be,
That passion exists, nonetheless, in me.
It ebbs and it flows, yet still it resides—
A stream underground, whose strength the earth hides.
Though fountain above, an ocean beneath
Supplies that small fountain an endless bequeath
Of water so pure, brought forth so to gladden
The heart of my lady, ne’ermore to be saddened.*


UNWANTED, UNLOVED, & ASHAMED

A TRUE STORY OF TRIUMPH


* SEE INSERT BETWEEN PAGES 20 & 21 FOR MORE INFO



MY NAME IS SARALA. I WAS BORN IN A TRIBAL VILLAGE IN INDIA. I HAVE BEEN PARTIALLY DEAF SINCE MY BIRTH.



MY PARENTS TOOK ME TO MANY DOCTORS, AND SPENT ALL THEIR MONEY ON MY TREATMENT, THEY EVEN SOLD THEIR HOUSE AND LAND. BUT NONE OF THE TREATMENTS HAVE HELPED ME HEAR.



I AM SORRY, THERE IS NO MORE I CAN DO, YOUR DAUGHTER WILL NEVER BE ABLE TO HEAR.

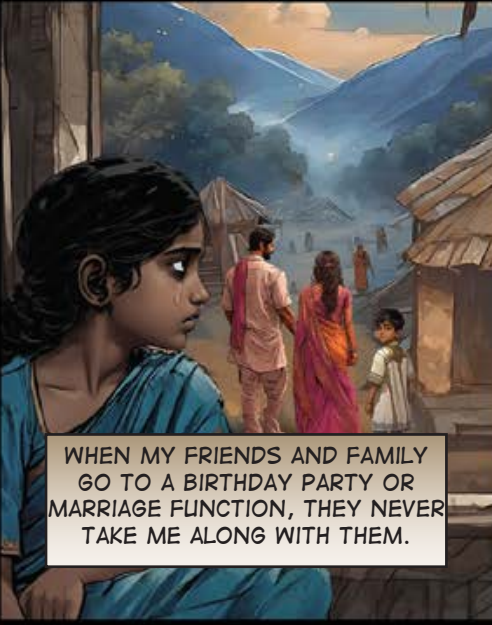
IT WAS VERY DIFFICULT FOR ME GOING TO SCHOOL, THE OTHER CHILDREN CALLED ME DEAF AND NONE OF THEM WOULD TALK TO ME. EVEN MY OWN BROTHER IGNORED ME.



THERE'S THE DEAF GIRL.

I WONDER IF SHE KNOWS HOW STUPID SHE IS?

ALL OF MY FREINDS COULD DRESS UP NICELY, BUT I COULDN'T DO THAT. I WAS TOTALLY DEPRESSED AND COULD NOT BE LIKE A NORMAL GIRL.



WHEN MY FRIENDS AND FAMILY GO TO A BIRTHDAY PARTY OR MARRIAGE FUNCTION, THEY NEVER TAKE ME ALONG WITH THEM.



IF MY NEIGHBORS WANT TO TALK TO ME, THEY USE SIGN LANGUAGE TO COMMUNICATE.

YOU CAN TALK TO ME, I CAN UNDERSTAND.

HA HA HA! YOU SAD LITTLE DEAF GIRL, YOU ARE TOO DUMB TO HEAR US.



ONE DAY MY MOTHER WAS GOING OUT...

SARALA, PLEASE WATCH THE RICE FOR ME, I WILL BE BACK SOON.

BUT I COULDN'T HEAR HER...



...AND WHEN SHE RETURNED, THE RICE WAS BURNT.

SARALA! YOU LET THE RICE BURN!



I'M SORRY! I DIDN'T HEAR.



MY MOTHER WAS SO ANGRY SHE BEAT ME.

YOU ARE GOOD FOR NOTHING! YOU ARE ONLY CAPABLE OF BEGGING!

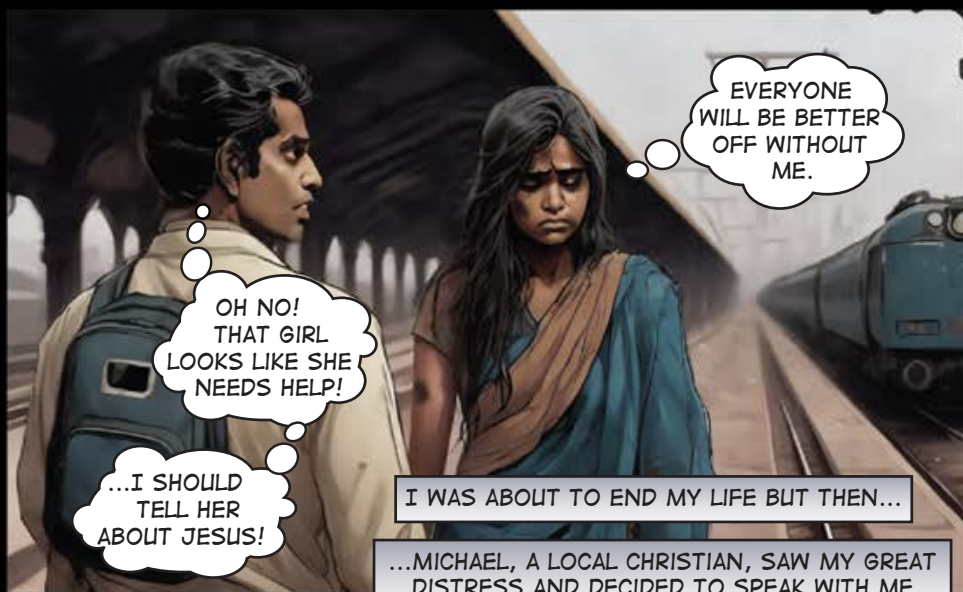


MAYBE SHE IS RIGHT, I AM WORTHLESS...



WE LIVED IN THE WOODS, SO I DECIDED TO GO TO THE TRAIN STATION TO END MY LIFE.

MAYBE I WILL THROW MYSELF UNDER A TRAIN...



EVERYONE WILL BE BETTER OFF WITHOUT ME.

OH NO! THAT GIRL LOOKS LIKE SHE NEEDS HELP!

...I SHOULD TELL HER ABOUT JESUS!

I WAS ABOUT TO END MY LIFE BUT THEN...

...MICHAEL, A LOCAL CHRISTIAN, SAW MY GREAT DISTRESS AND DECIDED TO SPEAK WITH ME



JESUS
LOVES YOU!

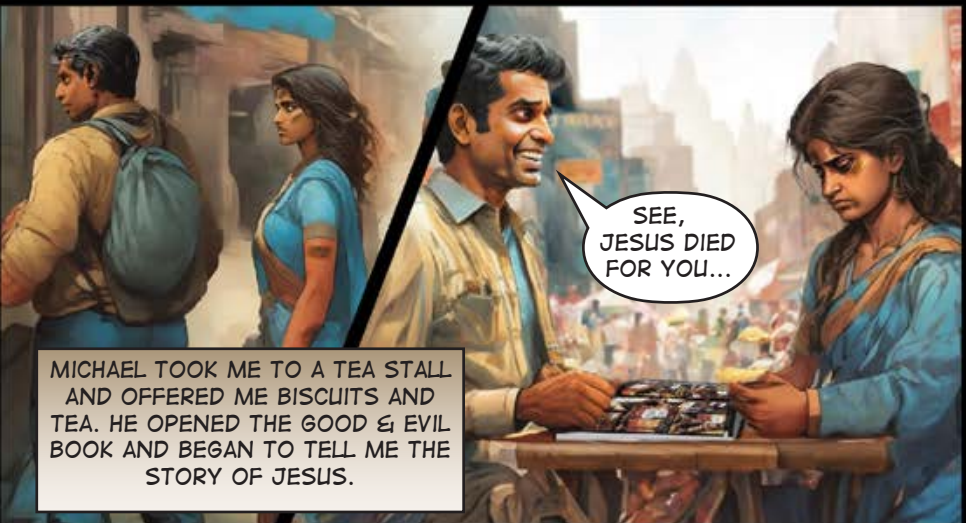


HA HA! WHO IS
JESUS? NO ONE HAS
EVER CARED ABOUT
ME.



WE HAVE SO
MANY GODS IN
OUR TRIBE, WHO IS
THIS JESUS THAT
IS SO BIG TO HAVE
LOVE TOWARDS
ME?

COME,
LET'S GET
SOMETHING TO
DRINK, AND I WILL
TELL YOU.



SEE,
JESUS DIED
FOR YOU...

MICHAEL TOOK ME TO A TEA STALL
AND OFFERED ME BISCUITS AND
TEA. HE OPENED THE GOOD & EVIL
BOOK AND BEGAN TO TELL ME THE
STORY OF JESUS.



...HE WAS CRUCIFIED BECAUSE OF YOUR SINS, AND TOOK YOUR CURSES, ILLS AND WEAKNESS ON HIMSELF, SO THAT HE COULD TAKE YOU TO HEAVEN TO LIVE WITH HIM.



WE ARE A HINDU FAMILY AND WE WORSHIP SO MANY GODS...



...WE USED TO SACRIFICE GOATS, OXEN, AND HENS TO THEM.



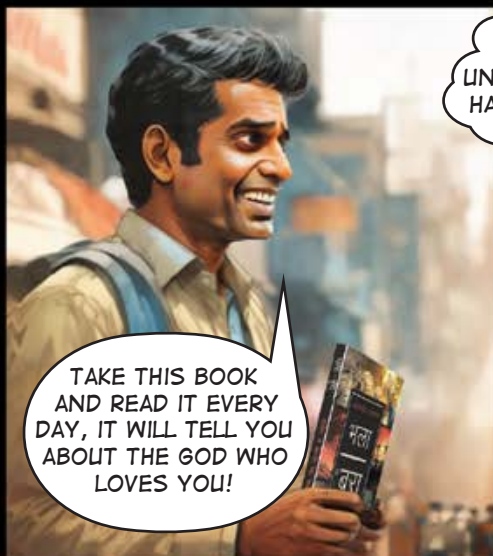
ONCE, I RAN NAKED WITH A MOUSE TIED AROUND ME.



I EVEN WENT TO VELANKANNI MADHA CHURCH AND WALKED ON MY KNEES.



I HAVE GONE TO ALL THE GODS AND OFFERED MY SACRIFICE, BUT I NEVER HEARD OF ANY GOD WHO HAS SACRIFICED FOR ME!



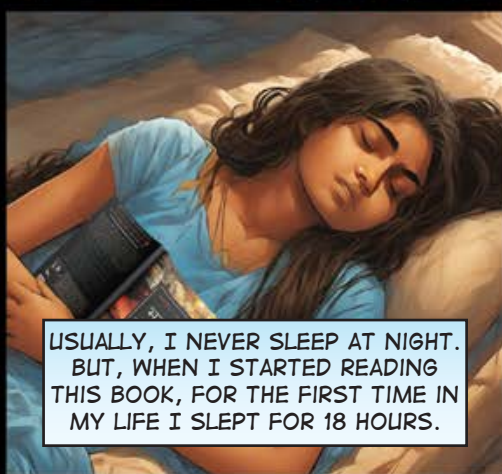
TAKE THIS BOOK
AND READ IT EVERY
DAY, IT WILL TELL YOU
ABOUT THE GOD WHO
LOVES YOU!



AN
UNKNOWN GOD
HAS LOVE FOR
ME?



WHenever I read this
book, I feel like I am
relieved of my burden.



USUALLY, I NEVER SLEEP AT NIGHT.
BUT, WHEN I STARTED READING
THIS BOOK, FOR THE FIRST TIME IN
MY LIFE I SLEPT FOR 18 HOURS.



ONE DAY, WHEN I WAS READING THE BOOK OF
MOSES, I LIKED THE WAY GOD FOUGHT FOR THE
PEOPLE AND LED THEM THROUGH THE DESERT,
FEEDING THEM AND SEPARATING THE RED SEA.

IF GOD
CAN DO THESE
WONDERS, CAN'T HE
DO A MIRACLE TO MY
EAR, SO THAT I CAN
BE LIKE A NORMAL
PERSON?

WILL THIS
GOD DO A WONDER
TO MY EAR?

I HAD A DREAM THAT DAY...



JESUS!
JESUS!

I SAW MYSELF LYING ON A CLOUD. A FIERY HAND FROM THAT BOOK, WHICH WAS KEPT UNDER MY PILLOW TOUCHED MY EAR. I SHOULDED THE NAME 'JESUS! JESUS!' AND WOKE UP.

I FELT THAT SOMEONE STRONGLY GAVE A SLAP ON MY EAR.

GASP!

CHIRRP!
CHIRRP!

ZZZZZ...

BUZZ..

WHAT IS THAT SOUND!

FOR THE FIRST TIME I HEARD THE NOISE OF THE BUZZING INSECTS WITH MY OWN EAR. EVEN I CLEARLY HEARD MY BROTHER'S SNORE. I WAS WONDERING WHETHER IT WAS REAL OR ONLY A DREAM.

...OH, IT'S ONLY THE INSECTS OUTSIDE. I MUST STILL BE DREAMING...

IT WAS ABOUT 4 'O CLOCK
IN THE MORNING AND I
WOKE MY PARENTS.

BABA, MA! I
CAN HEAR! I CAN
HEAR!!!

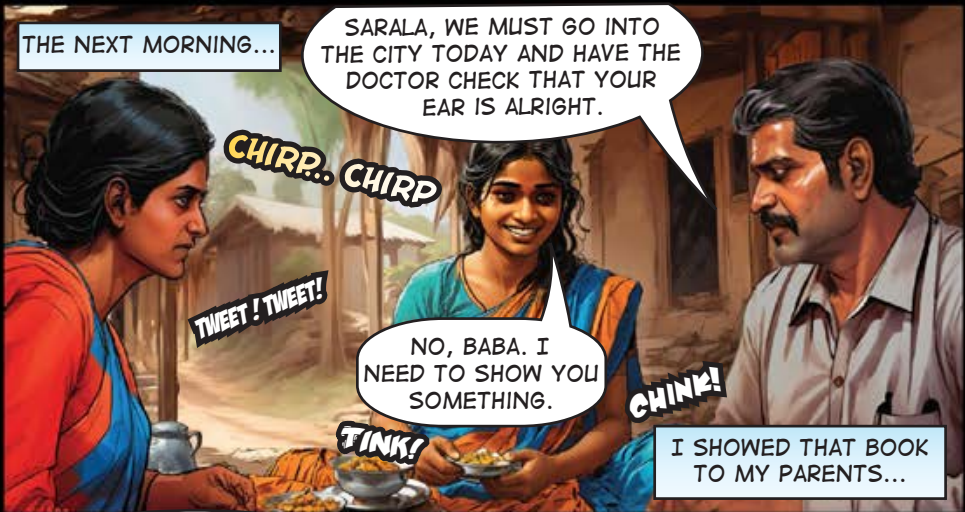
WHAT?? YOU ARE
NOT ONLY DEAF.. NOW
YOU HAVE GONE MAD!

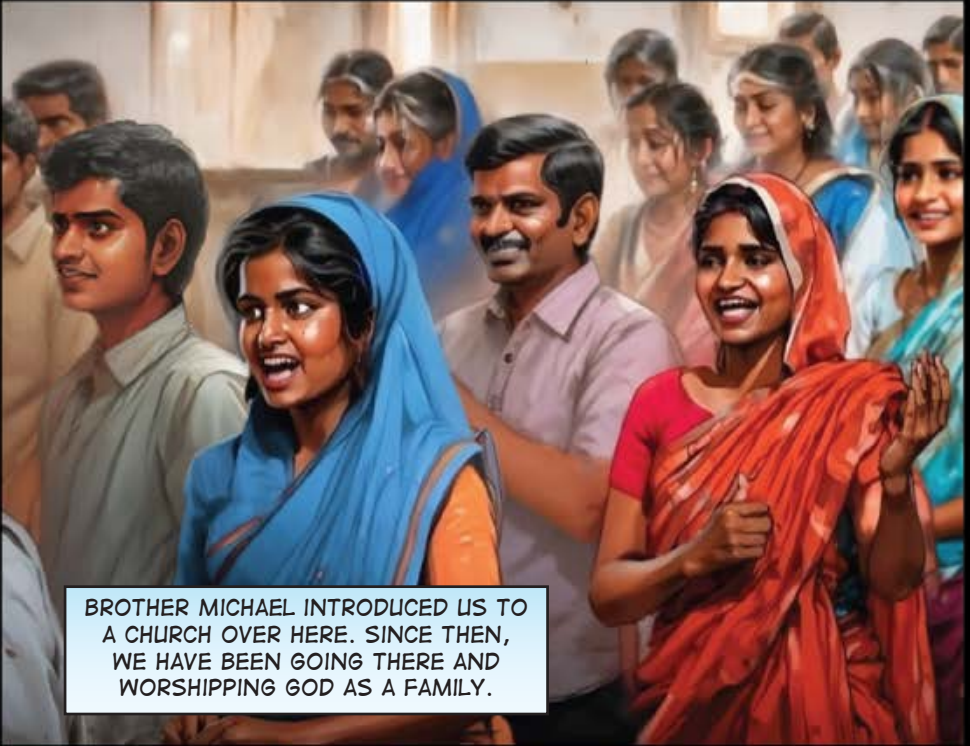
IT IS
THE MIDDLE OF THE
NIGHT! **GO BACK TO
BED!**

I CAN HEAR
YOU CLEARLY, THAT
YOU ARE ADDRESSING
ME ANGRILY.

MY PARENTS WERE SHOCKED
AND COULDN'T BELIEVE IT.

WE
WILL GO TO THE
HOSPITAL IN THE
MORNING AND HAVE
THE TESTS.





BROTHER MICHAEL INTRODUCED US TO A CHURCH OVER HERE. SINCE THEN, WE HAVE BEEN GOING THERE AND WORSHIPPING GOD AS A FAMILY.



I'M SO THANKFUL TO EVERYONE WHO HELPED TO BRING ME THIS BOOK THAT SHOWED US THE TRUE GOD.

THIS TRUE STORY WAS RENDERED AND ILLUSTRATED BY JENNILYN GRIMES. (SHE IS NOT FOR HIRE).



MR. COMMAND

(KING - GOD THE FATHER)

*"...for the Lord Jehovah is my strength and my song;
he also is become my salvation."*

Isaiah 12:2b

by Debi Pearl

My daddy was a Mr. Command Man. He was so much so that he teetered on selfish. When he walked in the door at 5 PM after being at work he assumed a home-cooked dinner would be sitting on the table and his iced tea would be poured. He expected the TV would be on the news channel. No one was allowed to speak while we ate because he was watching the local news and would hit the ceiling if we caused him to miss hearing something. Our ceiling was in poor shape due to the fact that I could not keep my mouth shut. He had the best chair in the house and when he walked into the room if someone happened to be sitting in that chair, they LEAPED out of it. I could write a lot on this subject, and you would think he was a real jerk, and, in some sense, he was, but there is the other side of the coin.

He worked like a dog all the time. He provided well for his family. He made sure we had

great vacations and were thoroughly entertained. He went out of his way to help serve in the church in hard, physical-work ways. He wasn't given the gift of teaching or preaching so he wasn't in the front, but he controlled everything from behind and kept the whole thing together. He gave when other men quit. He took responsibility and looked for anything that needed doing and did it. He expected it of himself.

When I woke up at night and didn't hear him snoring, I was afraid. I knew if he was there, I was safe. I knew without anyone telling me that if there were an attack from anything—man, beast, or natural disaster—he would lead the charge without thought of his own safety.

For over 50 years at a certain time of the year, a man who had been my dad's World War II buddy would come to visit him. And every year that man would sit in our living room and with tears in his eyes thank my dad again for saving his life. He retold the story so many times I felt like I was the one who was saved. He said that their ship was hit, and he was thrown into the ocean and his life vest malfunctioned. He said he couldn't swim and would have drowned, but Smithy (my dad) dove into the sea and shared his life vest with him and kept them alive for hours with his strong tread. The

man said they were stationed together all during the war and he saw Smithy save many other men with his bold action. It wasn't sympathy or even compassion; it was a Command Man doing his duty. It is who he was created to be.

As God ordained, I married Michael Pearl. He is a Command Man extraordinaire. He does things that are seen of men, but he does a thousand times more that are not. He is the doer. He builds the building other people use. His sweat paves the way so others will have what they need to make ministry better. He never keeps records. He doesn't enjoy fancy restaurants, plays, or other fine entertainment. He doesn't like parties or get-togethers, unless they have an end to study the Word or witness. He wants to make every minute count. He expects me to do likewise. Taking care of the sick is not his gift. It is not that he doesn't care; nursing someone is just outside of his scope of duties. If he can't make it better, then he leaves. It often perplexes people. He doesn't enjoy small talk. I am thankful I had 20 years of training with my dad, or it would have really caused me some hardship. I am also thankful that my mom was Mrs. Cheerful, always ready to see the bright side of things. Her example went a long way in my response to my Mr. Command. ■

**"THE NAME OF THE LORD IS A STRONG
TOWER: THE RIGHTEOUS RUNNETH
INTO IT, AND IS SAFE."**

Proverbs 18:10



PROPHET - MR. VISIONARY



PRIEST - MR. STEADY



KING - MR. COMMAND



WHO'S THE BEST OF THE *Three?*

*"For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word,
and the Holy Ghost; and these three are one."*

1 John 5:7

by Debi Pearl

The first man Adam was a Mr. Steady. A Mr. Steady/Priestly Man wants peace, and he wants to give tender favor and emotional support to his wife, even when it would be wiser to render judgment. He is in it for the long haul, regardless of the

expense—physical, mental, or spiritual.

When Eve ate the forbidden fruit and gave it to Adam, he could not let her stand alone in her judgment. The Bible tells us that he was not deceived as she was (1 Timothy 2:14).

Clearly, Adam put his wife before God. He walked into the darkness in support of his woman. He could have and should have honored God, but his inclination was to support his wife. That's a Mr. Steady.

What would it have been like if Adam had been a Visionary/Prophet type instead of a Priestly/Steady man? He would have taken an entirely different route. He might have started by yelling and stomping about, then devising a "brilliant" plan to forestall the inevitable discovery of her misdeed, then in a panic, come up with ways to try to reason with God—to mitigate the damage done. He might have hidden her or turned to accuse her before God. If Adam had been a Mr. Visionary, he might have done a lot of different things, but he would have been unpredictable, which is classic of his type. Eve would have felt scared but not alone. In the end, Mr. Visionary Adam could have gone either way: turn her in for judgment crying all the way, or daringly take a bite of fruit to experience the existential himself. Mr. Visionary could and should stay rational in making wise, well-thought-out decisions, but his inclination is first a passionate reaction.

Mr. Command/King is not controlled by compassion or a need to fix things. Mr. Command Man will never put his wife's pain over principle, no matter how much loss he suffers or how badly it hurts her. If you cross the line, well, that's too bad. Sadly, Mr. Command Man

might be guilty of callously judging others while ignoring his own faults.

If Adam had been a Mr. Command Man, Eve would have definitely felt afraid, alone, and rejected by God and Adam, because she would have been rejected. He might have challenged God on the conditions that led to Eve's ignorant transgression or even tried to instruct God on a renewed approach. But one thing is certain: Adam would never have let Eve know about his discussion with God concerning her sin. When his plan failed, Adam would have sadly walked her to the gate and said bye. Secretly he would be hoping God would take another rib, but if he didn't, well, that was the price to pay. Granted, if he was so blessed with another woman, he would not let her out of his sight just in case she was a dope like the first edition. I suspect Mr. Command Man's second marriage would be hard to bear unless he had learned some very serious lessons about relationships between the two ladies. Mr. Command could and should show tender compassion and emotional support, but his inclination is to first move forward regardless of feelings.

Mr. Command, Mr. Steady, and Mr. Visionary men are fallen creatures just like us gals, so they each have their bad and good points. Our goal as wives is to understand them a little better, give them leeway for who they are, and try to help them see our needs as females.

WHO LOVES MORE?

Does that all mean that Steady Men and Visionary Men love their wives better than Command Men do? No, it means men are different. God knew what Adam was when he created him. He knew Adam's empathy and sympathy would cause him to listen to his wife's every need even when he knew what the results would be.

There are lots of Mr. Steady Men because we need them to make us happy. There are some Mr. Visionary Men because life would be boring without their wild ideas. There are fewer Mr. Command Men because only a few are needed.

BE BETTER THAN EVE

It can be a pain being married to an overbearing Mr. Command Man, but you always know what, where, when, and how life will go because he is the one who will decide.

It is unnerving being married to a Mr. Visionary because you never know what the man is going to do next.

Marriage to Mr. Steady is the easiest and the hardest. A woman married to a Steady Man needs to recognize that she could be leading the entire family, including herself, into tragedy when she manipulates her husband into doing her will, even when she is sure she is right in what she wants. Her man will be inclined to say a hesitant yes even when his wisdom tells him otherwise. She needs to be extra careful

not to push her will to get what she wants. Learn to ask his counsel and wait, and then let it go if he shows reluctance.

God often lays aside great possibilities for Steady Men because they marry women who get in the way. These women might be weak and helpless, domineering and demanding, spiritually hungry, business and money smart, fearful, moody, insecure, sickly and hurting, etc. Which one are you? Don't let that happen.

It would have been glorious if Eve had trusted God and, at the very least, asked her husband's counsel before she decided she needed to gain the hidden knowledge that the very clever liar offered her. But, Eve knew, regardless of what she did, that Adam would stand with her. What Eve did was believe a lie. She didn't intentionally sin. I am sure Satan is the best liar of all times, but regardless of her motive the results are the same. She was guilty of disobeying God. By believing a lie, Eve plunged the world into darkness.

Satan continues to come to us and lie, and we as women have the inclination to believe something that feels right. Men are inclined to question, consider, analyze, and plan, so they would be slower to be deceived. Put on the whole armor of God and be open to reproof, correction, and change of mind. Be better than Eve. ■

If all this is new information for you, then you might want to check into reading (or listening to) my book, *Created to Be His Help Meet*.

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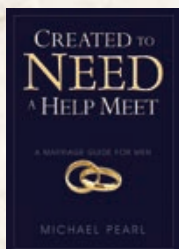


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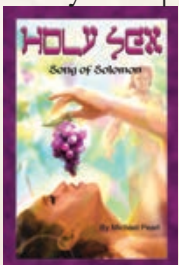


Regardless of how you began your marriage or how dark and lonely the path that has brought you to where you are

now, I want you to know that it is possible today to have a marriage so good and so fulfilling that it can only be explained as a miracle.

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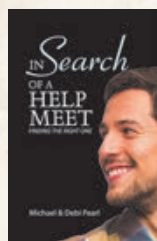
Our families are being fought over by the enemy. A godly woman's effect on the outcome of the war against the family is staggering.

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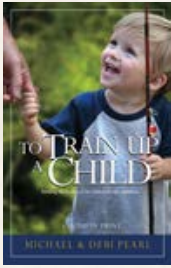


Rebekah Pearl, oldest daughter of Michael and Debi Pearl, tells the awesome story of God's guidance and protection as she, a 22-year-old girl, all alone, where no white person had ever been, adapted to a primitive culture.

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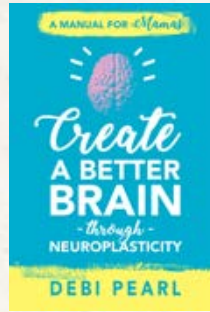


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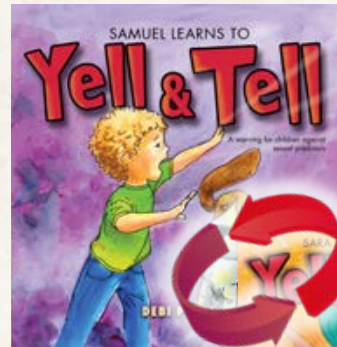


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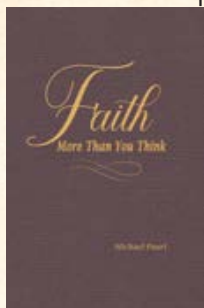


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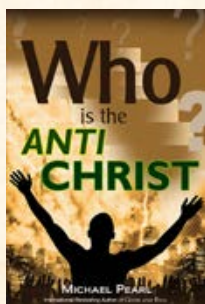
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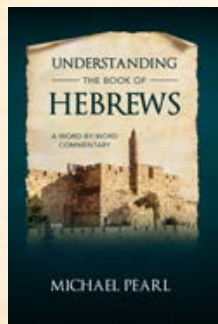
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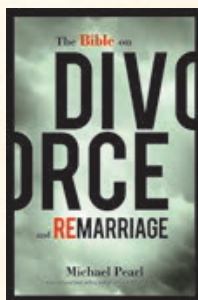
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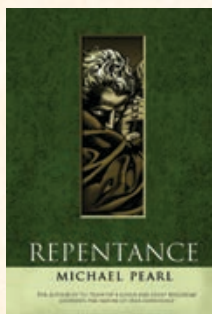
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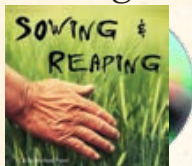


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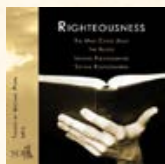
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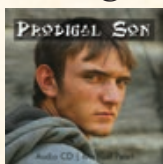
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Michael discusses righteousness and its necessity for salvation. The first message can be described as nothing but joyous. The second is almost scary when one sees how serious God is about blood. The last two mark the differences in saving and imputed righteousness. The whole series is thrilling, thorough and will make you weep when you realize just what God has done to redeem us.

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A simple message inviting sinners to repent toward God and be fully accepted into his favor.

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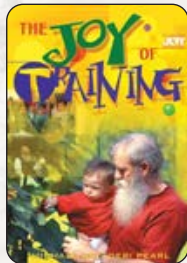
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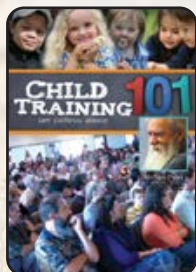
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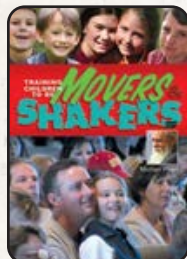
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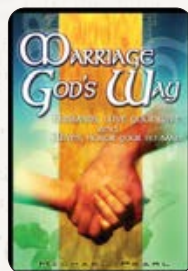
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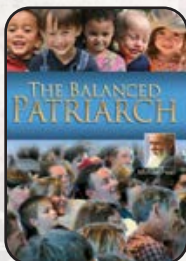


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