



30 YEARS

1994

NO GREATER JOY

2024

May - June 2024



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



**NGJ**  
Ministries

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# New Leaves

God did not design life to be stagnant, and because of the changing dynamic of life we must learn to trust God in new ways as we grow. The growth we experience is not just the physical growth that we can see. We also grow in grace, truth, wisdom, favor with God and man, and, most importantly, in faith.

As we see springtime blooming all around us, let's be intentional about growing ourselves and our families spiritually.

The world is full of new leaves; it is also full of new graduates, new mamas and daddies, new grandmas and grandpas, new sons and daughters, husbands and wives...the walk of faith goes on.w

No matter what period of life you are beginning—a high school graduate or a grandpa—approach it with wonder, hope, and faith!

It doesn't matter how much life is behind you; the part that's in front of you has never been experienced and it is an opportunity for you to grow in Christ. So take his hand, lift up your eyes, and walk in faith!



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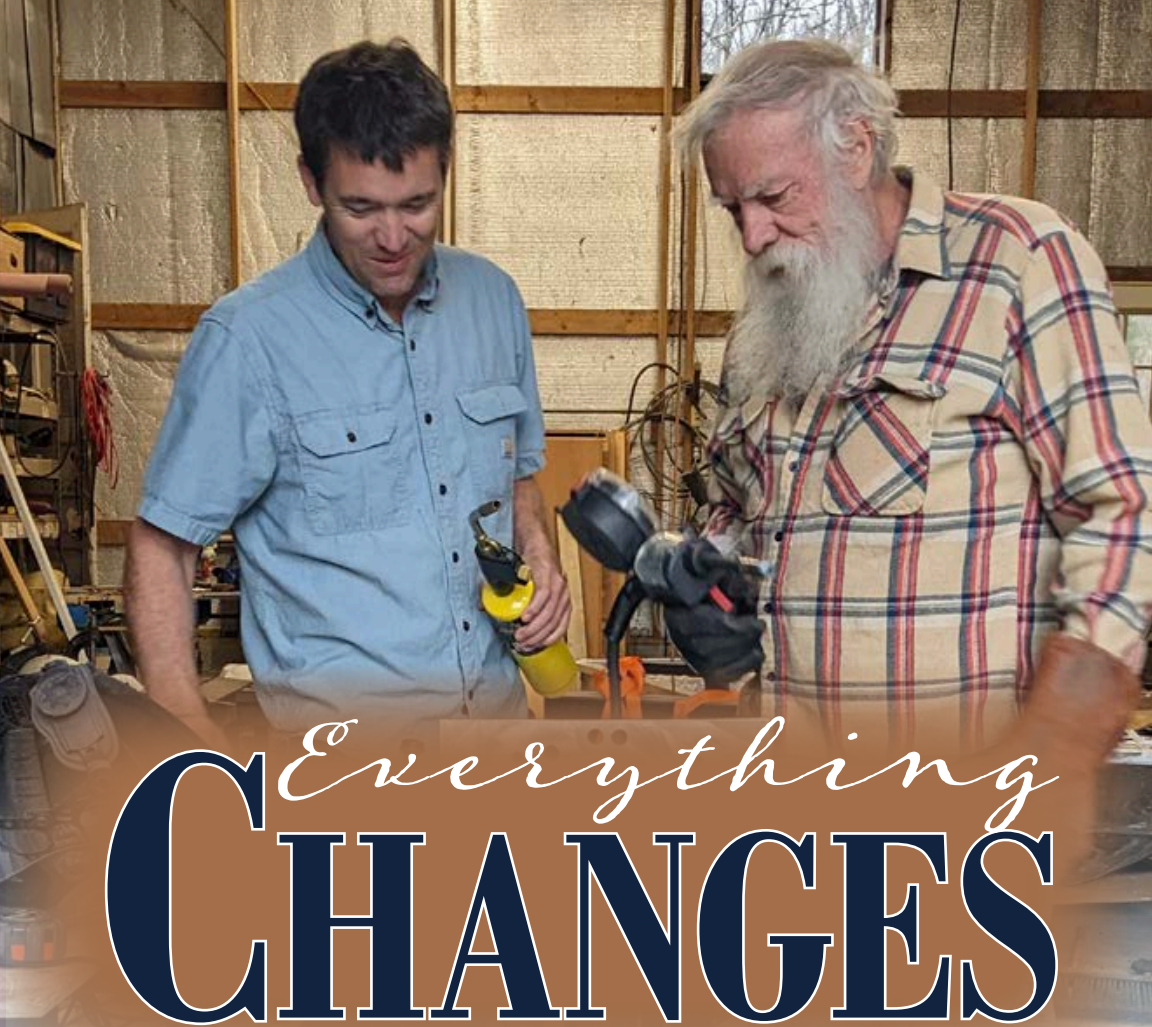
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ON THE COVER:  
Michael & Debi Pearl Family





# Everything CHANGES

By Nathan Pearl

Sometimes it seems as if the only constant in life is that everything changes.

Let me explain; in 1994, my Dad finished *To Train Up a Child*.

I remember walking to the mailbox down our long gravel driveway to see how many letters we received. I remember mom laughing in disbelief the first time we got over 10 letters in one day!

Everything changed.

That year we decreased the size of our garden because Dad did not have the time to serve God in this new ministry and sell tomatoes. We

cleared out the sunroom that we used to store garden supplies and spent more evenings folding newsletters.

Everything changed.

It took a lot of faith for Mom and Dad to upend their comfortable life and choose service over certainty.

I remember when the letters started flowing in and asking heavy questions, and I remember the weight of my parents answering them and seeking God for wisdom to say the right thing.

Not much had changed for us kids. We swam in the creek on hot



days, had a big garden, worked on the tractor...we grew up.

Everything changed.

Somewhere along the line, we stopped being kids. Rebekah, Gabe, and I ended up traveling the world. We helped missionaries in Albania, tribes in New Guinea. We even got to pray on the banks of the Sea of Galilee! It was amazing.

But everything changed.

My sister got married, then I got married to a girl I met at a missions conference. Life was perfect, but life was different, because everything changes.

Mom and Dad continued serving the Lord. Dad preached in the prison every week, traveled at times, and never stopped discipling families. We finally got the *Good and Evil* printed and saw it begin to be used by God.

If things would just stop changing you could finally get good at your given task and not stress so much.

Instead, everything changes.

I ended up working in Hawaii. We got involved with a local church and, as my parents taught me, I helped as much as I could.

Eventually, the pastor asked me to take over the church.

It was terrifying.

It was exciting!

It required me to trust God without a safety net.

Still, everything changes.

After 5 years pastoring in Hawaii and many tears of joy and sadness, my Dad called and asked me to come home and take over *No Greater Joy*.

For 30 years it had been the task that God had set him to. One that he carried out with poise and acuity.



**SAINTS**  
*we need*  
**EACH OTHER**

However, everything changes.

At 78 he is tired; he doesn't have the energy to accomplish all that he feels like God needs done with the resources he's gathered.

And so, God has called him to make another great leap of faith.

To sit down.

Because everything changes.

As David gave Solomon the resources he needed to complete the temple of God, my Dad, and those before him, have gathered the resources for us to reach the world for Christ.

My friends, it is our turn!

The *Good and Evil* is now in nearly 80 languages. We are printing many thousands every year in places like Pakistan and India.

As the moral fabric of America collapses, godly families stick out like sore thumbs.

We are going to need each other.

We have grown up in a generation unchallenged, and untested by the suffering that is endemic of the Bride of Christ.

Yet, everything changes.

As I read the letters that come in every day, I can't help but reflect on how much they have changed from the ones that were so heavy on my parents 30 years ago.

Pornography has ravished the Bride of Christ.

It is with tears that I report that the church in America has been defeated by the lust of the flesh.

The wholesome homeschoolers are wholesome no longer.

Sodom is in our homes.

Still, there is hope.

## My Friends IT IS OUR turn

Our Redeemer lives!!

That never changes!

Saints, we need each other.

*Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.* Hebrews 10:25

As the world tears itself apart from immorality that only brings pain, we need to encourage one another and be about our Father's business.

As we strive to reach the world for Christ, pray for us.

Join us.

Be obedient to the commandments of Christ and preach the gospel.

So many of us feel inadequate to the task that God has set before us.

You may feel like you will *never* measure up to the enormous task that is set before you.

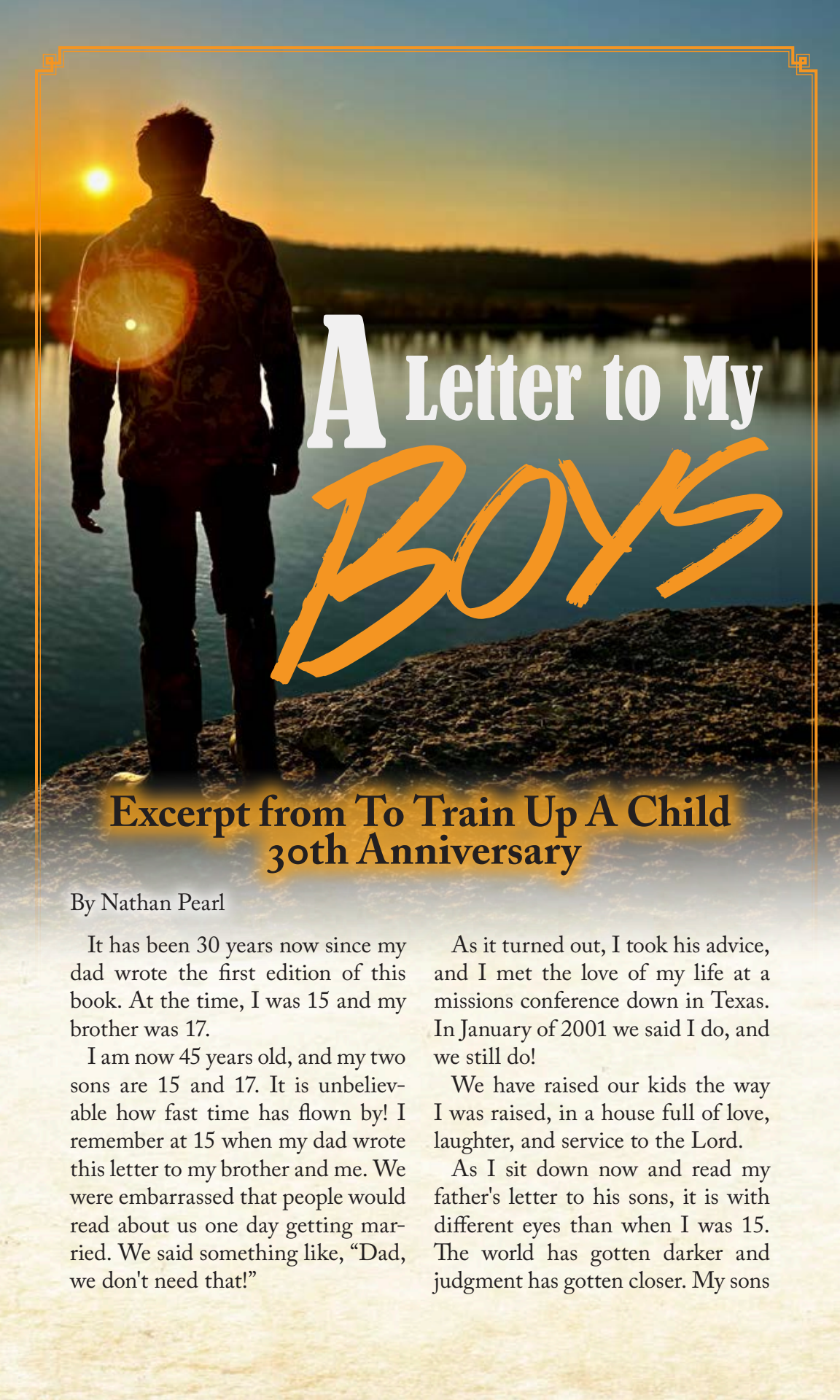
Saints, I'm not asking you to accomplish the whole thing; just take the first step and see.

Everything changes, even you.

*Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear: For our God is a consuming fire.*

Hebrews 12:28-29 ■





# A Letter to My **BOYS**

## Excerpt from *To Train Up A Child* 30th Anniversary

By Nathan Pearl

It has been 30 years now since my dad wrote the first edition of this book. At the time, I was 15 and my brother was 17.

I am now 45 years old, and my two sons are 15 and 17. It is unbelievable how fast time has flown by! I remember at 15 when my dad wrote this letter to my brother and me. We were embarrassed that people would read about us one day getting married. We said something like, “Dad, we don’t need that!”

As it turned out, I took his advice, and I met the love of my life at a missions conference down in Texas. In January of 2001 we said I do, and we still do!

We have raised our kids the way I was raised, in a house full of love, laughter, and service to the Lord.

As I sit down now and read my father's letter to his sons, it is with different eyes than when I was 15. The world has gotten darker and judgment has gotten closer. My sons

must navigate a world besotted with pornography and gender fluidity that was not part of the common vernacular when I was their age.

As we reprint this book after 30 years, I will write a letter to my sons, but it will be printed alongside the one that my dad wrote to my brother and me. Because of the trail my dad blazed, the one that I followed, my sons are not starting from scratch. I invite my sons to tread our path as Paul said in 1 Corinthians 11:1. “Be ye followers of me, [and Big Papa] even as I also am of Christ.”

### *To Jacob and Gideon Pearl*

Boys, as I try to put down some sage wisdom that will enrich your life, I must recognize how much you have enriched mine! If I had not experienced being your father, I would never have known how much life I had missed. You two, and your two sisters, have truly been the grace of life that your mom and I have experienced together. There is nothing I am as proud of and that gives me more joy in this life than to see our babies walk in wisdom.

You have seen the fun we have, the laughter and the joy of all of us working together. I need you to know that Satan wants to take that away from you before you ever get the chance to experience it. Intimacy with this world will deny you intimacy with God and with your future wife.

The world you are maturing in hates you.

I don't want you to live a life where

you must be suspicious of everyone around you, but, unfortunately, the unmitigated evil available on every cell phone has created a world full of predators. They don't look like craven, sin-stained minions of Satan, boys; there are snakes in the grass that look just like you.

It is the unfortunate reality of our modern world that you must constantly be on guard. Whether you're camping with friends or going on a mission trip with other church members, you need to be ready to say no and to flee the sin on so many screens.

Not being evil is not good enough; you need to be good.

You need to take responsibility for your own actions and recognize that in spite of the fact that you live in a modern-day Sodom and Gomorrah, it is your responsibility to choose virtue, goodness, and life.

Satan will constantly offer you easy, attractive, seductive fruit, but understand that partaking of this world's wickedness is rejecting the goodness that God has in store for you.

Protect yourself!

Choose to seek first the righteousness of God in all things and don't go with the flow.

The antidote to this reprobate world is not to stand against sin; it is to stand up for righteousness. There are a lot of sinners that hate the sin they live in. That will not inoculate you from the filth—Jesus will.

Talk about God and his goodness with all your friends and the people you work with. Talk about his words



and share them with the people around you. Take responsibility for your actions, good and bad, and make restitution when it's necessary. Express often to those around you how thankful you are to God for all that you have and don't have.

You won't be popular with the worldly crowd. That's okay; be a man! Don't get pretty hair and fancy jeans. Instead, get hands calloused from helping the people around you. You will be peculiar. However, as you serve the Lord with your whole heart, no matter what your hands are busy working on, God will direct your path. There is nothing more exciting or more terrifying than walking by faith.

Abraham had a goal that was totally unattainable in this life: he

looked for a city that God hadn't yet brought to this planet. And yet by spending his life pursuing the goal that God had given him, Abraham got rich, gained a family, and gained favor with God and men. He raised camels, rescued kings, and met Melchizedek. You can't plan a life that abundant—but God can! Trust him, follow him, look for him in everything that you do, and then rejoice at HIS successes.

Jesus didn't come to keep you from having a full life; he came that you would have an abundant life. Trust God. Trust that the pursuit of his righteousness is more satisfying by far than any fruit offered by the god of this world.

In this world that loves divorce, blame shifting, and quitting the

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**You only get one life;  
*RISE UP* and *LIVE IT*  
to the fullest**

fight, be the kind of man that others can depend on. Be responsible, be kind, be quiet when there isn't something edifying to say.

Be good men!

Don't be passive, apprehensive, timid men. Grab life by the horns and wrestle it into the dirt.

Be a servant—a strong, manly, godly servant of Jesus Christ.

I recommend that you take your grandfather's advice when it is time to seek a wife. It is good advice that has served me well. But don't make seeking a wife the central pillar of life.

Set audacious goals, pursue those goals, and serve the Lord in everything you do.

Be thankful and grateful; be full of love and compassion even while you are driving big trucks and climbing tall trees.

When you find that woman who is

more interested in where you're going than how you look on the way, you will have found your help meet.

My sons, life is exciting! I hope I get to see you wring every joy out of it, conquer every hill you find in your path, marry a woman who makes your heart race and pushes you to be even more. But if I don't, and if you don't, I want you to know that my family has been the best adventure I've ever had! I love you boys, and no matter how dark this world gets, family is the best gift that God ever gave mortal man.

You only get one life; rise up and live it to the fullest!

There is truly no greater joy than to know that my children walk in truth.

Now, go read Big Papa's letter to me . . .

\* You can read this in *To Train Up A Child - 30th Anniversary* ■





# TO THE *Girls*

By Amber Gullickson

It's a chilly Monday morning. My hands cradle the coffee cup as I try to calm my nerves. I've repeated this process dozens of times, yet I can't stop the pounding in my heart when the alarm goes off at precisely 9:30 am. It is time to go to jail.

My name is Amber, and this is my testimony. In the last thirteen years, God has taken me on an incredible journey, and it would be remiss of me not to share it with you. This one is for the girls. If you are finishing up high school or feel immobilized and are waiting for the next step in your life, I want to encourage you as you begin the next chapter.

Let's start at the beginning.

It was 2011, and I was seventeen years old. It was graduation year for me. Like any proper homeschooler, I grew up conservative, where there was a particular mindset for young women and girls to be running a household and raising a family by the time we reached our twenties. Well, that wasn't the case for me.

I grew up in the country and learned to work hard and diligently alongside my family. I am so thankful for the knowledge I've acquired from them, but, as time marched on, I was no longer satisfied waiting at home. Please don't misunderstand—my family is amazing. I could go on all day about how



awesome they are and how much I enjoy them. But, that would be my parents' life. I needed my life to start. I needed to graduate.

With my future looking a little different than I expected, I shared with my parents the restless and unexplainable urge I possessed to do . . . something with my life. I wanted it to be something meaningful that would impact not only me, but others as well.

Then Costa Rica happened. I wasn't planning for it, wasn't even looking for it. But I was looking for *something*, and God provided. A family friend from long ago contacted my older sister and me to see if we would be interested in joining them on a week-long mission trip to Costa Rica. I was beyond thrilled; it was an answer to prayer and to the unshakable voice that wouldn't let me go. I had already done extensive traveling, and my passport was ready for another stamp. I didn't yet know that it wasn't going to be the stamp or the gorgeous countryside that was going to change my life.

That week in Costa Rica was indescribable, so I won't bother with details. I will tell you that my brief experience there taught me more about Jesus and his love than anything else ever had. The time flew by too quickly, and I found myself leaving reluctantly. I told the woman who operated the home to give me a call if she ever needed more help. But at the time there wasn't a need, and that just about broke my heart.

I returned home and went about life again, including back to my

job as a substitute teacher. But the yearning I felt had only grown stronger, and I needed a change. I just didn't know where to go. I had no clear direction, no plan, just a feeling that wouldn't go away. And then, as he always does, God provided. I received a call, and man was I thrilled to see that the caller ID was a Costa Rican number! The woman on the other end asked if I was ready to come back, this time staying for the summer.

I'm sure you can guess my response. I told my parents about the call and all they said was "When do you leave?" The answer? Two weeks. I halted my teaching position and happily put all my savings toward a ticket that would carry me to where I would spend the next three months of my life.

My time in Costa Rica was not something that could be considered good by normal standards. The days were long, making more rice than I cared to see in a lifetime and exhausting my social battery with needy people. There were late nights cleaning the kitchen after the kids went to bed. Cold showers and earthquakes. And then there were the times when I sat in my room at night and cried, trying to process



Lighthouse  
Children's Home  
Costa Rica



what the children confided in me and what they had gone through.

But God doesn't have normal standards. When I felt at my lowest, he comforted me. When I couldn't go any further, he carried me. When I couldn't find the words, he spoke through me. I learned things there—in my weakness, in my uncertainty—that I could never have learned at home. It was hard. And it was good.

I ended up going to Costa Rica two summers, and while I can't share every lesson I learned there, I can share one: God never wanted me to be comfortable. Because if I were comfortable, I wouldn't have gone to Costa Rica, and I wouldn't understand the depth and the power and the beauty of Jesus and his love to the degree that I do now. And I probably wouldn't have received a phone call from Debi Pearl, asking me to come work full-time at NGJ.

And I certainly wouldn't be on my way to jail.

Yes, we're back to that now. It is present day, and I'm anxious. I drive until I make the final turn into the Perry County Jail and go through the familiar process: park, sign in at the door, make small talk with

the secretary, try in vain to quiet my nerves. I approach the looming security doors and pray earnestly to God to soften the hearts of the women inside. I ask him to calm my heart, give me the words I should say, and shut my mouth so I don't say something I shouldn't. You see, I'm here on a mission: to share Christ with anyone who will listen.

I go through the final door, heart thudding as it clangs shut behind me, leaving me alone inside. I continue praying as I move about the room, setting up, getting my Bible, and waiting. The women begin to file in and, of course, there are nearly twice as many as usual. The CO locks the door behind them, leaving me with a room full of women waiting to hear what I have been preparing throughout the week to share with them. If you know me at all, you know I'm not the kind of person to lead even two people in a conversation, let alone spend an hour sharing the Word with almost ten.

I take a deep breath, open up in prayer, and start the review of last week's lesson. We are going through Romans right now, and everyone knows the first two chapters are a little rough to get through. Just as





God intended, they let you know soundly and thoroughly that you are a sinner and worthy of hell. But, as we begin to read through it, my hands shake with excitement!

“*But now . . .*” we read in Romans 3:21 “. . . *the righteousness of God without the law is manifested . . .*” This is shouting material! As I lead the girls through this miraculous gift that the Almighty has given us, I realize that I don’t feel scared and unworthy anymore. My body vibrates with excitement as I share Jesus and his blood!

My encouragement to you is this: fill life with growing experience. Pursue something challenging and meaningful and come away more confident and closer to God because of it. Take advantage of whatever amount of time you have as a single woman and learn to love life and live it. God gave us this life and I fully believe he wants us to thrive in it, not just exist, waiting for something that may never happen.

Seek the Lord for guidance. You will find a lot of things that don’t work. Keep trying! We spend our lives anticipating the big moments, not realizing we measure our lives by the inconsequential ones—waiting to finish school, waiting for a husband, waiting for babies, waiting for them to grow. As you wait in those moments, fill that time with something meaningful. Grow, touch people’s lives, make an impact for God’s Kingdom.

God has a plan for your life, and it won’t look the same as others’. Following Jesus has been the most

incredible journey, and I wouldn’t be able to do the things I do if it weren’t for taking that first step. Jesus wants us to wait on him, this is true. But he also wants us to *seek* him.

Girls, we all start somewhere. But are we *going* somewhere? Whether you are just finishing high school, in the beginning stages of dating, or you are still waiting for your life to start and don’t have a clue, don’t waste the time you have now.

Spend it wisely. ■

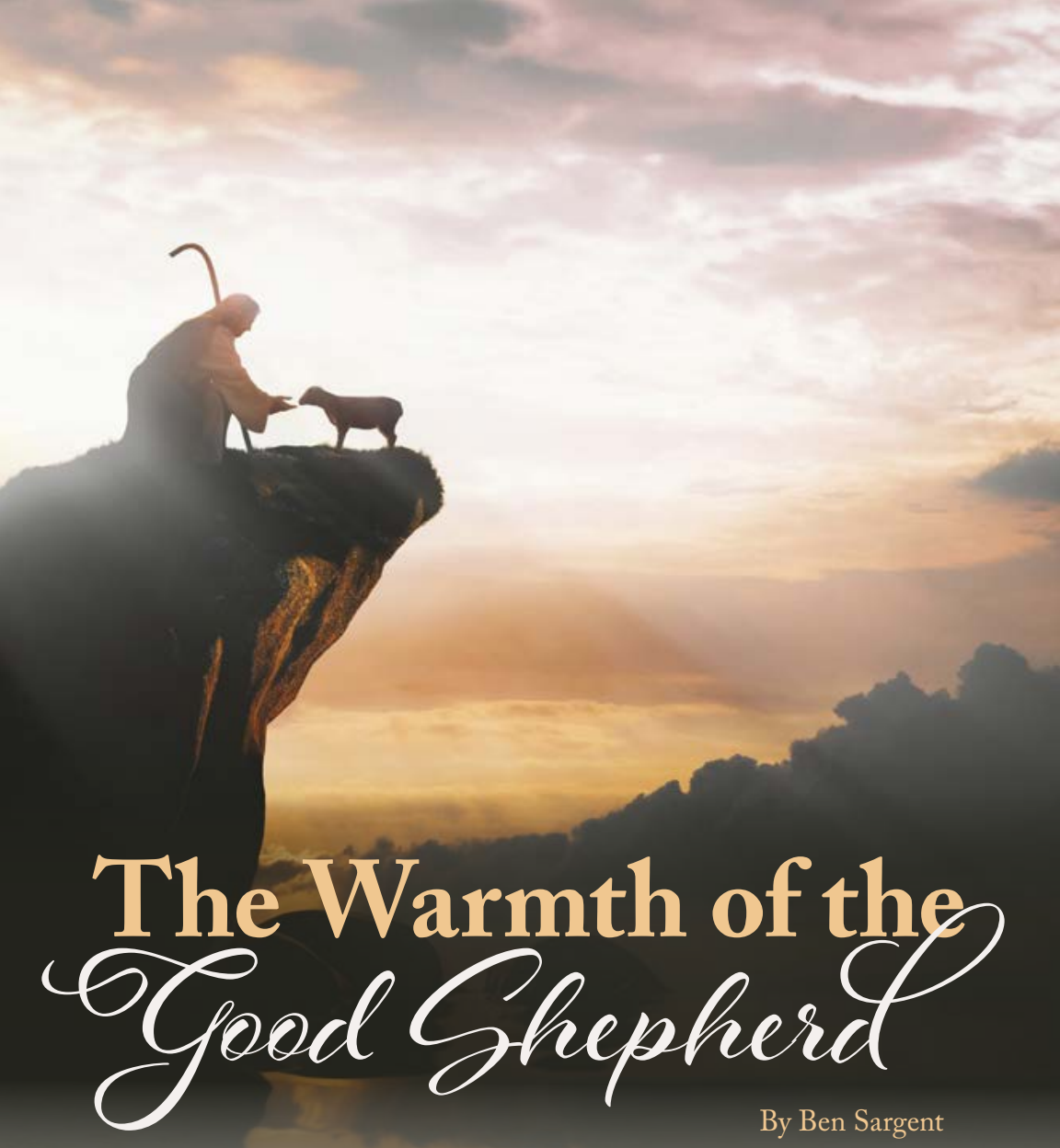
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# The Warmth of the *Good Shepherd*

By Ben Sargent

*When* I was a young sailor, I was all about the adventure. Go new places? Sign me up! Foreign country? No sweat! Sleep in cramped berthing at sea with a couple thousand other guys? Yeah, not so much. But jet noise and sonobuoys and dropping bombs and searching for mines and foreign lands and—well, you get the picture. Simply stated, it was glorious! And when that career ended, I soon found myself

running around foreign countries in the middle of the night in the name of “technology development.” That’s what we called it anyway. Then, because I’m a slow learner, I began to realize (at 60) that maybe it was time for something different. Seeking the freedom of others was no longer my calling. It was time to find another line of work.

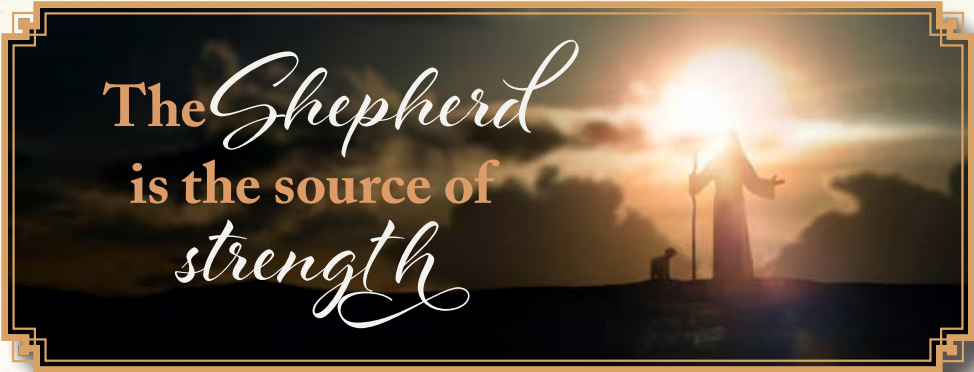
By that time I’d been a Christian for 40 years. Through it all I’d



always known I was safe as long as the Good Shepherd thought it best. I always expected and counted on his provision for my safety,

at his bosom where it could feel the warmth of the shepherd's heart.

The hands of the shepherd are required for these bovid animals that



## The Shepherd is the source of strength

but I never took it for granted. What I didn't expect was that as I grew older, I would grow to value something even more from him, and that was the warmth of the Good Shepherd.

When shepherds gathered their flocks by night into a safe place, the only way in and out was through a door where the shepherd would stand watch. His presence was the door. And Jesus owned that responsibility when he said in John 10:7, ". . . *Verily, verily I say unto you, I am the door of the sheep.*" At times the shepherd would lie down to rest or sit and care for an injured or orphaned lamb who could feel the warmth in his hands. And while the shepherd was guarding the flock, those lying with him could feel the warmth from the shepherd's lap. At times when a lamb would run off, the shepherd would seek and recover that lamb, then take his shepherd's rod and smack a front leg of the lamb so it couldn't walk. Then the shepherd would carry that injured lamb tucked into his garment

can find trouble and injury without looking for it. And such is often the case of a Christian. We live in a world that is cruel, ravenous, and destructive. The god of this world is our enemy, a thief who seeks to ". . . *steal, and to kill, and to destroy . . .*" (John 10:10). Living in America, it feels like I'm in the Promised Land. For the most part, life is easy. But let's be honest—all of us have taken our share of beatings, right? Oh, but those warm, healing hands of the Good Shepherd tend to our wounds, pour on the healing salve, and then embrace us until we can stand.

As the shepherd sits in the doorway, he'll take an orphaned lamb and lay the animal across his lap where he's sitting to comfort and calm the animal. They share intimacy that starts with the heat from the shepherd's legs. This is the place of his greatest strength. And as the fearful, traumatized lamb warms, it realizes the shepherd is the source of strength and the lamb has none. The warmth of the shepherd teaches the lamb trust. And it learns from

the warmth of the shepherd it is safe and that, indeed, everything is going to be okay.

At the ripe young age of 64, this lamb has learned that the best place for me is right near the heart of the Good Shepherd. As a young Christian, I had the rod applied to my legs and God held me close to his heart while I healed. As an old man, I understand that it's the heart of

the Good Shepherd that makes me lie down in green pastures and leads me beside the still waters.

The adventures of a young man allowed me the opportunity to preach the gospel in places I'd otherwise never have gone or known. I have no regret seeking those adventures, nor would I ever discourage it in others. However, I've learned that the greatest adventures emanate from the heart of the Good Shepherd. That the closer I am to his heart the better I can hear and feel his heart, and that it beats for me, directing me for his glory. There is warmth in his heart for the wounded and the warrior. There is warmth in his heart for those who've experienced the worst this world can offer. And there is warmth in his heart for the aged who near the promise of heaven and long to see his face. ■

## *Faith:* MORE THAN YOU THINK



*"We were created to live in faith but have developed a culture to live without it." ~Michael Pearl*

There was once a time in America that faith was admired. As a nation we have lost our way, but that isn't new. The Bible is a chronicle that bears witness to the human journey back to abiding in faith with the Godhead.

*Faith; More Than You Think* is a recounting of that journey.

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Ben and his wife, Karen, are founders of Onward for Christ, an organization dedicated to teaching young people how to be soul winners. OFC's annual Rocky Mountain Outreach 2024 will take place June 1-9 in northwest Colorado. For more information, visit their website <https://www.onwardforchrist.org/rocky-mountain-outreach>.

They are now accepting applications for RMO 2024. Please spread the word!



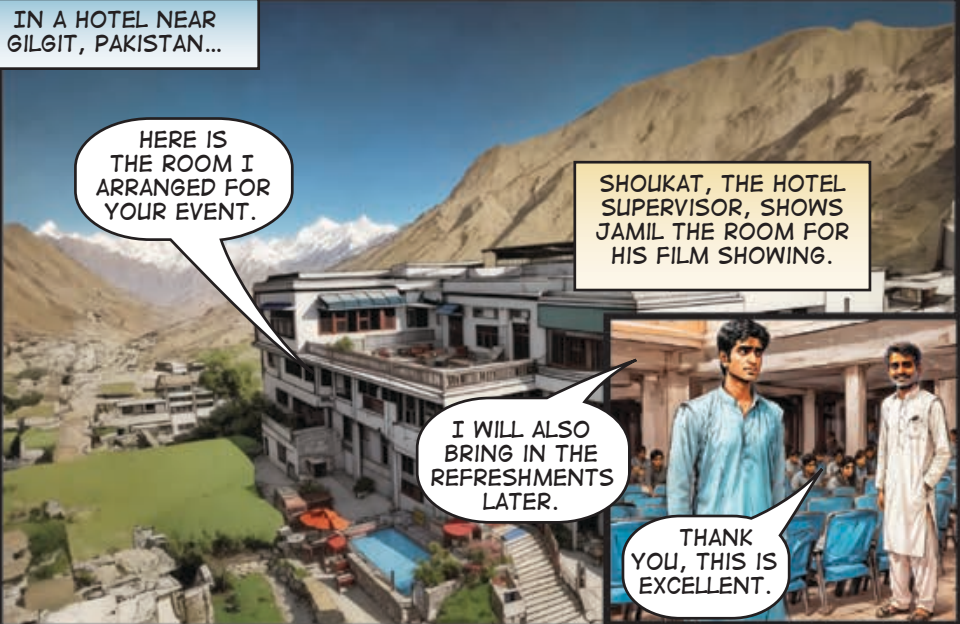


TRUE STORIES OF TRIUMPH

# OUT OF THE GRAVE

A TESTIMONY OF A MODEREN DAY MIRACLE

IN A HOTEL NEAR  
GILGIT, PAKISTAN...



HERE IS  
THE ROOM I  
ARRANGED FOR  
YOUR EVENT.

SHOUKAT, THE HOTEL  
SUPERVISOR, SHOWS  
JAMIL THE ROOM FOR  
HIS FILM SHOWING.

I WILL ALSO  
BRING IN THE  
REFRESHMENTS  
LATER.

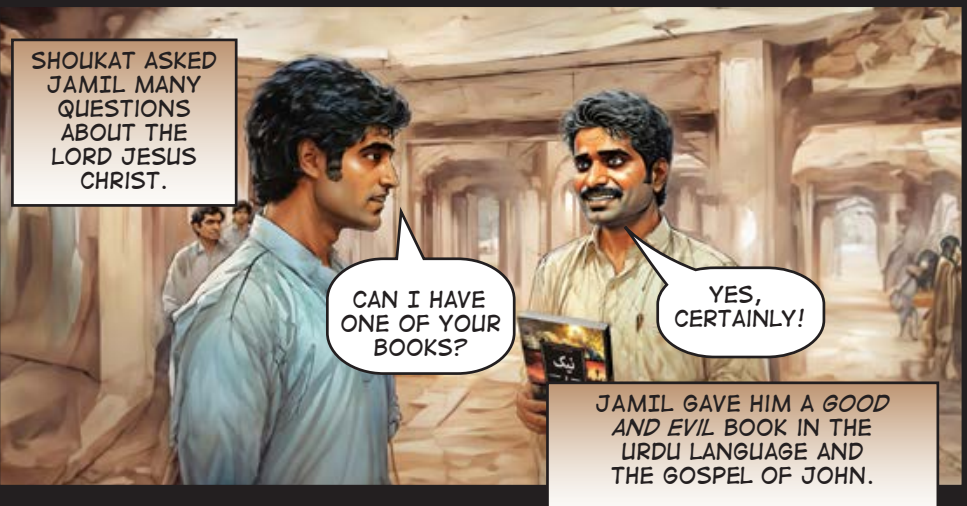
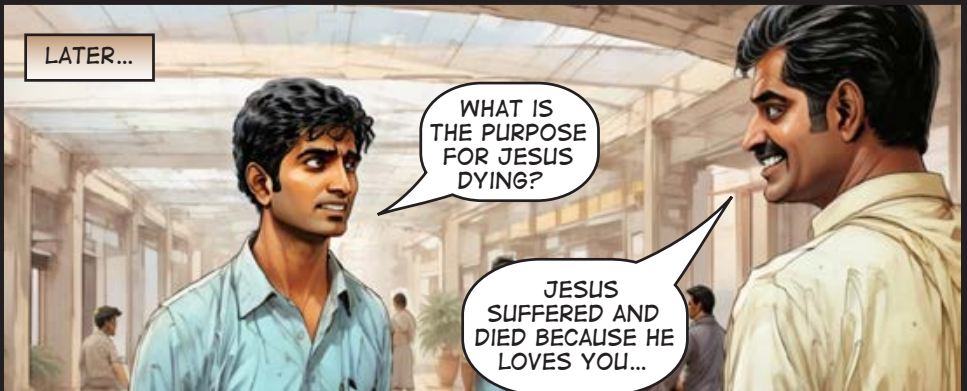
THANK  
YOU, THIS IS  
EXCELLENT.

HELLO! MY NAME IS  
JAMIL, THANK YOU FOR  
COMING! I AM ABOUT TO  
SHOW YOU THE *GOOD AND  
EVIL* COMIC BIBLE ANIMATED  
STORY OF JESUS'  
CRUCIFIXION...



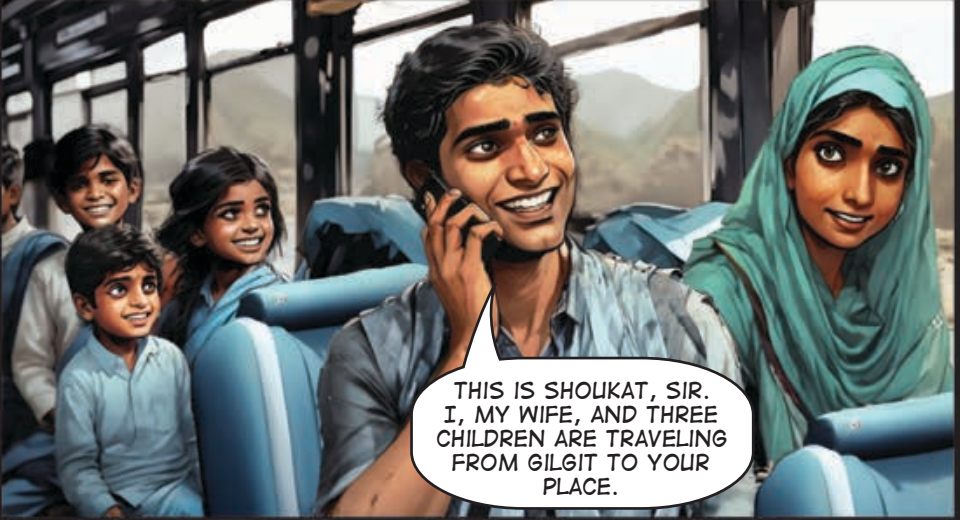
SHOUKAT STAYED AND  
WATCHED THE FILM.





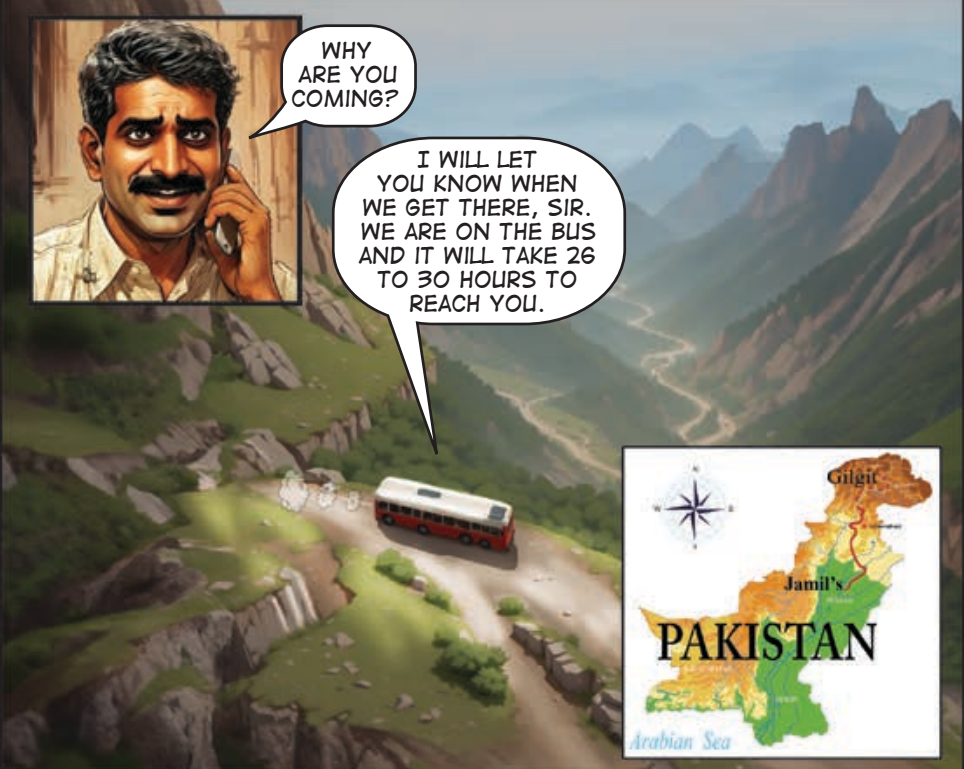


EIGHT MONTHS LATER...

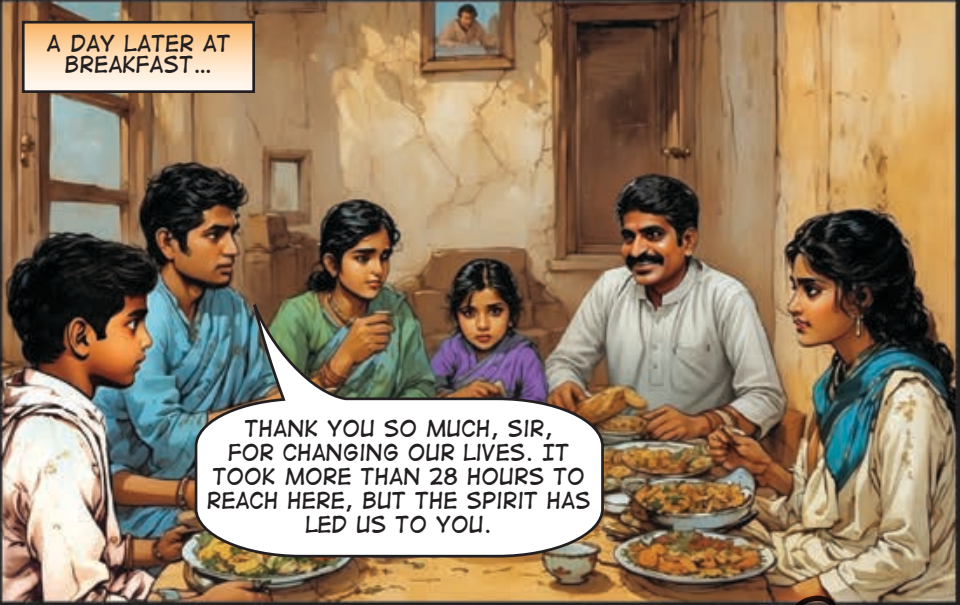


WHY ARE YOU COMING?

I WILL LET YOU KNOW WHEN WE GET THERE, SIR. WE ARE ON THE BUS AND IT WILL TAKE 26 TO 30 HOURS TO REACH YOU.



A DAY LATER AT  
BREAKFAST...



THANK YOU SO MUCH, SIR,  
FOR CHANGING OUR LIVES. IT  
TOOK MORE THAN 28 HOURS TO  
REACH HERE, BUT THE SPIRIT HAS  
LED US TO YOU.



I AM SO  
THANKFUL FOR  
THAT DAY WHEN YOU  
PLAYED THE MOVIE IN  
THE HALL...



AFTER THAT, WHENEVER I  
SLEPT THE SOUND OF WHIPS  
KEPT STRIKING IN MY MIND.  
IT MADE ME DISTURBED.

I SHARED THIS  
WITH MY WIFE...



I CANNOT REST,  
I KEEP DREAMING  
OF JESUS'S  
SUFFERING.

MAYBE WE  
SHOULD LEARN MORE  
ABOUT THIS JESUS.





SO WE BOTH STARTED READING GOOD AND EVIL.

WILL ONE OF THESE MEN BE THE PROMISED REDEEMER?

THE FIRST CHAPTER HAD THIS QUESTION: "WAS HE THE PROMISED CHILD?" IN THE BEGINNING CHAPTERS IT RAISED THIS QUESTION AGAIN AND AGAIN. IT MADE ME MORE CURIOUS ABOUT THIS PROMISED PERSON.



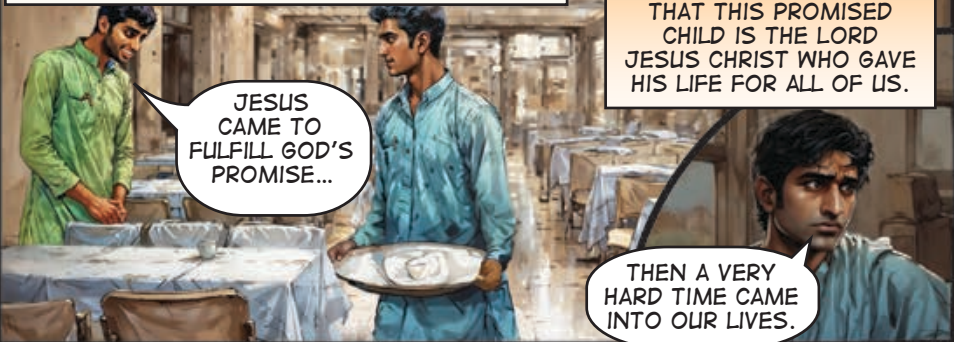
TO LEARN MORE, I SEARCHED THE URDU BIBLE ONLINE, AND THEN GOT A HARD COPY FROM A CHRISTIAN BROTHER.



IN THE EVENINGS MY WIFE AND I STARTED STUDYING THE BIBLE ALONG WITH GOOD AND EVIL.

THE CHRISTIAN BROTHER WHO GAVE ME THE BIBLE STARTED WORKING IN THE SAME HOTEL AS ME AND I BEGAN LEARNING FROM HIM.

THE THINGS I LEARNED I SHARED WITH MY WIFE, AND WE BOTH FOUND THAT THIS PROMISED CHILD IS THE LORD JESUS CHRIST WHO GAVE HIS LIFE FOR ALL OF US.



JESUS CAME TO FULFILL GOD'S PROMISE...

THEN A VERY HARD TIME CAME INTO OUR LIVES.

MY FATHER'S BROTHER, WHO LIVED WITH US, FOUND US STUDYING THE BIBLE IN OUR ROOM.



IT WAS OUR MOST DIFFICULT DAY. HE CALLED ALL OF THE MEN OF HIS FAMILY AND STARTED BEATING US.



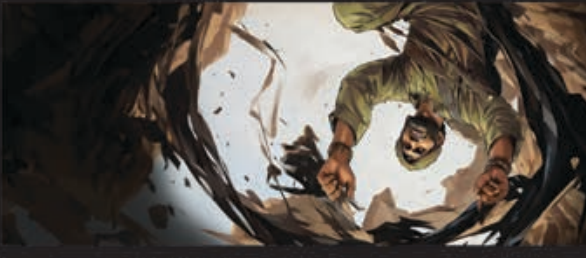
I WATCHED HOW THEY BEAT MY WIFE; MY KIDS WERE CRYING AND TRYING TO SAVE THEIR MOTHER.



I FELT THE LORD'S LASHES, THE LORD'S CRIES, AND THE NAILS IN HIS HANDS. I WAS WITH THE LORD JESUS. I SAW HIS FACE AND HE WAS COMFORTING US.

EVERYTHING WENT BLACK...





EARLY THE NEXT MORNING AN UNFAMILIAR MAN WAS REMOVING DUST AND SAND FROM MY FACE.



THEY HAD BURIED US ALIVE IN THE FIELDS VERY CLOSE TO A HIGH MOUNTAIN, THINKING WE HAD DIED...



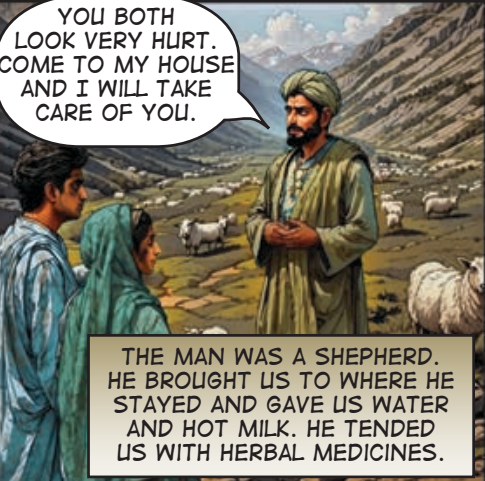
**GASP!**

...BUT THE LORD HAD GIVEN US A NEW LIFE.



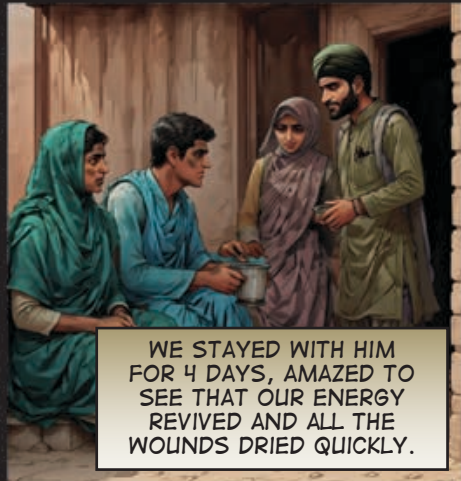
**GROAN!**

**YOU'RE ALIVE!**



YOU BOTH LOOK VERY HURT. COME TO MY HOUSE AND I WILL TAKE CARE OF YOU.

THE MAN WAS A SHEPHERD. HE BROUGHT US TO WHERE HE STAYED AND GAVE US WATER AND HOT MILK. HE TENDED US WITH HERBAL MEDICINES.



WE STAYED WITH HIM FOR 4 DAYS, AMAZED TO SEE THAT OUR ENERGY REVIVED AND ALL THE WOUNDS DRIED QUICKLY.



WE RETURNED TO THE TOWN...

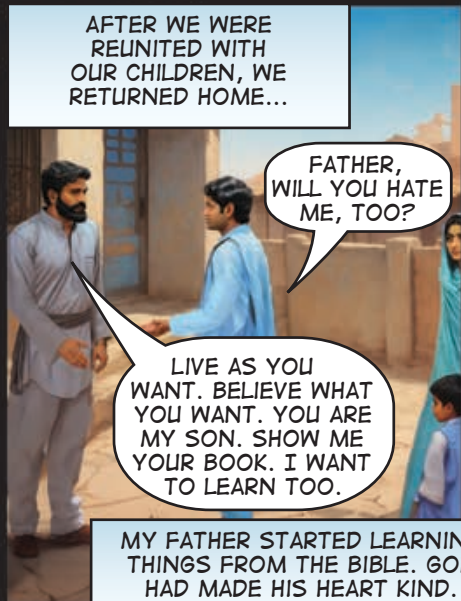


WE WANT TO KNOW ABOUT OUR CHILDREN. ARE THEY ALRIGHT?

YES, WE WILL PROVIDE SECURITY FOR YOU AND YOUR CHILDREN. WE WILL FIND AND ARREST THE CULPRITS WHO TRIED TO KILL YOU.

THE MEN WHO BEAT US WERE ARESTED AND ARE IN JAIL NOW.

AFTER WE WERE REUNITED WITH OUR CHILDREN, WE RETURNED HOME...

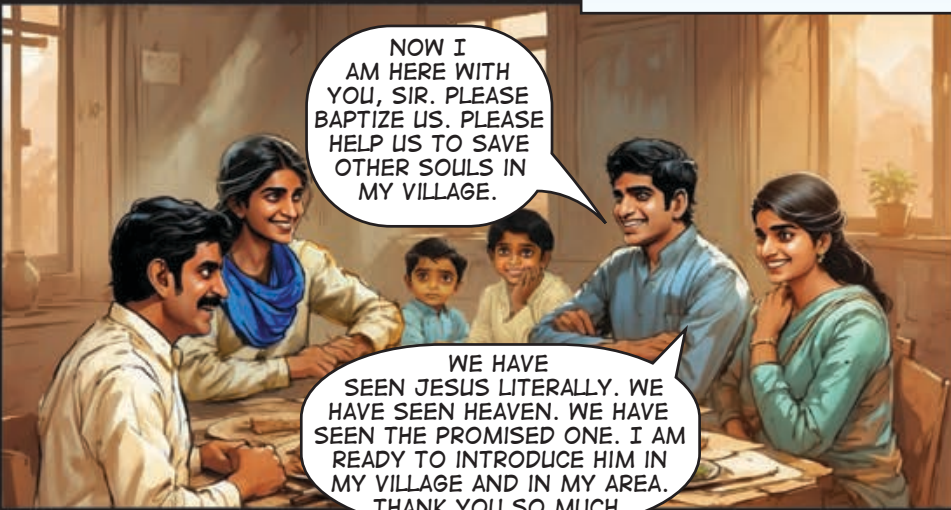


FATHER, WILL YOU HATE ME, TOO?

LIVE AS YOU WANT. BELIEVE WHAT YOU WANT. YOU ARE MY SON. SHOW ME YOUR BOOK. I WANT TO LEARN TOO.

MY FATHER STARTED LEARNING THINGS FROM THE BIBLE. GOD HAD MADE HIS HEART KIND.

NOW I AM HERE WITH YOU, SIR. PLEASE BAPTIZE US. PLEASE HELP US TO SAVE OTHER SOULS IN MY VILLAGE.



WE HAVE SEEN JESUS LITERALLY. WE HAVE SEEN HEAVEN. WE HAVE SEEN THE PROMISED ONE. I AM READY TO INTRODUCE HIM IN MY VILLAGE AND IN MY AREA. THANK YOU SO MUCH.

SHOUKAT AND HIS WIFE WERE BOTH BAPTIZED, STAYED A WEEK WITH JAMIL, AND THEN RETURNED BACK TO THEIR VILLAGE TO SHARE THE STORY OF JESUS WITH THEIR FREINDS AND NEIGHBORS.





# RAISING MEN



By Brenda Martin

When we look around us at average young men today, are we seeing strong, capable MEN?

What we ARE seeing is the fruit of parenting in the last couple generations. And it's looking to us like there is a dearth of manly young men.

Soon after my husband and I were married, we had a vision: that when our boys became adults, they would be men. Not weak or silly man-boys, but men who had a work ethic. Men

who wanted to make things around them better. Men who understood how things work and who could fix things. Men who believed God's Word as their guide for truth in this world.

We didn't have all the answers. We didn't have a plan. But we knew that what they learned and experienced at a young age would shape what they perceived about who they were and where they were headed. We desired for them to grow up to



be men who were empowered for leading a godly and successful life. Not men who would think laziness and self-centeredness was okay.

How did that play out in the way we, as parents, guided them?

By default, we knew they'd be under Mama's care during the day for the most part. But we also knew that the goal was to eventually spend more and more time with Daddy to learn manly ways from him.

So, starting at a young age, Mama gave them little responsibilities in the home. They helped with daily duties, which made them feel needed and important. They were sure the family couldn't function without them.

And when Daddy had evening and weekend projects, he would include them in little ways, and thus they learned that teamwork is the norm in our family.


As they grew up, they would be

expected to carry a bigger load in the home and join Daddy in the heavier, tougher jobs outside. Mama didn't coddle them when joining Daddy might mean enduring a little extra cold or heat. They were learning new skills and gaining much self-worth and confidence by accomplishing big-boy jobs.

We observed that if boys were hanging with Mama for the majority of the day and not in the presence of Dad regularly after the ages of 6–8, they tended to be “softer,” to pick up more feminine mannerisms, and in general were more lazy.

But when they spent as much time with Dad as possible, or even were shown by Dad how to do a manly project and were given the responsibility of seeing it through, they carried themselves in a much more mature and manly way.

We discovered that when boys have responsibilities and know



*They were learning new skills and gaining much self worth & confidence by accomplishing big boy jobs.*



someone is counting on them to show up, they tend to think about how they can do better rather than shirking duties or just wanting to always take the easy road. Mama can do so much to help them in this by not doing more for them at a young age than she should. It's easier to just do it rather than take time to teach, but they will grow up to NEED to shoulder responsibilities. Then, instead of only thinking of themselves or having fun and being lazy, they will look for ways to improve life for themselves and those around them.

The way we passed the responsibility of raising boys from Mama to Daddy worked well for our family dynamic. This may look different for your family, depending on your situation or lifestyle.

Just know that the end goal is young men who don't shrink from work when it needs to be done. Young men who handle themselves in a mature way rather than with excessive silly or goofy mannerisms. Young men who seek out ways to apply themselves to learning and developing skills.

And this is better done when boys have manly examples, or at least adults who will push them to be better rather than protecting them from the hard knocks of life, which are simply opportunities to establish maturity that leads to manly, dependable men who will make good husbands and leaders someday! ■

You can find Brenda on Instagram@  
[www.instagram.com/brenda.k.martin](http://www.instagram.com/brenda.k.martin)

# TRAINING CHILDREN TO BE *Strong* IN Spirit

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There has never been a more dangerous time to raise a family. Matthew 10:28 says *And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.*

The world is competing for your child's soul; will you let it win?

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# Mother's Day

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- The Hidden Help Meet
- Testimony of Darlene Rose | CD



MOTHER'S DAY | MAY 12, 2024

# Father's Day

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- Eight Kingdoms
- Only Men | CD

FATHER'S DAY | JUNE 16, 2024

# Asked -and- Answered



*Hello!*

*We have read your books and started training our 15-month-old. Her behavior has improved drastically. There's just one area that I'm unclear on in your articles and books that we struggle with. She obeys but sometimes throws a fit while she obeys. We instantly take away whatever she wanted, making it negative for her to have a bad attitude (we are very positive, happy people). Sometimes she will cry when we don't hold her in public or cry in bed. Should I show her more sympathy? We're still learning the difference between a defiant cry and a sad cry. It seems like a sad cry, but she won't stop. Is that disobeying? She does have a strong will. Am I too soft? Do I need to have a stronger will and keep disciplining her until she stops crying? Thank you for taking the time to read this. We look forward to hearing back!*

*~ Concerned Parents*

Hello, Concerned Parents,

Congratulations on your 15-month-old. What a fun age!

Child-training methods are just that, methods. Not every situation will fit perfectly with any particular method. It will require consistent patience, love, and wisdom.

Crying is a part of the human condition, and it is not always a voluntary reaction. As a parent it is important to be able to step back, assess what is going on with your little girl, and then act in her best interest.

The problem you've identified is very common with children that age.

It starts with disobedience or a bad attitude, but the correction creates a cycle of crying that they cannot get out of. At some point their thinking brain shuts off and they are no longer learning anything. They are just



overwhelmed, and it comes out as a wailing cry.

The problem is if you respond to this cry by allowing your daughter to define her situation, she learns that to control you all she must do is move into a wailing cry and she will get her way. Despite what she now thinks, getting her own way will not be a comfort to her. It will mean that at the tender age of 15 months, she will have to evaluate every situation in her life and decide what she wants. That is emotionally exhausting. It will create anxiety and, eventually, rebellion.

However, continuing to insist she stop crying isn't feasible because she doesn't have the faculty to control herself at that point.

My favorite exercise with my daughters in this scenario was to narrow the scope of obedience to a binary choice. That way, no matter their emotional state, they could easily understand, and most importantly, choose whether to obey.

If my daughter were crying uncontrollably, I would not insist that she stop crying. At not yet a year-and-a-half old, I understand that is beyond her meager control.

Instead, I would pick an item, let's say a teddy bear on the couch next to her. I would then say in a clear, calm voice, "Hand Daddy that teddy bear."

I would not address the crying at all, or any sort of complicated task like picking up your toys. Instead, I would narrow the focus to one command with a simple choice. Obey or disobey. If she wailed, she would get a quick tap. It is not a punishment; it is a negative consequence for disobedience.

Again, "Hand Daddy the teddy bear." While continuing to cry she would reach down, pick up the teddy bear, and hand it to me. Now comes positive reinforcement.

Thank you!

You did a good job!

You are a good helper!

At this point she's still crying, but usually it's more of a hiccup. I have reestablished fellowship and authority. I am not in the position of judge but rather in the position of leader. I am teaching her to follow my commands for her good because I love her. By following my instruction, she has recognized my authority and is no longer trying to assert her own.

This gives her peace. That internal structural peace gives way to external peace and the crying quiets down.

As it does, I point to a small toy truck and say, "Now, hand Daddy that truck." She picks up the truck and brings it to my eagerly open hand. Again, positive reinforcement and I might take the truck and play with it for a minute. I make silly engine noises and drive it over the pillow, run into the teddy bear and the truck falls over. I'm not engaging her in this play, but she is watching it and realizes that she is assisting me in play and we have fellowship.

At this point she usually has stopped crying. It's only been about 90 seconds. After 4 or 5 seconds of playing with the truck, I point at the little airplane on a chair two steps away. "Hand Daddy the airplane."

I don't want to tax her emotionally by requiring her to have patience or self-control at this point. I simply want her to give up control of the situation to Daddy, and then we're going to play together!

When she hands me the little airplane, I again offer positive reinforcement and give a slightly more complex command. "Take the airplane and the truck and put them in that box." Now she must think about coordination. At this point she has completely forgotten about the drama, and we are working together on a task.

Once that's complete, "Good job!" Positive reinforcement.

Now, "Bring Daddy that book and we're going to read." I have not offered her a choice or asked her to make any decisions. I haven't asked her to engage in self-control or to stop doing anything. Instead, I have created a series of binary choices that are yes or no.

It is obedience in its most simple form. It is what God started with when he put Adam and Eve in the garden. Obedience or disobedience, a very simple choice.

Remember to play, laugh, snuggle, and wrestle a hundred times more than doling out any sort of discipline. Kids need to be kids, and they have a way of reminding us to be kids as well.

My youngest is now driving and I miss the days of my little toddlers.

Remember to thank God for every exhausting minute and rejoice in the responsibility that he's giving you, bringing up that precious little girl.

May God bless you guys,

*~Nathan Pearl*

# NO GREATER JOY VOLUME 1-3

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Have you ever been curious about what NGJ looked like in the beginning? Our Vol. 1-3 bundle features all of the content from our original NGJ magazine, from 1995-2005, with invaluable child training methods, incoming letters, and responses from Mike and Debi Pearl



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31





# Books

Marriage | Young Adults |  
Child Training | Bible Topics |  
Childrens Stories

## Marriage

### Created to Need a Help Meet |



There are mixed messages concerning the role of a husband today. And our children are paying the price. Michael's book is a blunt perspective on what it means to be a husband amidst the issues of pornography, feminism, and godlessness.

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### Created to Be His Help Meet |



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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### Holy Sex | Song of Solomon



Take a refreshing journey through Biblical texts showing this sanctifying perspective on the most powerful

passion God has ever created. This book will free the reader from false guilt and shame.

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### The Hidden Help Meet |



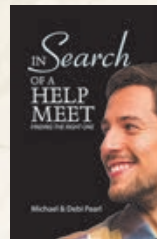
Our families are being fought over by the enemy. A godly woman's effect on the outcome of the war against the family is staggering.

Satan knows this, and he also knows a woman's weakness.

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## Young Adults

### In Search of a Help Meet |



Every young man has to make two pivotal decisions that will determine whether he is miserable or content for the rest of his life: who he

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### Preparing to Be a Help Meet |



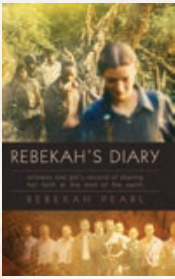
Being a help meet is one of the most wonderful delights and formidable challenges a woman can experience. Are

you prepared?

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## Rebekah's Diary |



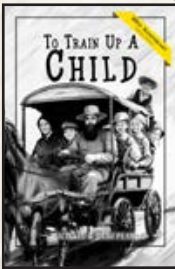
This is the inspiring story of how God changed the lives of the Kumboi people of Papua New Guinea through a young woman with a passion for languages and a willingness to go further than she ever thought she could.

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## Child Training

### To Train Up a Child |

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\*Discount is for \$9.95 price only

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### Training Children to Be

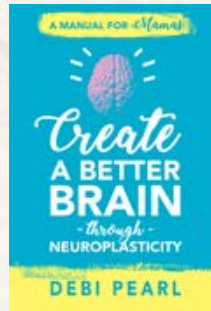


### Strong in Spirit |

The world is competing for your child's soul; will you let it win? In this book, Michael Pearl calls for parents to take initiative in their children's lives and train them to not just live apart from the world, but actively change it.

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## Create a Better Brain Through Neuroplasticity |

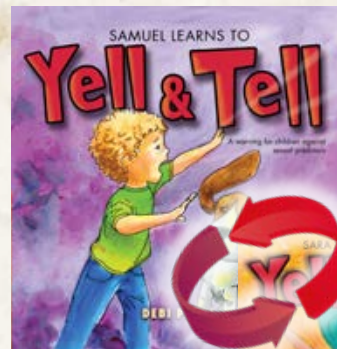


This book is the result of thousands of hours of intense research and interviews, designed as a guidebook for mamas with children in any stage of development, even those still in the womb. To parents dealing with ADHD, Autism, and brain damage: you are not alone in your struggles, nor are you hopeless.

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### Yell & Tell Flip-Book |



We have taken *Samuel Learns to Yell & Tell* and *Sara Sue Learns to Yell & Tell* and combined them into ONE book! Simply flip the book in the middle and begin to read the other side!

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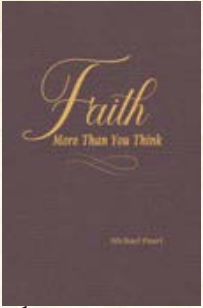
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# Bible Topics

with Michael Pearl

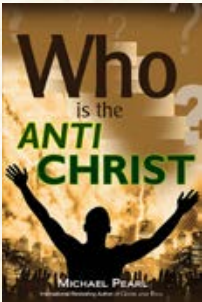
## Faith: More Than You Think



This is a chronological journey through the Bible, a collection of sixty-four Bible stories, with some personal stories thrown in to make the point.

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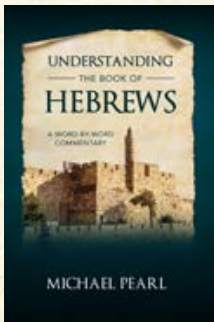
## Who is the Antichrist



The biblical facts concerning antichrist are far different from popular belief. This little book will point you in the right direction and launch your study of this critical subject.

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## Understanding the Book of Hebrews



If you look at your faith you will look in vain. If you look to him, knowing you have insufficient faith, he will receive you as you are, having less faith than a grain of finely ground pepper.

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## The Bible on Divorce and Remarriage



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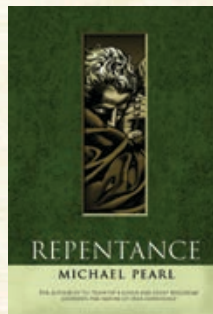
## The Prophecy of Magog & Israel



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# AUDIO

teaching - preaching - music - stories  
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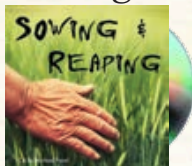


All MP3 CDs are \$12.95

All CDs are \$6.95

MP3 CDs are most commonly played on computers. You can also copy the MP3 audio files directly from the disc to your computer, add the audio to your music software's Library, then sync it to your iPod or other MP3-playing device.

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Better defined as a sermon than as teaching. It is a truly fun listen with entertaining stories and illustrations, designed to warn the believer that he will reap what he sows.

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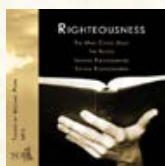
## If by Grace & God's Chosen People |



Two messages on one CD: Salvation is completely by grace without the deeds of the law. Israel remains God's chosen people

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## Righteousness |



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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Your sins are found in this list. Sin brings misery, even where we are unaware of it as the source of our troubled spirit. To allow the Holy Spirit to chase lifelong troublesome sin out into the light is purging in and of itself. Nine messages.

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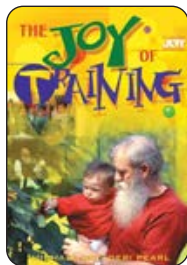
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# DVDs

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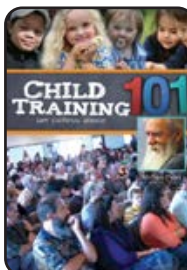
## The Joy Of Training |



Michael and Debi Pearl tell how they successfully trained up their five children with love, humor, the rod, and a King James Bible.

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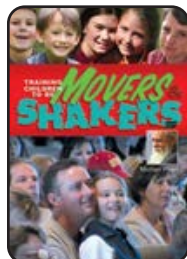
## Child Training 101 |



If you want to introduce child-training principles to a friend, this is the one DVD to give them. It takes the viewer back to the basics of child training

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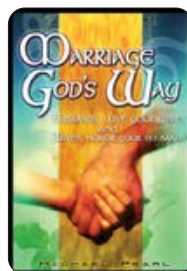
## Movers & Shakers |



Michael encourages parents to train their children to be tomorrow's movers and shakers. Teach them to become leaders, entrepreneurs, statesmen -- the framers of tomorrow.

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## Marriage God's Way |

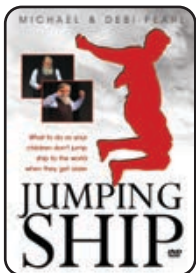


Husbands, learn how to sanctify your wife and cleanse her of spots, wrinkles, and blemishes.

Wives, learn the freedom of honoring and ministering to your man.

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## Jumping Ship |

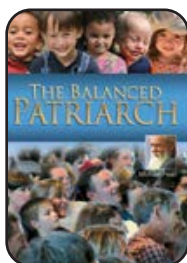


There is a troubling trend showing up among some of the "homeschool crowd." Their children are

discontent and rebellious, jumping ship as soon as they think they can survive without the family

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## The Balanced Patriarch |



When do children cease to be under parental authority? Michael Pearl goes to the Bible and tells you what God has to say.

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