



NO GREATER JOY

NOV.-DEC. 2018



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



Eden Raine Pearl

Born September 25, 2018

7 lbs, 2 oz

19 inches long

As 2018 is drawing to a close, we are counting our blessings/pearls and rejoicing in the birth of our 25th grandchild Eden Raine! After six grandsons in a row, Eden was welcomed into the world two weeks early, after a smooth, short labor. Mama and Baby are doing well!

*Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above,
and cometh down from the Father of lights, with
whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.*

James 1:17

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Photo by Rachel Zimmerman



Married to a VISIONARY

By Karen Sargent

*W*hen I was a young girl, most of the examples of good marriages in my life—my parents, my grandparents, a close aunt and uncle—were of women married to Steady men.

So naturally, that's how I envisioned my own would be. But back then we didn't understand the three types of men, so I didn't know what I was getting when I got a classic Visionary.

Ben and I met at a Wednesday night prayer meeting in a family's basement. These meetings were

pretty informal, with some singing and then the opportunity for anyone to share a word, followed by prayer. Not being afflicted with bashfulness, as soon as the singing was over, Ben jumped up, planted one foot on the coffee table and his (huge) Bible on his knee, and began a passionate



message about being a peculiar people. I could see it came naturally to him, but having never heard a young man preach with such authority, I was fascinated.

When the meeting ended, I introduced myself to Ben and he impressed me by forgetting his name (true story). He opened the front of his Bible and found it there.

“Ben. My name’s Ben.”

After a moment of awkwardness (during which I now know he was desperately trying to figure out how to talk to a girl), he said, “Let me tell you what God showed me today,” and flipped his Bible open. I listened with wide eyes, not knowing what to think of this guy, but still captivated by one who taught the Scriptures with authority. (I realize I keep saying that, but I come from the Northeast, where there was very little Bible influence in the 1970s and ‘80s. The Christian guys my age were for the most part pretty wishy-washy.) At some point, we agreed to go to a local diner so he could continue sharing what God had taught him.

We spent a few hours at the diner

that night, him teaching and me learning everything you ever wanted to know about Romans 6. I was riveted. Spellbound. I knew right away there was something very different about this guy, and weird as I thought he was, I was drawn to him—not in a romantic way, but in an “I need more of this authority business” way. At 21, he was a man—he was in the Navy, had a plan for his life, and was busy serving God—a Christian novelty where I come from.

I should have known I was in for a wild ride

After I graduated from college and his tour in the Navy was up, we married and began our life in Asheville, North Carolina. When our first move happened just three months later, I should have known I was in for a wild ride.



In the first 30 years of our marriage, we had five children and homeschooled them, spent almost 19 years in the Navy and 11 years in defense contracting, and moved no fewer than 17 times.

In addition to Ben’s regular jobs over the years, we completely gutted

and remodeled houses, painted interiors and exteriors, cut trees off of people's barns after hurricanes, put new motors in four vehicles and fixed many others, converted a bomb shelter into a house, started two grass-cutting businesses, and did some roofing. At any given time we owned between five and seven vehicles, all of which needed repair. We once tore the back off of our house (during a thunderstorm because VISION-ARY) and completely reconfigured it. When major holidays came around, we always wondered what big project we would be doing—tearing out all the carpet on Christmas Day, rebuilding the deck the same day 60 people from our Sunday school class were coming for a barbecue...

My children—both boys and girls—know demolition, plumbing, wiring, framing, roofing, painting, tiling, and auto repair. They can

install windows and replace a hot water heater. All of them can split firewood with a maul, and one of my daughters recently fixed a truck that wouldn't start while her guy friends stood by and watched. This crazy kind of life has its benefits, namely that my kids are prepared for just about anything.

Over the years our life was rich in experiences that included tent camping (it rained literally every time we went, with such predictability that a friend once offered us \$20 to go home), planting a grove of pine trees (for what?), steelhead fishing in Washington State, a short-lived family bluegrass band, living in a trailer 15 yards from railroad tracks and just at the end of a runway where C-5 cargo planes took off all night, six dogs, a few fish, and a three-legged turtle, a trip to Disney World complete with head lice, and a sailboat



that never saw water. Every year we grew a garden eight times too big for our family, then spent the rest of the summer hauling laundry baskets full of fresh vegetables to church to give away. Everything we ever did was bigger and more “exciting” than necessary. It was exhausting.

One thing you need to know about Visionaries is that they never run out of ideas

Then the day came when the last child graduated from college and Ben and I were empty nesters. Finally it was time to relax. We had run the race, finished our course. I breathed a sigh of relief and thought I was on easy street.

No.

Ben had a plan.

One thing you need to know about Visionaries is that they never run out of ideas. This one was a whopper, and I had no more children to help me.

Ben decided we were going to move back to Asheville, buy a farm, and raise cattle. We would use the “profits” to support missionaries.

Let me remind you that our experience with animals was limited to six dogs (four of whom died untimely deaths), a few fish, and a crippled turtle. We knew nothing about large mammals, especially those that would be a food source. I was petrified.

But after 30-some years of marriage, you learn there are things you can say to your spouse. So I put my hands on my hips and said in the sternest voice I could muster, “If you want to farm, I can’t stop you, but



you're crazy! We don't know anything about cows! I am not taking care of them, and I am never going in the pasture with thousand-pound animals."

Ben replied, "What's to know? You put them in the field and they eat grass. How hard can it be?"

(Let me just stop here and give you this warning: if your husband ever asks that rhetorical question, you need to become a prayer warrior of the highest degree. Cover yourself, your husband, your home, your pastures, and your cows with fervent prayer, because that is the question of the unlearned and ignorant, and the universe is laughing with glee at all the fun it's about to have at your expense.)

When I said "I do" 34 years ago, I became a farmer too, I just didn't know it yet

So Ben is a farmer. When I said "I do" 34 years ago, I became a farmer too, I just didn't know it yet.

Our first two years as cow parents have been chock-full of lessons.

Ben has learned that when you bring calves home, you don't just put them out to pasture. If you do, they escape in less than 18 hours and go crashing through fences, winding up at the neighbor's farm a mile up the road, and then you have to sell them at the stockyard because once they escape, they will keep trying. He's also learned that a 300-pound calf can throw you around like a dishrag.

I have learned that Angus cows

are big teddy bears. They are calm, sweet animals that just want to be scratched and loved on. I hang out with them as often as I can, and we call it "cow therapy." I have also learned to never say never. Every time I've said "I will never (fill in the blank)," I end up doing it. When Ben brought a milk cow home last fall, I said, "I'm not milking a cow," and while the words were coming out of my mouth, I knew it would eventually happen.

Do the right thing and eventually your want-to will catch up

Together we've learned that it's possible for two middle-aged adults to build a barn in a week and still love each other. I am eternally grateful to our two sons who are rich in

Your secret weapon is your flexibility, your ability to adapt and go with the flow

mercy and came one weekend to put the roof on so I wouldn't have to.

Why do I share our story? Because somewhere out there are thousands of wives married to Visionaries who feel like they can't take all the craziness. Sometimes I still feel like that, and I'm 34 years into this.

Several years ago I asked a wiser, older woman why I still struggled—with how I reacted, my attitudes, my thoughts... I figured after all these years, acting the right way would come naturally. I was surprised at her answer: Keep struggling. It's when you give up that everyone loses.

God knows you are married to a Visionary and that sometimes you feel like you're losing your mind with it. But he says in *Isaiah 65:24* *"And it shall come to pass, that before they call, I will answer; and while they are yet speaking, I will hear."* His provision for you is not just on time, it's EARLY—"before they call." You have what you need right now to

honor your husband, no matter how crazy you think he is.

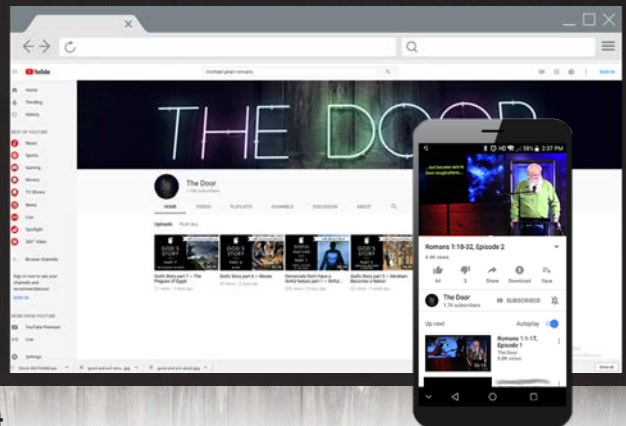
Your secret weapon is your flexibility, your ability to adapt and go with the flow. Practice it daily!

"Commit thy works unto the LORD, and thy thoughts shall be established" (Proverbs 16:3).

Even when you don't feel like it, do the right thing, and eventually your want-to will catch up. God will be honored, you will be blessed, and your husband will know what a treasure he has. ■



"I'm going through the Bible teachings of Mr. Pearl on Romans on YOUTUBE and am FASCINATED at the knowledge I am gaining!! Please thank Mr. Pearl!!! Love in JESUS, SAM"



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RAISING BOYS WHO Raise Cain

By Michael Pearl

FROM A READER

My boys are 12 and 10 years old, and they both have streaks of Command Man in them. I am a laid-back, mild, servant-type personality. They have recently begun to assert themselves, and the conflict has resulted in them having bad attitudes. After the latest incident with my oldest, I gave him work to do and told him he could not do anything else until the job was done satisfactorily, and he stopped being angry. I did this once and his heart softened, and he has been different since then. I don't know how long it will last though. How do I raise boys to be strong men without suppressing their personality when my own personality is so laid-back? Where do I draw the line between raising a young man with King-type personality traits and excusing an overly dominant son without proper respect for authority? ~KC ►►

MICHAEL ANSWERS

Your question is universal and the issue very well stated. Your boys are normal and so are you. You have instinctively hit upon the solution when you took charge and “gave him extra work to do,” resulting in him ceasing his anger. You not only won compliance, you won his heart.

Your parenting is not at fault for having a “laid back, mild, servant” temperament. It wouldn’t matter if

**When boys start
transitioning into little
men, they try to throw
off restraints**

you were of a commanding personality and bubbling with overseeing energy. When boys start transitioning into little men, they try to throw off restraints like a cat with a sock over its head. I am more concerned for the digitally dazed darlings who dawdle over the dumbing-down blue screens and whine, “Do I have to?” Give me a young strapping fellow filled with a driving desire to be the man. A strong, newly acquired mule must be harnessed to an oversized log and allowed to pull in defiance of the burden until he yields to the soft commands of his overseer. It doesn’t break the mule’s spirit; it causes him to yield his energies to the will of his lord. The mule finds peace in surrender and comes to enjoy the cooperative labor.

I can understand your concern of not wanting to “suppress their personality.” But it is actually too late for that. Children who are suppressed and muted in personality got that way before they were 4 years old. An overbearing father might suppress the expressions of maleness in his 12-year-old son, but even he cannot erase it. Your sons are going to become independent men very soon, no matter what you do. The question is, will they get there in an unregulated state of self-indulgence and disrespect for authority or will they achieve manhood as a soldier in training who respects authority? ►►

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My wife, the infamous Debi Pearl, had the exact same concerns when our boys were about that age. I never had any problem with them. I always maintained a position of leadership and control. But Deb came to me whining that Gabriel didn't respect her. She was

.....

She was wearied with the struggle to be the mother of two boys who thought they were men

right. On occasion I had observed him responding to her more like she was his sister trying to impose upon his liberties. He was a little man at 8 or 10 years old. He was big for his age and skilled in a variety of things that most men never learn. He was confident, cocky, aggressive, and had a mind of his own. He and Nathan—two years younger—worked outside with me most of the time. I came in from work expecting to be catered to, which was my wife's manner, so the boys came



in from work and expected to be the second and third man in the house. My wife and daughters usually catered to the tired boys as well. After all, we had been out making a living for the family or tending to the chores on the place, so it was the natural order of a working farm or homestead. But when the boys were lazing around with no demands placed upon their time, they still had a sense of entitlement. I could just point and get their immediate attention and compliance, but Deb had to ask over and over again. They had gotten too big to spank, and her words didn't carry any authority, so although they obeyed after a little nagging or pleading, she was wearied with the struggle to be the mother of two boys who thought they were men.



It is not good for boys to be under authority that lacks authority

On many occasions she came to me with her complaints. I could just turn and look at them without any expres-

sion and they would jump up to obey her desire. But it was I who had the authority, and when I was not present, she always had to play tug-of-war with them.

After trying several failed remedies, finally, one day when she came to me with a complaint about the boys, I said, "It's your fault they do not respect you; I can't make them fear you; you must command respect on your own." It is not good for boys to be under an authority that lacks authority. It teaches them to disrespect oversight and act in rebellion. I told Deb to think like she was me. "Speak like I do. Respect your own words and commands. Be shocked and offended if you have to speak twice. Never stoop to accept dissent. Promote yourself from private to drill sergeant. You have the power to court-martial them or to burden them with extra duty. The house is yours. You are graciously allowing them to sleep in a bed you make and eat at your table. Don't debate a command with a private." I told her, "When you believe in your authority, they will too."

She hit the parade field like a newly promoted sergeant. She spoke and it was final. If I remember correctly, she even spanked them once or twice to let them know she was in charge. They were too big to cry and do much more than squirm, but the shock of their 120-pound mother taking a switch or belt to their backsides was enough to signal that she was running this ship right alongside Dad. If they tried to squirm out of a request or command, she just added to their chores.

It was amazing to see. These were uncharted waters for both of us. When I briefly tell the story it sounds like I was wise and discerning. But that was not the case. We were both feeling around in the dark, desperate to find a solution—if there was one. This was our first time to be parents of 8 and 10 year olds. We had no examples and no books to read. We were experimenting and acting on instinct. But the boys




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quickly developed the “fear of God” when Mother spoke. They liked her better when she liked herself enough to stand her ground.

Now all of you condemning psychologists out there will have a critical analysis about the psychological soundness of our approach, but the clinical trial is now complete. Gabriel is 42 years old and Nathan is 40. They are both gentle and compassionate toward their mother and continue to honor their father. They rise up and call us blessed (Proverbs 31:28). They happily complied from the day she put a holy fear into them. Both of them have the utmost respect for their wives and for women everywhere, and are guardians of femininity, protectors of those great women who sacrifice so much to be a blessing to the men in their lives. Go thou and do likewise. ■

Humility **SOUGHT** Is Humility **LOST**

By Michael Pearl

The lack of humility is an evil; but the presence of humility is not a virtue.

True humility is nothing more than self-realization.

The pursuit of humility is the pursuit of vanity, for it is a personal quality to be admired by others.

The pursuit of humility is what the Bible calls “voluntary humility” (Col. 2:18) and is a diadem to be worn by pride. Pride seeks humility as a disguise for spiritual ambition.

Humility achieved through desire is self-deception and hypocrisy. The truly humble care nothing for it, but only recognize it in others.

Humility is revealed in sacrificial, compassionate service, not in self-promoting self-effacement.

True humility is not a virtue to be sought; rather it is the admission of need as one turns to God or submits to others.



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NAGGING WIVES and HURTFUL HUSBANDS

By Michael Pearl

FROM A READER

Hi! I've listened to your *Created to Be His Help Meet*, and I'm trying to apply it to my life. It seems I fail every day. I have a wonderful Visionary for a husband, and I struggle with being a nagging wife. I have been married seven years, and it seems we fight a lot more than we used to. Please pray for me to stop nagging and start trusting my husband to lead my home. Any advice on how to do so?

MICHAEL ANSWERS

Wives resort to nagging because they are less empowered in the relationship and believe it to be their only recourse to express dissatisfaction with their husband's actions or—more likely—inactions.

Whereas husbands, who feel they hold the power,



gripe and complain, expecting to intimidate their wives into a change of behavior. Can we all say **UGLY** and make a disgusting face while repeating it ten times?

This fault runs so deep in humanity that without it most people wouldn't have a life at all. Many marriages would be wordless. I am reminded of the passage *"That which is crooked cannot be made straight: and that which is wanting cannot be numbered"* (Ecclesiastes 1:15).

The root of a woman's nagging and a man's complaining is a false belief in one's importance and deserts. A man feels his wife should perform at a higher, more attentive level with frugality and unending energy. When she does not, he takes

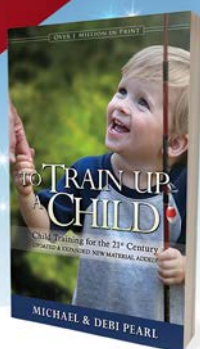
The root is... a false belief in one's importance and deserts

it personally. She is an embarrassment, a burden, a bad lover, an inept house manager, or any number of other things the man takes to be a personal affront. He is the boss; she



needs managing. She has failed. But he can't spank her; he can't reason with her; he has tried. So he complains, blames, accuses, and generally acts like an employer who is about to lose his business due to the inept help. Can we all repeat ten times—**UGLY?**

The wife feels she is at the mercy of the boss. She wants to be in a relationship where she is valued and her opinions get a respectful hearing. She wants to motivate him to meet his perceived obligations. Being at his mercy, she is frustrated with his laziness, carnality, lack of frugality,



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failure to put the family first, and disregard for the needs of the children. She is especially bothered by the fact that he takes her for granted and treats her like a kept woman who has no dignity. Now we need to say **UGLY** twenty times, this time while making a thumbs-down gesture each time we say it.

You will have to forgive this writer for being so bold. I, too, am frustrated with humanity. I wonder how God feels—no doubt he has more grace than I do.

There was a time in our early marriage when I complained and criticized, and my wife nagged and tried to steer me in the way she felt I should go. We were both right in that our partners were imperfect and immature. We were both wrong in that we thought we had the God-appointed authority to either take charge of another human being or to

act like their judge with power to do nothing more than blame or nag. We called that UGLY a long time ago—thankfully.

There were a thousand little revelations along the way

As I reflect, I cannot remember a crisis that changed everything. It was a process, and at the time I don't think we thought about the change that was taking place. We did not have any books on marriage, and I don't remember ever considering that we might have had a problem. So we did not consciously work on mending our marriage. But we are both Christians who want to please God and bless others. We both recognize the desirability of humility and grace, of not being judgmental, of the lordship

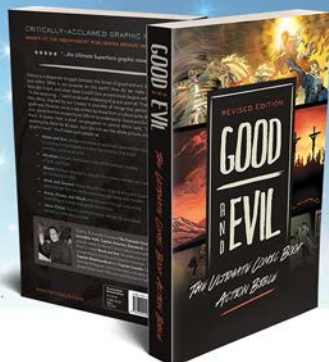
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Happy makes happy

of Christ in our lives. In time we could admit to the sin of our own attitudes and words. We were able to see the hurt we caused and were grieved with the pain we inflicted.

If I could reduce it to one principle, I might say that we both resigned our position as the other's manager

The Holy Spirit of God led us like sheep to greener pastures. He made us to lie down by still waters, and he restored our souls. Each day brought a little more clarity and a little more love, until we blossomed as a couple and could look back at where we had been, knowing that being Christians had changed us and

produced a marriage that was blessed and abundant.

There were a thousand little revelations along the way—changes of heart and perspective. We came to respect each other and to allow the other to be who they are without trying to change them. If I could reduce it to one principle, I might say that we both resigned our position as the other's manager. We came to understand that it is not within our jurisdiction to change the other person into the ideal image of a spouse. Grace and mercy begin in the home and *"charity shall cover the multitude of sins"* (1 Peter 4:8).

Think about it: when you want someone to act differently and they won't comply, what right have you to complain, nag, coerce, criticize, or

berate them? Who are you again? What is your exalted title? Come down from your high place where you can hear me.

Furthermore, has anyone ever been made better with criticism? If you make a person feel terrible about themselves, will they repent to become a cheerful, compliant, and dutiful servant? When your spouse disappoints you, there are just four options:

- You can complain, blame, and denounce, knowing it will never improve the situation but is just a vent for your feelings, sort of like waving your fist at another driver. You are adopting this misery as a way of life.
- You can put them out of your life, now or later. Or you can just keep up the negativity until they leave to find peace. It is happening every day.
- You can become angry and resort to coercion or force. That might involve words that suggest rejection and condemnation, or it might escalate into the feeling of physical threats, or you can just kill them. It happens every day. Anger and all that results from it is the first step to murder.



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- **You can resign as chairman of the universe. Recognize that it is not your duty or responsibility to change or control the behavior of anyone other than your young children. Turn the controls over to God. If there is blame, let him be the blamer in his own way and in his own time. If he tolerates your husband or wife, you can too. If scorn and derision are called for, recognize you are not worthy to be the messenger.**

You will discover that life with this most unworthy spouse is not that difficult once you let go of your need to control the other's behavior. When you lay that battle down, you will have the energy to endure with

grace the burdens of life. When you stop trying to control others, God will find it easier to aid you in controlling your own life and emotions.

Finally, know that there are many women married to men just like your husband, and they are not nagging and are quite happy with him. They came to marriage not expecting so much, and they are content with what they have. Things that concern you don't concern them at all. They lived in six different trailer parks growing up, so if they lose this trailer because he won't work, "Well, we can move in with my sister; she's got an extra room in her double-wide." It's all in the perspective. Happy makes happy. Nagging makes old nags who are looking for another husband. ■

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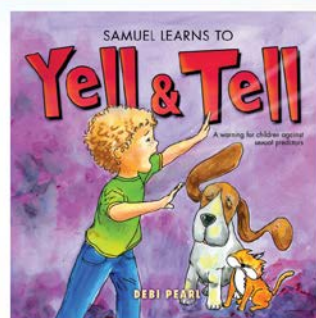
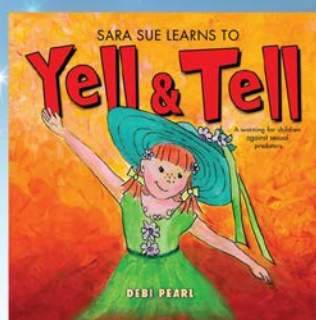
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*My wife and I really like these books and it is so powerful in **teaching our children to not be afraid to tell us** when they feel uncomfortable with other people etc. -JG*

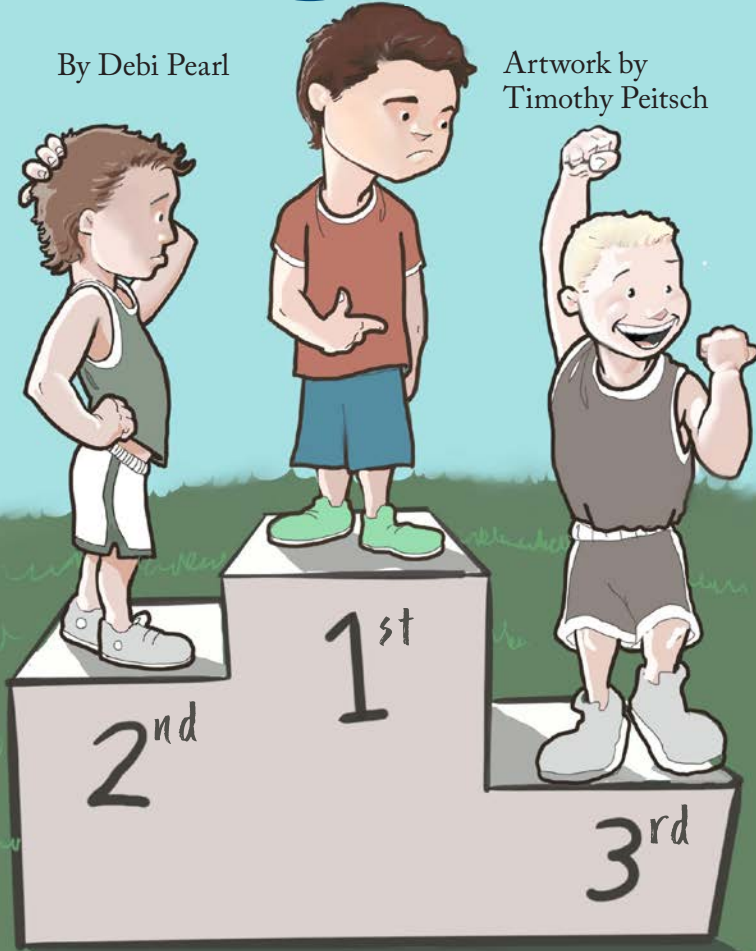
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INSTILLING HOPE

By Debi Pearl

Artwork by
Timothy Peitsch



**A little child without hope
is a tragic life in the making.**

It is tragic because it is unnecessary. Parents and caretakers communicate hope for a bright future by means of their words and actions. In those early, formative

years, it is impossible that the child should feel different from his or her programming. Hope is caught more than taught. It is wiped away by criticism and ►►

rejection. I have seen too many dull-eyed or even angry children retreating or acting out due to their lack of hope. Often the child is from a split home where there is fighting, arguing, drinking, drugs, and indifference. But all too often I see lack of hope dulling the face of a child from a strong, stable home. A child who really wants to learn how to read, spell, or do math but just can't understand will lose hope when they hear disappointment and criticism in their homeschool mom's voice. Often it is something simple in a child's life that has this profound effect of stealing away a child's hope. A child without hope comes to think he is not worthy and capable, or maybe just not smart like other kids. It can be something very small and not noticed by the parents that strips hope away from a little one. Likewise something just as small can be the catalyst to produce a lifetime of hope and bright expectation.

LETTERS OF HOPE

Over the years we have received many letters from women who testify that when they were 5 or 6 years old some family offered to take them to church and have dinner afterwards. The letters tell a similar story of how a hopeless little girl got her first glimpse of hope as she watched and waited for that magical few hours to arrive each week when she would step into a whole new world in the company of an interested, relaxed human being that wanted to spend time with her. Often these women

Such small things can make a little girl feel beautiful

write of getting new dresses and having their hair put in a quick pony tail with a bow. Such small things can make a little girl feel beautiful. The women's letters always included sentences like: "She gave me hope. I saw something outside my miserable little life. I felt valued, and I knew God cared." I am sure there have been plenty of young boys who received such hope from a willing older man who taught them how to do carpentry or drive a tractor, but men tend not to write their stories.

A CHURCH OF HOPE

Three years ago we were invited to a church in Alabama for a Valentine's weekend for couples. Oh, you bet that was fun. Mike had a hilarious time of storytelling, since it was all adults and they wanted to be inspired in their marriages!

While we were there, the preacher's wife invited me to her office so she could tell me about a program they were doing with inner-city kids. They passed out invitations at the junior high school (7th and 8th grades) to come to a meeting in the school gym in order to learn how to be a lady or a gentleman. A handful of 12-year-olds came. They told them that each week they would practice walking, talking, visiting, eating, and basically learning to be polite society people. It would be designed to get them ahead in the world. The next

week many 12- and 13-year-olds showed up, and the week after that it was in the hundreds. Over the next few weeks they realized the kids needed better clothes to wear to understand what corporate America is looking for. They put out an ad for donations, then went around picking up nice suits, ties, shoes, and pretty dresses and heels for the children to choose from. Then they planned a banquet where the kids all dressed up and were taught how to eat properly, talk of educated things in a respectful tone of voice, and how to treat each other in public, with the boys opening the doors for the girls and the girls learning not to giggle or be silly.

The kids were given hope

In all this they included Bible stories and gospel messages. The kids were eager to hear of God as they saw his love in action. The church teachers taught the kids self-respect and self-restraint. They told stories of kids who had made it in the world and lived a pure life, married and kept jobs, and they reminded them of all the young girls who now had babies and didn't even know who the daddies were. They kept reinforcing, "Decide what you want to be and be it. We will help make it happen." The kids were given hope. They were told over and over, "If you want to get out of this pit, we will show you how. If you want to learn how to speak, we will teach you. If you want to make



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better grades, we will work with you. Tell us what you need; we are here for you.”

When Mike and I were there for the Valentine’s party, the school initiative program was only six months old, and the whole church was involved in helping one way or another. They had to have classes for the boys, as there was much to unlearn as well as to learn, including how to work and be dependable. The girls all wanted modest clothes and made commitments to avoid sex before marriage. Now they had a hope of something in their future other than pre-marriage babies and living off the government. I was so overcome with joy seeing the results of the program that I was ready to move in with these folks and lend a helping hand. I loved them. I still love them. It was true charity, true religion, true

giving of hope to those who had little.

GOD OF HOPE

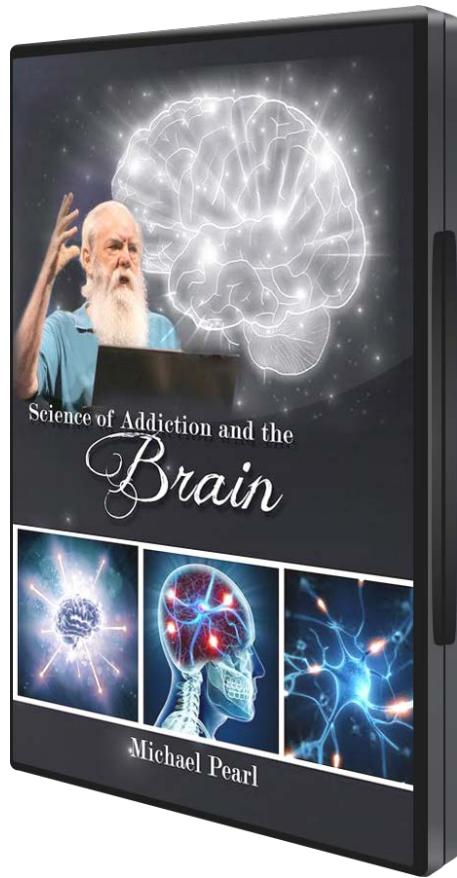
God calls himself the “God of hope.” When you know a living God who is the God of hope, then you have a fountain that will always be there for you to drink... but you must drink. You will also have a keen desire to share that fountain. *“Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost” (Romans 15:13).*

You can have optimism from the sidelines of the game, but hope is what you have when you are part of God’s team

HOPE VERSUS OPTIMISM

Some people rely on optimism, but it does not invite participation; hope needs us to step up to see a thing through. Basically, you can have optimism from the sidelines of the game, but hope is what you have when you are part of God’s team. Hope builds personal resource and knowledge in order to provide the tools to achieve an end. Optimism is often misplaced but hope has feet. God wants us to have hope; he wants us to trust him even when things don’t go our way. People who speak of being angry at God, disappointed at God for not intervening on their behalf, or ►►



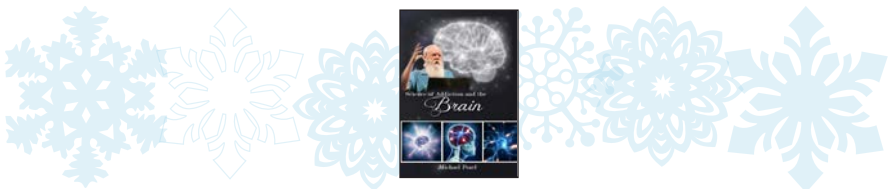


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hurt that God would allow the worst to happen are doing the opposite of trusting God. To know him is to trust him. You remember that when he sent the baby Jesus, the whole host of heaven's angels delivered God's message, "good will toward men." He wants us to hope in him—a call to action. Hope is to expect with confidence. When things don't go as we thought they should, those of us with hope simply acknowledge that our hope is in God and we trust him. We can grieve but not be cut down, and we can be confused but know clarity will come. We might lose our optimism but not our hope.

What a scary life without the God of hope! It would be hard for anyone who needs to find peace, help, self-control, or even a job unless they had hope. A child of God who has truly trusted the God of hope will be able to enjoy God even when outward circumstances are painful and difficult.

DANCING WITHOUT MUSIC

There are no expectations in life that are worth taking away a child's hope. Reading, writing, and arithmetic are foolish endeavors compared to eternal joys, thanksgiving, hope, and charity. As you homeschool your children, be sure you keep this in mind.

I have often told my story of

schooling. I am hearing impaired, but in my youth no one seemed to notice. I really needed eyeglasses but no one spotted this problem until I was 16 years old. School was like a blurry buzz of noise. How could a child learn in that environment? I stumbled around confused most of my youth. Yet when I was 13, the librarian, who didn't need to fret about tests or classes, took me as her helper and she became my beacon of hope. She never gave me a paper to fill out or a test to take. For a mere 30 minutes or less a day, she read to me from all kinds of books and patiently helped me learn to read. She directed me to good reading material. Hope was born. An intense love for learning was stirred to life. I had a mountain to climb to reclaim seven years of schooling that had happened without me knowing what was going on, but I knew I could. She had given me hope, and this hope had built in me personal resources and knowledge. I had the tools to achieve the end. Hope has feet to climb.

George Herbert said, "He that lives in hope danceth without music." Do you dance without music? Do your children? I sure do! I would that we all strive to build hope in the hearts of our children. ■

RESCUED RAPTOR

by Ashley G. Pearl (Nathan's daughter)



Ever since I was a young girl of nine, I wanted a raptor (bird of prey) for a pet.

I just never thought it would be a vulture. Yep, you heard me right.

I have a pet vulture.

And not just any vulture, but a black-faced vulture. They are slightly smaller than a turkey vulture and slightly bigger than a red-shouldered hawk. But before I give you all the

information, let me tell you how I came to be the proud owner of a carrion-eating beast.

First of all, she isn't really mine. I share her with my brother, who found her. It was on a boring



Passerine, n. a perching bird

patch of bald skin around her eyes. Of course she's a raptor, so she had a sharp, hooked beak designed to rip flesh from carcasses. She had milky black eyes and huge, awkward feet, and she sounded like a dinosaur from the prehistoric age. Her wings were just little stubs, and she was about the size of a small chicken. She really stank too. When she walked, she looked like the offspring of a drunken penguin and an emu. I named her Serafina, a name befitting a black-faced vulture of her class.

During the process of raising

Vultures can be very sassy

Sera, I learned many things. First, black vultures are much easier to raise than bluebirds. She required a lot less attention than your average passerine. She could be fed every two to three hours,

Monday afternoon—I say boring because Mondays are typically uneventful. We were working, and Mama and my brother were bringing us lunch. It was then they told me they found a little vulture chick in our derelict barn. They couldn't put it back in the barn, so rather than leaving it to scavengers, they rescued it. I was the most excited 13-year-old in the world.

When we got home later that evening, I got my first glimpse of the little ball of fuzz that would later be called Serafina. She wasn't as ugly as you might think. She looked kind of like an eagle chick, with yellowish-white fuzz covering her body and only a small



although I fed her every hour, and she was not picky. She ate snake, squirrel, possum, chicken, beef, pork, fish, eggs, and random bits of plastic and metal she found around the house. She even ate a whole .22 bullet once, much to my horror.

Second, I learned that vultures can be very sassy even though they are sociable and friendly. Whenever we ate outside, she would walk as close as her clumsy feet would let her. She preferred to sit in my lap like a chicken. Sometimes we look out our front door and see her dancing around the porch, holding a glove or piece of plastic in her mouth.

I learned how very independent vulture chicks can be. She fought off any living animal that came her way. Even dogs wouldn't come near when she spread her stubby wings and hissed at them.

I learned that black vultures can only make two sounds. The first is a low,

scratchy growl that comes from deep within their throat. Even though it sounds menacing, it actually means she's happy, playful, or hungry. The second sound is a light hissing, like air being blown out of your throat. She makes this noise as a warning, when she is scared, or when she is upset.

Serafina grows much more slowly than a passerine. At about one month, she began getting her primary and secondary feathers. This was a horrifying process. Soft, downy feathers came away in patches, and black feathers replaced them, but not quickly. She had pointy feathers and soft feathers sticking out everywhere, and she looked like a scorched mutant bird creature. The molting process took about a month, and then she looked like a fully fledged vulture, except for a small patch of yellow feathers on her head.

She ate more and more, and eventually some friends of ours began hunting animals for her. We never gave her rotted food, and as a result she smelled much better than your average buzzard.



My brothers built a wooden structure that resembled a doghouse that I rearranged for Sera, but when she got too big for it she slept under the house, completely free. One day when it was raining, she got soaking wet, so we put a heating lamp on her. She sat under it and spread her wings out to dry much like the wild ones do when they get wet.

By this time she could fly, and I wanted to train her. I knew she wasn't a true raptor, like a falcon or a hawk, but she was intelligent. I couldn't hold her on my bare arm, because her sharp talons had cut me on more than one occasion, so I wore my dad's coveralls or a leather glove. I built a little perch for her to sit on, and I stood away from her with a handful of meat in my pocket. After making sure she was hungry, I called her with a sharp hissing sound that I use when I feed her. For the first couple of tries, she only flew to my feet, but on the fifth try, she landed right on my arm. I rewarded

her handsomely, and over the next few days I trained her the same way. Now she always flies to my arm.

Serafina is quite curious. If we are outside building something, she is right there next to us, and when she sees other buzzards soaring in the sky, she tilts her head sideways and stares at them. But she never tries to fly away.

Sometimes when we go outside she is sitting on the porch railing (unfortunately for me since I have to clean the poop off) or on the roof. On very rare occasions, we call for her and see her launch from the neighbor's yard. She isn't cute anymore, but that's okay because now she looks like a fierce predator. And every day when she sees other buzzards riding thermals in the sky, she stays right where she is, even though she can fly now. I don't doubt that someday she will want to leave, and when she does, I'll know I have successfully raised my very own black-faced vulture. ■



Ashley Pearl is Michael and Debi's granddaughter and is an aspiring author! You and your children will enjoy reading Ashley's first published article "*The Embarrassed Rooster of Kauai*" at ngj.me/ashley

Be sure to check out Ashley's Facebook page **Adventures With Ashley and Serafina** for pictures, videos and updates about Serafina!

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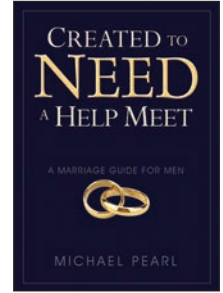


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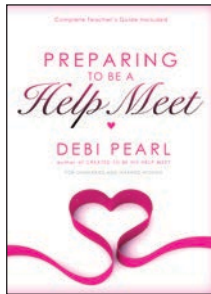


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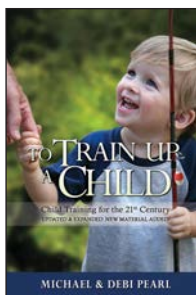
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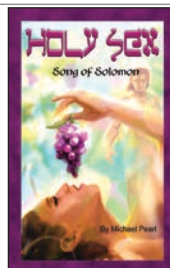


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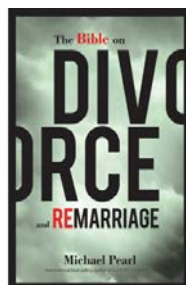
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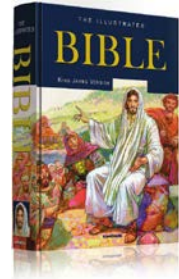
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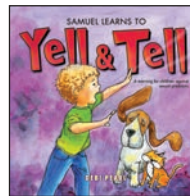
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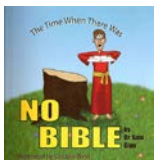
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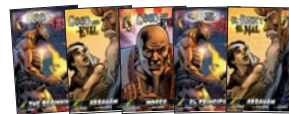
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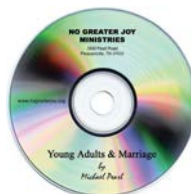
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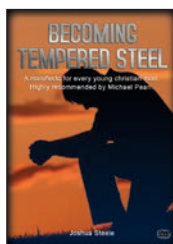
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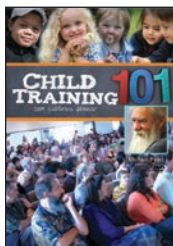
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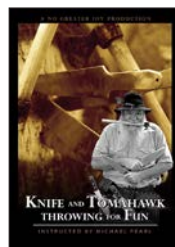
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Join Shoshanna (Pearl) Easley and friends as they teach you how to identify and use herbs growing in your own backyard! Make poultices, herbal hair treatments, tinctures, and much more. Includes a companion guidebook. 78 min.



5700-75 1 DVD **\$24.95**

Making Herbs Simple, Vol. 2

A hands-on DVD about herbs. Shoshanna will take you into the wild, teach you to identify herbs, explain what they can be used for, and how to make a remedy out of them. Learn how truly simple it is to use herbs. 75 min.

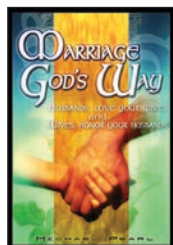


5710-75 1 DVD **\$24.95**

Marriage God's Way

Husbands and Wives

Husbands, learn how to sanctify your wife and cleanse her of spots, wrinkles, and blemishes. You have the power to bring your wife into the fullness of all that God intended her to be. Wives, learn the freedom of honoring and ministering to your man. Help him become all that God intended him to be. 184 min.



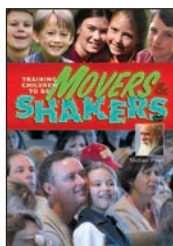
4140-75 2-DVD Set **\$19.95**

FAMILY DVDs

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Movers & Shakers

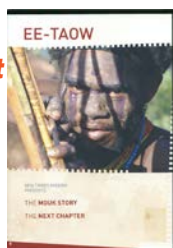
Michael encourages parents to train their children to be tomorrow's movers and shakers. Teach them to become leaders, entrepreneurs, statesmen—framers of tomorrow. 50 min.



6113-75 1 DVD **\$12.95**

Ee-Taow and The Next Chapter

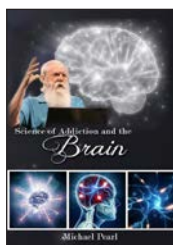
This is a remarkable story of a native tribe being won to the Lord. The gospel is presented chronologically and the results are spectacular. It is a great video to watch with your children, grandchildren, Sunday School students, etc.



2910-75 1 DVD **\$19.95**

Science of Addiction and the Brain

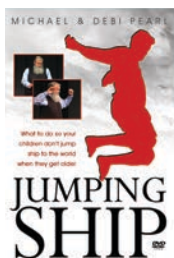
Addiction is the state of being enslaved to a substance or habit. At the 2014 Smoky Mountains Shindig, Michael delivered five packed messages supported by 185 animated PowerPoint™ slides on this subject.



8190-75 1 DVD **\$12.95 \$8.99**

Jumping Ship

Now you can view the two hour live presentation from Michael Pearl addressing the topic of “How can I keep my children from jumping ship and joining a carnival cruise to Pleasure Island?”



4940 1 DVD **\$12.95**

Scripture Talk

Scripture Talk combines hand motions, visual aids, and creative teaching to equip children of all ages to hide over 70 Bible verses in their hearts, and apply it to their lives! Each of the 10 passages on the DVD includes a group of children demonstrating the passage, verse-by-verse teaching of the words and motions, and an engaging lesson explaining the passage and how the children can apply it to their lives. All Scripture is from the King James version.



8200-75 1 DVD **\$15.95**

Teaching Responsibility

In this seminar, Michael Pearl uses humorous stories and practical examples to illustrate the simple process of training your children to work without complaint. Cut into his speaking presentation are hundreds of video clips and photos that help illustrate his message. Debi says, “The introduction is just too fun to miss!” 119 min.



8500-00 2-DVD Set..... **\$19.95**

50 Questions 50 Answers

Unscripted and spontaneous, follow Mike around the farm as he answers your Bible questions. Varied questions and answers in a changing context makes this series captivating. 270 min.



3000-75 1 DVD **\$12.95**

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. This set contains hundreds of snapshots and video clips of family and children, illustrating the things being taught. 180 min.



4910-75 2-DVD Set..... **\$24.95**

BIBLE TOPICS



Verse-by-Verse Audio Teaching

Michael Pearl teaches in-depth through the New Testament, examining each word and its usage. Practical and foundational Bible teaching that will build your faith in the Word of God and teach you to study on your own.

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5950-55	Mark (1 MP3 CD)	\$12.95
5640-55	Luke (1 MP3 CD)	\$12.95
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1200-55	Acts (1 MP3 CD)	\$12.95
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BIBLE TOPICS

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Bible Topics MP3s/CDs

Various topical studies taught by Michael Pearl from the King James Bible, of interest to new Christians as well as Bible scholars. This is some great in-depth material to grow the faith of believers! They also make great gifts.

BIBLE TOPICS

All regularly priced items are 25% off! Other books marked down further as noted.



Bible First

Bible First! is a gateway into a world that few people have ever explored. In just 20 short lessons, you'll experience an exciting tour of Genesis, the first of 66 books which make up the Bible. Genesis is a foundational narrative which provides the key to unlocking the mysteries of Scripture. This is homeschool Bible curriculum at its finest!

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By Divine Design

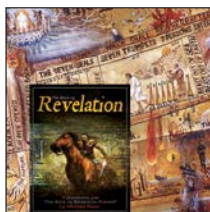
If you are philosophically minded, this book will appeal to you. It addresses the question, "Why, God, did you let this happen?" By Michael Pearl. 85 pages.



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The Prophecy of Magog and Israel Ezekiel 38-39

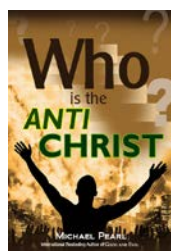
Is the U.S. in prophecy? Conditions are rapidly aligning with Ezekiel's 2,700-year-old prophecy. Fulfillment seems imminent. This little book reveals the identity of Magog and the invading forces. By Michael Pearl. 64 pages.



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