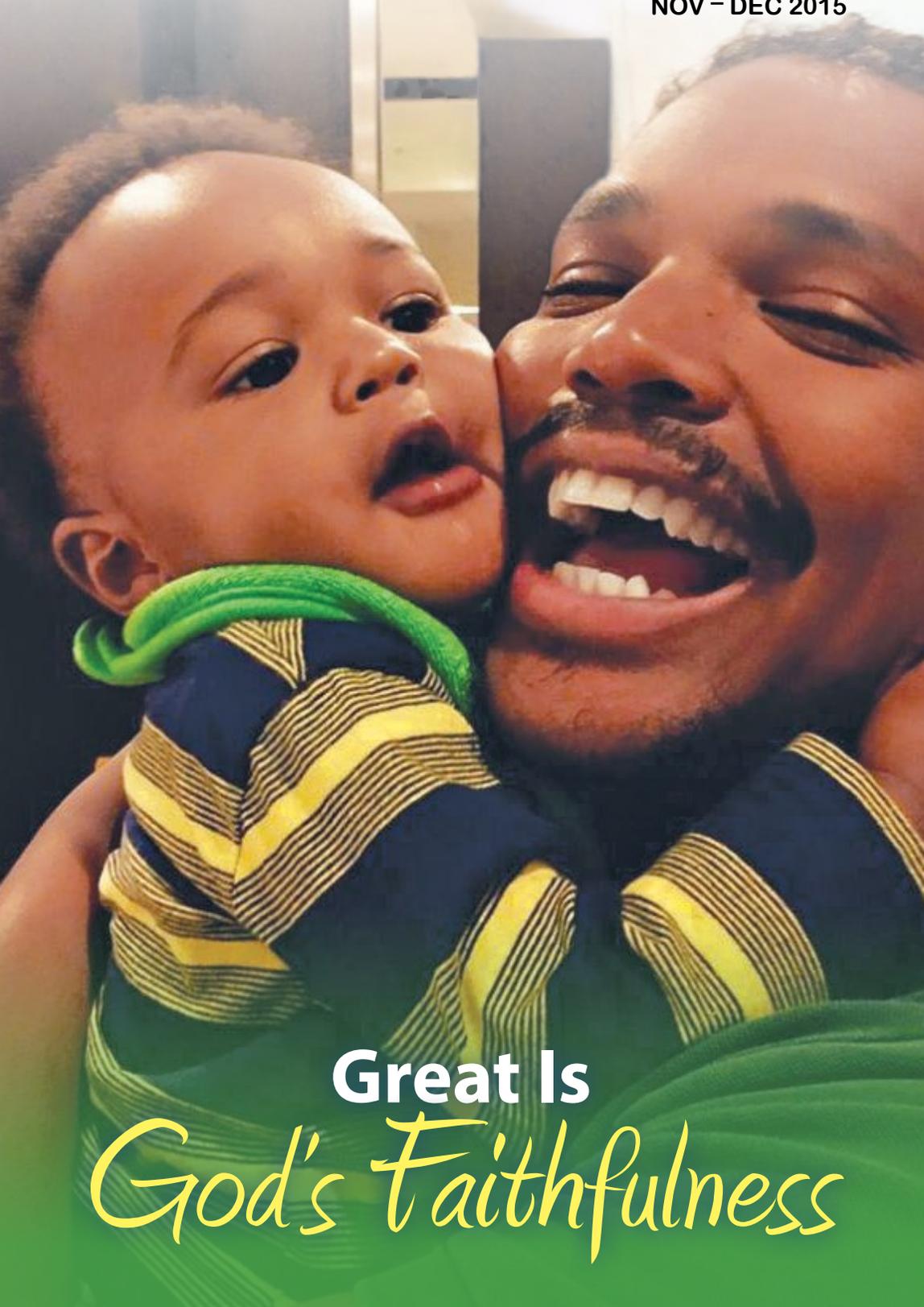


“I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth” (III John 4).

NO GREATER JOY

magazine

NOV - DEC 2015



Great Is

God's Faithfulness



A word from Mike and Debi...

Thank you to Chris Rush for allowing us to use the photo of him and his son Jonah (pictured on the cover of this issue). We ran across him due to his work against abortion.

Here is his vision:

AllHandsOnDeck.com exists to see the end of legal abortion. Our goal is to end it in four years. Sounds ambitious? It is. But we have a strategy that we believe can shake off this great evil.

- 1 Intense prayer (organize prayer groups, stir up your church to pray, and personal prayer).
- 2 Stand in front of abortion clinics (while standing, pray against the devil and for each one entering, take posters, call out to people going in, and be ready to counsel and show that you know and love Jesus and are there to help).
- 3 Get LOUD in our culture. (Talk with friends, family and strangers about how to end abortion; preach in churches about the great evil of abortion; distribute literature in neighborhoods and put posters on telephone poles; go to schools and colleges to talk

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- to students while they mill around; organize a movement that will give young people a vision of how to help; also use social media to introduce a plan of action. Don't forget the moms: organize helpers for the volunteer pregnancy center; help any young mother who is struggling alone with respite care, food, place to live, find a job, pay her rent, etc.) Make any SAVE a special baby by providing baskets full of diapers, clothes, bottles, and keep up with that child with prayer, gifts and personal involvement.
- 4 Demand from our politicians the complete end of abortion. This is a huge one! Refuse to fund and vote for any politicians who are not asking for the END of abortion. The lesser of two evils is still evil. Don't stand before God guilty for standing with politicians who do not stand against MURDERING our babies. STOP abortions at the polls.
www.facebook.com/allhandsondeckmnaha

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Calling all teenagers . . .
**normal, healthy, smart, beautiful,
talented, needed, wonderful . . .**
hey, I'm talking to you!

Calling All TEENAGERS

By Rebekah Anast

(Updated)



Tandy was 12 years old when the first boy gave her “the look” that sent a thrill right down her backbone. Her eyes sparkled, her skin glowed, and she felt beautiful from head to toe. David was a friend of her big brother, and she only saw him once a year when they traveled as a family to attend a homeschool conference. He seemed like a good guy—as good

as her brother. He liked her, and that made him all right. She tried to curb her loud laughter into a girlish giggle and to be a little more helpless and feminine. Her brother noticed the change and looked at her like she’d turned into a two-headed lizard. When David joined them for the noon picnic, Mom noticed the change in Tandy as well.

Mom saw the nervous, compulsive glances David kept shooting at her innocent young daughter. Mom scowled and ran the boys off to play. While Mom and Tandy repacked the picnic leftovers, Mom was irritable and critical, treating Tandy as if she were six years old, ordering her around like she didn't have a brain at all. Tandy didn't know that her mom was remembering her own misspent youth and realizing suddenly that her firstborn daughter was on the brink of awakened sexuality. Tandy seethed at the unfairness. She felt like an intelligent individual with her own talents, gifts, and potential.

Why is Mom trying to cram me back down into childhood? I haven't done anything wrong. Tandy thought about "the look" her brother's friend had given her and smiled. David knew she was growing up, and he admired her. He was more perceptive than her own mom. The thrill and excitement of that glance was as wonderful as anything she'd ever known. She wished she could tell somebody about it . . . someone who could confirm to her what she had seen in that glance—that she was indeed becoming a beautiful, attractive young lady. She needed somebody who could clue her in on what she should do about David's attention. She glanced at her mom. No way. She still thinks I'm six years old. She'd never understand. Daddy might. Tandy looked at her Dad. I might try him later . . . something subtle, to see if he's noticed. I'll

Many parents try to elicit a response from their unresponsive teenagers by overstating criticisms thoughtlessly.



remind him that I'm almost thirteen years old. See what he says . . . if he says he's noticed that I'm growing up lately, then maybe

Tandy was once a little girl who babbled on and on about every single thing that crossed her mind. About the time she turned eight years old her questions became more artful, less frequent, and were replaced with listening ears and watchful eyes. At eleven years of age, she began to keep a diary. It is locked up somewhere in her room, a record

of secrets, questions, and hopes. Now Mom and Dad have no idea what their daughter really thinks. It's not that Tandy doesn't want to talk anymore. She still needs answers, maybe more than ever before. Many of her questions are answered by her parents' actions, and depending on the wisdom of their actions, that may be enough to see her safely into the adult world. However, open conversation would give Tandy an advantage most teens don't have. The experience and maturity of her parents could become her own if they learn how to make themselves a safe and available source of wisdom.

I asked myself this question:
Who do I go to for answers?

(1) A friend who likes me, because they have taken the time to get to know me.

Many parents try to elicit a response from their unresponsive teenagers by overstating criticisms thoughtlessly: "You will never be a good man like your daddy if you do that." "You will be a lousy mother if you don't learn to" Your teenager ignores you completely or gives you the deadpan, I-don't-care glazed eyes. That look covers a world of hurt. He/she will remember every single word you say. To your teen, those desperate attempts to elicit a response sound like, "I don't like you, I don't love you, and I don't care who you are." You may be able to reverse the damage done, but it will take a lot of patience

and involvement; a lot of genuine, positive conversations.

It's easier to start at the beginning. From the time your little boy is born you begin to realize what an individual he is. You see talents and abilities in your two-year-old that you know he didn't get from you. Talking to your child about what he likes, what he thinks, and what he hopes for is a sure way to keep his heart. He knows that you know him. You know him because you've asked and listened. You've catered to his healthy interests by adding to his education and experience in the areas where he excels, even when it's beyond your own understanding. You have always talked to your son as though he were a friend that you *like*: someone you admire who has abilities that you don't have and talents that you haven't acquired. He knows he is someone unique, gifted, and great.

When the girls start casting glances at him, he knows why. He knows he is becoming a man who will be capable of caring for a woman. He feels the responsibility of becoming a wise and strong protector. He knows that you trust him to make wise choices, because you've practiced decision making with him from the time he was quite small. You've discussed the quality and price of everything from pocket knives to potential wives. This wise young man would rather receive advice from you than anyone else because you know him better than anyone else does. And you like him.

(2) Someone who can give me useful, thoughtful answers that may solve my problem.

If your teenage daughter wants to talk to you about her friend's crush on the boy at church, listen. She is really asking you what she is supposed to do about her own feelings and her own crush. "*How should I think about that boy at church? How should I act about the way I feel?*" Ask her what she thinks about her friend's crush. Let her verbally come to a place of accountability and responsibility in her own mind. Talk to her without silencing her with your preaching.

Talk about feelings and physical attraction with respect, even if they are immature feelings and attractions. Explain the wealth of wonder and delight she (or her friend) can keep for herself by saving her emotions and body for the man she'll marry someday. Tell her that she should look at every boy that attracts her with these thoughts in mind: "*Would I want to be married to that guy? Is he the best there is? Is it time yet?*" When those questions are answered, your teenager will be released from the questions. The need to "find out" will be satisfied by you, her parent, and she'll be able

to go on to the next question and the next step to maturity.

(3) Someone who will regard their private knowledge of me with respect.

It only takes one comment, one veiled reference, or one teasing joke linked to a private conversation and a question asked in earnest to lose the confidence of your teenager. This seems overly sensitive and ridiculous. It is. But you won't force your teenager into maturity by pointing out the fact that his treasure is actually trash. He might laugh at your joke and pretend not to care, but he won't talk to you again. If you like to tease and joke a lot, tease and joke when you are hanging out together, doing things that he enjoys, without others around to laugh at your joke, which is told at your teen's expense. When they are in the in-between phase of child-becoming-adult, their self-image is as awkward as their body. A fourteen-year-old boy doesn't know who he is; he has no adult experience by which to define himself. He hates himself violently every time he does or says something stupid because every word and action is so foundational and defining to the adult he is becoming.

A parent who could answer a teen's most serious questions without creating new rules to squelch the questions or shaming the questioner would be a godsend.

Girls keep their diaries locked up and stamped with a big, red PRIVATE, KEEP OUT because the diary is their confidante. It can't answer their questions, but it won't ever scorn, manipulate, or shame them. A mother or a father who could answer a teen's most serious questions without creating new rules to squelch the questions, or shaming the questioner by being horrified, would be a godsend.

The Answer to the Question

It seems to me that parents fall into one of three categories when it comes to answering their teenager's questions:

1. No Answer

Either the parent is fearful of failing and gives no answer at all by saying "I don't know" or "Read this book," or adds a new rule or restriction to thrust the Questioner back into childhood so that the question is merely postponed.

2. Betrayal

The parent is joking, teasing, and gives a flippant answer that leaves the teenager fearful of being mocked or shamed. This also prevents a solid relationship that could meet later needs.

3. Love

The parent responds with thoughtful consideration, giving the best answer they have—which may or may not be the right answer—and respects the confidence of their teenager by dropping the subject



when the teen is ready to drop it, and does not reveal the conversation to anyone else.

If you were a teenager, which response would you prefer?

Tandy's Scared Parents

Cheri was raised in a regular American home. Her mom had divorced and remarried a man who was not her father. When Cheri was about twelve years old, her friends began to date and boys began to notice her. In twelve years of life, Cheri had acquired the habit of doing whatever "felt good." She had learned to go with the flow, to take the easy road and hope everything turned out all right. Cheri was not a bad kid, just an unprepared and undisciplined kid. When the hormones and sexual drives of puberty hit, Cheri's responses were consistent with her "training" up until that point. She knew certain things were wrong but had no

Your untrained daughter really does want to make decisions that will pay off even though she doesn't have the discipline to make it happen.

experience with weighing right and wrong and making decisions that were contrary to her flesh. She had no strength to fight the indefinite, vague battle of virginity. It wasn't a matter of pursuing sin—the world offered a smorgasbord of fleshly satisfaction. There simply wasn't a good reason, or a good habit, to keep her from making the wrong choice.

Cheri grew up and heard about Christ. She found forgiveness at the cross and left her past behind. She met and married a good Christian man. Cheri and her husband had children of their own. They read a good book about child training and were consistent in following the biblical principles of parenting. Cheri's daughters were raised in a completely different set of circumstances than those in which Cheri grew up. They learned discipline and wisdom, a strong work ethic, and common sense from the way of life their parents had chosen. Then Cheri's daughter Tandy turned twelve years old. The first time Cheri saw her daughter flirting shyly with a boy, all the memories and confusion

of her youth came rushing back to fill her with despair and anguish. It had begun.

WAIT, Cheri! Your daughter isn't you. She wasn't raised like you were raised. She has an advantage you didn't have. **Don't confuse the hormones and the desires with the bad decisions and the sin.**

The desire and the hormones are natural, God-created functions, and the choices made at this point in your daughter's life are not arbitrary choices.

As a matter of fact, because of good training and disciplined habits, she can—and will—make any choice she wants. Tandy will choose what seems best to her because she has the strength of character to do so. Unlike a child who has been trained only by their desires, your daughter has the wherewithal to stand up under pressure in order to get what she wants. This doesn't mean she'll choose the right thing, it just means she is capable (more capable than you were) of weighing her options and making decisions based on what she wants, rather than what feels good. **Now she needs to decide what she wants, and why.**

This is why Tandy needs good advice. Due to your own history, you may feel poorly equipped to give good advice. And you may be poorly equipped. That's all right. Tell her, *"I'm not sure what to tell you. But don't just do what's easiest; think ahead. Think of what you really want in life and wait for it. God will show you if you ask Him."*

I would suggest studying good men. It may sound funny, but I'm quite serious. Research good men of history, men and women in the Bible, and those in our present day. Take your daughter to places where there will be a lot of righteous young men. She'll recognize quality when she sees it compared with cheap goods, and her tastes will mature accordingly.

The Untrained Teen

If you have *not* trained your daughter, if your daughter is actually a young Cheri, then you do have cause to fear. It is too late to “train up your child” at this point. You don't have a child anymore. Now you must befriend a budding adult. However, every teenager wants the strength of character to walk past lust and reach an admired goal. Your untrained daughter really does want to make decisions that will pay off even though she doesn't have



the discipline to make it happen. If you befriend her, you may be able to lead her down that safe path by offering “self-improvement” through character-demanding activities. I suggest a sport, or some art form that takes a lot of discipline and focus—something your teen is interested in. Then pour yourself into keeping her immersed in the discipline, the practice, the preparation of becoming the best athlete, dancer, musician, engineer, etc. possible. Meanwhile, pray a lot (God does do miracles) and be her friend—her confidante if possible. If you can win her confidence, she will value your advice, and your love and friendship will give her the strength to make the right choices.

Exceptions

If your teen is into some form of harmful deviation that will affect younger siblings (pornography, sexual activity, drug or alcohol abuse) you will need to take action as well as listen and give advice. All things can and must be done in love in order to be useful. You can lovingly give your teenager advice and at the same time lay down an ultimatum: *“If you want to live in this house you will abide by these rules. Let's you and I get some counseling or find some way to work this out . . . in any case I must separate you from the other kids.”*

Conclusion

Having the wisdom and advice of an adult who loves you is of great worth. It offers such safety

and strength in a world where the questions are getting tougher by the day. I know that many of you parents grew up in terrible homes where there was only scorn and apathy. The teenager in you never grew up, and you feel just as scared of rejection as your kids do. The Bible says:

Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends (John 15:13). And again, I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service (Romans 12:1).

Your kids are your mission field. Hear the call to lay down your life for them. Get on that altar, take a deep breath, light that match and toss it in the tinder. Be vulnerable regardless of how critical *they* may be . . . and give your life for your teenager.

Rebekah is the firstborn child of Michael and Debi Pearl, happily married, and the very busy mother of a growing brood. She is also an accomplished writer of four books, which you can order at Amazon.com.



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More Than CONTROLLING Their Behavior

By Michael Pearl

As parents, we want to control the behavior of our children, but there is a danger of becoming content with outward obedience while failing to reach their hearts. We must, by various means, constrain our children to obey, but it should always be with an eye toward conditioning them to desire the joy of wholesome obedience and conformity to the rules that govern family and community.

Again I say, parents want to control the behavior of their children. But controlling behavior is not necessarily training or nurturing. Sometimes in the battle of wills, while seeking to maintain an equilibrium in the home, parents forget that just controlling behavior on a day-to-day basis is not the whole of training up a child.

Though it is not the norm, I have observed several cases where parents were diligent to control the behavior of their children, especially

in public, but their children all turned out to be foolish, undisciplined losers. Generally speaking, when children are caused to render consistent obedience, they grow up to be self-disciplined and diligent in life's duties. But some homes lack joy and purpose, and no amount of constrained obedience will produce self-control and respect for authority in the hearts of their children.

I don't know how many times I have said it, but it needs to be said over and over again: "More is caught

than taught.” Sometimes our attitudes scream so loudly that our children cannot hear our words. Children are the best psychologists in the world. A parent can say “Good job!” for the umpteenth time, and the astute child hears, “I am too distracted with my own concerns to be engaged by what you are doing, so please grow up to be emotionally stable even though you will seldom receive any serious involvement from me.” The positive affirmation “good job” in response to a lousy job done divests the words of their meaning in the mind of the child. When I was in high school and the art teachers critiqued a work with the words “That’s interesting,” every student knew they were on the lowest rung of performance.

I have observed some really inept parents—broken people who are generally irresponsible—raise stable, secure, disciplined, moral children and not lose a single one to slothfulness or sin. Looking at it closely, I observe that though they lack any of the psychologically approved rules of effective child training (like saying “good job” at every turn) they did one thing right: they loved their children with their time and their best energies, engaging with them in every aspect of life. They never left their children alone to be idle. There was no TV or electronic media to compete with family. Or if there was some form of electronic entertainment, it was shared as a family event. Life was a constant corporate chaos of cooking, building, playing together, planning a big event that usually failed to get beyond the dream stage, and

sometimes fighting over one thing or another. But they were together and fiercely loyal to family. By the time the children were grown they felt they had become overcomers with their parents and siblings. They had a history that would forever bind them together. And they knew there was a group of people (family) that would love them always, just like they are.

In contrast, I have observed deeply religious parents—nervous about the outcome of their parenting, always turning the screws and imposing strict discipline, careful to isolate the children from evil influences—lose all of their kids to the world by the time they are eighteen years old.

There are a number of areas in which you can fail as a parent yet still succeed in producing great kids if they are raised on genuine smiles and hugs, engaged in the conquest of life with enthusiasm and a positive outlook.

In short, parents who are filled with the joy of God’s creation, steeped in sweet fellowship, speaking words of thanksgiving and praise, and sharing their lives and resources with others will raise wonderful kids—duplicates of their parents.

Rather than try harder, just care more; care with your smiles and with interest on your face; care with your time and best energies. Look at your children and smile approval and delight. Cause them to know for certain that they are essential to your happiness. That is the kind of soil that produces great kids and adults.



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s-e-c-r-e-t!

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our next sale?

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He *only is my rock and my salvation:*

*he is my defence; I shall **not** be moved.*

In God is my salvation and my glory:

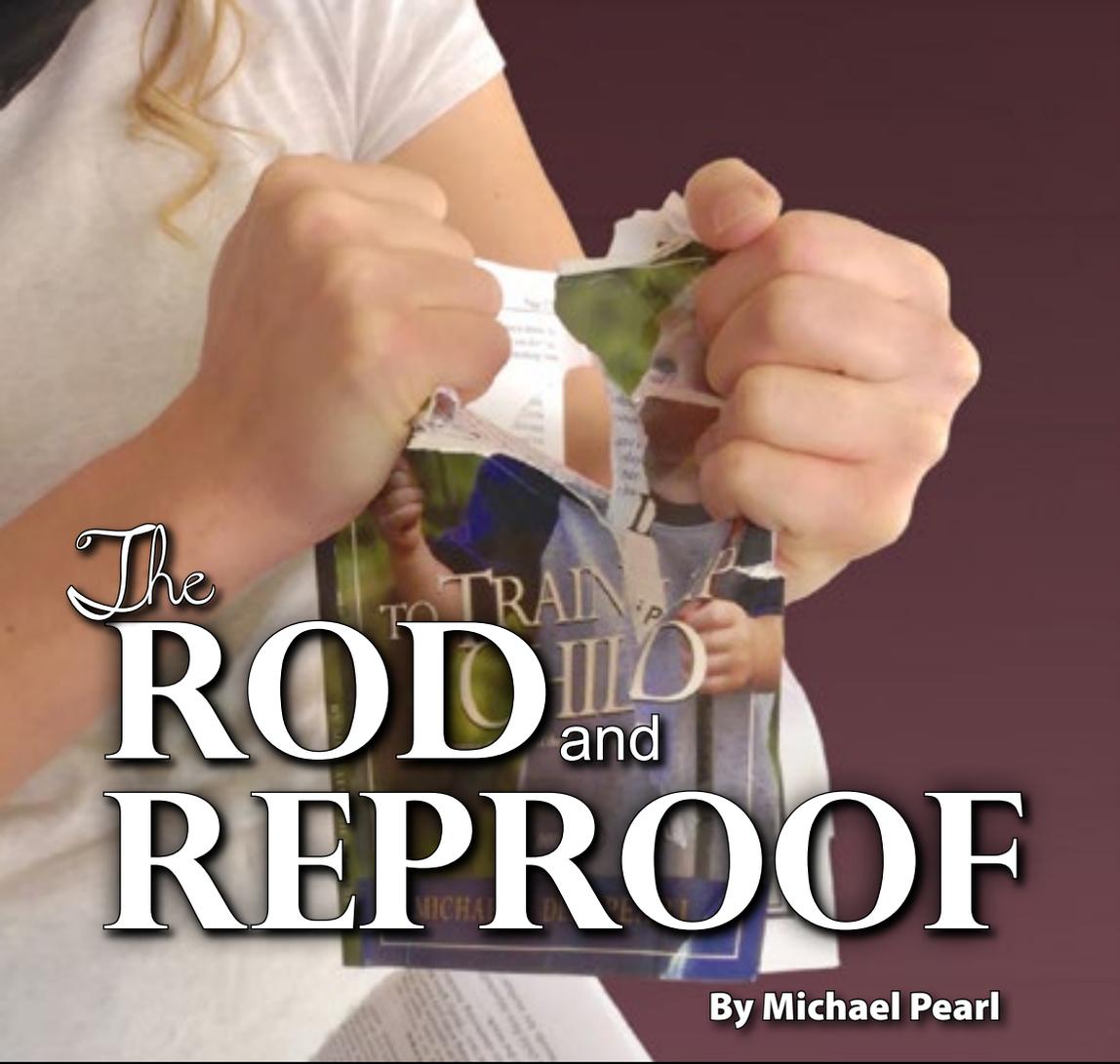
*the **rock** of my strength, and my **refuge**, is in **God**.*

Trust in him at all times;

*ye people, pour out your **heart** before him:*

*God is a **refuge** for us. Selah.*

- Psalm 62:6-8



The ROD and REPROOF

By Michael Pearl

The progressive secularists intimidate parents with assertions that spanking children causes them to use violence to solve problems.

It is stated so many times and with such conviction that parents who should know better have suffered an erosion of their confidence. The conclusion of these “researchers” is based on the reported experience of professionals who work with juvenile delinquents and violent criminals. A large number of those who have committed violent crimes will confess, among other things, that they were spanked, beaten, or in some way physically violated when they were children. Thus the statistician concludes that

these offenders’ violent history is a result of the violence done to them. All forms of physical discipline are thrown into the mix, including criminal acts of violence and abuse. There is no attempt to separate spanking administered in moderation by loving parents from criminal beating. The progressive views all forms of corporal chastisement as “hitting.”

It is true that a small percentage of children in a home filled with anger, violent corporal punishment, and hitting do grow up to become

equally mean and violent. But it is also true that a small percentage of kids who were never physically disciplined grow up to be violent, even mass murderers. It is also true that the vast majority—greater than 99%—of children who suffered abusive physical punishment do not grow up to use violence against others. There is absolutely no correlation between corporal chastisement and violent tendencies in the chastened child. All social science reporting is controlled by special interests and is skewed to accommodate some social or political agenda. See my recently expanded book, *To Train Up a Child*. There is a lengthy section in defense of corporal chastisement, quoting a number of studies that clarify the issue.

I have probably had more experience with families and children than any ten “researchers.” They research by interviewing troubled children or by reading the publications of others. My “research” comes from thousands of homes I have visited and parents and youth I have counseled. I spent hundreds of hours over the course of 15 years ministering in a boys’ home, becoming well acquainted with the youth. I became close friends with some of them after they were grown and had children of their own. I have spent over 2,000 hours in prisons speaking with the inmates and hearing their stories.

I have found that children possess an intuitive understanding of the motives behind parental discipline. You cannot fool them. They know the difference between discipline they deserve and unjustified violence or anger.

*Times are
changing for
the worse.*

*Don’t change
with them.*

When a child has willfully broken the rules or expressed a will to defy authority, he is not shocked or offended when his parents are angry and resort to physical chastisement. The kid knows he is “getting what he deserves.” He may holler and squirm, but he walks away knowing there is a just authority to which he is subject, that there is a law of cause and effect he must observe, and that all wrongdoing meets with an unhappy end. The properly chastened child is more emotionally stable than the child left to his own devices, as studies confirm. Again, see the newly revised and expanded 21st-year edition of *TTUAC*.

Many Christian homeschool parents are being swept up in the Left’s propaganda. Don’t become subject to the vain imaginations of unregenerate professionals who deny the Word of God and despise Christianity. Stand on the old tried and proved principles that worked in former generations. Stand on the words of God where he clearly addressed child-rearing principles. Times are changing for the worse. Don’t change with them.

“Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it” (Proverbs 22:6). “The rod and reproof give wisdom . . .” (Proverbs 29:15).

7 STEPS TO SURVIVING A NATURAL OR POLITICAL DISASTER

By Manny Edwards

I have an emergency preparedness plan because it is more blessed to give than to receive, and if you can't help yourself, how will you help someone in need?

Obviously, the future is uncertain, so I advise people to mitigate known risks, and that tends to get you ready for the unknown as well. To some extent, when you prepare for anything, you're prepared for everything.

Probably the most common obstacle that stops people from enacting an emergency preparedness plan is the disruptive effect it can have. Most people can't move to the wilderness of Utah; they have mortgages, families, jobs, church, and Little League coaching or ballet classes. That's why I recommend preparing systematically in a way that adds only a little additional time and inconvenience to your routine. In most cases, a systematic plan incurs very little expense. If you purchase things you're going to use anyway, you've lost no money and gained the certainty of having the supplies in hand.

I also urge people to take steps that yield immediate benefits, not

just if there's an emergency. For example, get in shape to deal with the stresses of off-grid living, in the event of an electrical grid failure. My personal favorite fitness regime is strength training. The benefits are immediate; I don't have to wait for a grid-down situation to enjoy them.

SEVEN STEPS TO PREPARE FOR EMERGENCIES

#1 IDENTIFY YOUR THREATS

In the summer there will be tornados and hurricanes, and in the winter, blizzards and ice storms. Coastal and riverside residents face a risk of flooding. Certain regions of the world run higher risks of earthquakes. On any given day you might have a flat tire and face a potentially life-threatening emergency, or be stuck in traffic for several hours with a young child in the car—a potentially deadly situation, depending on the weather. Use these common situations as a test of your abilities. If you can't even prepare for mundane, everyday inconveniences, how will you prepare for serious emergencies?

#2 SECURE YOUR SHELTER

Most people start by shoring up their food and water supplies, but my question is always, “where?” Where are you going to put this stuff? Do you have a safe place? Make sure your house is secure before you prepare it for an extended stay in an emergency.

#3 STOCK FOOD AND WATER

I recommend 2,000 calories of food and 2 gallons of water per person per day for everyone in the household, plus half again that number, for a minimum of two weeks. For example, if you have a family of four, stock up for six.

#4 SHORE UP YOUR OFF-GRID CAPABILITY

If the power goes down, you’ll need a backup heat source, like a wood stove and some dried, stacked firewood. There are many other off-grid issues: Is your well on an electric pump? How will you get water? How will you cook? How will you sanitize anything? How will you see in the dark? What about all the food in the freezer?

#5 SECURE A SAFE RETREAT

No matter how remote and secure your location, it might be compromised, forcing you to evacuate. In that case, you need a place to go. It should provide shelter, food, water, and medical supplies for an indefinite time. It must be accessible by back roads so you can reach it when major highways are jammed. If you can’t reach this location on about ½ tank of fuel in your getaway vehicle, extend the range of your vehicle or stash hidden

fuel supplies on your route. Have a hard copy map of the area you’ll be traveling. Don’t count on the Internet or GPS to find your way. If you live in an urban setting, you absolutely must have an evacuation plan. Identify the “triggers” that will make you leave, so you don’t have to think about it under stress.

#6 DEVELOP A PREPARED COMMUNITY

Your neighbors are potentially your greatest asset in an emergency, but only if they are prepared. Otherwise, they are potentially your worst threat. Find friends and neighbors who are interested in preparing with you.

#7 LEARN SELF-DEFENSE

For most people I recommend a gun safety course and some tactical training, as well as a basic self-defense course. Then go get a carry permit and take that handgun wherever you can. Which weapons and ammo is a very individualized issue that depends on many factors, not the least of which are your personal history, physical capabilities, and legal environment. For this reason I usually refrain from giving generalized advice.

Manny Edwards is an independent Emergency Preparedness and Security Consultant and the host of SURVIVAL TIPS on WND-TV. He has a blog at SurvivalNewsOnline.com, and lives in Middle Tennessee with his wife and five children. He can be reached at mannyedwards@gmail.com.



CLEMENTINE PUMPKINS



Peel several small, seedless clementine oranges. Leave them whole, but remove the center of each orange. Cut a small piece of celery and put it in the middle.



November 2015

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					
<p><i>Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise. be thankful unto him, and bless his name. -Psalm 100:4</i></p>						

1



2



3



4



Apple Cinnamon Ornaments

½ cup applesauce

½ cup cinnamon

1 Tbsp. white glue (like Elmer's® school glue)

1. Mix all together to form a stiff dough. Let it sit for 10 minutes.
2. Knead the dough, then sprinkle some cinnamon on a flat surface. Roll or pat out the dough to the thickness of a pencil.
3. Cut out shapes.
4. Poke a hole at the top with a straw (if you plan to hang it up).
5. Let dry in a warm place, turning once. Once dry, you can hang them up; they will make your house smell good all winter long!

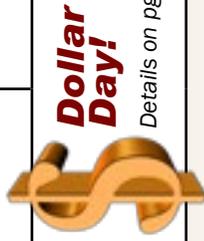
CAUTION: These are NOT edible!



December 2015

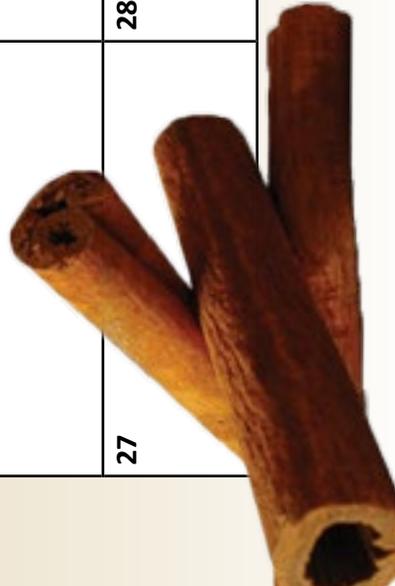
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3	4	5	
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

Did You Know?
Cinnamon was used to embalm mummies in Ancient Egypt?



Dollar Day!

Details on pg. 10





Dear Mike and Debi,

My fiancé and I are wanting to get married without a marriage license. We have no idea how such things work. Help us please.

— Dana

My beautiful bride and I have been married for 11 years. We have come to the conclusion

that we no longer want to be yoked in the same bond of marriage that the world around us seems to be yoking themselves. We would greatly like to explore the option of a covenant. Do you have any suggestions?

— Matt and Rachel

I read your article on Holy Matrimony and would like to revoke our state license and have a biblically-based covenant on file with the state. Please send me any materials you can to help me do this!

— Phil

An EXCERPT from Mike's new book:

THE BIBLE ON DIVORCE AND REMARRIAGE



Excerpt from page 12

Holy Matrimony versus State Marriage

Until we have a clear understanding of what constitutes marriage, we cannot understand the nature of divorce. Most people have accepted the legal (state) definition of marriage and are unaware of the biblical doctrine. The concept of obtaining a marriage license from the state is an invention of modern times. It cedes jurisdiction to the state over something that is of divine origin. Ministers officiating at weddings say, “What God hath joined together,” acknowledging that holy matrimony is a divine institution that preceded the Law and the Gospel, beginning at creation. The state does not do God’s work of joining them together. Copulation (an act of man) joins them into *one flesh*, no matter the ceremony or lack thereof. But *holy matrimony* (a work of God) is a combination of a public covenant and a private joining of two bodies.

Ministers make a mistake when they conclude a wedding by saying, “By the **authority vested in me by the state** of Tennessee, I now pronounce you husband and wife.” And they usually follow with the statement, “What God therefore hath joined together, let not man put asunder.” It is as if the authority rests with the state and God complies. At the very least, ministers should separate the state marriage contract from the church covenant of holy matrimony.

Excerpt from page 16

The Difference between Fornication and Marriage

A sexual relationship without making a binding public commitment is not *marriage*.

It does join two people into a *one-flesh union*, but it is still fornication. When Jesus confronted the woman at the well, he declared, “For thou hast had five husbands; and he whom thou now hast is not thy husband . . .” (John 4:18).

He made a distinction between being married—probably divorced and remarried several times—and just shacking up. Apparently the woman was in a relationship with a man to whom she had not made a public commitment. In an era when common law marriages were common, if you had asked the people in the city if the woman was married, they would have said, “No, but she is living with a man right now.” The woman had reached that point in a troubled life filled with disappointment where she did not want to make a binding commitment to any man—at least not to this one, so she enjoyed the benefits of a man without assuming responsibility for a lasting marriage union. That is fornication, and it is an ongoing sin, remedied only by ceasing the relationship or entering into a public covenant.

There was a time when the constraints of the church and the community guaranteed permanent recognition of a marriage. All that was needed was for the minister to pronounce them husband and wife and for them or their parents to record it in the family Bible. But due to the loss of community and the complexities of the legal structure, it is not that simple today. So apart from a signed marriage licence provided by the state, the

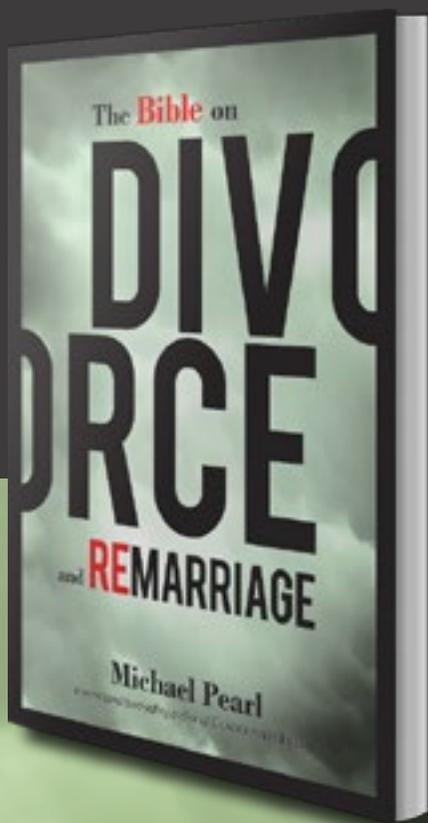
best safeguard to assure your rights as a spouse is a signed covenant of marriage drawn up by an attorney and filed at the courthouse.

Your state may not recognize what they call “common law marriage,” but then we shouldn’t recognize their outlaw marriages either. If a private covenant spells out legal responsibilities and privileges, property sharing, children, etc., it must be honored as a legal contract if not as a marriage. After all, the courts do recognize and honor prenuptial agreements or business partnerships. You don’t need a government license to enter holy matrimony, but with the possibility of adverse circumstances arising, you may need a contract to navigate the complexities of marriage in a world controlled by the courts.



Attention Teachers: There is a FREE download consisting of a six-lesson teacher’s guide to go along with **THE BIBLE ON DIVORCE AND REMARRIAGE** by Michael Pearl. Each simple lesson plan consists of questions and ideas for discussion and will be useful for book clubs, church classes, healing groups, etc. Go to: [HTTP://NGJ.ME/TBDRGUIDE](http://ngj.me/tbdrguide)

DIVORCE. REMARRIAGE. ADULTERY. AND THE BIBLE.



In this thorough exegesis of all the Bible texts concerning divorce and remarriage, Mike answers these issues with the Word of God, revealing the perfect harmony in Scripture and God's divine plan for marriage.

This is the first book that really hit home on this theme. No explaining around Scriptures, no cheap excuses for key verses in the Bible. It will help many to find peace and confidence in this area of their lives. – Nora

Mike makes it very clear, through an exhaustive study of God's word, what is right and what is wrong. This is a must-read book for all members of the clergy, counselors, psychiatrists, and any man or woman who has gone through a divorce. The Christian community has waited a long time for a book that covers this subject in so much depth. – Appreciative

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MEL'S STORY

By Mel Cohen, Certified Financial Planner®

Every day as I sit here working at No Greater Joy I am profoundly aware that God has been preparing me—beginning at my birth in a Jewish home to over 40 years in business, including corporate management, accounting, taxation, importing, exporting, personnel, and many other areas—to do this one job.

Each day I am on the phone or emailing with someone from most every continent of the world, from many different countries. It has taken an entire lifetime to prepare me to fulfill my duties here at No Greater Joy Ministries. What is happening is eternal. I thank God he is choosing to use me in this capacity.

BRIEF HISTORY

After I left the Navy in 1963, I started a career in retail, then moved to management, more schooling, and then on to coordinating big business events. I dealt with budgets of millions of dollars, taking companies to the top as I perfected the trade. I started and sold several businesses, which included heavy involvement

in importing and exporting. In 1985, I went into public accounting full-time and began to build a private tax practice with a client base in the hundreds, including individuals, corporations, partnerships, and estates. Continuing my education, I became a Certified Financial Planner®, a registered financial consultant, and registered investment advisor.

During those early years I married a beautiful Catholic girl named Pat. As a Jew I knew nothing of Jesus and Pat knew little, but she was searching for truth. She was saved in 1979. Once in a while I would attend a Baptist church with her, where many were praying for my salvation.

In April of 1981, we attended the Passion Play presented by Word of Life Ministries. I was very moved by what I saw. I could not take my eyes off the man on the cross. At the end of the play, the host, Jack Wyrzten, gave a brief message. At the end he stated, “Loved ones, turn to your loved ones and ask them to go forward with you.” At that moment I felt in my heart, if Pat asks me, I will go forward with her. About a second later she asked, and we went forward where someone led me to Christ. From that moment on we were new creatures in Christ. Over the years we have come to enjoy the common ground we have with Messianic Jewish believers.

I look back on all the work I have done over the years and it makes me smile seeing God’s hand of training in my life. The next round of training was really on target for my ultimate life’s calling. Around 1997 I started concentrating on non-profit work and was the compliance manager for a 28-million-dollar ministry as part of my tax and financial services practice. I also was part of a team that taught a one-week course, “How to Start a Business God’s Way.” One of the course attendees started working for the International ALERT Academy in Big Sandy, Texas. He would often correspond with me about joining the staff at ALERT as he felt my financial skills would be valuable to them.

After I was saved I felt a need to “give back.” I wanted to serve God seven or so years since he had so graciously saved and then blessed me financially. In 2002, after much prayer, Pat and I decided to serve at

ALERT. I was their Chief Financial Officer with additional assignments including two retail stores, the radio station, golf course, and personnel. This was my final 3½ years of schooling for the job God created me to do.



Mel shows the office staff how to throw a pizza crust

Pat’s story picks up here because it was a supernatural event that focused our attention toward No Greater Joy.

PAT’S STORY

In August of 2005, I was in Maine attending a wedding; Mel was not with me. On the morning of the wedding while reading my Bible, the Lord stopped me from reading and told me to pray for a man who was trying to contact Mel. Astounded by what I heard, I wasn’t totally convinced it was the voice of the Lord, but I prayed anyway. Months passed, and I continued to pray about the man. I didn’t tell Mel about my prayer until October, when he told me it might be time to leave ALERT, the wonderful ministry of which we

were a part. I thought, “Wow, you did speak to me Lord!” After Mel shared what he was discerning, I knew it was the perfect time to tell him the details of what the Lord spoke to me about in August.

Around mid-November, Mike Pearl called Mel with some questions and concerns regarding NGJ. He asked if we would fly to Tennessee to meet him and Debi to discuss it further. Mel told Mike he was too busy to visit due to his many ministry responsibilities, plus he didn't have any vacation time left to take time off, but that he would talk it over with me and get back to him.

As soon as Mel began telling me about Mike's call, I knew Mike was the man for whom I had been praying. While we were trying to decide whether to go, and concerned with no vacation time, out of the blue Mel received a call from the head of ALERT granting him an extra week's vacation because of the extra time he had been putting in at the ministry. “Wow” number two! The answer was very clear—we were supposed to go.

The following day Mel contacted Mike to confirm our visit, and a few days later we were on our way to Tennessee.

We were there for three days. By the middle of the third day, all of Mike's questions and concerns were answered. During lunch with the Pearls, Debi asked Mel, “Would you like a job?” Mel told her he had a job and wasn't looking for a new one, but that we would pray about it. By dinner we felt (albeit with heavy hearts) that we were supposed to leave ALERT and relocate to Tennessee to work at NGJ. There wasn't any reason we should leave the current ministry other than that the Lord was redirecting our path.

In January of 2006, Mel joined NGJ as the General Manager with a two-year commitment. The two years has turned into nine-and-a-half and is still going strong. Almost daily I feel confirmed that we are living out God's perfect will for our lives. Living his will always brings peace beyond measure and that is always a big “wow!”





Pat has taken many beautiful photos for No Greater Joy. Here she is getting that perfect angle!

MEL'S DUTIES

Book Distributors: Processes orders, handles commissions and submits new products for companies such as: Amazon, Amazon Smile, Amazon Associates, CBD, Anchor, STL, and BookMasters.

Licensing rights: Makes rights agreements involving many languages and/or countries through Riggins Rights and International Licensing.

Publishing: Mel works with Mike and Debi on new books and on every issue of the magazine as well as CDs and DVDs. He designs the specs for each quote for submission to several printers in order to get the best overall pricing, quantity, delivery date, etc. Mel usually performs a full copy edit, signs off on all proofs as well as determines quantities to go to the master distributor, quantities to NGJ and quantities that may be shipped to third parties depending where the book is being printed. (He also writes for the magazine several times a year.)

New Releases: Creates metadata for all books regardless of where printed, acquires Library of Congress number, and creates industry-standard tip sheet for wholesale and distributor sales.

Good & Evil Project: Mel manages the entire G & E project with missionaries as well as everything involved in the G & E prison outreach (involves several groups). He handles finances, print quantity, language

order, etc. He makes sure a set of files for each language is at NGJ for future use. There are 45 languages to date. A few languages Mel independently coordinated the translators and printing separate from the missionary. He sets up the print-on-demand for all 45 languages.

Miscellaneous: He daily oversees personnel, scheduling, website issues including working with SEO-reputation management, sets up specials for *Cane Creek Corner* and even answers the phones overflow or answers questions others cannot answer.

Distributorship Program: There are over 700 members in our Distributorship Program—most can now just order online. For each new Distributor, NGJ offers a one-hour consult with Mel. He also sets up Distributor-exclusive specials.

Legal Stuff: Mel handles all compliance issues for the Non-Profit Status, and determines what NGJ can and cannot do or be involved in. He oversees the yearly audit, corrects the 990 annual filing, State of TN Charity filings and authorizes the CPA firm to efile all returns. He monitors NGJ cash flow, and if legal issues arise he works with NCLL to get answers.

Debi: Debi will often ask Mel about a project, or to gather data or find info on a specific subject. He is the problem solver.

In Changing Myself, I Saw a Miracle



Dear Debi,

Yesterday was a game changer for our marriage. I am married to a good man. He works very hard for us, and pays our bills on time. He provides for all our needs, and plays with the children—our six-year-old son wants so much to be just like Dad! He built us a house that is so space-efficient everyone marvels when they come inside. Anything he wants to do, he does it—and it turns out so wonderful . . .

We've been married almost 9 years. The first year was bliss, then three years of arguing. My wonderful, yet unwise best friend tried to help, but she was almost the death of my marriage. "He doesn't love you like he should because he doesn't help you with housework, bring you

lots of flowers, take time off, etc. Besides, he has no right to tell you he wishes you would get off Facebook."

Ironically it was this friend that gave me your book, *Created to Be His Help Meet*. That book changed my life! I realized I was married to an almost 100% Command Man. My husband was amazed at how I changed, and soon he started changing. His frustrated silent treatment now lasted only one day instead of three or four, and his anger disappeared. Yet there was something I desperately needed from him that he never wanted to give me—to let me in to the inner part of his life: his hopes, dreams, stresses, plans and frustrations. Oh, on occasion he would forget

and tell me stresses, but he would suddenly feel vulnerable and grow quiet. Any simple question about anything would be “threatening” or trying to control him.

Finally, two days ago, I asked him again if he would just let me in. I told him that I don’t need flowers or dates or help with housework and I don’t care if we have \$10 extra in the bank or \$5,000. I just want to be a part of his pain and joys. Yesterday he told me that he decided to see if other women felt the same as me. So he asked two older married ladies

at work what they want most from their husbands, and they both said what I had been telling him. And so he decided it must not be just me and my hormones, but what I really needed. **It’s a miracle.**

I understand what the book teaches when it says that a man needs to be able to trust his woman before he can become vulnerable to her. It is such a pleasure feeling his needs. I am his loving wife; he knows his heart is safe with me.

— Dorcas

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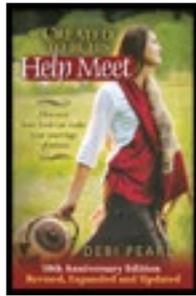
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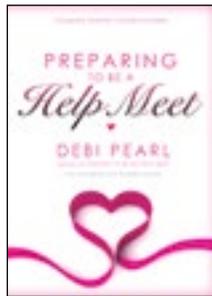


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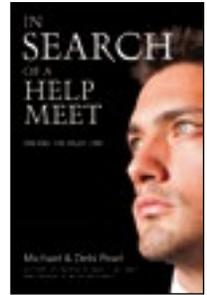


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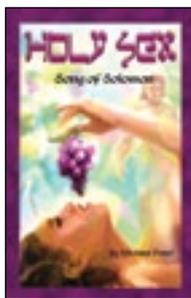
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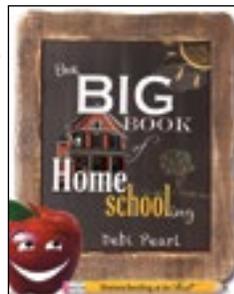
In this book, Mike and Debi talk about mistakes parents make and what you can do to keep your children on board with you. By Michael & Debi Pearl. 106 pages.



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A Wife's Complete Guide to Keeping Her Heart and Home

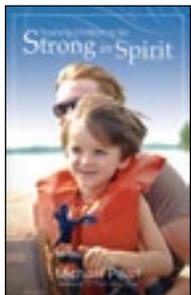


Living a virtuous life means learning contentment, choosing joy, and being teachable. Victory and virtue are gifts given to those who persevere on their own journey that God has given no matter what life may bring. In this book, embark on a trail of discovery through Proverbs 31, discovering the traits of a Virtuous Woman. By Erin Harrison. 336 pages.

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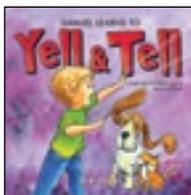


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A Warning for Children Against Sexual Predators

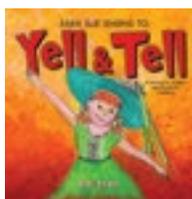


A child predator loses his power when he loses his cover. This beautifully illustrated children's book will arm parents and children against predators. By Debi Pearl. 40 pages.

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Michael Pearl speaking on child training. These are geared toward the father's role in the family. Tales of Mike and his sons' wild adventures. Boys love it! 140 min.



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Becoming a Man

This message is for parents concerned about raising their boys up to be men and it is for fathers who never learned to be real men. 38 min.



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Only Men

Michael Pearl speaks directly and frankly to men about their responsibilities as husbands. 74 min.



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The basic message: "Okay, I know I've messed up in child training; now what do I do?" 67 min.



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Hear the missionary story of Darlene Rose. Rebekah Pearl listened to these tapes when she was young. She says they helped mold her life toward missions. 125 min.



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Do children who die prior to reaching accountability go to heaven? What about stillborn babies, miscarried fetuses, or the two-year-old child who died? You will be thrilled with what God has in store for your departed child. 56 min.



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FAMILY DVDs

The Balanced Patriarch

Today, there is a twisted Christian doctrine preached that justifies not cutting the umbilical cord, all in the name of "Children, obey your parents." When do children cease to be under parental authority? Michael Pearl goes to the Bible and tells you what God has to say. 60 min.



1407-75 1 DVD **\$12.95**

Becoming Tempered Steel

As a young teenager Joshua Steele dedicated his life to serving God and has followed his calling with the force of tempered steel. He came to Cane Creek and addressed the young men on the subject of moral purity and preparation to serve God. His messages come highly recommended by all who have heard them. 135 min.



8325-55 1 DVD **\$12.95**

Child Training 101

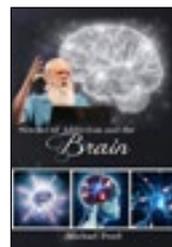
If you want to introduce child-training principles to a friend, this is the one DVD to give them. It takes the viewer back to the basics of child training. Taught by Michael Pearl. Includes a 25-minute Q&A! 80 min.



2007-75 1 DVD **\$12.95**

Science of Addiction and the Brain

Addiction is the state of being enslaved to a substance or habit. At the 2014 Smokey Mountains Shindig, Michael delivered five packed messages supported by 185 animated PowerPoint slides on this subject. 222 min.



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

Making Herbs Simple, Vol. 1

Join Shoshanna and friends as they teach you how to identify and use herbs growing in your own back yard, make poultices, tinctures, herbal hair treatments, 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**

Knife & Tomahawk Throwing for Fun

In this fun-to-watch DVD, World Champion knife thrower Michael Pearl teaches the basics of knife throwing. Learn how to choose the right knife, find the correct standing distance, and easily solve common knife throwing problems. 60 min.



5300-75 1 DVD **\$16.95**

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**

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**



Homesteading for Beginners 1-4

Journey with this family as they share some basic homesteading skills. Teaches you basics like gardening, raising and butchering chickens, cutting firewood, baking bread, making cheese, making maple syrup, soda bread, vinegar, yogurt, and a variety of other homesteading skills. Excellent step-by-step instructions for the novice homesteader.

4126-75 Part 1 DVD (110 min.) **\$19.95**

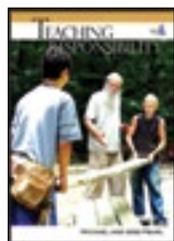
4128-75 Part 2 DVD (149 min.) **\$19.95**

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4131-75 Part 4 6-DVD Set (8+ hrs.) .. **\$39.95**

Teaching Responsibility

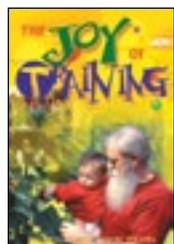
In this seminar, Michael Pearl uses humorous stories and practical examples to illustrate the simple process of training your children to work without complaint. Cut into his speaking presentation are hundreds of video clips and photos that help illustrate his message. Debi says, "The introduction is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



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

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 TEACHING AUDIO MP3s/CDs



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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Bible Topics MP3s/CDs

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BIBLE TOPICS DVDs & BOOKS

50 Questions & 50 Answers

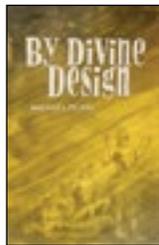
Unscripted and spontaneous, follow Mike around the farm as he answers your Bible questions. Varied questions and answers in a changing context makes this series captivating. 270 min.



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

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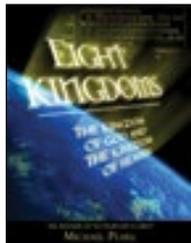
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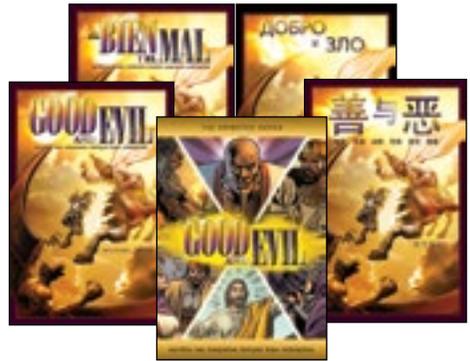
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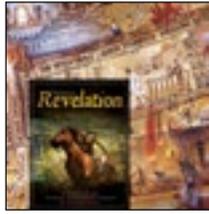
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What God Hath Joined Together...

What God hath joined together, let no man—or Supreme Court—put asunder. God will never join together two people of the same sex. They can call it marriage, but there is no holy matrimony for same-sex partners. Mechanical engineers, pipe fitters, and plumbers speak of the "marriage" of two units into one functioning piece. By nature a male fitting screws into a female fitting and the marriage is then a leak-proof conduit. A plumber could never couple two male or two female fittings. Two carnal bodies may merge in a perverted act, but two of a kind cannot marry.

Holy matrimony is a picture of Christ and his church. Two men joined in an indecent act, contrary to nature, could no more represent Christ and the church than could Satan and the antichrist cohabitating on a usurped throne. God is highly offended at the Supreme Court of the US and any who would yield to its unholy dictates. The legalizing of abortion did not make it cease to be murder, and the legalizing of same-sex "marriage" does not make it any less sinful.

Going on record, *Michael Pearl*



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