

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

NO GREATER JOY

magazine

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Looking for that *Blessed Hope*, and the glorious appearing... Titus 2:13

From Debi

This past week I was scrolling through Facebook. Usually I am too busy to take time to open anything, but this day three different items caught my eye. One was from a young mama named Kelsey who has four sons. It was a great story that I knew would be a blessing to our readership. So I wrote the young mama and asked her if we could publish her work. Then I saw a post from Joshua that made me think of his wife who is another Kelsie (she has four daughters) in faraway Ukraine, and I thought, "Wow, why have I not published any of her writings?" So I wrote to her. Then I saw a short video clip

from a young man who grew up here in our community. He has a compelling life story of great suffering, which makes his message that much richer (check out his bio online at <http://www.myhabc.org/bezs-bio>). I was awed with the wisdom of what he taught, so I wrote him and asked to join hands.

In this issue, thanks to Facebook, we have three new authors that I am pleased to introduce: **Bezaleel Cummings**, **Kelsie Steele** and **Kelsey Shade**. New, young talent that loves and honors the LORD. I hope they are now part of my team.

"Then saith he unto his disciples, The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few; Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest" (Matt. 9:37-38)

This is a mandate and charge that anyone can obey at any time, making an eternal difference! Pray for No Greater Joy Ministries to have co-laborers for the harvest!

WINTER Special

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A young girl holds her Cebuano *Good and Evil* book that was given to her by the Philippines Team.

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THE GREAT GRANDMA CAPER *by Debi Pearl*



When I was a little girl, maybe about seven years old, it was decided that I would go stay with what we called my “town Mama Granny” for a week. Everyone agreed it would be a good adventure for my summer vacation. My Mama Granny was probably the richest old lady in the tiny town and was part of high society. She owned and ran the biggest store in town, which was a miniature of what we now know as Wal-mart. Every morning she dressed in her fine clothes and high-heeled shoes, and then walked a block to open her store. The store was like a fairy wonderland to me. It was full of all kinds of things I had never

seen before, and I was thrilled to help her in any way I could. But that was just in my dreams.

The summer started off poorly. First, I was required to wear shoes. No country girl ever wore shoes in the middle of summer. Shoes were wearisome enough when it was cold, but in the heat of summer they were ridiculous, and I still hold to that premise. She also made me dress in a clean dress every single day, and she usually sent me home to change in the middle of the day because I became “so bedraggled.” And I hadn’t the faintest notion of what it meant to be bedraggled or how I got that way.

In the country, I—along with every kid I knew—wore the same shorts and T-shirt all week long (day and night) until Saturday evening when bath time rolled around. Everyone KNEW that Saturday evening was bath time because you had to be clean for church on Sunday. My Mama Granny had a whole different set of rules. Rule number one: Don't embarrass me with poor manners or being dirty. Rule number two: Go take a bath.

Needless to say, I was ready to go home the first day, and she was ready for me to go home before that. It was a long week, living in dread of embarrassing my high society Mama Granny. All was not lost though, for I did find one thing quite fascinating. The bathroom where I had to take baths several times every day was located in the back of the house. And there in the back hall was a tall chest of drawers. I accidentally discovered that the drawers were stuffed with all kinds of mesmerizing things. Since Mama Granny's store was basically off limits because "I could NOT keep my hands off the merchandise," I spent a lot of time alone tugging open those swollen, hard-to-open drawers, breathing in the musty, damp odors that spoke of mysteries past, looking through, handling, and trying on the whole shebang. Girdles from yesteryear, garters, stomach braces, bras turned yellow with age, lace and ribbons, dresses and shoes, and hats galore were carefully stored away, waiting for little old me. I tried on everything (many at the same time), finding most of the "undies" quite perplexing—where were they supposed to go and in what direction? Broken jewelry and dried-out makeup found new life in my hands. With each new addition to my attire, I would climb to stand in the old bathroom sink in order to admire myself in the small, blurry mirror. It

is amazing I did not fall considering I was often wearing the layering of six bras, two girdles, a garter around my neck, smushed hat of many flowers upon my head, and an oversized dress (she was fat) while ascending the great height, plus the precarious stretch from the tub to arrive safely in the deep, old sink. But my determination to see my beautiful, grown-up self made me persevere, and I was rewarded with images stamped deep into my memories. The hall grew full of all that strange, marvelous paraphernalia, and I was lost in the never-never land of untouchables. The amazing thing is that I never got caught, so I doubt that she ever knew of my grand capers. And I KNOW I never told, not even after I grew up, at least until now.

After her death several years later, the family gathered to go through the contents of her house. My parents were discussing with my aunts what part of the house each would go through to box up. Without thought I quickly answered for my daddy, "We will take the back hall." Both aunts, and to be honest, my own parents, looked at me suspiciously, obviously wondering but carefully not voicing, "What does she know that we do not?" Neither silver nor gold nor any precious thing was within those damp drawers, but the odds and ends from a different era still held me captive. However, this article is about the Grandma Caper, not the "Little Dab" (my nickname when I was very young) Caper. It is a necessary foundation in helping you understand a thing or two about being a granny.

I think back to my Mama Granny and I know that I do not want to be that kind of grandmother. I felt she cared more about what people thought of me than she cared ABOUT ME. I will do better. So when my daughters needed to go on



I BET YOU DIDN'T THINK A PEARL GRANDKID COULD ACT LIKE THAT, DID YOU? **SURPRISE!**

a ten-day business/pleasure trip to Hawaii with Plexus, we discussed how many grands I could handle and still be able to work at No Greater Joy. They settled on four, three from Shalom's family and one from Shoshanna's. In the days preceding, I made up my mind: I would be the most loving, available, capable, captivating granny that has ever been.

Hello, reality. At the end of the first day, after the children had gone to bed, I wearily began to clean up. My hardwood floors were covered with wet towels and bathing suits, the bathrooms were full of dirty clothes; there wasn't a set of matching shoes anywhere, crayons crunched under foot, and papers, books, and stuff were scattered everywhere. I washed three loads of clothes the very first evening. The next morning no one agreed on the menu and one child didn't want to eat. As I rushed to clear the table, my brain began to recall something that I had read—or maybe I wrote it—on organizing and managing. Oh yes, I did remember that simple formula. As I recall, it was an important key to a happy

childhood, because children would feel more relaxed when they knew their boundaries. I knew that my days as a passive, subservient granny were over.

I lined the kids up and made a few rules. Rule number ONE: You will be given ONE towel, ONE bathing suit, and ONE chair. You will change your play clothes in the outer bathroom and then put them on your chair and cover them with your towel. When you are finished swimming you will change out of your bathing suit in the outer bathroom, hang your wet suit on your chair, and hang your towel to dry over the chair. Anyone "losing" their towel and needing another will not swim the next time. Anyone "losing" their suit will not swim the next time. Anyone "losing" their dry clothes or allowing them to get wet will not swim the next time. It's AMAZING what kids can remember when they are organized and managed.

Rule number TWO: Each child has their own cup (color coded) and will use that cup every time

CHILDREN FEEL MORE RELAXED WHEN THEY KNOW THEIR BOUNDARIES.

they need a drink, even at meals. AMAZING how they kept up with their cups and how this small rule cut down on dirty dishes. They seemed to prefer their own cup. I was feeling successful.

All was well until the morning of the fourth day. I decided to forgo the fresh-cooked meal for cereal, since they had all been asking for “Rice Paddies,” which is Penelope’s name for Rice Krispies. I set out a stack of four bowls (three green and one blue) and four spoons. The next 45 seconds held a loud, demanding, emotionally charged exchange of bowls. I watched as the offending blue bowl changed hands four times before it finally rested in front of Penelope. It took me a few seconds to adjust to the new atmosphere of conflict and understand the cause of the ruckus. The expressions on the faces of the other three children told me they had aggressively forced her to take the lesser thing. I bet you didn’t think a PEARL grandkid could act like that, did you? How about FOUR grandkids? SURPRISE! Evidently no one wanted to be the lone-man-out, which being interpreted means, use the blue bowl. The bowls are exactly alike except for the color, so I didn’t really understand the conflict, but I knew it was time to take charge. First, I looked at the three satisfied kids who each held a green bowl, and then I looked Penelope in the eyes, making sure she saw my “put-on” heartbreak that she was forced to use the blue bowl, and I asked, “Is it really important to you that you not use the blue bowl?” She let me know

she was willing to take the lesser thing but was heartbroken.

Smiling, I stood and looked over the table of expectant children waiting for me to be King Solomon and magically make the blue bowl green. “Ok, everyone back in bed. I will call you when I have finished cooking breakfast. No cereal today.”

All four children sat as if turned into pillars of salt until Laila, being 9 years old and the eldest of the lot, spoke up with a tone of incredulousness that reflected her face. “Are you kidding?”

It was funny how surprised they were, but I answered wisely as an adult who was organizing and managing. “No, you have only been out of bed ten minutes, so back to bed you go. I will call you when breakfast is ready.”

They watched as Big Papa quickly got up and exited the room, walking into his office and shutting the door. It seemed to give them the cue, so they followed suit. I took my time making eggs and bagels, setting the table, hum-hawing around until a good 15 minutes had passed. All this time I had not heard a peep. It was as if they had all gone back to sleep or were shocked into silence; either way it was delightfully pleasing. I called out, “Breakfast is ready.” Three doors opened and out marched Big Papa, then the boys, and lastly the girls. They quietly slipped into their seats, put their hands in their laps, and waited for Big Papa to give thanks.

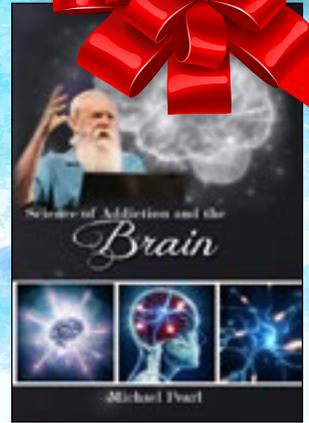
For all those who have wondered if I have lost my touch and gone soft in my old age, well, this is for the record: I can still organize and manage. But tomorrow morning I will set out four bowls—red, yellow, blue, and green—and we will eat Rice Paddies. And there will be no complaints. ☺☺☺☺

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Testimony FROM A GRATEFUL WIFE

I just wanted to thank you from the bottom of my heart for your ministry. Specifically, your teachings on Addiction and the Brain that you gave at the Shindig in 2014. My future husband was there, and he was addicted to pornography. (We were not together at the time.) He knew the Lord and loved Him, but felt helpless to stop. He'd tried many different ways of stopping but always kept coming back. When he heard your message, the Lord opened his eyes to the truth and power of the pure gospel of Christ—that he was dead to sin, dead to the flesh, and alive in Christ. It changed his life; he has not used pornography ONCE since then. We dated/courted, got engaged and married the next year—he is the very best of husbands, and it is nothing short of a miracle in

this day and age that our family is 100% pornography free. I know that many people criticize y'all for your blunt way of putting things, but I for one am extremely grateful. Your teachings have changed our lives—your teachings changed my husband. Debi's "Created" book has changed me, and your "To Train Up a Child" will form our future children. Or rather, I should say, the Lord changed us through your obedience to preach the truth. Thank you so, so very much. Never stop preaching the truth no matter what other people might say. I just read your article, "More Sodom," and was filled with thankfulness to the point of tears when I thought of how your simple declaration of truth freed my husband two years ago. I just had to let you know. Thank you!
—Grateful Wife



facebook testimony



Homeschool Mama

2 days ago

Debi Pearl issued a challenge to read through the book of Joshua in the month of July with your family. Slowly and steadily we are making it through. Today's reading, though, has hit very fertile ground.

“And Joshua said unto the children of Israel, How long are ye SLACK to go to possess the land, which the LORD God of your fathers hath given you?” (Joshua 18:3, emphasis mine).

We each took turns pointing out what stood out to us. It was the word SLACK. Our first thought: “Was this the first mention of the word?” We discovered we were wrong. The first mention is Deuteronomy 7:10. To fully understand the context, go back to verse 9. It is also important to note Proverbs 10:4 and 2 Peter 3:9. Then, we consulted our handy dictionary. Definitions 2 and 3 peaked our interest: (2) weak, remiss, not holding fast; as in a slack hand; (3) remiss, backward; not using due diligence; not earnest or eager: as in slack of duty or service; slack in business.

Again and again we see how God is concerned with our character. We see what a person who is not slack looks like, and what a person who is slack looks like. We also see a beautiful picture of our loving God's character. He is faithful to His words and actions.

—MW



Debi Pearl This made my DAY... I love it. When a family does just ONE word study and the children see the word in God's Word they will always remember it. This study on the word SLACK will change this family's work habits and life style for the rest of their lives. This is REAL school and REAL Bible study. YAY for this mama!

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A Screwtape Letter for the

UNDERAPPRECIATED MOM

by Kelsey Shade

A tongue-in-cheek parody of C.S. Lewis...

My Dear Wormwood,



I was thrilled to hear you have been making progress with the mother. You have a good lead, from what I hear. She feels overworked, unappreciated, and discouraged? I'm so glad to hear it. If you tread carefully, this can be a great opportunity. With the kids waking her up every hour last night, we already have an advantage. A tired mom makes for a more emotional mom, and an emotional mom is a vulnerable one. I do have a few tips:



Do what you can

TO KEEP HER FOCUSED ON
HER TROUBLES AND PAINS.



First, aim your best efforts at her marriage. As you know, we cannot do much with a unified marriage. Lucky for us, a cranky and exhausted wife can do wonders to change that. We must convince her that her husband is no longer the friend and ally she first married. Instead, we must reveal every sin and selfish habit, especially drawing attention to his thoughtless actions against her, mal-intended or not.

Sometimes it's the less obvious things—things the husband doesn't even realize—that we can use to offend her the most. When he comes home from work and dumps his things on the counter nearest the door (instead of hanging his coat or putting away his keys), let her think of it as a direct assault on her work as a homemaker. When he tracks mud in with his shoes, let her think it is because he does not love her. Such extremes of thought may seem ridiculous to you or me, but

to the exhausted, mortal woman, they are possible. Your goal is to make her think the husband does not notice or, even better, that he does not care about her efforts at home.

Secondly, do what you can to keep her focused on her troubles and pains. Remind her how much her back aches, how draining the children were all day, and how many undone tasks still beckon her. Do not let her wonder what difficulties her husband faced that day or whether his back might also be aching. Valuing others above oneself is one of those silly though strangely effective tactics of the Enemy. If she stops to make her husband a cup of coffee, the next thing you know she'll be rubbing his shoulders and flirting with him on the couch. It can progress out of your control if you're not careful.

Along those lines, be sure the mother starts to value productivity above everything else. Have her wake up early and work non-stop until bedtime. If the husband relaxes in the evening with an hour of computer gaming, be sure the wife notices the pile of unfolded laundry or unswept floors. Do not let her grab a book and relax alongside her husband. Diligence—often one of the Enemy's virtues—when over-

done can be used to our advantage as well. Convince her that as long as there is a shred of work to be done (and there always is), no one should be resting. Then, as she folds and sweeps and he sits, you can introduce the sweet bitterness of resentment.

A word of caution here: remember, the love of a husband can be dangerous to our cause. If he senses her unhappiness, he may begin to help or (even worse) show her affection. This is where previously planted seeds of resentment can be guided into full bloom. Make her think that his displays of affection are because he “only wants one thing.” Do not let her view his help with the dishes (or kisses or cuddling) as having pure motives. If he shows his desire for her, convince her that she is being used, not loved. As we both know, the ultimate act of marriage can bond them together in a way that can undo much hard work on our part. Because of this, do not allow her to prioritize that act on her mental to-do list. It is in our best interest to keep the wife busy, busy, busy and be sure she’s far too exhausted to consider it by the end of the evening.



Now, on to the children. Lovely opportunities for us, the children, especially the little ones. We all know that children are a favorite tool of the Enemy. He calls them “blessings” and “gifts” and calls parents to lay down their lives for them, just as his Son did. Insane, I know. We must convince her that the obnoxious little people she has charge of are not really worth her sacrifice. When the mother first dreamed of having children, she probably imagined wide, innocent eyes and chubby, happy grins taking up the majority of her days. Do your best to shatter those expectations.

Instead, draw attention to how much they take from her. Let them take and take and take . . . and need and need and need until the mother feels totally spent. Let them start crying at the same time for the most irrational of reasons. Let the noise bother her. Let their bad behavior surprise her. Do your best to make the day-to-day monotony of diaper changes, meals, and baths seem simultaneously overwhelming and beneath her. Let her think of all the better, more important things she could be doing with her life if only she didn’t have the children.

Keep words like “Heritage”

AND “LEGACY” FAR AWAY FROM THE RUNNY
NOSES AND JELLY STAINS OF THE EVERY DAY



Don't let her think about the future responsible, faithful adults she is raising, society changers, friends, workers, husbands or wives... Don't let her think of them as lifelong companions who will love her, converse with her, and care for her in her old age. Oh, and definitely don't let her think about the grandchildren she might be able to see in their little grubby faces if she looks hard enough now. No, no, no... Thinking ahead to when her work bears fruit, as the Enemy calls it, is always a bad idea. Keep words like “heritage” and “legacy” far away from the runny noses and jelly stains of the everyday.

If there is any last piece of advice I have for you, Wormwood, it is to keep the mother looking to her husband or family for her fulfillment and comfort. We know that the Enemy is always watching and willing to take the burdens of his children, but if we divert the mother's attention well enough,

this fact can be forgotten. Make her look to her husband for worth and affirmation. Then when he lets her down (as he is sure to do), she will be ours to torment. Yes, the worst thing that could happen would be for her to turn to Him with her needs and inadequacies. Once she realizes that the Enemy offers a peace that transcends her situation, our work could be utterly compromised.

*Your Malevolent Uncle,
Screwtape*



Kelsey is a home-school mom who lives in Virginia with her husband and four sons. When she's not refereeing ninja fights, changing diapers, or teaching kids to read, she loves to write and organize both closets and calendars.

Readers are advised to remember,
the devil is a liar.
C.S. Lewis, July 5, 1941



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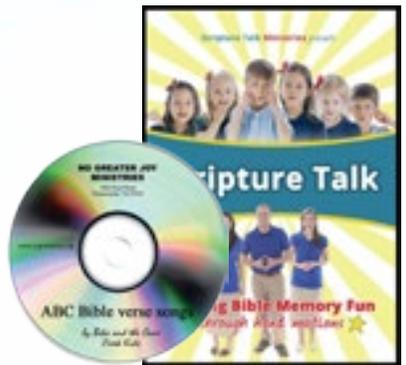


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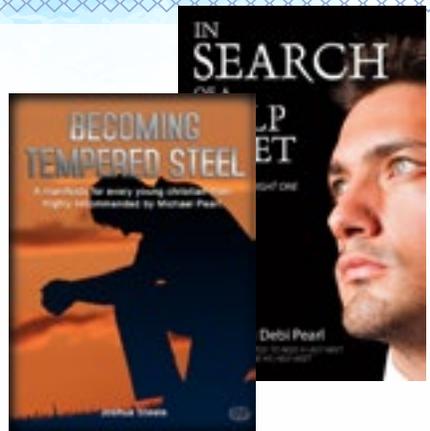


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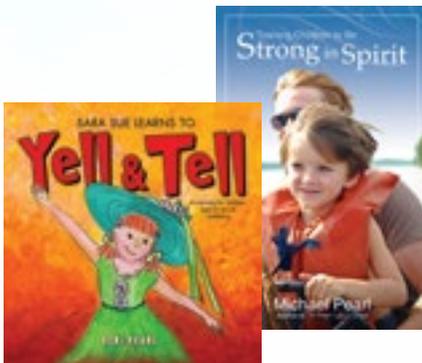
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YOU DON'T HAVE TO YELL



by Kelsie Steele

Have you ever wondered if it were possible to parent without yelling? Parents sometimes say that they considered themselves patient people—until their children were born. Frustrated moms too often raise their voices as a last resort to get their children’s attention. Sadly, yelling only diminishes our influence with our children and causes more hurt and frustration for everyone. So how can we get rid of it?

Like any other bad habit, yelling can be eliminated. But you need to have a battle plan, replacing yelling with other actions. What will you do when tension mounts in your home? These five ideas can jump-start you on your way to a more peaceful home.

REQUIRE FIRST-TIME OBEDIENCE

Anger is often the result of failing to discipline promptly. Many parents don’t expect first-time obedience.

Instead, they plead with their child: “Johnny, if you’ll just come home now we can watch TV and have a snack,” repeat themselves: “I said you may not hit your sister!” or harangue: “Don’t you ever hear anything I say?” Frustration builds, paving the way for anger to erupt and leave hurt and regret in its wake.

Worse, we actually train our children not to obey when we delay giving a consequence. Children quickly learn that they don’t really have to listen until the situation is at a boiling point, and they’re smart enough to discern exactly when that is.

When I find myself becoming irritated at disobedience, it is a signal to me that I didn’t give a consequence when I should have. I stop myself and the children, make my instruction crystal clear, and then immediately but calmly follow through with a consequence at the

first disobedience. This eliminates confusion and stress for all of us.

DON'T MICROMANAGE

I like things to be done neatly and with a certain order. Because of this, I have to be especially aware of how many directions I give my children. For example, in the kitchen I might tell them they didn't crack the egg the right way, they should wipe the counter immediately after making a mess, the milk lid must instantly be put back on the container, not to use that particular spatula, and so on. The result is a recipe for frustration!

Like me, your irritation could be a result of too much correcting. If this is the case, consider the directives you're giving. Are they really necessary? As parents, our job is to differentiate between childishness—innocent actions all children do—and foolishness—that which results in harm to them, someone else, or our property. Rules are important for children. But parents should choose reasonable rules that make sense. When possible, relax and give them the freedom to be kids.

KEEP THINGS CLOSE

Instead of shouting across the house or playground to get your child's attention, have them come close to you. Make a habit of speaking softly to them so that only they can hear. This enhances your sense of control, it keeps the issue private, and it eliminates the need for your voice to escalate.

WHISPER

This is a wonderful way to restrain yourself when you're about to blow

up in frustration! Showing anger becomes nearly impossible when you whisper. Whispering also gives the added benefit of getting your child's attention by a change of tone. This idea comes straight out of the Bible: "A soft answer turneth away wrath...." (Proverbs 15:1) Give it a try!

REDUCE THE NEED TO HURRY

Children do not have a concept of buses missed or church services that won't wait. I often find that I am rushing, they are not, and I am getting angry. This only adds to the tension of getting out the door.

The fact is, many times I'm hurrying on account of my own unpreparedness. I could have packed the diaper bag the night before, laid out clothes, or given clear instructions to the children about what to expect. But I didn't. Now, as I run around like a mad hen, the children pay the price for my lack of preparation. When possible, eliminate the need to rush by planning ahead. The relationships you have with your children are far more important than getting to a place on time.

MAKE YOUR HOME A BETTER PLACE

As the momma, you have the primary role in influencing the home atmosphere. Consistent choices to be patient and calm will yield beautiful rewards. The steps you take to eliminate yelling and strife will affect not only your children, but likely your grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

You don't have to yell! ■

"Death and life are in the power of the tongue . . ." (Proverbs 18:21)

be a blessing how to make a blessing bag

It's that time of year when we count our blessings and give special thanks for God's goodness. But this season also gives us the chance to be a blessing to someone else! Keep these blessing bags in your car and ask your parents to help you pass them out to someone who could use a blessing!

You can use gallon-size plastic bags, drawstring bags, totes and more to put your items in!

- Gloves/Hat/Scarf
- Handwarmers
- Socks
- Toothbrush/Toothpaste
- Dental floss/picks
- Bandages
- Deodorant
- Chapstick
- Breath mints/gum
- Hand Sanitizer/Wipes
- Soap
- Antibacterial ointment
- Tarp
- Plastic Eating Utensils
- Postage Stamps
- Small flashlight
- Snacks: Jerky, gum, energy bar, candy, dried fruit, nuts
- Gospel Tracts/Bible



November 2016

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2	3	4	5
	<i>"...Praise the Lord of hosts: for the Lord is good; for His mercy endureth for ever..." (Jeremiah 33:11).</i>					
6	 <i>Pray for Good and Evil;</i> MYANMAR Burmese language	8	9	10	11	12
13	 <i>Pray for Good and Evil;</i> NORTH KOREA Korean language	15	16	17	18	19
20	 <i>Pray for Good and Evil;</i> GERMANY German Language	22	23	24	25	26
27	 <i>Pray for Good and Evil;</i> ALGERIA Arabic language	29	30	 Happy Thanksgiving		<i>"While the earth remaineth, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease" (Genesis 8:22).</i>

FEED THE BIRDS

Here's what you need:

- Pine cones
- Peanut Butter
- Bird seed
- Raffia, yarn or string

Spread the peanut butter over the pine cone.

Roll the pine cone in bird seed.

Tie your pine cone feeder around the end of your pine cone and hang it up in a tree for the birds to enjoy!



December 2016



MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>DID YOU KNOW that the Parasaurolophus, a dinosaur that lived several thousand years ago, actually ate pine cones?</p>					
<p>4  <i>Pray for:</i> ISRAEL Hebrew language *NEW Translation!*</p>	5	6	7	8	9
<p>11  <i>Pray for:</i> ECUADOR Spanish language</p>	12	13	14	15	16
<p>18  <i>Pray for:</i> THAILAND Thai language</p>	19	20	21	22	23
<p>25  <i>Pray for:</i> UNITED STATES English language Remember to pray for our nation this Christmas.</p>	26	27	28	29	30
					31





Wisdom THAT WORKS

THREE ESSENTIAL RULES FOR RELATIONSHIPS

by Bezaleel Cummings

I want to share with you some personal rules the Lord has taught me about human relationships. After being widowed, I got married to Michelle eighteen months ago, and we have never had an argument to this day. So I asked her, “Why haven’t we had an argument?” She said, “Well, it’s because of the rules that you live by; they work quite well.”

So I want to share with you the rules that have been a blessing to my life in all human relationships, and especially in my recent marriage. Do you get into a lot of arguments? If you apply these rules, there will be no more arguing. But it could be that you like to argue. Some do. It is very stimulating, but not very healthy.

RULE #1

Right or wrong doesn't matter; what matters is their reality.

You say, "Wait, of course right or wrong matters!" But the thing is, people are doing you a favor when they tell you what they think, whether you agree with them or not. The Bible says "*A wise man will hear, and will increase learning...*" (Proverbs 1:5). It says in Job 34:3, "*For the ear trieth words, as the mouth tasteth meat.*" So you listen to what they're saying and consider the truth it may contain. The Bible says, "*Every way of man is right in his own eyes...*" (Proverbs 21:2). So you have to remember that what they're telling you is what they really think, so treat it like reality, not as something stupid.

It goes like this: "You never do the dishes, and you never help me!" Men hear that blanket statement and respond like calculators and spreadsheets. "Wait! Of course I do the dishes and help you. I did it last month, and I did it two years ago on December 14th, and when we were first married, and when we were dating I did it one time, so that is absolutely not true. I do help you do the dishes."

Women are more emotional, so they're not thinking about it that way. But never dismiss their complaints by blaming it on their emotions. Just know that you are not doing yourself any favors when you argue. Stop and think, "Okay, she really does think I don't help and that I am neglectful of my share of the duties." That is what she wants to say and didn't, and that is what you need to hear when you listen past her emotions and your self-defensive response.

RULE #2

Ask questions.

When somebody comes to you with a complaint, remember to seek further enlightenment. Ask questions that do not reject the premise of their charge.

When charged with "You never do the dishes," instead of saying (like a man) "Oh, yes, I do the dishes," say, "When did you first notice that I haven't been helping around the house as much?" or "I'm sorry that I have created an environment where I'm not being very helpful." You might ask, "What's the most upsetting thing that you've noticed about me being so slothful?" Or maybe you could say, "How long have you been noticing that I've been slacking around the house and haven't been helpful?" or "What is the hardest part for you about living with someone that's a non-dish washer?" Then she will start talking to you instead of throwing hurt in your direction. The Bible says, "*Counsel in the heart of man is like deep water; but a man of understanding will draw it out*" (Proverbs 20:5). So ask questions. "What's so stressful?" "What's bothering you?" You will be helping yourself get to the core of what really concerns her. People often need to filter what they feel to speak their actual concerns, so like a deep well, you will need to "draw it out."

Some people just swallow it, pushing their hurt to the back of their minds. I always encourage Michelle (or whoever is upset) with, "What's upsetting you?" or "What's bothering you?" and I try to draw it out before it is fired back at me. That way we can work on it and fix it before it explodes into an argument or hurt feelings.

RULE #3

(This is going to be hard for you men especially.)

Don't defend yourself ... ever.

You hear, "You don't do the dishes!" and you have a strong impulse to defend yourself.

"You're a bum," and you want to come out verbally swinging. (By the way, my wife never says anything like this.)

She charges, "You're torturing the cat!" You want to defend yourself and make excuses.

But the Bible says that when Jesus was reviled, he reviled not again. It says that when he was accused, he answered them nothing. So if you stop defending yourself and start asking questions, and you realize that right or wrong doesn't matter, it's actually all about what she thinks, you're going to start getting a lot further in your relationship.

But if you want to be right, congratulations, you can be right. And if you want to defend yourself, you can defend yourself, but you won't have a successful relationship, because in successful human relationships, what the other person thinks about you is

**RIGHT OR
WRONG DOES
NOT MATTER.
WHAT MATTERS IS
THEIR REALITY.**

more important than what you think about yourself. In fact, it is the only thing that matters.

Figure out what your spouse or friend thinks about you and see if there's any truth to it. You just might help yourself out. ■



Bezaleel Cummings is a homegrown Cane Creeker who got saved as a child and grew up under Mike's teaching. He went to Pensacola for Bible School. He loves being the pastor of the great folks in Huisache Ave Baptist in south Texas. He writes of his wife, "Michelle is a blessing sent from the Lord: a wonderful Christian wife and a good mother to our boys." To read his testimony go to: <http://www.myhabc.org/bezs-bio>

Phil 1:12: "But I would ye should understand, brethren, that the things which happened unto me have fallen out rather unto the furtherance of the gospel."



MY FAVORITE WAY TO START THE DAY

by Kelsie Steele

Can you imagine God giving you the chance to ask for anything? Long ago, a new ruler sat on a throne in Israel. God approached him in a vision by night and told him to ask anything his heart desired. The young king's response was staggering—he didn't choose riches or fame or protection—he asked for wisdom to rightly govern God's people. God was so pleased with his answer that he gave him the wisest heart of anyone who has ever lived. Since that time the world has never forgotten about the wisdom of King Solomon. The story doesn't end there though, because God is still offering wisdom to people today. He promises to give it to anyone who asks, but very few people are interested in it these days. There are some, however, who take God at his word. They ask. And to those, God promises it will be given liberally. *"If any man lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally . . . and it shall be given him"* (James 1:5).

Living life successfully requires a lot of wisdom, and I very often feel the lack of it in my own life. It isn't easy being an adult with responsibilities. It isn't always easy to make important relationships work well. And it certainly isn't easy to transform needy, dependent children into

mature, responsible, God-loving adults.

Every morning that dawns is like a new opportunity to start fresh, to try new approaches and make new decisions. That's why I love to start each day seeking my Creator's face, simply asking him to give me his wisdom. Before my feet even hit the floor, I like to ask for his guidance. In particular, I need wisdom for four noisy, cumbersome, loud, often-selfish, mostly-sweet, energetic, inquisitive, growing little girls. So I ask for it.

I don't always start my day this way—it's not some sort of magic ritual to make life go perfectly. But I take courage in the fact that my loving Father will give me anything I need to know if I ask for it in faith. How about you? Are you looking for wisdom? ■

Kelsie is privileged to be wife to Joshua, and mom to four girls, with a baby boy due in January 2017! She lives with her family in Ukraine, where they have served as missionaries for more than a decade. She loves good books, drinking tea, speaking Ukrainian, keeping up with friends, and laughing at her husband's silly jokes. Kelsie also enjoys pursuing writing and editing as a means of ministry.



Debi's Right-Hand "Man" GOES TO THE PHILIPPINES

From Debi: Megan is my right-hand "man" here in the office. We had a rough August while she was gone, but her trip had eternal benefits.

From Megan: Standing in the street of a squatters' village located in the middle of the largest dump on Cebu, holding one filthy child in each arm and another on my back while still others circled me with stretched out arms, my heart suddenly and clearly understood why Jesus found it necessary to speak with a rebuking tone to his disciples, "Suffer little children, and forbid them not, to come unto me: for of such is the kingdom of heaven." I could feel the heart of God as we

poured our hearts out to these little ones.

We came to give the gospel, but how could the little ones hear the wonderful stories of Jesus if their bellies growled in hunger? We brought food but there were so many more children than we had food to feed. With tears in my eyes, I watched as they, without being asked, turned to share their one chicken leg and small bowl of rice with those who had none. I watched as Nathan laid hands on each child's head to pray





that someday they could come to know the love of Jesus. For three and a half weeks we ministered in the Philippines both to the bodies and to the souls. First we went to the children, and then Nathan taught the pastors and leaders how they could use **Good and Evil** to reach their island for Christ.

Through your gifts toward the **Good and Evil** Cebuano printing, we were able to supply these **Good and Evil** books to pastors from all over the islands. Some drove for seven hours just to be able to attend the conferences. Nathan taught several sessions at each conference, and also gave a gospel presentation using the **Good and Evil** book. The Catholic priest in the picture below was especially excited to finally understand why the blood sacrifice was necessary for our redemption and how Jesus is our sacrificial Lamb. The pastors were all encouraged and excited to take the **Good and Evil** books and Bibles back to their congregations. It is equally exciting for us knowing that though we are thousands of miles from the Philippines, the gospel is being shared, preached, and exemplified through these pastors!

Visiting the landfills was especially heartbreaking. These kids were so excited

to be held. Most had never had their faces painted, so Zephyr, Laura, Ashley, Jacob, and Gideon were kept especially busy painting mustaches, kitten whiskers, hearts, and more on the hands and faces of the children. Yes, it was hot, filthy, and smelly, but the kids didn't seem to mind, so how could we?

Nathan gave the sin robe presentation (see a similar presentation at this link: <https://vimeo.com/76481252>) at each dump and school we visited, and we showed The Jesus Film for Children at several locations. Most children had never seen a movie before, and their eyes were riveted to the projected images on the screen. We gave them flip flops, clothes, school supplies, and food while we were there, and once again we were humbled to see their excitement and gratitude over simple things that we take for granted.

Thank you for your prayers during this trip—they meant so much to us! And thank you for your support that supplied the **Good and Evil** books. Because of your gifts to the Cebuano **Good and Evil** printing, we were able to send these pastors out equipped to share the life-changing message that Jesus saves, and we know that the work will go on! So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it. (Isaiah 55:11)





NATHAN'S PHILIPPINE REPORT

The Lord gave the word: great was the company of those that published it. Psalm 68:11

My family and I just got back from a one-month trip to the Philippines. Many of you gave to support this work, and we were so humbled and excited to see what God did through your gifts.

We approached this trip as three different ministries we would pursue simultaneously. The first was to feed the hungry kids. Now, from the outside, feeding kids does not seem to have much eternal value because in a few hours they are hungry again, but in Matthew 25:34–40 we see the importance of sharing Christ's compassion in meeting the physical needs of "the least of these."

The next ministry was to deliver the Word of God in such a way that it made as big an impact as possible. Because of the generosity of God's people, we were able to take over 2100 Bibles in the Filipino language, and by combining them with our teaching ministry, we were able to get them into the hands of over 225 churches. Now, if you have done the math that is fewer

than ten Bibles per church, which may not seem significant, but let me relate to you one of the many stories I heard from the churches that received them.

One of the churches represented at the last conference was planted by a family who worked with the poorest street kids. They moved in and started winning many for Christ. They tutor struggling kids after school and go to sporting events with them. Kids are in and out of their house all the time, where they try to talk the girls out the life of prostitution that their parents are pushing them to join, and the boys out of running drugs at 10 and 12 years old. Over the last year they have been discouraged about their own poverty and lack of resources. As some of the kids and their parents have come to know Christ, they have started Bible studies, but they only have one Bible. As she clutched her precious stack of nine Bibles, the mom told me how encouraged and excited they were for the teaching, Bibles, and **Good and Evil** books we gave them.

The third ministry we engaged in was teaching and giving the pastors tools for the work they were already involved in. I fully believe that if the Philippines will be reached for God it will be the Filipinos who do it. That is why my work is not just evangelism but teaching the Word of God to the faithful men who will still be doing the work of evangelism long after I am gone. It is because of this that I am so excited about the **Good and Evil** program worldwide. You see, I can give out tracts and preach the gospel, but if I can teach a teacher and then give him the resources to win and teach more effectively, the impact increases exponentially! That is why Paul told Timothy “And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also” (2 Timothy 2:2). During our time there we had three pastors’ conferences with around 200 people per meeting. At each conference I had the privilege of teaching three times.

Imagine a relatively small room filled with men who are already planting, teaching, and overseeing churches. Most were from evangelical, Christian backgrounds, but there were also Mormon, Catholic, and others who did not know Christ. In the front was an over-loud and cheap handheld microphone sitting on a rickety wooden podium, flanked by boxes of **Good and Evil** books and Bibles we would be giving away. Outside the temperature was 92° at 9 am and climbing; inside the temperature was 95° and climbing faster, and there was almost no breeze through the small open windows. And the best part, no one knew who I was. Everyone came to hear the lady who

invited me or because they heard we had a free lunch. As I looked around I was thinking, “This is the most exciting and wonderful opportunity I have ever had to teach!” I felt like I was eating the same kind of bread Jesus ate as he sat by the well talking to the Samaritans.

After introducing myself, the first message I taught was on Biblical marriage. After speaking for a couple hours, I sat down and we took a break. Many of the pastors and teachers came to me and said they had never heard marriage taught purely from the Scriptures. They were convicted, excited, and confounded by a method of teaching using only the Word of God. Next, I taught on the hope that we saints have in Christ. Once again, many came to me after this message and were excited by sound, exegetical Bible teaching. I love to preach the Word of God, and the first two messages were exciting, but I knew that to make the return we hoped on the investment we had made in the **Good and Evil** books, I needed to be able to help them understand the power of chronological Bible teaching.

At the beginning of the last message I went to the front, opened a box, and got one of the **Good and Evil** books in the Cebuano language. At this point most had no idea what was in all the boxes. I held it up, showed them some of the artwork, and told them that I would like to explain to them the value of chronological Bible teaching in our churches, but I was just not sure how to do that. So instead, I told them I would tell them the story of the Bible, just like my dad had done with the **Good and Evil** book. I started in Genesis and told the story



of Adam and his sin. Then I told the story of Cain and Abel and how Abel's blood cried out from the ground. I told of Noah's sacrifice and how the Scripture says that blood is required for the remission of sins. After that I told about Abraham and Isaac and how through that story we are able to empathize in horror of being asked to offer our only son as a sacrifice. Then I explained imputed righteousness and how, as Isaac lay on the altar waiting for the knife that would take his life, God provided a lamb that would die in his place, whose blood would be shed on Isaac's behalf.

By this time in my sermon, I looked out over the sweaty crowd of pastors and saw many openly weeping. Some told me later that this was the first time they ever understood how the stories of the Old Testament matter to us today. I went on to tell the story of the first Passover and how the blood being applied to the doorpost was accepted by the Spirit of God as imputed death. Then I told the story of Jesus and I read Isaiah 53. As I looked across the crowd I could see the understanding of what Jesus had done dawning on their sweat-slicked faces. I explained again imputed righteousness, slowly and carefully, in light of

the Old Testament stories we had just heard. I told them I wanted to give them this book that would expound on these stories and many others in a simple way, so that they in turn could teach the Old Testament with power.

As we closed with prayer it seemed as though all eyes, many still wet with tears, were fixed on the stack of books. They were excited and ready to use these as teaching aids in the outreach that they were already doing. So we counted all the churches represented and determined that each church would get around 30 **Good and Evil** books. As we handed them out, I spoke to many men who said they would be teaching through this in their church and using it in their Bible college. I spoke with men who had been to Bible college in the US, planted dozens of churches, and even presided over Bible colleges of their own who told me they had never understood the Scripture as clearly as I had presented it with a few simple Bible stories. I believe the books we gave away, the messages we preached, and the churches we prayed over will go on to make a great impact on the islands of Leyte and Cebu. It was so exciting to see the hand of God clearly at work. It was so humbling to be allowed to be a part of that. It was through many of your generous gifts that we were able to give books to these pastors, but while we were there, we drove past so many churches, so many people, to whom we could not give anything. There is still so much work to do.

Thank you all so much for your part in this, and pray for us as we continue to publish the gospel in all the world.

Nathan and Zephyr Pearl

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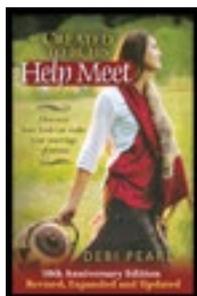
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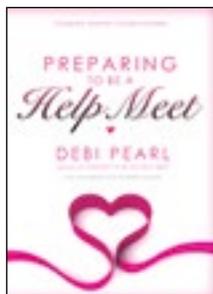


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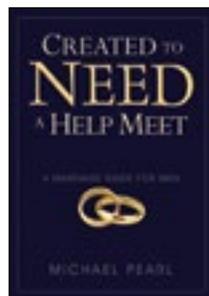


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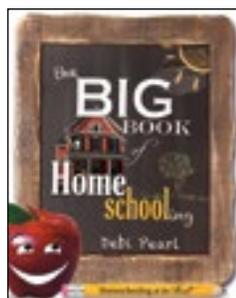


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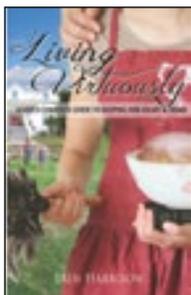
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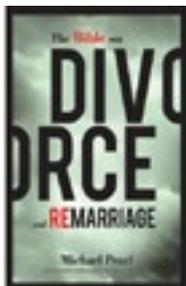
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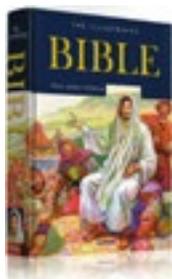
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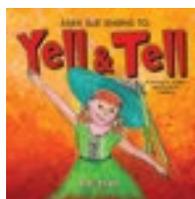
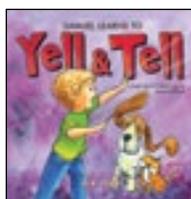
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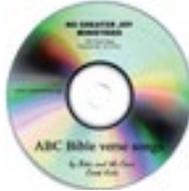
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All audio is also available to purchase as instant downloads via our web store:

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Young Adults and Marriage



This message, was given to help parents and their young adult children make wise decisions. It has the story of all five of our children finding their mates.

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FAMILY DVDS

The Balanced Patriarch

When do children cease to be under parental authority? Michael Pearl goes to the Bible and tells you what God has to say. 60 min.



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

Knife & Tomahawk Throwing for Fun

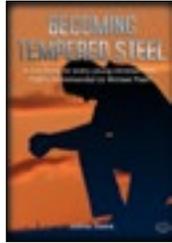
In this fun-to-watch DVD, renowned knife thrower Michael Pearl teaches the basics of knife throwing. Learn how to choose the right knife, find the correct standing distance, and easily solve common knife throwing problems. 60 min.



5300-75 1 DVD **\$12.95**

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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.



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Making Herbs Simple, Vol. 1

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



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

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!



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

Making Herbs Simple, Vol. 2

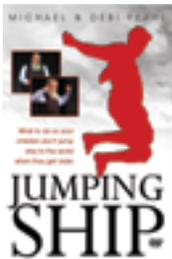
A hands-on DVD about herbs. Shoshanna will take you into the wild, teach you to identify herbs, explain what they can be used for, and how to make a remedy out of them. Learn how truly simple it is to use herbs. 75 min.



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

Jumping Ship

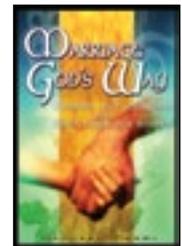
Now you can view the two hour live presentation from Michael Pearl addressing the topic of "How can I keep my children from jumping ship and joining a carnival cruise to Pleasure Island?"



4940 1 DVD **\$12.95**

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

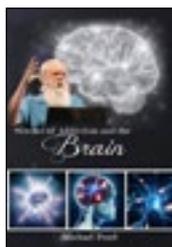
Michael encourages parents to train their children to be tomorrow's movers and shakers. Teach them to become leaders, entrepreneurs, statesmen—framers of tomorrow. 50 min.



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

Science of Addiction and the Brain

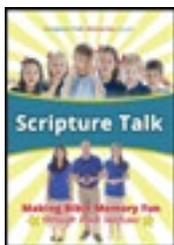
Addiction is the state of being enslaved to a substance or habit. At the 2014 Smoky Mountains Shindig, Michael delivered five packed messages supported by 185 animated PowerPoint™ slides on this subject.



8190-75 1 DVD ~~\$12.95~~ **SALE! \$7.99**

Scripture Talk

Scripture Talk combines hand motions, visual aids, and creative teaching to equip children of all ages to hide Scripture 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 **\$17.99**

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**



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**

4129-75 Part 3 DVD (120 min.) **\$19.95**

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

Teaching Responsibility

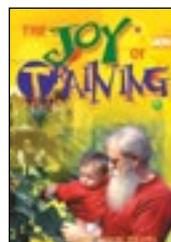
In this seminar, Michael Pearl uses humorous stories and practical examples to illustrate the simple process of training your children to work without complaint. Cut into his speaking presentation are hundreds of video clips and photos that help illustrate his message. Debi says, "The introduction is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



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

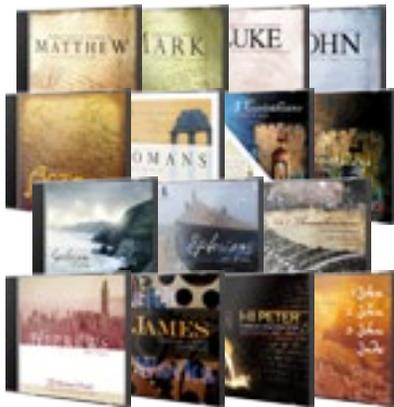
The Joy of Training

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

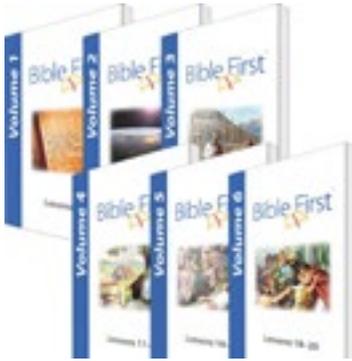
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BIBLE TOPICS



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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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85 pages.



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The Prophecy of Magog and Israel Ezekiel 38-39

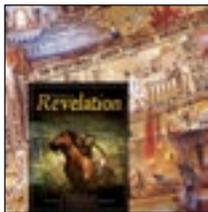
Is the U.S. in prophecy? Conditions are rapidly aligning with Ezekiel's 2,700-year-old prophecy. Fulfillment seems imminent. This little book reveals the identity of Magog and the invading forces. By Michael Pearl. 64 pages.



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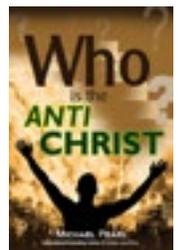
Print of Mike's original painting showing the events of Revelation in chronological order. The accompanying handbook is filled with Old Testament references and commentary. Poster is 40 x 19 in. on heavy, glossy paper.



- 8130-10 Poster & Handbook **\$12.95**

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Read all of the details about Mike's newest book on page 30! Through August 31, you can save over 45% on this book and other end-times resources!



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