

No Greater Joy

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The Church At Cane Creek, 1000 Pearl Rd., Pleasantville, TN 37033

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Little foxes spoil the vines

This past Sunday, during our gathering to worship, I saw several examples of little foxes. One little fellow interrupted the children's story to tell his mother that he wanted a drink of water. The mother responded by pushing him back to his chair and telling him to wait until the story was over. Isn't it amazing how dehydrated boredom can make a kid. They will play out in the dry heat all morning, without coming in for a drink, but about ten minutes into the church service, they are on the verge of a stroke. On some of those occasions I have watched the kids drink. They wet their lips, smile, and then look around in hopes that something more interesting will develop. Ten minutes after returning to their seats, the two grams of water they consumed causes them to need the bathroom. As they pass by, they are smiling and waving to everyone like they were running for office. Did you hear about the kid that potty trained himself on Sunday morning? Maybe some other time.

I got away from my story. So after the mother had shoved her three-year-old toward his seat and told him to wait, he repeated his appeal as if it was the first time. She again said, "No," and directed him to his seat. After he made a begging face, she

jumped up and took him to get his drink of water. I am sure it never occurred to her that she was training her son to ignore her commands and override her will. Knowing her, I think she is a good trainer when it comes to the big foxes, but if she doesn't eradicate the little foxes, she will eventually have more big foxes.

A mother that chases down ever



little fox can soon rest, for her vineyard will be free of foxes. Her children become completely obedient and never go through the "stages" that other kids go through. A child should be well trained before he reaches two, otherwise you will not be dealing with an untrained child but with a mis-trained child.

Later in the same meeting, I looked over to see a little girl about three or four tell her daddy that she wanted to go into the kitchen where her mother was. Daddy said, "No, Mommy will be back in a minute." According to form, the little girl contradicted his will by hopefully stating, "But I want to go in there where Mommy is." Daddy repeated himself as if he had not just given her an answer, "Mommy will be back in a minute; just wait." Again, "But I want to go in there where she is." As if he had never told her no, Daddy said, "OK." Things like that are hard for me to fathom.

If you were riding your horse and he made a gesture to turn in a direction you did not want to go, would you direct him back to the path, or would you yield to his will? You might say, "If I really wanted to continue on, I would pull him back, but if it didn't

matter to me one way or the other, then I would let him go where he wanted." If you were that careless with your horse, you would end up with a useless and even dangerous beast. It is vital that a horse always be caused to submit to your will. If he ever gets it in his head that he can countermand your lead, then you are in trouble. He might decide to bolt in

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front of a moving vehicle.

If, after correcting the course of your young horse, he continued to seek his own direction, and you said, "Oh well, if it means that much to him, then I will let him go," you will have trained him to always ignore your first command and to resist your will. After several such experiences, you might conclude that you had a "strong willed horse." No, just a weak willed "trainer." Soon your commands would be meaningless—just preludes to the horse doing as he pleases.

To take it further; if you became frustrated with your self-willed horse and tried to jerk or beat him into submission, you would end up in a fight—which is where many of you are with your kids. It is not bad breeding or a bad temperament; it is bad training.

Once you express your will to a child, as in "Go back to your seat," or "Wait, Mommy will be back," never back off of it, if in doing so you are following the child's lead and allowing him to countermand you. If additional information becomes available that changes the circumstances, and the child does not feel that he has negotiated a settlement in his favor, then it is appropriate to

change your command, but never in response to his begging.

Our children never asked twice, for they knew that it was worse than useless. I say worse than useless because we would reward their negative behavior with a negative response. If I had told a child she could not go where Mother was, and she begged again, I would have taken her where her mother was, given her a spanking, and then returned her to the original location.

You say, "What a mean man; I am going to report him to the authorities." It is too late. My children are all grown, happy, well balanced, successful, think I am wonderful, and planing on practicing the same training techniques on their children. Understand, because I was consistent with my children, I rarely needed to spank them. Because you have allowed your children to develop strong self-wills, you think that if you were as narrow as I suggest, you would be spanking them 25 times each day. The thing you do not appreciate and, without a good example, cannot fathom, is the power of consistent enforcement. When children know their limits and are assured that you will be consistent in enforcing them, they will quickly

learn to live within the bounds you set. The tension disappears and is replaced with a secure sense of order and purpose. Righteousness produces joy. Children feel righteous when they are caused to live a life of discipline and obedience. Obedient children do not experience guilt or anxiety. They like themselves and feel that everyone else likes them as well. Obedient children feel successful and confident, and they will be creative and aggressive facing the challenges of education and social exchange. My children and the children of others who practice these Biblical principles are proof of the rightness of the things I have said. If you feel that your permissive approach to parenting is more compassionate than mine, I am sure you have tension in your home, and you don't exchange as many smiles with your children as I do with mine. Your "compassion" leads to contention, whereas my firm discipline and speedy chastisement leads to joyous fellowship. If you don't see it that way, you are in need of further instruction. Don't take a battle stance until you have investigated further.

Parents, go after the little foxes. Aggressive parenting, administered with a smile, will produce the best kids under God's big heaven. ☺

You can minister

We have thousands of sample newsletters. We will ship to you as many as you can give away. You just need to request them. If you are having a homeschool fair, we will provide enough for everyone. Most of our books are sold in lots of eight or more. Many people keep them on hand to give out in the grocery store to complete strangers, or to give to their friends.

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Did you know that when writers or preachers use “the Greek” to correct the K. J. Bible, they are not using the Greek text from which the K. J. was translated? They are using a Greek text invented by two unbelievers in the late 19th century. Did you know that considering all ancient language manuscripts, over 95% of them support the K. J. Bible? Did you know that the reason there are over 200 different English translations, a new “bible” every nine months, translated entirely different from its predecessors, is purely for economic gain? The King James Bible remains the only Word of God to English speaking people.

How could so many “good godly men be so wrong?” Read this 281 page scholarly book and find out. Be ready to lose your innocence concerning the trustworthiness of institutionalized Christianity. Intellectual blindness isn’t confined to the evolutionists.

Teenagers, an Epidemic

Most teenagers are a metamorphoses caught in the middle, like a worm transforming into a moth. They have lost the legs of youth, but haven’t yet gained the wings of adulthood. They are confused; “Who am I?” “What am I?” The unspoken answer: “You are the worst half of a leftover kid and the useless half of an undone adult.”

Teenagers don’t make sense or cents but cost us dollars. They eat ravenously, sleep like it was an incurable disease, and work like communists whose government has collapsed. The boys act like young bucks going into rut season, and the girls spend more time in front of the mirror than a fifty year old Miss America. If you are willing to believe them, they are experts on everything and the only one in the family with any deep, sensitive feelings. They are capable of straightening out the world but can’t get up early enough to present their ideas to the board meeting. You have to handle them as carefully as a newborn and give them the respect of a coworker. Finally, all they want is to be independent, make their own decisions, be their own person, manage their own time, and spend your money.

If there wasn’t so many of them, they would be amusing. It’s a disease we’ve all had. Thankfully, you can only catch it once. I had it and got over it. Your kid will eventually develop immunities. Parents are there to make sure they don’t die from it or come out with permanent scars.

He died and went to heaven

One of the things we do at our Sunday morning worship is to spend a few minutes focusing on the children. They all come down front and sit together in little seats while one of the men leads them in special singing and a Bible story tailored to their understanding. This past week, after about five minutes of teaching, Amy, not yet four, interrupted the teaching with an emphatic statement, “And he died and went to heaven.” Her remark was not relevant to the story, but any input is welcomed, so the story continued. Five minutes later, expressing more agitation, she loudly blurted out, “And he died and went to heaven.” I thought, “How cute, she is sharing her thoughts.” After about fifteen minutes of story, she was squirming as if she had chiggers in her socks. Then she expressed more fully what was on her heart, loudly saying, “Yea, and he died and went to heaven. Is the story over yet?” Well, at least she knew how all good stories end, and sometimes ending is the best part.

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Lady with a lot of questions

by Debi Pearl (mostly)

1. "When your baby is sleeping in bed with you, when do you have relations with your husband?"

Moving the baby or yourself should not be too much of a problem. Don't let a child get in the way of your marital bliss. Make sure it is bliss.

2 "When Beka was old enough to sleep on her own and you had your 2nd child, did Beka get moved to a bed by herself, or did you wait until both children were old enough to sleep together apart from you?"

We never had 2 children in the bed with us at once. We had the baby there for warmth (our house was always cold in the winter), and because I can't hear well, I wanted my babies close. It was also handy to just roll over to nurse. I asked the Amish ladies, who live close by, and all of them have their babies under 1 year sleep with them. If you hear well and your house is warm, do what suits you. We did have a tiny room adjoining our bedroom where we placed our first child. But that, again, was because I could not hear well. It was nice having a side room because we could tell her a story while we were all in our own beds, and she enjoyed the camaraderie. But then we could close the door when we needed to. No law, just do what seems best for your family.

3. "Because my daughter did not sleep with us as a newborn or infant, she had to cry to let me know she was hungry. She still does that periodically while she is waiting for her food, now that she is 10 months old. I am afraid that if I waited to feed her until she stopped crying, she might never stop. Am I reinforcing her

behavior by feeding her when she is upset?"

Feed the hungry baby. It is best to try to feed BEFORE she gets too hungry so as not to cause her to become frustrated with hunger and thereby reinforce her crying demands, but if you have waited and she is upset, there is no sense in making a bad thing worse. You can train her out of her crying for food by letting her see you prepare it (or preparing yourself) and telling her to stop crying. Just as you are about to feed her, tell her to stop crying and you will feed her. You do this when you are sitting in front of her, preparing to feed her. When she stops, brag on her for not crying and then reward her with food. By this you are conditioning her to the concept that she gets fed when she is not crying.

4. "Did you keep your baby in the same room with you when cooking or cleaning or did you leave her to play alone?"

I enjoyed my baby being a part of my life, so from the beginning I would move her from room to room so she could watch me and hear my voice as I sang or talked to her. When she got 8 or 10 months old, and was playing on the floor, I would come and go as needed, from kitchen to living room, without carrying her, but I always kept up a flow of joyful, cheerful singing or talk. If I finished cleaning a bedroom and knew I would be in the kitchen for a while, I carried her to where I would be working. I tried not to let her develop a fear of being left alone by her looking around and not seeing or hearing me and then panicking. This fear is hard to conquer once it is established. If she did start to cry in fear I would call out cheerfully, "Here I am. Come find Mama!"—and

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this while laughing and playing. When she made it around the corner, I would swoop her up in a happy tone to break the cycle immediately and put her fears to rest in the joy of the moment.

While we are on the subject, let me take the opportunity to broaden my answer, to be more relevant to an issue about which others have inquired. Never force a small child to long endure isolation, fear, hunger, or any stress they cannot handle. You cause a child to learn self-control by metering out the trials in increments that the child can manage. If you increase the stress level daily, but never beyond the child's ability to cope, the child will soon become a seasoned veteran, while remaining emotionally secure.

If a child came into my care that was already full of anxiousness and fear, I could break him of it less than six months by creating absolutely secure situations in which I allowed a very small amount of stress to enter, never enough to destroy his security, but enough to test it. For example, if a child screamed when left alone, I would not leave him alone until I could do so without him screaming. Now I am assuming we are dealing

with a child that is genuinely fearful, not one who pretends fear in order to control others. Each day, in the midst of great security, I would play games of hide and seek, in the same room. Duck behind a chair where the child cannot see you but knows where you are, laughing all the while. When the child learns to endure one level of being alone, take it further. Tell the child that you are going to step around the corner and come right back. Go only as far and stay only as long as the child can endure without loosing it—even if it is just two feet and three seconds. Over a period of days or weeks, increase the distance and time the child is left alone, until he can manage isolation without fear. That is training.

5. “When did you discuss reproduction with your child?”

It is not a subject that we ever attempted to keep secret. They learned about it at the same rate that they learned how a car works or about the sun and moon. We always had animals and were very forth-right about the mama dog being in heat and “Wish those boy dogs would go home.” Although, we always enjoyed a new batch of pups or kittens, and we tried to see the babies being born. I remember getting a book at the library and learning (with my children) that a female dog can carry pups from three different males at one time, so the pups can come out looking like poodles, hounds, and chows. We went looking in the library for this information because we had a litter of puppies that appeared to be from three different male dogs. When life is lived naturally, the natural part of life is understood naturally. Many people on our mailing list that have animals are smiling as they read this. They think the city-slickers are funny in making this an issue. As for how to, or when to, talk to a child who is raised in the city and has not observed animals, I don't know; you figure it out and write me so I can pass on the info.

6. “Did you allow your children to go to sleepovers or play outings at a friend's house? If so, how did you assure yourself that she would not be subjected to abuse of any kind—especially sexual? I have always heard that most molestation is perpetrated by a family friend or relative that is trusted.”

You heard right. If you read our mail you would NEVER let your child have sleep-overs with other kids. When our porn article came out, we got a flood of letters from adults who were exposed to porn while sleeping over with a good friend or relative, or had friends over to their house who brought it with them. These adults say that from the age of six or seven, when they first saw the pictures, they were addicted and have been all their lives. We also receive so many letters from people who for years were molested by their brother's friends while the family slept. The little girls were always too sleepy and confused to be able to tell what was happening to them every Friday night when big brother had his friends over. Parents never knew why little Suzy was such a problem when she turned 13 years old. I will repeat: anyone that has ever counseled or read as many letters as we do would NEVER open their children up to this possibility. It is too common and too terrible.

7. “My daughter is totally uninterested in crawling. She likes walking by holding our fingers. If I put her down on all fours, she cries like she is in pain. Should we put her down anyway and let her cry until she stops, or should I spank her for crying?”

Don't spank her for doing what you have trained her to do. Have you been down on all fours lately? It hurts! But babies seem to build a set of tough hands and knees after a few days. Put her on a quilt on the floor and give her toys to play with. When she wants to come to you, encourage her to make it on her own. It sounds like you

are carrying her around or assisting her in walking. She needs to develop independence in getting around. This is an important part of her physical and mental development. When you stop being her legs, she will learn to use her knees.

8. “Please write down a typical schedule of your days when you had young children—the times you got up and went to bed and generally what you did each day. Also, did you put your infant to bed before you came to bed, even though it was sleeping with you?”

I would lie down and nurse the baby asleep and then get up to spend the evening with my husband. My baby slept fine whether I was there or not. My husband worked at home, and I often worked with him doing whatever he was doing at the time, so our schedule revolved around him. When I finally had too many children to be with him all the time, we developed more of a routine. Each night I tried to put on a slow cooking crock-pot of beans or stew to cook for the next day. This would serve as lunch.

Babies and small children tend to wake you up earlier than nature does. I nursed the baby in bed, while the other children piled into bed to visit daddy. After 10 minutes we would get up, dress, do light clean up of the bedrooms, and head to the kitchen for breakfast. While Mike and the boys headed out the door, Beka would help me clean the house or get the baby girls cleaned up and dressed. I never finished before Mike and the boys were back for a big lunch. We all laid down for an afternoon rest. Beka read quietly in her room; Gabe and Nathan listened to Bible story tapes and read along in the picture book; the little ones and the old ones slept. Nathan learned to read by listening and reading along with tapes. Gabe needed a bit more help, but the tapes greatly improved his reading, and it all happened while I took a nap with daddy.

After a nap, Beka and the boys sat down to do a few workbook pages, while the 2- and 4-year-olds colored or played. I worked in the kitchen getting dinner ready, or folded clothes.

When the children tired of school they went out to play or spend time with Daddy. I got supper (dinner) on the table. After supper the children took turns doing the dishes and cleaning the kitchen—from the time they were 6 years old. Now Gabe says it was almost too much for him at that age, so I would consider putting an 8 year-old with a 6 year-old if there is a lot of cleaning up to do. Mike and I tried to take a stroll in the late afternoon, usually to the garden to work or down to the shop to see what he had done during the day. He spent most evenings off teaching or witnessing on the streets. I spent the evening sitting in the car with the kids (reading to them), watching Mike, and praying, or at home reading and visiting with the children. Everyday included more phone calls than you would believe, visits most everyday from people Mike had ministered to over the years, and running to the store, canning, or something else. This is a tiny slice of what life was like back then.

9. “Please give examples of the kinds of things for which you used the rod, both as a training tool and as punishment, for children were under 12 months.”

We never used the rod to punish a child younger than 12 months. You should read *No Greater Joy Volume One* and *Volume Two*. We discussed this subject several times in those two books. For young children, especially during the first year, the rod is used very lightly as a training tool. You use something small and light to get the child’s attention and to reinforce your command. One or two light licks on the bare legs or arms will cause a child to stop in his tracks and regard your commands. A 12-inch piece of weed eater chord works well as a be-

ginner rod. It will fit in your purse or pocket.

Later, a plumber’s supply line is a good spanking tool. You can get it at Wal-Mart or any hardware store. Ask for a plastic, ¼ inch, supply line. They come in different lengths and several colors; so you can have a designer rod to your own taste. They sell for less than \$1.00. A baby needs to be trained all day, everyday. It should be a cheerful, directing training, not a correction training. If a 10-month-old plays in the dirt in the flowerpot, a simple swat to the hand accompanied with the command “No,” said in a cheerful but authoritative voice, should be sufficient.

When your 6-month-old baby grabs sister’s hair, while he still has a hand full of hair, swat his hand or arm and say “No, that hurts sister.” If he has already let go of her hair, then put his hand back on her hair, so as to engage his mind in the former action, and then carry on with the hand swatting and the command.

If you found your baby trying to stick something in the electrical receptacle, keep his hand on the object and near the receptacle while giving him a few swats on the back of the offending hand, and this to the sound of your rebuke—“No, don’t touch, No, don’t touch.” This time he needs to cry and be upset.

If your 10-month-old is pitching a fit because he wants to be picked up, then you must reinforce your command with a few stinging swats. You are not punishing him; you are causing him to associate his negative behavior with negative consequences. Never reward bad behavior with indifference. Tell the baby “No” and give him a swat. If your response is new, he may be offended and scream louder. But continue your normal activities as if you are unaffected. Wait one minute, and then tell the baby to stop crying. If he doesn’t, again swat him on his bare legs. You don’t need to undress him, turn him over, or

make a big deal out of it. Just swat him where any skin is exposed. Continue to act as if your don’t notice the fit. Wait two minutes and repeat. Continue until the baby realizes that this is getting worse not better. Most babies will keep it going for 3 or 4 times and then slide to a sitting position and sob it out. When this happens, it signals a surrender, so give him two minutes to get control and then swoop him up as if the fit never happen and give him a big hug, BUT don’t hold him in the manner he was demanding. Now remove yourself from the area so as to remove him from association with the past event.

Don’t ever hit a small child with your hand. You are too big and the baby is too small. The surface of the skin is where the most nerves are located and where it is easiest to cause pain without any damage to the child. The weight of your hand does little to sting the skin, but can cause bruising or serous damage internally. Babies need training but they do not need to be punished. Never react in anger or frustration. If you loose it, get yourself under control before you attempt to discipline a child.

10. “I apologize for some of these questions being very personal, but we young mothers desperately need guidance from a mature spiritual woman in how to nurture our children. On every side we are bombarded with one group saying we should carry our baby around in a sling and keep it with you constantly, sleep with it and don’t spank it. On the other side there are those that say, ‘Never let the child fall asleep while you are holding it, don’t rock it to sleep. Don’t sleep with it because it will be too dependent on you, and let it cry during the night when it wakes up so it can learn to sleep through the night without eating.’ Of course, there are others somewhere along the swinging pendulum, but you are the first I

have heard that matched my gut instincts, that said the baby needs much nurturing and fellowship but also training and discipline. I am in desperate need of guidance so that I don't reinforce bad habits my daughter may have already developed. Thank you for all you do to help our families!"

A. P.

Dear Young Mothers, I would suggest you seek out advice from older grandmothers in your community. I would not look for "spiritual" type women, but just some plain, old lady that has a sense of humor and has maintained a respect and reverence for her husband all her married life (very, very important). Don't ask her to baby sit, and don't take your children over to her house, but just call her and ask her, "How do you cook dried black beans and rice?" While you are talking, ask her a simple question about how she handled a certain problem when her daughter was a baby. We often go to the country store here in our area and talk to the old men who hang around during the day. We have asked them questions about child training and they have loud, funny stories to tell and

much wisdom that comes from just living a long, long time. ☺

Michael & Debi Pearl published *To Train Up a Child* in August 1994. By November of 2000 over 270,000 English copies had been sold. It has also been translated into several foreign languages, including Ukrainian, Mandarin (Chinese), Portuguese, German, and Spanish.

This publication came about as a way to answer many questions we receive in the mail each day. The Pearls receive no remuneration from the sale of these books and tapes. This is a ministry operated through The Church At Cane Creek where Michael Pearl is pastor/teacher. The low prices reflect our concern to make these materials available to as many as possible. We give a 38-45% discount on books by the Pearls when purchased in volumes of eight or more. We also make available a limited number of books and videos that we believe will be a great blessing to your family.

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Sitting still in church?

Dear Mike and Debi Pearl,

Can you please help us? I realize you are very busy and may not have time to answer this, but after reading several of your books and a great number of your articles, I am unable to find any specific advice on how to get a young child (ours is 18 months) to sit still in church. We would so like to have him in the service with us instead of the nursery, but that is completely unrealistic right now. You wouldn't advocate spanking him right in the middle of church, would you? He is otherwise a fairly well-behaved, happy little boy who has responded well to your training techniques.

Eileen

Dear Eileen,

Please don't do that!

Don't disrupt the entire church to spank your child. When you train at home you will not have to train in public.

Train at Home

Go home and train. Set up a training session each day, duplicating as closely as possible the church service. Sit in uncomfortable chairs and play some hymns on the stereo. Then play teaching or preaching tapes while the family sits quietly and listens. Or you can sit beside him and read the Bible in a monotone voice. Better yet, if you don't have the electronic media and you are able to induce your spouse to assist you, let your husband pretend he is the preacher and carry on for a little while, saying nothing interesting. [Mike wrote the above line, not me.] Keep your switch handy, but not visible during this session. Speak in a whisper or use sign language as you

would in church. If the child offends at a level that would be inappropriate in church, then swat him while making your sign language or while whispering your correction.

He needs to know you are not mad at him; you are helping him learn to do a new thing. The first day, he may feel very mistreated and be unhappy. For that reason, you may want to keep your first sessions rather short, and build up to one hour. As the days progress, he will slowly figure out what is required of him and he will get more content. If you can't get him to sit still at home during these sessions, then don't take him in public where you will upset others.

We always took a little blanket to church so the small children could lie on the floor and go to sleep if they pleased. As the children got old enough to draw or color, we brought along something to keep them busy. This was not to purchase their cooperation, rather, we did it out of mercy. They do not have as much

tolerance as us socially minded adults. Why torture them for an hour or two just to prove they can obey us under such adverse boredom?

The key is happy training at home. He will come to understand that when you require him to sit quietly, he must do so. We get letters every week from families that have successfully trained 6 or 8 children in one week. All training follows the same line. Drill, exercise, and practice while in a state of peace and control, before you reach the place of critical performance. Prepare the child so that he never reaches the breaking point. I say again: the secret is a cheerful countenance that finds creative ways to introduce the child to the demands he must face, and then to drill him in an air of cooperation and expectancy, until he develops the habits we desire. This eliminates the confrontations and crises, allowing everyone to continue in peace and fellowship.

Yes, it's OK with us.

Several people have written asking if it is OK with us if they buy our material and resell it. Absolutely! We encourage you to purchase our materials in volume and resell them at homeschool conventions or wherever your imagination takes you. Some people have found they can supplement their income and have a ministry at the same time. We will also furnish you with a number of newsletters to give away.

To Train up a Grandmother

Dear Michael & Debi Pearl:

I am in awe of the few things I had a chance to read in your book "To Train Up a Child." For years I've had a problem with overeating/over weight. I tried everything, diets, counting calories, fat grams, meal replacement, etc., etc., etc. Finally, after much self-hatred, confessing the sin to God every night, promising to do better, I asked God why I overate. I imagine finding the answer in your book, "To Train Up a Child".

I am 70 years old. My husband went home to be with the Lord a year ago and my problem of overeating got worse.

When I was a child I almost died with malaria, and as I got well, the more I ate, the better my body felt! Not my parents fault, though, that's the way they were taught, and so with every generation. I taught my kids the same way. I never knew about discipline like you teach it. Oh, how I wish I had known.

So, now, I need to re-teach myself not to eat when I'm overly tired, stressed, disappointed, etc. Self-control is what I need. But God has shown me and He'll help me. I want to hear Him say, "Well done, my good and faithful servant." Concerning discipline in my eating, I want a crown to lay at His feet.

Please, how do you teach a child discipline in food? Would you please tell me how much the book costs? I want four for my two grown daughters and my granddaughter-in-law and myself. I am so happy that today, God showed me in your book, what I need to do. Will you please pray with me, this giant of self-indulgence has got to go! I praise God for your book.

Love
Joanna

Re-teaching a child, or even a teenager how to eat properly is the easiest and hardest of all training events. It is easiest because it does not involve the will of the child. It is hard because it demands everything from the will of the parent.

A newborn baby prefers something sweet. If you ever give the one-year-old just one taste of junk food, he is an addict ever after. He will choose the sweet, salty, greasy, fat filled fluff every time.

I eat a little of anything from time to time—even junk food, but as I get older I eat more raw vegetables and things like baked potatoes with nothing on them. I have had people look at me sympathetically and ask

with compassion, "Do you like that? Does it taste good to you?" The answer is, "No, I feel like a goat." I crave hamburgers and French-fries. If it didn't make any difference to my health, I would eat fried pork chops and fried potatoes every night for supper. And I would top it off with a big piece of chocolate cake or pecan pie. I would drink a coke and eat cookies before bed each night, and wake to a breakfast of bacon and eggs—fried in pig grease. Life would be a lot more fun if I ate what I wanted and as much as I wanted—that is until it started showing in pants sizes, doctor bills, headaches, crippling diseases, and indigestion medicines.

Self-control is self controlling self. The very term implies that some part of self needs management, and that some part of self should limit or control the other part. It is a contest between the body, which has no values—sweet will always taste better, and the mind which is informed as to the need of exercising some restraint. Small children are not yet equipped to deny themselves. If a parent allows the child to choose what he will eat, when he will eat it, and how much he will eat, he will make the wrong decision every time.

I started by saying, "retraining children is hard because it demands everything from the will of the parent." The burden falls entirely on

parents. And that is where the problem lies. Parents have no more self-control than do their children. Children are easy to control, because if it is not in the house they can't eat it. But parents have learned to manage their junk food at a level just short of committing foodaside.

I am going to take all the fight out of this issue. Your children don't want to eat their meals; fine; don't make them eat anything. Forget it. Let them eat what they want when they want it. Just go home and throw away all sweets, all pre-prepared foods, all greasy foods, and stock your home with nothing but basic staples—rice, beans, potatoes, raw and cooked vegetables, whole wheat breads, oats, lots of fruit, nuts, dried fruit, and fruit juices. Then let them eat as they will. How simple!

Picture this. It is breakfast time. The table is set with oats or scram-

bled eggs, real butter, honey, orange juice, and wheat toast. They are invited to the table. All must come and sit, but it is their business whether or not they eat. If they do not eat, ignore them. When the given amount of time is passed, the table is cleaned off. Fruit is available at any time. There will be nothing else to eat until lunch, at which time you will place in front of them beans, rice, salad, a cooked vegetable (not corn out of a can that has sugar in it) or what ever suits your fancy. It is up to them to eat. If they don't like it, it is no concern of yours. Supper will be at five, and there is always the raw fruit to eat. Supper is similar to the noon meal. Eat all you want, kids; there will be fruit, but nothing else until breakfast.

You say, "But my children sneak food." Fine, let them sneak into the kitchen and eat anything they can

find—a slice of wheat bread, cold beans, or rice. There is nothing else to be pilfered. The dog ate all your junk food last week and died of constipation.

Ah! But you say, "My children would cry and refuse to eat." Spank them for crying and don't worry about them not eating. They will eat when they get hungry enough, and a three day fast would be good for them if they are coming off the junk food.

There it is: the easiest answer and the easiest solution to a common problem. The only draw back is weak-willed Mamas and Daddies who can't give up the junk food themselves. Don't expect to lead your children closer to self-control than you are willing to go. Set the example. This newsletter is free. The information is free. Applying it will cost you something. Pay the price for the sake of your children. ☺

Mike and Deb are going to be grandparents!

Rebekah and her husband Gabriel Anast. As part of the wedding ceremony, I announced publicly that I expected them to have a baby nine months and one week after the wedding. They did not disappoint me. Rebekah told me the baby was due nine months and two days after the wedding. I have always said, "If it needs doing, don't put it off."

Many of you have asked whether or not we practice betrothal or courtship. We have a biblical aversion to fads and cultural experiments as well as to contemporary Christian practices. Some time in the near future I intend to write on the subject of Biblical conduct concerning "marriage and giving in marriage." We have received several testimonies concerning betrothal and courtship, some good, some bad. If you have had any experience, one way or the other, I would be interested to hear from you. I will not publish anything that could point to you unless you approved. Mark the outside of your envelope, "Betrothal."

THE WAGES OF SIN

Dear Michael & Debbie Pearl,

I really need your help and advice. I am separated from the woman I've always wanted. I prayed for her presence to bless my life for years. One day God blessed me with her and she soon became my Bride.

Before I met her I walked close to God. I sought him for everything large and small. He was my oasis in the desert, my calm in my chaos. I prayed and sought him earnestly, and always prayed for a mate who wanted to share a life with a minister God called to preach. She has the most beautiful voice I have every heard. She made me so happy and she would sing then I would preach. I know the cause of our separation. We both sought God first, then one day, I don't know when, our circle around Jesus just exploded. And we stopped seeking God first. We both fell short and didn't recover from it. We've been separated 7 months, and in that time... [I've lived an unholy life.] I was running from the pain of losing what I'd wanted all my life.

I talked to her recently, and she said she wanted to see me again, and only God knows I am not the same man she saw. I've committed back to Jesus and am trying to live right. Her mother and her 11-year-old son hate me and won't allow her to even speak my name. We can't talk on the phone, and I'm still waiting on her call.

Michael & Debi, I love my wife and am truly different and changed. I'm not asking her to just jump in my arms and accept me back overnight. I'd be happy to date her and let her get to know the man she first met, yet only stranger and more humble. First I need all the advice I can get. She says there's no hope. But, I believe if it's brought to Christ, he can restore anything. Secondly, I need lots of prayer that God would intervene and give her the strength to give me another chance, and if it's not possible, please God help me get over it. Thirdly, would you please print this letter and the poem I wrote for her, and send her a copy for I can't call or see her, so I'm really begging you. If you do print my letter, to my wife Regina, I say to you, "I'm sorry for everything only God can convince you. Just time and prayer can only convince you. I'll keep on waiting, waiting, hoping, seeking God and praying until I hear from heaven and you."

Sincerely,

Glenn Grossman

My Regina

Reginna,

You were a flower I had always wanted to touch.
 Just beholding your beauty to me meant so much.
 Your fragrance was like none other no smell could compare
 To smell you was springtime, to hold you; leaves of fall.
 I had you in a garden, how you grew I haven't a clue,
 Your seed must have fell from heaven, to me that was you.
 I wasn't a good gardener, that was plain to see.
 Sometimes I forgot to water, sometimes I left the weeds.
 If I'd only sought the Father first and then you,
 I'd still have my garden filled with the beauty of you.
 To me you're a flower whose petals I long to caress.
 To me you're a rainbow whose colors I love to guess.
 If I still had my flower, I'd take better care of it.
 For I'd seek first the Son shine of heaven to shine down and blossom you.
 Oh Lord, where's my flower, you created only for me.
 I let the winter freeze her and the weeds I let be.
 If I only had my flower, a content man I would be.
 For you blessed me with one flower that made me truly me.
 I once held a flower I'd always wanted to touch,
 Now I have no flower and Lord it hurts so much.

By Glenn Grossman

Dear Mrs. Pearl,

My name is Rebekah Nance. I'm 11 yrs. old. I read your books and newsletters and listen to your mailbox tapes. I really enjoy them!

My brother and I are homeschooled. After I'm through for the day and I have all my cleanup done it's about lunch time. I don't have anything to do the rest of the day. We have 30 min. each on the computer and we don't take advantage of it. What can I do the rest of the day? I'm going to a wedding next month and I'm going to get a new dress, but I can't think of anything to do to earn money. Could you please give me some advice? Any suggestions?

In Christ,

Rebekah Nance

Rebekah, you can sell baked goods, baby sit, take care of those confined to bed, sew, learn piano and then teach, tutor a younger child, paint someone's house or room, clean homes, make soap, sell herbs, lawn care, etc.

Mike,

We just finished watching the videotapes! Thank you for recording your seminar on video! Seeing you speak and illustrate gave us such a better understanding! We always thought that we should remove the child to another room and go through a full spanking/forgiveness episode. But that led to letting things go because the problems weren't serious enough for a full fledged spanking. We are experiencing such a freedom being able to give them a "little swat" just to reinforce our word. We just smile and think, "I'm not upset, I'm winning!" My husband has noticed the change in the children and in me when he comes home from work. Thank you once again for your ministry. Being able to watch helped us finally "get it." MH

FROM OUR MAILBOX

Mike and Deb

Just a quick note--we had received your tapes on the Alabama Seminar and played them in the car while on vacation. We all loved it!!! Especially the kids, ages 0, 7, and 2. They loved the stories about your family, and since we are from Pennsylvania the kids enjoyed your accents, and this made the stories more interesting. Would you ever consider a tape of just a bunch of stories for the children?
F.

Dear Pearls,
Thank you for the work you are doing. We have been training our children in the ways you have taught and can say that it does work.. Praise the Lord for your teaching! We have 7 children, homeschool, and are conservative in our views on dress, music, and raising children, a relatively simple lifestyle. We

believe in salvation by grace, not of works. Would you be willing to let others know so that they could contact us?

Sincerely,

Michael Yant

yant9@kfalls.net

Remote Name: 206.157.143.96

To whom it may concern:

Please include me in your free monthly newsletter. I have to tell you that if it were not for the book "To Train Up A Child" I would probably be working full time with my two small children in daycare. I had lost control of my three-year-old boy and was at the point where I didn't even want to be around him. I figured my 15-month-old daughter would grow up to be the same way, so I started searching for a job. Being a Christian, I knew this was not what God would want from me. I felt guilty and stressed. A friend of my mom's gave her the book to give to me. I read it through, prayed, and immediately put into action the training taught in the book. I am grateful and amazed at how well it is already working! My son is no longer angry. He is listening to me and is so lovable! I have no guilt any more because I never yell at him. I am even considering home-schooling. Praise the Lord!

D

We receive many letters from families wanting to move in proximity to other believers. Our community is full. In every state, there are many places where ten families could go together and buy a large amount of acreage and divide it up, creating a Christian community. I have other interests. Contact Mr. Yant.

A young man wanting to raise hundreds of kids

Hi Mike and Debi,

I am a 17-year-old college student at North Dakota State University, majoring in Veterinary Medicine. My home is on a farm near Cavalier ND, where for the last 17 years I was homeschooled by my parents (avid readers of No Greater Joy). I am proof that the methods you teach do indeed work, and I felt better prepared upon leaving home. And by God's grace I'll raise my family the same way. I would like to thank you for being so forthright and frank in your writing, this message is one that America needs desperately. We are beginning to see the kind of character and values produced by Dr. Spock, (if you don't believe me just come to NDSU for a day). Keep on the firing line. I'm praying for you. If there is any way I can help (e.g. newsletter distribution, etc.) please feel free to call or e-mail me at let-shearit4goats@plopmail.com (have you guessed that I'm into goats yet?) Also, if you know any guys that would enjoy corresponding with me, I'm getting rather desperate for some fellowship with some mature, godly, Christians. (Not that I'm completely there, but the level of immaturity here is unbelievable! It's a real mission field.) God bless you!

In Him,
Ben

Dear Friends,

I just finished reading "A Will to dominate." It is the story of my older sister (age 52) and myself. Being the "Ruth" in the story, I suffered much abuse from my unrestrained sister, as my mother was unwilling, and later incapable of handling the situation. I've noticed something as an adult though, that I thought may interest you. It is very difficult for me to be around children who have this will to dominate, and I find that I become very dominating myself around them. Of course, I don't always do this in a godly manner, as I've had little training in how to act around other people's children that treat me or my children badly. I know your ministry is to parents and the raising of their own children, but I found much healing in this article. Tagging on a paragraph or two about the "Ruth grown up" and the way she views life and struggles with her own children would certainly have been welcomed, as you alluded to the "Sue grown up." Also, how do you handle other people's rude children who've never been taught to obey, without ruining the relationship with that family?

Thank you for your excellent books, I've used them to turn around an errant 19 year old - It's Not Too Late!

S.A.

Just thought you would like to know

The Church at Cane Creek is a small congregation of about six families. Two of the families are in foreign countries, engaged in spreading the gospel. Tom and Kathy Slayman are in Bangkok, Thailand working in the prisons five days each week, as well as winning souls everywhere they go. Their son, T. J., is in a neighboring country that is closed to missionaries, translating Scripture and ministering. The Schnell family is in Cambodia as missionaries. This past week, Steve Schnell had an accident as he was coming down off the mountain after teaching the Word of God in a village. He ran off the muddy trail and cut his foot badly. It became infected, but through treatment and prayer, it is now better. Dwayne Noel and a young man he is discipling just returned from a two month missionary assist trip to Asia. Three men from our church, two of them teenagers, just returned from Australia

where they worked with many others, under Tom Gaudet, distributing gospel literature in many languages to the people attending the Olympic games.

We also minister here at home. One of the church members goes with me to prisons every week to teach and preach. We give the prisoners about thirty pounds of bibles, tapes, and literature every week. We also send out free literature to prisoners all over the country. This is only the beginning of the ministry that the Lord has entrusted to us.

As you can well guess, there is no way a hand full of common laborers could financially maintain all this ministry. All profits from the sales of our books and tapes go to the spreading of the gospel, at home, and especially abroad. Through October of this year, we were able to invest over \$100,000 in the advancement of the kingdom of God. And that's not counting our ministry through the

church, the newsletters, seminars, books, and tapes. We support missionaries other than our own, but not until we have checked them out thoroughly. Few would-be missionaries qualify under our careful scrutiny. The ones we support are doing God's work God's way.

Many of you have sent gifts to this ministry, some of them quite large, thousands of dollars. None of the gifts, except those given expressly for the newsletter, are consumed by the ministry. The church is not supported by either the ministry or your gifts. It is indigenous. Michael and Debi Pearl do not receive any salary from either the church or the ministry. Their only income is the gifts they receive when they travel and minister. Every cent that is designated to missions goes directly to the missionary or the mission project—as in the printing or purchase of Bibles.

We are not asking for your money. We get a few questions, and so from time to time we think it good to let you know where it comes from and where it goes. ☺

Join our new email list and when we add the latest newsletter to the site, we will notify you by email.

Website Address:

<http://NoGreaterJoy.org>

The Church at Cane Creek
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