

NGJ

No Greater Joy

MAY - JUNE 2004

"I HAVE NO GREATER JOY THAN
TO HEAR THAT MY CHILDREN
WALK IN TRUTH." III JOHN 4



Are we there yet?

Acquiring Tools for Life

- The Measure of a Man
- Ladies wear White Socks
- Poor little fat girl

CHILD TRAINING • HOMESCHOOLING • FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS • BIBLE TEACHING

All Scripture taken from the Authorized Version (King James) Holy Bible

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Are we there yet? 7

by Rebekah Joy Anast

Your homeschooling method works great for your children, your home is happy. Then, why is it that sometimes you see a glint of discontentment in the eyes of your obedient 14-year-old? Why does your 17-year-old daughter feel as though she needs to be doing something? Perhaps they are wondering, "Are we there yet?" When does LIFE start? The anguish of a teenager has often born that feeling of futility: "What am I good for, anyway?"



Ladies wear White Socks 4

by Debi Pearl

The lady who smiled at her children, and the woman who showed honor to her husband, the hard-working church helper, the best cook at Sunday dinners, and the young wife who shyly held her husband's hand, those I held up as examples to be admired. . .by my girls! Yes, my girls were indoctrinated to be ladies by the examples of the women I admired.

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The pencil and pen marks began about 24 inches off the floor and continued up the finger-spotted doorway to a 6 foot, five-inch mark. That is where my brother left off growing.

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Give her the freedom of not having to struggle with living a lie. Life has enough temptations and challenges without creating another one. Being fat is a battle that need never be fought. Your baby deserves to be spared that battle.

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So, how do you use garlic for earaches? You can hardly go wrong any way you try it. Garlic can be used to treat many common illnesses such as colds, flu, infection, earaches, eye infections, sore throat.

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This last Saturday, I saw one of the most incredible displays of God's power that I've ever seen. It was awesome. I was moved to the innermost depths of my soul. I've seen Scripture quoted while preaching, while witnessing, in prayer, in temptation, and while testifying of God's goodness. But never like this.

the measure of a **man**...

... is always changing! When we were growing up at the Pearl house, there was an interior section of the hall wall that was never repainted, no matter how grubby, stained, or dented it became.

It is still there. The pencil and pen marks began about 24 inches off the floor and continued up the finger-spotted doorway to a 6 foot, five-inch mark. That is where my brother left off growing. Our closest friends and relatives were measured in that doorway as well, and the marks are as numerous as the lines on a tape measure. Every now and then through the years, somebody would threaten to paint over it, only to be shouted down in a chorus of “Noooo!” Sure, we’re all finished growing now, but the record of our past is still somehow important to us. Last summer, the Russian boys who stay with Mom and Dad during their summers kept track of their own growth spurts, and requested plaintively that we not erase their marks. They will return to the Pearl house this summer and add another mark or two.

When I was small, Dad used to tell or read us kids a Bible story every Saturday morning, while we illustrated the Bible tale on paper with crayons. One of the most significant stories to me as a child was the story of Joshua leading the people of Israel across the Jordan River after they had wandered in the desert for 40 extra years of misery. This time, as they finally crossed the river in faith, God rolled back the water for them, and they passed through as their fathers had at the Red Sea. On the other side, God spoke to Joshua and told him to go back out in the riverbed and mound up 12 stones, one for each tribe to signify that God had brought them over the Jordan River, and that they were now entering the promised land. The stones were to be set where “the priests’ feet stood firm” and were to be a “sign and a memorial unto the children of Israel for ever.”

As a child, this obscure story was very significant to me. What better thing to do, than to leave a mark



where God has safely led you? Time passes so quickly, and one grows and changes so completely over the years... Surely it is wise to leave the measure of your inner man every now and then as a testimony of where God has led you.

At that time, I also began to keep a diary in poetry and stories I wrote of my thoughts about life in general. That measurement record on the doorframe was just one way for us to keep track of life’s changes; but it was an important one.

Today, I went outside and brought in an old board to lean up against Joseph’s wall. We stood him up against it and made his mark. He is three years old this week; he will never have a third birthday again. But he will always know how tall he was in March of 2004.

Make Your Own Measuring Wall: Simply choose a doorway or hallway wall that is clear and tall, and that you don’t mind letting become marked up. But if you think you might move, you can use a board that you carry with you throughout life. Stand your child up against the wall—bare heels against the wall, back straight, and head up. Lay a book on edge touching his head, and press it against the wall to give you a level reference point. Mark his height with the pencil. Measure from floor to mark. Write the date, name, and measurement beside the mark—very small, because there will be a lot more marks before you are through.



ladies wear white socks

I had never really been aware that I do indeed indoctrinate the children in my life. Yesterday, we were in the greenhouse taking out the last few remaining plants. I handed Laura Rose, our 17-month-old granddaughter, a small potted plant to carry. As we walked out of the greenhouse and into the garden, I told her, *“This will soon have pretty pink flowers. Ladies love flowers.”*

We made our way over the rough, plowed ground with her little legs struggling to keep balance while holding on to her potted plant. Just as we started planting it, a rain shower came, so I whisked her up and ran up the hill to the house. She was wet, dirty, and cold, so I quickly stripped off her clothes and put her into the kitchen sink full of warm water with lots of bubbles. She loved it! I unconsciously did it again. *“Ladies just love warm bubble baths.”* This time, it suddenly hit me. I am indoctrinating this little girl in what it means to be female!

When I was young and in school, back in the sixties, it was still popular for writers and college professors to rail on parents and society for influencing little girls to be ladies and boys to be men. At that time, psychologists thought that the difference in the sexes was a learned habit, not a product of nature. They theorized that if society did not lead boys to think that men were supposed to be tough and little girls were supposed to play with dolls, that boys and girls would grow up to be a happy blend, with no social or personal gender distinction. This philosophy

included the idea that guilt and morals were simply the unfortunate products of society.

Although very few parents in the general population bought into this ridiculous philosophy, its principles permeated so much of education and literature that almost all parents were affected by it, and still are today. An entire generation of children grew up without learning the simple things they would need to cope with life. Many sweet little girls did not learn from their mothers how to be thankful, obedient wives, and little boys never learned how to be real men and take care of the women in their life. I am sure today’s divorce rate reflects some of the “gender neutral” teaching. But the children in my life will know little girls love flowers and that boys take care of mamas. I indoctrinated them—here a little, there a little, line upon line, precept upon precept. I do want my boys to be real men and my girls to be fine ladies.

For the rest of that day, I took careful note of how often I influenced Laura Rose’s opinion of herself and her abilities, and her opinion of other people, as well as all the wonderful

things happening around her.

“We love to sweep. It makes our floor look so clean.”

“Do you want to help wash the dishes? You love helping wash the dishes.”

“Your daddy will be so proud of you. You are such a good helper.”

“Big Papa is so strong, and he loves baked fish and fresh salad out of the garden.”

“He really loves green beans. You love green beans, too, don’t you?”

“Do you want to help me cook the green beans?”

At lunch, Laura Rose ate green beans like they were a delicious dessert. She “scarfed them down,” as Joe Courage likes to say. When her mama came in sometime later, we looked around for Laura. We found her in the kitchen. She had pulled up her stool, found a can of green beans, and was in the process of trying to put the can of beans on the stove. The power of suggestion is remarkable.

I am a country woman, no frills attached, but I know when someone else looks good, walks with grace, and dresses with class. All of my daughters have a beautiful natural confidence and presence. It amazes

me how they can take simple things and make them taste, look, or feel so good. They are what I call, real ladies. How did all three girls developed traits that I didn't have? When they were growing up



and we saw a lady walk with grace, I would direct their attention to her qualities. We even had hilarious times practicing walking like a lady—just for fun. On the other side, if we saw a girl with silly clothes and purple hair, flouncing along in a sexy way, I would bring that to their attention also. They knew that I felt sorry for the silly girl and admired the graceful woman.

I made it a point to have them around admirable young ladies who had a sweet kindness about them. We took note of women who could sew and do beautiful handwork. We called them “The Proverbs 31 ladies.” We honored them from afar. These ladies would be shocked to know how much influence they had on my girls and how often their names were respectfully mentioned.

Woe to the woman who was dominant, lazy, moody, or critical, because, with a shudder, I taught my daughters to dread ever being like that. But the lady who smiled at her children, and the woman who showed honor to her husband, the hard-working church helper, the best cook at Sunday dinners, and the young wife who shyly held her husband's hand,

those I held up as examples to be admired. . . *by my girls!* Yes, my girls were indoctrinated to be ladies by the examples of the women I admired.

We never demanded that our children say, “Thank you,” but we did communicate thankfulness. It was easy. After every trip to the library, I would be sure to say something like, “Mrs. Betty sure is a good librarian. She helps us in so many ways. She is just the nicest lady. We are blessed to live close to this library.” When we had to turn around on someone's driveway, I would tell my girls, “We are using another man's property. I am glad we can turn here, and I want to make sure I do not mess up his yard.” When we went out to eat, I always tried to think of the waitress as a friend who was doing me a favor, and my children saw my attitude toward her was that of appreciation.

Many young children grow up treating their grandparents like slaves, showing a total lack of gratitude. My children (and now my grandchildren) learned to revere, appreciate, and serve others by how I talked about grandparents and friends at home. This casual form of training has been completely successful, as all four of

the grandparents will gladly affirm, including Papa Glen—a step granddad—who will be 90 years old this fall (He is still Mike's fishing partner).

My children did not learn respect by my demanding that

they say, “Yes, sir,” or by my telling them to give a hug after receiving a gift. We never encouraged them to be artificial or pretentious for convention's sake. More is “caught” than taught. Children know your spirit. They read how you feel, and that is what takes root in their souls. As I look back on raising our children, I can see that I spent time indoctrinating them in attitudes rather than teaching them to perform. Now I am reaping the blessed benefits as my children walk in truth.

Now it is my grandchildren who are being indoctrinated. So while Zephyr, Laura Rose's mama, was getting her things together, preparing to leave, I put little Laura in my lap and picked up a brand-new pair of white socks and began to put them on her, “Rachel Stoll wears clean white socks with her tennis shoes, and they look so nice.” And, of course, I added with great emphasis, “Everybody knows that she's a real lady.” Laura Rose cocked her head back and studied my face, then nodded intently like she clearly understood, “Ladies wear white socks.” ❖



Men will be Boys!

What do Michael and Debi do all day? For part of the last 10 days (May 1-10), we have been traveling, doing seminars in Louisiana, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, and Tennessee. The days we are at home are full of catching up on never-ending office work, tending to the farm, ministering in the prison, and other ministries as they arise. Soon, the hay will need to be cut and baled—a miserable job—so our cows will have something to eat this winter, and the garden needs to be weeded and vegetable canned.

But it is not all work. This past winter, Michael and Justin (Shalom's husband and Mike's buddy in inventions) took apart an old jet ski that they bought off of the side of the road for \$150.00. They cut a hole out of the floor of an old aluminum boat

that Daddy Bill had thrown in the junk pile over 40 years ago. Then, they welded up some kind of a contraption to fill up the hole, bolted in steel ribs, reinforced the whole thing with wood—top and bottom—and then came the motor. It's a jet boat, and I do mean JET. Mike got me to ride in it once. I spent the whole ride screaming. I wasn't out of place, because the guys usually scream, as well. Men will be boys, you know.

The Russian boys will be here by the time you are reading this, and I know the boat will hear much more screaming in Russian, as well as Hillbilly English. We have a busy summer planned, and with the boys here, we will not be traveling and speaking. If you want to host a Child Training Seminar in your area this late summer or fall, contact us now (eMail us at: ngj@nogreaterjoy.org, subject line: City/State, Request

Seminar.) We love to meet you and your families when we come to speak in your area.

Sad to say, with 40,000-plus people on the mailing list and nationwide exposure via the website, the daily entourage of visitors dropping by is no longer feasible. But, know that we do love and appreciate you and look forward to visiting you on your turf.

The guys are looking for another junked-out jet ski with around a 120-horsepower motor so they can make a bigger, faster boat. I am not sure I want them to find one, but I know I will want to ride in it when they built another one. Mama, don't let your boys grow up to be boat builders; you might like it. ☺

-Debi Pearl

are we there yet

Acquiring Tools for Life



Every time you receive a newsletter, you sit down and read it. You've followed Mike Pearl's advice and trained your children to obey and work hard. They're not perfect "yet," but your family is happy, and you are satisfied. . .well, almost. Your homeschooling method works great for your children, and they test higher than most children their ages. Your home is happy and peaceful. Then, why is it that sometimes you see a glint of discontentment in the eyes of your obedient 14-year-old? Why does your 12-year-old son seem bored when he has plenty to do? Why does your oldest sometimes seem emotionally depressed and wistful? Why does your 17-year-old daughter feel as though she needs to be doing something?

Perhaps they are wondering, "Are we there yet?" Is the goal merely to become perfect? Will we ever get there? Life! When does LIFE start? The anguish of a teenager has often born that feeling of futility: "What am I good for, anyway?"

Let's check it out.

This morning my husband said to me, "Bek, I want you to write an article about tools. People need to know that life isn't about tests; it's about tools." Gabe doesn't write much (he's an independent web designer for businesses), but my articles are full of his wisdom. He was sure right about tools!

Who Needs Tools?

"Let early education be a sort of amusement. You will then better be able to find out the natural bent of the child." – Plato (427-347 BC)

The first step toward choosing the correct tools for education is to ask yourself: "Who is my child?" Or, if you are the student: "Who am I?" You may not really know yet. Not knowing (up until now) is all right. But, begin to look around you. Look

beyond entertainment, advertisements, religion, and political systems that say who you are and what you should do, and think about what *your* interests and skills really are.

I can already look at my 2-year-old son and see that he will be a song-writer and story teller. I can tell by his very nature that he will not be a surgeon, or a mechanic; those things would bore him to tears. He loves to communicate and imagine. "I'm not a boy, Mom, IHHHMMM N ALLVOGATOR!!! RRROAARR!!!"

Some of you do have surgeons in the making, and maybe a physicist and lawyer or two. I've met your kids, and I hope I am still coherent when they are breaking new ground, inventing miraculous things, and writing dreamy stories about other lands.

The task before you now is to equip your child (or yourself) with the tools that are natural in their hands—the tools they will need and value as they grow older. There are specific tools for specific students. You should not press piano lessons on your mechanically gifted son if he wants to be in the auto shop.

This is why I say, *know your child*. Find out who they are and what their interests are. You might begin by taking your children to visit vocational schools, museums, and libraries until they begin to reveal their interests. Then begin to explore one, two, or even three areas thoroughly, until you know what they find to be the most captivating. Each one will be different; and expect them to be different from your interests. It is not important that you know, or that they know

The first step toward choosing the correct tools for education is to ask yourself: "Who is my child?" Or, if you are the student: "Who am I?" You may not really know yet. Not knowing (up until now) is all right.

what they want to be. It is important that they are not limited by your expectations, but are exposed to many possibilities.

When I was 8 years old, I knew I wanted to be a writer someday. When I was 14, I knew I wanted to be in ministry or mission work. When I was just a little girl, I knew I'd like to be a wife and mother someday. Those dreams were goals that my Mom began to outfit with practical tools as soon as they came to light.

A tool stands between the man and his job and makes his work possible. The tool is typing ability for the secretary, general nutrition and health care for the young mother, and computer skills for the man going into home business.

When I was 6, Mom taught me how to make biscuits, and for the next year it was my job to make biscuits in the morning. When I was 8, she encouraged me to write stories. Sometime during my 12th year, Mom decided to learn how to make bread (sort of), but rather than perfecting the art herself, she had me learn how with her, and every week for 8 years I made bread, tons of it! Sweeping the floor was a job anybody could do, so Mom did it. Washing dishes was a no-brainer; and so, more often than not, Mom did it. All the new and interesting tasks that came into our lives, milking a cow, shoeing a horse, sewing clothes, playing instruments, canning vegetables, making applesauce, learning sign-language, learning to type, cooking interesting meals, etc., Mom made sure that her children acquired every little tool she came across. We weren't waiting for life to begin, we were catching up with it.

What is a Tool?

A tool stands between the man and his job and makes his work possible. The tool is typing ability for the

secretary, general nutrition and health care for the young mother, and computer skills for the man going into home business. A tool is the difference between knowing what the Bible is about, and knowing how to study it effectively. If you know how to study the Bible, there is no limit to what God can teach you from it. If you just know "about it," you are already at a dead end.

Look for skills that will enable you (or your student) to go further, or do more than the skill itself teaches. For instance, if you are interested in computers and technology, maybe you'd like to build web pages someday. Instead of getting a packaged "how to build your own website course," learn a basic programming language like Java or PHP. This will introduce you into the world of web design and open the door for much more than just one half-baked website.

If you are interested in becoming a secretary, one of the first skills you should acquire is the ability to type well. In fact, almost every job field out there, besides manual labor, would be benefited by typing skills, including accountants, writers, medical workers of all degrees, computer or technology people, business owners or managers, etc. If you look way up the road of life, you might consider adding typing as a skill to be taught in the elementary levels of schooling. Why? Because it will be a very useful tool for practically all the rest of your learning years.

For my brother, who is a carpenter, the first tool to acquire was a tape measure. He learned to read a tape measure and understand fractions when he was 6 years old, because the tape measure stood between him and anything he wanted to make. It was the tool that could allow him or keep him from becoming a creator with wood. Now,

as a grown man, Gabriel builds houses and puts on roofs in the Tennessee area. A tool he acquired later was learning the Pythagorean Theorem for angles and planes. This tool made a huge difference in his success as a roofer. I am a writer. I have never used the Pythagorean Theorem. It is a tool that has not gotten between me and what I want to do.

There are some tools you may not know about in your field of interest; tools that you don't even know exist. The best way to find out is to find an expert in that field and ask them what tools they use regularly. Many times it will be a book or a computer program they refer to continually.

When you step out into life, you will quickly discover that the tests you have taken no longer matter, but the tools you have acquired mean everything.

A Tool or a Test?

Every part of education should be useful. If it is not, it will soon be forgotten, and the time spent learning it will have been wasted. If you give

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your children no other reason to learn to multiply than "because you are supposed to," then those multiplication tables cease to be a tool and become a lifeless,

imposing test. Your approval (or your threat of discipline) is valuable enough motivation to cause a child to learn, but your approval does not show them how to apply the knowledge they are gaining. When you hand your child a new piece of information, try to hand it to them as a tool; "OK, enough on fractions this morning, now let's eat some cookies. You all get 50 cents and I am selling cookies at 1 for a quarter, 1/2 for 15 cents, and 2 for 40 cents; how do you want to pay?" Or, explain that "This tape measure will allow you to make up your own pattern, cut it out accurately and sew something no one

else has ever seen or worn before. Let's try it."

Once the students understand your intention to help them gather a useful collection of tools, (rather than to simply keep up with the Jones's test scores), they will join you in enthusiasm and be equipped to pursue their personal dreams. The more your child's "curriculum" is made viable in his everyday life—or preparation for life—the less rote schoolwork and memorization is necessary. Learning will become

The same is true with education; there are two sides to the balanced whole. One side is: "You are constrained to do this; you have no choice." The other is: "This is why you have learned this; it is a tool, and this is how you use it."

a way to succeed, rather than a struggle to keep from failing.

There will still be times when you must say: "I can't explain the use of this to you until you know how to do it. Or, "Memorize this speech; we'll talk about the reasons later." *There must always be a level of authority that is not open to questioning.*

Dad has often taught that there are two sides to parenting: One is training, the other is fellowship. The ultimate goal of both sides is fellowship with your child. The same is true with education; there are two sides to the balanced whole. One side is: "You are constrained to do this; you have no choice." The other is: "This is why you have learned this; it is a tool, and this is how you use it." Ultimately, the goal is to make all education a practical, applicable experience. All knowledge should eventually become a tool.

The Tool of Experience

One of the best and most universal

tools available is experience. Whether you can find any other tool or not, do your best to get out there and experience your field as a volunteer, apprentice, or unappreciated peon. Experience allows you to come in contact with other tools of the trade, make your inevitable learning-curve mistakes, and watch the pros at their work. By being involved at any level (even, just watching), you will pick up on the resources others are using. You will know what questions to ask and will remember the answers that make real working sense. Textbook knowledge can't be compared to knowledge picked up with experience on the field.

Another benefit of experience is that you meet people in that field. If you are a hard worker and have a good attitude, many times experience is all that you will need to get invited into that specialty field by somebody who is already there. Many of the great men in our history did not have an adequate education for the positions they filled. As young men, they were the first to step into the breach and meet the needs of the people around them. Their willingness to get the job done was enough for the people they served, and honor was given.

I know someone who began a job (years ago) in the school systems of a major city as a maintenance man, swinging a mop in the halls. He was a hard worker and asked a lot of questions about electricity and cooling systems in the schools. Whenever an engineer needed a hand, he was there to volunteer. When the construction crew needed an extra driver, he jumped in the dump truck (never having driven one before) and drove all day. Over the years, this man worked his way from job to job within the system, finally arriving at the highest position he could hold without being an engineer. When an engineering position came open, he applied, regardless of his lack of education. Everybody knew him. He had pitched in here and there for years already. So they gave him a test

to see how much he had learned. He passed with flying colors. This man became a lead engineer in the engineering department for one of the largest school systems. He had been gathering the tools of experience daily, beginning with the position of a lowly mop swinger. His faithfulness in little things made him ruler over much.

Why should I care?

"In times of change, learners inherit the earth, while the learned find themselves beautifully equipped to deal with a world that no longer exists." -Eric Hoffer, philosopher (1902-1983)

This is a competitive and growing world. It is more important than ever to be specifically prepared for your cause—your mission. Half-qualified just doesn't cut it anymore. Christians should be the best in every field of need. I believe some of the finest people on the planet are young men and women in the homeschool circles. They are yearning for a way to make a difference in this warped and rotting world. There is a way.

The sick and dying patient is very happy to hear the gospel of Jesus Christ from his brilliant and highly reputed surgeon. In fact, even a patient who is an atheist will be glad to discover that his surgeon is not! The foot-bound motorist is willing to hear about God from the mechanic who is working on his transmission; especially if the mechanic is unusually fast and thorough about his job. And, the little children in a third-world classroom love it when their pretty teacher tells them Bible stories. Those children will take the stories to heart and carry them home to retell them to their Hindu parents in the poorest Indian village. How can you not be the best? How can you offer anything less? There is a vital place for every single one of us. There is a place cut out and waiting for you to step into.

Find it.

Use it.

Begin today. It is called, LIFE!

From the Pros

What follows are interviews with professionals in many different fields. I asked each one of them what advice they would give to a young person between 4th - 12th grades about preparing for their individual fields of expertise. The answers are incredibly different, just as are the people. Your children will also be this different. One professional tells the student to blow up stuff in a microwave and chop plastic in the backyard, while another recommends a strict classical education. Both are right. You must discern the needs of your child, and meet them where they are.



Gabriel Pearl says: study the Pythagorean Theorem!

Construction

Gabriel Pearl, construction boss.

First, I called my brother **Gabriel**. He was on the job site, handing roofing flashing up to his crew. It was hard to carry on a conversation over his cell phone, but his answers were good—if a little brief!

“Learn to read a tape measure.

Learn to use tools accurately: hammer, drill, saw, square, etc.

Study the Pythagorean Theorem for angles and planes in building.

Learn to do fractions quickly in your head.

Apprentice yourself to another carpenter.”

Law - **Luke Macik**, Lawyer, and homeschool daddy.

Next, I called one of the finest lawyers in our town. He is a very busy man, but graciously took the time to email me some of his thoughts. . .

“Before we teach children to be good carpenters, bankers, scientists or lawyers, they need an education that will teach them to be good men.

The best education for that is a classical, liberal arts education.

Such an education is the best preparation for the practice of law, because law ultimately must be about justice.

If someone wants to be a lawyer—and wants something to do—I’d tell them to study the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution. Begin by understanding the ideas on which our system of justice is founded.”

Note by the author: *Mr. Macik had a classical, liberal arts education at one of the foremost Catholic universities in the nation, and many powerful lawyers and politicians have this same background. However, classical education is not for everyone. This too, is a tool. Know your child. Who is he/she? What do they need, what are they interested in, who will they be? Tailor the tools for the child; not the child for the tools.*



Potter - Nothing beats hands-on exposure to all kinds of materials.

Potter

– mystery man
This next interview was with a potter in his own style—in every area of life! He didn’t want his name printed. . . too



Law - Begin by understanding the ideas on which our system of justice is founded.

humble. . . too proud? Possibly afraid of being responsible for some serious accidents.

“The most impacting event of my youth was when a friend of Dad’s took me to a vocational college. We walked through

it, and I saw people making stuff. I remember the pottery class and the people making canoes. I loved it. It inspired me. I went home and started to experiment with everything. This is what I would say to a kid who is interested in pottery: ‘Get some clay and a wheel, and then experiment.’

Nothing beats hands-on exposure to all kinds of materials: plastics, cloth, metals, wood. (Pine will split differently from other woods; experiment with it wet, dry, frozen, etc.) Experiment with different substances under varying conditions: freezing, heating, soaking, drying, chopping it up in the backyard, etc. Test stuff in a microwave, and see how it reacts to radiation. (Be careful! Check the manual, first.)

Make a colloidal silver generator—I have used that idea for electroplating, using silver in the glaze.

Study chemistry if you are predisposed to book-learning; I wasn’t.

Be careful!!! Learn the danger of the elements you experiment with. Unseen things you inhale can kill you. Study properties of substances.”

[Now you know why he didn’t want to give his name!]

continued on next page -->

Massage Therapist

– wife of the Potter, homeschool Mom.

Next, I called the **mystery potter's wife**. She is a brilliant therapist—one of the best on the planet, in my opinion. She was down with a cold. . .so I left out the blurred accent, but included the good stuff.

“The most important thing to learn about massage is that it is a very personal thing, very hands-on. You must learn to give of yourself physically, serving and loving. In order to be good at it, your tool must be yourself. There are many “technically” good therapists; but the really successful ones are those who have learned to “feel” what the body needs and to be sensitive to the patient.

Gain sensitivity in your hands by feeling different textures with fingertips, using water and a variety of temperatures.

Learn about anatomy—muscles, bones, nerves.

Learn how nerves interact with the body, and how muscles move your body.

Read about skin. Feel your own skin. Feel how the muscles work below the skin on the arm. Find where the muscles are under the skin.

Practice working on somebody else. Learn about essential oils and heat.”



Write. Write all the time. Write without a plan; just sit down and start writing about what you see and what you think.

Writer – **Rebekah Anast**, wife, homeschool Mom, and writer.

When I was eight years old, Mom asked me why I hadn't written a book yet. !!!!! I was stunned for a moment, but I went right to work. My first “book”

was four lined pages long, and so badly misspelled it hardly made sense. Mom never even mentioned the misspelling. Instead, she told me how good it was and suggested I give it to the children's librarian to read! Amazing. The children's librarian read it very reverently and told me that it made her “tear up,” it was so good. She asked me to write another one. This time, Mom suggested I correct the spelling so we could copy it into a leather-bound journal to look more official. I was thrilled. It took me a week to get my second story written and corrected. The next three years I wrote dozens of stories and learned to spell. I had no idea I was doing “school.” Thank God for a Mom whose heart is bigger than her pride!

So to the students, I recommend: Read what other people write. Read a lot of different styles: magazines, books, articles.

- Learn to type well.
- Learn to tell a story so that both a child and an adult will enjoy listening.
- Learn to take criticism and praise with a grain of salt.
- Find out what people need to hear from you by listening to them.
- Write. Write all the time. Write without a plan; just sit down and start writing about what you see and what you think. Make the most boring subject interesting by seeing it a new way, and by describing it in detail.

Software Development

– **David Sterling**, Chief Technical Officer, TruVote International, Inc, and homeschool Daddy.

And. . . I could never personally get into software development, but this guy is also a very good writer, and I enjoyed his email response to my questions. He and his wife are really interesting people, and their kids are bright-eyed. Read on. . .

“Software development **requires you to be precise** in your “talks” with the computer as the computer is unable to guess at your intentions. A good

exercise that I have found for children (and adults) is to have a child write out directions for making a peanut butter sandwich and then have another child take those directions and make the sandwich, using **ONLY** those directions. You usually end up with a piece of bread with a whole jar of jelly on it, etc. Doing this exercise (and others like



As with many other disciplines, the best “preparation” for computer programming is . . . computer programming!

this) allows a child to see that in human communication, it is easy to leave out pertinent facts that our marvelously-created brains are able to fill in without missing a beat. A computer is fast, but it is dumb.

Software development is the process of taking something in real life and modeling it on a computer (and hopefully increasing the end-user's productivity). I have found that building useful things (hammer/nails) or solving real-world problems (why isn't this window shutting all the way?) both exercise the same faculties that software development does. In fact, I have found that a lot of software developers enjoy building houses, remodeling, furniture making, and in some odd cases, playing with Legos.

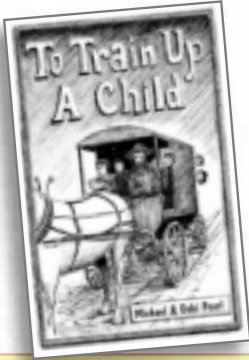
Next, would be **communication skills**. That seems to be really far-fetched, but many software developers have none. Chances are, you will find yourself up in front of a group of individuals, ranging from computer-illiterate investment/management types to “I know the deep dark secrets of the computer underworld” types. Being able to discuss a topic at a depth that is agreeable to your listeners is an extremely valuable (and sought after)

continued on page 14

Books and Audio

To order, fill out the order form on the back of the newsletter or go to our online store at www.nogreaterjoy.org.

If you are new to this ministry, order this book first. Over 400,000 copies sold. ↓



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From successful parents, learn how to train up your children rather than discipline them up. With humor and real-life examples this book shows you how to train your children before the need to discipline arises. Be done with corrective discipline; make them allies rather than adversaries. The stress will be gone and your obedient children will praise you.

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All audio versions read by Michael Pearl

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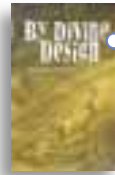
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All books on this page except Repentance and Romans Commentary are based on the price break-down below.

1 - 7 Copies of any one book	\$5.00 each
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By Divine Design

If you are philosophically minded, this book will appeal to you. Michael discusses some of the basic presuppositions that lead us to believe in and trust the unseen God. We are part of a great drama that is perfectly orchestrated by both the sovereignty of God and the free will of man.

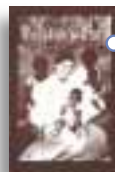
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3 Cassettes 2330-40 \$10.00



Repentance

When the Bible warns a sinner to repent, what is the nature of that repentance? Michael Pearl examines all 112 uses of 'repent' in the KJV. Designed to put hearts at rest in Christ and correct error.

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Rebekah Pearl, daughter of Michael and Debi Pearl, tells the awesome story of God's guidance and protection as she, a 22 year old girl, all alone, where no white person had ever been, adapted to a primitive culture.

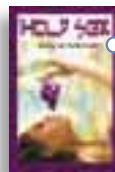
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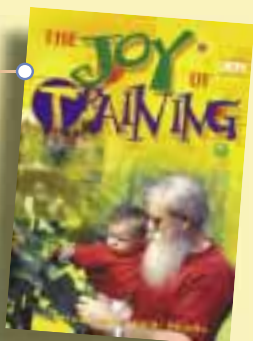
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Michael and Debi Pearl tell how they successfully trained up their five children with love, humor, the rod, and a King James Bible.

The 2 DVD set contains the same high quality, digitally filmed content as the video set and hundreds of snapshots and video clips of family and children, illustrating the things being taught.

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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. You can help him become all that God intended him to be.

2 VHS 4140-70 \$18.⁰⁰



Revelation Poster and Handbook

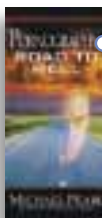
This poster is a print of an original painting done by Michael Pearl which shows the events of Revelation in chronological order. It is 40"x19" on heavy, glossy paper. The handbook which accompanies it is filled with Old Testament references and commentary to the events in Revelation.

8130-10 \$12.⁰⁰

BOOKLETS

All booklets are **\$1** each
60¢ for 25 or more of any one of the below

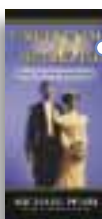
These booklets teach a lot and are great resources for teachers to use in Bible classes



Pornography - Road to Hell

While most ministers avoid the subject, Michael Pearl addresses the deadly scourge of pornography head-on. He shows how repentance toward God and the power of the gospel of Jesus Christ can break the bondage of this wicked perversion through the abundant mercy and grace of a loving God. There is hope for the man caught in the snare of pornography and hope for the helpless, angry wife who finds it difficult to honor him.

12pg. Booklet 7030-10



To Betroth or not to Betroth

All Christian parents want their children to have God's first and best in all areas of their lives, and this includes marriage. In an effort to avoid the dangers of the modern dating game, families are giving attention to the concept of betrothal. The dangers of the betrothal system are exposed with the light of Biblical truth, bringing objectivity back to an often-misunderstood subject.

28pg. Booklet 1420-10



Justification and the book of James

James clearly teaches that works justify a man, while Paul teaches that a man is not justified by works. Are they contradicting each other? Which one is correct? This study resolves the issue once and for all.

26pg. Booklet 4960-10



Baptism in Jesus' Name

There are those who insist that New Testament water baptism is not valid unless the one doing the baptism vocally utters the words "in Jesus' name." It is the conclusion of this study that the verbal utterance is never an issue in Scripture. It is erroneous to insist on any certain phrase being pronounced over the baptized.

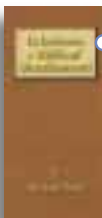
17pg. Booklet 1410-10



1 John 1:9 the Protestant Confessional

A core belief held by most conservative Christians is that Christians who have unconfessed sins in their life are in need of forgiveness, are out of fellowship with God, and are walking in darkness. The underlying assumption is that God forgives only sins that are confessed. What does the Bible teach? Does God withhold forgiveness until sin is confessed? Not on your life.

23pg. Booklet 4650-10



In Defense of Biblical Chastisement

Michael brings clear understanding back into the confusing and often-misunderstood subject of corporal chastisement. After firmly laying the Biblical foundation for chastisement, he then answers the question, "How do I apply corporal chastisement properly?" Finally, he shows the effectiveness of Biblical chastisement demonstrated in those families that practice it as taught.

29pg. Booklet 4530-10

continued from page 11

skill.

As with many other disciplines, the best “preparation” for computer programming is... computer programming! Pick up a book and a free compiler off the Internet and start writing programs. Programming is truly learning another language. Immersion is definitely the best way to learn it. For starters, make a recipe management tool for your mother. Create a program that tracks how many 5/8” drywall screws your dad has used in the garage. Make anything and everything you can.”

Business Management

– **Doctor M. Kahn**, Business and Technology, University of New Mexico.

Now, this next guy has the most incredible list of credentials I have ever seen, but it would take half a page to list them all. He is from Singapore, but lives in America now. **Doctor M. Kahn** has been-there-done-that in just about every field of business you can think of. This man is very wealthy, but has not slowed down his productivity. I got this phone interview between two of his college classes.

“In China we have a saying. . .how to make it polite? ‘Making babies is not parenthood; raising babies is parenthood.’ It is easy to talk and make messes. It is much harder to be wise and disciplined. A successful person is a disciplined person. This is what I would tell my son, if I had one:

1. Establish good learning habits—ability to do homework and projects with discipline.
2. Learn the value of money—what can you do with money? How can you make more money with what you have? Try investing.
3. Learn to keep exact accounts of what you spend and where, and be disciplined in spending. A foolish spender will never own anything of value.
4. Learn habits of respect and social skills. Relationships with other people are very important in the business field. A child who does not learn respect and honor toward others

will grow up to be an adult who does not deserve respect and honor.

5. Learn to communicate well.
6. Take interest in your personal hygiene. Always have a good appearance. Your appearance is the first thing you are judged by.
7. Go to business places and watch how business is done by others. Also, visit trade exhibitions. Go and see what other people do; look at their merchandise.
8. Try selling your own product. Learn about retail selling, profit, costs, overhead.
9. Talk to successful businessmen, and failing businessmen. Find out the differences between the two extremes. Why does one succeed and another fail?
10. Read local newspapers and business magazines; watch small businesses start up and grow.”

Photography and Graphic Design

– **Charles Van Drunen**, Black and White photograph artist and graphic designer.

Chuck is one of those people who loves life and God’s creation so passionately that he draws people like honey draws bees. No doubt this is why he takes some of the most amazing photographs of the Red Rock Mountains I’ve ever seen. He is gaining fame quickly, so remember his name. He gave me this info impromptu over the phone. Chuck has a heart for teens, and loves to see young people succeed.

“My main advice to a kid interested in photography would be the same as to a kid interested in basketball; get the stuff you need, and practice. The more you do it, the better you’ll be. Buy the equipment as soon as you can. Get a good camera while you are young.

I bought my first camera when I was 12 years old and it cost me \$179.00. It was just a simple 35 mm, but it was pretty hot stuff back then. Having a good camera made all the difference in the world. I could take

pictures that were really good. You’ll get discouraged if you use junk.

The same goes for graphic design. In 1992, I bought my first computer. I had a week of buyer’s remorse, because I couldn’t figure it out. But, if I hadn’t bought that computer, I wouldn’t be doing graphic design today. Knowing how to use a computer is vital. I started with Publisher 1.0, and then went on



Photographer: there’s no limit to what you can do with the right tools and a healthy appreciation for God’s creation.”

to other programs. Today, I am using Adobe Indesign.

- Experiment with everything.
- Try pictures in every setting, light conditions and angle.
- Don’t limit your creativity. There’s no limit to what you can do with the right tools and a healthy appreciation for God’s creation.”

Mechanic – **Justin Brand**, mechanic and auto dealer.

Justin is actually our brother-in-law, married to my sister, Shalom. He is a genius at his trade, and was in the shop covered with grease when he gave me this info over the phone.

“My dad got me familiar with tools by dumping out a disorganized tool box and having me organize the contents. That way I learned all the sizes of sockets, both standard and metric measurements.

I learned a lot just hanging out with other mechanics, and started by handing tools to others when I was 4. That helped me learn how the tools were used.

Then I started taking stuff apart. Anything that was broken, I took apart and tried to fix it or put it back together.

I took bicycles apart when I was 6. I took a lawn mower apart when I was 12, fixed it, and sold it for money. When I was 14, I bought a car and took it apart, fixed it, and sold it.

Then, there was Dad's old truck; it was always breaking down. I worked non-stop on that old thing, just to keep him in wheels.

- I would suggest to parents that they buy an old junker, and let their kid take it apart and work on it. It doesn't matter if they can get it running again or not; it might be too far gone. But just taking it apart will teach them a lot. You can learn all the pieces and parts of a vehicle that way.



Let the kids take apart an old junker and work on it. Maybe they can't fix it but they will learn all the pieces and parts of a vehicle that way.

- Last of all, I would say, read magazines on cars, check out repair manuals from the library, pick them up at yard sales, or auto part stores. When I was a kid, I read manuals like they were books. Nowadays you can get

them off eBay in lots of 30 for \$15.00. Look for how-to books. Rebuild-an-engine books. How-to-do-brakes books, etc. And then, work with somebody, if you can, repairing a vehicle."

Missionary

– **Joshua Steele**, missions coordinator in the Ukraine. I met **Joshua** when he was 12 years old, and I remember Dad commenting on him later, "that kid, Joshua, the hand of God is on him." From then on, we kept track of him. Now Joshua, although still a young man, is changing the world for Christ. He is my choice of an example for any young person interested in missions.

English Grammar. One of the big things that has helped me is a working knowledge of English grammar. Most missionaries are faced with the prospect of learning another language, and having a sound understanding of one's own language (verb, noun, participle, case, etc.) makes that a LOT easier.

Publishing/printing. I purchased Adobe PageMaker and Adobe Illustrator. They were expensive and hard to learn, but I have not regretted doing so. Missionaries are constantly printing things.

Writing. Missionaries should know how to write. I write constantly. (Typing skills dovetail nicely with this.)

Music. It's certainly not for everyone, but this opens doors. If a person can sing or play something fairly well, that can be very profitable. My guitar has gotten me through more doors than I can count. Plus, it's useful for leading small groups, singing together, etc.

Cooking. This is an area that I wish I had training in. I've had some hungry moments on the field.

Time management skills. No one is there to tell you when to get up, when to be at the office, when to do this or that. You plan it all. If a person is not self-motivated or just doesn't know how to wisely manage his time, he won't get far.

Teaching English as a second language. The more I travel, the more I realize that English is THE language to know in the world. Everyone is trying to learn it, and if you can teach it, then you are in demand almost before you arrive. In some countries, a TESL certificate of some type could be a real asset for just getting in. I am taking a course next month to get my CELTA certification. TJ has this, and I think Braband was going to get it, as well. CELTA is recognized worldwide and is endorsed by Cambridge University in Britain.

Internet skills. For all the evil that Internet has caused, it really can be an effective tool in the right hands. If a person has their own website, they can potentially reach anyone who has web access. I know of people who are getting the Scriptures into closed countries this way. I'll be setting up my own site as soon as I can and hope to use it evangelistically.

Public speaking. That one was sort of natural for me, but for some folks it can be a big problem. I learned a lot by taking young people to a park in Fort Worth every weekend to preach. Just as a side note, "magic" tricks are a fun and often very captivating tool to have when speaking to groups. A person who has three or four tricks in his repertoire will be able to keep crowds that might otherwise leave early.

History/Religion. This last one would only really apply to a person who already knows where he's going. Knowing the basic history of a country can really help things make sense once you arrive there. I read a book on Ukrainian history which helped some things make sense. Plus, the locals respect you so much more when they see that you have taken the time to study their history. Also, it's important to find out what the main religion is.

Know the Scriptures. It is important to be able to study the Bible for yourself and find your own answers. You are out there to give answers. Also, you will run into a lot of cults on the field—J.W.s, Mormons, etc.—and will need to give an answer to the people you are ministering to about these false doctrines. Know the Bible well."

Thank you to all these fine people who have given their best for your encouragement and betterment. There are many more out there among our readers. We love you. ❖

garlic, *again*

Dear Beka,

Last NGJ you told us to use garlic for earaches? How? You also mentioned poultices. What's that? Where do we learn how to treat our children with herbs? I need something simple and basic.

Sue

Ahhh... **garlic**, that Italian cure-all. You can hardly go wrong any way you try it. Here's one special way I use it:

First, go to the garden (or the grocery store) and bring home a couple bulbs of garlic. A bulb is the golf-ball size pod of the plant, which can be separated into many cloves—shaped like the individual wedges taken from an orange. Break off two or three large cloves, and lay them on your counter. Set some water on the stove to warm, and then spread out a clean washcloth or double-thick paper towel. Smack the garlic cloves with the bottom of a heavy glass to lightly bruise or crush them. Now the papery skin will come off easily. Take the bruised cloves and dice them up, or smash them in a garlic press so that the juice billows out the familiar aroma that makes you hungry for Lasagna.

Lay the 2-3 tablespoons of minced garlic in the center of your washcloth or paper towel, and fold in the edges of the cloth, creating what I call a “poultice” or “plaster.” Place this garlic pad in a bowl or plate and pour warm (not hot) water over it. Let it sit for 5 seconds or so,

then drain and squeeze the excess water out with your hands. Apply the warm (not hot!) poultice to the chest, back, and soles of the feet (alternately) for about 60 seconds each for treatment of any virus, cold, flu, infection, etc...

Garlic poultices can also be used for earaches—placing crushed garlic or a garlic poultice against the infected ear. Also, a clove of garlic wedged in the ear like an old fashioned hearing aid works great for earaches (but be careful not to leave too long, or you will burn the skin!)

For flesh wound infections, hold against the wound lightly for about two minutes. Repeat several times a day.

To treat eye infections, hold poultice over the tightly closed eye for about two minutes. Careful! This burns really bad if it gets in the eye.

Warm garlic oil is also healing and comforting in an ear when there is an infection. The oil is made by adding a few drops of olive oil to a tiny bit of fresh crushed garlic, let sit for a few minutes, then strain out all the garlic and discard. The oil that goes in the ear must be free of



any visible particles. You will have enough for one application of warm garlic oil for an earache. I always make mine fresh. Do not make it too strong, because it can burn the skin. Experiment on the inside of your arm to see how strong or how long you can leave the garlic on your skin without it burning. It can literally blister your skin (chemical heat.)

A very weak or mild, warm garlic water douche is helpful for female infections. *Douche recipe* – pour very warm water over crushed garlic in a sieve. Dilute with cold water until tepid. Check by tasting it, so that the garlic flavor is very light.

Warm water poured over crushed garlic in a strainer, with added vinegar and honey will make a “tea” or “gargle water” that will knock out the worst sore throat or mouth infection.

Tips to Live By:

- Don't wait until you are miserable before taking action! As soon as you feel that sore throat coming on, sip some hot garlic water, and you will NEVER get sick. If you are tough, and your love-life is secure, you can just eat a garlic clove raw. Treat your children as soon as they get cranky; don't wait until they get an infection.

- Garlic is very strong. If the patient's nose starts running with clear mucus like a dripping faucet, then it's time to ease off on the garlic treatment. It will open every pore and detox you so quickly and thoroughly, you may be miserable if you over-do it. So, be watchful.
- Grow your own garlic! Once you learn how to use it, you will quickly become dependent on it. If you have your own little garlic plot in the backyard, you won't have to make midnight runs to the grocery store

when junior gets a cold.

- Read the following book. It will give you many more practical tips and home-care knowledge that will keep you from going to the doctor.

The ABC Herbal by Steven H. Horne is written to help moms learn how to treat their children with herbs. It is short, simple and would be a help for all moms.

For a free informational newsletter and price list of herbs and ABC Herbal book, write to TheBulkHerbStore@TDS.net or The

Bulk Herb Store 1010 Pearl RD, Pleasantville, TN 37033.

Do not send herbal questions to No Greater Joy, and **do not mix your herbal orders with No Greater Joy**. The two are not related and have different addresses.

NOTE: This is how I use garlic, but I am not a licensed medical doctor, and do not intend this as advice on how you should use it. Consult your physician. ❖

ministry | BY T.J. SLAYMAN

The **Word** at Work (an update on the call for Bibles in last issue)

This last Saturday, I saw one of the most incredible displays of God's power that I've ever seen. Mike was off on seminars so he asked Vladimir Robles and me to fill in for him at the prison where he ministers.

In response to the request for Bibles and Strong's Exhaustive Concordances, someone donated about thirty new concordances. That was not enough for all the men to receive one, and not all the men are serious students, so Mike announced that they must memorize the first 14 verses of John 1 as a condition to receiving a concordance. This was the day they were to recite the Scripture.

It was incredible. I was moved to the innermost depths of my soul. I've seen Scripture quoted while preaching, while witnessing, in prayer, in temptation, and while testifying of God's goodness. But never like this. I've seen excellent Lao preachers quote Scriptures to encourage new Christians to stand firm in the face of government

persecution, but this was something else! It's a wonderful thing to see 8 to 10 year old Lao youth recite verses in unison from memory, but seeing these grown men quote the first 14 verses of John's gospel was out of this world. Some seemed to have had it memorized for a long time; for others it was obviously their first time memorizing the word of God.

One inmate in particular impressed me. He was a white, older fellow, perhaps in his fifties. He would quote a verse slowly, with little confidence. At one point he started to fumble and get his words mixed up. After a couple tries on a certain verse, he stopped abruptly and sighed with discouragement. Several brothers from the congregation encouraged him saying, "Take your time." "Take a deep breath, brother." "Try it again." Looking down at the floor, he said in a quivering voice, "I'm just so nervous". After a lengthy and uncomfortable silence, he regained his composure, gathered his thoughts,

stood up straight and continued, "... **that was the true Light that lighteth every man that cometh into the world**". Victory!

Remember, this is not a church youth group or a bunch of clean-cut home school kids. These are men trying to reclaim the last years of wasted lives destroyed by sin. But they are men. Solid men. Redeemed and grateful to Jesus. And when men of this caliber were quoting God's word, there was a lot of power involved. A LOT of power! The Lord Jesus Christ was very honored and the Spirit of God bore witness to it.

T.J. Slayman and his wife, Sengkham, are praying and planning to return to Asia this fall with their new son, Jedidiah, to finalize and publish the translation of the King James Bible (New Testament) into the Lao Language.

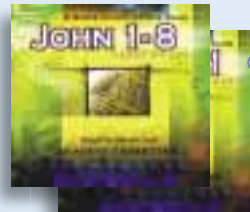
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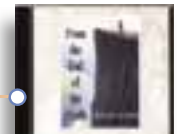
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If you enjoyed Romans, you need to hear Colossians. Learn about your spiritual circumcision. Rise to complete victory in knowledge that you indeed have risen with Christ and are an overcomer of the world, the flesh, and the devil.

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poor little fat girl

Yesterday, as Mike pumped gas into our van, I watched the people come and go. Several children tumbled out of the car in front of me. One girl, about 8 years old, got out of the car and began a struggle of trying to pull the legs of her shorts down from where they had wedged in between the fat around her thighs. When that project was complete, she then began pulling on her underpants, bending and turning with the limited contortions she could make, until she had them in place. And then her blouse had to be pulled out because it was also twisted and stressed to the limit by the fat. The whole painful process took several minutes while I, as well as all those in the parking area, looked on. My heart went out to the poor little fat girl.

As the little girl struggled, circling around and around trying to reach places that were “miles away” simply because of the constraints of her size and the length of her arms, I couldn’t help but remember our dog when she was in labor. The poor dog, trying to get away from the pain and discomfort of labor, went around and around in a tight circle, struggling to get away from what binds her. I realized as I watched the little fat girl’s painful and pitiful maneuvering that this will be the story of her life, always struggling because of this terrible, discomfiting burden of fat.

Most parents do not notice that their toddler has become fat, and if they did, most would not think that it mattered. But, by the time the child is 5 years old, and it becomes obvious that there is a problem, a pattern of eating and intemperance is well-

established, and it is very difficult to correct. In many families, children under 5 or 6 years old are slim, but about the time they turn 7, they start adding on the pounds. These families, in an effort to excuse the problem, will explain that all their children did that because it is hereditary. I know heredity is responsible for various propensities, but heredity has no bearing on the self-image or the will with regards to temperance. I also know that a child learns to mimic those around him.

We fostered a handicapped child for 8 years. She ate what my two daughters ate and played with them. She wasn’t fat, but she was hippy around her thighs. Her biological mom and dad were really fat. I did everything in my power to help her stay thin, because I knew that one day I would not be able to carry her, and I would lose her to an institution. Even with all my efforts, as she began going through puberty, she continued to be somewhat hippy. I am telling you this because you need to know that I do understand both sides.

To allow a little child to get fat or even “pleasingly plump” is doing that child a grave injustice. As they grow up to adulthood, their health will never be as good as the normal-weight child; their confidence level will always be threatened; their chance of love could even be jeopardized; and they will have to

work harder to earn other people’s respect—even other fat people’s respect. They will spend much money, time, and energy on fad diets. Their whole life will be consumed with the need to control their weight. They will waste a great portion of their life going around in circles, continually struggling to evade this cumbersome burden called, fat.

To allow a little child to get fat or even “pleasingly plump” is doing that child a grave injustice.

When I was a young mother, I had a friend who was fat. She watched over her children’s eating habits and play with the devotion of a saint. At the time, I thought her preoccupation seemed a little overboard. She almost appeared to be mean, but then I was young, dumb, and knew so little of the pain life can bring to a fat person. Now I understand that she was willing to appear mean for the sake of her children’s future health and happiness. Her children were always outside playing instead of sitting in front of the TV. When I called for popsicles for the kids, she gave it grave thought before saying yes or no. She told me over and over that her whole family was cursed with fat and poor health. Her husband’s family also had weight problems. She said that all her life, she struggled with her weight, and she would not pass the curse on to her children. She didn’t. It took me years to see how really wise and loving she was by being willing to exercise restraint for her children. Her children are now grown (slim and healthy) and very thankful for their mother’s

persistent efforts.

Mothers usually buy the groceries. Controlling your children's weight starts at the grocery store; no, it starts with your grocery list—or lack of one. Stop buying chips, candy, ice cream, cookies, and other junk foods. Learn to cook meals and sit down as a family to eat. I guarantee that if you do not allow them to eat junk between meals, and no promise of junk later, they will eat their meals, no matter what you serve. A snack between meals is fine, but it must be quality food. Study and find out what snacks are filling, healthful, and non-fattening. If you don't have junk food in the house, they can't beg for it, and you won't have to say no. Keep fresh fruit in a basket ready to eat. In the refrigerator, you can keep a supply of washed and cut-up raw vegetables that the children can snack on any time they want. Eating raw pumpkin seeds helps keep them free of parasites. Raw nuts are a healthy snack. Keep a crock-pot full of beans warm and ready for an "anytime" fast, healthy meal.

An important motto is: Never take away anything without replacing it with something better. In other words, keep your children full on good foods so they don't beg or sneak around to steal sweets or fatty foods. Many families reading this already have fat children who sneak around and steal food. Of course, the simple cure is to not have anything in the house that they are not free to eat all they want at any time.

One summer, we had several young girls (11 and 12 years old) come to stay for 3 weeks. Two of the girls were fat. I was shocked to find these two girls hiding in the pantry, opening cans and eating the nastiest stuff—like sweetened condensed milk and sausage rolls. They had learned to steal because they were addicted to overeating and to junk foods. Their habit of stealing food seems to cross over into general dishonesty. The verse, "I have no greater joy than to

hear that my children walk in truth," took on new meaning while the girls were in my home. No amount of reasoning or the ready supply of good food made any differences in their behavior. They knew that they would be in our home only a few more days, and they were not going to change their addiction for us. I hate to admit to you that I felt that I was a total failure in helping them.



PASSION

SELF-CONTROL

Young families with small children simply do not realize how profound and far-reaching an eating problem can be for their child. By the time parents "wake up" and realize this is not just a problem with food, it is often too late to really make a difference. Their problem with food is really a problem with life. One day, parents suddenly become ashamed that their son is fat and lazy, and they decide to fix the problem. When they start battling with the 10-year-old, they finally realize that what they thought was just a weight problem is actually a character issue. Parents feel helpless and blame the child. The kid resents them and becomes more dishonest and belligerent. He grows up and spends his life struggling with, among other things, a lack of self-discipline, self-confidence, self-respect, defeatism, and endless, expensive health issues. What could have been nipped in the bud at 18 months of age, becomes a lifetime curse. Anyone excessively overweight

will attest to the truth of what I am saying.

Young parent, for your child's sake, stop the junk foods, turn the TV off, and take the child outside to romp and play. If you are overweight yourself, don't pass the curse on with the excuse that it runs in the family. Never make excuses for something so serious. Always consider the situation to be what it is—life-threatening!

Don't end up wishing you had done something sooner. Make up your mind now while the child is a baby, and stick with your decision. If you buy right, you eat right. If you don't want your child or yourself to eat a lot of it, don't have it in the house.

Don't abuse your children with sweet cereal and drinks. Give them the gift of self-discipline. Babies are born with no self-restraint yet have body given to fleshly desires. It is our duty as parents to restrain their lust until their

little soul grows to appreciate self control. Children too young to exercise self-discipline can be conditioned to be intemperate, to be addicted to lust, to live for their sugar and starch craving, to consume carbohydrates for the pure pleasure of the rush it gives them. It is like giving a child drugs until he is 12 years old and then telling him to stop. With the habit you instill, his will becomes enslaved and his temperance never develops. If you don't stimulate a child's lust by creating strong addictions to anything, it is much easier for them to develop self-control in a balanced environment. A child (adult as well) who is intemperate in one area will often be intemperate in general.

Give him the chance to have optimum health. Give her the freedom of not having to struggle with living a lie. Life has enough temptations and challenges without creating another one. Being fat is a battle that need never be fought. Your baby deserves to be spared that battle. ❖

from the mailbox

THE JUST SHALL LIVE BY FAITH



Dear Mr. Pearl,

I have to tell you honestly, that because of way you came across in some of your newsletters that I read, and my own brief observation, I was pretty put off by you, thinking you arrogant and full of pride. I AM arrogant and full of pride, so maybe that was part of the problem. I know Gabe Anast thinks the world of you, but because of my feelings, and because I didn't want to join everybody on the "Pearl" bandwagon, I pretty much avoided anything that you put out. I REALLY loved what I read in "To Train Up a Child", but I didn't get very far before I lost the book, and never took it up again when it was available.

Gabe has recommended "Sin No More" to me quite a few times for quite a few reasons in recent days, and I finally decided to give it a spin. I am soooo glad I did. It changed my life. It really did. All of these things that I've seen in the scriptures over the years and knew fit together somehow, but never could quite get my arms around, became so simple I could lay hold of them with a single hand. This was what I longingly read Hudson Taylor's 2-volume biography for - to see what he had found that changed his Christian walk and his ministry - that was never quite explained in the book.

The reason for my lack of faith became clear too. I was supposed to be dead to sin, but I KNEW I wasn't. So now I'm living a life where I'm SUPPOSED to be dead to sin, SUPPOSED to be crucified with Christ, SUPPOSED to have the mind of Christ, and I KNOW that I don't. I KNOW that nothing has happened to me. I KNOW I'm not seated at the right hand of Christ,

cuz, HELLO!, I'm still here.

I am saved by faith, and that not of myself. I am justified by faith, and the just shall LIVE by faith. Whatsoever is NOT of faith is sin, but until now, faith has been some ethereal, out-there thing. Through listening to your messages, faith became VERY real, a tangible thing, the SUBSTANCE of things not seen, the EVIDENCE of things hoped for.

I have always had a DREAD of sharing the Gospel, and I THOUGHT it was because I'd never really heard any method of presenting it that I liked, and that I thought was effective, and true to scripture. I've come to believe that part of the dread may have been from having to share a gospel that locked people into the treadmill of works that I have been on. I believe that this perspective on sanctification give new freedom. I know that faith comes by hearing (hearing what?) and hearing by the word of God, but when YOU talk about giving people the Gospel, WHAT portions are you giving them? I'd love to hear whatever you have to say on this.

It's going to be an adventure reading the scriptures from this new perspective and seeing how it all fits together. You went over a lot of the key scriptures, but of course you couldn't do EVERYTHING.

Just a note: In my flesh, I AM a proud person, but God be praised, by faith, my old man is crucified with him, the body of sin has been destroyed, I am dead to that, and am a partaker of the divine nature.

Thanks for sharing,
S

Sin No More Special!

For a limited time, until June 30th, buy the Sin No More set for a special discounted rate. Get the 7 cassette set for \$15.50 or the 9 CD set for \$21.50.

Sin No More deals straight-forwardly with the big question: "So how do I stop sinning?" You have confessed your sins, received the baptism of the Holy Ghost with evidence of everything but ceasing to sin, yet you are still a Romans 7 Christian. I assure you, God not only saves his children from the penalty of sin, but he saves them from its power as well. You can stop sinning.

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Previous orders will not be adjusted. Offer ends June 30th.



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James & Shoshanna

Last Pearl girl will soon say, "I do."

This is a notice: If my daddy has spoken to you about me, you can forget it. Mike Pearl's last daughter is now taken. I have always had a hard time being interested in the average guy. We had some things in common, but nothing that ever clicked. Then I met James David Easling, the not so average guy. He worked construction with my brother, Gabe, this past summer. From the moment we met, we liked and respected each other. All summer long, he was in and around the community.

In group settings, we talked, played volleyball, canoed, worked construction, and got to know each other in a casual and relaxed environment. We became good friends. This past fall, while I was in Thailand for a month, I really missed James. That is when I realized for the first time, "Hey, I think I am falling for this guy." When I got back from Thailand, my "friend" James had just one week before leaving for college. Before he left, he gave me his e-mail address and told me to keep in touch. He also said he would miss me. SMILE!!!! I knew James wouldn't tell just any girl that. We wrote as friends for three months. When he came down for Thanksgiving, he asked Dad for my hand in marriage. Dad said yes, and the next thing I knew we



were engaged. God is good. He has blessed us so much. I thank God for a good, godly man that loves me. I can hardly wait to say "I do."

We will be in TN this summer and then we will go to MI for James to finish his schooling Winter of 2004. Thank you for your prayers.

Shoshanna Pearl
(Soon to be Shoshanna Easling)

Sign up at our website for email notification of the online release of our latest newsletter.



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