

# Faith & Family

# NEWS

*A Spiritual Resource For Your Family*

FREE COPY

Free Copy

Spring 2016

Volume 5 Number 1

## The Goal of Parenting— How Do We Get There?

by Mike Ennis

In our last article we dealt with the goal of parenting. “And ye Fathers, provoke not your children to wrath, but [you] bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.” The goal in child rearing is to raise a child to love, serve, and be like the Lord Jesus Christ. ALL THAT OUR CHILDREN ARE TAUGHT SHOULD LEAD TO THIS GOAL. The question, of course, is how do we achieve that goal? The answer is in the same verse that instructs us to “bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.” The way that we raise our children to “love, serve, and be like the Lord Jesus Christ” is by nurture and admonition. Nurture is structure and discipline, rules and consequences. Admonition is teaching. Let’s look that these two aspects of child rearing.

### 1. Nurture

Nurture is structure and discipline. Structure involves rules or boundaries and includes discipline and corporal correction.

Proverbs 22:15 (KJV): “Foolishness is bound in the heart of a child; but the rod of correction shall drive it far from him.”

Proverbs 29:15 (KJV): “The rod and reproof give wisdom; but a child left to himself bringeth his mother to shame.”

There was a time when you would not have to defend the Biblical pattern for correction, which includes corporal correction. But more and more our society is accepting the humanistic model of child rearing that says if

you spank children, you will damage them emotionally or cause them to be violent. The question of corporal correction must be addressed, and this is done by the Word of God. The Bible says yes to corporal correction. In his book *Exposing the Myths of Parenthood*, David Jeremiah wrote, “Should parents ever spank their children? The Bible says, ‘Yes,’ and Proverbs, Ephesians, and Hebrews give the principles. This cuts across the grain of many (so called) child experts, who believe that a child’s mind is like a computer which when fed correct information will come up with the proper behavior. The Bible doesn’t teach such an innocent view of children.

Contrary to the views of some, there is such a thing as bad behavior in children” (Word, Waco Texas, 1988, p. 109).

The Bible doesn’t address every single aspect of corporal correction, such as hand versus paddle or paddle versus switch, administered by which parent, how many swats, and for what infractions. Although it does not cover all of the details of corporal correction, it does give some very important principles that deal with the subject.

Discipline proves love. Proverbs 13:24 (KJV): “He that spareth his rod hateth his son: but he that loveth him chasteneth him betimes.” God says that to discipline a child is to show love to the child. To neglect discipline is to show hate to the child. We have all heard the “Spare the rod

THE GOAL IN CHILD REARING IS TO RAISE A CHILD TO LOVE, SERVE, AND BE LIKE THE LORD JESUS CHRIST.

*Goal of Parenting cont. on page 5*

## Be an Example

by Donna Starkey

We have all heard the phrase “Actions speak louder than words,” and I am sure that at some time we have said, “Do as I say, not as I do.” Yes, our actions do speak louder than our words and have more effect. We are examples every day— whether it be good or bad— and our kids and others are always watching us. The Bible tells us that we are to be an example (a pattern or model for imitation). I Timothy 4:12 says, “Be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation (conduct) in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity.”

What kind of example are we leaving? Are we an example of modesty, graciousness and kindness toward others? Are we an example of the fruits of the spirit? “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law” (Galatians 5:22-23).

We’ve all seen a little boy following his dad, trying to walk and stand like him, and we have watched our own kids playing, imitating what they have seen and heard. This is why it is imperative that we are always liv-

ing a good example.

I have a friend who, along with her husband and two sons, were missionaries in France in the early 1980s. She told me that one day after she had finished her devotions and Bible reading, she noticed that it was very quiet in the apartment. When she went and checked on her youngest son, she found him in his bedroom reading his Bible. He was learning from her example.

My sisters and I learned how to “spoil” our husbands (and trust me, my husband is very spoiled) by watching our mother and the way she treated our daddy. Likewise, our sons and daughters will learn how to interact with others by watching their parents.

When my daughter was in college, she told me about a situation she was involved in and how she handled it. Then she said, “Mom, I thought about how you would have handled it and that is what I did.” I am thankful that it was a “good” example that she emulated.

We are to live in such a way as to

*Be An Example cont. on page 8*

### In this issue . . .

<i>The Goal of Parenting</i> .....	1	<i>Letter to My 15-Year-Old Self</i> .....	6
<i>Be An Example</i> .....	1	<i>So This Is Sports &amp; Media—</i>	
<i>Editorially Speaking</i> .....	2	<i>Stephen Curry</i> .....	6
<i>Old Timer's Corner</i> .....	2	<i>Living In the Light</i> .....	8
<i>My Grace Is Sufficient for Thee</i> .....	3	<i>Cookin' Corner</i> .....	8
<i>How to Choose a Church</i>		<i>Aging Gracefully</i> .....	9
<i>for Your Family</i> .....	3	<i>The Grace of God</i> .....	9
<i>The Greatest News Ever</i> .....	4	<i>Announcement to Our Readers</i> ....	10
<i>Painfully Thankful</i> .....	4		



## From the Editor

### “How can I change my life?”

by Morris Starkey

He was in his late twenties, had a devoted wife, two children and an undeniable craving for alcohol. He said he had watched a program on TV the previous night that involved answering some questions about his drinking habit and concluded from those questions that he was an alcoholic. He said he had been in denial about it up until he took an honest look at how it was affecting his life. As we sat on the loading platform at our place of employment, enjoying the sun's warmth on that warm spring morning, he shared his life of being controlled by alcohol. His life had been a roller-coaster of experiences, but the common denominator in all the low experiences of his life was drinking binges that would often last for days. The only thing that would end them was the depletion of his easily available spending money and the pleadings of his wife that finally reached his dulled senses. He looked at me through misty eyes and asked, “How can I change my life?” He was taken aback by my response, “You can't—but I know One who can.” I opened a little New Testament I carried in the vest pocket of my work jacket and shared with him the message of Jesus. He recognized in those moments that he was utterly incapable of changing his life and that Jesus was his only hope. He asked Jesus Christ to come into his life and change him. As the rays of God's sun warmed his outward being, the warmth of God's Son filled his inner being. To this day he has never gotten over what happened to him. Today his two children are grown—his daughter a nurse and

his son a preacher.

Jesus wants to change lives—all lives—for the better. He wants to give us a purpose in life that transcends all earthly purposes. Many imagine meaningful purposes for living and create goals that give them a sense of success in fulfilling those purposes. Yet they find that they are still unhappy. The writer of Ecclesiastes tried it all: education—“I applied my mind to study” (Eccles. 1:13, NIV), and he said it was like chasing the wind. He tried pleasure: “I said to myself, ‘Come now, I will test you with pleasure to find out what is good.’ But that also proved to be meaningless” (Eccles. 2:1, NIV). He embarked on projects: “I undertook great projects: I built houses for myself and planted vineyards. I made gardens and parks and planted all kinds of fruit trees in them. . . . nothing was gained under the sun” (Eccles. 2:4-5, 11, NIV). On and on, he tried so many things but came up unsatisfied.

Can you identify with those pursuits and still find life meaningless, without purpose? Faith & Family News exists, in part, to help people who are seeking to change their lives but need someone to show them how to know Jesus and to live the life of purpose that God wants everyone to live. Do we have all the answers at Faith & Family News? Of course not, but we know the One that does, and we know He can provide you with those answers. You have a friend in Jesus—and in Faith & Family News.

## Old Timer's Corner

### Our Trouble-Filled Honeymoon

by Jim Wright

At 3 a.m. by the curb in Pampa, Texas, with a screw driver and a pair of pliers, I was attempting to put the manual transmission back together so we could get on with our honeymoon trip. But I just couldn't get those pesky needle bearings to stay in position while I slid the jack shaft back into place. There wasn't quite enough light, as the street light was half way down the block. I had just coasted to that spot when the transmission died. So I finally gave up and got a room in the cheap motel across the street. It cost \$2.00 per night. We slept in until 9:00 the next morning, and I was able to finish in forty-five minutes what would have taken me the rest of the night. We were on our way again.

But fifty miles later near Canadian, Texas, the block of wood, placed to block the slider from moving enough to let the gears slip out of mesh, had evidently crushed enough to let it happen again. Now that I knew what was happening in there, I realized that I could hold the gear shift lever up and keep it in gear by brute force! But my strength didn't last long, and I had to devise another method of holding the gearshift lever up. I finally hit on putting Lolly's smallest suitcase on my right knee, and letting the gearshift lever rest on that. I did that for the last 150 miles, which brought us to the farm near Ringwood, Oklahoma. My folks were not back from California yet, so we had the place all to ourselves to relax and to begin to enjoy our honeymoon.

We talked about why the Lord would allow us all this trouble on our honeymoon, which was supposed to be a happy time. We talked about His promises to supply our needs and realized that He had indeed supplied our needs, and we added with a chuckle, “Just barely!”

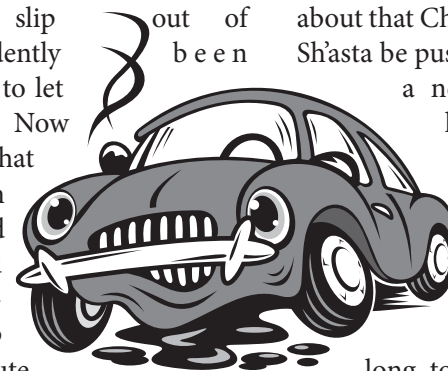
But I began to realize something else when Lolly said, “You know, I'm amazed that every time something else went wrong, you didn't blow up or get mad. You didn't swear or kick the car; you just calmly went about fixing it the best you could with what money and tools we had. And I thought to myself, I've got a wonderful man here.”

I replied, “Well, let me tell you my amazement; every time something else went wrong, I half expected you to say, ‘What have I gotten myself into? I can't take this anymore. I'm going home to my mother. Call me when you've got things under control,’ and I thought to myself, wow, what a wonderful woman I have here.”

Now you might think what a miserable honeymoon we had. But as it turned out, it was a wonderful honeymoon in several ways. 1) It built character in both of us. 2) It resulted in a solid foundation of respect for each other, which is so necessary in a lasting marriage relationship. 3) It provided a great one-upmanship story that has seldom been topped! So the Lord knew what He was doing when He allowed car troubles to pile up. Through the years we have laughed about that Chrysler we dubbed Shasta. Shasta be pushed to start. Shasta have a new rod bearing. Shasta have her fuel pump put back on. Shasta have her transmission fixed. And finally, Shasta be junked.

Remember, when we get saved, we belong to the Lord Jesus Christ, and He has promised to take care of us and supply our needs (not necessarily our wants). But He never promised us an easy life. In fact, He told us that we will have tribulation. But He does provide contentment, joy and satisfaction along the way.

Now that I've finished telling you about my courtship, marriage and honeymoon, I'm wondering what I should tell you about in the next issue. I could continue with my time in the Army and in Japan, or the trials and tribulations (and joys) of having and raising kids. Or, I could tell you about my flying adventures, the trip all around Mexico, or the small plane I built in my basement and then flew and crashed. Or about the amazing way the Lord provided me with a Cessna 205, a six-place airplane for my six-place family. Or more of the hot air balloon adventures. If you have a preference you could let me know via email. I'm at jrwkin777@gmail.com; that's three of my initials, three for Kokomo, Indiana, and three of God's number! I'd be interested in what you would prefer.



## My Grace Is Sufficient for Thee

by Jamie Purcifull

As I read and study certain passages of Jesus' words, I am sometimes perplexed and struggle to get the point Jesus is trying to make. On the surface, at least, some of these messages seem to run counter to my sensibilities, even when I'm open to trying to understand. I can relate to how the disciples must have felt dumbfounded in these instances and were admonished by Jesus for their lack of faith or understanding.

There are two passages that have particularly vexed me over the years, but I believe they both have a com-

mon theme that Jesus took great care to address. The first passage comes from the book of Matthew, Chapter 7, verses 21-23 where Jesus says: "Not everyone who

says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'" The other is the story of the Rich Young Ruler which is told in the books of Matthew, Mark and Luke. Jesus covers a lot of ground in this exchange, but we can take from it that the Rich Young Ruler was an exemplary follower of the law. However, Jesus made it quite clear that this alone was not sufficient.

So what is the problem that Jesus has with these people in these two exchanges? On the surface, at least, we have to think these were not evil people doing evil things, but good, upright people doing good things. So how could Jesus find something wrong with that? I think what Jesus is trying to point out is that they are placing

their faith and trust for their salvation in their righteousness and their good works to the point of being idolatry. (In the case of the Rich Young Ruler, Jesus tied in his riches as being part of his idolatry, too.) They believe that they have somehow earned God's favor and that God is in debt to them for following the law and doing all these great things in His name. They believe salvation should and can be found by their strength and their efforts. Jesus says not so fast. The disciples were so astonished at Jesus' reply to the Rich Young Ruler that they asked

"Who then can be saved?" Jesus pretty much sums it up by explaining you've got it all backwards: "What is impossible for men, is possible for God." In other

words, Jesus is saying it's not possible for you to be saved by your righteousness and your good works, but only by God's.

And who did God provide to be our righteousness and our good works? Jesus always points to this as being Himself. He is what is possible with God and where our salvation comes from. The correct progression is that our righteousness and good works should be an outgrowth of our salvation in Christ, not the cause of it. This is a totally different paradigm and is what separates Christianity from everything else. We don't have to work for our salvation; as Jesus said, it is impossible for us to do so. It is a free gift made possible by God. We don't earn it; we can't add anything to it. All we have to do is place our faith and trust for our salvation exclusively in Christ, His righteousness and His works. Only then can we ever hope to be truly saved and be useful to Him to bear the fruit He has called us to do. ☺

—  
The correct progression is that our righteousness and good works should be an outgrowth of our salvation in Christ, not the cause of it.  
—

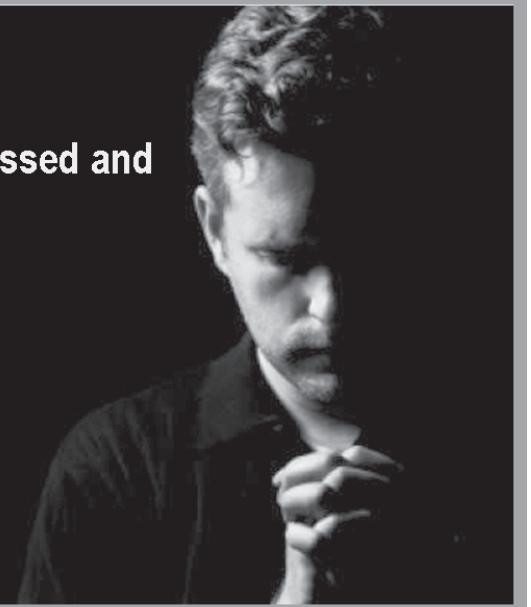
"How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher?"

Romans 10:14

Courage to  
Confront evil,  
Comfort the dispossessed and  
Change the world...

First requires  
Courage to let faith  
Confront your own  
Comfort zones and  
Change you.

CrossroadJunction.com



## How to Choose a Church for Your Family

by Mike Ennis

Church attendance has been a very important part of American culture. According to Frank Newport, "Nearly four in ten Americans report that they attended religious services in the past seven days. Americans' report of their weekly church attendance has varied over the years, but it is close now to where it was in 1940 and 1950. . . . An average of 56% of Americans this year say religion is "very important" in their lives, while another 22% said it is "fairly important" (<http://www.gallup.com/poll/166613/four-report-attending-church-last-week.aspx>).

While a lot of data gathering about church attendance is affected by "halo data" (wanting to look good), it does reflect the reality that many Americans recognize that church attendance is important. They are right in their thinking about church attendance because if you attend the right church for the right reason, the quality of your family's lives is greatly enhanced, not only for time but for eternity.

So if you make up your mind that you are going to take your family to church, how do you go about selecting one? There are many churches in our community—some small and some large. Since the choices are many, what criteria do you use to pick a church to visit and eventually become a part of? To answer that question, we must first understand what a church is and what it does.

The word *church* is often understood to mean a building where religious activity takes place. This is not really a correct understanding of the word *church*. In the Bible the word

*church* means an assembly. It is a group of people gathered together to accomplish three main purposes; all have to do with relationships.

The first has to do with a relationship to God. A church is made up of people who have been reconciled to God through the person of Jesus Christ. The church is identified with and belongs to Jesus Christ by virtue of having exercised saving faith in Him. The church gathers to worship God through Jesus Christ and is made up of all who have made professions of faith in Christ in all geographic locations and times. Jesus said that He himself would build His church.

"And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it" (Matthew 16:18, KJV 1900).

Local churches are groups of people in a particular location that gather together not only for worship but for the second purpose—edification, or the building up of the believers.

"But if all prophesy, and an unbeliever or outsider enters, he is convicted by all, he is called to account by all, the secrets of his heart are disclosed, and so, falling on his face, he will worship God and declare that God is really among you" (1 Corinthians 14:24-25, ESV).

"[Into Christ] from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love" (Ephesians 4:16, ESV).

Choosing a Church cont. on page 10



Faith & Family News is published by  
Victory Baptist Church, Kokomo, IN.  
Contact us at editorfaithandfamily@gmail.com.  
For additional copies call (765) 470-1954.  
Follow us on Facebook at  
facebook.com/FaithAndFamilyNews  
5,000 – 10,000 Copies Published Quarterly  
and Distributed FREE

## The Greatest News Ever!

by Matthew Turner

Praise God for our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! You do not have to wonder if there is a God Who knows all things and has all power. More pointedly, there is a God Who knows you and cares deeply about you. He has proven it, not only through history, but particularly through His Son Jesus Christ. Today, He is proving it by giving you the opportunity to enter into a personal relationship with Him. If you are His child, you have the chance to draw closer to Him and serve Him by serving others.

I'm sure every sane person has wondered, "What's it all about?" Well, this is it. God created us to have a deep, personal relationship with Him. Unfortunately, we rebelled, and sin entered into the world. As a result, that fellowship was broken. The worst part was that the only way to "earn" salvation would be to live a perfect life in thought and action. We all know we can't do that!

John 3:16 tells us God loves everyone in the world so much He sent His Only Son to die for us. God wants to have a relationship with us so much, He sacrificed His Dear Son to pay the price for our rebellion. When I think of Abraham being willing to sacrifice Isaac at God's command, I am shamed and confess I couldn't do it—but He did!

God, loving us in spite of our rebellion and defiled state, came to this world to live that perfect life of devotion and sacrifice. There is not a reputable historian who will deny Jesus of Nazareth claimed to be that very Person. Yes, God humbled Himself and came to this world and did only what was right. However, He was rejected by His own people and was murdered like many prophets before Him by the religious "misleaders" of the day.

Now, God even lives within His children through the gift of His Holy Spirit. Certainly, we can't explain how this happens; however, believers have known this to be reality for over 2,000 years. Furthermore, He has given us His Word in order for us to know all we need to know in order to live happy, productive lives. In His Word, we find all the principles which govern one's individual, family, and social life (II Timothy 3:16, 17).

Next, we need to discuss the privilege of prayer. It is mind boggling to me to think the God of the Universe has given us an open invitation to come to Him at any time with any burden. Not only that, He has invited us to come boldly! However, we must understand that boldness is based on the works and words of Jesus, not our own merit (Hebrews 4:16).

Greatest News cont. on page 11

"For we know that if our earthly house of [this] tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens."  
II Corinthians 5:1

## Painfully Thankful

by Emily

It's 4:34 in the morning. My mind is wandering ceaselessly around complicated, uncontrollable situations in our life currently. It feels messy and big. My confused heart and tired body beg for an easy out, a quick fix, some relief from my thorns. Of course, I think of Paul. Of course, I know that God denied him freedom from his thorns. Of course, I ask anyway.

As respectfully as possible, I whine to God as only a grown-up mom can, "Please make it go away." Again I am reminded of my daughter asking me for something. Again I see myself understanding the bigger picture and, despite the longing in her eyes, telling her, "No," and, "Trust your momma." I ask God for grace to trust Him as He tells me, "No."

Our church is studying our way through Acts right now. Some precious words of life and truth and theology—foundational-building verses—are hidden in there. I love thinking through all those things. So the pages are loved and written on. Verses are underlined and circled. Since I can't sleep this morning, I curl up on the couch in our dark living room. However, it's not the Bible I open, but my phone. I take it off airplane mode and wait for the messages of the night to catch up. There's only one this time. It's a precious one from my sweet church sister who is often a sleepless momma, too, because of the life season called, "The Raising of the Littles." Three under three make for much sleeplessness for her; and here she is texting me words of truth that she is pondering in the lullaby of night. It's her encouragement that leads my wandering mind back to Acts.

My mind finds its way to the place in my memory about the apostles' rejoicing at being counted worthy to suffer for the sake of Christ. I remember another phrase about their joyfully accepting the plundering of their property for the name of Christ. Then I look at our challenging emotional journey. It's our very own muddled, exhausting, perplexing chaos. It's

our personal roller coaster of feelings caused by hubs and me making decisions that were for Christ's name and glory. It's not to the degree of the plundering of property or anything. However, it is its own type of sacrifice. The property is pretty much intact; it's the tears that are at times completely unaccounted for and running wild.

Tonight's sleeplessness is gifted by the adopting kind of chaos. Growing up people is complicated enough for the likes of me, but growing up other people's people is off the charts some days.

However, this morning it's like a light of hope in my heart in our dark living room: I'm exalting the worth of Christ. He is bigger and more important than doing "my" family "my" way. I do love what I am doing. It's just that some days I want an easier road. BUT, this morning I see the worth of Christ raised supremely above my own desires. This messy road that we are walking is a constant invitation to Christ's offers of help. Also, it is yelling in my heart the response that Christ is worth any difficult moments with a natural-born girl and a grafted-in girl. Every emotional weight is doing something. It is working for me an eternal weight of glory says 2 Corinthians 4:17. It goes on to say to not look to what is seen, but what is unseen. I'm going to keep running to Jesus in all my sleeplessness and exalting Him in my heart in the midst of questions.

Suddenly, I'm thankful that God didn't take Paul's thorn away. Maybe on the long list of reasons why God said no was my name. Paul was learning that God's grace is sufficient. That's beautiful; that's monumental. However, Paul's thorn was bigger than Paul. Paul showed me that God's grace sustains. It makes my thorn seem easier to bear as well. There is grace for me too. Likewise, maybe my thorn is bigger than me: maybe it's for my girl one and my girl two. God's grace is sufficient and His power is perfected in my weakness. ☺



### Did you know?

A group of Pigs is called a grumble.

Lemons contain more sugar than strawberries.

The longest recorded flight of a chicken was 13 seconds.



**Goal of Parenting** *cont. from page 1*

and spoil the child” saying; that saying has sound Biblical roots. If you do not discipline your child, then there is a very good chance that you will ruin him/her. Yet the number one reason that most give for not using corporal correction is that they love their child too much. The problem is that that parent views discipline as something you do to the child instead of something you do for the child. When you discipline the child you are saying, “I love you too much to let you behave like that.” The Bible shows that God loves us, and because He loves us He chastens us. Hebrews 12:6 (KJV): “For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth.”

The second Biblical principle is found in Hebrews 12:7; no child is excused. Hebrews 12:7 (KJV): “If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not?” Or as one paraphrased it, “Whoever heard of a son who was never corrected?” (TLB) During Bible times, this was probably unheard of. Today we are reaping the fruits of it by raising a generation of rebels. There are many sons and daughters who have never been corrected. “Either through misguided love or neglect, they have been allowed to grow up free as unguided missiles.” (David Jeremiah, op. cit., p. 110) Every child you have is a candidate for corporal correction. No exemptions—no matter how pretty your darling daughter is or how smart your boy is. If you want what is best for them, discipline them. Don’t wait until it’s too late. Proverbs 19:18 (KJV): “Chasten thy son while there is hope, and let not thy soul spare for his crying.” Chasten them while there is hope. Chasten them while they are young and pliable. Chasten them before they are teenagers. I would say that you need to begin as soon as they are old enough to understand why they are being spanked. (Exception: Really small children need a swat on the bottom to get them out of the toilet, light plug, etc.)

The right discipline will not hurt your child. I did not say that it will not cause pain, which hopefully will produce regret, but it will not hurt them physically, mentally or emotionally. Proverbs 23:13 (KJV): “Withhold not correction from the child: for if thou beatest him with the rod, he shall not die.” The child might sound like he is going to die, but he will not. We are not talking about a savage beating all

over the body with a huge stick. The operative word is right; the right kind of discipline with not hurt them. God has equipped children with a wonderful target, well-padded so that no real harm can be done, yet very sensitive to pain. Proper discipline is a controlled paddle or switch applied to this area. Child abuse is one of the worst blights on our society. When we discipline it must be done in such a way that physical harm will not come to the child. If done with care, patience, and love in the proper way and area, no lasting harm will come to the child.

Discipline is not for releasing anger. Ephesians 6:4 (KJV): “And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.” The rule is goal-oriented discipline, not the releasing of frustrations! We are often tempted to act as one mother did. She said, “The kids were driving me crazy, so I spanked them soundly.

## Parenting should be goal-oriented and not impulsive.

It didn’t seem to help them, but it certainly did me a lot of good.”

Discipline for life. Proverbs 23:14 (KJV): “Thou shalt beat him with the rod, and shalt deliver his soul from hell.” Parenting should be goal oriented and not impulsive. Discipline teaches submission and self-control. It prepares a child for life and relationships. Most important, it teaches submission to God. An impulsive child has a problem with authority. A child who has a problem with authority, has a problem with God; he will not obey Him. Discipline prepares a child for life and eternal life. Discipline prepares the child for his relationship to God.

### 2. Teaching

Teaching is what is meant by admonition. It is the instruction that we give our children. Dad is to be in control of what is taught to the child. Ephesians 6:4: “And, **ye fathers**, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.” If the goal in child rearing is to love, serve, and be like Jesus Christ, you must control what your child is taught. Dads

can delegate and moms have a part, but dads cannot get away from the responsibility. You better make sure that whoever is influencing your child is influencing your child towards the goal of loving, serving, and being like Jesus Christ. You must control the inputs, who is influencing your child and towards what. You must control what they are exposed to in the media, music, by their peers, by their teachers, by coaches, and others who are influential in your child’s life. This is not being “legalistic”; this is being responsible before God. God makes fathers responsible for what goes into the mind of their children. In fact, you, father, are the teacher. You need to realize that you are responsible to God and must give an account. Deuteronomy 4:9 (KJV): “Only take heed to thyself, and keep thy soul diligently, lest thou forget the things which thine eyes have seen, and lest they depart from thy heart all the days of thy life:

but teach them thy sons, and thy sons’ sons.”

Deuteronomy 6:7 (KJV): “And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up.”

Ephesians 6:4: “And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.”

A child has a sin nature and must be taught. The child will do wrong by nature; he/she must be taught what is right. Proverbs 22:15 (KJV): “Foolishness is bound in the heart of a child; but the rod of correction shall drive it far from him.”

Recognize that God’s way is best and essential to a blessed life. Psalm 1:1-3 (KJV): “Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of

water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.” Recognize we are to teach with a goal in mind. Colossians 1:28 (KJV): “Whom we preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus.”

### What are you to teach?

1) Attentiveness, obedience, and honor of parents

Ephesians 6:1-4 (KJV) “Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. Honour thy father and mother; (which is the first commandment with promise;) That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth. And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.”

2) Doctrine

2 Timothy 3:15-17 (KJV): “And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.” This scripture teaches how to be saved (v. 15), how to be equipped (v. 17), and how to grow and serve.

3) Proper standards and values

Jeremiah 9:23-24 (KJV): “Thus saith the LORD, Let not the wise *man* glory in his wisdom, neither let the mighty *man* glory in his might, let not the rich *man* glory in his riches: But let him that glorieth glory in this, that he understandeth and knoweth me, that I *am* the LORD which exercise lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness, in the earth: for in these *things* I delight, saith the LORD.” We must teach our children how to be good stewards, how to solve problems and make decisions, how to love and serve others, and how to praise God. We must show them how to respond to trials, how to return good for evil, how to be content, how to make disciples (be a soul winner), how to be a good family member, husband, wife, and parent, and how to work.

If we follow God’s instructions we will achieve the goal of parenting. ☺

# Jesus loves YOU!

## A Letter to My 15-Year-Old-Self

By Jordan Welch

I'm turning sixteen in exactly 14 days. Uhh, yes, I'm excited! It is one year older & just a lil' bit wiser (not really, I guarantee you I'll still be burning mac & cheese in the microwave 'cause I forget to add water). Now, normally people would write about this kind of topic when they are in their 20s and have a fair share of things they wish they hadn't done. Well, I'm gonna switch it up a bit and give myself something to look back on & hopefully give some somewhat useful advice. Here goes nothing.

Dear 15-year-old Jordan,

Number one rule—stay out of drama. Don't let it consume you. Rely on your friends to guide you in the right direction, and if they happen to be the ones causing the drama, keep your distance. You may not be able to control someone's negative behavior, but you can control how long you participate in it. There comes a time when you have to let go of the pointless drama & the people who create it & surround yourself with people who make you laugh so hard that you forget the bad and solely focus on the good. After all, life is way too short to be anything but happy.

Focus on growing friendships and loving your family. Don't waste your time on trying to find a boyfriend. No matter how cute he may be or how much you may like him, don't jump into something that could potentially go up in flames because you were so eager to "be in a relationship." You're only fifteen. Don't act like you're twenty. That's all I gotta say about that.

Speaking about friends, choose them wisely. Your friends should motivate and inspire you. Your circle should be well-rounded and supportive; keep it tight. Quality over quan-

tity, always. "Bad company corrupts good character," pls pls pls remember that. You are only going to be as good as the people you surround yourself with. So be brave enough to let go of those who keep weighing you down.

Next, work hard in school. School stinks. Studying stinks. Homework—yeah, it stinks. But work hard and you'll be rewarded. You most likely don't know what you're going to do with your life. Become a teacher? Stay at home mom? Oh hey, maybe a blogger. Whatever it is, work your hardest, and be the best "you" you can be. Good things come to those who . . . go out and earn it!

I've covered a lot of things—friendships, hard work, drama, etc. Although there is one thing I'm leaving out, and it is by far the most important. Follow God and his plan for you. Don't push him away because you think your plan is better, because let me tell you something, IT'S NOT. Sorry, Charlie. God's plan is always the best. Sometimes the process is painful and hard, but don't forget that when God is silent, He's doing something for you. As for your life, it may not be going the way you planned. You didn't plan to become home schooled. You didn't plan to start up your own blog, but it is going exactly the way God planned it. Jesus replied, "You don't understand now what I am doing but someday you will" (John 13:7).

I guess that's it. Last thoughts—keep your friends and family close & God closer.

Lots of love,

ALMOST 16-year-old Jordan ☺

Read more at [www.lifeasjustjordan.blogspot.com](http://www.lifeasjustjordan.blogspot.com).

(Editor's Note: Since having written this, Jordan HAS turned sixteen.)

## So, This Is Sports and Media: Stephen Curry

by Todd Stout

So, this is sports and media. I was scrolling through my social media and came across a meme (picture with a caption on it) of Stephen Curry, point guard of the National Basketball Association's (NBA) Golden State Warriors. It had two pictures: one was in the first quarter of a game. It said he had zero points and the picture was of him with his head hanging down. The other picture was in the second quarter, and he was smiling, jumping in the air, as he had scored 17 points. After reading the caption, I thought about the respect that I had for those athletes who stood for something more than just themselves. Athletes like Stephen Curry.

I see young athletes and even adults imitating athletic moves and celebrations, wearing jerseys, and copying the clothing "swag"

of professional athletes. I wonder if the character and representation of the athlete they choose to emulate is ever taken into consideration, or is success the only reason for their idolization of the celebrity? Furthermore, do the athletes consider the audience they are reaching and the message they are sending? It is refreshing and encouraging to me, to know that there are athletes that represent a message more than themselves. In my opinion, Stephen Curry does.

If you follow basketball at all, I'm sure you know who Stephen Curry is. He is the reigning MVP of the NBA and the reigning NBA Champions, the Golden State Warriors. According to the stats on [nba.com](http://nba.com), Curry stands at a height of 6 foot 3 inches and weighs 190 pounds. If you haven't seen him play, I highly recommend that you do an internet search on "Stephen Curry two ball dribbling" or check out any Stephen Curry highlight video. His skills are truly amazing, as he has established himself as a premier ball handler and shooter at basketball's elite level of play.

But his presence and impact transcends the court. Most professional

athletes are concerned about their "brand" (image and endorsements) and how they represent themselves for notoriety and making more money. Stephen Curry's brand is his faith and his family. He often brings his daughter Riley to press conferences. During the playoffs last year she practically drew more attention after the games than Stephen did. If you visit his twitter @StephenCurry30, he lists his priorities: Believer, husband, father, son, brother, Golden State Warriors guard, Davidson Wildcat. And then he lists his favorite Bible verse, Philippians 4:13: "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me" (NKJV). He has also applied his faith to his product endorsements

**It is refreshing and encouraging to me, to know that there are athletes that represent a message more than themselves.**

as well. On his first signature shoe, the Curry One, (Under Armour) the theme was "Charged By Belief." He also included 4:13

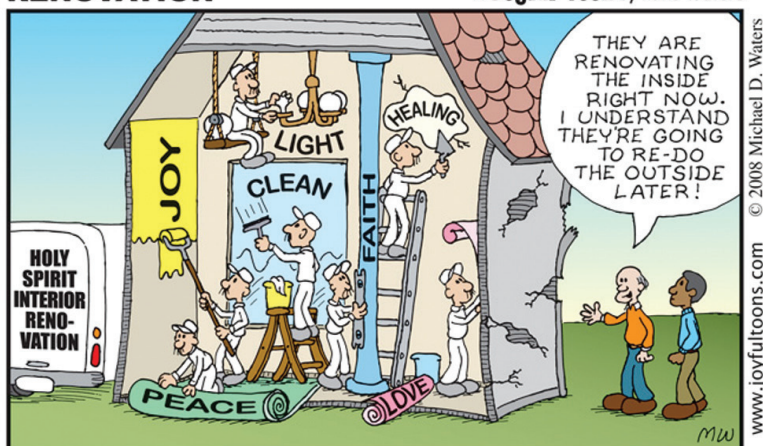
on the shoe (referencing Philippians). On his second shoe, the Curry Two, he used the tagline "Iron Sharpens Iron," referring to Proverbs 27:17: "As Iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another" (NIV).

As I watched (and re-watched) the DVR of the Golden State Warriors winning the NBA title last year, I saw more evidence of his influence on others. Curry's teammate, Andre Iguodala, won the MVP for the NBA finals. In his acceptance speech Iguodala said, "We've got a team full of believers. We all say God has a way for you and a purpose for you. I want to be just like Steph when I grow up: just a God fearing man." To me, it is a tribute that in Iguodala's shining moment, he confirmed that the lasting impression of Curry is his spiritual testimony, not his athletic ability and accomplishments.

As I watch kids play sports and grow up, either imitating or wishing they could be like professional athletes, I find it uplifting to know there are those who will promote someone other than themselves. Keeping in mind that they are not perfect or infallible, it is refreshing to see athletes represent and stand for their belief in God. ☺

### RENOVATION

A Joyful 'toon by Mike Waters



Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day.

— 2 CORINTHIANS 4:16 NIV

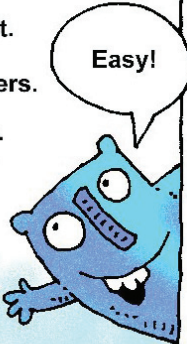


# FUN FOR KIDS (of All Ages)

## WHO WAS THE OLDEST RECORDED HUMAN?

To find his name, write the first letter of the answers in the boxes, and read the answer down.

- What we use to buy things with.
- What a chicken hatches from.
- What we use to bite things with.
- What we wear on our heads.
- What we use to keep the rain off.
- What we wear on our feet.
- Opposite to "odd" numbers.
- What we use to kiss with.
- Famous computer brand named after a fruit.
- Opposite to cold.



Genesis 5:27

Q: Why did Mozart get rid of his chickens?  
A: They kept saying Bach, Bach!

Q: Why couldn't the athlete listen to her music?  
A: Because she broke the record!

Q: What type of music are balloons scared of?  
A: Pop music!

Q: What makes music on your head?  
A: A head band!

Q: What part of the turkey is musical?  
A: The drumstick!

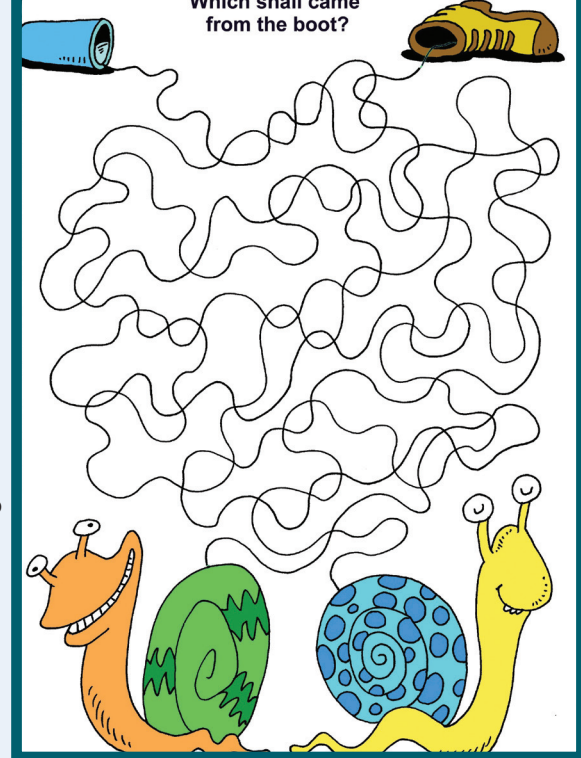
Q: What is the difference between a fish and a piano?  
A: You can't tuna fish!

Q: Why did the girl sit on the ladder to sing?  
A: She wanted to reach the high notes!

Q: What is the musical part of a snake?  
A: The scales!

## More Snails

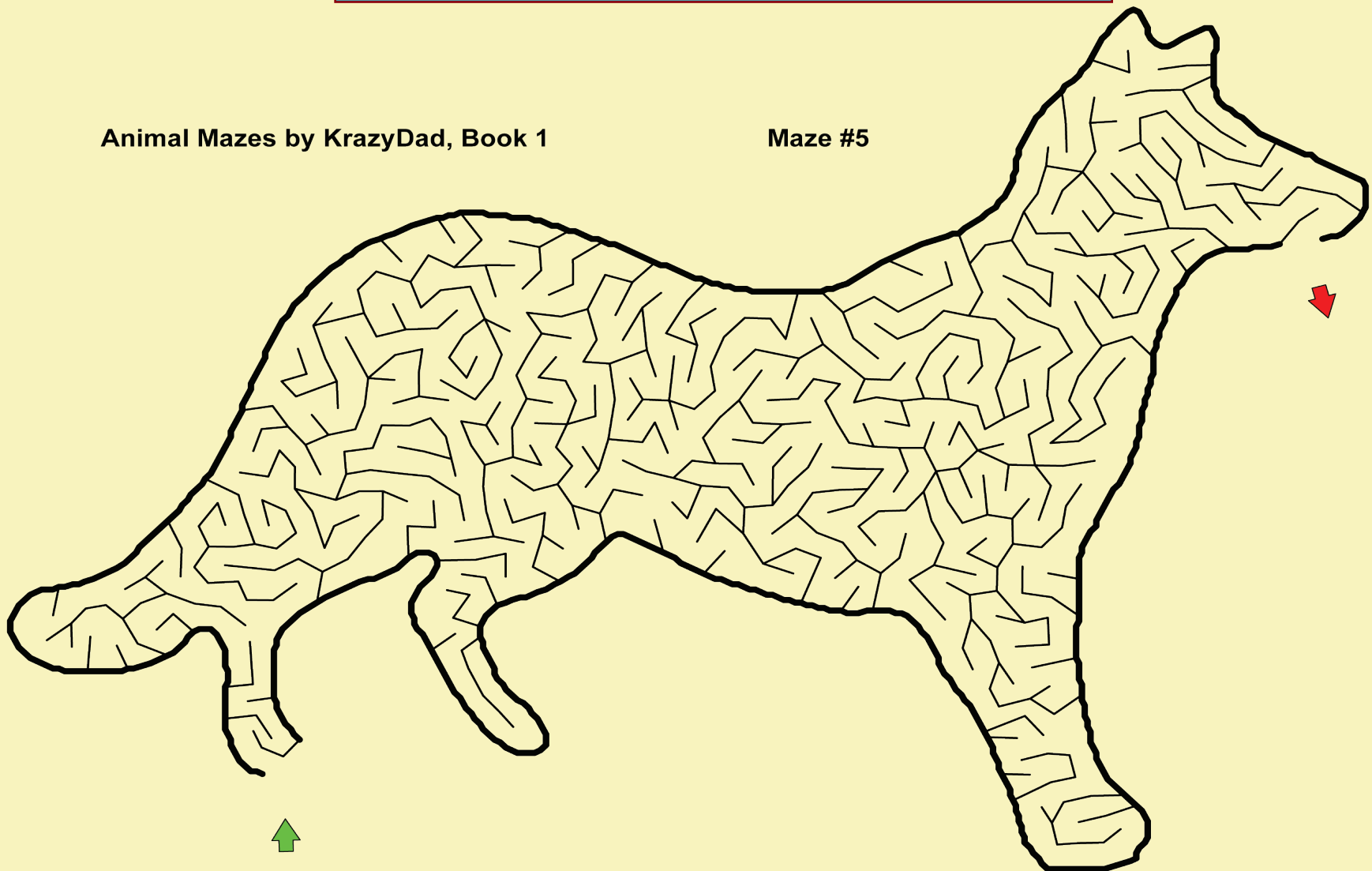
Which snail came from the boot?



# MAZE CRAZE

Animal Mazes by KrazyDad, Book 1

Maze #5



© 2010 KrazyDad.com

**KRAZYDAD.COM**  
Need the answer? <http://krazydad.com/mazes/answers>

## Living in the Light

by Marlin Carpenter

Sunlight falls all around, but it only produces growth where there are plants to receive it! The sun is always a welcome sight in the spring after seemingly endless months of cold, grey days. When we say the sun brightens our day, we mean it—both literally and figuratively. Many studies have shown that sunlight directly affects one's mood. In short, it stimulates the brain's production of serotonin, which is a hormone that increases mood. Sunshine makes us feel more alert and energetic. For plants, the sun is absolutely vital for life, and the process by which the plant utilizes sunlight is simply amazing!

We probably all learned about photosynthesis when we were in school. It is the process plants use to convert light energy into chemical energy. This energy will then be used for plant growth. During photosynthesis light works with the green pigment called chlorophyll in plant leaves. This process is beneficial to both plants and people because the plant uses water and carbon dioxide and then gives off oxygen. Without this process, life would cease.

Such is true of our spiritual lives as well. Our light is Jesus. In John 8:12 Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. If you follow me, you won't have to walk in darkness, because you will have the light that leads to life" (NLT). Without Christ, we walk in

darkness. Without Christ, we wither and die. Without Christ, we cannot grow. Without Christ, we do not truly live. Just like the sun's light, Christ's love and light is shed abroad and made available to all. "For the grace of God has been revealed, bringing salvation to all people" (Titus 2:11, NLT, emphasis added). We don't deserve The Light, but Titus 3 tells us that because of His mercy He will save us if we let His light in.

Once we, too, were foolish and disobedient. We were misled and became slaves to many lusts and pleasures. Our lives were full of evil and envy, and we hated each other. But—when God our Savior revealed his kindness and love, he saved us, not because of the righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He washed away our sins, giving us a new birth and new life through the Holy Spirit. He generously poured out the Spirit upon us through Jesus Christ our Savior. Because of his grace he declared us righteous and gave us confidence that we will inherit eternal life (Titus 3:3-7, NLT).

The sun doesn't pick and choose which plants to offer its light. It is simply shed on the entire earth and available to all who will receive.

Unfortunately, many do not choose the light. John 3:19-20 says, "This is the judgment, that the Light

**Living In the Light** cont. on page 11

### Be An Example cont. from page 1

leave an excellent example for those who will come after us. In 1 Corinthians 11:1 Paul tells us, "Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ."

Paul also tells us in Titus 2, that the "older" woman is to teach the "younger" woman. One of the best ways to do this is to be living a good example in front of them. There is always someone younger to whom we can be an example. Even teenagers can be mentors. My granddaughter Jordan is sixteen, and I know that there are young girls in her church that look up to her. This is an excellent time for her and for other teens to be positive, loving Christian examples to the younger girls.

When we have been a bad example, we need to acknowledge this, ask forgiveness and endeavor not to

repeat it.

We are being watched even if we do not realize it. I've had people I did not know come up to me and say, "You play the piano at Victory Baptist Church, don't you." This is why I always remind my kids' class on Wednesday night that we never know when people will be watching us and that we need to always remember that we are a walking testimony. We need to make sure that it is a testimony that would be pleasing to the Lord.

The song, *Be an Example*, by Joe Zichterman says, "For those behind us, let us stand within the gap and make a difference in their lives." What kind of example are we leaving behind? Are we making a difference in the lives of others? Can we say, like Paul, follow me as I am following Christ? ☺

## Cookin' Corner

by Donna Starkey

I recently found this recipe for breaded and baked chicken online and have revised it to be a low carb friendly dish. I made this recently and my husband and I both really enjoyed it. I believe that it would work well with sliced pork loin also.

### Baked Chicken

Chicken breasts (I started with 3 large breasts and cut each one into 3-5 pieces.) Place chicken pieces in a bowl with one cup of almond milk to soak for 20-30 minutes.

In a gallon baggie or bowl mix together the following spices:

½ teaspoon salt

1 tablespoon seasoned salt (I got mine from Kroger.)

¾ teaspoon pepper

2 teaspoons paprika

To this mixture add one cup of crushed pork rinds.

Preheat oven to 400 degrees.

Melt ½ stick butter in a 9 x 13 pan. Shake off excess milk and coat each piece of chicken with the mixture of seasoning and pork rinds. Place in the pan with melted butter making sure that the pieces do not touch.

Bake for 20 minutes, turn meat over and bake another 20 minutes.

This next recipe is not diet friendly by any stretch of the imagination, but it is really good. I have had this recipe for years and have seen it called by several different names—Chocolate Sheet Cake and Texas Sheet Cake are a couple.

### Chocolate Sheet Cake

In a large bowl, sift together:

2 cups sugar

2 cups flour

In a saucepan place, heat the following:

1 stick butter

½ cup Crisco

4 tablespoons cocoa

1 cup water

Bring these ingredients to a boil and pour over the sugar and flour mixture. Stir well and add:

½ cup buttermilk

1 teaspoon baking soda

2 eggs

1 teaspoon vanilla

1 teaspoon cinnamon

Pour cake batter into a greased 12X18 jelly roll pan. Bake for 20 minutes at 400 degrees.

### Icing for cake

5 minutes before cake is done put the following in a saucepan:

1 stick butter

4 tablespoons cocoa

6 tablespoons milk

Bring this mixture to a boil, remove from heat and add:

1 box powdered sugar

1 teaspoon vanilla

1 cup chopped pecans (optional)

Beat together and spread on cake while it is hot. Let cool and enjoy (at least a small piece).

*"Let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man"*  
(Colossians 4:6).



## Aging Gracefully “Grouchy Old People”

(A Satirical Look At Measuring Human Behavior In Old People)

by Morris Starkey

It’s a phrase familiar to us all. I have used it and you have probably used it—“grouchy old people.” Before I alienate all our readers (if I haven’t already done so), let’s take a look at this assessment and see where we ourselves might fall on what I will henceforth refer to as my “Upbeat-Grouchy Health Scale” (UGHS). NOTE: This is definitely not a behavior measuring tool recognized by the American Psychology Association (APA), nor is it found in the American Psychiatric Association’s Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSMM). It’s much too sophisticated for those folks.

The glory of UGHS is its simplicity—everybody starts at zero (0) on a continuum and can go either to the right (upbeat) or to the left (grouchy) based on a given situation. How simple is that?! The UGHS is unencumbered by the need for any reproducible evidence using the scientific method (aka the experimental method). It doesn’t employ any science and there are no experiments. Standard deviations from the norm? Forget that. This is just pure, unadulterated, gut-feeling non-science. Since this is (probably) much like how you were raised, it may ring familiar to you. What you discover about yourself on the UGHS today may not mean a thing tomorrow. You see, it depends on how you feel. You ladies will especially appreciate this aspect of the UGHS.

Let’s get started on four situations that you can use to measure your UGHS outcomes so that you can get a sense of where you are personality-wise and whether remedial help in changing behavior is even needed. It’s important to note that the UGHS doesn’t require you to bare your soul in the presence of any professionals, and your evaluations are not susceptible to the prying eyes of an untold number of office staff. You can figure out if you’re in need of help in the privacy of your own home.

**Situation #1:** It was one of those mornings you just couldn’t get your shoestrings tied.

A. Did you say to yourself, “Oh well, self, you don’t need them tied today anyway since you’re not going to the doctor”? Give yourself two positive points (+2 upbeat) on the scale. The UGHS thinks highly of reason-

able practicality. (Talking to yourself can be considered abnormal mental behavior in traditional psychology regimens, but in the course of the UGHS study it is not only acceptable, it may be beneficial! You feel better already, don’t you?)

B. Give yourself four positive points (+4 upbeat) if you decided to just go barefoot. (The UGHS values thinking outside the norms of social expectations, and its designer was a hillbilly.)

C. Did you blame shoemakers for designing an article of clothing that only fits a part of your body that is way too far to reach in the first place? Give yourself a negative ten (-10 grouchy). No explanation needed, but you should get help—soon.

**Situation #2:** You accidentally “Wet Yourself While Giggling” (WYWG) at a joke.

A. Did you get upset and blame yourself? Give yourself a negative one (-1 grouchy). There is no need to blame yourself; some jokes are just that funny.

B. If you blamed someone else, give yourself a negative four (-4 grouchy). You are definitely in need of therapy. Blame shifting is not rewarded in the UGHS study.

C. If, however, you had loaned your pants to someone else and it happened, give yourself a positive three (+3 upbeat) since loaning articles of clothing to those who pose a definite “WYWG” risk factor is considered bravery in the UGHS study.

**Situation #3:** You were nominated as a candidate in the annual King/Queen contest at the local senior citizens center, but you lost in the run-off vote.

A. You took it with a humble spirit, even though you dearly wanted to win, and repeatedly verbalized your congratulations to your competitor with the statement, “Oh, I’m so glad you won! You are such a beautiful person, inside and out!” Give yourself six positive points (+6 upbeat).

B. If you truly meant what you said in A (above), give yourself ten (+10 upbeat) points. Be honest, as the UGHS is craftily designed to catch you in a lie.

C. If you outwardly showed grace but occasionally mumbled things like,

*Aging Gracefully cont. on page 11*

## The Grace of God

by Leann Wilson

Grace—“charis”—the acceptance of and goodness towards those who cannot earn it and do not deserve it; it is the unmerited favor of God. In His grace there is mercy and forgiveness. It is His gift to those of faith—you need only believe. True faith in Jesus changes your heart and leads to repentance; this is salvation for the soul! “Who is a God like You, Pardoning iniquity And passing over the transgression of the remnant of His heritage? He does not retain His anger forever, Because He delights in mercy” (Micah 7:18, NKJV). “For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God” (Rom. 3:23), but God has demonstrated His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us (Romans 5:8).

For all who have made an idol of money and possessions, and for all who have doubted, and for any who have shunned and scoffed—there is grace waiting for you. For all who have concerned themselves with the speck in his brother’s eye while perceiving not their own plank—there is grace at hand. For the glutton, for the greedy and the selfish—there is grace for this. For the one who has murdered his brother with hatred and those with accusing lips and deceitful tongues, for those who would throw the stone that would crush or dig the pit which would ensnare—there is grace available for the asking. For the adulterer and the immoral, for the whore-monger and the drunkard—there is grace for that. For the ravenous wolf disguised as a sheep and for the one who would make gain of the Word for filthy lucre—there is grace for that. For the disobedient and for those who have been made ashamed, for the one who speaks with an evil tongue and the one with foolish lips that would promote ignorant disputes inciting strife—there is grace that has been purchased for you. For those struggling with contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, backbitings, whisperings, conceits, and tumults—there is grace in abundance available. For the proud and the boastful, and for those without a heart of forgiveness, for those who have cursed the light and the children who walk in it while embracing the darkness and bound in iniquity, for the thief and the murderer, for those that abuse mankind—an offer of grace has been extended. And yes, for any who have harmed the unborn child—there

is grace attainable. For the vilest of sins that go beyond words—grace has been brought down from the throne and purchased for you by Jesus himself, humble and obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross (Phil. 2:8). For those who have placed themselves on the throne of God—there is grace, grace upon grace because the pardon has been obtained by His blood!

Have faith in Him who has saved us from Sin, for “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness” (1 John 1:9, NKJV). He will blot out your transgressions and remember your sins no more (Isaiah 43:25). You only need to repent; “repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out” (Acts 3:19, NKJV). Being made whole and reconciled to God, you can walk in the newness of life for “if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new” (2 Corinthians 5:17, NKJV). But, do not take this newness as a license to willfully continue in sin, for he who regards iniquity in his heart will not enter into His grace. Where sin abounds, grace abounds much more (Romans 5:20), but “shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? Certainly not” (Romans 6:1-2, NKJV)! In the love of God there is obedience; “reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body, that you should obey it in its lusts. And do not present your members as instruments of unrighteousness to sin, but present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God” (Romans 6:11-13, NKJV). Remember, “Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, and to keep oneself unspotted from the world” (James 1:27, NKJV).

“Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ’s behalf, be reconciled to God. For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him” (2 Corinthians 5:20-21, NKJV)! “And of His fullness we have all received, and grace for grace. For the law was given through Moses, but grace and truth

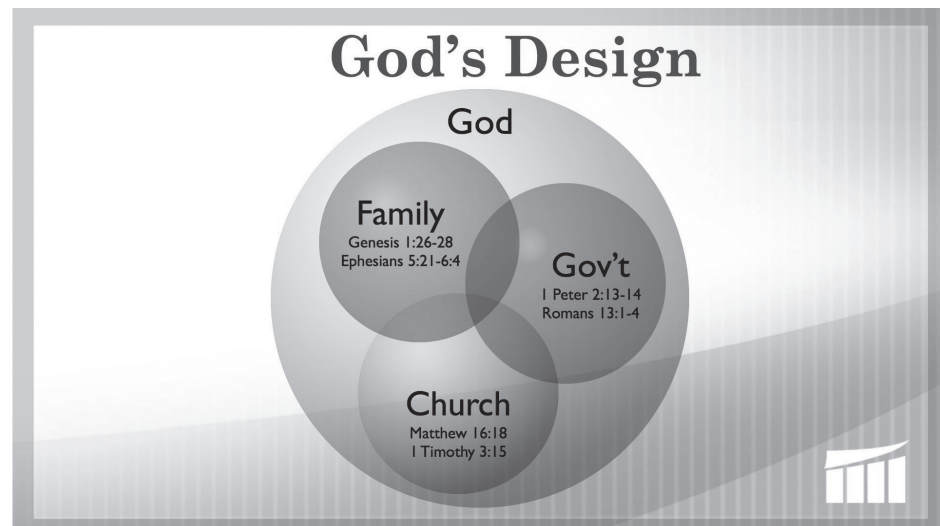
*The Grace of God cont. on page 10*

**The Grace of God** *cont. from page 9*

came through Jesus Christ" (John 1:16-17, NKJV). God desires none to perish but that all should come to repentance (2 Peter 3:9). Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved (Acts 16:31)!

"Today, if you will hear His voice, Do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion" (Hebrews 3:15, NKJV). Je-

sus beckons: "Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light" (Matthew 11:28-30, NKJV). ☺

**Choosing a Church** *cont. from page 3*

The last verse deals with the third purpose of a church; it is a place to serve other believers. God has gifted Christians for the purpose of building each other up in the faith.

"And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ" (Ephesians 4:11-12, AV).

"But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal" (1 Corinthians 12:7, AV).

Christians need to come together to use their spiritual gifts to serve in the church. In the process of serving, you build up other Christians as well as yourself. The church is a place to worship, be strengthened in the faith, and to serve. With that in mind you should choose a church based on Biblical criteria and not on the bases of something else. You should choose a church then that makes preaching and teaching the Bible a priority. All worship and edification is based on sound Bible preaching and teaching.

"But if all prophesy, and there come in one that believeth not, or one unlearned, he is convinced of all, he is judged of all" (1 Corinthians 14:24, AV).

Prophecy is the declaration of the Word of God; in this dispensation it is the clear declaration of the Bible in teaching and preaching. In our day many churches are substituting drama

and or music for the main ministry of the church. But in the New Testament you do not see that emphasis; it is the preaching and teaching of the Word of God that is prominent. Pick a church that holds the Bible in high esteem.

Secondly, you need to pick a church that gives you an opportunity to serve. You need to ask God to direct you to a group of believers where you can use your spiritual gifts to serve. Many people look for a church today that will serve them, but the church is a place where you can serve. In serving you will be blessed. The church is not a place of entertainment; it is a place of enlistment in a spiritual battle.

The third consideration should be based on the gospel message. The gospel message is about Christ, who He is and what He has done. Christ is God incarnate (come in the flesh) who lived a perfect life and then died for sin. But He did not die for his sin; He died for your sin. If you place your faith in Him, He will save you from the penalty, power, and one day the presence of sin. That is the gospel message, the only hope for mankind to obtain eternal life. You should look for a church that preaches the gospel message without compromise.

Choose a church that holds the Bible in high esteem, a church where you can serve, and a church that preaches the gospel message. If you do this, you and your family will be blessed. ☺

**Announcement to Our Readers**

This issue is the last issue of *Faith & Family News* as a printed publication. We appreciate having been a part of your Christian experience and hope you have in some way profited from the content of this paper for the more than four years we have existed in this hard copy format. Our sponsoring church Victory Baptist Church is focusing the Faith & Family News resources in another direction geared more to evangelizing. Our Faith & Family "brand" will still be around to reflect the outreach activities of VBC. As editor, I have enjoyed talking with many of you on the phone and each summer at our booth at the Howard County Fair. We will still be at the Victory Baptist Church booth with news and announcements of activities that we will be sponsoring at VBC.

As editor, I will be sending out an abbreviated (2-4 pages) email edition with a variety of things of interest to those who might be interested in upcoming events and activities of our host church. If you would like to receive this, simply contact me at editorfaithandfamily@gmail.com. On behalf of our F&FN team and myself, thank you from the bottom of our hearts for your readership and your prayers. We hope we have made a difference.

The Editor and Staff,  
Faith & Family News

**FAFN Supporters For This Issue**

24 Hour Emergency Service  
www.kokomorooter.com  
765.453.4050  
800.GET.ROTO (438.7686)

**WEL-DON POTS**

Portable Toilets  
Handicap Accessible  
Hand Wash Units

2402 S. Goyer Road  
Kokomo, IN 46902  
765.868.4202  
Call for Free Delivery & Pickup  
Serving Howard and Surrounding Counties



3700B S. LaFountain St. • Kokomo, IN 46902  
765-453-4417

www.momshomemadepies.com



**Aging Gracefully** *cont. from page 4*

“Isn’t it wonderful that they are now designing style in the larger sizes,” or “It’s amazing what a little rouge can do for those who need it, though I personally prefer the fresh-faced look of my youth.” Give yourself negative seven (-7 grouchy) and reread B (above).

**Situation #4:** The last open handicapped parking space was illegally taken, just as you were about to get it, by a teenager driving his/her grandparent’s car.

A. As the appearing-to-be-the-epitome-of-healthiness teen hopped out, waving at some friends and skipping into the store, did you think, “That poor young person obviously has a serious health issue invisible to the untrained observer, but I am going to pray for him/her”? Give yourself positive five (+5 upbeat) points. Though you are delusional, the UGHS appreciates an application of spiritual principles even in the face of evidence to the contrary.

B. You prayed, as in A (above), but it was in the form of a vengeful prayer that the unblemished teen would be struck with a serious case of leprosy—

immediately. Give yourself a negative eight (-8 grouchy). Again, the UGHS appreciates utilizing biblical and spiritual principles, but this kind of praying goes against the “Vengeance is mine, saith the Lord” principle.

C. Give yourself a positive nine (+9 upbeat) if you found another parking spot and while walking past the offender’s car, you left a gospel tract or an invitation to revival services at your church. Subtract as many positive points as is appropriate if the literature you left under the wipers suggests, “All those who art healthy, yea robustly so, but parketh illegally in handicapped spaces shalt not inherit the kingdom of heaven.”

That’s it folks. A good assessment will leave you in the positive (upbeat) area of the scale. If you landed in the negative (grouchy) area of the scale, perhaps you should think about your outlook on life and then take the assessment again tomorrow. It could make a difference. Humor can be healthy to the body as we endeavor to age *gracefully*. ☺

## You Know How God Feels

Been falsely accused of the most awful things?

Then you know how God feels.

Does it hurt when people don't trust you?

Then you know how God feels.

Been taken for granted?

Then you know how God feels.

**Living In the Light** *cont. from page 8*

has come into the world, and men loved the darkness rather than the Light, for their deeds were evil. For everyone who does evil hates the Light, and does not come to the Light for fear that his deeds will be exposed.” A plant can suffer from lack of light caused by its environment. Other plants or structures may block the light that the plant needs to grow. We also can find ourselves surrounded with people or things that diminish and inhibit the Light from having its full effect on our lives.

At times a plant, such as a houseplant, may be in a position where it is difficult to receive light, but its surroundings reflect the sun’s light making it possible for it to still receive its necessary light. There are many who are living in darkness in the world

about us. They have found themselves in places where the Light has been blocked out and shunned. This is why God calls us to be a reflection of His Light! Matthew 5:14 states, “You are the light of the world—like a city on a hilltop that cannot be hidden. No one lights a lamp and then puts it under a basket. Instead, a lamp is placed on a stand, where it gives light to everyone in the house” (NLT). Jesus is the light, but we are to be a reflection of that light to the world so that others may see.

A plant that is established in the sunlight will grow, flourish and be healthy. It will produce new leaves, new flowers, and new fruit. If you want to have a fruitful, meaningful, and abundant life, stay in the Light! ☺

**Greatest News** *cont. from page 4*

Before you become a child of God there is a sense of helplessness, and perhaps even, at times, hopelessness. You have a sense of unease concerning life in general, and certainly concerning eternity. However, a child of God knows that even if we die, God is still in control and promises an eternity with Him.

Then we come to the local church. God has left us instructions to fellowship with other believers. We are to teach God’s Word and evangelize our community. We need to fellowship with other believers for encouragement and accountability. The local church is to be a living, growing organism perpetuating the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the world.

Much of the New Testament was written as a guide to the local church for organization and function. Certainly, there is much disagreement as to the specifics of that organization and the function of the local church. However, the fact remains that the local church is meant to be the vehicle for personal growth until the Lord takes us home.

So, now you may be wondering, “What do I need to do to become a child of God?” I’m glad you asked. In a sense, it is the easiest thing to do. You must simply repent of your sin and believe the Gospel facts. While it may be easy to give mental assent to the facts about Jesus, it may, however, be difficult to humble yourself concerning your sin and inability to atone for it.

The facts of the Gospel are pretty straight forward. Jesus was born of a virgin in order to avoid inheriting the sin nature. He lived a perfect life, and was crucified in order to pay for the

sin of the entire world. The Jewish people sacrifice a spotless lamb to pay for their sins; Jesus claims to be that perfect Lamb of God.

All you have to do is believe you are a hopeless and helpless sinner. You must come to realize the essence of sin is self-lordship, not simply doing bad things. You realize there is no way you deserve to enter into the presence of a holy God because of your personal rebellion against Him. However, Jesus offers Himself as a sacrifice for your sins. Just simply ask God to forgive you of your sin based on what Jesus did for you, not what you have done to earn salvation.

It’s vital to understand repentance involves the act of turning from your life of self-lordship and sin, which only leads to a life of misery and ultimately an eternity in Hell. You now want to follow in the footsteps of Jesus. You want to be molded into His image. The question is no longer, what do I want? The question now becomes, what do you want me to do, Lord?

The New Testament writers speak of becoming a new person. You have a new outlook, new desires, new thoughts, and ultimately, new actions to match those of your new parentage.

Since God has promised to save anyone who humbles himself and trusts Jesus, you can know for certain that you have a life awaiting you in Heaven forever. But this wonderful fact is not because of anything that you have done, but simply because there is a God in Heaven Who has promised to save all those who turn to Jesus for salvation.

Please, repent of your sin and trust Jesus Christ to save you. And He will! ☺



**Truth without Love,  
Repentance without Grace,  
Obedience without Mercy,  
Works without Faith,**

*Are just as wrong as...*

**Love without Truth,  
Grace without Repentance,  
Mercy without Obedience,  
Faith without Works.**





YOU'RE INVITED



610 West Alto Road • Kokomo, IN 46902 • (765) 453-9768

Pastor Mike Ennis

**Sunday**

Prayer & Praise Hour..8:00 a.m.

Faith & Family Hour...9:00 a.m.

Worship & Word .....10:00 a.m.

(Carry-in dinner every 4th Sunday of the month)

**Wednesday**

Adult Bible Study..... 7:00 p.m.

Children's Class..... 7:00 p.m.

(Ages 3 - 6th grade)

Teens' Class ..... 7:00 p.m.

(7th grade - high school)



## Do you need counseling?

Victory Baptist Church offers

**FREE counseling**

to families and individuals.

Call 453-9768 for information or to set up an appointment.

### God's Simple Plan of Salvation

**The Bible says there is only one way to Heaven.**

*Jesus said: I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father but by me (John 14:6).*

**Good works cannot save you.**

*For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast (Ephesians 2:8-9).*

**Admit you are a sinner.**

*For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God (Romans 3:23).*

**Be willing to turn from sin (repent).**

*Jesus said: I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish (Luke 13:5).*

**Believe that Jesus Christ died for you, was buried, and rose from the dead.**

*For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life (John 3:16).*

*But God commendeth [demonstrated] his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us (Romans 5:8).*

*That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved (Romans 10:9).*

**Through prayer, invite Jesus into your life to become your personal Saviour.**

*For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation (Romans 10:10).*

*For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved (Romans 10:13).*



## Victory Christian Academy

is

*Biblical Education Reform*

[vcaknights.com](http://vcaknights.com)

### K-12 Day School & Home School

Accredited Diplomas Available

*A Ministry of Victory Baptist Church*

*Call 453-9768 for more information.*