

Magazine **New Wine**®

June 1985

The Family: It's Worth Fighting For

How to defeat the devil in life's toughest arena

Spiritual Warfare in the Home

Don Basham

Will the Family Survive?

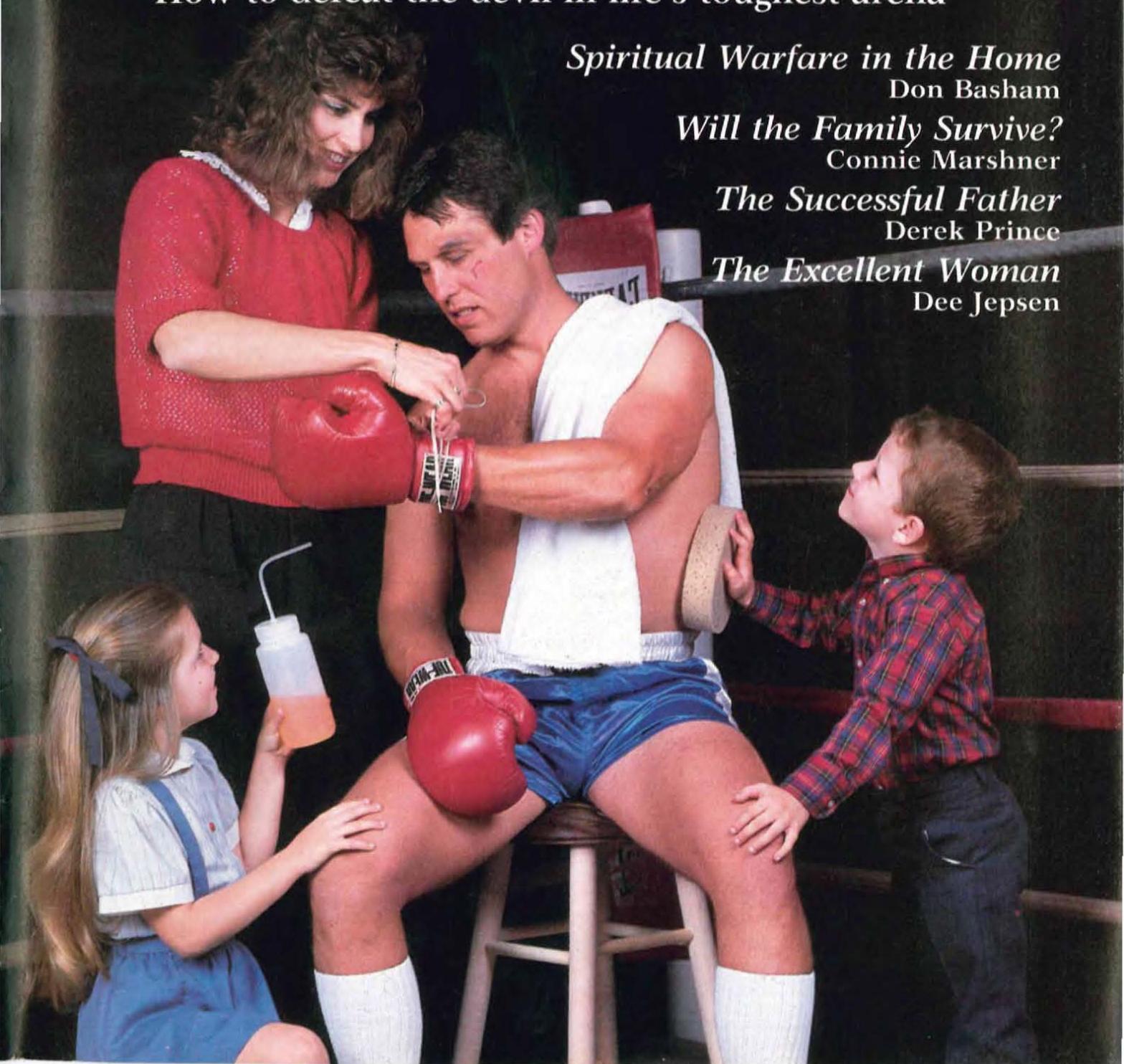
Connie Marshner

The Successful Father

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The Excellent Woman

Dee Jepsen



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Cover Photograph:
Jimmy Ncaise

Everyone needs a shelter from life's storms

"A Man's Home Is His Refuge"

BY BRUCE LONGSTRETH

One's home is the safest refuge to everyone" *The Pandects, A.D. 533.*

The concept of a place of refuge dates back to Old Testament times when cities were set aside for those who had accidentally taken a life and were being pursued by a vengeful relative (see Deuteronomy 19:4-6).

The Greeks and Romans also had cities of refuge, and the church under Constantine was a place where the innocent could flee and await a fair trial. But the privilege became so abused that justice could no longer be served, and havens were finally abolished.

Although the idea of a refuge foreshadowed the coming of Jesus—the true source of refuge for the sinner who repents from sin—there is yet another practical and everyday place of refuge for us—the family.

The average man heading for home after a hard day at the office envisions his house as the place where he can hide out from the pressure of his work. Good day or bad, he knows when he enters his own home, he can kick off his shoes, take a deep breath, and relax. Refuge! This is true not only for the husband, but also for his wife, children, and all who

live in his home. Here they should be safe from all the tensions of the outside world. Here they can gather strength and encouragement for another day.

But like the cities of refuge, our home and family may suffer abuse. There is often as much pressure and conflict in the home as outside it, and many who once found refuge there must turn to other places and relationships.

If our home is not the city of refuge it should be, we may need—as Nehemiah did—to examine its walls and resolve to rebuild what has decayed. When this becomes a priority, we will face our own taunting Sanballat and Tobiah, men who opposed Nehemiah, who will say: "The family and home are doomed and can't survive."

But to their insults, our response should be, "This is a great work and I won't stop!"

In this issue of *New Wine*, we want to encourage you to "fight back," to take a stand as a family, and to maintain your place of refuge at any cost. To make sure we fight the right enemies, Don Basham reminds us that the biggest threats to the family are spiritual; they come from the devil and his host, and we must

not be embarrassed or fearful to take decisive action in Jesus' name against them.

Next, we look at fathers. Derek Prince warns us that if a dad succeeds at everything else but fails as head of the home, the Lord considers him a failure.

Connie Marshner then cautions that if we fail to provide solid family life, the vacuum will be filled by some outside force—the police, the government, the social engineers, or more laws from Congress. If not properly tended, our refuge will be tended by others. We place it in continual jeopardy by our abuses.

Modern-day confusion about the roles of men and women adds fuel to the devil's fire. Dee Jensen gives a timely challenge as she calls all women to excellence—whether they work at home, outside the home, or both. Fulfillment for every believer is being the very best you can unto the Lord.

Finally, in a word for parents, Max Heine encourages us to count our children not as burdens, which the enemy would have us do, but as blessings from God.

The old idea of cities of refuge has largely passed from the scene—and the traditional family is in similar danger. We trust this issue of *New Wine* will put tools in the hands of fathers, mothers, and children to help rebuild and maintain family walls. The final outcome for the families of this generation is still in doubt. God grant that we embrace and contend for His original intention for the home. □



Bruce Longstreth is editor of *New Wine* and *Fathergram*.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



Dear New Wine

Participating in Prayer

I felt Bruce Longstreth's article "Prayer Meeting in Progress" (April) was right on target. As we labor to encourage God's people in prayer, we too are sensing the Holy Spirit encouraging God's people to participate. Too many are under guilt and condemnation concerning prayer. And some have turned intercessory prayer into an elitist holier-than-thou club. All the redeemed are to function as a kingdom of priests. It is our inheritance to communicate with, fellowship, and petition our Lord.

How liberating to realize we can participate in prayer rather than feeling like we must muster it up. Thanks for an excellent and encouraging article.

Gary Bergel

Director, Research & Education
Intercessors for America

Importance of Sensitivity

I wholeheartedly agree with everything in "An Empowered Evangelist" (May) and especially the part about only witnessing to those the Holy Spirit directs us to. I believe a lot of harm has been done by those who are not sensitive to His leading. I also strongly agree with staying with those led to Christ and discipling them. This was one of the weak areas in the church I grew up in.

Kathryn Stephens
Pascagoula, MS

Every Child Is Valuable

I was deeply moved by "The Day Nathan Drowned," by Cindy Miller (May). As a mother of two boys, I could sympathize with her. My oldest son is my natural son. The youngest is a foster son. I never really mean to be prejudiced, but at times I am. This article touched something very deep inside my heart. It

makes me evaluate just how much every child we have is valuable and indispensable because God has brought them into our lives for a very special reason. Thanks, *New Wine*, for helping us grow on the inside.

Monica Singletary
Thibodaux, LA

Remember the Visitors

"A Hug From Sister Wilma" (May) brought back so many memories of my first steps in the charismatic movement. The first visit to a Pentecostal church for someone of "high" Presbyterian background was a most traumatic experience. I went home with a splitting headache from the noise and from the nervousness of being forced to the front for an altar call after the preacher as a last resort called for the whole congregation to respond. After so many years we forget what a shock our worship and responses are to the newcomers. The article reminds me to be more sensitive to visitors. Thanks for a great lesson taught in a humorous vein.

Jane Dorsey
Gautier, MS

Honesty With God

I experienced a real release of the Spirit reading how Robert Grant shared his honesty with God ("Grace for the Impossible," April). The entire Easter issue was exceptional, and I "thought you'd like to know."

Mrs. E. L. Swartzentruber
Schuyler, VA

Eyes to See

You did it again! I've been experiencing some things I thought were unfair—and the whole April issue spoke to me. I needed to see with spiritual eyes, trust God in the valley, hear the hard sayings, and ask God to give me His strength and joy in the midst of trouble. And He's doing it. God is changing me in places where I had no hope.

Clara Hazelwood
Nashville, TN

Help for the Transition

Just a note of gratitude to express to you our appreciation for the ministry of *New Wine*. As missionaries newly arrived in a remote area on foreign soil, we crave the spiritual input you provide, particularly because language barriers still limit our comprehension of local services. Hence, *New Wine* provides a rich diet that sustains us during our time of transition.

Ben & Mary Jane Newcomer
Alta Verapaz, Guatemala

Please address all letters to "Dear New Wine," P.O. Box Z, Mobile, AL 36616

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No matter how tough the challenge, God offers

Grace for Parents in Time of Need

BY DICK LEGGATT

I don't know why, but the shower is one of the places where God speaks to me most clearly.

I vividly remember a morning three years ago when God said something to me in the shower that caught me totally by surprise. It was just before our fourth child was born, and with three sons already, our pattern seemed pretty well set. With genuine joy, my wife and I awaited the arrival of yet another boy. Of course, we had entertained occasional thoughts of "pink," but both of us kept those thoughts under control.

In the shower that morning, God impressed upon me that I ought to prepare for the possibility of a baby girl. Somewhat surprised, my first thought was, *How will I be a father to a daughter when I've only had experience with sons?*

As ridiculous as the question was, I struggled with it until I realized that the answer was the same for, how will I be a father to a son? And how will I be a father to a teenager? And every other anxious question rooted in my feelings of inadequacy. The answer? The grace of God. It's a simple, but important truth: We

need God's grace.

Most of us recognize grace as the free, undeserved gift of God to save us (see Ephesians 2:8-9 and 2 Timothy 1:9). Grace, however, is much more than a gift—it is also God's power to do what He has called us to do. Without daily grace, our best efforts fall short even in our areas of expertise. This is especially true of parenting. Without God's grace, parenting is only "giving it our best shot" with no hope of help beyond ourselves. God's grace on our efforts makes the difference.

Our hope as parents comes from trusting God for "grace to help in time of need" (Heb. 4:16 NAS). Most parents will admit from beginning to end raising children is a "time of need."

What steps can we take to walk in God's grace? Many could be suggested, but here are four that will give us a start:

1. *Affirm.* We should remind ourselves that God's grace not only saves us, but daily equips us to be parents.
2. *Admit.* We must let God know that our best efforts to be good parents are inadequate without His grace.
3. *Ask.* Through daily prayer, ask God's help to provide the

balance of love and discipline our children need.

4. *Act.* Give love and discipline to our children, believing that God's grace will make up the difference when we make mistakes or don't see the desired results.

Meanwhile, after the shower, I kept the word about a daughter to myself. Two weeks later my wife, Cindi, and I were in the delivery room, and we heard the doctor say those beautiful words, "It's a girl!" Cindi sat up on the delivery table and joyfully exulted, "You're kidding! Praise God!"

But he wasn't kidding, and we were soon holding little Elizabeth Anne. Her name means "consecrated to God in grace," which is more than coincidental with any anxious thought I might have had (or still may have on occasion) about how to be a father to a daughter. Her name reminds me that I too must be "consecrated to God" in the grace that He alone can supply for me to be her dad.

All parents must have that same reliance. In the end, grace, and grace alone, is the key to being the parents that God expects us to be. □



Dick Leggatt, a former editor of New Wine, lives in East Lansing, Michigan, with his wife, Cindi, and their four children.

For more on successful fathering, you may be interested in *Fathergram*, a monthly newsletter that provides insights, tips, and testimonials from fathers who care about their families. To subscribe, see the special *Fathergram* box on the response form on page 19.

THE WORD

June 1985

I Believe in the Holy Spirit, Whose Presence in the Lives of Faithful Men and Women Throughout History Has Unfolded God's Redemptive Plan.

I. The Patriarchs		
A. Joseph	Gen. 41:1-57	June 1
B. Bezalel	Ex. 35:4-36:7	June 2
C. Moses	Num. 11:1-35	June 3
D. Caleb	Num. 14:1-45	June 4
E. Joshua	Num. 27:12-23	June 5
II. The Judges		
A. Othniel	Judg. 2:6-3:11	June 6
B. Ehud	Judg. 3:12-30	June 7
C. Deborah	Judg. 4:1-24	June 8
D. Gideon	Judg. 6:1-7:25	June 9
E. Jephthah	Judg. 11:1-40	June 10
F. Samson	Judg. 13:24-16:31	June 11
G. Samuel	1 Sam. 3:1-21; 7:2-17	June 12
III. The Kings		
A. Saul	1 Sam. 10:1-11:15	June 13
B. David	1 Sam. 16:1-23	June 14
C. Solomon	1 Ki. 3:1-28; 4:29-34	June 15
D. Hezekiah	2 Ki. 18:1-8; 19:14-37	June 16
E. Asa	2 Chr. 15:1-19	June 17
F. Jehoshaphat	2 Chr. 17:1-19; 20:1-30	June 18
G. Cyrus	Is. 44:1-45:14; 2 Chr. 36:22-23	June 19
IV. The Prophets		
A. Aaron	Ex. 6:28-7:24	June 20
B. Balaam	Num. 24:1-25	June 21
C. Micaiah	1 Ki. 22:1-39	June 22
D. Ezekiel	Ezek. 1:1-2:10	June 23
E. Daniel	Dan. 5:1-31	June 24
F. Zechariah	Lk. 1:67-80	June 25
G. John the Baptist	Lk. 7:18-35	June 26
V. The Ministers of the New Covenant		
A. Philip, the evangelist	Acts 8:26-40	June 27
B. Stephen, the deacon	Acts 6:1-7:60	June 28
C. Agabus, the prophet	Acts 11:27-29; 21:10-15	June 29
D. Barnabas, the apostle	Acts 11:19-26	June 30

A monthly Bible study by Bruce Longstreth

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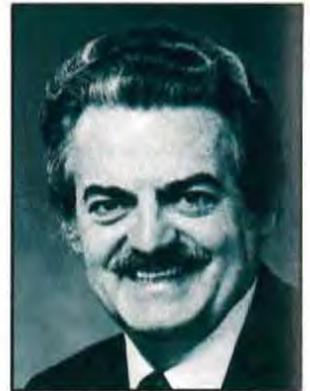


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—Charles Simpson

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—Bob Mumford



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Without praise and worship many Christians miss the joy of the Lord's presence. We want to help God's people become what He desires most of all—worshippers in spirit and truth. We hope HOSANNA! will be a rich source of musical inspiration that will help you enter more fully into praise and worship.



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SPIRITUAL WARFARE IN THE HOME

When the enemy attacks our families, we don't have to run and hide. Here's how to gain the victory.

BY DON BASHAM

The Scriptures frequently remind us that to be faithful Christians we must be prepared to wage war. In Ephesians 6:10-11 Paul says,

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes (NIV).

Yet after almost twenty years of ministry in the realm of spiritual warfare, I am more convinced than ever that Christians suffer needless injury or defeat simply because they refuse to admit that their families are targets of satanic attack. I have counseled and prayed with many whose contributions to the church and the community are outstanding, but who privately admit life at home often resembles a nightmare.

"No one knows what our family is going through!" they say to me. "Why is it that when our greatest desire is to be faithful Christians, we have so many problems at home?"

From their experience and my own times of testing, I'm convinced that Satan's favorite target of spiritual warfare is the Christian family.

Even so, many Christians are still reluctant to declare war against Satan. "I don't like to think about the devil or demons" is the usual excuse. "I just want to follow Jesus." Nothing delights the devil more than for Christians to ignore him or blame his evil attacks on something or someone else. That leaves him free and unhindered in all his evil schemes.

But to follow Jesus fully means that we do what Jesus did. That includes waging aggressive war against Satan and all his evil host. Mark tells us the reason Jesus chose twelve apostles from among the crowds following Him was "that they might be with him and that he might send them out to preach and to have authority to drive out demons" (Mk. 3:14-15 NIV, italics mine).

The Bible *never* says we're to ignore Satan; rather we are to oppose him. "Submit yourselves, then, to God. *Resist* the devil, and he will flee from you" (Jas. 4:7 NIV, italics mine).

Nevertheless millions of Christians who seek faithfully to submit to God have all kinds of problems resisting Satan. Much more than we know, Satan and his evil spirits are responsible for

the tensions, divisions, hatred, and often violence that erupt in Christian families.

Once, as I witnessed the deliverance of two teenage girls, there was a dramatic confrontation between the demons that tormented them. The demons took control of the girls' voices and began to rage and swear at each other. Then the Holy Spirit seemed to say to me, "I've let you witness this to show you the true source of hatred and strife. All over the world, between individuals and families, even between nations, such demon-inspired confrontations are going on. The people involved blame each other, but their real enemy is the devil and his demons, as you see here."

In my years of ministry, I have seen three basic tactics that Satan uses in his attack on Christian families.

Destroying Divine Authority

The first tactic the devil uses is to destroy divine authority in the home. The family originated with God. God could have peopled the earth in many different ways. He could have grown us on trees or spawned us like fish. Instead He "created man in His own image, male and female." When He joined Adam and Eve

in the covenant of marriage, He told them to be fruitful, fill the earth, and rule over it (see Genesis 1:27-28). The family plays an essential role in God's plan to govern the earth. History tells us that entire nations have collapsed when they have ignored the basic structure of the family.

The enemy's initial attack on mankind was an assault on the first family. Satan's temptation of Adam and Eve successfully disrupted the divine order of family life. He tricked Eve into assuming leadership of the family. He mesmerized Adam into abdicating his role as protector and head of his home. This tragic reversal of roles led to a breakdown of authority in the home that resulted in rebellion, disobedience, and broken fellowship with God.

The reversal of husband-wife roles reveals what I call the Jezebel-Ahab Syndrome. It is a major factor in the spiritual warfare being waged against the family. The story of King Ahab and his wicked wife, Jezebel, is recorded in 1 Kings chapters 16-22 and 2 Kings chapters 9-10. King Ahab was weak, petulant, childish, and indecisive—all the things a husband, father, and king should not be. His wife, Jezebel, was arrogant, immoral, ambitious, and eager to usurp her husband's authority—all the things a godly wife should never be.

Although Ahab and Jezebel lived thousands of years ago, the demonic spirits manifesting their qualities continue to harass, torment, and at times, even invade the personalities of good Christian men and women. The Ahab spirit goads men into abdicating their God-given, masculine role as leader and protector, while the Jezebel spirit seduces women into rebellion or clever manipulation of their husbands to achieve their own ends. The Jezebel spirit's major goal is the spiritual



A large percentage of children's programming is loaded with occult themes.

emasculatation of the male and the usurpation of his authority and role. The feminist movement in America is rampant with this spirit!

To make matters worse, Christian couples struggling with marital problems are usually not even aware of how they are being victimized by these two spirits. Weak husbands who willingly abdicate their leadership may defend their decision as "recognizing my wife's strengths" or "allowing my wife to follow her leading in the Lord." And women driven by the Jezebel influence may decide, "My husband isn't spiritually qualified to lead the family." Or they may feel they

have no other option when they say to themselves, "My husband has his career, so I must assume the spiritual headship of the family."

Husbands reading this article should ask themselves, "Am I guilty of abdicating my God-given role as father and leader of my family?" Wives likewise can ask, "Do I manipulate or dominate my husband? Am I frequently critical of his leadership in the home?"

If the answer to these questions is yes, then confession and repentance are in order, and if necessary, prayer for deliverance from those specific evil spirits. Because in many cases those

problems are passed on from generation to generation, prayers to break ancestral curses and hexes may also be needed. Any believer praying in faith can successfully cut or annul any such unholy tie with past generations without harming the good, healthy aspects of family heritage.

Occult Involvement

The second tactic the devil uses to destroy the family is occult involvement. The second commandment states:

"You shall not make for yourself an idol in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath . . . You shall not bow down to them or worship them" (Ex. 20:4-5 NIV).

It seems ridiculous to think that any sincere Christian would worship idols or keep them in his home. Unfortunately, idolatry is more prevalent than we think—we just fail to recognize it. *No idols in your home*, you say? What about that little fat statue of Buddha—the one whose tummy you pat for "good luck"? And what about those strange-looking African masks that decorate your family room wall? Or that brass incense burner you bought as a souvenir of your trip to Hong Kong—the one with the weird dragons carved on the sides?

Souvenirs? *No! They are idols!* Each one was originally fashioned for use in worship of a pagan god. Evil spirits actually come and inhabit such objects to receive the superstitious worship of those who first owned them. It doesn't matter that you innocently bought them as souvenirs; the demons are still there, exerting their oppressive, tormenting influence.

Dozens of times through the years we have been prevailed

upon to "exorcise" some home or office where there was a strange or oppressive atmosphere, or where disturbing influences seemed to harass and trouble the occupants. In almost every case we found items of idolatrous origin on the premises—statues, carvings, pictures or wall ornaments, even books representing "other gods." Once the offending items were destroyed and fervent prayer in the name of Jesus was offered—prayers commanding all evil spirits to depart and prayers asking the premises to be protected with the shed blood of Jesus Christ—the "haunting" of those premises ceased.

Parents subject their children to needless torment by purchasing dolls, toys, and games suggesting satanic or occult powers. Space monsters, witch dolls, and fortune-telling games like Ouija boards or "Mr. Magic" all invite and encourage demonic activity.

Once in Florida we were summoned by Christian parents to pray for their three-year-old son who was suffering terrifying nightmares. We first advised the parents to destroy several of their son's toys that we felt were questionable and frightening. Then we prayed for the boy. After he fell asleep on the couch we went to his room to pray over his bed. When we laid hands on it, pleading the blood of Jesus Christ and commanding all evil spirits to leave, some angry unseen force slammed the bed against the wall as it departed. The awed and grateful parents knelt on the floor, asking God to forgive them for unwittingly allowing such forces to harass their child. The child had no more nightmares.

Parents also need to monitor the kinds of television programs and motion pictures their children watch. A large percentage of children's programming—especially on Saturday mornings—is heavily loaded with occult

themes. Heroes and villains alike have supernatural or psychic powers. Such programs condition children's minds to the reality of unearthly powers, but never, ever mention the spiritual danger that awaits any youngster who begins to seek psychic power or explore supernatural realms. As for motion pictures, one almost feels despair over the terrifying, subhuman, and satanic subject matter of films produced for the teenage market. The mental and spiritual assault of such garbage on young minds is making spiritual cripples of untold thousands.

I can personally testify to having been such a casualty. I suffered torment from a spirit of fear for more than thirty-five years before finding deliverance in the name of Jesus. At the time God delivered me, He showed me the spirit had entered when I was a boy of eight, the day my older brother took me to a horror movie that literally filled me with terror.

I pray every Christian parent reading these words will take steps to protect themselves and their children from occult, satanic enticements that pervade our society, including our public schools. Parental objections make a difference. Once when one of our daughters was given a high school English assignment requiring her to write a composition about her astrological sign, we sent the teacher a note insisting our daughter be excused and explaining the biblical basis for our objection. The teacher canceled the entire assignment.

The rule for Christian families to remember is this: To seek contact with any spiritual source besides God the Father, our Lord Jesus Christ, or the Holy Spirit will expose you to satanic forces and will almost certainly result in demonic oppression.

Lies and Accusations

The third tactic the devil uses

to destroy the family is a constant barrage of lies and accusations. He is a consummate artist in the use of these tricks and he's been practicing his art for many centuries. The name *devil* means "accuser" or "slanderer," and he uses his accusations to fan all our fears into discouragement and despair. Briefly, here are four common areas of attack.

1. *Husband-wife relationships.* All Christian families experience marital stress at one time or another, but the devil gets in on the act by repeatedly whispering lies, such as, "Your family is not Christian or you wouldn't have such problems!" "Your spouse will never change!" "There's no help for your marriage!" "Why don't you get a divorce?"

2. *Family finances.* The devil will make us feel guilty when we fail to prosper—then make us feel even more guilty when we do. When a family is struggling against debts, the devil's accusations go like this: "God doesn't care!" "His promises of prosperity may work for others but they won't work for you!" "You don't deserve to prosper!" "God is punishing you!" "You're going to lose everything!" "There's no hope!"

But when the Christian family successfully rejects those lies, and through prayer, faith, and diligence begins to prosper and gain a measure of wealth, the devil shifts his accusations: "How dare you live in such comfort?" "What right do you have to enjoy such a high standard of living?" "Don't you know you have to be poor to be holy?" "Don't you know there are millions of homeless, starving people in the world?" "How can you be so selfish?"

The best stance for Christians to take is this: Be patient, prayerful, and trusting when going through times of financial leanness; be grateful and generous in



Families can't avoid spiritual warfare, but they can be victorious in it.

times of prosperity.

3. *Family health.* When severe health problems arise or simply when terrible and unjustifiable fears about your family's health arise, it's important to watch your mental attitude. During Satan's railing accusations, the greatest torment often comes not from illness itself but from the unreasonable fear he inspires. A fierce headache means a brain tumor! A digestive upset means cancer of the stomach! A momentary heart arrhythmia means a major heart attack is imminent! The emotional storms we go through during such times can be horrendous. No wonder the scripture says, "Fear hath torment"

(1 Jn. 4:18).

During times of such satanic assault it is good to remember three things: First, those fierce attacks don't last. Such storms do pass and often pass quite quickly. Second, through Christ's atonement we have the assurance that His healing virtue is accessible to us. Third, by God's design our bodies have amazing capacities for healing and regenerating themselves if we exercise regularly and practice sound nutrition.

Most importantly, when the devil launches his onslaught of lies and accusations, remember him for who he is—the father of lies (see John 8:44). The lies and

accusations designed to torment us originate with him, not with God.

4. Parent-child relationships. God knows—and the devil as well—that there is no painless way to rear children. Anger and bitterness can erupt between even the most diligent parents and the most disciplined children. This can happen especially during the teen years when parents find it almost impossible to communicate with their children, and children suddenly begin to view their parents as evil ogres who deny them the freedom and independence all their friends enjoy. When teenagers do normal, yet stupid and rebellious things to upset their parents, the devil jumps in with his lies: “You’ve failed as parents!” “Your kids don’t love you, and they’ll never amount to anything!” “They will all end up in jail!”

In every attack on the family, the devil’s ultimate aim is to paralyze us with fear, torment us with suspicion, provoke us to wrath, or drive us to despair. When the attacks come, it helps greatly to recognize who the attacker is and to steadfastly resist him.

Four Steps to Victory

God intends for us to be the victors in spiritual warfare. Paul says in 2 Corinthians 10:3-4:

For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds (NIV).

Here are four practical weapons we can use to defeat Satan:

1. *Get mad at the devil!* Some Christians approach life in such a passive, insipid way that they never have strong feelings about anything. But any believer with

a fervent love for Jesus Christ has the perfect right to hate the devil. Scripture says we are to love our enemies—all but one! And when we get angry enough we will go on the offensive against the arch enemy of our souls! In Psalm 139, David says:

Do I not hate those who hate you, O Lord . . . I have nothing but hatred for them; I count them my enemies. Search me, O God, and know my heart . . . See if there is any offensive way in me (vv. 21-24 NIV).

Frankly, I don’t believe the Father was at all offended by David’s hatred for God’s enemies. In fact, I believe He rejoices in our righteous anger over the devil’s evil attacks on the people of God. God knows if we get mad enough, we’ll fight back.

2. *Pray for deliverance.* We need to learn to cast out demons with the same confidence we have when we pray for healing. The same enemy who inflicts illness and disease is also responsible for demonic torment. And the authority of the name of Jesus can be utilized for expelling demons equally as well as for praying for the sick. Many fine Christians have been astonished at the dramatic, sometimes instantaneous results they have seen when they have added prayers of deliverance to healing prayers. No Christian is fully faithful to the Lord’s commission unless in addition to testifying to his faith and praying for the sick he is willing to cast out demons.

3. *Keep short accounts.* Be quick to forgive. One of the most important passages in all Scripture is the one that says, “Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, and do not give the devil a foothold” (Eph. 4:26-27 NIV, italics mine). What could be plainer? To harbor unforgiveness is

to invite invasion from demonic forces. The devil gains a foothold every time we turn our backs on the grace of God by refusing to forgive. Jesus said, after teaching us to forgive our debtors, that if we forgive, God forgives; but if we don’t forgive, neither will He (see Matthew 6:12-15).

4. *Praise God continually.* “Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus” (1 Th. 5:16-18 NIV). This powerful little verse comes to us not as a request but as a command. Praise and thanksgiving to God are not dependent on how we feel or what our circumstances are. Usually we have little difficulty in praising God when things are going well but fail miserably in praising Him when times are tough. But note the scripture doesn’t say to give thanks for all circumstances but in all circumstances. Even on the worst of days we can still be thankful—thankful to God that not every day is as bad as that day!

The story is told of a reporter who while interviewing the devil asked him what kind of person he found most difficult to torment. The devil is said to have replied, “I never seem to have much luck with a grateful man!”

We were never promised that Christians and their families can avoid spiritual warfare. What we are promised is, by the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, we can be victorious in that war. □



Don Basham holds bachelor of arts and bachelor of divinity degrees from Phillips University and its graduate seminary in Enid, Oklahoma. He is chief editorial consultant for New Wine and

the author of several books, including Face Up With a Miracle and Deliver Us From Evil. Don resides in Mobile, Alabama, with his wife, Alice.



A WORD FOR MEN

WHO'S IN CHARGE HERE?

Only when a father assumes his responsibility as the head of the home can God's plan for the family work.

BY DEREK PRINCE

Success is a byword of western civilization. By environment and upbringing we are continually challenged to seek success in all that we do—in our professions, in sports, in politics, in our personal lives. It is an overriding motivation.

Success in God's eyes, however, is often measured by a standard quite different from our own. One day the Lord spoke to my spirit, "You may travel the world and preach to thousands of people and have them flock to the altar when you finish, but if your home is not in order, in My eyes you are a failure."

Having a great desire to be a success in God's eyes, I took this to heart. As a result, there opened up to me a new understanding of home life and parental responsibility.

Let me speak very directly to each one of you who is a father: You may succeed in every area of life, but if you fail as a father, then in God's eyes you are a failure at life.

In Ephesians 6:4, Paul sums up in one verse the primary responsibilities of fathers: "And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition [education] of the Lord." In Co-

lossians 3:21, Paul repeats the initial warning, "Fathers, provoke not your children," and adds, "lest they be discouraged."

A father has two obligations toward his children: first, communication; second, education. The order is important. If the channels of communication between father and child are not kept open, then the father will be frustrated in his task of education. It is not enough for the father to give instruction. The child must be willing to receive it.

To maintain communication, a father must guard against two opposite attitudes in his children: rebellion on the one hand, and discouragement on the other. Therefore he must give time and attention to each child. He must cultivate each child as an individual personality.

No two children in a family are the same. Discipline that will benefit one child will crush another. One child will receive correction in a form that will merely provoke rebellion from another. In frequent counseling sessions with adults, I have discovered that many of their problems can be traced back to a situation in which a father—by anger, or unfairness, or indif-

ference—provoked his child.

The Home Is the Center

It is not merely the New Testament that lays these responsibilities upon fathers. The same principle runs through the whole Bible. In every dispensation alike God has ordained that the spiritual life of His people be centered in their home. Deuteronomy 11:18-21 speaks very directly about this to us as parents:

"Therefore shall ye lay up these my words in your heart and in your soul. . . . And ye shall teach them your children, speaking of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, when thou liest down, and when thou risest up. And thou shalt write them upon the door posts of thine house, and upon thy gates: That your days may be multiplied, and the days of your children, in the land which the Lord sware unto your fathers to give them, as the days of heaven upon the earth."

God places upon us, as fathers, the responsibility to teach His words and His ways to our

children at home. This responsibility cannot be relegated to some special religious institution, such as church or Sunday school. As parents, we must instruct our children at home in the words and the ways of God.

This is not a question merely of setting up a "family altar" or holding "family devotions." To be effective, spiritual instruction and discipline must be continuous. God says, "When thou sitest . . . when thou walkest . . . when thou liest . . . when thou risest up . . ." This covers all our waking hours.

The late Dr. V. Raymond Edman, onetime president of Wheaton College, once said, "In looking back on the way I brought up my children, if I had to do it over, I'd spend more time with them in simple, nonreligious activities." He had found that the things the grown children remembered most were the informal times of just being together. Real communication with a child is not achieved in five minutes. Often the most important things are said with a child at the time you would least expect it—in a casual or offhand way. If the casual contact is not there, these things will never be said.

The Role of the Father

The father is the primary "homemaker." Unless the father takes his place, accepts his responsibilities, and stands as God intends for him to stand as the head of his house, God's program for the home cannot work. If the father will not provide proper headship in the home, the home will fall into disorder.

In His relationship to the Church, Christ holds three great offices that have been delegated to Him by God the Father. In every home the father stands in a parallel relationship to his family. There are three main offices delegated by divine authority to the father from which he may

never abdicate in the sight of God. Every father is called by God to be the priest, the prophet, and the king of his home.

As a priest, the father is called upon to intercede for his family, bringing its needs in prayer before God, and claiming God's protection and blessing upon it. This he cannot do without faith. Not the least of a father's responsibilities is that of exercising faith on behalf of his family.

In the Old Testament this is typified by the ordinance of the Passover. In each family it was the duty of the father to kill the sacrificial lamb and sprinkle its blood over the door of his home (see Exodus 12:3-7). By this act of faith and obedience he obtained the protection of God for his whole family.

In the New Testament the same principle is dramatically illustrated in Mark 9:20-27, where the father of a demon-afflicted son comes to Jesus. Imploring help for the child, he says to Jesus, "If thou canst do anything . . . help us" (v. 22). Jesus immediately returns the responsibility for the child upon the father and says, "If thou canst believe, all things are possible" (v. 23). The child's deliverance hinged on the father's faith. A father has both the right and the responsibility to believe for his children.

The second office given to every father by God is that of a prophet; he is to represent God to his family. A father does this whether he realizes it or not, be it for good or bad. Most people involved in counseling or working with children will bear witness to the fact that every child forms his basic impression of God from one source—his father. Is it any wonder so many of our youth want little or nothing to do with God?

The third office of the father in his home is that of a king. As a king, the father is required to

govern his family on behalf of God. In describing the qualifications of a leader in the church, Paul specifies that he must be "one that ruleth well his own house" (1 Tim. 3:4). The word *rule* indicates the exercise of governmental authority.

Let us face up to one simple, objective fact. If our religion does not work at home, it does not work—period! In heaven's name, let us not export to the world something that does not work at home! The world already has enough strife and disharmony. It needs no more!

The tragic disaster of the American home is the renegade male. Some of you men may feel that the word *renegade* is too strong—almost insulting. However, I use it advisedly. A renegade is one who reneges, and the vast majority of American males have reneged on their three primary responsibilities—as husbands, fathers, and spiritual leaders. It has left us with a matriarchal society dominated by women.

Let me ask you this: Who—if anybody—normally prays with the children at night? Who gets them ready for Sunday school? Who reads the Bible stories? Who prays when the children are sick? In the majority of cases, it is the mother. The mother should indeed share in the spiritual growth of the children, but it is the father who is called upon by God to be the initiator and leader in the spiritual life of the family.

The Office of Father

In the office of fatherhood God has united the greatest privileges with the greatest responsibilities. This theme runs unbroken through Scripture.

When God began to look for a man who would become the head of a special nation destined to bring unique blessings to all mankind, He eventually found



the man He was looking for in the person of Abraham. Genesis 18:19 reveals the special element in Abraham's character that caused God to choose him over all the men of his day:

"For I know him, that he will command his children and his household after him and they shall keep the way of the Lord, to do justice and judgment; that the Lord may bring upon Abraham that which he hath spoken of him."

God expected Abraham to command his children and his household. The word *command* sounds undemocratic in some western ears. But it is the key word in this passage. There are

times when a man has both the right and the duty to command. When he stands as God's representative and governor in his home, he must not be weak and compromising. He must say firmly to his wife and children, "I require you to do so-and-so."

Some of you men may ask, "What will my wife and children say? They aren't used to hearing me speak like that!"

May I suggest how they will react? It may take them several minutes to recover from the shock, but eventually they will say, "At last—we've got a man in the house!" Both the wife and the children know in their hearts who ought to lead, and they will respond to a father who takes his rightful place.

Abraham or Lot?

It was the character and conduct of Abraham in his home that commended him to God. However, Abraham's nephew Lot stands in sad contrast. Lot had been with Abraham. He had seen God's blessings and had heard God's promises. Nevertheless he made a wicked and foolish decision. He chose to lead his family into the degraded city of Sodom (see Genesis 13:10-13).

The lesson of Lot moves me deeply each time I ponder it. He led his family into Sodom, but he never led them out again! When God's judgment fell upon the city, Lot lost his entire family save two daughters (see Genesis 19:15-26).

Fathers, let me say it to you as

plainly as I can: If you know the way of the Lord, do not take the same foolish course as Lot. You may lead your family into Sodom—into the world with its sinful pleasures and enticements. You may make these things the center of life in your home. Then the day may come when you tire of these things and turn back to the way of God. But remember this: Your family may not be willing to follow you any longer. You who led them into Sodom may never be able to lead them out again!

The Word of God offers many warnings concerning the evil results that will follow when parents—especially fathers—fail to fulfil their God-given responsibilities in the home. In Deuteronomy 28: 15-68, we find a long list of curses that God warned the Israelites would come upon them if they were disobedient to His law. While reading through this list one day, I was struck by verse 41: "Thou shalt beget sons and daughters, but thou shalt not enjoy them; for they shall go into captivity." (This is addressed primarily to fathers, because the word *beget* describes the father's part in procreation.)

Enjoying Our Children

The thought occurred to me that children are given us by God that we may "enjoy" them. They are intended to be an ever-present source of delight to us as their parents. Yet how many parents today are really enjoying their children?

Of one thing we as parents may be sure. Our children will recognize our true attitude toward them—whether we consider them as burdens or blessings—and they will react accordingly.

If we fail to discipline and relate to our children in such a way that we enjoy them, what will be the alternative? Deuteronomy 28:41 tells us plainly "they shall

go into captivity." Has this not happened to millions of children in our western civilization? They have "gone into captivity" to drugs, to illicit sex, to the occult, and to countless other snares of Satan.

Malachi 2:7 pictures the priest as the guardian and interpreter of God's law: "For the priest's lips should keep knowledge, and they should seek the law at his mouth." (The "knowledge" here referred to is the knowledge of God's law.) As priest in his home, each father has this responsibility: to guard and to interpret the law of God for his family.

What if the father-priests in a nation fail in their responsibility? In Hosea 4:6, God sums up the tragic situation that results:

"My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children."

What a fearful thing it is when God Himself tells us that He will "forget" our children! When a father rejects the knowledge of God's law, he is no longer fit to exercise his priestly ministry on behalf of his family. As a result, the children lose the protection of a father's authority and covering, and become a prey to all the snares and deceptions of Satan. Our land today is filled with God-forgotten children—children who are strangers to the covenant promises and provisions of God—because their fathers have forgotten the law of God!

Turning the Hearts

In Malachi 4:5-6, the final word left to us in the Old Testament is a curse, but it is also a promise:

"Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord: And he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse."

By prophetic revelation the Bible here depicts the most urgent social problem of the period immediately preceding the close of the age: divided, strife-torn homes with parents and children alienated from each other. How accurate God's Word is! It is precisely this situation that confronts us today. Unless it can be reversed, there is only one possible outcome—a curse upon the whole earth.

However, God promises to send a ministry that will "turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers." But the first move is with the fathers.

Fathers, I challenge you to be men! I challenge each one of you to rise up and take your position under God as the head of your house! If you have been a renegade, repent and ask your wife and children to forgive you. Be reconciled. Then lead your family into God's full provision for it. □

This article originally appeared in the April 1978 New Wine.



Derek Prince was educated as a scholar of Greek and Latin in Great Britain at Eton College and at King's College, Cambridge. His radio program, Today with Derek Prince, is aired on seventy stations around the world. Derek and his wife, Ruth, spend part of the year ministering in Israel, and the remainder of their time in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, where they are also involved in ministry.

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Will the Family Survive?

Connie Marshner of the National Pro-Family Coalition talks about issues that threaten the American family.

I'd heard something once about rush-hour traffic in Washington, D.C.: There's the rush that leaves early to avoid the rush, there's the rush itself, and there's the rush that waits till later to avoid the rush.

I was stuck somewhere in one of those rushes. And to top it off, my cab driver could not find my destination—the National Pro-Family Coalition (NPFC)—where I was headed to interview Chairman Connaught Marshner.

Connie has long been a defender of the family. In 1980, she helped found NPFC in opposition to President Carter's White House Conference on Families, which she predicted (accurately, as it turned out) wouldn't represent the traditional values held by most Americans. In June 1982, President Reagan named her chairman of the Advisory Panel on Financing of Elementary and Secondary Education. She has since returned to NPFC, which continues to act as a clearinghouse for some one hundred local, state, and national pro-family groups.

Eventually the cab driver gave up looking for the elusive address. I got out, hailed another cab, and finally found Connie and her office.

Was it worth it? You bet.

—Bruce Longstreth

New Wine: How did your background contribute to your getting involved in issues that affect the family?

Connie Marshner: I was raised as a Catholic in a family that held traditional values, and when I went to college, it began to mean something to me. I saw how civilization was falling apart at the seams, because people were rejecting religion and family values.

It was through a health course in college that I saw how I could make a difference. The instructor was a Quaker, who would take class time to talk about how awful he felt it was to be bombing civilians in Vietnam. But he also talked about how awful it was to have children born unwanted in an overpopulated world. One day he gave a very stirring lecture, and concluded by saying, "It's better to be aborted than to be born unwanted."

I remember glaring at him the nastiest look I could muster—but I didn't know what to say. I knew he was all wrong, but I couldn't say why! I thought to myself, *That's something I can talk to people about.* Abortion

was an issue that I could understand and argue about if I knew the facts. That was what pointed me in the direction of social issues.

NW: Are some of the laws being passed that seem to hurt the family a result of some social engineering conspiracy or are they simply the consequence of liberal thought?

CM: I'm leery of any conspiracy theories, because they usually end up being so farfetched that they discredit anyone who adheres to them. Now there may be some social engineers who, for example, are in favor of getting children into kindergarten at age four so that they can inculcate alternative values in youngsters.

But a more plausible reason that so many states are legislating kindergarten for four year olds, and some are trying to lower it to age three, is because so many parents want free day care for their children.

Although there may not be a conspiracy against the family, we must recognize that one of the most powerful lobbies in Washington belongs to the social workers—the human services professionals. It's a very nefarious in-



fluence on our lives, because what it comes down to—and this is oversimplifying it to make a point—is that they want to run other people's lives, and they want the government to back them up. They're hard to argue against because they have old, hard cases and precedents on their side.

We can tell them, "You're interfering with the family," but they know the laws. For example, a mother in the grocery store tells her child over and over to sit down. When the child doesn't, finally the mother says, "Enough!" and she paddles the child, who finally sits down. The mother pays for the groceries with a

check, goes home, and soon after, the police arrive. She has been reported for child abuse. Incidents such as this happen all the time.

NW: How do we counter this social engineering machine, as you describe it?

CM: The ideal solution is in the family, the church, the community, and the neighborhood. But often none of these are functioning properly, and people are forced to turn to the government, because it can do something. Let's say, for example, you're a pastor who knows that a man is being rough on his children. You go to him and say, "Listen, you've got a problem. Let us help you." But the man says, "Get out of my house." What are you going to do? You really can't do anything, but the government can. The police can come in and take the children away. That's typical of the problems that occur when the family, the church, the community, and the neighborhood aren't functioning properly.

NW: What is the biggest threat to the family's staying together?

CM: To me one of the biggest threats is instant gratification. People nowadays want their satisfaction right away; they can't wait until next year to get what they want. We have a tremendous materialism ingrained in us that we're not even conscious of. That worries me tremendously because it's easier to withstand a direct attack from Satan than it is to resist more subtle seduction—such as material comforts.

Many women who work do so because they feel they need to. But how is their need defined? If they're working because they need to get wall-to-wall carpeting, that's not convincing to me. We have such a materialistic

society that people feel wall-to-wall carpeting is really a need.

Sociologists know that instant gratification is why people stay in poverty. We've got to be able to save and to look to the future to get out of poverty, and the family is the best tool for it, because each member can pitch in and help.

NW: In your new book, *Why the Family Matters*, you have connected traditional values with the concerns of businessmen. Would you tell us briefly about that?

CM: The free enterprise system is not going to survive unless traditional values resurge and unless there is a stable social order. Most business people don't realize that. They don't think it makes any difference to them what children are taught in school, whether people's marriages last, or whether they take drugs or drink alcohol. Maybe it doesn't make any difference today. But tomorrow it will.

The values that a child learns in his early years are the values that will determine whether as an adult he's going to be a candidate for socialism or a candidate for free enterprise. People who don't really want socialism will turn to it simply because they're incapable of making a free society function. No one wants a police state where the government makes all our decisions, but that's where we're going to end up unless we return to discipline and values.

NW: Why is the family so vital?

CM: The family matters from two perspectives: spiritual and secular-business. First, from a spiritual point of view, it matters because it's an institution created by God. He cares what happens to it. If a child does not have



Through her work with a profamily organization, Connie Marshner speaks out for a return to traditional values, especially regarding the family.

a family situation that makes it easy for him to understand that there's a loving Father or that he's forgiven or that gives him a sense of self-worth, then it's going to be a lot more difficult for him to eventually get saved. So in terms of even the salvation of the next generation, the family

matters. There's got to be an environment that makes children able to be reached when they get older.

From a secular-business perspective, the businessman will tend to say, "Families don't matter to us. If you're single, you've got more disposable income, so you're better for business. Or if

you're married and you have 1.5 kids instead of 2.5 kids, you've got more money to buy our products, so actually we like it better that way."

But that's a shortsighted view. If we have fewer babies today, certainly we'll have more spending money today, but thirty years from now there will be fewer workers, more Social Security dependents, less income being generated, and less people able to buy anything.

Business should care, because if the family is healthy, people will be able to be participants in the free enterprise system. They will be able to take risks, hold jobs, be entrepreneurs, and have the values that make free enterprise work. Free enterprise works only because people don't steal or lie. They can be counted on. They come to work every day and keep their contracts without having constant police and court interference. Values like that all depend upon stable families. Free enterprise will exist only if it's backed up by a family unit that is strong and produces members capable of participating in the system.

NW: What can we do to keep the family together?

CM: A few years back, the elderly were the poorest in our nation, but now families with children are the poorest. Do we want to do that to families with children? Maybe we don't want to make them rich, but they shouldn't suffer for having children, because that's doing something good for society and the country. Yet we penalize them through our tax system. That's why I favor drastically reducing taxes. I'd like to see a ten-percent flat tax with increased exemptions for dependents. Doubling the dependent exemption is absolutely essential.

Another aspect of keeping the family together is protecting children from harmful influences. A lot could be done, for example, to clean up pornography. At the local level, district attorneys have got to be pressured into making cases. Some federal laws do need to be changed, but there are enough precedents and laws that a decent standard can be maintained if the district attorney knows how to do it. But it's very difficult, and most district attorneys don't know how to do it.

Education is another area that people are doing something about. Many parents are taking their children out of school altogether and educating them at home.

On a personal level, we've got to set our priorities, putting a moral value on everything we do. Whether we go bowling one night a week or three nights a week has a moral connotation to it if we have young children.

Once we have children, we really have a moral obligation to do everything that is best for them. We have children for only a very short period of time. So what if we don't get enough sleep for ten years because our children need attention? We've got to ask ourselves, "If my child died tomorrow, what would I regret?" Then we should reorder our priorities.

I had a baby girl who died, and one of the things that comforted me was being able to say that I didn't have anything to regret. There was not one thing that I could have done differently, not one attitude I wanted to retract. From the minute I knew she was in existence, I had nothing but joy and acceptance about her. If the Lord takes one of your family members tomorrow, you want to be able to say, "I don't regret anything that I did. I did the best I could." □

DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know that *New Wine* has a new ministry?

Over the years you've sent us many requests for a music tape program. So as an extension of *New Wine's* teaching ministry, we've decided to introduce HOSANNA! It's a music tape program devoted exclusively to praise and worship.

We believe that HOSANNA! represents the best praise and worship music available today. We're carefully searching for songs from around the world and selecting only those that we believe reflect the current move of the Holy Spirit. It's our desire that as you sing along with these tapes, you'll be drawn into God's presence. Your relationship with the Lord is vitally important, and these tapes can be a tremendous benefit to you.

Our objective is to make HOSANNA! affordable to as many people as possible, so we've set the price for each cassette below the normal retail cost for music tapes.

You'll find all the details about HOSANNA! in the announcement beginning on page 6.

Without praise and worship, many Christians miss the joy of the Lord's presence. We want to help God's people become worshipers in spirit and truth. We believe HOSANNA! will be a rich source of musical inspiration that will help you enter more fully into praise and worship, and we thought you'd like to know. □

A WORD FOR WOMEN

No matter what your role in life,
you can be a Proverbs 31 woman if you heed God's

Call to Excellence

BY DEE JEPSEN



The neighbors just marveled at her. Why, you would think that she'd have to be a human dynamo to do all the things she did! Yet she never was out of sorts and never complained.

Complaining—that, it seemed, was what some of her neighbor women spent most of their time doing. If they weren't grumbling about their husbands for not paying enough attention to them or appreciating them enough, it was about something else. You'd think that nothing ever went right for them. They seemed to see themselves as the victims of somebody or something all the time. Victims of "life," maybe.

Yet here was "Mrs. Perfection," seeming to do everything so much better than they did. The lights in her house were on early in the morning. She actually enjoyed getting a big breakfast ready for the kids and her husband, Phil, before they left the house. She said she planned the rest of her day in the morning, too. Can you imagine anyone so organized?

The women would talk about her sometimes when they got together for lunch. Still, they just couldn't criticize her, for she seemed to love everyone. She was so kind and friendly. She'd give you anything she had, if you needed it. Not only did she make clothes for her family, she would also sew for the needy in town. And speaking of sewing, the gowns she made for herself looked like designer creations. She was amazing!

Some might feel envious of all she could do, but they just couldn't help liking her. In fact, she was the one they all turned to for advice when they were having troubles in their lives. Yes, they did all love her, but she made them uncomfortable with themselves.

A Help to Her Husband

The women were talking about



Let's discard the old stereotypes and look at what the Lord really called us to be.

her one morning as they gathered outside the market. She had just gone by, calling out a "hello" as she passed.

"Did you hear about the great deal she made on that land last week?" Rebecca asked. "She bought it last month and sold it Thursday at a big profit. Where does she get that good business sense? Maybe she's just lucky."

Donna disagreed, "No, I think she just has a knack for business. We all know how well she manages their employees. Why, Phil is always bragging about her down at the city council. 'My wife did this and my wife did that.' My husband said Phil told

him that now she's developed a little business selling some of those fancy clothes she makes. I'll tell you, she's been a big help to Phil."

Linda interjected, "I went by their house yesterday and she was out there working with the hired help in the field. Doesn't she ever get sick of all that work? It will make an old lady out of her before her time."

"Oh, come on, Linda," Rebecca responded. "You know she looks better than anybody I know. She keeps herself up, and getting old doesn't even bother her. I mentioned getting old the other day and she said she actually looks forward to it."

Donna summed it all up as she said, "Well, when it comes right down to it, you know we are all just jealous. She's really a great gal. How many mothers do you know these days whose teen-age kids go around telling how great they think their mother is?"

"Yes," Linda said, "you're right. Phil and the kids are lucky to have someone like her. But then, they know it." Pensive, she added, "Do you suppose her approach to life has anything to do with her faith? I know she spends a lot of time reading the Bible and praying. When my mother died last year, she was more comfort to me than my pastor was. I think that's her secret—her faith."

And who, you may wonder, is this special woman of the '80s, who has it all together? In truth, she is not a modern-day product of "women's lib." No, she is the "Proverbs 31 woman." In the last chapter of the Book of Proverbs, the question is posed, "A worthy woman who can find?" And the response follows, "For

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her price is far above rubies" (31:10). There is no doubt about it, the Old Testament account of the attributes of an ideal worthy woman describes a woman who is no slouch.

Discard the Stereotype

There are some today who believe that to be a Christian woman means that you are extremely limited in what you can do. They stereotype the Christian woman as a drab, dull person who seldom ventures forth from her home. This idea is completely false, far removed from what a Christian woman can quite properly be. It is time to discard the old stereotypes and look at what the Lord has really called us to be.

In point of fact, we are called not only to use our talents, but the Lord calls us to excellence in all that we do. In Ephesians 6:6-7 we are told that, no matter what our position in life, we are to "do all things as unto the Lord," as though we were doing them for *Him*—which calls for nothing but our very best.

In Matthew 25:14-30, Jesus tells a parable revealing that He not only calls upon us to use our talents, but even more, we will be held accountable for what we do with them. In the parable, the master called his servants to him. He gave one servant five talents (units of money). To the second he gave two talents, and to the third he gave one talent. The first and the second servants went out right away and invested—used—the talents they were given, doubling them. The third, not wanting to take a chance, buried his.

When their master returned, the first and second servants gave him the talents he had given them plus the additional amount from the investment of them. He commended them, saying that they would be entrusted



When we utilize what has been entrusted to us, we find a sense of fulfillment.

with even more now because of their proper use of the talents. But the servant who buried his received a very strong rebuke and was told that the talent that had been entrusted to him would be taken away and given to the servant with the ten talents.

Jesus was telling His followers through this simple story that we should use our talents. We are accountable for them, and if we use them well, He will entrust more to us. This is a strong message to us all, in any and all of the life roles we may play throughout the seasons of our lives. Most of us have undiscovered or undeveloped talents, capabilities that are untapped. When we utilize what has been entrusted to us, we find that a

sense of fulfillment and blessing follows. It feels good to exercise our gifts; it brings a sense of accomplishment.

Master of Your Time

If you are a mother working at home, there is no need for the time spent there to be boring or personally unproductive. In fact, there are some wonderful aspects of being the master of your own time and schedule. True, you have to schedule your time around the needs of others, but then, don't you generally have to do this in a job or position outside the home also? You schedule your time to meet the needs of your clients, your patients, your boss, your customers—or whomever. In the marketplace or in the home, you still have to fit into the needs or requirements of others. There is no great release and independence of time when you are employed in the work force. That is a fact of life.

It seems that some women are afraid of being in charge of their own time at home. A structured work situation does provide a sense of security. But at home you have the opportunity and challenge of mastering your own time to the best advantage to yourself and others.

At home you are still responsible to develop your talents, and that can be done in many ways. Be creative. You could take some courses in which you are interested. You could start a local or neighborhood project to meet community needs or to help the needy. You could study child development and determine to raise your children to the best of your ability.

Set goals and meet them, for we all need challenges. Get organized. Manage your home as you would a small business, while still developing a warm, loving environment with a happy spirit in the home. Establish fam-

ily traditions—traditions which make memories to be cherished and recalled by your children into their adult years, then passed on to their children.

Stay Interesting

Keep yourself current on national and world news and happenings. You will then be more interested and interesting to your family and friends. Keep up on your husband's work activities and involve him in your interests and work. This mutual sharing contributes to a healthy relationship.

Very frankly, I feel that women who work in the home and never have anything to talk about except household activities can be boring. When I was at home with young children, I remember that there was a woman with whom I dreaded to get stuck for an entire evening. It seemed all she talked about were dirty diapers and trivia. I loved being a mother and enjoyed discussing our children, but I wanted and needed some additional mental stimulation. A woman who has not expanded her areas of interest beyond the home often feels inadequate in social activities, particularly if she cannot join in the conversation in an informed manner.

It is also important to set a personal schedule for yourself. Care for your appearance, just as though you were preparing to go out into the "world of work" every day. Keeping yourself looking good for your own sake, for your husband, and for those you love should be even more important than putting on your best face for a more impersonal public world.

There are many things to do when you have the flexibility that accompanies being self-employed, so to speak, in your home. Christian women have the perfect opportunity to spend time reading and studying the Scriptures,



Whatever our role,
we are called to
use our talents and
our gifts to their
fullest.

praying and gathering for fellowship with other Christians. Those "at-home times" are great times for spiritual growth. As a Christian, I found reading and spending quiet time with the Lord a very important part of my life in those years spent working at home. Those quiet times are no less important to me today, just more difficult to set aside as I have less personal control of my time.

A Monumental Hurdle

I also used some of my time at that season of my life to study painting for four years. And at the age of forty-three, I literally forced myself to learn to swim. That may sound like a small accomplishment to you, but as the

original "chicken of the sea," it was a monumental hurdle for me. After I repeated the same course in beginning swimming three times at the "Y" in classes filled with little kids, I finally reached the point where I could swim, ultimately swimming a half-mile a day. That was a feeling of accomplishment!

Egged on by the voices of discontent within the secular world, some women today who are staying at home with their children are draining their energy feeling sorry for themselves. In the process of spending time on negative emotions, a very important season of life and the golden chances that they may never be able to recapture are lost. Self-pity is really self-centered and very selfish, in fact, one of the most crippling of emotions. As we turn in on ourselves, we miss all the people and opportunities around us—we miss life. We are incapacitated by a self-imposed affliction. We have walked into a "prison without bars" and locked the door behind ourselves. Jesus said He came to set the prisoners free. He can, if we will but let Him. We need to ask Him to release us from our prisons to become the persons He created us to be.

Whatever our role in life may be in the home, in the office, in the factory—wherever we live our lives—we are called to use our talents and our gifts to their fullest. God calls us to excellence. □



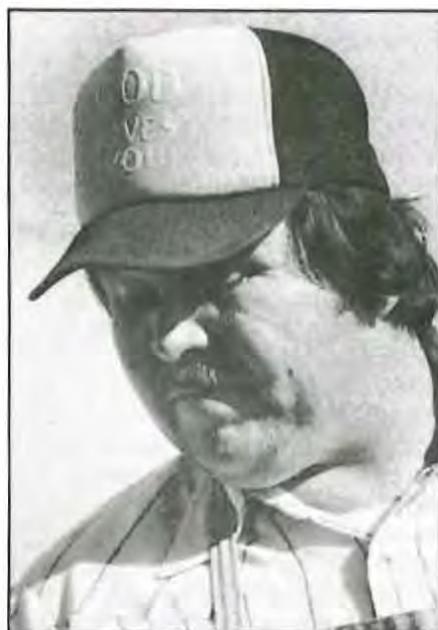
Dee Jepsen is the wife of former Senator Roger Jepsen (R-Iowa), and has served as a special assistant to President Reagan for public liaison to women's organizations. For twenty years she has been an active participant in her husband's political career and has served as a full-time unsalaried assistant in his Capitol Hill office.

A man's conviction that there was
"another way" to deal with cancer led to

An Encounter With God

BY JACKIE CONN

*Rafael and Rosalva Rendon
prepare a festive meal for family
and friends during a recent visit
by New Wine staff members.*



Off the main streets of the West Texas town of Zapata, where two dusty roads meet, sits a small half-built home. Rafael Rendon and his family live in the completed part of the cinder-block house and use the unfinished bedrooms with their bare ground floors as a backyard.

At first sight, Rafael's overwhelming size could be intimidating, but his warm, friendly

smile quickly puts one at ease. Although Rafael, a Mexican-American, speaks little English, a cap that says "God loves you" and a "Jesus first" pin boldly tell of his love for the Lord. The crowd that often gathers at his home these days to worship also bears glowing witness to the power of this man's testimony.

Four years ago, Rafael was suffering from cancer and didn't know God. He had to stop con-

struction of his home because of medical expenses, and had little hope that he would ever see it finished.

The beginning of his problems occurred while hunting with his brother-in-law. In struggling to get his large frame over a barbed-wire fence in his path, Rafael slipped and punctured himself. He didn't tell anyone about the wound, thinking it would heal. But in time, a lump developed.

For four years, he went without medical treatment until it was so large and painful that he could hardly walk. The doctor in Zapata knew immediately it was serious and sent him to M.D. Anderson Hospital in Houston, where tests showed he had seminoma, a sometimes treatable, sometimes deadly cancer. Initially, it seemed the treatment he was given was working, that he would go on to live a normal life. But subsequent tests raised a question of another tumor, and the possibility of even more treatment. This time, however, Rafael felt there must be "another way."

A Faithful Mother

He was not fully aware of what that other way was, but God had been at work in his life, steadily bringing him to the place where He could reach him, and then use him to reach others.

As a young man growing up in Guerrero, Mexico, he had never had a personal experience with the Lord. But his mother was a faithful churchgoer who believed that God would always provide for them. Much of what the Lord was able to do in his life, Rafael attributes to her faith.

After twenty years in his native Mexico, he decided to come to the United States. He wanted a good job so that he could provide for his family. After moving from city to city, he finally settled in Zapata with his wife, Rosalva, and their three children, Cynthia, Rafael junior, and Irma.

Earning minimum wage as a forklift driver, he had just begun to build his home when he became ill. His dreams faded as he was forced to quit work and to stop building. Faced now with the possibility of another tumor, life had little left to offer him. He couldn't afford more medical bills and decided not to take further treatment for a while.

Whether he lived or died, he resolved to be at home with his family, providing for its needs as best he could.

But even though he didn't know it, in the midst of this desperate situation, God was at work. One of Rosalva's friends had a daughter who lived in Houston. She put Rafael on the prayer list of a cell group in her church. For months these members of Houston Covenant Church faithfully prayed and fasted for

Whether he
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its needs.

Rafael, although they had never met him. When he learned of the prayers, he decided that the next time he was in Houston he would contact the leader of the group, Polo Gonzales. When that day arrived and Rafael called, Polo was on his way to a church meeting, so he invited Rafael to go with him.

Praying for Deliverance

Rafael and Polo sat through the meeting and when it was over, the elders gathered to pray for Rafael. As they laid hands on

him, one of the men discerned a spirit of hate and another elder confirmed the word.

Polo, a Mexican-American himself, explained to Rafael in Spanish what they had said. "Do you know why this is?" Polo asked.

"There's a man whom I never could stand," Rafael confessed. "I just don't like him for some reason. In fact," he slowly added, "I hate him."

The elders prayed again, trying to cast out the evil spirit. The more they prayed, the redder his face got.

"Are you all right?" Polo asked, concerned that he was choking.

"Something's happening," he replied.

"Why don't you speak to the spirit in Spanish?" one of the elders suggested.

As Polo addressed the demon in Spanish, Rafael began to cough and the evil spirit left him.

Rafael was ecstatic. He knew God had done something miraculous.

"The Lord is healing you," Polo affirmed.

"Glory to God!" Rafael exclaimed. "Glory to God!"

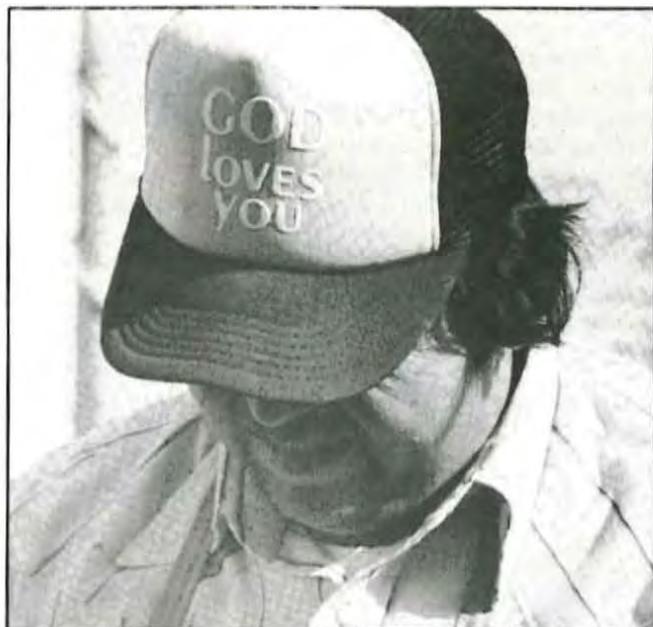
When the meeting was over, the two men returned to Polo's home, where Rosalva was waiting. "What happened?" she asked.

"You're not going to believe this," Rafael told her, and he began explaining everything that had occurred.

"No More Tests!"

He was scheduled to undergo more tests at the hospital the following day, but when the doctors said they wanted to perform a biopsy on his liver, he refused, declaring, "No more tests! God has healed me. I want you to know that!" He marched out of the hospital and went home to Zapata.

Back at work, he enthusiastically shared what happened with his co-workers, men who



Rafael Rendon and his wife, Rosalva, are grateful for the work God has done in their family. During Rafael's bout

with cancer, they turned to God, who has not only changed them, but also many others around them.

had been the people he "ran" with before he got sick. But they were skeptical. "Why don't you go home and relax?" they said.

"No, God has healed me. I'm going to work," he replied.

His family was more receptive, however. In fact, when Rafael said that Polo would be visiting, parents, brothers, sisters, nieces, and nephews all jammed into his house to see what God would do for them, even though many were unbelievers.

"I shared God's Word with them," Polo recalls. "The presence of the Lord was powerful that night, and soon the people were clapping their hands for joy."

As Polo ministered, God touched Rosalva's bad back and another woman's crippled ankle. Several were delivered from evil spirits.

"In the midst of all this," Polo says, "a man walked into the house. He was passing through town and had decided to visit Rafael. When he saw what was happening, he sat down in the chair where others had received ministry, and weeping openly, told us that he too needed prayer. I placed my hand on his back and felt bumps on it from his neck on down. He said his doctor had told him they were the result of a nervous condition, but the Holy Spirit showed us he had a spirit of anxiety.

"We commanded the spirit to leave and when it did, he was so stunned that he jumped off the chair and wanted to know why he couldn't stop burping!"

The day after the meeting, Rafael and Rosalva were baptized in the river near their home, sealing their newfound commitment to the Lord.

A Visit With Mom

Soon after, Rafael went to see his mother, who was ill. His heart went out to her, but he had no

idea what to do.

"I saw her lying there and said, 'Lord, You know I don't know how to pray.' But then some words came to my mind and I spoke them. All I said was, 'Mom, be healed.'" And she was.

Rafael says that he is still seeing the effects of God's work in his life. "I've become a better husband and father since God touched me. I pay more attention to my wife and children, helping them learn the right things."

Polo commends Rafael for his faithfulness. "He has little compared to what others have, but he has been faithful with it."

Rafael says that he now wants to share what he has found with others. "I want something special for Zapata," he explains. "What God has done for me is something very good and I want others to see that. Some have seen, but they don't do anything because there is no help here. People here are in need spiritually. We need to learn how to live the Christian life."

He and his family depend upon visits from Polo and his brother Angel for their spiritual growth. These men and others from the Houston church go to Zapata as often as possible to teach Rafael and his family more about the Lord, whom they love so much but know so little about.

"It's hard sometimes to find the narrow path and to walk in it," says Rafael, "but it's so good. There's no way I'm going back to my old life." □



Jackie Conn, an editorial assistant for New Wine, received her bachelor of arts degree in journalism from Louisiana State University. She and her husband, Henry, live in Mobile, Alabama.



Ern Baxter: Leaven of the Kingdom

Next Month in New Wine: Staying on Course

Ern Baxter talks about Christians who were off course—the libertine Corinthians and the legalistic Galatians—and explains how we can have a steady walk with the Lord.

Bob Mumford shares that faithful obedience to the content of God's covenant maintains the wall of protection God has placed around His people.

Larry Tomczak shares the pain he feels as he looks back at Christians who have dropped out of the race because of a lack of endurance. He gives us five insights to help us finish.

Plus, Terry Law on praise and worship, and a report on Ethiopia from one of its former government officials.

All in the July *New Wine*

A WORD FOR PARENTS

Arrows for the Lord

"How blessed is the man whose
quiver is full."

BY MAX HEINE



Working at a daily newspaper, I've had to type more obituaries than I care to think about. But occasionally one comes along worth remembering, such as the ninety-three-year-old man who left fourteen children, forty-eight grandchildren, and a still-growing crop of great- and great-great-grandchildren.

A modern-day patriarch! Picture what holiday gatherings might have been like as descendants of all ages packed together to honor their elders. Imagine the satisfaction in the eyes of that man, especially if he had trained his children in the ways of the Lord and had grown old knowing his final years were secure in their care.

A man at that stage of life would have no trouble forgetting the dirty diapers and crayoned walls of years gone by. Instead, he could make the confession of Psalm 127: "My children are God's gift to me, as arrows in the hand of this old warrior. I'm blessed to have a quiver full!" (vv. 3-5, free translation).

Sometimes it's a little tough for younger parents to believe that. We want to count our children as assets, but all too often they seem to slide to the other side of the ledger sheet.

Biblical Heritage

The Old Testament leaves no doubt that children were considered blessings. The mandate in Genesis to multiply, fill, and subdue the earth is woven throughout the early books. Certainly one of God's key promises—to bring forth a nation from Abraham, whose name meant "father of a multitude"—shows God wasn't kidding when He said to multiply and fill. Deuteronomy chapter 28, the well-known blessing-and-curse chapter, makes clear that increases of children and flocks are

blessings, and that decreases are curses.

In that ancient Jewish culture, women were considered seriously unfulfilled if they could not bear children. Childbirth was so important that the Bible records seven instances of miraculous conceptions. Children not only carried on their father's name, but also contributed to the family's sustenance and in later years cared for their elderly parents.

For thousands of years, children continued to fulfil a positive, practical role, and were intimately integrated into family functions. Sons, as soon as they were able, worked alongside their fathers for a good part of the year, learning farming, crafts, or the family business. Daughters worked with mothers and grandmothers at home, also learning valuable skills.

Formal schooling was virtually unknown until the 1800's. Home was the source for training, and families received the firstfruits of it.

Even though the work load was heavy and times were often lean, each family member pitched in to meet needs as best he could. It was, in a sense, a scale model of the body of Christ—all the members functioning in their calling, often denying themselves for the benefit of others, and working in harmony to build up the unit.

Today's Family

It takes neither a historian nor a sociologist to see that the family is radically different today. One out of every five households in the United States consists of a single person. Not only are families smaller, but they are fractured—single mothers or single fathers are trying to do the work of two parents. Extended families living under the same roof are few and far between. The proliferation of day-care centers and

abortion clinics, symptomatic of a general disinterest in parenting, further fragments an already shaky institution.

Has God's eternal design for the family changed? Of course not. God's word still stands, and the Bible still provides clear principles for maximizing the potential blessings in our children. If we follow them, we can function in the modern world and still have the integrated, home-based, vibrant families that God has always intended.

Productive Contributors

There are three main ways that children can be blessings to their parents. The first is as productive contributors to their families. As the economists say, there's no such thing as a free lunch—and this is true even for children. We must teach our children early in life that they were not born to be served, but rather, as servants of Christ, they were born to serve others. By doing so, they also serve God.

There is no better place to implement this than in the family. Parents can train young boys and girls not only to pick up their rooms, but also to vacuum, take out the trash, help with the laundry, clear the dinner table, rake leaves, and help care for younger brothers and sisters. At first, their sloppy performances might do more harm than good. But take heart. There is no better way to learn than by doing, and our children are gaining skills that will bear fruit for years to come.

As children move toward adolescence, parents can challenge them further. Boys, for example, can cut grass, wash cars, and find other ways to help support the household.

Moving from adolescence into adulthood, they can contribute even more to family life as they refine their vocational skills. Not



every job or chore in a child's younger years will point to a special vocation, but Proverbs 14:23 assures us, "In all labor there is profit" (NAS).

Straight Arrows

The second way that children can be a blessing is by being "straight arrows." Psalm 127 says:

Behold, children are a gift of the Lord; the fruit of the womb is a reward. Like arrows in the hand of a warrior, so are the children of one's youth. How blessed is the man whose quiver is full of them; they shall not be ashamed, when they speak with their enemies in the gate (vv. 3-5 NAS).

An arrow in a quiver has great

potential. Straight, smooth, and razor sharp, it can be loosed by an archer to knock out an enemy. Likewise, a young arrow entrusted to Christian parents represents a threat to Satan.

This scripture also promises that when children are trained early, they will be bold in spiritual warfare. If younger children are like arrows, children at maturity are like heat-seeking missiles as they move toward their goals. Each one has been trained up by his parents "in the way he should go"—that unique calling of God on an individual. His parents launch him on his course, but the Holy Spirit directs his path like the sensing equipment on a heat-seeking missile.

A child's destination may be to serve on the city council, speaking boldly against the evils

of pornography. It may be to teach godly principles in the midst of flourishing humanism, or to be a parent, faithfully shaping his children in love and discipline.

God's enemies will always be at the city gates seeking to infiltrate the city. Will our children be prepared to bless future society by boldly confronting them?

Security in Old Age

The third way that children can be a blessing is by providing their parents with security in their old age. It's at that stage that roles are reversed as children give to them. They care for them in sickness and frailty, all the while giving them assurance that their name will continue on the earth.

Children are a blessing for at least those three reasons, but as we labor in the vineyard of our family, Satan will attempt to sow seeds of discouragement. When we're punching in for the midnight shift with a sick child at home, or wondering how we'll pay for that vacation we so desperately need, the master of deceit will be quick to tell us what burdens our children are.

Don't buy it for a second.

"No, you liar!" we can respond to him. "My God has blessed me with children. They contribute more each day to this family's welfare. And more importantly, they are my hope for tomorrow—little arrows that will pierce the armor of your evil kingdom and hasten its downfall!" □



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A great-grandmother finds a new reason to live

Welcome Home!

BY ELIZABETH SCHENKEL

I remember the first time I visited my husband's grandmother in Covington, Kentucky. As soon as we entered Aggie's three-room house, I had the sensation of stepping back fifty years. We followed the tiny stooped figure through a dark hall to a sunny kitchen cluttered with the pieces of past memories. Aggie moved slowly and painfully about the room as she served tea and a small box of cookies. Happy tears filled her eyes when she gingerly held her great-grandchild for the first time. We spent only an hour in that house, but leaving was a great relief. I had missed my world.

Four years later I watched from an airport terminal as my husband, Erick, and the airline crew carefully helped Aggie disembark from a plane. With her were three oversized feather pillows, two vintage 1920 cardboard suitcases filled with clothes, one large picture of the last supper, and a supply of heart pills, ulcer pills, vitamin pills, and Maalox. Aggie had come to live with us.

Frankly, I wasn't even sure she would survive the plane trip. Eighty-seven years old, she had angina, a bleeding ulcer, malnutrition, and depression that had plagued her since the death of her only child. Her will to live had diminished to the point that she would go to bed every night hoping she wouldn't wake up. To top it all, her doctors told her she would have to leave her house and move to a nursing home.

Erick was her only grandchild and felt responsible for her. Although there were many nursing

homes available for Aggie, we knew our home offered the best alternative, so we began the task of making a place for the new member of our family. Frantically I rearranged furniture, planned menus, and borrowed supplies that I knew we would need.

Although the adjustments we had to make were considerable, they were nothing compared to those required of Aggie. She had lived all of her life in the same area, and had never traveled more than forty miles from home.

The days and weeks that followed her arrival were not easy, but we did not expect them to be. Aggie neither knew nor trusted us, and for all our good intentions, we had a lot to learn about loving her. Some days the responsibility of caring for her almost overwhelmed me.

The turning point in our relationship was our first fight. Tensions erupted that had been building in both of us since her arrival, but after the smoke of battle cleared, I ventured into her room to apologize for losing my temper. She was obviously not used to resolving conflict that way, but once she saw that my intentions were peaceful, she softened and was more loving toward me.

But progress was slow. Aggie spent her first Christmas with us depressed because she missed her son and parents. But throughout the next year, her great-grandchildren made the headway that was so necessary. Our two year old discovered a way to climb onto her lap and eventually find his way into her heart. He



Aggie Snider and the Schenkels are family in its truest sense.

and his brother shared their little secrets with her, and introduced her to their friends. "Are you really a thousand years old?" one of them asked her.

When I became pregnant, suddenly the tables were turned. It was a difficult pregnancy, and I had to stay in bed most of the last four months. Instead of Aggie needing me, I needed her. Often when someone would drop by to do the dishes, they would find Aggie drying the last one. She spent hours cleaning the kitchen and the bathroom. Her arthritis slowed her down, but it couldn't stop her.

When the baby arrived, she referred to him as "our" baby. Aggie was finally a part of our family.

When Aggie first moved in, I'd sometimes overhear her in her room, asking God why He wouldn't let her die. Now when I go into her room to say good night, I always add, "See you in the morning!"

"I hope! I hope! I hope!" she says with a grin.

And I hope so too. □

Elizabeth Schenkel is a New Wine reader who lives in Arlington, Massachusetts.

Although life's turbulence may throw us off balance, it's comforting to know we're

Designed to Fly Straight and Level

BY DON BASHAM

The biggest challenge Jesus had with His disciples was to increase their faith in God and in the kingdom of God. One way He sought to do that was by drawing spiritual lessons from all kinds of ordinary things. He often spoke of shepherds and sheep, farmers and crops, wells and water, birds of the air and lilies of the field. If He were teaching on earth today, I believe Jesus would still draw lessons from ordinary things—television, computers, automobiles, and airplanes. Take airplanes, for example.

When I was a young man I learned to fly in a little yellow Piper Cub. In those days, back in 1944, it was called the "safest airplane ever built." One lazy summer day when I was practicing precision turns three thousand feet above sunny Texas wheat fields, my instructor explained why the Piper Cub was held in such respect. "Don," he said to me, "if you ever lose control of this airplane, just let go. The airplane will right itself. *It is designed to fly straight and level.*"

Then he demonstrated what he meant. He put the airplane in-

to a steep, climbing turn, then took both hands and feet off the controls. The little plane immediately nosed down, picked up speed, leveled its wings, and returned to level flying. That little Piper Cub could fly better by itself than most men could make it fly—resting confidently in the air that surrounded and supported it.

I flew that plane for several years. Although I never experienced a crisis such as my instructor described, I never forgot his words or that sturdy little airplane's serene performance. In the decades since, I have learned how that same quality of inherent stability applies to life in the kingdom of God. Of course, we all endure trials and turbulent times when things seem temporarily out of control, but that in no way contradicts the balancing, stabilizing factor we call the grace of God.

After I received my pilot's license I had occasion to fly with many other pilots in that same little airplane. Some of those pilots seemed to become a part of the plane the minute they took the controls. For them, flying was sheer joy. But other pilots

seemed to fly almost as if the airplane were an adversary. From take-off to landing, they overcontrolled. They would pump the control stick, kick the rudder pedals, push and pull the throttle, and tap the dials on the instrument panel with their fingertips, as if the airplane could stay aloft only by their keeping both hands and feet in constant motion. For them, flying seemed to be a strain if not an agony.

Through the years I have met scores of Christians like that second group of pilots—good, earnest believers who have never really learned to trust God. They spend their years pumping, kicking, pushing and pulling, and tapping. Determined to make the Christian life fly by their own activity and efforts, they miss the sheer joy of the grace of God for fear of falling out of the sky.

I have often wished I could take each one of those people up in that little Piper Cub and show them how it flies straight and level all by itself, confident in its inherent stability and in the un-failing support of the air surrounding it. Perhaps I could help them find the peace and stability that is ours in Jesus Christ and help them rest confidently in the grace of God, which surrounds and supports us as surely as the air around that little yellow airplane. Perhaps then they would understand that God has destined us for Kingdom living and that regardless of life's turbulence we are designed to fly straight and level.

At least, that's the way I see it. □



Don Basham is chief editorial consultant for New Wine.

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