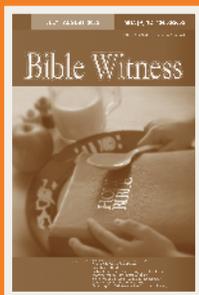


Bible Witness



Articles Inside:

- Nurturing Children By the Word of God
- Family Talk from a Grandfather
- Parent-Child Relationship
- Biblical Counsels for the Upbringing of Our Children
- Teaching Your Children Spiritual Truths
- Is the Rod of Correction Good and Necessary?
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- Protect Our Children from the Occult and Sorcery



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Nurturing Children By the Word of God

Mah Chin Kwang

Parents today invest much time and money in the care and nurture of their children. Besides the obvious attention to the basic needs of food, health and clothing, they are increasingly interested in their children's development in their mental, social, moral and even spiritual well-being. Organizations and business entities are quick to notice this and therefore offer a variety of ways to help parents. The newspapers and family magazines list many organizations offering their professional services. Bookstores and libraries are filled with countless books and magazines on the subject of child care. In a recent exercise on the internet using a popular search engine, I found that more than 2 million websites were registered when the words "nurturing children" were keyed in.

With all these resources readily available, it is small wonder that parents turn to them as their foundation and basis for the nurturing of their precious brood. Cost also is an incidental consideration given the general affluence of society today. The belief that money invested on their children's well-being is money well spent oftentimes results in parents making great financial sacrifices for their children.

In the light of this great interest in the well-being of children, it

is sad to note that parents in general and Christian parents in particular are ignorant of the Holy Bible as a resource for nurturing children. Sadder still to know that some who are aware, choose to ignore and even reject the wise teachings of Scripture.

Perhaps some Christian parents find the Bible's teaching irrelevant, while others find it unfashionable. Is it really? How does the Bible compare as the basis for nurturing our children, and what wisdom does it have to offer?



To begin with, we need first to consider the author or the one behind these teachings. Any teaching is only as good, credible and reliable as the person who originates these concepts and teachings.

We all know who the author of the Holy Bible is. 2 Timothy 3:16 reminds us that **“All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.”** Consider, too, this verse: **“For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost”** (2 Peter 1:21). The two verses clearly confirm that the Almighty God is the author of the Bible, though He used the agency of men to pen it. Consequently, God’s attributes of holiness, righteousness, immutability, grace, compassion and love are reflected and embodied in the teachings of the Bible.

While obviously there are credible men who seek honestly to help nurture our young, there are others with questionable qualifications, life-styles, value systems, and motivations. Even the best works from the most credible of men pale when compared to the Bible which was given by inspiration of the Lord God. Indeed, there really is no scale that is able to measure the quality of the work of this Holy Author against that of puny man with all his human failures and infirmities.

Secondly, because God is unchangeable, all the moral truths of the Bible are also unchangeable. They are not made irrelevant or diminished in scope by time, geographical setting, culture and mores. Biblical teachings are as relevant today as they were in the days of the prophets and apostles. For example, the moral exhortation for children to honour and obey their parents is as applicable in Singapore

today as in countries where society is more permissive and egalitarian.

We must have read of some secular experts who had to retract, change and fine-tune their theories in their particular areas of expertise to suit the changing times, life-styles and value systems prevailing in society. Populist pressure more often than not results in secular teachers having to shift and to accommodate. Not so the Bible. The Holy Bible stands as a timeless immovable beacon, beaming its truth in the bright of day or in the darkest night, upon a calm peaceful sea or in a turbulent storm. Like seafarers who trust the light of the beacon for their safety, we, as Christian parents and teachers, should rely on the Bible as the guiding light in the care and nurture of our children.

The wisdom of biblical instructions through its direct commands, injunctions and warnings, together with lessons to be gleaned from the lives of biblical characters (both exemplary and bad) is overwhelming. Consider the following godly instructions that form a comprehensive and effective instructional guide on nurturing children:

Need to teach children

- Deuteronomy 6:7 “And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up.”
- Joshua 4:21-22 “And he spake unto the children of Israel, saying, When your children shall ask their fathers in time to come, saying, What mean these stones? Then ye shall let your children know, saying, Israel came over this Jordan on dry land.”
- Deuteronomy 11:19 “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."

- Deuteronomy 32:46 "And he said unto them, Set your hearts unto all the words which I testify among you this day, which ye shall command your children to observe to do, all the words of this law."
- Proverbs 22:6 "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it."

Teaching them the fear of the Lord

- Psalm 34:11 "Come, ye children, hearken unto me: I will teach you the fear of the LORD."
- Deuteronomy 31:13 "And that their children, which have not known any thing, may hear, and learn to fear the LORD your God, as long as ye live in the land whither ye go over Jordan to possess it."
- Isaiah 54:13 "And all thy children shall be taught of the LORD; and great shall be the peace of thy children."
- Ephesians 6:4 "And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord."

Correction and chastening encouraged

- Proverbs 22:15 "Foolishness is bound in the heart of a child; but the rod of correction shall drive it far from him."
- Proverbs 23:13 "Withhold not correction from the child: for if thou beatest him with the rod, he shall not die."
- Proverbs 29:15 "The rod and reproof give wisdom: but a child left to himself bringeth his mother to shame."
- Hebrews 12:5 "And ye have forgotten the exhortation which speaketh unto you as unto children, My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of him."

Obedience to parents

- Ephesians 6:1 "Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right."
- Colossians 3:20 "Children, obey your parents in all things: for this is well pleasing unto the Lord."
- Titus 1:6 "If any be blameless, the husband of one wife, having faithful children not accused of riot or unruly."

Accountability for their actions

- Proverbs 20:11 "Even a child is known by his doings, whether his work be pure, and whether it be right."
- Ezekiel 18:20 "The soul that sinneth, it shall die. The son shall not bear the iniquity of the father, neither shall the father bear the iniquity of the son: the righteousness of the righteous shall be upon him, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon him."

Warning to children

- Psalm 89:30-32 "If his children forsake my law, and walk not in my judgments; if they break my statutes, and keep not my commandments; then will I visit their transgression with the rod, and their iniquity with stripes."
- Proverbs 1:8 "My son, hear the instruction of thy father, and forsake not the law of thy mother."
- Proverbs 6:20 "My son, keep thy father's commandment, and forsake not the law of thy mother."
- Proverbs 17:25 "A foolish son is a grief to his father, and bitterness to her that bare him."
- Proverbs 19:13 "A foolish son is the calamity of his father: and the contentions of a wife are a continual dropping."
- 1 Chronicles 28:9 "And thou, Solomon my son, know thou the God of thy father, and serve him with a perfect heart and with a willing mind: for the LORD searcheth all hearts, and understandeth all the imaginations of the thoughts: if thou seek him, he will

be found of thee; but if thou forsake him, he will cast thee off for ever."

- Deuteronomy 21:18-21 "If a man have a stubborn and rebellious son, which will not obey the voice of his father, or the voice of his mother, and that, when they have chastened him, will not hearken unto them: then shall his father and his mother lay hold on him, and bring him out unto the elders of his city, and unto the gate of his place; and they shall say unto the elders of his city, This our son is stubborn and rebellious, he will not obey our voice; he is a glutton, and a drunkard. And all the men of his city shall stone him with stones, that he die: so shalt thou put evil away from among you; and all Israel shall hear, and fear."

Children are precious - not only to their parents, but also to God. While our Lord Jesus Christ was on earth, He demonstrated that He loved children and spent time with them. The Bible recorded an occasion when His disciples unwittingly shooed away parents who brought their children to Him so that He might touch them. "He was much displeased, and said unto them, Suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God" (Mark 10:14).

His love and care for children is clearly evident in His teachings in Mark 9:37 "Whosoever shall receive one of such children in my name, receiveth me: and whosoever shall receive me, receiveth not me, but him that sent me"; Matthew 18:6 "But whoso shall offend one of these little ones which believe in me, it were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and that he were drowned in the depth of the sea"; and Matthew 18:10 "Take heed that ye despise not one of these little ones; for I say unto you, That in heaven their angels do always behold the face of my Father which is in heaven." We who are the followers of our Master need to live by His example. Just as He loved children, so must we all.

"Children are an heritage of the LORD" (Psalm 127:3). God has given us, parents and teachers, a very blessed and joyful role in the caring and nurturing of children. The importance of this role is matched by the responsibility that we hold in ensuring that our children be nurtured well and uprightly. It therefore behoves us to give them the very best and wisest lessons of life. And that can only come from God's Word, the Holy Bible.



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"For God loveth a cheerful giver" (2 Cor. 9:7).

Family Talk from a Grandfather

Timothy Tow

(Extracted from "Recipes for Living a Happy Life")

Do you know that when you have a child, it brings joy not only to the father and mother but also to the grandfather and grandmother? So I declared in my family, "I'm May Ann's best friend." The whole family is full of joy. Day and night they go and look at the little baby. All the more when the husband and wife quarrel, and if they look at the baby, they will be bound together again.

Now, in our present economy, perhaps it is necessary for us to hold on until such a time we can afford to have a baby. You know best between yourselves and the Lord. But it is most important for us to put family life first, with the baby in the centre. Now, if I say this, some wives may not vote for me to be pastor next time!

In my days, I was not drawing a big salary and when we got married, my wife had to take care of the baby. When the children grew older, she worked as a midwife and she continued

for some years, until the Lord took her. Now, I read somewhere that a wife, by doing the family chores, is actually earning \$1,700 a month, especially when the baby is young. I would think it is a better idea for the wife to cease working outside and put all her energy to bringing up her child. The amount of Bible, gospel, hymns and songs and words of God that you impart to the little child is something that a maid can never give.

As I grew up, I heard many songs that seemed very familiar to me. It is from the "tape-recording" in the baby's mind. When I was young, my mother sang all those hymns to me, so hearing them when I grew up was like seeing old friends! That's why I say for someone to be born in a Christian family where the

Lord is paramount, is to be born into heaven on earth. See the teaching, for example, of Timothy under Eunice and Lois, that from a small child he had known the Holy Scriptures which were able to make him wise unto salvation!

Let me counsel young couples intending to marry: Please don't be a dink, d-i-n-k — double-income-no-kids. This is now an accepted word in the American language. He

is a dink, that means he has a wife who also earns an income but they don't want to have any children.



Parent-Child Relationship

Life becomes a bewildering labyrinth when we ignore God's truth and seek earthly wisdom. Nowhere is this more clearly illustrated than in the family. Why the warfare between parent and child? Why is parenthood so difficult, dreaded, and feared? Why is growing up so painful and distressing?

When are we going to learn that God's creatures can only live successfully in His world by following His ways? If God is all-wise and all-holy, His Word must be both good (because it is the fruit of unblemished holiness) and best (because it is the fruit of infinite wisdom). If this is so (and it is) why do we persist in seeking other ways?

God's counsel concerning every Christian family is recorded in Ephesians 6:1-4. "Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. Honour thy father and mother; (which is the first commandment with promise;) that it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth. And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord."



These words of counsel may not appear "scholarly". They don't come from a densely printed, heavily footnoted, professional treatise. You won't find these things in the latest psychology journals. But these simple directives are God's formula for a happy home.

Children Must Obey

How clear and simple are His directions to parents and children (Ephesians 6:1-4). Children are to obey. Parents have been given authority by God to command their children. Indeed, parents hold the position of God's representatives to their children. For this reason, children are commanded to honour their parents even as they honour the Lord Himself (Leviticus 19:3; Hebrews 12:9). In this anti-authoritarian age, we need to remember this. It is not unreasonable to expect obedience from little ones (or our "big, teenage ones" for that matter). The authority they submit to is God's and His authority ought always to be honoured.

This submission required of children is not unlimited, however. No parent has the right to command anything contrary to Scripture. Children are required to obey but only in the Lord.

Children are to obey, "for this is right." Paul does not mention the many

benefits that come to obedient children nor does he mention the benefits parents derive from obedient children. He simply points to the ultimate reason we are to do anything – because it is right. It is God’s will that you honour your parents.

Yes, great blessings come to you (and to them) when you honour them, but the primary reason you must do this is that God requires it. Following these, children will receive the promised blessings of the covenant (“it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth”). Submitting to your parents won’t injure you. They are God’s protectors set over you for your good.

Parents Should Not Provoke Children to Wrath

What about the responsibilities of parents? Mutual privileges and responsibilities mark the family relationship. If one party is bound to submit to the authority of another, it is imperative that the other party exercises that authority in lawful and honourable ways. Thus Paul tells fathers, “Provoke not your children to wrath.” This admonition is also applicable to mothers.

This does not mean that we will never make our children angry. Being sinners, children sometimes get angry even when we exercise authority properly. The point is that fathers are not to provoke anger by ungodly rule over their children, e.g., when we give unscriptural commands, when we make unjust demands, when we have unreasonable expectations of our children, when our chastisements are too harsh or too lax, when our rule is administered hypocritically or inconsistently.

If our children are provoked to anger by faithful rule, they sin. If they are provoked by our inconsistent, unreasonable, or ungodly rule, we have sinned.

We must not provoke our children but rather “bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.” We must rule over our children as God rules over us. How does God rule us? He nurtures and admonishes us. We must therefore instruct, encourage, and lead as well as chasten, rebuke, and correct our children. We must set before them the truth of God and train them to walk in it.

Obedying this, parents will enjoy the blessed fruits of children who love and honour them and even more importantly, love and honour the God who made them. “Correct thy son, and he shall give thee rest; yea, he shall give delight unto thy soul” (Proverbs 29:17). You don’t have to worry about warping your children if you spank them as God commands. You don’t have to fear inhibiting their creativity by insisting upon obedience to your word. You need not be afraid of wounding their “self-esteem” by saying “No!” If God commands us to do these things, we know they can be safely done.

Conclusion

Children are blessings, not burdens (Psalm 127:3). Children should value and honour, not despise their parents (Proverbs 17:6). Why continue domestic warfare? Discard the nasty words! Stop the bribery, manipulation, and deception! Begin, by God’s grace, to do what He says. Take time to pray for the peace of your home. Then and only then will you dwell safely and securely and enjoy God’s peace.



Biblical Counsels for the Upbringing of Our Children

📖 **Give thanks to God always for the children He has blessed you with!** When God gives us children, we must view them as God's gifts and thank God for the opportunity to have them. "He maketh the barren woman to keep house, and to be a joyful mother of children. Praise ye the LORD" (Psalm 113:9). "Children are an heritage of the LORD: and the fruit of the womb is his reward" (Psalm 127:3).



📖 **Begin praying with your children from birth. You will be amazed how quickly they begin to pray**

with you! "Come, ye children, hearken unto me: I will teach you the fear of the LORD" (Psalm 34:11).

📖 **Help them to know Jesus as early as possible.** "But Jesus said, Suffer little children, and forbid them not, to come unto me: for of such is the kingdom of heaven" (Matthew 19:14).

📖 **Read the Bible to your children.** Sharing the Bible, during a family time together, can be a wonderful spiritual experience. A daily family worship/devotion is an excellent opportunity to share the Word with the children. "And these words, which I command thee this day, shall

be in thine heart: and thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house,

and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up" (Deuteronomy 6:6-7). "We will not hide them from their children, shewing to the generation to come the praises of the LORD, and his strength, and his wonderful works that he hath done. For he established a testimony in Jacob, and appointed a law in Israel, which he commanded our fathers, that they should make them known to their children: that the generation to come might know them, even the children which should be born; who should arise and declare them to their children: that they might set their hope in God, and not forget the works of God, but keep his commandments" (Psalm 78:4-7).

📖 **Have patience with your children.** Listen to them; don't just hear what they are saying. Give them your attention and observe

them when they speak to you. Then you can know more about their problems, concerns and difficulties that you need to bring to the Lord in intercessory prayer for them. The Lord expects us to pity our children and know their infirmities. In fact, it is the same way that the Lord deals with us all. Psalm 103:13-14 says, "Like as a father pitieth his children, so the LORD pitieth them that fear him. For he knoweth our frame; he remembereth that we are dust."

 **Do everything possible to have Mum stay at home with the children.** This is a great sacrifice for many women who have already established themselves in a career, or for families who have financial difficulty. God will provide, if you believe that He will make a way out of your problems. Tell the Lord your desire to obey His Word and ask Him for the provisions. As parents, there is *no greater duty* on this earth than raising our children in the Lord.

The Scripture clearly teaches that the main

job of a young mother is to be the manager of the house. Read the following: "That they may teach the young women to be sober, to *love their husbands, to love their children, to be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed*" (Titus 2:4-5). The words "keepers at home" is a translation of one Greek word (*oikourgous*) that means "home-worker." A mother has so much to do at home in the rearing of her children and lovingly supporting her husband. So once again, the Scripture tells us, "I will therefore that the younger women marry, bear children, *guide the house, give none occasion to the adversary to speak reproachfully*" (1 Timothy 5:14). Like the virtuous woman of Proverbs 31, may all Christian mothers learn to give top priority to the things at home that she may become a true blessing to her children and husband. According to God's Word, she shall be praised – "Her children arise up, and call her blessed;

her husband also, and he praiseth her" (Proverbs 31:28).

 **Watch over your children diligently!** Study your children! Know who they are, what they love, even the bad "bents" in them. Know where they are, whom they associate with, what they are watching on T.V., what sort of music they listen to, etc. Parents must get involved and stay involved. We have only a short period of time to raise our children. In that short period, let us strive to train them with good Christian moral values.

Proverbs 20:11 tells us that when we observe a child closely, we can know his good and bad inclinations – "Even a child is known by his doings, whether his work be pure, and whether it be right." According to each child's habits and character, we must provide the necessary training. Proverbs 22:6 says, "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it." Parents must try to eliminate any tendency towards bad behaviour. They must

also nurture talents and commendable behaviour that a child manifests. Give your children responsibilities early in life. Children trained in responsibility grow up to be self-reliant and dependable adults.

🔑 **Keep control over the home! Your children must know who is in control. We must also teach them to respect proper authority.** Ephesians 6:1-4 – “Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. Honour thy father and mother; (which is the first commandment with promise;) that it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth. And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.”

🔑 **Love your children unceasingly!** Hug them as much as possible, the infants love it a lot. Let them know just how much you love them! Mothers are commanded to love their children in Titus 2:4, 5 – “That they may teach the young women to be sober, to

love their husbands, to love their children, to be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good,” Consider also the loving father in the parable of the “Prodigal Son” (Luke 15:11-24).

🔑 **Commend them for good things they do.** It delights a child a great deal and encourages him to do things that are right. Express your happiness to your children when they show good virtues and also when they progress in life. See the biblical pattern of commending children when they make progress in life – “My son, if thine heart be wise, my heart shall rejoice, even mine. Yea, my reins shall rejoice, when thy lips speak right things. Let not thine heart envy sinners: but be thou in the fear of the LORD all the day long. For surely there is an end; and thine expectation shall not be cut off” (Proverbs 23:15-18).

🔑 **Spend time enjoying your children. Get down to their level and see the world they see!** It’s marvellous to bring out the child in Mum and Dad! Seek to have as much

family time as you can. Have a “happy home”. Laugh together! Proper humour is good for the soul. Proverbs 17:22 says, “A merry heart doeth good like a medicine: but a broken spirit drieth the bones.”

🔑 **Discipline your children whenever necessary!** We believe the biblical teaching that children must be lovingly guided with patience, humility, compassion, kindness and taught right from wrong as early as possible. Parents who do not consistently and fairly deal with the “wrongs” in a child’s life will most likely face many years of misery.

Proverbs 19:18 – “Chasten thy son while there is hope, and let not thy soul spare for his crying.” Likewise, we read in Proverbs 13:24, “He that spareth his rod hateth his son: but he that loveth him chasteneth him betimes.”

🔑 **Keep your marriage together! Children need parents who love each other!** If you have grown up in a home where your parents did not get along, whether divorced or not, you

would have probably realised later in life the devastating results in your personal life.

However, you can overcome this! Many are living proofs that it can be achieved. Parents must be role models to their children. What kind of marriage do you wish for your children? Show them how to be good spouses and parents. Be the example of a good Christian marriage! Your conduct reflects to your children your walk with the Lord! What are you teaching your children by your example? Remember, you are raising someone else's future husband or wife, father or mother! Proverbs 20:7 promises that "the just man walketh in his integrity: his children are blessed after him."

- ☞ **Serve the Lord with your children in a biblically sound church.** Encourage

them to worship the Lord and participate in church activities.

The Lord hath commanded that parents should come with children before the Lord to worship. "Both young men, and maidens; old men, and children: let them praise the name of the LORD: for his name alone is excellent; his glory is above the earth and heaven" (Psalm 148:12-13). "Gather the people together, men, and women, and children, and thy stranger that is within thy gates, that they may hear, and that they may learn, and fear the LORD your God, and observe to do all the words of this law: and that their children, which have not known any thing, may hear, and learn to fear the LORD your God, as long as ye live in the land

whither ye go over Jordan to possess it" (Deuteronomy 31:12-13).

- ☞ **If necessary, seek counsel from your pastors/elders that you may handle your challenges and struggles biblically.** "Where no counsel is, the people fall: but in the multitude of counsellors there is safety" (Proverbs 11:14).
- ☞ **Moreover, make sure you do not neglect your own relationship with God. How can you lead your family, and children without it?** "Blessed is every one that feareth the LORD; that walketh in his ways. For thou shalt eat the labour of thine hands: happy shalt thou be, and it shall be well with thee. Thy wife shall be as a fruitful vine by the sides of thine house: thy children like olive plants round about thy table" (Psalm 128:1-3).



"And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: and thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up."
Deuteronomy 6:6-7

Teaching Your Children Spiritual Truths

“And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: and thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up” (Deuteronomy 6:6-7).

Most Christian parents will admit to being somewhat intimidated by the weighty responsibility Scripture places on them. Our task is outlined in simple terms by verses like Proverbs 22:6 – “Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it” and Ephesians 6:4 – “. . . bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.”

Understanding our solemn duty as parents ought to provoke a certain amount of fear and trembling. But, it need not paralyse us.

Teaching spiritual truths to children is a joy. No one is more receptive, more hungry to learn,

or more trusting than a child. Chances are, you’ll never find more eager disciples than your own children. Don’t squander the opportunity.

Let me suggest some practical principles to remember as you labour to communicate spiritual truths to your children.

1. Understand that children can grasp the essence of almost any truth

Is theology for the child or for the theologian? “Theology” and “child” are incompatible in the minds of many Christians. In truth, we can teach theology to children, but it must be taught simply and clearly with the “milk” of the Word.

Children who are in kindergarten and primary level can grasp the essence of biblical doctrines. We should not hold back teaching them the biblical doctrines because we think they aren’t ready. Though children may not fully understand some of the difficult

spiritual concepts, they can grasp the essence of almost every truth.

In fact, children are equipped to assimilate spiritual truths. That’s why Jesus called the adults to exercise childlike faith: “Whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child, he shall not enter therein” (Mark 10:15). What makes a child’s faith more outstanding than an adult’s? It is simply that children refuse to be troubled by what they cannot understand.

How many of us understand the concepts of infinity, eternity, or omnipotence any better than we did as children? We may speak of those ideas with more sophisticated terminology now, but our finite minds still cannot grasp the complete reality. Don’t be afraid to admit that to your children. Even David wrote about God’s eternal attributes that “such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high, I cannot attain unto it” (Psalm 139:6).

During our daily family devotions, my children have asked me questions about the spiritual truths that I explained from our reading. I recall my eldest son, Cornelius, as a seven-year-old, wondering about my teaching on God's omnipresence: "You mean, when I am in school, God is with me there and also with mummy in the house and also with daddy in FEBC!" My answer to him was "Yes, you're right. God can be everywhere at the same time. It is too amazing for daddy to explain how God can be everywhere. However, we know from the Bible that though we can't take care of one another when we are at different places, our Lord is able to look after us." My son's reply was, "O, So good! God can be with us though we are not together." Such is the response of a child's faith to a solemn truth that is difficult to explain.

Even toddlers can be taught the truths in a simple manner. Again I recall teaching my then four-year-old, Andronicus, and two-and-a-half-year-old, Dorcas, the Gospel truths in simple question and answer form. When I ask them, "What did Jesus do to save us?", they are able to answer, "Jesus died on the cross for our sins."

God's truth is for everyone, but we must make it

applicable to children and their changing needs. We should also use the best methods for each age level.

2. Avoid unexplained symbolism

Often adults mistakenly believe that an allegory or figure of speech will clarify some great truths. With children, if the symbolism is not properly explained, often, it only obscures the truth. Most young children can grasp the truths sooner than they can understand the metaphor.

Nothing is wrong with using symbolism or figurative language to illustrate truths to children. Many excellent children's stories demonstrate how effective the use of allegory can be. But all the symbolism must be carefully explained. Younger children, especially, do not have the ability to interpret figurative language independently.

3. Clearly separate reality from fantasy

Children today are bombarded with fantasy and make-believe. Saturday-morning television, super-heroes, and fantasy toys have all reached unprecedented levels of popularity.

Even Sunday school materials contain huge doses of fantasy. Some of them include stories of personified forest animals and other imaginary creatures. There's nothing necessarily wrong with that approach. Fantasy can be a legitimate and valuable tool for teaching children.

But don't neglect to draw the line clearly between what is reality and what is fantasy. For example, don't let them think that the story of David and Goliath is like the tale about Ronald Raccoon. Make sure your kids know which story is make-believe and which one is actual history.

4. Find out what your children are thinking concerning the lesson

Debrief your kids after your family devotion or Sunday school. It's great fun, and you'll find out exactly which truths they are learning and which ones are going over their heads.

This will enable us to immediately correct them if they are wrong, or plan to teach them again at another time to make it clearer and understandable. It will also help us to affirm once again if they have understood the truth, and commend and encourage

them to live out what they have learned.

5. Don't expect them to understand the lesson the first time

Children rarely get the whole message right the first time. That's why the best Sunday school curriculum has a lot of built-in repetitions and reviews.

I often ask my children, when we are travelling back from the church after the worship or when we get home, about the lessons they have learned in the Sunday school. Though they are able to tell me the topic/story they learned, they often do forget some facts and details of the story. Sometimes they add the details from another story that they learned before.

It is important that we revise the lesson with the children. We must be diligent in bringing back the truths of God's Word into the minds of the children. Deuteronomy 6:6-7 records God's charge to the entire Jewish nation: "And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: and thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when

thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up."

The principle still applies. Teaching our children spiritual truths is a never-ending, non-stop duty. But it is also a tremendous privilege and great joy.

Parents, you are your child's principle spiritual guide. Don't back away from that role. Don't allow yourself to be intimidated or frustrated into abdicating this responsibility. It is the best thing about being a parent.

6. Teach children how to practise the truth

Too often parents and teachers associate learning with head knowledge. The child has "learned" something when he can repeat it. But that does not fulfil the child's needs for daily living. It is a start, but it is not enough.

There are four steps necessary for the effective learning of truths. Head knowledge is the first one. Knowing is a necessary step, for one must see clearly what the Bible truth is or says before he can understand it.

The second step is understanding what that Bible truth means. It is not possible to move

on to the next steps in learning until the learner first understands what he or she is trying to put into life.

The third step is applying. In applying the Bible truth, the learner sees clearly what the truth means to him. The learner not only understands the meaning of the truth, but also that meaning in relation to his own life.

The fourth step is practising. When a child learns what the truth is, then what it means, and then what it means to him or her, it is time to put it into practice in life.

When someone wants to make Bible truths vital to a child, it is essential to help the child to incorporate the truths into his life. The practice of truth is the culmination of teaching.

"Only take heed to thyself, and keep thy soul diligently, lest thou forget the things which thine eyes have seen, and lest they depart from thy heart all the days of thy life: but teach them thy sons, and thy sons' sons" (Deuteronomy 4:9).

Is the Rod of Correction Good and Necessary?

Modern Psychologists Teach Against Rod of Correction

One issue that is sure to spark a heated debate among parents of our time is spanking children to discipline them. Is spanking your child an effective means of disciplining, or do we set aside that time-honoured practice and let modern philosophy guide us?

The growing trend regarding children and discipline is that of leniency and reason. We have become a society which is afraid to set limits and reprimand when necessary, due to the alarming rise in child abuse and neglect. Many child psychologists are now teaching that a child must never be spanked.

The suggested remedy is to take away privileges and reason with the child until he can understand the error of his ways.

On the surface, this may sound like a reasonable solution, but when applied to reality, it does not work.

In my own parental experience, time and time again I have observed that reasoning alone will not help my children to be free from misbehaving. How many times have

we all witnessed red-faced parents desperately pleading with their whiny, uncontrollable youngster to behave? When a child is given freedom to control his decisions and mannerism, words and threats mean absolutely nothing.

The Unrivalled Wisdom of God Advises Rod of Correction

The Bible, which is the divinely-inspired Word of God and an infallible source of vast wisdom concerning our day-to-day life, supports spanking as a good and effective means of discipline.

A firm swat on the thigh with a rod, administered with love, firmness and good counsel, is highly encouraged in the Bible. It is necessary to prevent the child from acting foolishly according to the sinful passions of his heart.

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

In fact, the Scripture tells us that God’s chastisements of a believer are like the correction and chastening of a father. “My son, despise not the chastening of the LORD; neither be weary of his correction: for whom the LORD loveth he correcteth; even as a father the son in whom he delighteth” (Proverbs 3:11-12).

Divine love does not permit rebellion, disobedience and bad behaviour. So

every Christian parent, who wants holy habits in his children, must lovingly apply discipline. The Scripture leaves no room for doubt when it says that every parent who desires to love and protect the soul of his child from peril should apply the rod of correction. “He that spareth his rod hateth his son: but he that loveth



him chasteneth
him betimes”
(Proverbs 13:24).

The “rod,” a thin
tree branch, is
an acceptable
tool for
administering
discipline
firmly and



Let us not forget the purpose of applying the rod. The single purpose is to correct the error of the child. So when we apply the rod, the message of correction must be communicated. In Proverbs 29:15, we are told, “The rod and reproof give wisdom: but a child left to himself bringeth his mother to shame.”

lovingly when a child refuses to accept the authority and instruction of the parent. “Withhold not correction from the child: for if thou beatest him with the rod, he shall not die” (Proverbs 23:13).

A carefully administered rod will not threaten the life of a child. Beating a child carefully and properly in order to correct his folly and misdeeds is not child abuse, but child nurture. “Thou shalt beat him with the rod, and shalt deliver his soul from hell” (Proverbs 23:14).

It should not be administered out of uncontrolled anger, frustration or vengeance. In such times of uncontrolled emotions, our words and actions will not manifest acceptable and proper virtues. Moreover, it will communicate wrong impressions about our feelings towards our children. It will also be a bad example for the children. They in turn may behave with uncontrolled and violent anger towards their siblings and friends in times of unhappiness and frustration. Let us take heed to what the Apostle Paul has written in Ephesians 6:4 – “And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.”

Spanking is not to be viewed as a means to vent our anger on the child in its violent fury. Such a mentality will result in the abuse of this effective and necessary method of correction.

In other words, we must clearly tell the child what wrong he has done and how it should be corrected. Beating a child without sensible words of correction is not encouraged in the Bible. We are clearly taught that we must reprove as we apply the rod. In this way, we will also be able to refrain from senseless beating out of an enraged heart. Our mind must be focused on the child’s correction more than our own feelings of hurt and unhappiness.

“Correct thy son, and he shall give thee rest; yea, he shall give delight unto thy soul” (Proverbs 29:17). No child is perfect. But they must be instructed, guided and corrected as they grow up that they may become godly individuals who bring joy and blessings to those around them.

The rod of correction in the discipline of children is an absolute necessity. It is so important that the Bible says, “Chasten thy son while there is hope, and let not thy soul spare for his crying” (Proverbs 19:18). Children will naturally try every means to escape the rod, even by crying loudly and shedding tears profusely. But none of these should deter a godly parent, who wishes the best for the child, from applying the rod. If that is the biblical counsel, how much more we should ignore those who shed “tears” and teach against the biblical wisdom of beating an errant child with a rod!



Teaching Your Children How to Love

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

“But we were gentle among you, even as a nurse cherisheth her children” (1 Thessalonians 2:7).

If we want our children to be kind and compassionate to others, the best way to help them to be able to do so is to teach them through the example of our own loving hearts and attitudes. Here are some concrete things we, as parents, can do to help our children learn to love.

Love for Family

- ✎ **Create meaningful times together.** Between school, church, friends, work, sports and numerous other activities, children can easily go for weeks without having so much as a prolonged conversation with mum, dad, or their siblings. If we want our children to love each other, we must find creative, meaningful times just to be together. A weekly “family night” especially with the TV off is a good step in the right direction.
- ✎ **Teach them to pray for one another.** As you pray with your children, remind them to pray specially for each family member.

In our time of prayer throughout the day, never forget to mention each child and parent by name, thanking

God for them and asking Him to guide them. Cultivate this habit in the children and it will become a natural part of their prayers.

Love for Others

- ✎ **Talk positively about your friends.** We all get angry with our friends and associates from time to time, and it is tempting to “unload” our resentment at home. But if we want our children to develop a genuine love for others, we, parents, need to guard our tongues from “harmless” gossips.
- ✎ **Reach out to those in need.** Children can be taught to help others in need. Bring your children along during your visitation to the sick and needy. If your children are going to learn to love and serve others, they must see the willingness and compassion in the lives of their parents.

Love for God

- ✎ **Talk about God in the home.** Home life brings many possibilities each day to recognise God’s wonderful love and grace. Every day, talk to your children about all the good things God has done for you and your family. Thank and praise God with your words and actions, and your children will learn to do the same.
- ✎ **Keep family prayer time.** Having family prayer time not only reminds our children how important it is to pray, but also bring the joy of contributing to the prayer time by sharing and praying for their friends and themselves. They will get a clear picture of what it means to truly love others by remembering them before God in prayer.

Protect Our Children from the Occult and Sorcery

(An article written to caution Christians when the Harry Potter books first hit the stand and now published due to the recent surge of interest in the latest release.)

Harry Potter, Sorcery and Fantasy

In recent months, a skinny, dark-haired orphan with a lightning-bolt scar on his forehead has taken over the New York Times bestseller list. The boy, Harry Potter, is the invention of British writer, J. K. Rowling, who has made publishing history by grabbing the top three spots on the bestseller list with her children's books: *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*, *Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets*, and *Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban*. More than 35 million copies of the first three books are said to be sold around the world. These books are immensely popular in Singapore also.

The big question is whether Harry's world is a good one for the intended 8- to 12-year-old reader. The American Library Association reports serious challenges to the use of the books in schools.

Some parents have opposed the introduction of the books to schools by saying that "the books have a serious tone of death, hate, lack of respect, and sheer evil."

One educator comments: "... Harry interacts with many fascinating characters in a series of magical adventures. The books, often compared to those of Roald Dahl, are suspenseful and humorous, but the second and third ones are increasingly dark, and maybe the comparison

should be to the tangled terrain and psychology of Batman movies."

The Scripture exhorts us, "Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good" (Romans 12:9).

Children's literature sensation Harry Potter is increasingly descending into darkness. It raises concerns of parents and school boards around the world. Moral ambiguity and alienation of youths are strong themes in the series, which are wrongly marketed as harmless fantasy.

Real Sorcery and Witchcraft in Harry Potter

Harry Potter is a boy who attends the Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry, and what is really being described in the book is sorcery. Sorcery and witchcraft in some cultures are the same thing. The same Hebrew word in the Old Testament is translated as both "witchcraft," and "sorcery". It can include using potions, incantations to spirits, communing with the dead, etc.

Contemporary witchcraft, especially in the United States, is a form of religious Neo-paganism, which is an occult practice. Although varied in its beliefs from group to group, witchcraft and Wicca usually encompass the views of honouring nature as sacred, monism (all is one energy), polytheism (many gods), and pantheism (all is God/Goddess; God/Goddess is

contained within the world). While witches and Wiccans might practise magic or cast spells, they would more likely consider it “white magic” and not sorcery. Those who practise sorcery may adopt some pagan beliefs, but do not usually identify themselves with witchcraft. Contemporary sorcery is based on a belief of accessing and manipulating energy through various methods. There are those who practise ritual magic, an involved form of sorcery based on teachings going back to ancient societies.

Magic is “the art of changing consciousness and physical reality according to will,” and sorcery is “the manipulation of natural forces and powers to achieve a desired objective.” Another definition of sorcery is offered by Lewis Spence as using “supposed supernatural power by the agency of evil spirits called forth by spells by a witch or black magician.” Here is a definition by a magician: “Magic is a collection of techniques, dating back 70,000 years, aimed at manipulating the human imagination in order to produce physical, psychological, or spiritual results.”

Sorcerers take their practice very seriously; it is no fantasy, but a very real part of the occult arts. Some of what is taught at Hogwarts could be part of either sorcery or contemporary witchcraft, or both: studying the

movement of the planets, the history of magic, herbology, potions, spells, and charms. Although it is valid to clarify witchcraft vs. sorcery, whether Harry Potter is called a witch, wizard, or sorcerer is irrelevant when looking at the content of these books to determine if they are appropriate for young people.

Sorcery is nothing less than the attempt to replace God, since it is one’s will that is primary in practising sorcery. What must be examined are the ideas and teachings contained in the book.

There are elements of fantasy and good storytelling in this book. At the same time, the whole story is set in an occult context, and with references to real occult practices and views mixed in with fantasy. The hero of the book is a wizard/witch/sorcerer whose goal is to learn how to use his powers through the occult.

Much is made of the fact that the author wrote while on welfare on scraps of paper at a cafe. This makes it sound like everything is totally from her imagination; however, she did not imagine alchemy, charms, serving, Nicolas Flamel, astrology, the Dark Side, or many other occult concepts and information. It is only reasonable to assume that Rowling did some research or has had some exposure to occult and magical practices. The idea of using sorcery to fight evil, or using “good” magic to fight “bad” magic, is a major component of the plot.

In 1996, a movie called “The Craft” taught the audience that using witchcraft to fight evil is good. This movie helped to galvanize the growing Wicca/witchcraft movement and attracted a lot of teenage

girls to Wicca. Many of them think that it is okay to use one's occult power "for good". How does this message differ from the Harry Potter books? Harry Potter, far from teaching against the occult, gives a rousing cheer for it. Those who opposed witchcraft or wizardry are mocked and painted as stupid.

There is a difference between fantasy and the occult. Fantasy can be used in a way that totally leaves out references to the occult. But this is not what happens in this book; instead, fantasy feeds on the occult and is fuelled by it. Yes, this is just a story, but stories can teach and influence. Stories can present ideas and endorse worldviews. Does this book desensitise children to the occult? What happens when they get older and encounter peers who practise occult magic, cast spells, and attempt spirit contact? These practices are becoming more popular, and are already widespread among adolescents.

Harry Potter glorifies the occult. God condemns the occult. Should we take a book lightly that endorses what God has so seriously forbidden?

If your children have already read these books, then use the books as a tool to teach them from God's word what He says about the

occult. Teach them how to share this information gently and lovingly with their friends. It is essential that they be equipped to deal with the increasing acceptance of occultism in our culture.

The Scripture Prohibits Sorcery

The Scripture repeatedly condemns involvement in any form of occult or sorcery. Read the following biblical passages:

Deuteronomy 18:9-12 — ". . . thou shalt not learn to do after the abominations of those nations. There shall not be found among you any one that maketh his son or his daughter to pass through the fire, or that useth divination, or an observer of times, or an enchanter, or a witch, or a charmer, or a consulter with familiar spirits, or a wizard, or a necromancer. For all that do these things are an abomination unto the LORD: and because of these abominations the LORD thy God doth drive them out from before thee."

Leviticus 19:26, 31 — "Ye shall not eat any thing with the blood: neither shall ye use enchantment, nor observe times. Regard not them that have familiar spirits, neither seek after wizards, to be defiled by them: I am the LORD your God." (We are also commanded to ignore every form of wizardry.)

Leviticus 20:6 — "And the soul that turneth after such as have familiar spirits, and after wizards, to go a whoring after them, I will even set my face against that soul, and will cut him off from among his people."



Jeremiah 27:9-10 — “Therefore hearken not ye to your prophets, nor to your diviners, nor to your dreamers, nor to your enchanters, nor to your sorcerers, which speak unto you, saying, Ye shall not serve the king of Babylon: for they prophesy a lie unto you, to remove you far from your land; and that I should drive you out, and ye should perish.”

Malachi 3:5 — “And I will come near to you to judgment; and I will be a swift witness against the sorcerers, and against the adulterers, and against false swearers, and against those that oppress the hireling in his wages, the widow, and the fatherless, and that turn aside the stranger from his right, and fear not me, saith the LORD of hosts.”

Does Harry Potter Influence Children?

Do children accept Harry’s lessons in practical witchcraft as an open door to an occult reality? Many, even some

Christian leaders, have denied any such danger, but author J. K. Rowling admits that this happens. In an interview with Newsweek, she said, “I get letters from children addressed to Professor Dumbledore [headmaster at Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry, the books’ setting], and it’s not a joke, begging to be let into Hogwarts, and some of them are really sad. Because they want it to be true so badly they’ve convinced themselves it’s true.”

The growing number of books and TV shows like Harry Potter and Sabrina the Teenage Witch encourage an interest in magic as harmless fun. However for some young people, it can fuel a fascination that leads to dangerous dabbling with occult powers. So what starts out as spooks and spells can lead to psychological and spiritual damage.

Let us warn our children against the increasing number of games, books, and shows with occult messages.

Avoid the Dangers of Television

Television is a wonderful medium of communication, valuable in many respects. It affords a wide range of educational opportunities – many of which one otherwise would never be able to access. But this “highway of information” is not necessarily a “highway of holiness” (Isaiah 35:8). It is also one of the most dangerous venues of intellectual contamination.

In these days, the minds of most children are infiltrated and shaped by the programmes they watch on the TV. Let us not forget that the most precious

possession that a youngster has is his mind. The mind (sometimes designated as the “heart” in biblical vocabulary) is that faculty of the human being out of which “choices” emanate, and thus that which controls the direction of one’s life. Little wonder, then, that Solomon cautioned, “Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it *are* the issues of life” (Proverbs 4:23). Parents must not leave their children to watch TV programmes indiscriminately. They must strive to protect their children from the dangers of TV.

Some of the Dangers of TV

1. It mesmerizes and feeds the subconscious with corrupt values.
2. It desensitizes children's minds and affects their discernment.
3. It creates godless heroes and promotes their godless problem solving methods.
4. It provides great temptation to sin, and this robs children of their innocence.
5. It promotes violent behaviour.
6. It breaks down interpersonal communication.
7. It creates a false idea of the needs of life and deprives them of moderation.
8. It fuels the imagination with negative images, and breeds unreal fear.
9. It creates an appetite for worldly entertainment.
10. It feeds the desire for supernatural and occult power.
11. It can be habit-forming, and often addictive in nature.
12. It distracts them from reality and responsibility.



3. Do not allow children to watch TV at meal times. Parents and youngsters should engage in meaningful conversation that builds up family togetherness at these times.

4. Do not allow your children to watch TV if they have failed to do their homework (either their school lessons or their preparation for Bible classes).
5. Do not permit your youngsters to spend hours playing video games. These will take their toll on their reasoning skills.
6. Do not allow your children to watch TV without monitoring what they are watching. TV, these days, overflows with graphic lewdness and undisguised propaganda, the design of which is to break down moral barriers. Remember, the crop "harvested" will be the results of the "seed" that is sown, and your child's mind is the "field".

Guidelines to Protect Your Children from the Dangers of TV

The following guidelines will be very useful in protecting your children from the dangers mentioned above:

1. It is recommended that children not watch TV more than one hour, *at the most*, each day.
2. Do not permit children to have a personal TV in their room; you cannot



Activities of The Gethsemane Care Ministry

A photo report of the Gospel work through The Gethsemane Care Ministry that transforms the lives of drug addicts and makes them a blessing to others.



Morning Personal Devotion

A spiritual discipline of morning devotion is cultivated among the residents.

Morning Worship

Every morning, the residents gather together for singing, prayer and study of God's Word.



Preparing for daily work projects

Before the residents set out to do work projects, they pray for His mercies that they may carry out their work effectively.



(continued on next page)



Help to minister to the seniors

Care Ministry brethren help to run a weekly ministry for the elderly.



Addicted to the Ministry

Bro Jeremiah Sim from The Gethsemane Care Ministry now attends Far Eastern Bible College to be equipped for the full time ministry to which the Lord has called him. Jeremiah and his wife, Gina.



Jeremy's Furniture Business

Bro Jeremy, a brother from The Gethsemane Care Ministry, has opened a teak furniture shop - TeakVilla. He employs brethren from the ministry.

We thank all our readers who have been supporting The Gethsemane Care Ministry through prayer and gifts since its inauguration in March, 2005. The Lord has been blessing the ministry; and many are knocking at its door to receive the blessing of the Gospel.

You may support this work by engaging the services of the brethren of this ministry for removal, painting, etc. Please call 9337-2337 for further information. You may also send your gifts to 510 Geylang Road, #02-06, Singapore 389466. *(Cheque may be made payable to 'Gethsemane B-P Church'. Please indicate on the reverse side of the cheque, 'The Gethsemane Care Ministry'.)*

BIBLE TRIVIA - GENESIS 14 & 15

Sarah Ng

READ THE ABOVE CHAPTERS FROM YOUR BIBLE. LOCATE THE ANSWERS AND FILL IN THE BLANKS. THEN USE THE BOXED LETTERS TO COMPLETE THE VERSE BELOW.

- 1) _ _ _ _ _ m _ _ was the king of Elam.
- 2) People rebelled against him in the _ _ i _ _ _ _ _ year.
- 3) They gathered to battle in Siddim which was full of _ _ _ _ p _ _ _ .
- 4) All the goods and _ _ c _ _ _ _ of Sodom and Gomorrah were taken.
- 5) Lot, who lived in _ _ _ m, was also taken captive.
- 6) Abram armed his _ _ _ _ t _ and pursued and smote the enemy.
- 7) M _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ , the priest of the most high God, praised the Lord.
- 8) Abram refused the _ _ r _ _ _ of the goods offered to him.
- 9) The Lord came to Abram in a _ i _ _ _ to comfort him.
- 10) God said, "He that shall come forth out of thine own _ _ _ l _ shall be thine heir."
- 11) Abram divided all the animals, but a _ _ _ _ pigeon and a turtledove he divided not.
- 12) Abram remembered how the Lord brought him out of _ of the Chaldees.
- 13) God assured him, "Thou shalt go to thy fathers in _ _ _ _ ."
- 14) A smoking furnace and a burning l _ _ passed between the pieces.
- 15) In the same day, the Lord made a _ _ v _ _ _ _ with Abram.
- 16) Abram's seed has been promised all the land, from the river of Egypt unto the great River _ _ _ h _ _ _ _ .
- 17) They will inherit the land of the G _ _ _ _ _ _ _ and other nations.

(HINT: THE NUMBERS BELOW THE BLANKS MATCH THE QUESTION NUMBERS ABOVE.)

"
 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8' 9 10 7 11 11 9 12 6 13 14 6 7 8 15 16 3 8
 14 4 4 15 2 3 8 17 16 :for this is well pleasing unto the Lord."

Answers to Vol. 5, Issue 3 - Bible Trivia from Genesis 11, 12 & 13.
 Pg. 23 - Shinar, Babel, Eber, thirty-nine, father, Lot, Nahor, Haran, Canaan, Sichem, Bethel, Egypt, Pharaoh, Jordan, Sodom, Mamre.
 Hidden message: "For the love of money is the root of all evil." 1 Timothy 6:10

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on the life of the blind hymn writer
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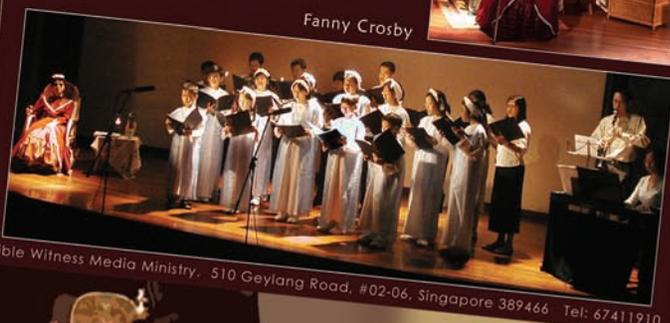
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The musical story of Frances Jane Crosby,
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*O what a happy soul am I!
Although I cannot see,
I am resolved that in this world
Contented I will be.*

*How many blessings I enjoy
That other people don't!
To weep and sigh because I'm blind
I cannot, and I won't!*

Fanny Crosby



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