

DIRECTIONS

for Foursquare Christian Educators

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Seventeen year-old high school football star, Mike Moore, and his childhood sweetheart decided not to go to school one cold October morning. That afternoon, with favorite radio station playing, both were found in the front seat of Mike's car, seat belts fastened securely, asphyxiated from carbon monoxide poisoning. Only a simple note was left, "NO ONE IS HEARING US, MAYBE SOMEONE WILL LISTEN NOW".

Teenagers are not the only family members not being heard. "Husbands, wives, and children are not getting enough family life. People are hurting, families do not know how to talk or listen", states author Art Cox in *Second Shift Families*.

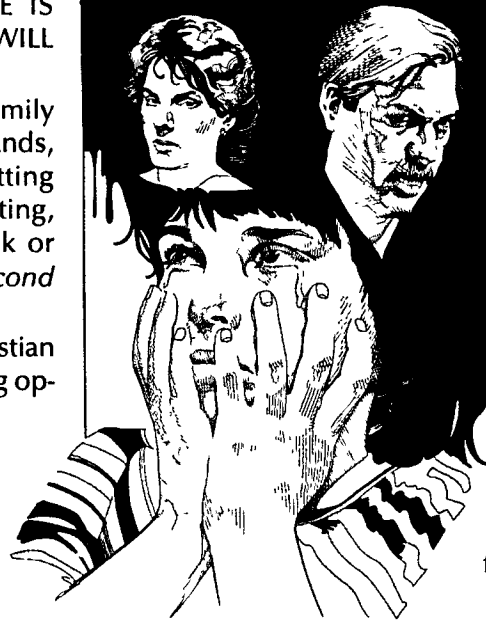
Families, Christian and non-Christian alike, need help and hope in facing opposition to the home today.

JESUS makes a promise filled with direction and hope that can make a difference to the families we, together, are called to serve. "ARISE, SHINE; for thy light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee. For, behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people: BUT THE LORD SHALL RISE UPON THEE, AND HIS GLORY SHALL BE SEEN UPON THEE" Isaiah 62:10.

Our task is to help the family to function with such vitality that there is distinctive beauty in each Christian home-grown product. The means are at our disposal. Along with the Church, God ordained the home: There are two divinely appointed organisms of human society. With the mandate to exist, God also provided the tools to function.

The call to the church today is to hear the needs of

DYING TO BE HEARD



the family and seek the Lord Jesus to empower families with:

VISION — The primary role of the family is to focus on the purposes of God! God is to be the ground, guide, and goal of everything we are and do. Psalms 127, "Except the Lord build the house, they labor in vain that build it..." Genesis 1:28, "And God blessed them, and God said unto them, be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion..."

MISSION — Each family has a significant contribution to make to their community and to society. The mission is to be a family of "rescuers". Jude 21-25 describes in detail the family mission.

COMMISSION — Family supports family! The Church is a good friend of the family. Families can learn how to live in peace and harmony with themselves and others in the church body. Parenting education should include the skills and process involved in family meetings, family nights, and family networking with other families.

COMPASSION — "Be of good cheer, I have overcome the world": Jesus is a compassionate encourager of the family. (John 16:33) There is no other task that offers greater fulfillment than of building a home that is Christ approved, whether seven or one make up that home family. Compassion, coupled with prayer that is both petition and intercession, gives life and love to the home. Learning how to love the ones you love; there is no harder job we are called to do.

Though families are dying to be heard, Jesus lives to listen.

Praying for your family to be heard.

Rick Wulfesteig, National Minister of Christian Education



Facing the Challenge

by Ruby Easton

It was stated as a plea. "Help us to help families deal with the difference between reality and their expectations." The minister in that workshop spoke for many who find this dilemma the most difficult hurdle to cross in an attempt to meet the needs of families. Any answer to that entreaty, no matter how well researched or voluminous would be incomplete; and yet, we are called to be continually faithful to the challenge.

What then can churches expect to accomplish as they try to support families in their journey toward intentional meaningful lives?

1. The church can help families eliminate useless myths. Society actively promotes so many images of the acceptable family, the good mother, the achieving father, or the dutiful child. These unrealistic images create destructive expectations and impossible feelings of guilt. Exploding these myths can release power to explore realistic alternative goals. Exploding familial myths is the trade of Erma Bombeck. The church can create the same opportunities for families.

2. The church can help families to design new goals. To remain hopeful, families need to recognize goals which are attainable. No more eloquent ministry is ever performed than when an experienced mother paired with a new mother offers the reassurance that babies are for enjoyment and other tasks may be irrelevant. For a church to provide one course in communication skills may be the means by which non-communication barriers tumble in several families.

3. The church can be a power transformer. Feeling helpless and out of control is not an uncommon state for families amid changing values and lifestyles. Feeling helpless is a draining experience. Recognizing powerlessness is the first step in effective change.

When church families share their concern over adolescent abuse of drugs and alcohol their helplessness can be transformed by a commitment of energy and resources to providing alternatives for youth.

4. The church can celebrate the rituals. Family life consists of a series of entries and exits as family members arrive, change and depart. Each transition brings its own attendant feelings. Only as these feelings are recognized, sorted through, and made sense of, can families proceed with purposeful living.

Rituals serve as punctuation marks in our lives and publicly signify that an event or passage is of importance. Churches have significant rituals for birth and dying but how does the church mark the passage of children from home or families moving away?

5. The church can bind up loose ends. Much has been written describing the family as a functioning system or organization and the ties of relationship between family members. In our contemporary society those bonds are severed by involuntary consequence of death or life transitions and also by divorce or when family members emotionally "cut out" either temporarily or permanently. Those dangling, hurtful, broken bonds remain as baggage which the family drags along until someone cares enough to pick and connect with the loose ends. Whether it is the family with one person, the newly divorced, or newly widowed, the greatest challenge of the church is to quietly reach out to respectfully and tenderly gather up and connect loose ends. Many in the church are already in this role, Pastoral care, Fellowship care, Family Life Task Force. No new committees are needed; just an ongoing commitment to ensure that loose ends are bound up.

(Reprinted with permission of ForParents/ForChurches newsletter, published by Interpersonal Communication.)



Family Time – Lost or Found

Activity	Based On	Total
Sleeping	7 hours per night	2,555
Eating	2 hours per day	730
Working	40 hours for 50 weeks	2,000
Preparing for work	1 hour per day	250
Traveling to work	1 hour per day	250
Watching television	6 hours per day	2,190
Church (includes travel)	3 hours per week	156
Homemaking	10 hours per day 1*	3,650
Reading newspaper	15 minutes per day	91
Dad's spending time with kids	1 minute per day 2*	6
Prayer & Bible reading	1 minute per day 3*	6

1* Represents the various chores related to caring for a home and family.

2* Based on rather sad national averages in the United States.

3* Based on confessions of many Christians.

Resources To Build Strong Families

Family Resources Available Through Foursquare Publications

Heaven Help the Home by Howard G. Hendricks.
Dr. Hendricks mixes his special wit with sound biblical concepts and actual experiences in this exciting manual on family living.

Cost of book \$6.95/Supplemental order guide
Leader's Guide \$5.95/Supplemental order guide

Say It With Love by Howard G. Hendricks.
Talking is easy, but communicating — especially the gospel — is difficult. You can share the Gospel, if you learn to say it with love.

Cost of book \$6.95/Supplemental order guide
Leader's Guide \$5.95/Supplemental order guide

The Pillars of Marriage by H. Norman Wright, 12 lessons. Study guide available.

Cost of book \$6.95
/Available Gospel Light Newsletter Page

Communication: Key to Your Marriage
by H. Norman Wright, 11 lessons.

Cost of book \$7.95
/Available Gospel Light Newsletter Page

40 Ways to Teach Your Child by Paul Lewis.
Study guide to forty of the most important skills, attitudes, and values your toddler, junior, or teenager will need to grow into a mature and successful adult.

Cost of book \$4.95/Supplemental

Caring For Your Aging Parents by Barbara Deane.
Caregivers emotional and spiritual support from Deane's personal insight, interviews with experts, and testimonials from other struggling caregivers.

Cost of book \$9.95/Supplemental

Children & Divorce by Archibald D. Hart, Ph.D
Guidebook that speaks out on behalf of children caught up in divorce dilemma.

Cost of book \$8.99/Supplemental

Devotions For Families That Can't Sit Still
by Carolyn Williford.

Guidebook that offers an activity-oriented approach that will enrich devotion times of a family with school-age children.

Cost of book \$8.95/Supplemental

Family Resources Addresses

Christian Parenting
P.O. Box 3850
Sisters, OR 97759-1850

A wide variety of quality issues and facts for the whole family.

**Family Walk
Walk Thru The Bible**
P.O. Box 80587
Atlanta, GA 30366-0587

Daily devotional guide. A superb tool for meaningful family devotions.

Dad's Only
P.O. Box 340
Julian, CA 92036

A quarterly newsletter and tape packed with pertinent helps for Dad.

Christian Service Brigade
P.O. Box 150
Wheaton, IL 60189

"Building men", training on how to build father/son relationships. "On the Father's Front", newsletter

Focus On The Family
P.O. Box 500
Pomona, CA 91769

Magazines, tapes, books and films that effectively embrace the needs and care of families today.

**The Institute for Peace
& Justice For Family**
4144 Lindell #122
St. Louis, MO 63103
PH (314) 533-4445

A quarterly newsletter and books with practical ideas and helps for family meetings, prayer, and activities

Active Parenting
810 Franklin Court, Suite B
Marietta, GA 30067
PH 1-800-825-0060

Parenting education programs, newsletters, and conferences.



Family Resources available through Foursquare Publications Heaven Help the Home

W

hat's Happening To The Family?

"No matter where I go in the world, I see the power of God in the family."

— *President George Bush*

"The Family In America", *Christian Parenting Today*. (November - December 1989)

Family and T.V. - "Television entertains, but rarely encourages."

How To Grow A Happy Family, Auddie Gaddis, Judson Press.

"40% of all households eat dinner with the TV or VCR on."

Newsweek Magazine, Laura Shapiro, Special Issue 1989.

"In old age, as in youth, the baby boom will shake society by the sheer strength of its number."

Newsweek Magazine, Melinda Beck, Special Issue, December 1989.

"Will you still need me
Will you still feed me
When I'm 64?"

— *John Lennon and Paul McCartney, 1967*

"By 2030 the entire baby boom — 77 million people, one third of the current U.S. population — will be senior citizens."

Newsweek Magazine, Melinda Beck, Special Issue, 1989.

"Relegating so many children to the role of outcasts in a rich society will come back to haunt us."

Newsweek Magazine, Jonathan Kozol, Special Issue, 1989.

"Children of Poverty — Of the 33 million poor Americans, 13 million are children, 500,000 of those children are homeless. 30% of the U.S. high-school students don't graduate. For non-whites the dropout rate is 40%."

Newsweek Magazine, Jonathan Kozol, Special Issue, 1989.

"These days, adolescents want to do everything sooner — everything but grow up."

Newsweek Magazine, Kenneth L. Woodward, Special Issue, 1989.

"Fewer than 27% of the nation's 91 million households in 1988 fit the traditional model of a family. At the same time, the bureau has counted 1.6 million same-sex couples living together, up from 1.3 million in 1970, and 2.6 million opposite-sex couples sharing a household, up from just half a million in 1970."

Newsweek Magazine, Jean Seligmann, Special Issue, 1989.

"Stepfamilies are families, too. That's a reality more and more are having to learn to live with."

Newsweek Magazine, Barbara Kantrowitz and Pat Wingert, Special Issue, 1989.

"The rate of failure in fatherhood is actually higher than any other occupation. Fathers have a colossal full-time job that most people underestimate."

"Most men need help to be effective parents. They desire practical instruction in knowing how to relate to children. Most of all, they become better fathers when they are encouraged and supported in prayer by other Christian men."

— *Dr. Sweeting*

Moody Bible Church, Chicago, IL

Llaughter is Strong Medicine

Keep your family healthy with liberal doses of this free tonic.

Be careful. The following question may be more difficult to answer honestly than it looks! Is your home truly a fun place to be?

When the normal burdens and difficulties of life start to frustrate us, humor needs to be a ready tool for coping. Here's how humor can work for you:

1. A new perspective — Humor involves a change in outlook.

2. An emotional lift — Changes in perspective, humor offers the tool of encouragement.

3. A teaching aid — Like a visual aid, humor can be used to teach a profound or simple truth.



4. Defusing anger — Hearty laughter tends to prompt feelings of anger and vengeance.

5. Bridge builder — Humor is an excellent way to break the ice in communication.

6. Just plain fun — In every way, laughter is good medicine. Proverbs 15:13, "A merry heart maketh a cheerful countenance."

— by Paul Lewis/Condensed from *Laughter is Strong Medicine*; Christian Printing.

10 Ways to Support **SINGLE PARENTS**

- 1** Pray for wisdom about what to say. Listen and be available.
- 2** Reach out to the children. Invite them on outings or to church.
- 3** Offer practical help such as free baby-sitting, yard work, car or plumbing repairs, etc. Cook a meal — set a date and follow through.
- 4** Invite single friends to dinner and don't forget holidays and birthdays.
- 5** Reaffirm their self-worth — accept and uplift.
- 6** Empathize. Put yourself in their place.
- 7** Encourage them to visit their pastor for counsel.
- 8** Contact — cards, notes, poems, Bible verses, phone calls.
- 9** Take them somewhere normal and fun — a picnic, a ball game, a church program, or the gym.
- 10** Fellowship. Invite them to join your Bible study or Christian support group; introduce them to a single parents fellowship group.

— Focus On The Family

happy Child

Try as you might, the truth is, you *can't* really make your child happy. Research shows the subjective sense of well being we call "happiness" is the result of personal choices rather than the fruit of one's circumstances. You *can*, however, improve the odds that your child will experience lifelong happiness by modeling and teaching these *seven fundamentals*:

1. Emphasize family closeness. Loving relationships and time with loved ones will be our child's most important and consistent source of happiness. This includes his spiritual relationship with God.

2. Keep your child busy at things he likes to do — working or playing in ways he or she finds meaningful.

3. Serve others. Doing good enhances self-esteem resulting in your child feeling good about himself. There's evidence that altruism also builds happiness by relieving both physical and mental stress.

4. Choose real happiness. Circumstance based happiness is a widely believed mirage. Research shows that the happiness derived from pleasant events depends upon how we feel we've influenced those events. Good fortune from "out of the blue" doesn't really make us very happy because it signals that we aren't in control of our lives. This is why giving your child gifts of toys and ready-made activities fails to yield happiness.

5. Keep your child energized through aerobic conditioning. Whether it's the natural pain-killing endorphins released by the brain during exercise or something else, fitness is a reliable ally of happiness.

6. Balance daily routine with novelty and *doing the unexpected.* Children are usually better at this than parents.

7. Aim for experiencing *consistent moments* of emotional intensity, but don't always go for the highest of highs. High extremes invariably yield the opposite.

Since happiness is the legacy every caring parent wishes for his or her children, and the "pursuit of happiness" is every American's birthright, we need to be sure our children really understand *where happiness comes from* — **JESUS. THE JOY OF THE LORD IS MY STRENGTH!**



INSIDE OUR FOURSQUARE FAMILY

Reports of C.E. Training Conferences

Southwest Divisional C.E. Training Day — January 13, 1990
Host church — Desert Chapel/Palm Springs, CA.
Approximately 100 people in attendance. (1 of 6 Divisional Conferences since 1989) Rev. Mary Lou Canata is the District C.E. Representative.

Southern California C.E. Training Day — January 20, 1990
Host church — The Church On The Way/Van Nuys, CA.
Dr. Jack Hayford and Dr. Sam Middlebrook among others were teachers. There were over 600 registered for the day. Rev. Denise Cavinee is the So. Cal. District Representative.

Western District C.E. Training Day — January 27, 1990
Host church — Heart of the Valley Foursquare Church /Pleasanton, CA.
Approximately 200 people in attendance. Rev. Herb Schneidau, Jr. is the Western District C.E. Representative.

If you are interested in a C.E. Conference to equip and train church workers, contact your District C.E. Representative.



ADD A LITTLE COLOR TO YOUR FAMILY!

The effect of color on the human psyche is a fascinating subject and one of increasing interest for practical as well as theoretical reasons. Individual color preferences are formed by personal experience so that by the time we are adults, our color choices expresses personal language of our feelings. Ask yourself, "If I were a color, what color would I be?" The answer will tell you how you see yourself and your family:

- RED — Ambitious, energetic, courageous
- PINK — Affectionate, loving, compassionate
- MAROON — Sensuous, emotional, gregarious
- ORANGE — Competent, organized, impatient
- PEACH — Gentle, charitable, enthusiastic
- YELLOW — Communicative, expressive, social
- MINT GREEN — Modest, insignificant, composed
- APPLE GREEN — Innovative, adventurous
- GREEN — Benevolent, humanistic, scientific
- BLUE GREEN — Idealistic, faithful
- LIGHT BLUE — Creative, perceptive, imaginative
- DARK BLUE — Intelligent, responsible
- MAUVE — Delicate, reserved, sensitive
- PURPLE — Intuitive, regal, spiritual
- BROWN — Honest, down-to-earth, supportive
- BLACK — Disciplined, strong-willed, independent
- WHITE — Individualistic, egocentric, lonely
- GRAY — Passive, non-committal, stressed
- SILVER — Honorable, chivalrous, romantic
- GOLD — Idealistic, noble, successful

From "The Language of Color", by Dorothee L. Mella, Warner Books, Inc. 75 Rockefeller Plaza, New York, NY 10023.

What are Pastors Saying About the Good News Bears?

"Our community has been opened to our fellowship by the Good News Bears — people are seeing discipleship in action through our kids."

— Rick Gilmore, Sr. Pastor, Grants Pass, OR.

"Good News Bears builds healthy relationships between children and adults. The Bears have reached every age group in our church with a deeper love for Jesus."

— Brent Roberson, Sr. Pastor, Mahomet, IL.

"Six children gave their lives to Christ in January alone! The Good News Bears is a program for the community. Half of the 65 children (average in attendance) come from the outside community."

— Roger McLaughlin, Sr. Pastor, Sterling, CO.

Simple Family Night Agenda

1. **Fun** — singing, an activity or table game complete with popcorn.
2. **Feedback** — the sharing of problems, needs and frustrations.
3. **Focus** — the study together of a biblical subject related to family needs and growth in skills, attitudes, projects, etc.
4. **Prayer** — remembering concerns, needs, and thanksgivings to God.
5. **Coordination** — planning the week's calendar, activities, errands, and cards.

STRONG FAMILIES — A national survey of "strong" families revealed these common strengths: Appreciation; stability; time together; high degree of commitment; good communication patterns; and a high degree of religious orientation.

FAMILY TALK — The "atmosphere" of your home depends more upon the words spoken than the furnishings. Ask each family member to list the words that they feel are most often heard in your house. Compare lists and talk about the results.

— The above adapted from *STIMULUS*

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If you would like to make an article contribution to this newsletter, we would appreciate hearing from you.

NATIONAL DEPARTMENT OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION
1910 West Sunset Blvd., Suite 200 • Los Angeles, CA 90026
(213) 484-0105