

The eternal God is thy refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms: and he shall thrust out the enemy from before thee; and shall say, Destroy them. Deuteronomy 33:26-28

In this issue

What's New	2
Renewing the Vision '07	2
Making a Difference	2
A Man of Courage	3
Fatherly Advice	3
Words of Wisdom	4
Decently and in Order	4
Battle of the Wills	4
Beatitudes for Homemakers	5
Nancy in the Neighborhood	5
Blessings	6
Graduates	6

...Be not afraid of them: remember the Lord, which is great and terrible, and fight for your brethren, your sons, and your daughters, your wives, and your houses.

Nehemiah 4:14

The Battle Rages

It was tedious, dangerous work. A few dedicated families struggled to accomplish the impossible. However, because a humble servant understood that God had the power to overcome difficult circumstances and he did not sway from the task at hand, Nehemiah saw the walls of Jerusalem rebuilt in his life time.

The walls of family values are slowly being restored. Fathers are turning their hearts towards home resulting in children who are mighty in spirit and marriages that are strong. Some of these amazing children are beginning to take their place in key leadership positions in their communities and beyond. Yet why are we hearing that the battle for the family is stronger than ever? Perhaps the enemy knows that he is facing defeat.

Like Nehemiah the battle cry has gone out and valiant families have begun to regain the integrity of the family. It is up to us to continue the work. There are a number of analogies that can be drawn from the story of Nehemiah and applied to building strong families.

First, they all had a singular purpose and strove to accomplish it.

Throughout history we are reminded of the amazing accomplishments of those who knew their purpose in the Lord and diligently sought to fulfill it. Fathers who understand their visionary roles in leading their families to spiritual victory and mothers who understand their mission of nourishing and nurturing those in their charge are the key to raising children who are strong in the Lord.

Second they were all armed. It is important that parents understand the importance of memorizing and meditating on scripture and of training their children to delight in it as well.

They gave up their small ambitions and worked wholeheartedly.

Raising children is a wholehearted expenditure. It takes dedication and commitment. Most of all it takes time. The primary purpose of Christian parenting is to rear children who are spiritually strong and display good character. Numerous

choices chip away at the time we have available for our children. Activities that do not assist in this primary goal should be diligently guarded against, because there is "no greater joy than to know that your children walk in truth".

They finished the work.

Some of the greatest challenges parents will ever face are during the teen years. Yet for those who have diligently labored, it is a time of great recompense. Young people who radiate Godliness in their actions and life are a priceless reward.

Future generations benefited from their sacrifice.

Parents who are willing to endure to the end will build a lasting tribute to the excellence of following God's plan for families.

Deuteronomy 7:9
Know therefore that the LORD thy God, he is God, the faithful God, which keepeth covenant and mercy with them that love him and keep his commandments to a thousand generations;



"Situations that look impossible to us are actually opportunities for God to show His power in us. Yes, there are giants in the land, but our weapons of truth, light, and love are more powerful than their deception, darkness, and hate." Bill Gothard

What's New

Growing families require a flexible and viable support system. In order to best meet those needs, Louisiana Above Rubies is thrilled to announce a number of opportunities available for the upcoming year.

The **new website** is officially online. We encourage you to visit laaboverubies.org and let us know what you think.

We are excited to launch

our **"Nancy in the Neighborhood"** program that is designed to assist families in introducing Nancy Campbell's foundational message on motherhood to friends, neighbors, or church groups.

See the article elsewhere in this newsletter for information on the **March** showing of Nancy's message which will introduce the new program and include **a host training**

session.

Check our website for showings near you, applications, and additional host information.

Family camp is undergoing some much needed reforms and is scheduled for February, 22-24, 2008.

Above Rubies Ladies camp coming soon.

Renewing the Vision October 27, 2007.

Renewing the Vision '07

This fall's theme is "Finishing Strong". How can you be sure that the qualities you've worked so hard to instill in your children will remain through adulthood? What should mothers do when all seems lost? Broken relationships within the home along with rebellion are grievous challenges parents face. Learn how to avoid them with proper training in the early years and how to correct them in the later years.

Some of the topics include:

Learn the three greatest dangers you must guard against in rearing children who finish strong

Understand the dangers of dating

The two things you must not fail to do

The power of vision.

This year we will feature a

special break out session for young girls ages 12-18. The purpose is to inspire young ladies to fall in love with the Lord and obtain a harmonious relationship with their parents.

"We enjoyed hearing from the local moms how to trust and walk with the Lord in their circumstances."

See our web page for cost and other conference details.

Making a Difference

Because a number of Christians have sought to take a stand for righteousness in Louisiana's government we are seeing a number of positive changes, "When the righteous rule the people rejoice". This year will give Christian families an unprecedented

opportunity to make a difference in government by voting wisely and aiding in the election campaigns of men of integrity.

James Garfield observed: Now, more than ever before, the people are responsible for the character of their

Congress. If that body be ignorant, reckless, and corrupt, it is because the people tolerate ignorance, recklessness, and corruption. If it be intelligent, brave, and pure, it is because the people demand these high qualities to represent them.

A Man of Courage

I miss the days when our nation operated under a banner of honor. A time when our people looked away when our President was carried to the podium to speak to a terrified nation. A time when a friend's parents weren't afraid to correct a visiting neighbor's child and when the parents of the child appreciated the community support. I am embarrassed by a nation that is more concerned with the rights of a whale than the beating heart of a child, whose only crime was its *parents'* lack of obedience to God. This should not be so!

To this extent, I will not rest in my resistance to the onslaught of neutrality propagated by the media, in an effort to desensitize a nation. For it is within this state of malaise and ennui, that the gay agenda, the tearing down of the Ten Commandments, and the incessant attack on right and wrong gains vital ground. A tragedy of this magnitude is not a coincidence. There are well educated and well-funded efforts that are laser focused on the exposed underbelly of the family. This is why I will not allow the introduction of objectionable materials in to our home. The older I get, the more I understand that this filtering process requires continual calibration. I love Winston Churchill's "Never Give In" speech, made on

October 29, 1941 to the boys at his old school, Harrow: "Never give in — never, never, never, never, in nothing great or small, large or petty, never give in except to convictions of honor and good sense. Never yield to force; never yield to the apparently overwhelming might of the enemy."

I have heard this quoted as "never quit," but I believe that to state it this way misses the essence of the speech. "Give in" represents a state of being overtaken. And I believe that this is the enemy's goal. Satan is not trying to just have you quit; his goal is to overtake you, so that you are neutralized, so that you become homogenized with the rest of the world. I will not allow my family to become diluted. I want us to be salt. I want my family to be a light. For it is the light of a Christian which makes unbelievers uncomfortable as they are forced to deal with the highlighted parts of their lives that stand between them and a loving Father.

May we always count it joy to position our families based upon the requirements of His word. The Bible is complete; for it contains the answers to every issue of life.

Letter by an anonymous father.

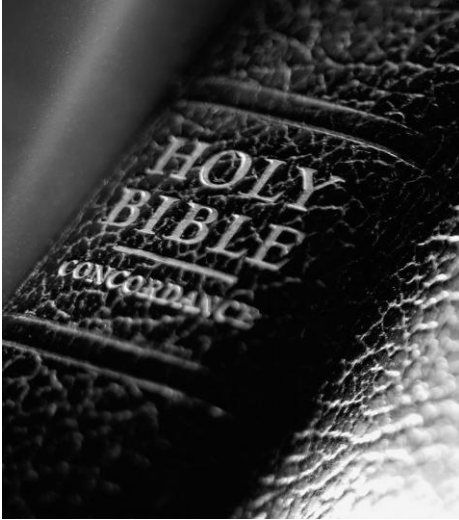
Fatherly Advice

Here is a partial excerpt of a letter written by Patrick Henry to his newly married daughter advising her on the keys to maintaining marital harmony.

When he marries her, if he be a good man, he expects from her smiles, not frowns; he expects to find her one who is not to control him- not to take from him the freedom of acting as his own judgment shall direct, but one who will place such confidence in him, as to believe that his prudence is his best guide. Little things, that in reality are mere trifles in themselves, often produce bickerings, and even quarrels. Never permit them to be a subject of dispute; yield them with pleasure, with a smile of affection. Be assured one difference outweighs them all a thousand or ten thousand times. A difference with your husband ought to be considered as the greatest calamity – as one that is to be most studiously guarded against; it is a demon which must never be permitted to enter a habitation

where all should be peace, unimpaired confidence, and heartfelt affection. Besides, what can a woman gain by her opposition or her indifference? Nothing. But she loses everything; she loses her husband's respect for her virtues, she loses his love, and with that, all prospect of future happiness. She creates her own misery, and then utters idle and silly complaints, but utters them in vain.

The love of a husband can be retained only by the high opinion which he entertains of his wife's goodness of heart, of her amiable dispositions, of the sweetness of her temper, of her prudence, of her devotion to him. Let nothing upon any occasion ever lessen that opinion. On the contrary, it should augment every day; he should have much more reason to admire her for those excellent qualities which will cast a luster over a virtuous woman, whose personal attractions are no more.



Words of Wisdom

As the family grows there are certain key elements of discipline that a parent must not fail to implement. Juliee Alexander, mother of 14, believes that the most important aspect of parenting is two fold. First, children must learn security in knowing there are rigid, unmovable boundaries set there to protect them from harm.

Second, fill their minds with God's infallible word. There

are a number of tapes and other programs that can assist parents in the latter endeavor. Whole chapters can be digested by even the smallest child. These truths are like small seeds that will grow in their lives and guide them in the future.

"Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls."



Living Decently & in Order

Because the faithful servant was mindful of his resources, he was awarded a position of authority.

The most valuable of these resources is time. Men and women who have accomplished amazing feats in their lives are keenly aware of its value.

George Whitefield, who was used of God to spread revival on two continents, gives us a glimpse as to the extent to which he

understood the importance of time when he wrote in his journal of how he "... now began... to pick up the fragments, that not a moment of it might be lost."

Carefully choose only those activities that have the greatest long term benefits. Ask yourself, "Will this matter, tomorrow, next year, for eternity?" Then seek to utilize the fragments of seemingly idle time, such as that spent in a Doctor's office, in the car, or waiting for someone.

Battle of the Wills

What did Nancy Campbell do to encourage her children? She taught them a poem. This little saying can be taught to children when they are young to encourage them when they face a challenge.

Two little men stood looking at a hill,

One was named, Can't and one was named, Will.

Can't said, 'I never in the world can climb this hill,'

So there he is at the bottom

of it still!

Will said, 'I'll get to the top because I will...'

Two little men are living by the hill,

At the bottom is Can't, at the top is Will!

Deuteronomy 30:19

...I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live:


NEW

Nancy in the Neighborhood

Women of all ages are invited to enjoy Nancy's message "Proclaiming God's Plan for Women" which is the featured video for our Nancy in the Neighborhood program this summer. A host training session will be available during the day for those interested in bringing this vital teaching home to their neighborhood. We will take you step by step in the process of hosting a seminar. Information packets including registration forms, brochures, and additional information will also be available.

This is a great opportunity to introduce the Biblical meaning of womanhood to others in a casual setting for a nominal cost. This seminar will change the way you look at motherhood, marriage, and womanhood. Seeking to do God's will man's way will only bring conflict and difficulty in the home, while

knowing and doing God's will brings peace and harmony. As the family continues to be "redesigned" the meaning of womanhood begins to blur in the minds of women. However, knowing and understanding God's fundamental design for women as outlined in the Genesis account of the very first couple brings new insight and understanding to God's ultimate plan.

The purpose of this seminar is to explain God's design for women and give further insights for women of all ages who desire God's best for their lives.

Some of the topics discussed:

- The key to marital harmony
- God's fundamental design for women
- The powerful influence of a

woman with vision

- Conquer discouragement
- The secret to living without fear
- Discovering purpose in every season of life.

Where: First Baptist Church of Gonzales

Cost: \$20- includes book The Power of Motherhood \$10 no book

Teen daughters free (no book)

\$30 at the door

Lunch: \$5

When: March 17, 2007

Time: 9:00 am- 4:00pm

Deadline to register is March 10th!

More Information and registration forms:

<http://www.laaboverubies.org> or call

Angela Decoteau 225-715-1587

That they may teach the young women... that the word of God be not blasphemed. Titus 2:4-5



"The Creator lays the next generation in the lap of the mother; and we have high warrant for the belief that "the hand that rocks the cradle is the hand that rules the world."

President Coolidge

Beatitudes for Homemakers

Blessed is she whose daily tasks are of love, for her willing hands and happy heart transform duty into joyous service to all her family and God.

Blessed is she who opens the door to welcome both stranger and friends, for gracious hospitality is a test of brotherly love.

Blessed is she who mends stockings and toys and broken hearts, for her understanding is a balm to her husband and children.

Blessed is she whom children love, for the love of a child is of greater value than fortune or fame.

Blessed is she who dusts away doubt and fear and sweeps away the cobwebs of confusion, for her faith will triumph over all adversity.

Blessed is she who serves laughter and smiles with every meal, for her cheerfulness is an aid to mental and physical digestion.

Blessed is she who introduces Jesus Christ to her children, for godly sons and daughters shall be her reward.

Blessed is she who preserves the sacredness of the Christian home, for hers is a divine trust that crowns her with dignity.

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*Strengthening Families
Across Louisiana*

**We're on the Web!**

See us at:

<http://www.laaboveubies.org>

New Blessings

Zacheriah Mark Williams was born December 20, weighed 8lbs 5.5 oz and was 21" long to Mark and Connie Williams. His name means "God has remembered the mighty warrior. He is their 3rd child.

Christian Matthew Joseph Tyndall was born December 5, 2006 at 9:15AM, weighed 9 lbs and was 20 1/2 inches long. He is the 6th child of Regina and Craig Tyndall

Mark and Cindy Stermer

welcomed their 8th child October 4 2006, Asa Mark 8lb 2oz 21 ½ inches.

Rhema Paige Smith was born on October 14, 2005, weighing 8 lb. 12 oz. and 21" long. She is the 6th child of Wyndell and Krist Smith.

Graduates

Kimberly Rushin is graduating from Highschool and is currently working in Oak Brook Illinois on a project to turn the hearts of wayward girls back to their fathers and families.

Megan Decoteau is graduating from Highschool and plans on taking college courses at home then attending a year long video internship before beginning college.

Abigail Bergeron is graduating from Highschool and plans to take a number of courses to help her better serve her family and community.

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