

For I will pour water upon him that is thirsty, and floods upon the dry ground: I will pour my spirit upon thy offspring, and my blessing upon thine descendants. And they shall spring up as among the grass, as willows by the water courses. Isaiah 44: 3-4

## In this issue

Family Camp 2006

Renewing the Vision

The Vision Continues

Mother/ Daughter Day

Character Corner

Words of Wisdom

Parents Needed

Organization Tips

New Orleans News

Believing Lies

Conference

Blessings

*God is often prominent in*

*our lives (part of our*

*activities), but is He*

*preeminent (taking*

*president over everything*

*else)? Sarah Perkins.*

*Mother/Daughter Day '05*

## Angela's notes

Life has certainly changed in South Louisiana since the hurricanes. Traffic lines are long and tempers are short. Sad stories are on every corner. There is hardly a family who has not been impacted in some way by the devastation. Ironically, just a week before the tragedy, a wise mother commented on a far greater storm that was reeking havoc on homes every where. She was referring to the many parents who are struggling in some aspect of their lives because they unwittingly chose to follow the thinking of the world. "If they would only take on Jesus' yoke," she sighed. In every situation we face we must make a choice. When we choose Jesus' "yoke" we yield ourselves to the command of His

leadership. "For without [him] you can do nothing." John 15:5

Willfulness is choosing our way which causes tensions and conflicts. Why don't you purpose this day to surrender your wills to Him in exchange for His will and His peace?

"Come unto me all ye that are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden light." Matt. 11:30

Education – "...add to your Faith virtue and to Virtue Knowledge..." II Pet. 1:5

Schedule- "Seek ye first the kingdom..." Matt. 6:33



Past hurts- "Bless those who persecute you." Matt. 5:44 "Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God lest ANY root of bitterness springing up trouble you, & thereby many be defiled." Heb. 12:15

Worrying- "Casting all your care upon Him; for he careth for you." II Peter 5: 7.

Marriage relationships- Husbands (sacrificially) love your wives," and "wives see that you reverence your husbands". Eph 5:25 & 33

"... but yield yourselves unto God ... and your members as instruments of righteousness." Romans 6:13

## Mother / Daughter Day

The ladies from a number of Above Rubies Families had the grand opportunity to enjoy a leisurely day at the Perkins' home in November. The theme of the day was "Sitting at Jesus' feet." During small, thought provoking sessions, we contemplated the lessons of Mary and Martha. We asked ourselves what we could do to sit at Jesus' feet. First,

there must be no distractions, nor guilt (from unrepentance), and inadequacies would have to be overcome. We searched our hearts to discern what distractions are keeping us from sitting at His feet everyday. Although many of us seem to be "busy about many things," we committed to do as Mary and "chose that good part which shall

not be taken away."

The small sessions were balanced with a relaxing picnic lunch complete with hand lettered cards tied on beautifully packaged lunch baskets, fun games, and lots of time to share with our daughters and others.

It was a great time of bonding with our daughters and sharing together.



*"Who can find a virtuous woman for her price is far above rubies. She looketh well to her household and her husband praises her in the gates."*



Correcton: The correct answers to the spiritual giftings test given at *Renewing the Vision* are as follows: 1-Teacher, 2-Organizer, 3-Prophet, 4-Mercy, 5-Exhorter, 6-Server, and 7-Giver.

## Renewing the Vision

Despite numerous unforeseen difficulties our very first *Renewing the Vision* was joyfully welcomed by a nearly fifty eager mothers.

Julee Alexander shared on how to have a vibrant marriage and a loving husband. Her child training tips are found in our "Gaining wisdom" feature found elsewhere in this newsletter. Cindy Stermer encouraged everyone to plan the work then work the plan. She shared how,

by implementing a few techniques you can have more time, calm children, and a remarkable, unspoken ministry to the world (see her tips on page 5). Angela gave a lighthearted look at *Spiritual Giftings* and why it is important to know yours. Jane delivered a very powerful message about speaking blessings over family members and the transformation it brings to the lives of those who receive them. As the harp played softly in the

background, mothers enjoyed an elegant tea directed by the Hartzog family. Later, during the tea, Missy Guillory implored us to keep our "spiritual" cups filled by spending time with the Lord before pouring out to family and others. Lastly, the Perkins sisters gave a hilarious demonstration of what happens when we believe lies.

A very big thank you to our great team of behind the scenes helpers!

## The Vision Continues

One husband was so thrilled at the turnout of our first *Renewing the Vision* that he stated, "this proves that it is needed" and offered to fund future upcoming *Renewing the Vision* events! We were so overjoyed by his generous offer that we immediately

began planning more events for 2006. Our first event will be in March and the second in October. The theme for the March event is "Creating order out of Chaos". Every household will go through times of chaos. Learn to get through and over them.

Some topics include: Crisis management, gaining freedom from past hurts, rebuilding broken relationships, and dealing with extreme discipline problems. If you are interested please call Angela at 225-715-1587 to reserve a spot.

## Garage Sale

Because *Renewing the Vision* had to be changed to a later date, we decided to have the garage sale during September. We never know how blessed we will be any given year until we begin unpacking Jane's "barn". Her children diligently carried load after

load from the barn's upstairs attic to the nearby carport where helpers sorted and priced. The cool weather was a welcome relief and added blessing. In less than a week Jane's carport had been transformed into a very large garage sale. Once again we have all that we

need to reserve a date for our annual Above Rubies Family Camp. This year we even had some to share. Extra children's clothing was boxed and donated to the relief effort.

Our God is an abundant supplier of all that we need.

## Above Rubies Family Camp 2006

Every year the Above Rubies Family Camp is a subject of fervent prayer and its very existence is by God's wonderful provision. One year we needed \$1,000 to pay for the deposit on a very nice facility for our very first Family Camp. We organized a feeble garage sale, prayed earnestly, and then anxiously awaited His provision. On Saturday night, just as the garage sale had ended a lone shopper came down Jane's long driveway. We were \$40 short of the total needed for the deposit when I had left the sale earlier that day. Large bags of clothing and other left over items had been stacked in piles along the carport. If this year's camp is His will then He'll supply ALL the deposit we reminded ourselves. A few minutes after I got home, the phone rang. Jane's excited voice on the other end blurted out. "We had another garage saler! Guess how much they spent?" She didn't wait for a reply, "FORTY DOLLARS!!!"

Through His abundant provision our next Above Rubies

Family Camp will be at Rocky Creek Conference Center in Pineville Louisiana on June 2-4, 2006. It is a great way to meet like minded families and enjoy family togetherness, all while learning to strengthen the family at the same time. Last year three generations came together from different states and enjoyed a family reunion as well as a retreat!

Call early for the best rates or if you need more brochures for your church, friends, or family. You may register by calling me (Angela) at 225-715-1587.



Character Camp 2005

## Character Corner

It is reported that the lack of Character is often the number one complaint of employers concerning employees. Building up this area in our own lives and helping our children develop good character in theirs will aide in avoiding conflicts and building strong relationships.

Every character trait is an outpouring of genuine love. Christ is the ultimate example of such love who gave unselfishly without seeking personal gain. In fact He was, "...in the form of God and thought it not robbery to be equal to God..." but He gave all for a people who didn't deserve it when He, "...made himself of no reputation and was made in the likeness of men:"

"The goal of our lives," according to IBLP's The Power of True Success, "is to experience and share with others the love that God demonstrated by sending His Son into the world for our redemption. "

I Corinthians 13 gives God's precise definition of love and is a good yardstick by which to measure oneself.

1. Love suffereth long. It doesn't loose heart when things look hopeless, lives by faith that His way is right and joyfully awaits God to work all things together for good.

2. Love is kind. It sees others as God does and is always nice toward everyone, even enemies.

3. Love envieth not. It does

not burn with desire for the things and attention of others but prefers to focus on helping others succeed.

4. Love vaunteth not itself. It does not seek to focus the attention on self.

5. Love is not puffed up. It does not look down on others in words or actions.

6. Love doth not behave itself unseemly. It has good manners and doesn't try to attract attention through indecent or shameful behavior.

7. Love seeketh not her own. It is genuinely concerned about the needs of others and is willing to make great sacrifices to meet them.

8. Love is not easily

provoked. It conquers anger and is easily approached.

9. Love thinketh no evil. It does not get bitter or keep account of wrongs suffered. It guards its heart and mind and brings every thought captive to the obedience of Christ.

10. Love rejoices not in iniquity. It does not secretly desire to engage in sinful behavior.

11. Love rejoices in the truth. It enjoys reading and meditating on God's word and sharing truth with others.

It beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things love never faileth. I Corinthians 13:7-8

## Words of Wisdom

This spot is dedicated to helping families gain confidence in training children who are a blessing both at home and abroad. "The rod and reproof give wisdom; but a child left to himself bringeth his mother to shame." Proverbs 29: 15

The first step to wise parenting is to "try the spirits" by diligently searching God's word for answers. There are many "experts" out there who

give advice that is not consistent with scripture. "The simple believeth every word but the prudent man looketh well to his going." Ps. 14:15

Julee Alexander (mother of 14) shared the ABC's of parenting from the Pearls' and some of her own experiences implementing them at our October Renewing the Vision. Here is the condensed version of her very informative talk.

A- Always win. Don't start what you can't finish. Don't promise impossible discipline. Julee begins training in this area very young. "Momma loves you and momma's gonna win." Is a phrase she tenderly repeats often to her children.

B- Be gentle. Never discipline in anger. Yelling or counting is not allowed. Ask, "Did you obey or disobey?" Swift discipline

leads to a faster heart change than long punishments. Train your children to look at you when receiving instructions and to obey on the first command. This trains their ears to be attentive.

C-Consistently be consistent. It is confusing to children when the same action can cause either praise or punishment depending on mom's current level of stress.



## Believing lies

The Perkins sisters gave a comical rendition of how we are blinded by lies when we allow them to become the focus of our thoughts. They vividly portrayed how we are often so enthralled by lies that they soon grow into more lies until finally they cover our spiritual vision and we no longer see the truth. We begin to believe the lie IS the truth.

How is one freed from such

a dilemma? By replacing the lies with the truth of scriptures. As Sarah challenged each lie ie "I can't do anything right," with truth, "I am a new creature in Christ I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me...", she began to see more clearly. How many of us are walking about life with lies stuck to our spiritual foreheads? Let us walk in the light for, "God is light and in Him is no darkness."

## New Orleans News

The devastating pictures of the Hurricanes are still fresh in everyone's minds, but the message really hits home when you speak to the victims. The Heisser's (they attended AR '05) home was immersed in 6 ft of water. Nearly a month

after the first hurricane hit, they were finally able to assess the damage. What a shock to see black mold covering all that remained! They feel fortunate, however, to have escaped with their lives and a few vital papers and books that

were quickly grabbed during their hasty departure. Nadine has a wonderful testimony to share of how the Lord led them every step of the way and how He has rewarded their obedience to Him. They are now living in

Tickfaw Louisiana in a camper on a lovely piece of newly purchased property and hope to build as soon as finances allow. Their address is: Ronnie and Nadine Heisser, 31305 North Café' Line, Tickfaw, LA 70466.

## Cindy's Tips for Orderly Living

First, know where you are going as a family. If you don't know where you are going, how are you going to get there? Parents should discern God's purpose for their family, then write it down. This is your family mission statement. Next, both parents should prayerfully consider the value of participating in each new potential activity. Ask yourselves, "Does it help support our family vision?" New activities can only be added if both parents agree that it is beneficial to the family. Family meetings

each week keep everyone informed of upcoming events and ensure unity.

Make a daily schedule and stick to it. Keep all your notes and schedule of events in the same place. You can use a calendar, notebook, or electronic planner. Make sure it isn't too big or bulky to easily carry. Treat homeschooling like the job that it is. Set aside a block time during the day in which to do school. Don't answer the phone or run errands during this time. Try to schedule "project time" after school

hours for major cleaning jobs.

Make clean up time fun and involve all the children. Cindy suggests making a list of chores that need to be done and setting a timer. As each child completes an activity he or she races to the board to check it off. A small reward can be given for each item completed. Folding parties make laundry a breeze. Children sit in a circle with mom. Then each one, including mom, is given an allotment of cloths to fold while everyone talks & talks.



*"Let all things be done decently and in order."*

## Parents Needed

Barna's 2005 Trends in Christianity Report reveals some surprising trends in Christianity. One shocking aspect is the finding of American Christians as 'biblically illiterate.' Most parents, according to the report, are too busy and have demoted Bible learning as a family endeavor and priority. They rely upon churches to provide Bible training, which in turn, rely on ill-prepared volunteers. The result is children who don't understand the Christian faith. "Although most of them [Christians] would argue that they know all of the relevant truths and principles related to the

Christian faith, our research shows otherwise." Barna mentioned a number of studies done throughout the year which explored beliefs related to the foundational elements of Christianity such as the existence and nature of God, the holiness and authority of Jesus Christ, the need for and means of salvation, and the key teachings of Jesus.

"By and large people parrot what their parents taught them. Sadly, with fewer and fewer parents teaching their kids much of anything related to matters of faith, young people's belief system is the product

of the mass media."

Barna encourages parents to understand their responsibility. "Because families are meant to be the faith-center of each individual's life, children are the most important and impressionable individuals we could possibly reach with the good news of salvation and the substance of a spirit led, Scripture based spiritual life, and you cannot have a meaningful and dynamic relationship with the living God unless worship and prayer are at the center of that relationship." View the full report at [www.barna.org](http://www.barna.org).

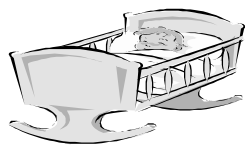
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## New Blessings



Wyndell and Kristi Smith are happy to announce the birth of their 6<sup>th</sup> child, Rhema, born in October.

This section sure is looking slim. If you have any birth announcements or adoption announcements please share them with us so we can all share in your joy.  
Angela

## Tidbits

*The Remnant* is produced as time and finances allow to encourage families who desire to raise up Godly children. We gladly accept submissions of family ministries, successes, & articles of interest.

## Blooming at Home's Family Conference

Elena and Kevin Viator, publishers of *Blooming at Home*, will be hosting their second family conference. Due to the hurricanes last fall it has been rescheduled for January 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>. Plan now to join them in

Maurice Louisiana as they gather to hear featured speakers Brother David and Sister Karen Tero, along with their 11 children who range in ages from 22years to 10 months. Brother David is pastor of *Old Paths Baptist*

*Church* in Clinton, Louisiana. They have home schooled for 18 plus years and have graduated 3 of their children. For more information contact the Viator's at 337-643-7206 or [bloomingathome@hotmail.com](mailto:bloomingathome@hotmail.com).

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