

“Thou Shalt Teach Them Diligently”

(continued from page 7)

Therefore, the Lord’s anger was against him and his seed after him. God expects us to restrain our children. Let’s look at I Samuel 3:13: *“For I have told him that I will judge his house for ever for the iniquity which he knoweth; because his sons made themselves vile, and he restrained them not.”* Another version reads like this: *“I told him that I would hand down a permanent judgment against his household because he knew about his sons’ sin that they were cursing God but he didn’t try to stop them.”*

God was angry with Eli because he didn’t even try to stop or restrain his children. To **“restrain”** means to control; to check, limit, or re-

strict. Do you have control of your children? The words found in Proverbs 29:15, still ring with truth, *“The rod and reproof give wisdom: But a child left to himself bringeth his mother to shame.”* When you have an unruly or a rebellious child the parents will definitely be brought to shame. The only way to remedy this is to obey the word of God! If you will restrain and control your children they will bring honor to your home.

Remember that love is the key. If you love your children, you will correct and instruct them in the way that they should go. Teach by example. If they see you pray, the chances are that they will pray. If you are faithful to God, it is easier for them

to follow your lead. Do not say one thing and do another; that is not a good example.

What a tremendous reward for raising your children correctly —“happiness and peace of mind.” With all the chaos that surrounds our daily lives, our homes need to be an oasis where peace prevails. Our children need to know the rules and parents need to be willing to enforce these rules. Let’s raise our children in the fear of God.

The Christian parent has no other alternative but to, **“teach them diligently.”**

— Pastor D.S. Garza

CULTURAL EXCERPT

Changes Over Time

One of the reasons why the basics are not learned is that they are not taught — at least not at the same level or with the same emphasis as in the past. For example, the process of making public school textbooks easier to read has been going on so long and so widely that it has even acquired a well-known generic name —“dumbing down.” For example, when a well-known history book was revised with an eye toward the high school market, words like “spectacle” and “admired” were eliminated as “difficult...”

In the early years of the twentieth century, pupils finishing the eighth grade in Kansas had to pass an examination which included spelling such words as “elucidation” and “animosity,” defining such terms as “zenith” and “panegyric,” as well as diagramming sentences and doing such problems in arithmetic as finding the interest earned on a \$900 note, at 8 percent, after 2 years, 2 months, and 6 days. Questions of similar difficulty were asked in geography and history — all in order to get a diploma awarded at the end of the eighth grade. These were not elite prep schools. Often they were one-room school houses in rural Kansas.

Inside American Education by Thomas Sowell

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APOSTOLIC VOICE PUBLICATIONS
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The subtle change of appearance, new writers and our growing staff all reflect a new stage of development for the Apostolic Voice. Since the first issue in the early 80’s our purpose has been to promote the Gospel on the mission field. Our influence in Asia is spreading rapidly, and missionaries from other parts of the world are expressing interest in this growing operation. There is also an increasing interest among the churches in America. To meet these challenges, we are taking this publication to a new stage of development.

As Editor, Bro. Dennis Garza brought a remarkable improvement in the layout, design and overall appearance of the paper which reflects his background in publishing. With this issue, you will also be blessed with his writing. His article on rearing children reflects his clear thinking and concise style on this very important topic.

Bro. Garza started a church in San Francisco, CA and is doing an outstanding job as pastor of Faith Tabernacle in Madera, CA. His love for the message and devotion to the spread of that message are

reflected in his writings and in his tremendous contributions to the publication of the Gospel. Thank you Bro. Garza for finally yielding to my pressure to write for this paper.

We are thankful that Bro. Galen Gregg of Thousand Oaks, CA joined our operation. We will be drawing from his paralegal expertise as well as his experience as a successful minister of the Gospel. Bro. Gregg served under other good ministers including Elder Vaughn Morton of Fresno, CA and has done a remarkable job as pastor, both in Woodlake, CA and in Thousand Oaks, where he now serves. Having followed Bro. Gregg in Woodlake, I have a very high respect for him as a pastor, fellow minister and as a man of high character and exemplary ethics. Thank you Bro. Gregg for submitting your work on “Man in the Shadows.” This is the first of a three-part article slated for publication. I wish I could have read this article before I assisted Bro. Bean.

We are blessed to have Bro. Mike Klann of Fresno, CA on staff as Project Manager/Assistant Editor. Bro. Klann has a degree in Business Administration from the Univer-

sity of Michigan and worked for IBM. He was in demand as an evangelist. He was pastor in Modesto, CA for nine years and is now doing a fine job as pastor in West Fresno, CA. Bro. Klann loves this message and has a great zeal for the work of God. He has been a great blessing in the short time he has worked with the Apostolic Voice. Thank you Bro. Klann for the tremendous blessing you have been to Apostolic Missions, the Apostolic Voice and the Wheelers.

Bro. Pete Wierzbicki, a member of Faith Tabernacle in Madera, CA has been a tremendous asset to the Apostolic Voice. As a software engineer, he brings an abundance of talent and skill. As Assistant Editor, he will be working with layout, design and research. Thank you, Bro. Pete for the many, many hours you invest in the Apostolic Voice.

Watch for new developments as we bring you articles from these and other good writers — articles that are sure to be a blessing to many in various parts of the world.

In His Service,
E. W. Wheeler

**THIS ISSUE’S FEATURED ARTICLE IS FROM THE BOOKLET:
“Man in the Shadows” by Galen Gregg - Part I**

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CHARITY TO THE PHILIPPINES

The Madera Church is sending help for the poor in the Philippines. The shipment includes used clothing and shoes, musical instruments, books, computers, and sundry items to help our Filipino brothers and sisters who are in need.

We began collecting for the poor over a year ago and plan to send the shipment out from Vidor, TX in December. We are thankful for the many churches who joined in this worthy project. Sis. Lolita, our paralegal aid in the Philippines, cleared the way for us to greatly reduce import duties into the country. The Vidor Church is raising the money for shipping costs. We will also include some building materials and furnishings we need for the Elder Verbal Bean Memorial Building. May the Lord bless the many who helped with this important project.



Mission Statement

Since our first publication in the early eighties, our mission has been to provide “doctrine and instruction in righteousness” to the churches in the Philippines (II Timothy 3:16). By request, we are expanding our circulation, trusting that God will bless and use it for the benefit of His Kingdom.

“Thou Shalt Teach Them Diligently”

Text: Deuteronomy 6:4-7

Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is one LORD: And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might. 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.

Raising children is a real challenge and if you desire to do it correctly the Bible still has the best advice: first of all, love God “with all thine heart.” Love is the basis for all healthy relationships. It is the answer for a good marriage and love is also the motivator which helps us raise our children in the fear of God. **“Thou shalt teach them diligently,”** means to repeat or to do something over and over again; “to what”, like in the constant motion used to sharpen an instrument. This requires a lot of patience. Godly parents teach by example and class starts early and ends late. This “classroom” is not restricted to the confines of the home; it is also in session when **“thou walkest by the way.”**

The wisdom of Proverbs 13:24 tells us that, “He that spareth his rod hateth his son: but he that loveth him chasteneth him *betimes.*”

To *chasten* primarily denotes to train children, suggesting the

broad idea of education. It also means to correct by punishment; to cause to be more humble or restrained. *Betimes* is a word that instructs the parent to punish or spank the child in short time or speedily. The Living Bible translates it this way, “If you refuse to discipline your son, it proves you don’t love him; for if you love him you will be prompt to punish him.”

Proverbs 19:18, admonishes the parent to “Chasten thy son while there is hope, and let not thy soul spare for his crying.” *Hope* is a word that means to desire something with some confidence of fulfillment. Parents should desire that their children will live for God. This will not happen by chance. We need to take deliberate steps to insure that this is the result. Examine the same verse using two additional translations:

1. **“Discipline your son in his early years while there is hope. If you don’t you will ruin his life.” (LB)**
2. **“Discipline your son, for in that there is hope; do not be a willing party to his death.” (NIV)**

In Proverbs 23:13-14, the writer admonishes parents to, “Withhold not correction from the child: for if thou beatest him with the rod, he shall not die. Thou shalt beat him with the rod, and shalt deliver his soul from hell.” The Hebrew word “correction” means: chastisement, instruction, doctrine, rebuke, and discipline. A good parent will practice these essential elements while raising children. The Good News Bible puts it this way, “Don’t hesi-

tate to discipline children. A good spanking won’t kill them. As a matter of fact, it may save their lives.” The Living Bible also says it very directly: “Don’t fail to correct your children: discipline won’t hurt them! Punishment will keep them out of hell.”

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.” To “**train**” means to coach in some mode of behavior; to teach so as to make fit, qualified, or proficient. Let’s look at two examples in the word of God; one trained up his child in the way he should go and the other did not.

Abraham was a tremendous leader and God was able to entrust him with so much because God knew that he would keep his house and his children in order. Genesis 18:17-19 gives us the details: “And the LORD said, Shall I hide from Abraham that thing which I do; Seeing that Abraham shall surely become a great and mighty nation, and all the nations of the earth shall be blessed in him? For I know him, that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the LORD, to do justice and judgment; that the LORD may bring upon Abraham that which he hath spoken of him.”

Eli was a priest of God but he did not restrain his children even though he knew of their deep sin before the Lord.

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THE STORY OF THE TWO SEAS

Love does not seek its own, but hurt people become more and more self-seeking and self-contained. In this climate the love of God waxes cold. A natural example of this is the two seas in the Holy Land. The Sea of Galilee freely receives and gives out water. It has an abundance of life, nurturing many different kinds of fish and plant life. The water of the Sea of Galilee is carried by way of the Jordan River to the Dead Sea. But the Dead Sea only takes water in and does not give it out. There are no living plants or fish in it. The living waters from the Sea of Galilee become dead when mixed with the hoarded waters of the Dead Sea. Life cannot be sustained if held onto: It must be given freely. An offended Christian is one who takes in life but because of fear, cannot release life. As a result, even the life that does come in becomes stagnant within the wall or prison of offence.

Excerpt from "The Bait of Satan" by John Bevere

BEWARE OF FALSE PROPHETS

Incorrect Word Usage in the Book of Mormon

There are many misused words in the first edition of the Book of Mormon, according to Harry L. Ropp's book, *The Mormon Papers: Are the Mormon Scriptures Reliable?* He states that these errors were corrected in later editions, and gives examples of these errors — *Italicizing* the incorrect wording and putting the correct usage in brackets. The following is a list of eight examples that he uses.

1. "lest he should not look for that he had not ought [ought not] and he should perish."
2. "having no respects [respect] to persons."
3. "I have wrote [written] unto you somewhat."
4. "they were exceeding fraid [exceedingly afraid]."
5. "They had began [begun] to possess the land of Amulon, and had began [begun] to till the ground."
6. "this he done [did] that he might overthrow."
7. "we have took [taken] of their wine."
8. "they did not fight against God no [any] more."

Mr. Ropp goes on to say, "we must conclude that God either wanted all the errors (or at least colloquial forms of English) found in the first edition of the *Book of Mormon* to be there or that God is not well-versed in the English language." He goes on to say that the Mormons — "have proceeded to correct the errors."

MAN IN THE SHADOWS (PART 1 OF 3)

At the writing of this sentence I am 33 years old. I have been a part of the Jesus name, one God, Apostolic Church since before I was born. I have been in a position to observe many churches, pastors, and people for several years. I obviously am not old and experienced, on the other hand I am not a novice; I make no claim to being an expert. I write the things that follow from a background of some experience in these areas and from a desire to help others along the way. As you read, please take these writings in the spirit they are meant.

Over the years I have been a part of five different local churches and assisted, in one capacity or another, in four of them. I have been involved in two different Christian schools and much district and sectional work. When an example is used, please do not speculate as to who the individual or where the location, you will probably be wrong.

The content of this booklet has been kept short and to the point, practicality is the intent. It is my sincere hope that what follows is a blessing to you and to the kingdom of God.

Keep In Mind

It would not take long to establish that the scripture shows a place in the Apostolic Church for what we call assistant pastors. Although the term "assistant pastor" is not scriptural, the position certainly is.

An assistant pastor may be called by many titles; pastoral assistant, assistant to the pastor, associate pastor, deacon, etc. There are also many other positions that definitely assist

the pastor: secretary, youth leader, minister of music, musicians, janitor, bus captains, bookkeeper, school principal, just to name a few. All of these have their place and are a help and blessing to God's kingdom. The term "assistant" might apply to any of the above or several which were not named. Specific jobs and job descriptions fall within the authority of the pastor to delegate as he wishes.

The first paid position that the pastor needs is a secretary or administrative assistant to help with the general office work. Any busy pastor will have a "mountain" of paperwork and correspondence to keep up with. A secretary can type letters, answer phones, take notes, make phone calls, or any number of other tasks that will be a tremendous help to the pastor and free his time for more important tasks. After a secretary, the pastor will probably want a full-time male assistant to have the beginning of a church staff.

Although the titles mentioned above are not always referred to, the principles that are discussed in this booklet can be applied to all assistant positions. Always keep in mind, the pastor of the local assembly is the ultimate authority (under God and His word) in all of these matters. If he differs with anything written herein, listen to him. He is right!

Your Attitude

To be a good assistant and work as one should, requires a special spirit and attitude. It can be

summed up with this statement: An assistant must, above all, have the attitude of a servant.

If you are a young man approaching appointment in any position as an assistant and you feel like it is an honor, the purpose of which is that all may see you, pray through until you can get the attitude of a servant. It is understood that all who work together with God become the servant of man. It is easy to see, that although the pastor is in a position of authority, he is a servant to the church. The assistant is doubly a servant, not only must he serve God and the saints, he must please the pastor. His feelings,

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Galen Gregg is a husband, the father of three children who all live for God, and the proud grandfather of three grandsons. Both sets of grandparents were true Apostolic, with one grandfather being an old-time brush arbor evangelist. Brother Gregg began his ministry in his early twenties with God eventually guiding him to Fresno, California where he worked as an assistant under the ministry of Elder Vaughn Morton for some 12 years. He then assumed the pastorate of a church in central California for several years and now pastors in southern California in the city of Thousand Oaks.

opinions, wishes, and methods must take second place to his pastor's. In short, he must learn to play second fiddle. I once heard Brother David Gray use the quote, "It takes more grace than one can tell to play the second fiddle well."

When a soloist sings, it is he that leads, it is he that the audience watches, the music is only a compliment to what he does. The music must follow the lead of the soloist. Remember, however, that the soloist is made to sound much better when the music does its part.

God has chosen to lead his church through individual men. It is not the will of God for leadership to rest in the hands of the church board or a committee. I have, at different times, tried to consider what should be done in a particular situation, only to observe the pastor do something completely different than that which I was thinking. Everything turned out perfect. Why was I not able to understand? Because he was smarter than I? Because he prayed more? Because he is wiser? While all of these were probably true, the real reason is, God speaks to the pastor about direction for His church. No assistant should ever feel that God speaks to him "around" the pastor. Learn to play second fiddle.

While it is true that the assistant takes second place, the young preacher who is an assistant should not stifle his own personality or style. He must simply learn to suppress his personal opinions and defer to his pastor.

This position of "second fiddle" of which I speak, can sometimes cause a real battle within the heart of a man. One of the hardest things to do is to learn to get the task done his way, like he wants, when you think another way is better. This is not to say that you have no freedom to use your own judgment, simply, there will be many times when you must suppress your own wishes and feelings. You must have the attitude of a servant.

The assistant must understand that he is not the pastor. He must also understand that what authority he might use is not his own, but an extension of the pastor's that has been allotted him. In time, the assistant will gain the respect of the church, at which time it is easy to feel that you "have arrived." If, at this point, a man begins to "lord it" over the people, he will only create resentment.

I recall a particular instance where an assistant began to think he was "Brother Pastor." He could not understand why no one wanted to work with him. He had trouble with people being rude to him, and he became frustrated. Remember, work inside of the authority of your pastor. You must keep the attitude of a servant.

The assistant cannot be sensitive or easily offended. If you are new to leadership, prepare for criticism. If you are an "old hand" you know what I mean. Criticizing leadership, while not correct, is as natural as a cow eating grass.

Learn to expect it. Criticism is not always bad; you must learn to sift out what is unfair. Use the things that are said as a tool to improve yourself, but do not let it discourage or intimidate you.

Several years ago, in one particular church where I was assistant pastor, I had a most educational experience. Every time I took the pulpit to speak, a particular individual would get up and walk out. I sensed this person did not like me (what tremendous perspicuity), so I began to analyze the reasons. I found that there were several areas I needed to work on. Although, this person had the wrong spirit they really did me a service with their criticism.

The best criticism you will receive will be from those who don't like you, they can be most objective. Do not be sensitive or easily offended, do not be discouraged or intimidated by criticism. At the same time, do not become callous and hard-hearted. Keep the attitude of servant.

While on the subject of sensitivity, I should touch on your relationship with your pastor. An assistant should not be the type of person that the pastor has to "pet", or "tiptoe around." If he barks an order instead of asking sweetly, do not let it bother you. If he neglects to say "Good morning," think nothing of it. Be a blessing, not one who must be blessed. Have the attitude of a servant.

What I have said should not be interpreted as an injunction to be weak, palsied, or to walk around with your head down. Keep a good positive outlook. Walk around with your chin up. Speak in a straightforward manner. The assistant should not feel like he is a "wimp." Be strong, be authoritative when necessary, but remember to keep the correct underlying attitude. The attitude of a servant.

Your Life

I Timothy 4:12 be thou an example. . .

A carpenter works on his job five days a week, eight hours a day. He can then put his hammer, saw, level, and nails away and don other clothes. He may become a surfer, a hobo, a cowboy, or he may dress up in a tuxedo and go out on the town. On Monday he will go back to his tool chest, and his hammer, saw, level, and nails are still there and in good shape. This will not happen with a preacher.

The man who fills the position of assistant pastor will enhance or hinder his ministry by his prayer, his reputation, the way he conducts business, his family, how he handles money, and even how he dresses. Your manner of life has a tremendous effect on whether you are effective. The assistant who always has financial woes is esteemed as a man who cannot be trusted to handle the church's money wisely. The man whose children are unruly and disrespectful will never be respected as a wise leader. If a leader cannot keep his word or is consistently late, he will be seen as being sloppy and unreliable. Last, but greatest of all, if a man does not pray he will have no source from which to draw so that others may be blessed through his

ministry. Your manner of life does affect your work and ministry.

Every aspect of your personal life has to have the touch of prayer upon it. The Bible says, "In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and he shall direct thy paths." Apply this scripture to your spiritual, social, mental, and even financial life. It is my opinion that any leader in the church should begin their day with prayer; it should be a habit. Part of that prayer should be about self and your own personal growth. Ask the Holy Ghost to show you areas to improve, ask God to help you grow, do not become stagnant. It should be cautioned, at this point, that these prayers should not become a "give-me" time, or "do-for-me" time. Pray from a desire to become a better tool for God to use. I will have more to say about prayer in later pages.

It is absolutely essential that an assistant have a good reputation. Whole books have been written about this subject, but it remains in the hands of the individual to take appropriate action. It takes a long time to build a good reputation, and it can be lost in a moment. I am not going to address this subject any further at this point. I strongly recommend a deep personal study of I Timothy 3:1-13 and Titus 1:5-9. In addition, a daily reading and meditation of Proverbs goes a long way toward learning to build a reputation and growing in wisdom.

In the midst of the busy schedule you will have, do not neglect yourself and your family. It is pos-

sible to "burn out." This should be guarded against, however, do not use "burn out" as an excuse to cover laziness or inefficiency. Some people fall into the bad habit of constantly expressing, to all who will listen, the extent of their exhaustion. This is not an expression of how much they get done or how hard they work, it is a desire to be esteemed as a martyr. Take care of yourself and you will be more efficient. I firmly believe that more can be accomplished by a person who takes a day off occasionally, and tries to get proper sleep, than by the one who works day and night, 7 days a week. Notice, I said tries. There will be times when you get little or no rest. (If you are called upon to do so, do it!) The ideal arrangement is to get 6 or 7 hours of sleep a night (do not try to tell me how little sleep you need, I am not impressed). Take a day, occasionally, for rest and relaxation. It is counter-productive to work so much and so long that you become weary and your mind clouded. You will be far more effective if you take care of yourself.

In addition to proper rest, diet and physical condition have much to do with your ability to function properly. A young minister should not allow himself to become fat or sloppy. A little discipline in amounts and type of food eaten, together with a simple exercise program will take care of that area. Do not ignore this. Your physical appearance and health will make a big difference in your effectiveness.

(To be continued in the next issue)