

# MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Charlottetown Bible Chapel March 2014



## How to Raise a Pagan Kid in a Christian Home

By Barrett Johnson

Every Imperfect and Normal Family wants their kids to turn out right. So, we establish goals for character development and try to create an environment where our kids can mature. Church, school, sports teams, family relationships... each of these provides a context where our kids can learn to "love your neighbor as yourself."

Unfortunately, our "good" objectives might have absolutely nothing to do with the gospel of Jesus Christ. And we inadvertently end up raising pagans instead of Christians.

Too many times, (Christian) parents have it as their goal to make their kids good and moral. It is as if the entire purpose of their family's spiritual life is to shape their children into law-abiding citizens who stay out of trouble. The only problem with this goal is that it runs in stark contrast to what the Bible teaches. The gospel is not about making bad people moral, but about making dead people alive. If we teach morality without the transforming power of the gospel and the necessity of a life fully surrendered to God's will, then we are raising moral pagans.

We end up teaching the wrong thing because we have the wrong objectives.

This sentiment was stirred in me afresh when I read an interview with Veggie Tales creator Phil Vischer. He was reflecting on how the "Christian message" he was trying to teach wasn't Christianity at all...

"I looked back at the previous 10 years and realized I had spent 10 years trying to convince kids to behave Christianly without actually teaching them Christianity. And that was a pretty serious conviction. You can say, "Hey kids, be more forgiving because the Bible says so," or "Hey kids, be more kind because the Bible says so!" But that isn't Christianity, it's morality. . .

And that was such a huge shift for me from the American Christian ideal. We're drinking a cocktail that's a mix of the Protestant work ethic, the American dream, and the gospel. And we've intertwined them so completely that we can't tell them apart anymore. Our gospel has become a gospel of following your dreams and being good so God will make all your dreams come true. It's the Oprah god."

So what is your objective?

Do you teach your kids "be good because the Bible tells you to" or do you teach your kids that they will never be good without Christ's offer of grace? There is a huge difference. One leads to moralism; the other leads to brokenness. One leads to self-righteousness; the other leads to a life that realizes that Christ is everything and that nothing else matters.

I want my kids to be good. We all do. But as our kids grow up, the truth of the gospel can easily get lost somewhere between salvation (where we know we need Jesus) and living life (where we tend to say "I've got this"). My experience is that the

vast majority of parents are encouraging moral behavior in their kids so that God will bless their (usually self-centered) pursuits. It's the American Dream plus Jesus. And it produces good, moral pagans.

Consider the key objectives you have for your kids. Seriously, take a minute to think about what would deem you a successful parent. If your goals are focused on your kids' behavior, their happiness, or their accomplishments (but don't include a dependence upon Christ and a submission to His will and work), then you might want to make some adjustments.

Because the world has enough pagans. Even plenty of really nice ones. What we need is kids who fully grasp the reality that they have nothing to offer, but who intimately know a God who has everything they need.

*Submitted by Dave Boisvert*

### The Probability of Jesus Fulfilling the all Prophecies

"When we consider the prophetic testimony to Jesus, we do well to heed it. There are at least 332 distinct Old Testament predictions regarding the Messiah that Jesus fulfilled perfectly. The combination of this evidence together, from a simple statistical perspective, is absolutely overwhelming.

Professor Peter Stoner has calculated that the probability of any one man fulfilling eight of these prophecies is one in 100,000,000,000,000,000 (10 to the 17th power). That number of silver dollars would cover the state of Texas two feet deep. Stoner says that if you consider 48 of the prophecies, the odds become one in 10 to the 157th power."

# Is Jesus Wonderful to Me Today?

From the Book *Walking with God* by E.A. Johnston.

Duncan Campbell was in his study early in the morning preparing a message to preach at an upcoming Keswick Convention. At this time in his life he was a Presbyterian pastor. From up in his study he could hear singing in the parlor below. It was his sixteen year old daughter's voice and she was happily singing a hymn. He went downstairs to listen to her. As she finished singing he asked her a question. He said, "Lassie, what is there to sing about so early in the morning at six o'clock?" She came over and sat on his lap and exclaimed, "Oh, Daddy! I have just spent an hour with Jesus. Isn't Jesus wonderful, Daddy?"

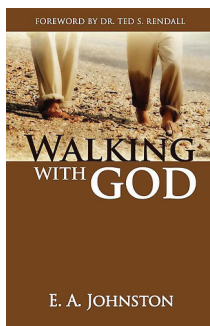
Duncan Campbell thought about that remark. He had been upstairs in his study working on a sermon on holiness when he had first heard his daughter singing downstairs. He asked himself this question, "Can I truly say this morning that Jesus is wonderful to me right now?" He answered himself, "No. I cannot honestly say that." This broke his heart. Then he went back into his study and forced himself upon the floor to pray. He prayed all morning until he felt he had met God. Then he came to this realization: for the last several years, even though he was a busy pastor, he had been in a dry wilderness desert as far as his relationship to God was. He had been "Campbell of revival" and a busy pastor but he had lost the joy of an intimate daily walk with God.

Around this time another incident occurred in his life. He met an elder of a church in Scotland who had in his possession a hand written letter by Robert Murray M'Cheyne to Andrew Bonar. The elder allowed Duncan Campbell to read the letter, his eyes fell on these

startling words of Robert Murray M'Cheyne: "Dear Andrew, I seem to know Jesus Christ better than any of my earthly relatives." These words startled Duncan Campbell. Could he say of himself that he knew Jesus like that? The Holy Spirit convicted his heart and showed him how far away he had strayed from God. Then Duncan Campbell made the following remark: "I realized then that no amount of labor in the vineyard will make up for neglect of the King Himself!"

This story of Duncan Campbell should challenge each of us as to why we need to develop a more personal relationship with God. It is too easy to become distracted with work and life and neglect the King!

We must pause here and ask ourselves this question: "Is Jesus wonderful to me today?" Can we honestly say that we have a daily walk with God that is vital, intimate, and wonderful? Is He more real to us today than He was yesterday? Do we even have a time which is set apart for meeting God each day? Does He speak to us? Can you, like Moses, say that you have an encounter with God every day? Or do you have "dry eyes" in your prayer time rather than "wet eyes" from a love relationship."



An excerpt from the book:

## **Walking with God**

by E.A. Johnston

Available from GOSPEL FOLIO PRESS

Rachel Vandenberg owns a copy which you can borrow.

*Submitted by Rachel Vandenberg*

**The Peru Team is back. Hear all about their trip, Wednesday Feb. 26 at 7pm.**

**\*\*PHOTOS APPEAR IN PRINTED COPY ONLY\*\***



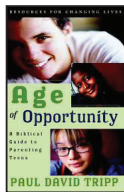
**FEATURED ITEMS FROM THE CHAPEL LIBRARY** - Submitted by Bill Mooney



**Your Child's Profession of Faith**  
by Dennis Gundersen

Call Number: M63

Gundersen's unique treatment of this rarely-addressed subject can make the difference between parents who participate in their children's deception and presumption, or parents who truly guide him to eternal life. If a small child tells us he thinks he's saved, do we take his words at face value? How do we test his profession, especially without seeming to doubt the child and discourage him? Many have found this book the most useful guide ever written on the topic ([graceandtruthbooks.com](http://graceandtruthbooks.com)).



**Age of Opportunity: A Biblical Guide to Parenting Teens**  
by Paul Tripp

Call number: M64

Are you hoping to merely survive your teenagers? With compassion, wit and wisdom, Tripp uncovers the heart issues affecting families during the often chaotic adolescent years. Gain assurance of God's provision for parenting success and discover ways to seize the countless opportunities to deepen communication, learn, and grow with your teens ([christianbook.com](http://christianbook.com)).

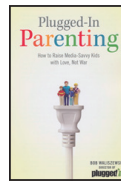


**Meet the Skeptic: A Field Guide to Faith Conversations**  
by Bill Foster

Call Number: K26

You can hear people's worldviews in the words and phrases they choose to use during a conversation...and you never know when one of those conversations will present a challenge to your Christian faith. Meet the Skeptic is a new approach to engaging unbelievers. Rather than a list of answers to potential objections to memorize, you'll discover a framework to reach quickly to the root causes of skepticism. Learn to inject meaning and truth into brief exchanges, rather than chasing objections, reaching for comebacks, or settling for stock Christianese. Identifying four types of skepticism --Spiritual, Moral, Scientific, and Biblical---and responses for each, this field guide will help you quickly identify what type of conversation you're dealing with, and the best way to respond and share your views ([christianbook.com](http://christianbook.com)).

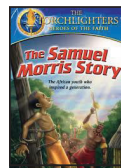
**Please remember to SIGN OUT the books and DVDs that you borrow so that we can keep track of them. Thank you.**



**Plugged-In Parenting: How to Raise Media-Savvy Kids with Love, Not War**  
by Bob Waliszewski

Call Number: M65

Written for parents of children ages two through teens, Plugged-In Parenting helps parents who want to teach their kids media discernment without alienating them. Cyberbullying, sexting, violent and sexualized content on TV, the Internet, and in music are prevalent today and readily available to kids. How can a parent protect their child? This book shows how to use teachable moments, research and pop culture evidence, Scripture, questions, parental example, and a written family entertainment constitution to uphold biblical standards without damaging the parent-child relationship ([christianbook.com](http://christianbook.com)).



**Torchlighters Heroes of the Faith: The Samuel Morris Story**

Call Number: DVD.D16.9

Young Prince Kaboo is being held for ransom by a fierce enemy tribe. When his African father can no longer meet their demands, Kaboo's fate is sealed. The fierce warriors tie the weakened prince to a pole and prepare to finish him off. Suddenly, a blinding light appears, and the ropes fall away! Kaboo's strength returns, and he hears a voice urging him to run. While stunned warriors look on in fear, Kaboo escapes into the African jungle and stumbles upon a mission complex, where he learns of his heavenly Father who paid the ransom for all! Taking the new name "Samuel Morris," he sets out on a mission to share his newfound faith with all who will listen ([torchlighters.org](http://torchlighters.org)).



**Torchlighters Heroes of the Faith: The Augustine Story**

Call Number: DVD.D16.10

Bright young Augustine thinks his mother's religion is foolishness. With his "superior" intellect to guide him, he sneaks away from home and ventures to a new life in the city of Rome. Soon Augustine finds himself in an important position as "The Voice of The Emperor," with the life of luxury he's always wanted. When the empire decides to take over one of Milan's Christian basilicas, Augustine prepares to give the speech of a lifetime, one that will slow the rising tide of Christianity's influence. With his devout mother and the unwavering Bishop Ambrose on one side and angry, armed soldiers on the other, Augustine discovers he must choose whom he will serve ([torchlighters.org](http://torchlighters.org)).

# March 2014

Hockey Games 

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
						1  ✕ Faith vs Bible Chapel 10:00pm
2 AM: Wade LeBlanc PM: Wade LeBlanc 6:00pm Men's Prayer Meeting	3	4	5 7:00pm Prayer & Bible Study	6	7	8 ✕ Grace vs Bible Chapel 8:45pm
9 AM: Leonard V PM: Bill Mooney 6:00pm Men's Prayer Meeting	10 7pm - Men's Buisness Meeting 8pm - Annual Cor- poration Meeting	11	12 7:00pm Prayer & Bible Study	13	14	15 7pm-GAMES NIGHT at the Chapel  ✕ Christian Reformed vs Bible Chapel 7:30pm
16 AM: Rod Belyea PM: Josh Caplan 6:00pm Men's Prayer Meeting	17	18	19 7:00pm Prayer & Bible Study	20	21	22 ✕ Faith Works vs Bible Chapel 7:30pm
23 AM: TBA PM: Jonathan Sim- monds 6:00pm Men's Prayer Meeting	24	25	26 7:00pm Prayer & Bible Study	27	28	29
30 AM: Brian Taylor PM: Thomas Lewis 6pm Men's Prayer Meeting	31					