



The G.E.M.

Edition 8

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FOCUS ON CHILDREN

by Glyn Williams

I have been a Christian for almost 20 years now, and have seen the pendulum swing in the way the world practices Christianity. When I was a young Christian, outreach was all about taking the truth of the Gospel to unbelievers. Now, many of the articles I read are about taking social action to help the needy. Obviously, we need a balance. If we share the truth of the Gospel and do nothing to help those we share with, we lack love, which destroys our message. And if we strive for social justice for others, but never breathe a word about the truth of the Gospel, those we help are still lost in their sins, and we have simply put a Band-Aid on a wound.

In this month's issue of *The G.E.M.* we have included a feature from a ministry that does both; **iThemba**, as well as an article by the great Dr James Dobson of Focus on the Family (an international ministry that focusses on the needs of people, both physical and spiritual).

Look out for this month's Top 25 Must Read, and some great promotional activities coming up.

Until next time,
God bless. †

GOD'S FAITHFULNESS

"Though my father and mother forsake me, the LORD will receive me." - Psalm 27:10

Normally, our parents are among the people who can be counted on to help, love and support us – no matter what.

Yet, sometimes parents do forsake their children, with devastating results. Those who come from stable homes cannot imagine how any parent can abandon or abuse their children. But God's love for us is more dependable than the love of a parent for their offspring.

"Can a mother forget the baby at her breast and have no compassion on the child she has borne? Though she may forget, I will not forget you!" - Isaiah 49:15

Concerning earthly love, none is greater than that of a mother for her baby. Yet even that can sometimes fail. Some of you reading this may have experienced it for yourself, or at least know of someone who has. But we can rest in the knowledge that God's love for us is deeper, stronger, and more sure.

"Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, 'Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.'" - Hebrews 13:5

People will undoubtedly fail us. We may even fail ourselves. But God can be trusted. He will never fail us. He will never give up on us, nor will he ever turn his back on us. This he has promised throughout Scripture!

But does this mean God will keep us from all things that are unpleasant? No. Not any more than a good earthly parent can keep their child from every unpleasant experience.

We all reach a point in our lives when we have to grow up, both as earthly children and as children of God. We must learn to walk in faith and love, and to overcome.

But God will be there to help you, and no matter what the experience, we can be sure that in all things God will work through them for our good (Romans 8:28).

Trust in God the Father. He is more dependable than friends or family, and he loves you more than anyone else ever will! †

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DIARY OF EVENTS

BE SURE TO DIARISE THE FOLLOWING EXCITING EVENTS

Grace Media's 1st Birthday

25 August-8 September 2007
Mystery discounts on all in-store purchases!
Stand a chance to win great prizes!

PlanetShakers South African tour

21-29 September 2007
Full details are available on our web site, or go to www.itickets.co.za

2nd Annual Christian Business Expo

19-20 October 2007 at Mosaiek Convention Centre
For more information visit: www.cbexpo.co.za

Michael W. Smith tour to South Africa

19-22 October 2007 at various venues around the country.
Book with Computicket.





iThemba, a Public Benefit Organisation, was established in April 2003 as a regional response to the HIV/AIDS pandemic and the first Cluster Foster Care Home opened on 17th January 2006.

iThemba offers life skills education and training and foster care to the growing number of orphaned and vulnerable children in our region.

iThemba means 'A Place of Hope' and the name supports our mission which is to help shape children and youth to become future leaders. By establishing and maintaining sustainable Cluster Foster Care Homes, the pain and suffering inflicted on vulnerable children and youth can be eased. We also aim to provide a learning environment in which they will feel challenged, respected and accountable as they strive to meet the demands of adulthood.



Esther Family

The Cluster Foster Care Homes, where children become members of a family unit with a committed married couple as Mom and Dad, will provide the opportunity for them to enjoy a secure and healthy childhood. In this environment strong family values and principles will be instilled in the children to equip them to become productive citizens with the potential to become future leaders in our communities. They will be provided with every opportunity to reach their full potential and will remain in our care until they have completed their education (including at a tertiary level), gained employment and are ready to live independently.



Joseph Family

Focus on iThemba - www.focusonithemba.org



JOIN US FOR OUR FIRST BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS.

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25 August
to
8 September

Mystery discounts
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purchases!

Stand a chance to
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SHEKEL LOYALTY PROGRAMME

Shop at Grace Media
and help spread the Word!

We often read in the Bible of the Shekel. A unit of currency that is still in use today in Israel as the Israeli New Sheqel. You now also have the opportunity to earn Shekels of your own, through the Shekel Loyalty Programme at Grace Media.

Later this month, we are going to be launching our new Shekel Loyalty Programme. By simply purchasing your Bibles, books, music, games and gifts from Grace Media, you will be earning yourself Shekels with each purchase. In appreciation of your support, each year during our birthday month, August, you will receive a Shekel Voucher to spend the next time you visit the store.

But that's not all; while you are enjoying your purchase, you will also be assisting needy communities and spreading God's Word. Once a year Grace Media will make a donation to a ministry or missionary based on your purchases.

As an added bonus, if you purchase any of the titles featured in *The G.E.M.* during the month in which it is featured, you will earn double Shekels on each item purchased.

In the next couple of weeks we will be sending out an e-mail announcing the launch of the Programme, along with details on how to apply. Full details will also be available on our website soon.



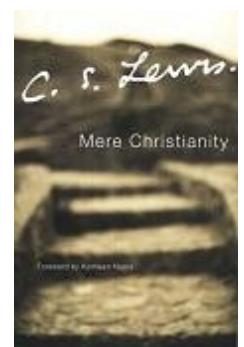
Top 25 Must Reads

MERE CHRISTIANITY by C.S. Lewis

Arguably the 20th century's most influential Christian writer, C.S. Lewis sought to explain and defend the beliefs that nearly all Christians at all times hold in common.

This simple yet deeply profound classic, originally delivered as a series of radio broadcasts, is a book to be thoroughly digested by believers and generously shared with sceptics.

R160.00



**FOCUS ON THE FAMILY
with Dr. James Dobson**



QUESTION: What is the most common error made by parents in disciplining their children?

DR. DOBSON: I would have to say it is the inappropriate use of anger in attempting to manage boys and girls. It is one of the most ineffective methods of attempting to influence human beings (of all ages). Unfortunately, most adults rely primarily on their own emotional response to secure the cooperation of children. One teacher said on a national television program, "I like being a professional educator, but I hate the daily task of teaching. My children are so unruly that I have to stay mad at them all the time just to control the classroom." How utterly frustrating to be required to be mean and angry to do a job year after year. Yet many teachers (and parents) know of no other way to manage children. Believe me, it is exhausting and it doesn't work!

Consider your own motivational system and your own response to the anger of others. Suppose you are driving your automobile home from work this evening and you exceed the speed limit by forty miles per hour. Standing on the street corner is a lone police officer who has not been given the means to arrest you. He has no squad car or motorcycle; he wears no badge, carries no gun, and can write no tickets. All he is commissioned to do is stand on the curb and scream insults as you speed past. Would you slow down just

because he turns red in the face and shakes his fist in protest? Of course not! You might wave to him as you streak by. But his anger would achieve little except to make him appear comical and foolish.

On the other hand, nothing influences the way you drive quite like seeing a black and white vehicle in hot pursuit with nineteen red and blue lights flashing in the rear view mirror. When you pull your car over to the curb, a dignified, courteous officer approaches the window. He is six foot nine, has a voice like the Lone Ranger, and carries a gun on his right hip.

"Sir," he says firmly but politely, "our radar unit indicates you were travelling sixty-five miles per hour in a twenty-five mile per hour zone. May I see your driver's license please?" He opens his leather-bound book of citations and leans toward you. He has revealed no hostility and offers no criticism, yet you immediately go to pieces. You fumble nervously to locate the license with that ugly picture on it. Why are your hands moist and your mouth dry? Why is your heart thumping in your throat? Because the course of action that John Law is about to take is notoriously unpleasant. It is that action which dramatically affects your future driving habits. Alas, children think and respond in much the same way you do.

“CONSIDER YOUR OWN MOTIVATIONAL SYSTEM AND YOUR OWN RESPONSE TO THE ANGER OF OTHERS.”

Disciplinary action influences behaviour; anger does not. When it comes to boys and girls, in fact, I am convinced that adult anger incites a malignant kind of disrespect in their

minds. They perceive that our frustration is caused by our inability to control the situation. We represent justice to them, yet we're on the verge of tears as we flail the air with our hands and shout empty threats and warnings. Let me ask: Would you respect a superior court judge who behaved that way in administering legal justice? Certainly not. This is why the judicial system is carefully designed to appear objective, rational, and dignified.

I am not recommending that parents

and teachers conceal their legitimate emotions from their children. I am not suggesting that we be like bland and unresponsive robots who hold everything inside. There are times when our kids become insulting or disobedient and our irritation is entirely appropriate. In fact, it should be revealed, or else we appear artificial and insincere. My point is merely that anger often becomes a tool used for the purpose of

influencing behaviour. It is ineffective and can be damaging to the relationship between generations. Instead, try taking action that your children will care about. Then administer it with "cool." †

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AFRICA**

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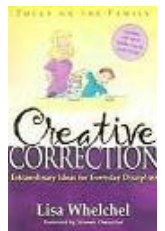
Recommended Focus on the Family parenting titles



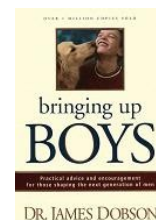
Parenting with Assurance
by Focus on the Family Africa

R49.00

Creative Correction
by Lisa Whelchel



R89.00



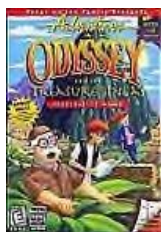
Bringing up Boys
by Dr James Dobson

R97.00

PC Adventure Game

Adventures in Odyssey
Interactive PC Game

An exciting journey discovering treasure, and more importantly, the truth.



R189.00 each

PARENTING TITLES



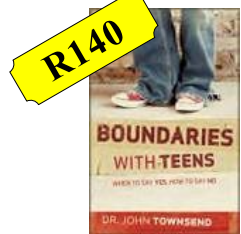
R120
The Five Love Languages of Children
 by Gary Chapman



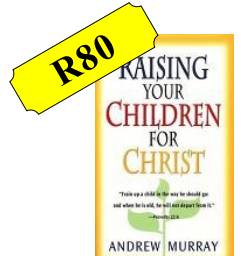
R120
Guide to Basic Baby Care
 Instructional DVD Included
 by Laura Hunter



R75
How to Bring Your Children to Christ
 by Ray Comfort



R140
Boundaries with Teens
 by Dr John Townsend



R80
Raising your Children for Christ
 by Andrew Murray

CHILDREN'S TITLES



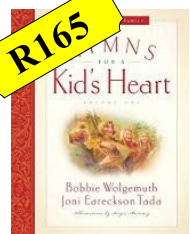
R90
My Good Night Devotions
 by Susan Lingo & Kathy Parks



R133
My First Let's Do Bible



R80
My Favourite Children's Bible



R165
Hymns for a Kid's Heart
 by Focus on the Family
 Includes Free Music CD



R88
Sir Oliver's Song
 A musical lesson about the Ten Commandments

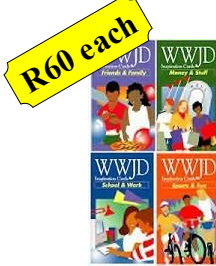
FUN AND GAMES



R190
The VeggieTales Jonah Overboard Adventure Game



R250
K10C Kid's Ten Commandments Game



R60 each
WWJD? Card Games



R30 each
Kids-A-Peel
 A New Story Every Time you Play



R55 each
 Kid's Organizer Wipe-off Charts
 Jobs or Prayers

COMING SOON



R110
Summer (Sunrise Series #2)
 by Karen Kingsbury
 [Due August]



R150
Amazing Grace DVD
 [Due late November]

Order before the release dates and receive a **10% discount.**

TRADING HOURS:

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9am – 5pm

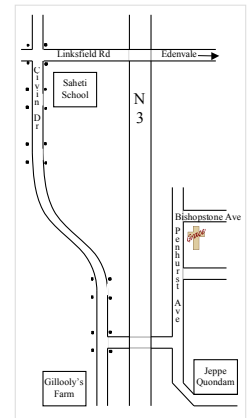
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From the N3, take the Linksfield Rd off ramp. Turn right up hill. Stay in left lane. Turn left into Civin Dr. At 4th set of lights, turn left under bridge. At t-junction turn left. Through the boom. We are ± 200m on the right hand side. Entrance is in Penhurst Ave.



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