



# The G.E.M.

Volume 2 Edition 10

The Grace Electronic Magazine

October 2008

## TIME FOR FAMILY

It is already October and summer is in the air! The gardens have come alive with vibrant colour and the birds are singing once again. At a time like this I am reminded of the following verses from Song of Solomon:

*See! The winter is past;  
the rains are over and gone.  
Flowers appear on the earth;  
the season of singing has come, the  
cooing of doves is heard in our land.  
The fig tree forms its early fruit;  
the blossoming vines spread their  
fragrance. (2:11-13)*

With spring comes spring cleaning, so for those who are regular visitors of our store you will notice a radical change in the layout. Complete with a Bargain Corner for clearance and second-hand stock, as well as an area allocated to our Dr Rex Mathie Study Centre – suitable for small discussion groups or book clubs. Come in for a browse.

Congratulations to our birthday hamper winners:

Jenny Ingpen  
Esta Wood  
Tracey Mackenzie

Thank you for your support.

To all our Shekel Card holders thank you for helping us to raise a donation to our charity of the year, Emergency Services Chaplaincy (Edenvale). Visit their website at [www.esca.org.za](http://www.esca.org.za) for more information on their remarkable ministry.

For those of you involved in missionary work, we have FREE Gospels of John available in English, Portuguese, and Shona.

Until next time, God bless. †

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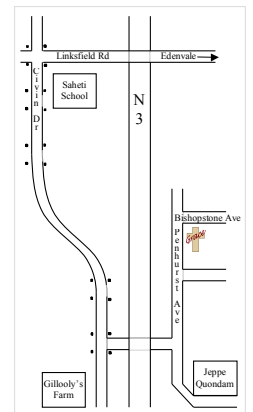
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**Directions:** From the N3, take the Linksfield Rd off ramp. Turn right up hill. Stay in left lane. Turn left into Civin Dr. At 4th set of lights, turn left under bridge. At t-junction turn left. Through the boom. We are ± 200m on the right hand side.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



## MISSIONS SPOTLIGHT

### Kingdom of Bahrain *Mamlakat al-Bahrayn*

**Capital:** Manama

**Official Language:** Arabic

**Currency:**  
Bahraini Dinar

**Population:**  
1,046,814



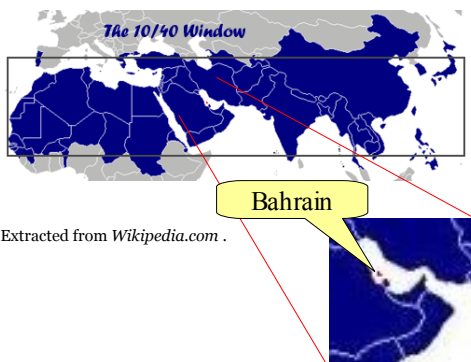
**Government:**  
Constitutional Monarchy

Bahrain is the Arabic term for “two seas”, referring to the freshwater springs that are found within the salty seas surrounding it. Bahrain's strategic location in the Persian Gulf has brought rule and influence from the Assyrians, Babylonians, Persians, and the Arabs, under whom the island became Islamic.

Bahrain is a generally flat and arid archipelago, consisting of a low desert plain rising gently to a low central escarpment, in the Persian Gulf, east of Saudi Arabia. The highest point is the 122m Jabal ad Dukhan. Bahrain has a total area of 665km<sup>2</sup>, which is slightly larger than the Isle of Man, though it is smaller than the nearby King Fahd International Airport near Dammam, Saudi Arabia. As an archipelago of thirty-three islands, Bahrain does not share a land boundary with another country but does have a 161km coastline.

The official religion of Bahrain is Islam, which the majority of the population practices. However, due to an influx of immigrants and guest workers from non-Muslim countries, such as India, Philippines and Sri Lanka, the overall percentage of Muslims in the country has declined in recent years. According to the 2001 census, 80% of Bahrain's population was Muslim, 10% were Christian, and 10% practiced other religions. There are no official figures for the proportion of Shia and Sunni among the Muslims of Bahrain.

Bahrain is a popular tourist destination with over eight million tourists a year. Most of the visitors are from the surrounding Arab states but there is an increasing number of tourists from outside the region due to a growing awareness of the kingdom's heritage and its higher profile with regards to the Bahrain International F1 Circuit.



## PRODUCT REVIEWS

### THE TROPHY CHASE TRILOGY by George Bryan Polivka



Are you a *Pirates of the Caribbean* fan? Do you dream of swashbuckling on the high seas, fighting sea monsters, and seek the thrill of adventure? Well then the *Trophy Chase Trilogy* is the perfect series for you. Action packed from the first page.

Most fantasy novels have little mention of God, and if they do, have weak or incomplete representations of Him. In this series He is treated the same as in this world. So close to reality it is possible to imagine this story really happening long ago on the high seas.

This series will be a surprise hit for many readers, especially the guys, with plenty of action and sword fighting. An excellent series that I highly recommend. Read it or be prepared to walk the plank!

Titles in the series:

*The Legend of the Firefish*  
*The Hand that Bears the Sword*  
*The Battle for Vast Dominion*

### THE DIVINE APPOINTMENT by Jerome Teel



A liberal Supreme Court justice is dead and the president, a right wing pro-life politician, nominates Dunbar Shelton to replace her in an explosive pro-life vs. pro-choice conflict.

In Tennessee, lawyers Eli Faulkner and Jill Baker represent a physician in the murder case of a young lawyer. Jill flies to Washington to get a part of the story from investigative journalist Holland Fletcher.

Together, the players in this drama will uncover answers that may cost them their lives. Is it worth it to risk everything when you are fighting for what you believe in?

*The Divine Appointment* is an imaginative legal and political thriller filled with surprising twists and turns to keep you riveted. Readers are lead through murder investigations, political gamesmanship, challenging relationships, and power struggles, while exploring profound issues of life and faith.

Sometimes the descriptions can be a little long-winded, but they do help to paint vivid pictures that help you solve the mystery. A very good read for all legal drama lovers. †

## DIARY OF EVENTS

### Parachute Band SA Tour

26 September – 19 October 2008  
Various venues across the country, visit our site for details

### Christian Business Expo

11-12 October 2008  
NASREC Expo Center, Johannesburg

### Israel in the Last Days Conference

31 October – 1 November 2008  
Rosebank Union Church, visit [www.messianicgoodnews.org](http://www.messianicgoodnews.org)

### Hillsong United SA Tour

14-25 November 2008  
Various venues across SA. Tickets available through iTickets.com

## Top 25 Must Reads

### *E.M. Bounds on Prayer* by Edward McKendree Bounds

Prayer is the Christian's lifeline to God, and with it lives are changed for eternity! E.M. Bounds knew the secrets of prayer and that God has established divine principles and promises for our every need. He reveals these principles and illustrates how God has answered the prayers of men and women since the beginning of time.

This book contains 7 of E.M. Bounds classic books on prayer: *Purpose in Prayer*, *The Necessity of Prayer*, *The Possibilities of Prayer*, *Essentials of Prayer*, *Obtaining Answers to Prayer*, *Power through Prayer*, and *The Weapon of Prayer*.

A must have book for anyone wanting to strengthen their prayer life.

**R 100.00**



## GODLY FATHERS

This is the second article in a series of three dealing with the rules for a Christian household found in Colossians 3.

In Colossians 3:20-21 Paul sums up in two verses the primary responsibilities of children and fathers: *“Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord. Fathers, do not embitter your children, or they will become discouraged.”*

### Children

In Biblical times children were legally regarded as being the property of their fathers. Their status was theoretically better than that of slaves, and it was unusual for children to be addressed directly. Paul does so here in order to show that they were independently responsible for their side of the parent/child relationship.

Children are told to *“obey your parents in everything”*, a variation of the fifth commandment – to honour one’s mother and father (Ex. 20:12). However, Paul shifts this obedience to being more important than being obedient for obedience’ sake. They are called to be obedient because it *“pleases the Lord”*, and not just the parents. The relationship that the child has with the Lord surpasses that of their relationship with their parents.

### Fatherly Discipline

When it came to discipline, the attitudes in the ancient world varied just as much as they do today. For some, it was by ruling with an iron fist, while others were permissive and allowed latitude in their child’s behaviour.

In 1 Corinthians we read of Paul identifying himself as the father of the Corinthians and dealing with their arrogant disobedience (4:14–21). He compares himself as their only father to their *“ten thousand guardians in Christ”*. The role of the guardian was that of supervision in terms of life and morals, protecting them from the decay of society, pretty much like a police officer.

Paul uses this comparison to show the merciless discipline of the guardian with the loving discipline of the father. *“What do you prefer? Shall I come to you with a whip, or in love and with a gentle spirit?”* (v21). As a father, Paul expected obedience, but he also believed that a father’s discipline should be controlled by love, compassion, kindness, and patience (cf. Col. 3:12).

Paul’s concern both for the church and the home, seen here in Corinthians 4 and Colossians 3:21 above, was that by being overly stern and heavy-handed, those in authority might drive the children away from the faith.

### A Father’s Role

If it is expected for a child to obey their parents, then what are the responsibilities on the side of the parents, and in particular, the father?

In the New Testament we read of three offices that Jesus holds in relation to the church – Priest, Prophet and King. I believe

that these roles should be mirrored within the home as it is the proving ground for the life and ministry of every man. If the leadership fails at home, it will also fail in the church.

### Priest

As priest, Jesus is representing the church before His Father as a mediator.

In the same sense the father is representing his family before Jesus as a mediator.

Just before the first passover, it was the responsibility of the father to kill the sacrificial lamb and to sprinkle its blood on the doorposts and lintel (Ex 12:3-7). He conducted the sacrifices at the temple and represented the family at the city gate and before God.

So too in the church it is the responsibility of the father to bring the family’s needs before God, give Him thanks for them and seeks forgiveness for anything that the family has done to misrepresent God to others. It is the father’s duty to bring the family to church and to get them involved in church life.

### Prophet

As prophet, Jesus shows the Father to the world.

So too the father is representing God as His ambassador to the family.

So often the father does this without realising it, as often a child’s perception of who God is, is based on the basic impression that is given to them by their father. How many people today do not like to call God Father because of the negative image that they have of their earthly fathers?

In the Old Testament it was the father’s responsibility to share the Word of God with the family. He was the one responsible for the reading of the Torah and the Tanach in the family. He was the one who taught the sons everything that they were to know.

So too, it is the father’s duty to teach the family the things of God in the same way that the prophets of old did for Israel. It is his duty to monitor what his wife and children are reading, listening to and watching concerning all things spiritual.

### King

As king, all authority has been given to Jesus to be the ruler over the church.

With the family, all authority has been given to the father to govern the family.

In his description of the qualifications of an overseer, Paul specified that *“He must manage his own family well and see that his children obey him with proper respect.”* (1Ti 3:4). The word “manage” is best translated as “rule” and implies the exercising of governmental authority within the home.

The context of this passage also implies that there is a direct relationship between

leadership in the home and in the church.

The father is to set the course of discipline, laying down the ground rules for how the family conducts itself in all areas of life. In fact, all areas of governance in the family are the father’s responsibility. The wife should not be doing anything that the husband does not agree with, and neither should the children. The children should be obedient to his wishes at all times.

**“God has called the man to be the initiator and leader in the spiritual life of the family”**

### Role Reversal

In this day and age there has been a drastic, and often times dangerous, reversal of roles within the family.

Think of it this way: Who, if anybody, normally prays with the children at bedtime? Who reads them Bible stories? Who prays when a child is sick?

Who gets the family to go to church or Sunday School? Who attends most of the activities within the church? In the majority of cases it is the mother.

Indeed the mother should be involved in the spiritual growth of the family, but God has called the man to be the initiator and leader in the spiritual life of the family.

When I was young, most boys saw the things of God as being sissy because they saw only the mothers involved in them. Many boys grow up wanting to be like their dads, and if he leaves the spiritual things of God to the mother, what will the boy do when he grows up?

### The Challenge

Fathers, I challenge you to rise up and take your position, under God, as the head of your home, with an authority controlled by love, compassion, kindness and patience.

Pray for your family, love them with the same love that God has for His own Son, be the examples that God is calling you to be. Then, and only then, are you in a position to expect the obedience that Paul is calling your children to. Only then will your wife be in a position to stand beside you as your *“helper”* (Gen 2:20). †

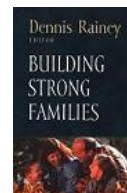


**“A father’s discipline should be controlled by love, compassion, kindness, and patience.”**

## Highly Recommended

### *Building Strong Families* by Dennis Rainey (editor)

In this book you will find challenging, encouraging words on key issues ranging from gender roles and sexual intimacy within marriage to raising masculine boys and feminine girls, as well as the practical concerns of renewal in your own home and effective mentoring within the church and the community.



**R 120**

## 10/40 RECIPE

### Date Bars (Bahrain)

#### INGREDIENTS:

- 1 cup rolled oats, plain or instant
- 1/2 cup flour
- 1/2 teaspoon baking powder
- 1/2 cup dark brown sugar
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon
- 1 cup melted butter or margarine
- 2 eggs, beaten
- 1 cup finely chopped, pitted dates
- 1 cup chopped nuts (walnuts, peanuts or pecans)
- 1/2 cup powdered sugar (for garnish)

#### TO PREPARE:

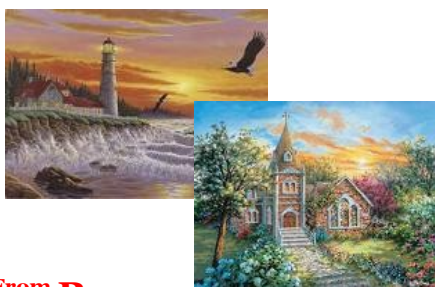
1. Preheat oven to 180 degrees. Grease 200cm-square baking pan.
2. Put oats, flour, baking powder, brown sugar, salt, and cinnamon in large mixing bowl and mix well.
3. Using clean hands, mix in butter or margarine, eggs, dates, and nuts.
4. Press mixture into greased baking pan and bake in oven for about 35 minutes, until firm.
5. Remove from the oven and cut while still warm into 40mm squares.
6. Sprinkle with powdered sugar. Makes 16 date bars.

Taken from the book *Recipes of the 10/40 Window*.

## Puzzles

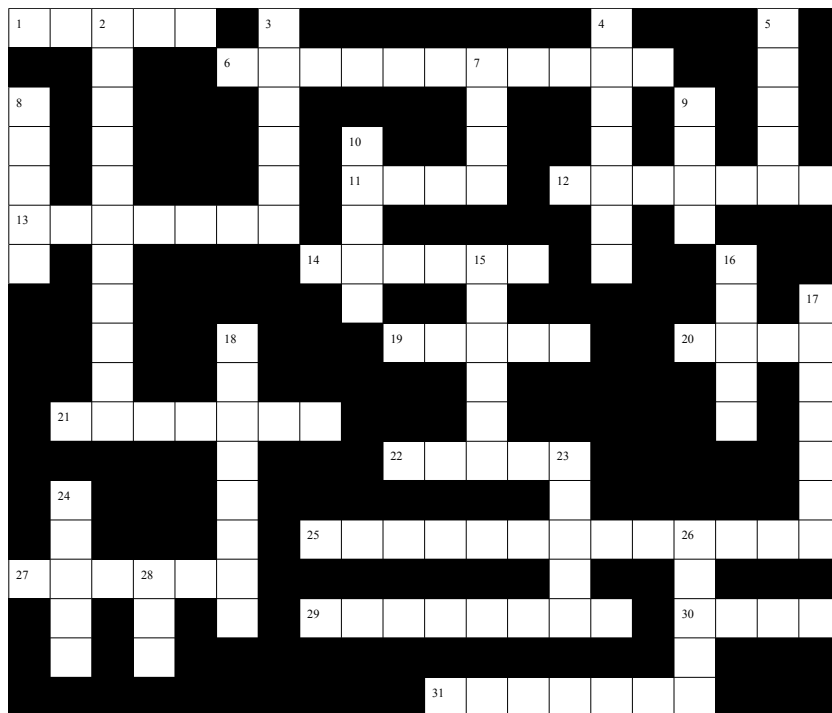
Assorted Designs  
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Why not spend some family time around the table working on a puzzle together?



From R 120

## FAMILY BUSINESS



#### ACROSS:

1. "Do not rebuke an \_\_\_ man harshly, but exhort him as if he were your father." (1Ti 5:1)
6. "because the LORD \_\_\_ those he loves, as a father the son he delights in." (Pr 3:12)
11. How great is the \_\_\_ the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God!" (1Jn 3:1)
12. "For this reason I am sending to you \_\_\_, my son whom I love, who is faithful in the Lord." (1Co 4:17)
13. "But I took your father \_\_\_ from the land beyond the River and led him throughout Canaan and gave him many descendants." (Jos 24:3)
14. "\_\_\_ be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ!" (1Pe 1:3)
19. "The soul who sins is the one who will die. The son will not share the \_\_\_ of the father" (Eze 18:20)
20. "Does the \_\_\_ have a father? Who fathers the drops of dew?" (Job 38:28)
21. "And this is the testimony: God has given us \_\_\_ life, and this life is in his Son." (1Jn 5:11)
22. "He who spares the rod \_\_\_ his son, but he who loves him is careful to discipline him." (Pr 13:24)
25. "Joseph, a Levite from Cyprus, whom the apostles called Barnabas (which means Son of \_\_\_)" (Ac 4:36)
27. "With the \_\_\_ we praise our Lord and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in God's likeness." (Jas 3:9)
29. "the blood of Jesus, his Son, \_\_\_ us from all sin." (1Jn 1:7)
30. "No one has \_\_\_ the Father except the one who is from God; only he has seen the Father." (Jn 6:46)
31. "Children, obey your \_\_\_ in the Lord, for this is right." (Eph 6:1)

#### DOWN:

2. "My son, preserve sound judgement and \_\_\_, do not let them out of your sight" (Pr 3:21)
3. "A man who loves \_\_\_ brings joy to his father" (Pr 29:3)
4. "Though my father and mother forsake me, the LORD will \_\_\_ me." (Ps 27:10)
5. "I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the \_\_\_" (3Jn 1:4)
7. "Listen to your father, who gave you \_\_\_, and do not despise your mother when she is old." (Pr 23:22)
8. "But when the time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a \_\_\_, born under law" (Gal 4:4)
9. "Shout and be glad, O Daughter of \_\_\_. For I am coming, I and I will live among you." (Zec 2:10)
10. "For he received honour and \_\_\_ from God the Father" (2Pe 1:7)
15. "For through him we both have access to the Father by one \_\_\_." (Eph 2:18)
16. "Anyone who curses his father or mother must be put to \_\_\_." (Ex 21:17)
17. "He who overcomes will \_\_\_ all this, and I will be his God and he will be my son." (Rev 21:7)
18. "How beautiful your \_\_\_ feet, O prince's daughter!" (SS 7:1)
23. "He who did not \_\_\_ his own Son, but gave him up for us all" (Ro 8:32)
24. "For the Father loves the Son and \_\_\_ him all he does." (Jn 5:20)
26. "By faith \_\_\_, when he had grown up, refused to be known as the son of Pharaoh's daughter." (Heb 11:24)
29. "Be imitators of \_\_\_, therefore, as dearly loved children." (Eph 5:1)

**NOTE:** All verses taken from the New Answers in next edition. International Version.

**Last Month's Answers:** Across: 1. Considerate 6. Passion 7. Honoured 9. Grows 10. Man 11. Adultery 14. Lrt 15. Respect 16. House 17. Submit 20. Husband 22. Rules 24. Marriage 25. Age 27. Blameless 28. Each 29. Rainy 30. Children 31. Divorce 32. Sarah Down: 1. Crown 2. Try 3. Merry 4. Himself 5. Unfaithfulness 8. Duty 10. Mary 12. Youth 13. Separate 18. United 19. Time 21. Pregnant 23. Sapphira 26. Church 27. Bound 29. Roof