



COFFEE WITH PASTOR HERB OWEN

Well, this is issue 52. That tells me that this week ends our first year as part of the church family at Cherrydale.

And what a year it's been! Timothy and I arrived first to get settled as Marilyn finished teaching the first semester at her Christian school back in Ohio. We emptied most of the boxes, brought a little order out of chaos, and patiently waited for the expert to arrive and make it all better.

We had two Christmas parties at our home the other week where we invited all the children's ministry volunteers. As we looked at those who came, we realized that these people have become our good friends. We share life together as we serve together. Good people. Cherrydale people. God's people.

My first order of business last January, of course, was to discover what was going on with the children and family ministry of Cherrydale. Marilyn put in lots of hours with Alexandra Murphy, our nursery coordinator. They've updated the curriculum, recruited and trained lots of staff, instituted new safety standards and supervised getting everything freshly decorated and ready for the influx of new people when construction is finished.

We have strengthened our elementary Sunday classes. FBI is going strong for third and fourth graders. Fifth and sixth graders are studying the Scriptures using curriculum I've written that has taken them through the New Testament, Bible doctrine, with a study through the Old Testament and the characteristics of a Christian coming in 2010. We're preparing to expand to the other end of the third floor with "Straight Street Station," our new Kids Church room for older kids and "hangout" for children on "Straight Street," our name for our ministry to grades 1-6. Soon we'll announce a new division in our kids ministries to fifth and sixth graders that they will really like.

We've begun B.L.A.S.T. and Koala Club, averaging 70 or so each Wednesday. We're working to get every parent to attend a Principles for Parents Seminar (that means you, too!) and we're active in family mentoring and training. We have instituted a new website for kids and their parents (straightstreet.net) and have begun to publicize our new day camp, "Camp Straight Street," for eight weeks next summer, beginning the week after Vacation Bible School.

But the best part of the year has been becoming a part of your lives as you have become a part of ours. Our home at Seven Corners is always open if you need help, counsel, encouragement, or just want to stop by and say hi. We really mean that.

We don't *go* to church; we *are* the church...a body of believers in Christ who are committed to Him and to each other.

I wrote a song once that says "It's Wonderful to Be in the Family of God." And it is. It really, really is.



Family Talk

Cherrydale Baptist Church Parents Newsletter

December 27, 2009

(Maybe) a new habit for 2010: this changes everything!

Most Christians are not in the habit of reading through the Bible. Maybe a verse or two for devotions, or follow along with the sermon. But nothing consistent that takes them through the entire Book.

What if this were the year when we, as a church, *changed*? What if our children who can read and our teens did it with us? What would God do in our hearts if our thinking were bathed in His Word?

Why not *us*? Why not *this year*?

We have prepared a schedule that, if followed, will take us through the entire Bible together this year. Each day you will read one or more chapters. We'll begin in Genesis on January 1 and end in Revelation on New Years Eve.

Would you accept the challenge? Will you encourage your children to follow your lead? Will you do it?

It will be hard some days. We're all busy. But we have time to eat, don't we? We have the time to do the things we value. We make time for the important things. This must be one of them.

Suppose you miss a day? Like skipping a meal, you don't stop eating. You maybe snack a little and catch up at the next meal. So if something unexpected happens and you miss a day in your Bible reading, catch up a little at a time until you're back on schedule.

It will take commitment. Character. Determination. All of the things we want to see developed in our children. *They* will grow in them as they see these traits modeled in *us*.

To make it easier, use a translation you can easily understand. For children we recommend the ICB (*International Children's Bible*) or the NCV (*New Century Version*.) We even have the New Testament of the ICB in comic book form, complete with verse numbers, as well as read by young Christian actors and actresses. Makes it easy. Put it on your iPod and listen, if you need to.

But do it. For adults we recommend your reading in a study Bible. The *Life Application Bible* is great, with practical applications on every page. There are others, too. Visit a nearby Christian bookstore. Ask for help if you need advice in picking the one that's right for you.

Pick up one of these Bible reading schedules and let's begin together.

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE WITH US IN 2010

<input type="checkbox"/> Fri, Jan 1 Genesis 1-3	<input type="checkbox"/> Fri, Feb 12 Leviticus 24-25
<input type="checkbox"/> Sat, Jan 2 Genesis 4-6	<input type="checkbox"/> Sat, Feb 13 Leviticus 26-27
<input type="checkbox"/> Sun, Jan 3 Genesis 7-9	<input type="checkbox"/> Sun, Feb 14 Numbers 1-2
<input type="checkbox"/> Mon, Jan 4 Genesis 10-12	<input type="checkbox"/> Mon, Feb 15 Numbers 3-4
<input type="checkbox"/> Tue, Jan 5 Genesis 13-16	<input type="checkbox"/> Tue, Feb 16 Numbers 5-6
<input type="checkbox"/> Wed, Jan 6 Genesis 17-19	<input type="checkbox"/> Wed, Feb 17 Numbers 7
<input type="checkbox"/> Thu, Jan 7 Genesis 20-22	<input type="checkbox"/> Thu, Feb 18 Numbers 8-10
<input type="checkbox"/> Fri, Jan 8 Genesis 23-24	<input type="checkbox"/> Fri, Feb 19 Numbers 11-13
<input type="checkbox"/> Sat, Jan 9 Genesis 25-26	<input type="checkbox"/> Sat, Feb 20 Numbers 14-15
<input type="checkbox"/> Sun, Jan 10 Genesis 27-28	<input type="checkbox"/> Sun, Feb 21 Numbers 16-18
<input type="checkbox"/> Mon, Jan 11 Genesis 29-30	<input type="checkbox"/> Mon, Feb 22 Numbers 19-21
<input type="checkbox"/> Tue, Jan 12 Genesis 31-32	<input type="checkbox"/> Tue, Feb 23 Numbers 22-24
<input type="checkbox"/> Wed, Jan 13 Genesis 33-35	<input type="checkbox"/> Wed, Feb 24 Numbers 25-26
<input type="checkbox"/> Thu, Jan 14 Genesis 36-37	<input type="checkbox"/> Thu, Feb 25 Numbers 27-29
<input type="checkbox"/> Fri, Jan 15 Genesis 38-40	<input type="checkbox"/> Fri, Feb 26 Numbers 30-31
<input type="checkbox"/> Sat, Jan 16 Genesis 41-42	<input type="checkbox"/> Sat, Feb 27 Numbers 32-33
<input type="checkbox"/> Sun, Jan 17 Genesis 43-45	<input type="checkbox"/> Sun, Feb 28 Numbers 34-36
<input type="checkbox"/> Mon, Jan 18 Genesis 46-48	<input type="checkbox"/> Mon, Mar 1 Numbers 37-40
<input type="checkbox"/> Tue, Jan 19 Genesis 49, Exodus 1	<input type="checkbox"/> Tue, Feb 9 Leviticus 14-15
<input type="checkbox"/> Wed, Jan 20 Exodus 2-4	<input type="checkbox"/> Wed, Feb 10 Leviticus 16-18
<input type="checkbox"/> Thu, Jan 21 Exodus 5-7	<input type="checkbox"/> Thu, Feb 11 Leviticus 19-21
<input type="checkbox"/> Fri, Jan 22 Exodus 8-10	<input type="checkbox"/> Fri, Feb 12 Leviticus 22-23
<input type="checkbox"/> Sat, Jan 23 Exodus 11-13	<input type="checkbox"/> Sat, Mar 21 Judges 5-7
<input type="checkbox"/> Sun, Jan 24 Exodus 14-15	<input type="checkbox"/> Sun, Mar 22 Judges 8-9
<input type="checkbox"/> Mon, Jan 25 Exodus 16-18	<input type="checkbox"/> Mon, Mar 23 Judges 10-12
<input type="checkbox"/> Tue, Jan 26 Exodus 19-21	<input type="checkbox"/> Tue, Mar 24 Judges 13-16
<input type="checkbox"/> Wed, Jan 27 Exodus 22-23	<input type="checkbox"/> Wed, Mar 25 Judges 17-19

You can download a Bible reading schedule at straightstreet.net/download/throughthebible.pdf

Print the pages back-to-back and fold into a booklet.

More about "Helicopter Parents"

Arielle Ewell can't seem to escape the advances of other moms who tout how much their kids have benefited from gymnastics programs and music classes and suggest that she enroll her son.

He's 21 months old.

"I don't want to dis someone else's approach to parenting, but it just seems so unnecessary," says Ewell, a first-time mom from Albany. "He can't even stand still when we're in line. He's going to take to the lesson plan? I don't think so."

In the last decade, "helicopter parents" have landed in the spotlight, facing public fire for coddling their children and micromanaging every moment of their lives.

This year, a backlash to helicoptering that calls for a more simplified approach came with the release of two books -- "Simplicity Parenting: Using the Extraordinary Power of Less to Raise Calmer, Happier and More Secure Kids" by Kim John Payne with Lisa M. Ross and "Free-Range Kids" by Lenore Skenazy.

While a less-is-more parenting philosophy that encourages additional downtime and less adult interference might seem a little old-school to some, advocates say a crop of dependent young adults and stressed-out kids raised by hovering parents begs for some kind of change.

Kim John Payne, a family therapist from Columbia County and co-author of "Simplicity Parenting," says today's kids are under so much parent-applied pressure that they're exhibiting behaviors similar to refugee children he once counseled for post-traumatic stress disorder.

Kathleen Crowley, a professor of psychology at The College of Saint Rose, says parents' eagerness to overdirect their children's lives has led to young adults who are less independent and creative than the generation before. Twenty years ago, Crowley announced an upcoming test in her college classes and that was the end of

the discussion.

Now, she says she's expected to provide students with a study guide so they know exactly how to prepare, and she's had these same young adults come to her in tears because they'd earned their first B and didn't know how to cope. Because of this "extended adolescence," when these students graduate and enter their careers, they're now offered workplace mentoring and on-the-job training just to ensure their success.

"Among the parents I have been speaking to as a mom and a developmental psychologist, we're a little shocked looking at our children -- when they get to be 18, 19, 20 -- how little they're able to do for themselves," says Crowley, who admits she's been guilty of helicoptering in the past and was once stunned when her then 16-year-old said he couldn't make a tuna fish sandwich for his younger brother because he didn't know how to work the can opener. "They're not independent, and if you reflect on the parenting styles in the last decade or so, we've done everything we can to make them not independent. We've supervised them in every circumstance. We've scheduled them. We've made sure their food choices were limited. We kept them in the house to keep them from perceived dangers that lurked around the corner."

Unlike previous generations of parents, today's moms and dads have been raised themselves in a culture of fear. They're bombarded by cable news reports of child abductions and pitches by companies marketing GPS locators for children. Parenting magazines offer articles on "the secret to better grades" and "raising a more talkative toddler," ratcheting up the pressure to "get it right."

And so parents who grew up cruising the neighborhood on bicycles and playing impromptu baseball games until their mothers called them for dinner (by yelling, not by cellphone) are now parents who confine play to the driveway and shuttle their children to baseball practice three

days a week and to soccer games the other four.

They fill the downtime of a car ride with DVD players to ward off boredom, take up their children's playground battles by e-mailing the principal and calling the parents of the offending students, and help their children skirt failure at all cost by riding them about homework rather than allowing them to face the consequences of not doing it.

That's lead Payne and authors such as Skenazy, who was labeled "America's Worst Mom" because she allowed her 9-year-old to ride the New York City subway alone last year, to tell today's parents they should back off if they want their children to truly grow.

"I'm not suggesting doing this to have sleepy little hippie kids," he says. "I'm suggesting that we do this to have really smart, successful kids who are not anxious and jumpy adults."

Payne says he's counseled middle-class suburban kids who have exhibited signs of post-traumatic stress disorder.

"But there was no huge, defining moment. Rather than being post-traumatic stress disorder, I came to think of it as cumulative stress reaction," he says. "And when we talk about preparing the children for the world, I always ask, 'whose world?'"

Payne goes through his client's homes with a trash bag gathering up excess toys, too many of which can overwhelm young kids. He suggests limits on -- if not elimination of -- time spent in front of the

television. He warns parents to save conversations about the stresses of work or the latest reports of violence in the news until after their children have gone to bed.

And he offers parents permission to sit and read a magazine while their kids figure out ways to fill their own day.

Boredom, a problem parents once solved by heaping on chores or shrugging their shoulders, has become a scourge many of today's parents avoid at all costs.

Crowley remembers her youngest son asking to bring his GameBoy to his older brother's graduation ceremony because it

was going to be boring.

"I said, 'Yes you're going to be bored, and that's OK. That's a very important skill to learn.' I would not be where I am today if I had not learned to sit through a very boring event," she says. "We don't teach them that being bored sometimes is normal. That's when you can start doing some of your own creative thinking."

But many parents just want to

create a world for their children fueled by 24-7 happiness, which fails to give them the tools they need to survive when they enter the actual world and face disappointment, rejection and refrigerators that aren't always stocked. (That's why more and more young adults look to move back in with mom and dad after they graduate, Crowley says.)

As much as adults talk to children about rising above peer pressure, many parents have failed to do the same when it comes to helicoptering.

-Albany Times-Union

