



A quarterly publication of Empowered Living Ministries

July - September 2008

Dear friends,

This quarter's article, "Help Wanted: Godly Parents", comes from our daughter-in-law, Sarah Hohnberger. How thrilled we are to see our son and his wife carrying on the work of spiritual parenting! They have two boys, ages 4 & 2, and they desire to raise them in a Christ-centered home.



New on CD is Jim's speaking series *Facing Frenemy Fire*. If you are under fire in interpersonal relationships in your church, family, friendships, employment, or neighborhood this is a must for you. Learn how to "thrive and not just survive." Four key messages for \$22.

Two new sharing booklets are also available: *Family First* and *Intimacy: A By-Product*. These booklets are an excellent tool for sharing on these vital topics. One for \$1.00. Three for \$2.64. Five for \$4.00. Ten for \$7.30. Forty for \$26.80.



We are looking forward to seeing you at our **5th annual Open House**, July 23 - 26. For more details visit our website at www.EmpoweredLivingMinistries.org.

Have a Great Summer,

Jim & Sally

SPEAKING SCHEDULE

July 23 - 26

Open House

Polebridge, Montana

Call (406) 387-4333

August 28 - 31

Empowered Living Camp Meeting

Cohutta Springs Conference Center

Cohutta, Georgia

Call (706) 398-7218

September 25 - 28

Empowered Living Camp Meeting

Camp Cedar Falls Conference Center

Angelus Oaks, California

Call (706) 398-7218

October 16 - 19

Empowered Living Camp Meeting

Windermere Baptist Convention Center

Roach, Missouri

Call (417) 661-6161 evenings

(417) 667-3030 daytime

November 14 - 16

Fallbrook Seventh Day Adventist Church

Fallbrook, California

Call (619) 847-4117 or (760) 723-7733

December 4 - 7

Empowered Living Camp Meeting

High Springs, Florida

Call (706) 375-1707



It's About Walking With God!



Help Wanted:

Godly Parents

by Sarah Hohnberger

Have you given any thought lately to your job description? No, I don't mean the one for your profession—be it builder or banker—but rather the one you signed on for the day you discovered you were expecting your first child. Their little lives seem to speed by while we are wrapped up in day-to-day responsibilities and duties. We forget just how important they are to God—and more significantly, we forget how important we are to their development. I constantly need a reminder of my responsibility to my children and how Christ holds me accountable for this important work.

One safety net that keeps me accountable is reading the book, *Child Guidance*, at the beginning of each year. It is an incredible blessing to me and I find myself convicted and encouraged as I begin a new year raising my children in the Lord. This year has been no exception.

For example, I read, “Never will education accomplish all that it might and should accomplish until the importance of the parents’ work is fully recognized, and they receive a training for its sacred responsibilities.” (pg. 64)

Recently, I was lamenting about how much information I need to do my “job” as a nurse well and how easily I forget. I considered how I worked almost constantly for two years to learn the basic skills I needed to function in the capacity of a nurse. With this thought fresh in my mind, a new idea came into my mind, “Do

you take your responsibility to your children as seriously as you take your responsibility to your patients? Do you seek to prepare, learn, and grow in this area of your life? For are you not the one responsible to shape your children for My kingdom?”

Often we take our children for granted, assuming we will be able to give them what they need. Why is this? What greater responsibility do we have than the one we have to our children? Our children have been given to us by the Lord. They are His heritage and His workmanship. He has entrusted them to us to be raised for Him.

Raising our children does not merely mean feeding them, clothing them, protecting them and meeting their temporal needs. It means so much more. We are responsible for their entire growth physically, mentally, and spiritually. We are responsible for the character they develop. Often we forget just how broad and important this work is and we allow the things of this world to take greater portions of our time and attention than do our children. Each child is unique and complex with a different set of weaknesses and needs, as well as a different combination of strengths.

Physical Care

Physically, our children need routine, regularity, order and cleanliness. We need to give them a solid constitution and robust physical health. This can be accomplished by providing wholesome meals free from additives, highly processed ingredients and large amounts of sugar or other harmful substances such as food color or hydrogenated fat. A simple diet is best for our children.

Water is so important to their physical development. Are you encouraging your children to drink pure water throughout the day? A daily bath is very helpful not only to wash off any impurities but also to relax them for a good night sleep. Fresh air and sunshine not only contribute to a healthy body but also to a cheerful and happy mind. Exercise is important to keep those active bodies healthy and free from excess energy. Often when I am feeling overwhelmed as a mother, a 15 minute outdoor break from our activities

to run off a little energy is all that is required to not only make me feel more relaxed, but also to treat the root cause of my distress: my children's excess energy. Our children need to be protected from chill by making sure that they are dressed healthfully and appropriately no matter the weather.

Most importantly, what type of physical lifestyle are we leading? Telling our children what is healthful or even providing it for them will not be as effective as living this life ourselves. For are we not the ones they are watching? What we do, more than what we say, is the most powerful determinant of what our children will become.

Mental Care

Mental development, much like physical development, is best achieved by ample time out-of-doors in nature, as well as protection from harmful influences such as stress, worry and artificial stimulation. Computer, TV, cell phones, video games and other electronic devices so prevalent in this day and age all have an influence on our children and unfortunately these are not the best influence for their mental development. Filling the minds of our children with natural themes and providing a quiet environment are the most conducive to a strong mental constitution. If you and your spouse argue frequently or often mention the negative traits of others, your children will be affected by the destructive influence.

Reading to our children, memorizing scripture as a family, singing praise, cultivating thankfulness, and looking for ways to bless and help others all provide some important ingredients for our children's mental development. Teaching our children daily the lessons of dependence and trust in Jesus will help to stabilize and strengthen their mental capacity.

Spiritual Care

Spiritually, we are to model Christ to our children. Our lives are to teach them something about God: his justice, mercy, and love. Teaching our children not only by precept but also by example is the most powerful tool we have. Do you have a connection with Christ?

Are you seeing victory in your own experience? Are you keeping the lines of communication open between you and your child? Are you providing an environment in which your child might open his heart to you and share his failure and seek encouragement without fearing anger or rejection? Helping our children daily to dedicate their lives to Christ and giving them the tools they need such as a proper understanding of the will, the use of faith, and an understanding of God's presence with us all help as our children develop spiritually.

Taking our own growth and development seriously can be one of the most powerful tools in shaping our children physically, mentally, or spiritually for we cannot give what we do not have ourselves.

As you take a fresh look at your job description as a parent, do not become discouraged. One of the most powerful gifts you can give your child is to be authentic in your walk and life. You are not required to be perfect from the start with your child but rather to be growing and learning—most importantly giving 100% to your work as a parent. It is imperative for us as parents to have a real walk with God, by a living relationship with Him. It is from Him that we receive strength and wisdom to raise our children for heaven. We are merely the tool in our Father's hand.

When I become discouraged as a parent and feel I am not getting through to my children I have a special prayer of faith I pray that always gives me peace. I say, "Lord, it is You and Your

Spirit that shape my child. I am merely the tool and I trust you to do the work in their heart and life."

So how about it? Have you given any thought lately to your job description as a parent? As you pray and seek Christ, I am confident that you will find all the support and help you need. You can be effective in your role as you recognize that you are simply a tool in Christ's hand. There is no greater desire in my heart, as a mother, than to one day see my children walk through the heavenly gates and see Jesus, their Father, and live eternally with Him. Moms, Dads, take courage and hope in Christ. He will be your sufficiency, your strength; all He asks is for your full dedication and surrender. *elm*

*Take a fresh
look at your
job description!*



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It's About Walking With God!

A precious bundle of joy!



Jason Paul Hohnberger

Jason was born on May 19 to Matthew & Angela Hohnberger. He is their second son, Nathan's little brother, and Jim & Sally's fourth grandson. May God's hand be upon you, Matthew & Angela, and your precious family, as you raise them to walk with God!

"Power for Living" is available free of charge, and is sent out quarterly by mail.

If you or someone you know are not receiving it and wish to be added to our mailing list, please feel free to contact us.

For information on any of the materials or events mentioned in the publication you can reach us at:

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