



# The Sword

*“And take... the sword of the Spirit,  
which is the word of God.”* Ephesians 6:17

“The Sword” is published weekly by the OAK GROVE CHURCH OF CHRIST, as a teaching and information tool for the congregation. Articles are intended to encourage the study of God’s Word every day! — Jack W. McNiel, editor

**Volume 17 - March 21, 2010 - Number 12**

## **“Proper Perspectives on Parenting”** *by Richard Mansel*

Jennifer felt the beginnings of a headache creeping into her shoulders and neck. Stress pounded at her. Car repairs, bills and time pressures were filling her days and nights.

Her seven-year-old son, Jake, sat on the living room floor with a friend, Adam, from the next block.

While putting towels into the washer, she heard Jake’s loud voice. “Give it to me!” She exited the laundry room and found Jake pulling a toy away from an angry Adam. Adam reached out and grabbed at the toy. The color was rising in both of their faces.

Jennifer wanted the fight and the noise to stop immediately before her head exploded. How would she handle this crisis?

Very often, the dividing line between success and failure is a proper perspective. If we will approach things and ideas in the right way, we will find ourselves moving in the right direction.

Raising children to be responsible adults is very challenging. Accordingly, parenting is not for the cowardly or selfish. We must have courage, vision and extraordinary patience, if we will finish the job.

If we choose to have children, we have revoked our right to be selfish. It is no longer about us. We have little ones who depend on us. However, far too many parents cannot give up their own needs and ego.

All parents know that children will misbehave because they are human and are still learning how to behave. Their misbehavior creates a challenge that we will pass or fail, depending on our overall perspective.

Jennifer can take the road most travelled and scream at them to shut up. She can banish them to different rooms, send them outside or send Adam home and punish Jake.

She can restore her quiet in a host of ways. However, would that be the best path?

Is Jennifer parenting for the moment or the future? The moment dictates that she restores order, so she is no longer inconvenienced. Looking to the future means that she takes a long-term view of parenting and child-rearing.

The short-term view of parenting looks at everything in view of our own needs. Their behavior is good or bad, in light of how much trouble it causes us. Everything exists in the moment.

Long-term parenting looks for every opportunity to prepare our children to be better people and to be emotionally healthy. We aspire to be constant guides for them, leading them to maturity. We try to seize moments when opportunities arise.

Short-term parenting can be relatively easy. On the other hand, long-term parenting is tiring and difficult, at times. We must be strong and be willing to meet resistance and anger from our children.

Our children need to be taught and this will involve questions and teaching that they may not want to answer. Yet, we must persevere for the greater good.

Jennifer can stop, despite her headache, and sit down with the two boys and ask questions and use illustrations to help them learn

to share, show respect for others and to be gentle and loving. They may be annoyed at her intervention, but she must remain focused.

Choosing our battles [in terms of discipline] and offering our children a complete education [in terms of life lessons] are two different things. We owe it to them to prepare them fully for life. We must remember this goal and that it is more important for them to love us in years to come than it is now, when they do not understand our constant teaching.

We must remain focused on the bigger picture ( Proverbs 22:6). Our children are depending on us.

## **“Busy Here and There” by Bill N. Jackson**

A study of 1 Kings will lead one to examine the wickedness of Ahab, and also to see the real power behind him, that wicked and idolatrous Jezebel. These two had a real, powerful and spiritual adversary in God’s servant, Elijah. There were other men of the prophets whom God used in bringing Ahab to the end his behavior demanded.

In a second period of conflict with the Syrians, God had promised to deliver them into the hands of Israel. God’s people were greatly victorious, and the Syrian king then made a plea for the sparing of his life, and Ahab, calling him a “brother,” spared him. God’s words of rebuke were brought to Ahab in the form of a story wherein a man charged with keeping a prisoner safe, allowed him to escape. Ahab responded to the story in the enforcing of the penalty upon the guard; whereupon, the point turned against Ahab, who had the Syrian king in his grasp and lit him live. Of importance to us just here is the point, in the story, that the man on guard allowed his prisoner to escape because “I was

busy here and there” (1 Kings 20:40).

“I was busy here and there” has other forms: “This and that” “taking care of things” “seeing to business” “getting straightened out”, etc. It all boils down to failing to put the things of God first in our lives (Matthew 6:33). Those who do visitation and personal work every often will hear this given as a reason for non-attendance, non-participation: “Well, we’ve been so busy, we’re going to do better as soon as we get straightened out.” **BUSY HERE AND THERE, AND LETTING THE THINGS OF GOD BE IGNORED.**

It so happens that our times are such that anyone can “be busy here and there” and with “this and that,” and never find time for God’s things! Time is there on the calendar and on the clock, but it is **MADE** for God! I’ll have time for no spiritual thing unless I **MAKE IT!** Let’s plan to not lose our souls because we were “busy here and there!”

## NEWS AND NOTES:

### OUR PRAYER LIST:

#### Congregation:

- Irene Jennings was hospitalized with an elevated heart rate last week.
- Please remember in your prayers all who have been sick, bereaved or in the hospital recently: Marjorie Alley, Freda Bentley, Lloyd Cooper, Irene Jennings, Jim O'Connor, Wendell Osborne, Alberta Petering,

#### Friends & Family:

- Wendell Osborne is improving after heart bypass surgery.

### ITEMS OF INTEREST:

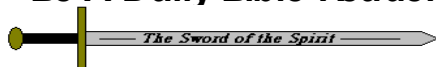
#### Oak Grove:

- Youth Devotional after evening services.
- April 11-14: Gospel Meeting with Marvin Rickett
- Ladies' Class 1st & 3rd Thursday of each month at 10 AM.
- Personal Evangelism II each Sunday 4:45–5:30 PM.

#### Local Area:

- March 20: 39th St. Saturday Seminar
- March 21-24: Blue Springs Gospel Meeting
- April 23-25: Brad Harrub: The Truth About Origins Seminar—Harrisonville Church of Christ.

**Keep Your Sword Sharpened  
– Be A Daily Bible Reader!**



## SERVING ONE ANOTHER:

### LEADING IN WORSHIP: *March 21*

Announcements: Claude Andrews

Usher: Walter Reed

Lord's Table: Richard Petering

**West:** Shane Stevens – Melvin Lunn

**East:** Leland Reed – Roy Smith

#### Sunday AM

Song Leader: David Wiesemann

Opening Prayer: David Wiesemann

Second Prayer: Peyton Jenkins

Scripture Reader: Tyler Jenkins

Sermon: **Mark 1:12-13**

*"The Temptation of Jesus"*

Closing Prayer: Dixon Liljegren

#### Sunday PM

Song Leader: Dustin Hall

Opening Prayer: Vernon Logan

Sermon: **Galatians 6:7-8**

*"You Reap What You Sow"*

Closing Prayer: Sean McLaughlin

#### Wednesday Night:

Song Leader: Tyler Jenkins

#### March 17

Devotional: Vint Hall

Closing Prayer: Eugene Jenkins

#### March 24

Devotional: Dustin Hall

Closing Prayer: Richard Petering

### OUR CURRENT RECORDS:

#### Wednesday: *March 10*

Bible Class 74

#### Sunday: *March 14*

Bible Class 78

AM Worship 80

PM Worship 75

Contribution \$1,727

Budget \$2,020

*The King James Version is requested for  
pulpit, classrooms, & scripture reading.*

## Work Program 2008-2009

Team	Leader/s	Next Assignment
1	Jack McNeil	Mar. 28
2	Roger Stephenson	April 4
3	Walter Hutcherson	April 11
4	Vernon Logan	April 18
5	Dustin Hall	April 25
6	Roy Smith Tim Smith	May 2
7	<i>Justin Liljegren Dixon Liljegren</i>	<i>Mar. 21</i>

### WHO WE ARE:

The Oak Grove Church of Christ is independent of any denominational organization. We are not associated with any national or world headquarters. Yet, we cooperate voluntarily with our sister congregations in the Lord's work and fellowship.

The church of Christ is noted for its emphasis upon returning to New Testament Christianity and for its desire to *"be perfectly joined together in the same mind and ... judgment..."* (1 Cor. 1:10). We try to follow the basic, innocent faith that was proclaimed on the day of Pentecost (Acts 2).

If you are earnest about learning more by means of studying the Holy Bible and obeying what it says, you will truly find a home here at Oak Grove Church of Christ.

## Oak Grove Church of Christ

104 SW 6th Street,  
Oak Grove, MO 64075 (816) 690-4599  
[www.ogchurchofchrist.org](http://www.ogchurchofchrist.org)

### Head of the Church:

Christ (Eph 1:22; 5:23; Col 1:18)

### Elders: (1 Tim 3:1-7)

Claude Andrews  
Walter Hutcherson  
Richard Petering  
Lowell Smith

### Deacons: (1 Tim 3:8-13)

Darrell Andrews  
Dean Evatt  
Vint Hall  
Hershel Hunt  
Leland Reed  
Tim Smith  
David Wiesemann

### Preacher: (2 Tim 4:1-5)

Jack W. McNeil  
Office: (816) 690-4599  
Cell: (816) 522-2584  
[ogchurchofchrist@embarqmail.com](mailto:ogchurchofchrist@embarqmail.com)

### – Schedule of Services –

#### Sunday:

**Bible Study – 9:30 A.M.**

**Worship – 10:20 A.M.; 6:00 P.M.**

**Wednes: Bible Study – 7:00 P.M.**

**Bi-Monthly: "House to House / Heart to Heart"**