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Fathers and Scriptural Leadership

by Deacon Randy Folliard

The most important building block of any society is the family. The family is the foundation, the cornerstone, of civilization. Within the family one of the most important roles is the father. Today the father's significance has largely been

diminished. One area in which this is painfully evident is with his authority. Paul addresses the family structure in his epistle to the Ephesians.

“Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Master. For the

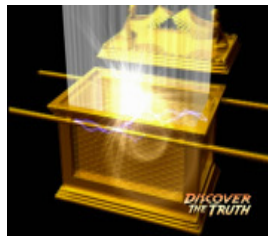
husband is head of the wife, as also Messiah is head of the Assembly; and He is the Savior of the body. Therefore, just as the Assembly is subject to Messiah, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything. Husbands, love your wives, just as Messiah also loved the assembly and gave Himself for her” (Eph 5:22-25).

In today's politically-correct-driven climate, most individuals simply refuse to accept that the husband is the authority within the family. However, this is what our Father in Heaven says in his Word. Paul says that the wife is to submit to her husband as to the Messiah. He went on to explain that as the assembly is to obey the Messiah, the wife likewise should also obey her husband. According to Scripture, the father is the final authority within the scriptural family.

Paul also said that the husband is to love his wife as the Messiah loved the assembly. It is important to note that our Savior, Yahshua the Messiah, never

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Denver Open Media, Channel 57
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• CAT TV, Columbia, Channel 3, Mondays 2 pm, Wednesdays 2 pm, Sundays 8 am

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Fathers and Scriptural Leadership

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abused his authority over the assembly. In the same way the husband should never use his given authority to abuse his wife or family. The husband is to love his wife.

Over the years there have been many published studies on the importance of fathers. Without a father a child is much more likely to engage in activities that are abusive or harmful. In an article entitled *The Plight of Fatherless Children* from Gazette.net the following discoveries were noted with children without fathers:

- Sixty-three percent of young people who commit suicide are from fatherless homes.
- Eighty-five percent of children who exhibit behavioral disorders are from fatherless homes.
- Eighty percent of rapists are from fatherless homes.
- Seventy-one percent of high school dropouts are from fatherless homes.
- Seventy-five percent of all adolescent patients in chemical-abuse centers are from fatherless homes.
- Seventy percent of juveniles in state operated institutions come from fatherless homes.
- Eighty-five percent of youth in prison are from fatherless homes.
- Seventy percent of pregnant teens are from fatherless homes.

In the majority of studies documenting the impact of fatherless homes, there is one recurring theme — without strong fathers at home children suffer in many profound ways. Yahweh knew what he was doing when He created man and woman and brought them together as a family. Without this core unit that our Father in Heaven established, no culture has a chance for long-term survival.

What does it mean scripturally to be

a father? What responsibilities do we find within Yahweh's Word for the father? Perhaps the most basic role of a father is the provider.

The Family Provider

“But if anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever” (1Tim 5:8). For a father there is no greater basic responsibility than to provide for the necessities of his family. Besides obeying our Father in heaven, there is no obligation more important for a father.

As fathers we can be the best Bible students, but if we lose sight of our basic obligation to our families then all our efforts are for naught. As fathers we must always provide for our families. Yahweh has no patience for fathers who are lazy or refuse to provide for their immediate household. The only obligation more important than reading the Word is living the Word. If we read the Word without putting that knowledge into action then that knowledge is worthless.

Another duty of a father is the responsibility of disciplinarian. It is clear from scripture that this is primarily a father's role, which explains why children require a father's influence.

Head Disciplinarian

An amazing fact of Scripture is that many characteristics of the father are the same as our Heavenly Father. According to the author of Hebrews, His discipline is one of them.

“And you have forgotten the exhortation which speaks to you as to sons: “My son, do not despise the chastening of Yahweh, nor be discouraged when you are rebuked by Him; for whom Yahweh loves He chastens, and scourges every son whom He receives.” If you endure chastening, Elohim deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom a father does not chasten? But if you are without chastening, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate and not sons” (Hebrews 12:5-8).

According to scripture, those whom Yahweh loves he rebukes and chastens.

If we are not being rebuked, we are not considered legitimate sons of Yahweh. Why is this? Through discipline Yahweh shows his concern for those whom He loves.

Correction or admonition should not to be considered bad. Correction is often the catalyst to change. A person who receives no admonition is a

person who often does not change. Scripture is clear that it is Yahweh's will that all of mankind would be saved (Ezek. 18:23, 1Tim. 2:4); however, it is written that salvation is given to those who obey (Heb. 5:9). Obedience is not the means of salvation but is the responsibility of a believer (Rom. 7:1, Acts 5:32).

As Yahweh's correction is advantageous to those whom He calls, a father's correction is also beneficial to his children. In the Book of Proverbs, Solomon speaks of the benefits of a father's admonition. For instance, in Proverbs 3:12, Solomon compares the



discipline of Yahweh to the discipline of a father. “For whom Yahweh loves He corrects, Just as a father the son in whom he delights.”

Solomon in his wisdom wrote that as Yahweh corrects those whom he loves, a father does the same. If as parents desire our children to be well behaved and sons and daughters of the Most High then correction is crucial. Those who receive no admonition are those who often leave the path of righteousness. As a parent we should discipline with a desire to see our children succeed morally. Again, correction or admonition should not be viewed negatively. There is more hope for a child who receives correction than for one who is spoiled and does not know correction.

Correction is becoming increasingly taboo today, but not in Yahweh’s Word. Solomon in Proverbs 23:13-14, wrote, “Do not withhold correction from a child, for if you beat him with a rod, he will not die. You shall beat him with a rod, and deliver his soul from [the grave].”

Yahweh’s Word specifically says that a parent is not to withhold correction. Matter of fact, it says that if a parent uses a rod of correction that he or she would save the child from the grave. The word for “beat” in the above passage is derived from the Hebrew *nakah*, which is a primitive root meaning to strike. To be clear, the Hebrew word *nakah* does not promote the idea of physical abuse.

As with all things within the Word, there is a balance in discipline. This passage is not to be used to justify physical abuse that causes harm to a child. Nothing good comes from child abuse. Studies have shown that when a child is abused he will often later in life rebel and go the opposite way from the parents’ admonition. Moderation and discretion must be the corner of all actions, including with admonition and

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discipline.

Even more important is the good example of a parent. As we find in this passage, to spank a child is scriptural; to abuse or to cause harm, however, is not to be tolerated. As parents we need to remember that our correction of our children is a reflection of how Yahweh rebukes us. While Yahweh shows correction or admonition, he never shows abuse.

Spiritual Guidance from the Father

Solomon in Proverbs 22:6 offers a nugget of truth that if followed will benefit a child for all of his or her life. “Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it.” How is this accomplished? Besides correction and admonition, a parent must be willing to spend time with his or her child. Nothing is more important in this life than our families. Many fathers do not realize the impact that they have on their families. As a father there is nothing more important than spending time with your child. It is truly sad to find fathers ignoring and not fulfilling this fatherly role.

And no more important time is there than that spent in Yahweh’s Word and especially doing so with a son or

daughter.

Our Father in Heaven commands that we teach our children of Him throughout each day of our lives. “You shall love Yahweh your Elohim with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength. And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up” (Deuteronomy 6:5-7).

As we find within this passage, before we can train our children we must first have Yahweh’s words within our own hearts. There is nothing worse than a hypocritical parent who does not live what he himself is teaching.

In this passage we find that we are to teach these words diligently to our children. The word diligently comes from the Hebrew word *shanan*, which is a primitive root meaning, “to point (transitive or intransitive); intensively, to pierce; figuratively, to inculcate” (*New Strong’s Exhaustive Concordance*).

To accomplish this goal, we find that we are to teach our child Yahweh’s Word when we sit in our house, when we walk by the way, when we lie down,

and when we rise up. In other words, we not only teach our children Yahweh's Word every day, but we also live its precepts ourselves

A Father Nurtures

Along with the duty of being chief provider, disciplinarian, and instructor in the family, the father shares the task of nurturing. While this responsibility seems to be dominated by the mother, the father also plays a significant part in the nurturing of his children. In doing so he must be cautious not to discourage his children. "And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of Yahweh" (Ephesians 6:4).

Paul refers to punishment that is excessive and unwarranted, which will ultimately provoke a child to harbor resentment and anger.

"That is, by unreasonable commands; by needless severity; by the manifestation of anger. So govern them, and so punish them — if punishment is necessary — that they shall not lose their confidence in you, but shall love you. The apostle here has hit on the very danger to which parents are most exposed in the government of their children. It is that of souring their temper; of making them feel that the parent is under the influence of anger, and that it is right for them to be so too." (*Barnes' Notes*, note on Ephesians 6:4).

As with all things in life, there is moderation in discipline. Is it a known fact that many children who live in abusive homes frequently do the opposite of what the parent attempted to reinforce through punishment. Remember that our Father in Heaven never promotes the abuse of a child, which as we find in this passage will only kindle enduring anger and animosity. If we are harsh in our correction, we may defeat the very purpose for that correction. It is important for a father

to remember that when discipline is required that the result of that discipline is to nurture and not to create enduring anger or animosity.

Along with the role of nurturing, a father must show kindness and compassion to his child. There are many examples where Yahweh's love for His people is compared to the love found between a father and son. One such passage is found in the Book of Psalms: "Yahweh is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in mercy. He will not always strive with us, nor will He keep His anger forever. He has not dealt with us according to our sins, nor punished us according to our iniquities. For as the heavens are high above the earth, So great is His mercy toward those who fear Him; As far as the east is from the west, So far has He removed our transgressions from us. 13 As a father pities his children, so Yahweh pities those who fear Him" (Psalm 103:8-13).

Through this Psalm we find Yahweh is full of mercy and compassion. We also find that as a father pities his children, Yahweh pities those who fear him. The word "pity" comes from the Hebrew word *racham*, which means, "to love or to have compassion." Solomon wrote that there was a time for every season. As there is a time for correction, there is also a time to show lovingkindness. Often the show of compassion will impact a child more than correction. If Yahweh only showed correction and admonition and disregarded mercy and compassion, where would his people be today?

In one final passage, Paul sets an example that is relevant to all generations. "You are witnesses, and Elohim also, how devoutly and justly and blamelessly we behaved ourselves among you who believe; as you know how we exhorted, and comforted, and charged every one of you, as a father does his own children" (1Thessalonians

2:10-11).

Paul said that he exhorted and comforted those in Thessalonica as a father would his own children. Following in this example, a father should also encourage and comfort his children. Children require their father's approval and encouragement for a well-balanced emotional state. A son and daughter look to their father for encouragement and guidance as they mature to adulthood.

In summation, a father's role is vital to the physical and emotional needs of the family. Without a father, a child often suffers from emotional problems, which in some cases leads to crime, immorality, and other forms of sin. Yahweh established the family unit with one father and one mother. When this is tampered with, confusion is frequently the result. However, when we live within the confines that Almighty Yahweh established we experience peace and blessings that can only be found with His Word.



We have embarked on a long-term project to publish a Sacred Name study Bible, and are in the process of editing an on-line version. The need is great for a Bible that not only restores the true Names of Father and Son, but also brings back the truths that have been changed in or translated out of English versions. Our 40 years of study will prove valuable in correcting some of the major translation errors. More on this project as it progresses.

The Virtuous Woman

The Virtuous Woman is written by women for women, with articles about faith, home, marriage, child-rearing, recipes, and whatever may interest women in the Faith.

The Gift

by Debbie Reed

**“Then you will know the truth,
and the truth will set you free.”
John 8:32**

A gift of freedom from the chains of pagan tradition has been passed down to our children. This gift is far superior to anything they ever found under a tree.

We ceased to observe Christmas exactly 20 years ago. It was impossible to convince our family and friends that our reasons for taking this step were correct. Our children feigned understanding, putting on a brave front, but heartsick in secret. We didn't make the yearly pilgrimage to celebrate with grandparents, aunts, uncles, and cousins, as in former times. We didn't give or receive presents. It was a very difficult thing to do – not observing Christmas.

So many years have passed... Now, when the annual Saturnalia celebration rolls around, we, along with our grown children, take little notice. The pain of separation is gone. Not one of us believes we have sacrificed anything of significance.

Instead, we feel as though we've been set free – free from the financial and emotional stress this season brings. We are not burdened with unwanted and unneeded stuff nor are we in debt from purchasing things that others neither need nor want. We experience no pre-season anxiety or post-season depression.

We have been freed from time constraints and societal pressure to do so much – sending myriads of cards,

baking mounds of cookies, and wrapping endless presents – before the sun sets on Dec. 24. We have no long lists of items to purchase, lights to put up and take down, ornaments to pack and unpack, tinsel to disperse and later vacuum up, or branches to decorate and dispose of when dehydrated – all in the name of a fallacy.

The truth about X-mas has set us free.



Feed Our Feathered Friends

Oh, it's so cold outside! The temperature dipped below zero last night and venturing outside this morning was pure torture. Upon returning to the house and preparing breakfast, I gave heartfelt thanks for the warmth and food provided.

This weather is brutal on wildlife, too. Looking out the window, I noticed a large number of birds at the feeders. Birdseed, along with everything else, is getting quite expensive – but I would have to be destitute not to feed them in the winter. Hungry birds eagerly devour bread, fruit, vegetable, and even meat scraps, too. So, instead of flushing those unwanted bits of food down the garbage disposal, throw them out in the yard. They won't last long.

Some birds like the high-energy suet cakes that can be purchased at various stores around town. However, I make my own. If you can stand a smelly kitchen for a few hours, you should try the following recipe.

BIRDCAKES

2-lbs. beef suet, ground or cut into medium-sized chunks

½ to 1 cup peanut butter

2 ½ cups cornmeal

1 cup birdseed

**These measurements are not “set in stone”. You may add more or less of each ingredient to suit your (or the birds’) taste.*

Line a 9" x 13" glass dish with aluminum foil. In a heavy pot, cook (render) the beef suet until it is liquid. Skim and dispose of the chitterlings that are floating on top. Stir in the peanut butter and cornmeal until well blended. Lastly, stir in the birdseed. Gently pour the mixture into the foil-lined dish and let it set on the counter to cool for about 30 minutes. With a butter knife, cut the cooling mixture into 8 equal pieces, scoring down about ½ inch. This will make the cakes easy to separate after they have completely solidified. Refrigerate the cooling mixture overnight. The next day, remove the hardened mixture from the dish, peel off the foil on the underside and break into 8 squares on the scored lines. Freeze any suet cakes that will not be used immediately.

HONEY TOASTED PECANS

1 cup Sugar

¾ tsp. Vanilla Extract

2 Tbsp. Honey

Salt to Taste

½ cup Milk

2 cups Pecan Halves

Combine all ingredients except pecans. Cook in saucepan to 240 degrees. Add pecans and stir. Continue cooking for one minute. Pour on waxed-paper-lined cookie sheet and separate with forks into individual nuts or desired clumps. Cool.

Yahweh's Work at the Vanguard

Two key areas experienced unprecedented growth and improvement in the 2008 secular year: the new television ministry and the yrm.org Web site.

TV Program Grows

Early last year we embarked on our most ambitious outreach ever when we began seeking sponsors like you to bring the Discover the Truth television program to local public access cable channels. Thanks to those sponsors, as of this writing a total of 13 TV stations across the nation are carrying the program teaching the Father's and Son's Names, Feasts, Sabbath, as well as scripturally answering difficult Bible questions. Some of those stations are in major metropolitan areas including: Denver, Dallas, Chicago and Atlanta. Potentially millions of people can now witness the Truth being taught like never before! We pray that the number of stations will double this year. If you see the need in your community and would like to become a sponsor for this free service, we urge you to get in touch with us and ask for the starter kit that includes a step-by-step DVD. You can also find this information on-line at: <http://www.yrm.org/DTTinfopacket.htm> And remember, you can keep the Discover the Truth program DVDs for your own collection once they are aired.

Discover the Truth programs are also given additional life by being put on various public Internet sites to enhance our outreach — cost-free! This is being done regularly at YRM.

Web Improvements Everywhere

Bro. Ryan Mansager has been busily adding dozens of new features to our own Web site. We are surprised at how these improvements have greatly increased the site's popularity. We began putting all our printed newsletters on our Web site at the start of '08. We now have a complete year of issues you can download, with many scriptural articles. Many articles that we've written in past years but that are no longer accessible are being scanned and placed on the site as well. The newsletter itself was enhanced with the addition of The Virtuous Woman section earlier last year to speak to the needs and interests of sisters in the Assembly. In the last few weeks we introduced an e-newsletter sent every Friday via

email and already have nearly 500 email subscribers learning about up-to-the-minute happenings at YRM.

Services in Real Time Once More

Live-streaming Sabbath services that you can watch and hear while they happen are available once again from the YRM Web site through The Truth Channel Online. This service so far has greatly improved the transmission and availability of our real-time worship services and sermons. The feedback has been very good. We have completed the installing of an upgraded gigabit "computer" network at the YRM facility. We are hoping this will give a more stable and constant upstream for our webcasts, not to mention improved workflow.

We are truly grateful that Yahweh has provided the gifted brethren to make so many outreach opportunities happen. The outreach of YRM is steaming full-speed ahead, and we pray that you will desire to be part of this dynamic work for His glory.





Where will the Millennium Be? What is the White Throne Judgment?

Q: Will the 1,000-year reign with Messiah be in the heavens or here on earth? Some say that the reign will be in heaven until the 1,000 years are over and then will come down to earth, when Satan is loosed for a period of time. – Benjamin, email

A: The thousand-year millennial reign answers the question of what the resurrected saints will be doing after this life. Revelation 20:6 says, “Blessed and holy is he that has part in the first resurrection: on such the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of Elohim and of Messiah, and shall reign with him a thousand years.”

We find no promise or statement anywhere that the saints will reign in heaven. Revelation 5:10 plainly says, “And has made us unto our Elohim kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth.” This is confirmed in Psalm 115:16: “The heaven, even the heavens, are Yahweh’s: but the earth has he given to the children of men.”

The Bible does say that the redeemed will be forever with Yahshua, 1Thessalonians 4:17. But where will He be? Zechariah 14:4: “His feet shall stand in that day [the day He returns to earth] on the Mt. of Olives.” It never says He returns to heaven with the saints, let alone to rule with them there for a thousand years (ruling exactly what in heaven? one might ask). The rest of Zechariah 14 speaks of the earth having no night, people will live safely in Jerusalem, and those who do not come to Jerusalem to keep the Feasts will have no rain. This is all earth oriented, not heavenly.

One teaching is that chaining Satan means there will be no one on earth during that time so that his efforts are “chained.”

The passage in Revelation 20 says, “And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years. And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years

should be fulfilled.” The word “chain” is the Greek *halosis* and means exactly what we think of as a chain that binds the body. It is not figurative or analogous to a desolate earth. Note that he is first bound and THEN cast into a bottomless pit, showing that an empty earth cannot be a chain or the bottomless pit.

Q: I am trying to discover how the billions now alive and who died without opportunity to hear the Good News, will hear it. Also, who will be on the Great White Throne? Will the billions in the post-millennium time be exposed to the Good News? Can they accept the good news or will they be judged by works? – Dr. B., email

A: The White Throne judgment comes after the second resurrection following the thousand-year reign. The purpose of it is to judge the wicked as well as grant everlasting life to many who were not among the firstfruits called out now for the first resurrection. Both groups of righteous must have proved themselves worthy through obedience. Those in the first resurrection are considered firstfruits and will receive greater rewards. Their resurrection is to spirit life. The second is a resurrection to physical life.

Everyone on earth will be judged, either now or later, according to their actions, 2 Corinthians 5:10: “For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Messiah; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he has done, whether it be good or bad.” We are given the wages of our works. Rewards are given for the righteous, punishment for evildoers. Yahshua will sit on the judgment throne, John 5:22, 27.

Those found worthy now will be resurrected when Yahshua returns. Then the 1,000-year Millennium will produce more converts to the truth among those who live on into that kingdom period. After the Millennium is the Great White Throne and the final judgment. At that time billions of resurrected individuals will be given the opportunity to accept or reject the truth. Because everyone will be judged fairly, everyone will be given the opportunity to hear the Truth and either accept or reject it according to their faithfulness to it.

Revelation 20:12 says that after the Millennium that the dead will be judged according to their works. This is the White Throne judgment. These are those who were not chosen for the first resurrection.

Those in the first resurrection will already have been judged, whether alive or deceased at the time of their resurrection. They will already have proved faithful now. We are told that they will not see the second death, meaning they will not be judged at the Great White throne with the risk of being rejected to die eternally – which is the second death that could result from that judgment.



Wants to Sponsor DT

"I recently came across your website and have been searching for the TRUTH for a long time... What caught my intrigue was that you guys don't ask for 'love donations' or harass us to buy a book or DVD! Most of all you tell it like it is and if its not scriptural its not the TRUTH... I'm trying to sponsor you guys out here in Northeast PA [for *Discover the Truth*], and will keep you posted..." – AM, PA

Desires to Serve the Ministry

"I have always felt 'different' from born again Christians and now feel full as I have come to recognize many of the truths evident in your online publications. I have been studying the aspects neglected by modern Christian pastors for only a few months but have heard [Yahweh's] voice and would like to know how I can serve in this ministry. I have a heart for those who have become trapped in an institutionalized Christianity. Thank You!" – Laney, email

One important way (see the previous letter) is to sponsor the telecast in your community. May Yahweh bless you! – ED

New DVD Format 'Absolutely Loved'

"Thank you so much for the sermons you send me. And a special thanks for the wonderful music CD. I enjoyed it very much. I absolutely love the idea of DVDs. There is something that compels you to watch and listen better when you can see what you are hearing. And, you feel more a part of everything."

– VP, MN

'Here's Some Help'

"I was watching the CD on the Sabbath and the brother said about various bills for the assembly coming due. I pray this [donation] may help even in some minuscule way. It's all I have but Yahweh has been good to us."

– DH, FL

Many thanks and blessings for your offering. We count on those like you who support the work to take the truth to others who don't. –ED

Longtime Questions Are Being Answered

"David and Diana would like to get in touch with any like-minded lovers of the truth in the North of England. We have only recently gone on the Internet, but have been studying your material for almost a year now. It is great to hear answers to questions we have had for a long time. Looking forward to hearing from fellow believers in YHWH." – DS, England

Learned Much, Wants More

"I just wanted to take a moment to tell all at YRM, thank you. I don't know if you know how much I look forward to the DVD's each Sabbath and the newsletter and the literature. I have learned so many new truths and want to learn more. It means a lot. If my computer could show the Sabbath service and the archive I would watch every week. I've tried to watch many times but I guess my computer is too old for that. I've been a Sabbath keeper for about 22 years now. Also kept the holy days but probably on the wrong day because we did not know about the New Moon observance or the Sacred Name of Yahweh. I will write a letter going into detail about myself and history at a later date. I am no longer attending anywhere because of the absence of truth where I attended, some of which are mentioned above. I am still learning but am scared to rush into anything. I thought I was right all these years and have gone through church splits and changed doctrines. I want a permanent spiritual home. I do not want to hop around. I guess I'll stop here. I will keep studying and praying for Yahweh to show me truth and to put that truth into action. Thanks again." – DL, TN

Programs Watched 'Over and Over'

"Just a few lines to say that I really appreciate what you are doing with your TV program. You are doing much in fulfilling the Biblical mandate of Matt. 28:19 to make disciples of all nations and John 4:35 to bring in the spiritual harvest. I personally have 10 copies of Discover the Truth that I watch over and over almost nightly. I am greatly encouraged by your willingness to spread the news of our faith." – B.W., MO

Needs Direction

"I am concerned about how I can get myself and family more involved in your teachings. How can we conduct effective Bible study without proper direction?"

–TW, FL