

Lessons from the Heart

How's your vision?

By Dr. Peter E. Roussakis

Many of us have had eye exams and wear contacts or traditional glasses. We do so because our vision is flawed in

some way. Few people have perfect 20/20 vision. Not many see exactly as they would like without some correction.

The ancient Israelites had a vision problem also; not merely

with their physical eyes; but with the eyes of their minds and hearts. They had a spiritual vision problem. One person who was chosen by God to see things the way God sees them was Samuel. He was the last of the great judges in Israel's early history. He also served a priest and prophet.

God led him to the home of Jesse of Bethlehem to select a new king for Israel. Samuel interviewed seven of the eight sons. Each looked as though he could lead. However, God impressed upon Samuel: "Do not consider their appearance or their height, for I have rejected them. The Lord does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart." (1 Sam. 16:7). Eventually the eighth son, David, was interviewed. Samuel was stirred in his heart and he knew young David was God's choice. He may not have looked the

part initially, but his character was Godly, and as it turned out, he was a superior military leader as well.

How's your vision? Do you see things through the lenses of God's word and Spirit? The world would have us think, make decisions, choices, and behave in ways it promotes. Yet we must regularly dwell upon God's written word, pray, and daily surrender our wills to his, that we may have spiritual discernment, Godly vision, to help us think and act as God intends.

Peter Roussakis is pastor at the Burlington First Brethren Church.

Pray for our nation to seek God

Have no anxiety about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. Philippians 4:6 Pd. Adv.

Clergy Renewal Program to start its 10th year

Comet staff report

Lilly Endowment Inc. has announced that its Indiana Clergy Renewal Program will continue for its 10th year. So far, more than 280 Indiana congregations have received grants that have enabled them to send their ministers far and wide on voyages of renewal and refreshment. The congregations, too, through their own programs and plans during the sabbaticals often experience renewed energy and purpose.

Through the program the Endowment offers up to 40 grants of up to \$45,000 each to support renewal programs for pastors of Indiana congregations. Up to \$15,000 of that amount may be used to help the congregation fulfill pastoral duties during the pastor's absence and/or to support renewal activities for the congregation itself.

"It can go unrecognized - even among some members of congregations - that good pastors are usually very busy people who perform many diverse duties," said Craig Dykstra, the Endowment's senior vice president for religion. "Most of them have never taken a sabbatical. These are not 'burned-out' pastors but hard-working people whose duties have left them little time to stop - just stop - for a while. As one pastor told us after his sabbatical, 'If you think you're too busy to get away, you're busier than you need to be. He renewal program can

help you understand that."

With these grants, pastors travel to places anywhere in the world, explore the historical traditions of their denominations, renew family and friendship ties, read, write, worship and pray - whatever helps them draw more deeply on the sources of renewal that give them energy and sustain them in their ministries.

The program is open to all Indiana congregations that have an ordained pastor. Also, if a pastor has benefited from a previous clergy renewal program grant received in or before 2002, that pastor's current congregation is eligible to apply for a grant to support a second renewal for that pastor.

Applications must be post-marked by Jan. 29, and recipients will be notified by late May.

An information meeting about the program for Indiana pastors, their spouses and congregational representatives will be held from 1 to 4 p.m. Sept. 27 at North United Methodist Church, 3808 N. Meridian St., Indianapolis. Those who want to attend should fill out the invitation card that accompanies the application (available on the Endowment's website) and return it to the Endowment by Sept. 20. Details about the meeting or application brochures may be found on the Endowment's website, www.lillyendowment.org, click on Religion, or call 317-916-7350.

FOCUS ON THE FAMILY

By Dr. James Dobson

Spanking is responsible discipline for unruly children

QUESTION: I have never spanked my 3-year-old because I am afraid it will teach her to hit others and be a violent person. Do you think I am wrong?



Dr. Dobson

DR. DOBSON: You have asked an important question that reflects a common misunderstanding about child management. First, let me emphasize that it is possible - even easy - to create a violent and aggressive child who has observed this behavior at home. If he is routinely beaten by hostile, volatile parents, or if he witnesses physical violence between angry adults, or if he feels unloved and unappreciated within his family, that child will not fail to notice how the game is played. Thus, corporal punishment that is not administered according to carefully thought-out guidelines is a risky thing.

Being a parent carries no right to slap and intimidate a child because you had a bad day or are in a lousy mood. It is this kind of unjust discipline that causes some well-meaning authorities to reject corporal punishment as a method of discipline.

Just because a technique is used wrongly, however, is no reason to reject it altogether. Many children desperately need this resolution to their disobedience. In those situations when the child, aged 2 to 10, fully understands what he is being asked to do but refuses to yield to adult leadership, an appropriate spanking is the shortest and most effective route to an attitude adjustment. When he lowers his head, clenches his fists and makes it clear he is going for broke, justice must speak swiftly and eloquently.

Not only does this response not create aggression in a boy or girl, it helps them control their impulses and live in harmony with various forms of benevolent authority throughout life. Many people disagree, of course. I can only tell you that there is not a single well-designed scientific study that confirms the hypothesis that spanking by a loving parent breeds violence in children.

QUESTION: We hear a great deal these days about the demise of the nuclear family. Do you think these reports are exaggerated?

DR. DOBSON: Unfortunately, no. I'm convinced that

the threat we're facing in the area of family breakdown is very real. It's a trend that involves a huge number of people in the United States and around the world, and their ranks are growing exponentially.

According to the census figures released in May 2001, the nuclear family has continued its downward spiral that began in the early '70s. Indeed, it is now in an unfettered free fall.

Our local newspaper in Colorado Springs, The Gazette, shouted the news in 72-point type: "Nuclear Family Fading." The Boston Herald, in a column written by Don Feder, carried the headline "Nuclear Family in Meltdown." Allan Carlson of the Howard Center for Family, Religion and Society said, "We are moving toward a post-family society."

Sadly and ominously, these assessments are true. This God-ordained institution, which has prevailed in almost every culture on Earth for more than 5,000 years, is unraveling right in front of our eyes.

Here are some of the most disturbing findings from the report: Households headed by unmarried partners grew by almost 72 percent during the past decade, most of them involving people living together out of wedlock. Households headed by single mothers increased by more than 25 percent, and those led by single fathers grew by almost 62 percent.

For the first time ever, nuclear families dropped below 25 percent of households. A third of all babies were born to unmarried women (33 percent), compared to only 3.8 percent in 1940. From other studies we know that cohabitation has increased by 1,000 percent since 1960. We are also seeing a growing number of unmarried women in their 20s and 30s who, like actress Jodie Foster, are choosing to bear and raise children alone. Clearly, there is genuine cause for alarm where the welfare of the traditional nuclear family is concerned.

Send your questions to Dr. Dobson, c/o Focus on the Family, PO Box 444, Colorado Springs, CO 80903; or to his Web site at www.focus.org. These questions and answers are excerpted from books authored by Dr. James Dobson and published by Tyndale House Publishers. Dr. Dobson is the founder and chairman of the board of Focus on the Family, a nonprofit organization dedicated to the preservation of the home and Judeo-Christian values. Copyright 1997 James Dobson, Inc. All rights reserved. International copy secured.

DIRECTORY OF AREA CHURCHES

SS=Sunday School SW=Sunday Worship

- AMERICUS UNION NON-DENOMINATIONAL:** Larry Williams, pastor. SW: 10 a.m.
- BRINGHURST UNITED METHODIST:** Larry DeVos, pastor. SS: 9:30 a.m., SW: 10:30 a.m.
- BROOKSTON CHURCH OF CHRIST:** 206 N. Prairie Street, Brookston. Ron Guzman, minister. SS: 9 a.m., SW: 10 a.m. & 6 p.m.
- BUCK CREEK UNITED METHODIST:** 4915 Ferret St., Buck Creek. Dwight Monical, pastor. SS: 9 a.m., SW: 10:15 a.m.
- BURLINGTON FIRST BRETHREN:** 205 W. 8th St., Rev. Dr. Peter Roussakis, pastor. SW: 10:00 a.m., SS: 9:00 a.m.
- BURLINGTON CHURCH OF CHRIST:** Tim Pohlman, pastor. SW: 9:30 a.m. & 6 p.m., Children's Church: 10 a.m., SS: 10:30 a.m., Youth Groups: 6 p.m.
- BURLINGTON UNITED METHODIST:** SS: 10:50 a.m., SW: 9:30 a.m.
- BURNETTSTVILLE FIRST BAPTIST:** Second & Main, Burnettsville. SW: 10:00 a.m., SS: 11:15 a.m.
- BURNETTSTVILLE CHRISTIAN:** Sixth & Washington, Burnettsville. John Wright, pastor. SW: 9:30 a.m., SS: 10:30 a.m.
- BURNETTSTVILLE CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN:** First & Main, Burnettsville. SW: 9:30 a.m., SS: 10:30 a.m.
- BURROWS PRESBYTERIAN:** SS: 11:30 a.m., SW: 10:30 a.m.
- CALVARY CHAPEL CARROLL COUNTY:** Wabash & Erie Canal Interpretive Center, Delphi. Eric Haley, pastor. SW: 10 a.m.
- CAMDEN UNITED METHODIST:** Dan Gottschalk, pastor. SS: 9-9:45 a.m., SW: 10 a.m. Sun. Nite Praise 6:02 p.m.
- CLYMERS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH:** 4003 W 400S. Clymers Kevin Drane, pastor. SW: 10:30 a.m. SS: Same as worship.
- COLBURN ROAD BAPTIST:** Bill Cadle, pastor. SS: 10 a.m., SW: 11 a.m. & 6 p.m.
- COLBURN UNITED METHODIST:** Kasey Schnepf, pastor. SW: 9 a.m., SS: 10:20 a.m.
- COMMUNITY BIBLE MINISTRIES:** 1/2 mile north of SR 22 on CR 1150W. Patrick Kamm, pastor. SS: 9 a.m., SW: 10:15 a.m.
- CROSSROADS COMMUNITY CHRISTIAN:** 3570 E 200S, Bringhurst, Dan C. Butcher, pastor. SW: 9:30 a.m. SS: 10:30 a.m. Youth group 6:30 p.m., Bible study Wed. 6:30 p.m.
- CUTLER PRESBYTERIAN:** SS: 9:30 a.m., SW: 10:30 a.m.
- DEER CREEK UNITED PRESBYTERIAN:** Highway 29 in Deer Creek. SW: 10:30 a.m. SS: 9:15 a.m.
- DELPHI CHRISTIAN CHURCH:** 315 E. Main St., Delphi. Andrew Paris, minister. SW: 9:30 a.m., SS: 10:45 a.m. Wed. Bible study: 7 p.m.
- DELPHI CHURCH OF CHRIST:** 405 Cottage Street, Delphi. Sunday Bible study: 9:30 a.m., SW: 10:30 & 5 p.m., Wed. Night 7 p.m.
- DELPHI COMMUNITY CHURCH OF GOD:** 321 W. Main Street, Delphi. Rev. Virgil Moss. SS: 9:30 a.m., SW: 10:30 a.m. & 6 p.m.
- DELPHI PENTECOSTAL:** Hwy. 25 East, Delphi. Tim Stewart, pastor. Thurs. night Bible Study: 7:30p.m., SS: 12:45 p.m., SW: 2 p.m.
- DELPHI UNITED METHODIST:** Union & Monroe Streets, Delphi. SW: 8:45 & 11 a.m., SS: 10 a.m., Todd Ladd, pastor; Micah Hudson, youth pastor.
- DELPHI WESLEYAN:** North Union Street, Delphi. Rich & Carol Sche-neck, pastor. SS: 9:30 a.m., SW: 10:30 a.m. & 6 p.m.
- EASTLAWN UNITED METHODIST:** SR 24 & Logan Street, Idaville. Ernie D. Elder, Jr., Pastor. SW: 10 a.m., SS: 9 a.m.
- FAITH CHURCH OF CHRIST:** SR 29, Burlington. Steve Cole, minister. SW: 9:30 a.m. & 6 p.m. a.m., SS: 11 a.m., Wed. Bible study 7 p.m.
- FAITH LUTHERAN:** CR 800 N, west of Hwy. 29. Thomas J. McShannock & Sandy Hutchens, pastor. SS: 9 a.m., SW: 10:10 a.m.
- FELLOWSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH:** Hwys. 29 & 26, Middlefork. Jim Anderson, pastor. SS: 9:30 a.m., SW: 10:30 a.m. & 6 p.m.
- FIRST APOSTOLIC CHURCH:** U.S. 421 North, Tippecanoe Township. Gilbert R. Ingram, pastor. SW: 10 a.m. & 6 p.m.
- FIRST ASSEMBLY OF GOD:** US 421N., Pittsburg. Brent Oliver, pastor. SW: 9:30 am, Wed. Family Night: 7pm
- FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF CAMDEN:** Paul Marcellino, interim-pastor. Tue. 9:30 a.m. Women's study, Wed. 6:30 p.m. WWW, SW: 9:30 a.m., SS: 10:45 a.m., Sun. Youth Service 5:30 p.m. Sun. Bible study: 7:30 p.m.
- FIRST BAPTIST:** Indiana & Franklin Streets, Delphi. William Glenn, pastor. SS: 9:30 a.m., SW: 10:30 a.m. & 6 p.m.
- FIRST PRESBYTERIAN:** Main & Indiana Streets, Delphi. Rev. Louis Sandos. SW: 9:30 a.m., SS: 10:30 a.m.
- FLORA FIRST BAPTIST:** 115 W. Columbia Street, Flora. Interim pastors. SW: 9 a.m., SS: 10 a.m.
- FLORA FIRST BRETHREN:** 115 N. Washington Street, Flora. Dan Herendeen, pastor. SS: 9:30 a.m., SW: 10:30 a.m.
- FLORA FIRST CHRISTIAN** (Disciples of Christ) S. Center Street, Flora. Pamela Ditson-McCall, pastor. SW: 9:30 a.m., SS: 10:30 a.m.
- FLORA GRACE BRETHREN:** 103 S. Willow St., Flora. James Franklin, pastor. SS: 9:30 a.m., SW: 10:30 a.m., Wed. Prayer Service: 7 p.m.
- FLORA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH:** 211 S. Center St., Flora. Charles Compton, pastor. SW: 10:15 a.m.
- FLORA UNITED METHODIST:** 107 E. Main Street, Flora. Larry DeVos, pastor. SW: 9 a.m., SS: 10:15 a.m.
- FLORA VALLEY VIEW SOUTHERN BAPTIST:** Route 2, Flora. Bill Godbey, pastor. SS: 9:30 a.m., SW: 10:30 a.m. & 6 p.m.
- GRACE MISSIONARY BAPTIST:** 1101 Dreifers Ave., Delphi. Joe Whitehead, pastor. SS: 10 a.m. SW: 11 a.m. & 6 p.m.
- HICKORY GROVE CHURCH:** CR 700 W., Jefferson Township, Ken Smith, pastor. SS: 9 a.m., SW: 10 a.m.
- HILLSIDE MISSIONARY BAPTIST:** Hwy. 22, 2 miles E. of Burlington. Doyle Buckner, pastor. SS: 10 a.m., SW: 11 a.m. & 6 p.m.
- IDAVILLE CHURCH OF GOD:** 11073 E 50 N, Idaville. Chris Murphy, pastor. Mearl Hodges, asst. pastor. SW 8:30 & 10:30 a.m., SS: 9:30 a.m.
- JUBILEE FELLOWSHIP:** CR 50 N, Flora. Scott Gamel, pastor. SS: 9:00 a.m., SW: 10:00 a.m.
- LIVING FAITH CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN:** 310N 250W. Jeff Tomson, pastor. SS: 9 a.m., SW: 10 a.m.
- LIVING STONE CHURCH:** Meets at the Freedom Center in Delphi. Stan Williams, pastor. SS: 11 a.m., SW: 9:30 a.m. contact (765) 589-3771
- LOCKPORT NON-DENOMINATIONAL CHURCH:** East of Patton. Nord Zootman, pastor. SS: 9:30 a.m., SW: 10:30 a.m. Sun. Bible Study: 6:30 p.m.
- LOWER DEER CREEK CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN** CR 300 N, SE of Camden. SW 10:15 a.m., SS: 9:00 a.m.
- MT. ZION INDEPENDENT BAPTIST:** 102 N. Connelly Street, Delphi. Alfred Smith, pastor. SS: 10:15 a.m., SW: 9 a.m., & 6 p.m.
- OAK GROVE CHRISTIAN:** 11810 N & 900 W, Monticello. Interim pastor, Don Arterburn. SW: 10 a.m.
- PINE GROVE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH:** Crooked Road, 1 mile E of Delphi. Justin Wagner, pastor. SS: 10 a.m., SW: 11 a.m. & 6 p.m.
- PITTSBURG MISSIONARY BAPTIST:** John Wagner, pastor. SS: 10 a.m.; SW: 11 a.m. & 6 p.m. Bible Study: Thurs. 6:30 p.m
- PLEASANT HILL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH:** 5490 North SR 39, Frankfort. Donna Enerson, pastor. SS: 9:45 a.m., SW: 10:30 a.m. Everyone welcome.
- PYRMONT CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN:** Pastor. Howard Hendrickson. SS: 9 a.m., SW: 10:15 a.m.
- RADNOR CHURCH:** Ed Selvidge, pastor. SW: 9 a.m., SS: 10 a.m.
- ROCKFIELD CHRISTIAN:** Bob Cree, pastor. SW: 9 a.m., SS: 10 a.m.
- ROCKFIELD PRESBYTERIAN:** SW: 9:30 a.m.
- ROSSVILLE BIBLE FELLOWSHIP:** 16 Cason St., Judd Dickey, pastor. Sunday Corporate Prayer: 9:00 a.m.; Fellowship 9:30 a.m.; SW 10:00 a.m.
- ROSSVILLE CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN:** 109 N. Plank Street, Rossville. Pastor, Bob Pfiefer. SS: 9 a.m., SW: 10 a.m.
- ROSSVILLE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH:** 5434 W State Rd 26, Rossville, IN. Bob McAulay, interim pastor. SW: 9 a.m., SS: 10:20 a.m.
- ROSSVILLE UNITED METHODIST:** Main & Gaddis Streets, Rossville. Rick Jones, pastor. SS: 9:15 a.m., SW: 10:30 a.m.
- SHARON AMERICAN BAPTIST:** St. Rd. 29, Carrollton Township. James Lund, pastor. SS: 9:30 a.m., SW: 10:30 a.m.
- ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC:** 207 N. Washington Street, Delphi. Peter Vanderkolk, pastor. SW: 8 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.
- ST. MATTHEW'S LUTHERAN CHURCH:** 1301 S. Washington St., Delphi. Dale Larson, pastor. SS: 9:30 a.m., SW: 10:30 a.m.
- ST. PETER'S LUTHERAN:** Church & Cumberland Sts., Camden, 2 blocks West & 1 block North of SR218 and SR75. Dale Larson, pastor. SW: 8:30 a.m., SS: Same as Worship.
- WHIRLWIND MINISTRIES:** 869 N. 90 E., Burrows, Greg Britt, pastor. SW: 9 a.m. (574) 652-2280
- YEOMAN UNITED METHODIST:** Dave Inskoop, pastor. SS: 9:30 a.m., SW: 10:30 a.m.

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