

FOCUS ON THE FAMILY

By Dr. James Dobson

WITHOUT COUNSELING, CHANCES OF MARITAL FAILURE MUCH GREATER

QUESTION: If you were a counselor who was helping someone manage a crisis situation, your recommendations to exercise tough love could potentially kill the marriage. Doesn't that make you nervous? Have you ever regretted taking a family in this direction?

DR. DOBSON: Before I answer that question you need to understand how I see my situation. My role is similar to that of a surgeon who tells a patient that he needs a coronary-artery-bypass operation. The man sits in his doctor's office, hearing the probabilities of success and failure. "If you undergo this operation," the doctor says, "research shows you'll have a 3 percent chance of not surviving the surgery." Wow! Three out of every hundred people who submit to the knife will die on the table! Why would anyone run that risk voluntarily? Because the chances of death are far greater without the surgery.

The "love must be tough" confrontations and ultimatums are like that. They may result in the sudden demise of a relationship. But without the crisis, there is a much higher probability of a lingering death. Instead of bringing the matter to a head while there is a chance for healing, the alternative is to stand by while the marriage dies with a whimper. I'd rather take my chances today, before further damage is done. A blowout is better than a slow leak.



Dr. Dobson

QUESTION: I am uncomfortable using rewards to influence my kids. It seems too much like bribery to me. I'd like to hear your views on the subject.

DR. DOBSON: Many parents feel as you do, and in response I say: don't use them if you are philosophically opposed to the concept. It is unfortunate however, that one of our most effective teaching tools is often rejected because of what I would consider to be a misunderstanding of terms. Our entire society is established on a system of rewards, yet we don't want to apply them where they are needed most: with young children. As adults, we go to work each day and receive a paycheck every other Friday. Getting out of bed each morning and meeting the requirements of a job are thereby rewarded. Medals are given to brave soldiers, plaques are awarded to successful businesspeople, and watches are presented to retiring employees. Rewards make responsible effort worthwhile.

The main reason for the overwhelming success of capitalism is that hard work and personal discipline are rewarded materially. The great weakness of socialism is the absence of reinforcement; why should a person struggle to achieve if there is nothing special to be gained? This system is a destroyer of motivation, yet some parents seem to feel it

is the only way to approach children. They expect little Marvin to carry responsibility simply because it is noble for him to do so. They want him to work and learn and sweat for the sheer joy of personal accomplishment. He isn't going to buy it!

Consider the alternative approach to the "bribery" I've recommended. How are you going to get your five-year-old son to behave more responsibly? The most frequently used substitutes are nagging, complaining, begging, screaming, threatening and punishing.

The mother who objects to the use of rewards may also go to bed each evening with a headache, vowing to have no more children. She doesn't like anything resembling a bribe, yet later she will give money to her child when some opportunity comes along. Since her youngster never earns his own cash, he doesn't learn how to save it or spend it wisely or pay tithe on it. The toys she buys him are purchased with her money, and he values them less. But most important, he is not learning self-discipline and personal responsibility that are possible through the careful reinforcement of that behavior.

Yes, I do believe the judicious use of rewards can be very helpful to parents. But — they're not for everyone.

Dr. Dobson is founder and Chairman Emeritus of the nonprofit organization Focus on the Family, Colorado Springs, Colo. 80995 (www.focusonthefamily.org). Questions and answers are excerpted from "Complete Marriage and Family Home Reference Guide" and "Bringing Up Boys," both published by Tyndale House.

First Assembly to hold special services

Comet staff report

Evangelist John Muncy will be speaking at First Assembly of God in Delphi on Sunday at special services set for 9:30 a.m. and 6 p.m. He will be speaking on "What in the world is going on in the world?" and how this relates to the future.

Muncy and his wife Carolyn have been married and in full-time evangelical ministry for over 30 years. He is the founder and president of Jesus Cares Ministries, founded in 1978. His simple,



Carolyn and John Muncy

yet straight forward approach to communicating the Gospel to this generation and its culture has opened doors for him across much of the United States and other parts of the world. His multimedia presentations have been seen by

hundreds of thousands of people.

Muncy has appeared on many secular and Christian TV shows including CNN, TBN, CBN, and PTL and hosted a weekly live radio talk show called "Youth Talk." He is an author of three books and with a strong Biblical message, he addresses the issues and current events of the day.

Brent Oliver is pastor. The church is located at 9835W. US421 at the top of the Pittsburgh hill, two miles north of SR25.

Hickory Grove Church to host mission workers

Matt and Brooke McClain, missionaries to Costa Rica, will share about their ministry at Hickory Grove Church on Aug. 16 at the 10 a.m. worship service.

McClain was employed at Caterpillar in Lafayette be-

fore the couple sold their possessions and moved to Costa Rica to begin mission work. They have three small children. Their web page is www.cfcostarica.com.

Everyone is invited to come and hear about their

work in the mission field of Costa Rica. A carry-in dinner will follow.

Hickory Grove Church is located five miles south of Idaville and seven miles north of Delphi on Carroll County Road 700 W.

IRS warns taxpayers to beware of First-Time Homebuyer Credit fraud

The Internal Revenue Service announced its first successful prosecution related to fraud involving the first-time homebuyer credit and warned taxpayers to beware of this type of scheme.

On July 23, a Jacksonville, Fla.-tax preparer, James Otto Price III, pled guilty to falsely claiming the first-time homebuyer credit on a client's federal tax return. Price faces the possibility of up to three years in jail, a fine of as much as \$250,000, or both.

To date, the IRS has executed seven search warrants and currently has 24 open criminal investigations in pursuit of potential instances of fraud involving the credit. The agency has a number of sophisticated computer screening

tools to quickly identify returns that may contain fraudulent claims for the first-time homebuyer credit.

"We will vigorously pursue anyone who falsely tries to claim this or any other tax credit or deduction," said Eileen Mayer, Chief, IRS Criminal Investigation. "The penalties for tax fraud are steep. Taxpayers should be wary of anyone who promises to get them a big refund."

Whether a taxpayer prepares his or her own return or uses the services of a paid preparer, it is the taxpayer who is ultimately responsible for the accuracy of the return. Fraudulent returns may result not only in the required payment of back taxes but also in penalties and interest.

The First-Time Homebuyer Credit, originally passed in 2008 and modified in 2009, provides up to \$8,000 for first-time homebuyers. The purchaser, however, must qualify as a first-time homebuyer, which for purposes of this credit means someone who has not owned a primary residence in the past three years. If the taxpayer is married, this requirement also applies to the taxpayer's spouse. The home purchase must close before Dec. 1, 2009, to qualify, and the credit may not be claimed on the purchaser's tax return until after the taxpayer closes and has purchased the home.

Different rules apply for homes bought in 2008.

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DIRECTORY OF AREA CHURCHES

SW = Sunday Worship	SS = Sunday School
<p>AMERICUS UNION NON-DENOMINATIONAL: Larry Williams, pastor. SW: 10 a.m.</p> <p>BRINGHURST UNITED METHODIST: Rex Charles, pastor. SS: 9:30 a.m., SW: 10:30 a.m.</p> <p>BROOKSTON CHURCH OF CHRIST: 206 N. Prairie Street, Brookston. Ron Guzman, minister. SS: 9 a.m., SW: 10 a.m. & 6 p.m.</p> <p>BUCK CREEK UNITED METHODIST: 4915 Ferret St., Buck Creek. Dwight Monical, pastor. SS: 9 a.m., SW: 10:15 a.m.</p> <p>BURLINGTON FIRST BRETHREN: 205 W. 8th St., Rev. Dr. Peter Rousakakis, pastor. SW: 10 a.m., SS: 9 a.m.</p> <p>BURLINGTON CHURCH OF CHRIST: Dave Osborne, Pastor. SW: 9:30 a.m., Bible Study (Thur): 6:30 to 7:30 p.m., SS: 10:30 a.m.</p> <p>BURLINGTON UNITED METHODIST: Bonnie Shoaf, pastor. SS: 11:00 a.m., SW: 9:30 a.m.</p> <p>BURNETTSTOWN FIRST BAPTIST: Second & Main, Burnettsville. SW: 10:00 a.m., SS: 11:15 a.m.</p> <p>BURNETTSTOWN CHRISTIAN: Sixth & Washington, Burnettsville. John Wright, pastor. SW: 9:30 a.m., SS: 10:30 a.m.</p> <p>BURNETTSTOWN CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN: First & Main, Burnettsville. SW: 9:30 a.m., SS: 10:30 a.m.</p> <p>BURROWS PRESBYTERIAN: SS: 11:30 a.m., SW: 10:30 a.m.</p> <p>CALVARY CHAPEL CARROLL COUNTY: Wabash & Erie Canal Interpretive Center, Delphi. Eric Haley, pastor. SW: 10 a.m.</p> <p>CAMDEN UNITED METHODIST: Dan Gottschalk, pastor. SS: 9 - 9:45 a.m., SW: 10 a.m.</p> <p>CLYMERS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH: 4003 W 400S. Clymers Kevin Drane, pastor. SW: 10:30 a.m. SS: Same as worship.</p> <p>COLBURN ROAD BAPTIST: Bill Cadle, pastor. SS: 10 a.m., SW: 11 a.m. & 6 p.m.</p> <p>COLBURN UNITED METHODIST: Kasey Schnepf, pastor, SW: 9 a.m., SS: 10:30 a.m.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>CUTLER PRESBYTERIAN: Jeff Brown and Ann Bingaman, lay pastors. SS: 9:30 a.m., SW: 10:30 a.m.</p>	<p>DEER CREEK UNITED PRESBYTERIAN: SR 29 in Deer Creek. Dave Herron, pastor. SW: 10 a.m. Sundays on Thurs. 7 p.m. (informal worship & ice cream)</p> <p>DELPHI CHRISTIAN CHURCH: 315 E. Main St, Delphi. Rev. Andrew Paris, minister. SW: 9:30 a.m., SS: 10:45 a.m. Wed. Bible study: 7 p.m.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>DELPHI PENTECOSTAL: Hwy. 25 East, Delphi. Tim Stewart, pastor. Thurs. night Bible Study: 7:30 p.m., SS: 12:45 p.m., SW: 2 p.m.</p> <p>DELPHI UNITED METHODIST: Union & Monroe Streets, Delphi. SW: 8:45 & 11 a.m., SS: 10 a.m., Todd Ladd, pastor, Micah Hudson, youth pastor.</p> <p>DELPHI WESLEYAN: North Union Street, Delphi. Dan Fisher, pastor. SS: 9:30 a.m., SW: 10:30 a.m. & 6:30 p.m.</p> <p>FAITH BAPTIST CHURCH: SR 24 & Logan Street, Idaville. Jim Crown, pastor. SW: 10:30 a.m. & 6 p.m., Wed. W 6:30 p.m.</p> <p>FAITH CHURCH OF CHRIST: SR 29, Burlington. Steve Cole, minister. SW: 9:30 a.m. & 6 p.m., SS: 11 a.m., Wed. Bible study 7 p.m.</p> <p>FAITH LUTHERAN: CR 800 N, west of Hwy. 29. SS: 9 a.m., SW: 10:10 a.m.</p> <p>FELLOWSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH: Hwys. 29 & 26, Middlefork. Jim Anderson, pastor. SS: 9:30 a.m., SW: 10:30 a.m. & 6 p.m.</p> <p>FIRST APOSTOLIC CHURCH: U.S. 421 North, Tippecanoe Twp. Gilbert R. Ingram, pastor. SW: 10 a.m. & 6 p.m.</p> <p>FIRST ASSEMBLY OF GOD: US 421N., Pittsburg. Brent Oliver, pastor. SW: 9:30 a.m., Wed. Family Night: 6:30pm, Adult & Youth Services Sun. Evenings 6pm.</p> <p>FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF CAMDEN: Paul Marcellino, pastor. Tue. 9:30 a.m. Women's study, SW: 9:30 a.m., SS: 10:45 a.m., Monthly Youth Group</p> <p>FIRST BAPTIST: Indiana & Franklin Streets, Delphi. William Glenn, pastor. SS: 9:30 a.m., SW: 10:30 a.m. & 6 p.m.</p> <p>FLORA FIRST BAPTIST: 115 W. Columbia Street, Flora. Interim pastors. SW: 9 a.m., SS: 10 a.m.</p>

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