3-2009

2009 March Newsletter

Nancy Rockey

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Editor’s Corner

“Before I got married I had six theories about bringing up children; now I have six children, and no theories.” ~John Wilmot

I can relate to this quote. Before I had kids of my own, I could have told you everything I “knew” my sister was doing wrong with her children and would have been happy to share it with anyone had they been willing to listen. Then I had 4 kids and discovered I didn’t know very much at all; at least things didn’t work like I thought they should. I made many mistakes and damaged my children many times as they grew up. I had tried so hard to be the “perfect” Mom and got frustrated frequently with my failures.

As you read the Article, “So, You Want to Parent?” by: Ron and Nancy, you may feel discouraged thinking that your kids are already grown and what can you do now? Don’t be discouraged. First, our Heavenly Father fills in the gaps where we couldn’t. Second, it’s never too late to make wrongs right. Going through Binding the Wounds and The Journey, I began to see all the ways I damaged my children while thinking I was doing what was best for them at the time. At first I beat myself up for it. The more emotionally healthy I became, the more I saw the benefit in being honest with them, admitting where I had failed, and apologizing. What a difference in our relationships today! I only wish I had learned all this so much earlier. If you are a parent with young kids or thinking about becoming a parent, start your own journey to emotional health now. Don’t put it off until your kids are grown.

Audrey Woods

So, You Want to Parent?

By Ron and Nancy Rockey

It's the hardest and best job you'll ever do!
It's often a surprise and sometimes an inconvenience.
It has boundless rewards and many expenses.
It's a lifetime commitment that has no back-out clause.

For many, becoming a parent is an easy and enjoyable task. Others suffer the agonies of infertility and impossibility. Producing offspring is an inborn, pre-programmed desire that becomes the thrill of a lifetime when that tiny bundle of you and your mate combined, is handed to you for first glance. Somehow, in most cases, the agony of the labor hours melts away at the sight of what and who you have created. Girl or boy, this bundle is a thrill beyond compare, an apex of joy and togetherness for Mom and Dad.

The question is, how long does that joy last? Is it until the fourth or fifth sleepless night, when your body is crying out for your bed and for accompanying sleep allowing you to “run away” for a while? Is it the first time your little one is ill, and you are panicked at the thought of doctors, medication and maybe hospitalization? Maybe, you had second and third thoughts the first time your two year old defied you screaming "NO!" at the top of his voice and throwing himself on the floor in a toddler rage.

Remember being frustrated and so exhausted because your "angel" had run you ragged all day, the dog had chewed up the sofa, your husband came home from work cranky and your dinner has that "charcoal" hue? But I bet you also remember checking on him before you fell into bed at night, seeing that rosy-cheeked little doll, snuggled in his crib in his "jammies," and the angst you'd been feeling magically disappeared.

There's the thrill of her first day of school, the pride and loss when she walks down the aisle for accompanying sleep allowing you to “run away” for a while? Is it the first time your little one is ill, and you are panicked at the thought of doctors, medication and maybe hospitalization? Maybe, you had second and third thoughts the first time your two year old defied you screaming "NO!" at the top of his voice and throwing himself on the floor in a toddler rage.

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There's the thrill of her first day of school, the frustration of trying to get her to keep her room tidy, the horror when in her teen years she pulls away from you and it's only her friends that matter, the excitement of her graduation and then the mixed feelings of pride and loss when she walks down the aisle in a flowing white gown. It's all a part of parenting. So is the agony of a defiant teen who chooses to solve his or her problems with tobacco, booze, sex or drugs. But whatever the feelings: anger, sadness, incredible joy or pride, these kids are still yours and you love them!
Some take the role seriously, and so they should. Others see it as a sideline that they can accomplish just flying by the seat of their pants, as the saying goes. But parenting requires thought, study, research into methodology and a whole lot of prayer and reliance on God! Parenting by guess or golly just won't supply the results you are looking for.

We remember well the discovery that we were going to have our first child. Her conception was truly an answer to prayer—a miracle. We weren't the average American couple, married three years and ready to face parenthood. Ron was in school studying for the ministry. Honestly, we were lucky to have two nickels to rub together. The first four months of pregnancy were spent loosing twenty pounds in a most uncomfortable fashion. When that finally ended, I was ready to begin preparation for her arrival in earnest! As soon as our landlord found out about the pregnancy, she announced that we'd have to be moved by the time the baby came.

In the small college town where we lived, housing was at a premium. We would drive up and down each street, looking for windows without curtains, and praying for vacancies. When we did find a vacant apartment, the landlord had to be bribed to show it to us. He said it was big, but disgusting. He was right, but we made a deal to do all of the work if he would supply the materials. Demolition, paint, wallpaper, new bathroom, new flooring, new kitchen cabinets (my Dad made them) and finally we had the finest looking apartment in town! She came home, our premature little rosebud, on the hottest, most humid day of the year. It was ninety-five degrees in our apartment. She had endured a complete exchange transfusion and was weak. The temperature and humidity were killers even for healthy adults, but Ron found a way to get a window air-conditioner on credit, and she quickly perked up and began to gain weight.

Our second daughter was also a miracle, having survived aspiration pneumonia due to a difficult delivery. She too was whisked off to Preemie Intensive Care for ten days! They were and still are our treasures. There wasn't anything we wouldn't do for those girls, except perhaps, grow up and become less selfish ourselves.

Here's the rub: We long as humans to create the perfect symbol of our love, but we have no idea that our love is imperfect; self-centered. We seldom understand that what we have experienced while we were children, we will replicate somehow in the parenting of our children, even if we hated our childhoods. We have no clue that who we are will be infused into our offspring, and we will hear them repeating our words, duplicating our behaviors and copying our characters.

Years ago, we taught parenting classes. Please understand, the information we taught was good, but . . . Finally after some time we began to realize that the people we were attempting to teach were emotionally immature; they were childish in their demands for center-stage positioning, and wanted what they wanted, when they wanted it. So we gave up on Parenting Classes, and instead decided to focus on growing up (emotionally maturing) the parents.

You see, when a child is born, they are the center of their universe. They do not have knowledge of anyone else's needs or wants - only their own matter. That's the way it has to be for humankind. We, as infants, have to make our needs known, because unlike the calf, we can't hobble over to the milk supply - it has to come to us, and we have to make our desire for it known loudly! We learn quickly to cry for comfort, for food, for cleanliness or when we are feeling poorly.

About the time we are eight or nine years of age, we should have been watching and learning that others also have needs and wants. So in an ideal world, the nine year old moves from the center of the wheel of his life to become one of the supporting spokes - he joins the team. Now instead of him being the focus, God is placed center stage, and he along with parents, grandparents, friends and everything else in his life, supports God and the other spokes of the wheel.

However, all too often, that switch is not made. It's not made because the child fears that to do so would place his survival in question. Emotional, physical, sexual and rejection wounds make him fearful, and because survival is the brain's main focus, he must take charge to assure his continued existence. He or she begins to develop techniques to see to it that he will survive. Defiance, anger, control, withdrawal, addictions, etc. begin to be set in place.

The child passes through teen years and becomes an adult with his or her survival techniques firmly in place. In most cases, marriage and parenthood are part of life's plan, but the new spouse and child are simply required to fit into the neat little survival system that he or she has in operation. When a child comes along, that child threatens to disrupt the parent's neat little system, and the parent (who is an emotional center-stage child) endeavors to force the child to be one of the spokes who will support him or her.

Sound confusing? It is! It's especially confusing for the child who needs to have physical and emotional needs met! The parents require the child to meet their needs - an impossible task. The parent remains selfish and self-centered resulting in the child starving for physical warmth and tenderness and becomes fearful of the parent whose life is being "interrupted" by the child's needs. The child is either ignored or smothered while watching and learning from Mom and Dad. Therefore, the sins (attitudes and behaviors) of the fathers (and mothers too) are passed down from generation to generations.
So what is the point?

Planned parenthood is a good idea - not just the name of some organization. While dating, guys and gals should discuss their own childhood history and how it has impacted their views of parenting. As their relationship progresses toward marriage, the discussion of parenting styles and agreeing upon them is a great plan!

Emotional maturity should be a prerequisite. Take a close look at who occupies center-stage in your life. You might ask a friend or two for their opinion here. If you want what you want when you want it, and things have to go YOUR way, re-think marriage until you recover from childhood!

Children learn what they see, hear and feel. You can't expect to be verbally or physically abusive to a wife or husband and expect to NOT see your child take up the same attitude toward that parent and toward their spouse in later years. Children will replicate you - like it or not!

Children need to be parented from the head and the heart! When you can connect with your child from the heart (and you start that by spending time with your newborn or infant, looking into her eyes, talking softly to him, touching her gently, holding him close.) It is in those first two years that you bond with your child that he or she will attach to you. The way your child attaches is determined by your ability to bond. That style of attachment your child develops will last his lifetime.

Listen, Listen, Listen! There are some good parenting books out there. We at LRI carry a few, and they will be highlighted in this issue. Know what harm can come to a child from poor parenting. Learn what it means to parent from your heart. But most of all, listen to that small still voice of God that whispers to you, that encourages you to spend time with your child, to acknowledge and affirm her, to study his abilities and capitalize on them, support them to achieve.

Having said all this . . .

Once you are a parent, you are one for life! We will always be Dad and Mom to our beautiful daughters and they will always be our babies, grown to be beautiful, Christian, professional women. Be sure that you are Man and Woman (vs. boy and girl) for the responsibility and the privilege. Be sure that your offspring are filled with enough love from you to carry them through for a lifetime and to give them confidence in God, for you are their God until they can come to understand and believe Him on their own.

Upcoming Live Events

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Teaching your kids to make good decisions even when no one is looking. A unique approach to parenting that shapes character, not just behavior

“Parenting the Heart of Your Child” - If you are a parent looking for biblically and scientifically based guidance for raising your children, this short easy read is for you. The author outlines 6 stages of moral development every child needs to go through as they mature into the adults you want them to be.

$13.99 + S&H Order online here or call 1-888-800-0574

In “Magical Parent Magical Child”, Michael Mendizia and Joseph Chilton Pearce expound on the art of joyful parenting, for the benefit of both parent and child. A wonderful reference of sound science and psychology, presented in an easily read and attention holding manner.

$17.95 + S&H Order online here or call 1-888-800-0574

If your soul and relationships are in need of renovation or restoration, then "Unbreakable Bonds" will prove to be a valuable tool. The causes for broken relationships are many, but all have the potential to be healed. Drs. Paul and Cheryl Meier show you how to reconnect with yourself, friends family and a loving God. If you’re longing for something more in your relationships, you’ll find everything you need in this practical, book to bring about lasting change.

$16.99 + S&H Order online here or call 1-888-800-0574
I ran into a stranger as he passed by, 'Oh excuse me please' was my reply. He said, 'Please excuse me too; I wasn't watching for you.'

We were very polite, this stranger and I. We went on our way and we said goodbye.

But at home a different story is told, How we treat our loved ones, young and old.

Later that day, cooking the evening meal, My son stood beside me very still.

When I turned, I nearly knocked him down. 'Move out of the way,' I said with a frown.

He walked away, his little heart broken. I didn't realize how harshly I'd spoken.

While I lay awake in bed, God's still small voice came to me and said, 'While dealing with a stranger, common courtesy you use, but the family you love, you seem to abuse.'

Go and look on the kitchen floor, You'll find some flowers there by the door.

Those are the flowers he brought for you. He picked them himself: pink, yellow and blue.

He stood very quietly not to spoil the surprise, you never saw the tears that filled his little eyes.'

By this time, I felt very small, And now my tears began to fall.

I quietly went and knelt by his bed; 'Wake up, little one, wake up,' I said.

'Are these the flowers you picked for me? He smiled, 'I found 'em, out by the tree. I picked 'em because they're pretty like you. I knew you'd like 'em, especially the blue.'

I said, 'Son, I'm very sorry for the way I acted today; I shouldn't have yelled at you that way.'

He said, 'Oh, Mom, that's okay. I love you anyway.'

I said, 'Son, I love you too, and I do like the flowers, especially the blue.'

Are you aware that if we died tomorrow, the company that we are working for could easily replace us in a matter of days. But the family we left behind will feel the loss for the rest of their lives.

And to think of it, we pour ourselves more into work than into our own family, an unwise investment indeed, don't you think?

So what is behind the story?

Do you know what the word FAMILY means?

"Loving Your Child Too Much"
- As parents, we yearn to show our children how much we love them. How do we show love in a healthy, balanced way? How do you support and encourage without spoiling? How do you protect your child from the world, yet help them grow into strong, independent adults, trusting others and making good decisions? How do you help your child take ownership of their own behavior and learn to live within limits without squelching individualism?

$21.99 + S&H. Order online here or call 1-888-800-0574

"Connecting", on nine CD's includes a printed outline and will acquaint you with the influence of parents upon the physical, emotional, intellectual, and moral development of children. This seminar will provide you with the tools for recovery from the negative effects of childhood damage, received by a parent and then passed on to the next generation. You will learn the skills you need to pass on positive qualities and have satisfying relationships with your own children.

$89.00 + S&H. Order online here or call 1-888-800-0574

"EIDO" is a 6-day educational and experiential intensive seminar that combines lecture, small group and corporate experience.

Walla Walla, WA—May 4-9, 2009
Portland, OR—Oct. 26-31

First 18 to register for each seminar with a $500 non-refundable deposit will attend. Total cost—$1500. To register call 888-800-0574. For more info contact Audrey, audrey@yourlri.com
The Czech Republic

Cold weather . . . cold hands . . . Freezing feet . . . and warm hearts.

We were met at the airport by the President of the Czech Union, but no one would have guessed his status from his deportment. The man was kind, humble, helpful and his greeting was sincere and heartfelt. We laughed together as we learned the details of the upcoming days in the Czech Republic.

Our first stop, after about a 45 minute drive, was to our hotel in Prague - and we were happy for that! Having arrived from England, we discovered the temperature to be somewhat colder than what we had experienced in North Yorkshire. "I'll meet you in the restaurant just down the hall here, when you're settled in your room, and we'll have lunch together," he said.

Not only was the food good, but the company was even better! We discussed the needs of the Czech people and those of people worldwide. Yes all need God, but many will not accept Him because of personal and religious history. We agreed about the way to people's hearts - the way that Jesus took - giving them relief from their emotional ills, thus opening their hearts to hear the "Good News." Even though we were weary, we were saddened by the need to move on from an exhilarating conversation, to other appointments. We were instructed to "get some rest, because tomorrow Petr will come for you and you'll have a busy day!"

Our room was nicely appointed and the view was excellent. We could see much of the city from the 5th floor - or so we thought.

Petr came as planned at 9 AM, and we departed, bag and baggage for our trip north to where the seminar was being held. Before leaving Prague however, we discovered that we were to do a video interview, which would be broadcast at a later date and used extensively throughout the Czech Republic. That was conducted at "Maranatha", a TV station and wider ministry throughout the Czech Republic.

Lunch was at a fabulous vegetarian restaurant owned by the same Christian who owns the TV Station - excellent cuisine! We also met another missionary there who is doing a work with young people.

On to our seminar. A three hour trip later, we arrived in the very old town of Kromeriz. We were taken to a monastery/school, where the seminar was to be held. What a humungous edifice! The walls were three feet thick, the elevator appeared to have been built eons ago, but it worked to take us to the floor where our sleeping room and seminar room was located.

Our room was actually the dormitory room of two students at the school, who had exited for the weekend. All those in attendance also stayed in dorm rooms. Bathrooms and shower rooms were quite a distance from our room, so in slippers and PJ's we would paddle to the proper room when necessary. Actually on Sunday morning at 6:30, I met a priest in the hallway - he in his long black robes and me in hot pink PJ's!

The seminar was quite an unusual experience. About 150 people crowded into the room. Two guitars, drums and an electronic keyboard offered the accompaniment for singing before each meeting. Petr was our shadow, and followed us nearly everywhere during seminar time, translating as we spoke to the crowd and to individuals. He was excellent, and the people took to him, to us and to what they were learning very enthusiastically. In attendance were a couple of psychologists, a medical doctor and a psychiatrist, who spoke excitedly about what they were hearing. There was even a psychologist who came to the seminar from Sweden.

Our book, "Belonging" had been translated into the Czech language, printed and made available at a temporarily reduced price. It is entitled "Each One has a Place," rather than its original title - perhaps due to there not being an appropriate translation of the word belonging. The books sold very well and we signed and signed until our hands were weary! Many bought four or five books to give away.

Publically, in the seminar, we have been asked to return for a week - to teach at the seminary and to do another seminar. A couple of representatives there from Romania, have asked us to go to their country, as the need is very great.

On Monday, back at the Prague hotel, Petr took us to see old Prague. Unfortunately, the wind was blowing and it was snowing, and walking in the cold was not a great idea. Ron had managed to get a cold that quickly became bronchitis, and outdoor exposure for extended periods was not good for him. But we did see much of the old city by car, thanks to Petr - the bridge built in 700 AD (currently being repaired) and the Jewish Cemetery where there are deceased, buried in...
Later in the day, we journeyed in the snow storm to Lemerec, where Petr lives, so that we could see his Community Center and meet his family. What a joy! We enjoyed dinner with Timothy, Jonathan, Nathanael, and Petr's wife Daniela. Petr seemed totally unaffected by the snow that was quickly accumulating, making the hilly roads in Lemerec nearly impassable. Of course, the town of Lemerec was rejoicing for the snow because the International Ski Championships were being held there.

As we drove back to Prague, the snow became lighter in proportion to our hearts becoming heavier. We had made precious new friends in the Czech Republic, and knew that the next morning, we would be leaving to fly back to the U.S. It's not so easy to leave when you have adopted your translator and his family into your hearts and family, and when you have fallen in love with the people of another country.

Tuesday morning, we were picked up at our hotel by the Union Treasurer - a very sweet and tender man, who spoke good English. Our 45 minute ride back to the airport, leaving those we had come to love, was made easier by his great kindness.

Will we return to the Czech Republic, to Romania or to other countries again? Only God knows the answer to that question, but the great thrill is that we have left behind enthusiastic Petr and his wife, several Union officials and excited lay people, who are determined to see to it that the work of Heart Renewal and Emotional Healing goes forward in their country. For that we are MOST grateful.

Questions and Answers

**Question:** What does it mean you control when your mind is out of control? How do you get your mind in control so you don’t control everything around you?

**Answer:**

When an infant grows up in a home that is chaotic, abusive, where alcoholism is present, where parents argue with each other, where divorce takes place, etc., their environment is out of control. Nothing is predictable.

Because the human brain is designed to see to it that the body and brain will survive at all costs, the child will begin to develop techniques to insure their survival. One main category of those techniques is control. Control makes an individual believe that he/she can handle any situation because they are in charge, rather than being totally out of control as they were in childhood when their character (thoughts and feelings) were being formed.

The teen and adult will have formed the ability to control every person and every event around them, all situations and circumstances, to insure that their life will be in their control, and they will never again be in the "mess" they endured in childhood. It may look to the observer that the controllers behaviors are more out of control than in control, such as in drug abuse, alcoholism, sexual or gambling addictions, but the one who has these addictions believes that he IS in control when involved with the addiction - the addiction keeps him/her safe, he/she thinks.

When childhood is out of control for the child, the child in his growing and adult years will TAKE CONTROL to ensure survival.

**Question:** How does someone feel loved by someone else’s rejection?

**Answer:**

If an individual has been rejected from the womb experience and throughout infancy and childhood, then rejection is all they know. Rejection is normal for that person. Rejection (even though it doesn't feel good to the average person) has a way of comforting the rejected individual, because we are usually comforted by what is usual or common to us.

Does this person actually feel loved? Not really as we would term it. Love is my God-given power of choice to do that which is in the best interest of another, regardless of my feelings. The rejected did NOT receive what was in their best interest. They received rejection in whatever form they got it, but to that person, rejection remains comforting only because it is what they are used to. Until the individual experiences both recovery and genuine love, they will gravitate to what feels normal to them.

Don't worry that children never listen to you; worry that they are always watching you.

~Robert Fulghum

Spring
Announcements

- **Register before March 20** for the “Why?” seminar in Portland to receive free lunch both days. See poster below for more details. Register online here or call 888-800-0574.

- **EIDO** - Two EIDO’s are scheduled in 2009. See page 3 for dates. Watch your email for a brochure, and registration form. Seminar limited to 18 people. First 18 to register with a $500 non-refundable deposit will attend. Total cost - $1500. Phone or mail registration only. If you cannot attend either of these EIDOs but would like to be put on a waiting list to be notified of the next date, please email name, email address, location, and phone number to audrey@yourlri.com. Mark the subject line, “EIDO waiting list”.

- **Blogs** - Read about Ron and Nancy’s travels through England in the daily blogs posted here.

- **Facebook** - We are transitioning from groups to pages on Facebook. The features are much the same, but pages makes it easier for us to connect with you and keep you up to date on what is happening. Visit us here, become a fan. Feel free to invite your friends also.

What others are saying:

*My husband & I went through the Binding the Wounds small group with the workbooks in 2005. This material has changed our lives. We believe most people would benefit from the process, and recommend the series to those who ask.*

Available Live Seminars

**Attachment:**
Your emotions do not come to you from "out of the blue" but each has an origin, an instigating experience that produces within you thoughts and feelings about yourself and others. Your "software" was programmed by responses to your mother while developing in her womb and early interactions with your birth parents and primary caregivers. It is from these early experiences of abandonment, abuse, neglect, security or love that you developed your personal attachment style.

**Acceptance**
Understanding rejection and being released from it’s grip. All of us have experienced rejection in many different forms which drives today’s behaviors.

**Affirmation**
Seeking to identify the various forms of abuse and their affect on our lives today. Abuses discussed include verbal, emotional, physical, and sexual. Tools will be provided to allow you to recover from the negative emotions connected to the abuse you have received.

**Why?**
This seminar gives an overview of the 4 segments of the Journey, using the Y factor. Internal assurance, peace, and love in relationships with God, family and friends will be better every day. Answers questions like, “Why do I do what I do? Why does no one love me? Why can’t I get along with others? Etc.

If you would like a live seminar in your area, please contact Audrey, audrey@yourlri.com for details and scheduling.

Give your kids the gift of a hug today.
Growth Groups Workshop

The Journey
Drs. Ron and Nancy Rockey
Life Renewal Institute

The Book of Revelation Seminar Series
Jon Paulien
Loma Linda University

Spanish Only:
Sanando Las Heridas
(Binding the Wounds)
Ronaldo & Doriti DeCunha
Senior pastor Miami Temple SDA Church

Friday - March 20 - 7-9 pm
Saturday - March 21 - 7 am—6:30 pm
Sunday - March 22 - 7—11:30 am

Sawmill Creek Hotel & Conference Center
(Located on Lake Erie, between Toledo and Cleveland)
400 Sawmill Creek Drive
West Huron, OH  44839
800-729-6455

$60/person (includes lunch and dinner Saturday)
Payable in advance to Ohio Conference of SDA
http://www.ohioadventist.org

Deadline to register: March 13, 2009

Hotel Reservations are on an individual basis.
“There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof is the way of death.”

The Broad Road
My Way
Self Survival
Selfishness

The Narrow Road
God’s Way
Dependence on God
Altruism

WHY?
Are we so driven to self-survival & selfishness?
Is it difficult to get on the Narrow Way?
Is it Possible?

GET YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED!

April 4-5
9 am—4 pm.

The Evangelical Center
18121 SE River Rd.
Milwaukie, OR 97267

$76
Includes lunch both days

To Register:
http://www.yourlri.com
1-888-8000LRI (0574)

Local Contact:
Audrey: 503-252-2112
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Subtotal of Audio/Visual and The Journey Program

Subtotal of Books (from front)

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