





LOOKING TO JESUS AS... HEBREWS 12:2

 In honor of Father's Day, this month's "Looking to Jesus As" article comes from Israel Wayne, founder of Family Renewal Ministries.

 Adam Miller writes about your place as one of the "Many Voices" for the "One Message."

 Michael Faircloth is our musical guest at this year's Cape Cod Conference. Learn more about him inside.

 This month's book is "The Whole Christ" by Sinclair Ferguson. Find out more on the insert card provided.

LTJA: AN EXAMPLE FOR FATHERS BY ISRAEL WAYNE

I once read a survey where children were asked what they thought was the most important academic subject. It turned out that it was whatever subject that their father helped them with in their homework. The reason given was that children assume, since Dad is busy, if he is going to take time out of his schedule to help with one subject; THAT must be the most important one.

What this indicates to me is the power of a father's influence. Most of us men work jobs. We are busy. However, we can make a tremendous impact on our children if we are strategic in passing on what is most important.

WHAT'S A DAD TO DO?

There are two duties that the Bible seems to lay near exclusively at the feet of fathers.

1) Training and instruction of children (Proverbs 4:1).

2) Discipline (Deuteronomy 8:5, Proverbs 13:1, 24, 15:5, Ephesians 6:4, Hebrews 12).

For about six years, I served as a volunteer chaplain for a county juvenile center in Michigan. Of the several hundred incarcerated young men that I have interviewed, only one or two said that they had a good relationship with their father. The overwhelming majority had NO connection with, nor had even met, their biological fathers. From what I've observed, the overwhelming vast majority of young men who have positive input from their fathers simply don't end up getting arrested and being a menace to society.

The fault of our nation's moral decay can be placed, to a great extent, at the feet of fathers who have not lovingly and mercifully led their children in the ways of the Lord.

A FATHER'S RESPONSIBILITY

In my home, I take initiative to make sure that I am leading family worship on a daily basis, and that I am staying abreast of my children's spiritual, academic, and emotional progress.

I am making sure that I am having "conversations that count," with each of them, drawing them out and probing them with age-appropriate questions to see if they

have assimilated what they have been taught and are developing Biblically-informed convictions from the information they have received.

I seek to understand

"IT'S TIME FOR US MEN TO GROW UP AND TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR OUR OWN FAMILIES. THERE IS ABSOLUTELY NO VALID EXCUSE TO DO OTHERWISE."

► LTJA: AN EXAMPLE FOR FATHERS <CONTINUED>

my children's personalities, natural skills, learning styles, and spiritual condition so that I can lead them in emotionally, spiritually and academically customized training and discipleship.

Jesus taught us that when a student is fully trained, he will be like his teacher (Luke 6:40). Jesus did not merely give His disciples instruction, He showed them how to live, by His own daily example. That is a pattern for us as fathers.

If this sounds like it might take a lot of time and effort...it does. That's the point! Deuteronomy 6 is a 24/7 year-round endeavor. It's SUPPOSED to take a lot of time. Where do you find the time? Cut out all of the worthless stuff you are doing that

doesn't include your wife and children. If you have hobbies, find a way to include your children in your own interests, but don't shut them out. They need you.

ENCOUNTER ON AN AIRPLANE

On a recent road trip I was seated next to a man who makes a living in secular higher education. I asked him about his family and he told me that he had a twelve-year-old daughter. "That sounds like quite a transitional age," I mused. "I've noticed that a lot of fathers kind of lose connection with their daughters at that age as they are becoming more independent and involved in activities with peers. In what ways are you being intentional about staying connected with

your daughter?"

The silence was awkward. After a moment or two he stammered, "Well, it's hard...I mean, I work a lot of hours and it just doesn't seem like there is much time left for anything else." He quickly turned and gazed out the window.

I tried to reconnect with him before he shut me out. "The company I work for recently published a book on father/daughter relationships. The author of that book, who is a father of three daughters, has suggested that one way he has been able to stay connected is by having an occasional date/lunch with his daughter. It seems to me that it doesn't take too much effort to go to a burger joint and chat for a half an hour a couple of times a month. If your daughter wants to talk, she knows she

A SONGTIME CONFERENCE

LOOKING TO JESUS



CONCERT PIANIST | MICHAEL FAIRCLOTH
PIANIST FOR THE NATIONAL CHRISTIAN CHOIR

Michael Faircloth has been a recording artist, and Christian concert pianist for more than twenty years. He is an accomplished concert pianist who blesses audiences with his original arrangements of classical, traditional, and contemporary Christian music.

Michael's music is impressive and powerful, balanced by his humble spirit and generous sense of humor. He currently serves as pianist/accompanist for The National Christian Choir. On Sunday mornings when Michael isn't performing elsewhere, he serves in the music ministry at New Life Community Church in Kingsville, Maryland.

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can. If she wants to just be quiet that's okay too. Think of some questions that you could ask to try to draw her out. Ask her how things are going at school, what's going on with her friends, etc. Just let her know that you are there for her and if she needs you, you are available."

We were interrupted by an announcement by the pilot and it was five minutes before he said anything else. "You know," he finally offered, "you've really got me thinking. I'm going to schedule my first date/lunch with my daughter as soon as I get home from this trip."

THE ETERNAL PERSPECTIVE

While I am thankful that he is finally thinking just a bit about his relationship with his daughter, I am amazed at how totally ignorant fathers tend to be. I mean, how in the world can you have

a twelve-year-old daughter and not be thinking seriously about how important your guidance and direction are to her life? The fact is, most of us were never adequately mentored in how to be good dads. We are just figuring it out as we go. Thankfully, we have God's word to give us guidance.

Far more than just a mere chit-chat over a burger and fries, we need to be looking for every opportunity to strategically and systematically equip our children to think and live Biblically. This means that you as the father must be engaged, involved and leading the way. Your wife isn't supposed to raise and train your children...you are. She is your helpmeet, not the other way around.

When I stand before God, He will hold ME accountable for the spiritual training of my children. I can't hide behind my wife and

say, as Adam tried, "This woman You gave me...SHE didn't know what she was doing!" No, I am responsible. The buck stops with me. I am thankful that my wife is a wonderful helpmeet and that she implements well the spiritual blueprints that I am providing for our family, but her role is to come alongside and support the vision that I have received from the Lord through His Word. It's time for us men to grow up and take responsibility for our own families. There is absolutely no valid excuse to do otherwise.



► Israel Wayne is an author and conference speaker. He and his wife, Brook, are homeschooling their nine children in SW Michigan.

His books include: *Full-Time Parenting: A Guide to Family-Based Discipleship and Pitchin' A Fit! Overcoming Angry & Stressed-Out Parenting*. He is the Director of Family Renewal, LLC. www.FamilyRenewal.org



EQUIPPING THE MANY VOICES BY ADAM MILLER

When I became the president of Songtime two years ago, the ministry had a debt of \$200,000. At the time, I thought that my role was to put the ministry to rest in a way that honored the legacy of our founder, Dr. John DeBrine. But this last December we were all surprised to discover that God had once again provided for this ministry and due to your support we finished our year with a \$100,000 surplus. This was a clear sign from God that our ministry had a place and purpose, that we were on the right track, and that God would provide as we moved forward to do His will.

Songtime's motto is

"MANY VOICES, ONE MESSAGE."

That theme has always impressed me as our call to action. Songtime exists to bring the many voices together for the one message of Jesus Christ. We exist in the Northeast because this is where we are most needed.

For those of you with- in the Northeastern states, you are undoubtedly aware of the challenges Christians face in

an increasingly hostile culture. Those of you outside of our area need only look to the Northeast to see where the rest of this country is headed without the central convictions of a local Church at the center of its community.

According to the *Barna Research Group*, eight of the top ten post-Christian cities are in the Northeast (the other two being in California). Five of those cities are in New England (the other three being in New York). *Pew Research* suggest that

"TO BE A PART OF THE MANY VOICES, TO TRULY BE A MINISTER OF THE GOSPEL, YOU MUST TAKE UP THE CALL TO SHARE JESUS CHRIST IN YOUR COMMUNITY."

► EQUIPPING THE MANY VOICES <CONTINUED>

the evangelical population in the Northeast (including Pennsylvania and New Jersey) is only at 13%. That is half of the evangelical population of the Midwest, nine points lower than the evangelical population of the West, and almost a third of the evangelical population of the South.

Those listed as Non-Religious in the Northeast almost double the evangelical population at 25%. Also according to *Pew Research*, the five least religious states in the U.S. were in New England (Rhode Island is the only one not at the bottom, listed at #35). *Church Relevant*

found 49 of the 100 least evangelical counties were in the Northeast (the others mostly clustering around Utah where Mormonism is predominant). Each of these counties are under 3% evangelical whereas the national average is above 23%.

The gospel first reached the shores of America by way of New England and for many years, the Northeast was the center for gospel missions. But New England has not lost its fervor in evangelism. The message, however, has changed. Now the fastest growing religion in the U.S.,

which has found its home in New England, is Secular Humanism.

Songtime will not be able to make a direct difference in New England for the gospel. Your neighbors are not likely to tune in to the Christian radio station, sign up for our newsletter, or attend our annual Bible confer-

ter of the gospel, you must take up the call to share Jesus Christ in your community.

This is our commitment to you. Every day we will strive to bring the best quality of Bible teachers to our radio program to equip you to do the work of the ministry. Every month we will select a new book offer; a trusted

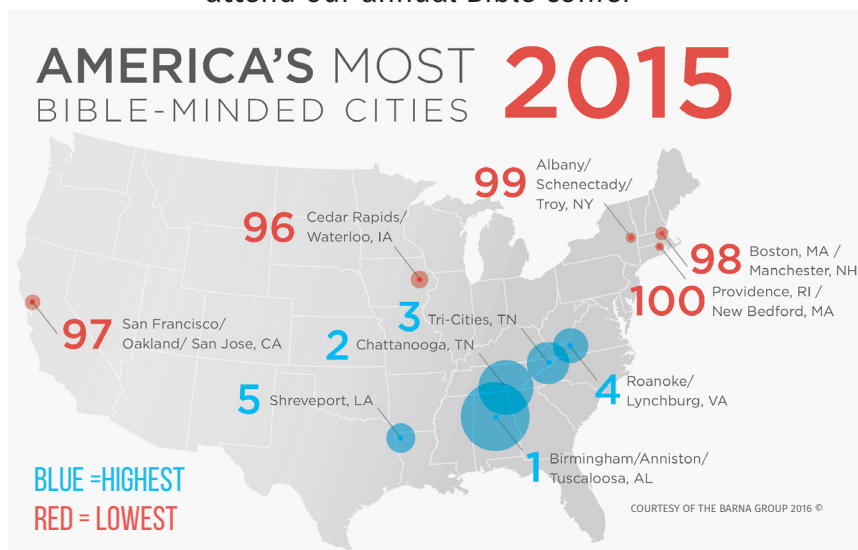
resource that will help you love the Lord your God with all of your heart, soul, and mind. Every year we will host our annual conferences here in the Northeast to bring powerful teaching, inspiring worship, and heart-warming fellowship to strengthen the

Church for another year of hard labor in the mission field.

But none of this will build up the Church if you do not benefit from it and utilize it for your spiritual growth. What will you commit to do? This is your call to action, to make the most of what God has given you and use it for the furtherance of His kingdom in the hearts of man. The statistics are daunting, but you have been blessed to be a blessing.



► Rev. Adam Miller is the President and Host of Songtime and can be heard daily on the Songtime Radio Broadcast.



ence. The only way that Songtime can make a difference in New England is through you.

You, as a member of a local Church, are a part of the many voices. Ephesians 4 tells us that it is the responsibility of pastors, teachers, and evangelists to equip the saints to do the work of the ministry. You are not only the many voices, you are the ministers of the gospel. Our ministry is indirectly related to building up the Church. We can only do that inasmuch as our efforts build you up in your walk with Christ. To be a part of the many voices, to truly be a minis-

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