

ESPAÑOL a la espalda

The
SLOTMANS

on Family,
Church, and
Homeschooling

(pages 3,10-11)

A Lost Generation

(pages 4-5)

Our Perfect Marriage

(pages 6-7)

**Living a Fulfilled Life
as a Single Christian**

(pages 12-13)

and more

Christianfamily

A bilingual magazine for Christian families | Vol 6, No 1, January - March 2021

EDITORIAL



This issue introduces the reader to an inspiring Christian family. Brandon and Kate Slotman chose, as young adults, to follow Jesus Christ. Life has led them to different states for work, but the one church has sustained their faith wherever they went. Regardless of what position we are in, we have something to offer Christ and His church. Two articles deal with serving Christ as singles.

One of our younger writers, Melanie, inspires us with thoughts on the song “I love the Lord Messiah.” Jewell and Jacob July have completed seven months of marriage. What were they expecting? They share some thoughts with us. Louis Rushmore encourages us to keep ourselves separate from the world, and Kerri Epling directs our hearts to the life of Daniel.

Each article and issue of *Christian Family* has one goal: to encourage us to strengthen ourselves and our families in Jesus Christ and His Word (cf. 1 Samuel 30:6).

Paul Holland & Moisés Pinedo

3

Featured — The Slotmans

4

Parenting — A Lost Generation

6

Marriage — Our Perfect Marriage

8

Women — The Story of Daniel

10

Featured — The Slotmans on Family,
Church, and Homeschooling

12

Singles — Living a Fulfilled Life as a Single
Christian

14

Children — I Love the Lord Messiah
Do You Love Heaven?

16

Questions — On Adultery, Teen Attitude,
and Corporal Discipline

Christianfamily

Helping families become stronger in the Lord

Vol 6, No 1, January - March 2021

Copyright © 2021 by www.ebglobal.org

Editors: Paul Holland and Moisés Pinedo

Proofreaders: Daniel Jaramillo, Diana Shepard, Charlotte Jordan,
Kerri Epling, Kimberley and Melanie Pinedo, and Rachel Holland

Design and Presentation: Moisés Pinedo

Contact: editorial@ebglobal.org

Christian Family is a bilingual quarterly magazine. Limited quantities are distributed free of charge, but congregations and individuals may contribute to get additional copies at cost for evangelistic and edifying efforts. For information on how to get more copies of this or other issues, contact us by e-mail at editorial@ebglobal.org.

Individual articles may be copied and distributed for Bible study, provided the material is printed as it appears in the magazine and distributed for free. Reproduction of the whole magazine and electronic republication are prohibited.

Photo by Amanda Rance Photography



S the Slotmans

The Slotmans are a family of five: Brandon and Kate and their three children, Callie (9), Imri (9), and Titus (6).

As a family, they enjoy playing games, being outside at their bonfire, and reading. They also listen to a ridiculous amount of audio books. In the summer, they love to go fishing, camping, and visiting the beautiful Lake Michigan. They tried their hand at a small garden last summer and are looking forward to making a bigger one this summer. In the winter, the kids love to spend all day outside sledding. The whole family serves and worships with the Swartz Creek church of Christ in Michigan.

Read more on page 10





A LOST generation

by Louis Rushmore

Whereas the book of Joshua is about triumph, the book of Judges is about failure. Joshua was such a powerful figure with an immense amount of influence that he was able to stabilize God's people for two successive generations. "So the people served the Lord all the days of Joshua, and all the days of the elders who outlived Joshua, who had seen all the great works of the Lord which He had done for Israel" (Judges 2:7). However, the very next generation fell away from God into indisputable apostasy.

"When all that generation had been gathered to their fathers, another generation arose after them who did not know the Lord nor the work which He had done for Israel. Then the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the Lord, and served the Baals; and they forsook the Lord God of their fathers, who had brought them out of the land of Egypt; and they followed other gods from among the gods of the people who were all around them, and they bowed down to them; and they provoked the Lord to anger. They forsook the Lord and served Baal and the Ashtoreths (Judges 2:10-13).

What happened? Several factors combined led to the downfall of the people of God.

There was a breakdown in the home and in religion whereby reverence and respect for and obedience to Almighty God was not instilled in the next generation.

The home is the first occasion of children being indoctrinated with the Word of God. Jehovah intended for fathers to instill in their children and their children's children the Word of God.

"Now this is the commandment, and these are the statutes and judgments which the Lord your God has commanded to teach you, that you may observe them in the land which you are crossing over to possess, that you may fear the Lord your God, to keep all His statutes and His commandments which I command you, you and your son and your grandson, all the days of your life, and that your days may be prolonged (Deuteronomy 6:1-2).

Not haphazardly or sporadically, but God meant for fathers to acquaint children and grandchildren thoroughly and regularly with His ways.

"You shall love the Lord your God 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. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates (Deuteronomy 6:5-9).

"We will not hide them from their children, telling to the generation to come the praises of the Lord, and His strength and His wonderful works that He has done. For He established a testimony in Jacob, and appointed a law in Israel, which He commanded our fathers, that they should make them known to their children; that the generation to come might know them, the children

who would be born, that they may arise and declare them to their children, that they may set their hope in God, and not forget the works of God, but keep His commandments (Psalm 78:4-7).

Under Patriarchy, before the implementation of Judaism, Abraham was a father who took seriously the imparting of knowledge about God and His ways to his children. “For I have known him, in order that he may command his children and his household after him, that they keep the way of the Lord, to do righteousness and justice, that the Lord may bring to Abraham what He has spoken to him” (Genesis 18:19). In the New Testament, we find that Timothy was the product of godly teaching from generation to generation to generation through Timothy’s mother and grandmother (2 Timothy 1:5).

If parents and the church are not zealously and faithfully conveying God’s Word to upcoming generations and leading them to have faith in God, those parents and those congregations of the church have failed their charge from Almighty God.

The ungodly people who intermingled with Israel during the time of the book of Judges influenced the children of God to turn from the Almighty and to indulge all manner of sins.

Israel did not drive out all of the heathens with their pagan religions and idolatry (Judges 1:27-35). Consequently, the idolatrous people left in the land were a “snare” to Israel (Deuteronomy 7:16). God had said:

“*When the Lord your God brings you into the land which you go to possess, and has cast out many nations before you, the Hittites and the Girgashites and the Amorites and the Canaanites and the Perizzites and the Hivites and the Jebusites, seven nations greater and mightier than you, and when the Lord your God delivers them over to you, you shall conquer them and utterly destroy them. You shall make no covenant with them nor show mercy to them. Nor shall you make marriages with them. You shall not give your daughter to their son, nor take their daughter for your son. For they will turn your sons away from following Me, to serve other gods; so the anger of the Lord will be aroused against you and destroy you suddenly. But thus you shall deal with them: you shall destroy their altars, and break down their sacred pillars, and cut down their wooden images, and burn their carved images with fire. For you are a holy people to the Lord your God; the Lord*

your God has chosen you to be a people for Himself, a special treasure above all the peoples on the face of the earth (Deuteronomy 7:1-6).

A lesson for us today is that we cannot live like the world and do the things the world does and still be pleasing to our God. Companionship with ungodly and worldly people today will influence Christians to forsake God and His ways. “Do not be deceived: ‘Evil company corrupts good habits’” (1 Corinthians 15:33).

“*Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness? And what accord has Christ with Belial? Or what part has a believer with an unbeliever? And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you are the temple of the living God. As God has said: “I will dwell in them and walk among them. I will be their God, and they shall be My people.” Therefore “Come out from among them and be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, and I will receive you” (2 Corinthians 6:14-17).*

Just like in ancient times, intermarrying with idolatrous and ungodly people is dangerous spiritually. Preceding the flood of Noah’s day, intermarriage between ungodly people and godly people led up to the worldwide deluge and God’s purge of sinfulness from the planet. “[T]he sons of God saw the daughters of men, that they were beautiful; and they took wives for themselves of all whom they chose” (Genesis 6:2). The same thing happened during the time of the judges. “Thus the children of Israel dwelt among the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. And they took their daughters to be their wives, and gave their daughters to their sons; and they served their gods” (Judges 3:5-6). The same scenario can and often does unfold today when God’s people indiscriminately marry ungodly persons.

Christians are not of the world, though we necessarily live in the world (John 17:14-16). The apostle Paul wrote, “For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light” (Ephesians 5:8). We are losing upcoming generations within our own families because of failures of the home and the church to indoctrinate youth with God’s Word and cause them to know Him. We dare not underestimate either the tremendous impact of the ungodly world in which we live upon our children. ■



Our PERFECT Marriage

by Jewell & Jacob July

Yes, that title is clickbait. And like any good clickbait, it is partially true. Our names are Jacob and Jewell July and we have been happily married for about seven months! We have also been imperfectly married. As proof, one of us admits being incapable of lowering the toilet seat. But such is expected in a fallen world.

Did we mention we are happy? And that is not the honeymoon phase talking. Okay, maybe a little, but there is definitely another reason. We are happy because we both had similar, realistic, biblical expectations about marriage before we married; and that is what the rest of this article is about. Does that seem like an exciting topic at first glance? Now you know why we used clickbait.

But where did we ever get the idea that biblical expectations are boring expectations? When all people, men and women, married and unmarried, stand before God's glorious throne to be judged according to their response to what lies between Genesis 1 and Revelation 22, namely the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the Bible will be quite the page-turner. (We digress.)

These are excerpts of our wedding vows. Yes, they are very cute, but you are just going to have to ignore that right now. What we want you to see is that we wrote nearly identical vows totally separate from one another.

Jewell: "And so it is before God and our loved ones here today that I vow..."

Jacob: "As I prepare to offer my life to you in marriage before all these people and before God..."

Biblical expectation number one: marriage is before God.

Why? Because, as is recorded in Genesis 2, He created marriage. After creating heaven and earth, God planted a garden in which Adam, a man, could enjoy His rule and blessing. God also created Eve, a woman, to help Adam. Then the Bible says, “Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh” (vs. 24). This is the first marriage after which all marriages are to be patterned. It is the perfect marriage, in which the toilet seat is always down. Or, we should say, it **was**. If you are unfamiliar with the story, this is a **short** summary of what happened next: through the temptation of Satan, Adam and Eve decided to do what they wanted instead of listening to God. As a result, God’s perfect creation was ruined and cursed, including Adam and Eve’s perfect marriage. Now they are ashamed of one another and are in a power struggle. All of this to say that we believe this story is history with implications on our marriage, specifically, that God is in control of it.

Jewell: “Today, it is God Who joins us into one flesh, one mind, and one heart, and what He has joined, I vow never to separate.”

Jacob: “I leave it in the hands of God... to bind us with a bond no man can break.”

Biblical expectation number two: what God has joined together, no man should separate.

We wish we were smart enough to make that up, but Jesus said it first to a group of men called the Pharisees in Matthew 19. They asked Jesus if they could divorce their wives willy nilly, or if they needed a pretty good reason. He answered by quoting the Genesis story we just read, that God made Adam and Eve to be together, and then Jesus got to the heart of the issue, literally. The Pharisees had hard hearts, and He said that is why they wanted divorces. Just like Adam and Eve, they did not want to listen to what God commanded in Eden; they wanted to do what they wanted. Because of the Fall, both we and the Pharisees have imperfect marriages. But we pray that, unlike them, our hearts might always be softened to do God’s will as Jesus has revealed it.

Jewell: “As the church honors, follows, and longs for Jesus Christ, I vow to honor, follow, and long for you.”

Jacob: “I vow to strive to give myself up for you, as Christ gave himself up for us.”

Biblical expectation number three: Christ and His church are the pattern of a perfect marriage.

In these vows, we both paraphrased Ephesians 5:22-33 which, to continue paraphrasing, says that husbands and wives like us should pattern our marriages after the relationship Jesus Christ has with the Church. Why? Because it is the perfect marriage. And unlike the first perfect marriage in the garden, this one will last. Unlike Eve, the church is a wife who loves the submissive role in which she has been placed by God; and unlike Adam, Christ loves His wife enough to deny Himself in helping her fulfill God’s will. By the way, it took us a while to write those two sentences, so please do not be scared to read them again.

We were not lying when we said our clickbait title was a half-truth; we, Jewell and Jacob, have a perfect marriage to Christ. But this article is not about us, **it is about you**. Are you Christ’s bride? If not, you need to know that you are missing out on the relationship that brings indescribable joy. If you are Christ’s bride, you need to be reminded of the joy you have in your Husband because, frankly, it is easy to forget. He is in heaven; we are on earth. So, for a little longer, this marriage is “long-distance.” But, in waiting for our approaching consummation with King Jesus, do not forget that He will not separate what God has joined. And do not forget that our Husband has guaranteed that with a marriage certificate, which is His Spirit dwelling in us. Remember the encouraging words of John in Revelation 21:1-3:


“Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea. Then I...saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, “Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God.”

Soon the perfect marriage Adam and Eve lost is the perfect marriage we, through belief in Christ, will gain fully. There will be a new creation in which God’s rule and blessing are restored, and He will gladly dwell with us again. Because as we walk in the cool of the day, we will walk as we always have: with our Husband, His nail-pierced hand in ours. ■

THE STORY OF *Daniel*



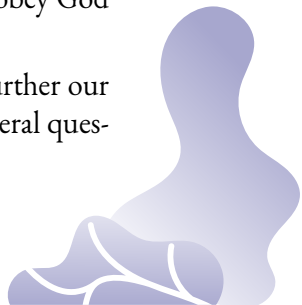
by Kerri Epling



Imagine a time when God’s people were captive in a foreign land. Their young men had been lifted from life in Judah to life in a new place, and they found themselves among different people with strange customs, language, and literature. Over the years, many had acclimated to the new culture, but some remained loyal to God and His statutes. Some had even been chosen to be leaders and rulers in Babylon. One, in particular, had obtained favor from the king above all, because “an excellent spirit” was within him (Daniel 6:3). Others in the government envied him, yet they could find no fault to lay at his feet (Daniel 6:4). So, they devised a plan to ensnare him through his service to the Almighty God. A law was established denying the right to petition anyone other than the king for thirty days; noncompliance was punishable by death in a den of lions. But this man prayed fervently, regularly, and faithfully. Day in and day out, he stood before his window and entreated the One to Whom all glory, praise, and honor is due (Daniel 6:10). His enemies saw him and were delighted. Here, they had finally found “fault” with their fellow governor and could seek his downfall.

Our text comes from Daniel 6. A little basic study earlier in the book of Daniel shows us that Daniel was one of the aforementioned youths of Judah, and that he had been elevated within the government (Daniel 1:1-8; 6:3). When a law was made forbidding him to pray to God as he should, Daniel had the courage to “obey God rather than men” (Acts 5:29).

Let us consider some thoughts and questions from this account to further our knowledge and understanding. Feel free to refer to previous issues for general questions to consider when studying any portion of Scripture.



Specific questions to consider about the story of Daniel

Use Scripture to support your answers when possible.

- Jot down a “story sequencing” list for this account. Make sure to include characters, setting, and events that took place. Perhaps even do some historical research about the pagan king and the area.
- Why do you think Daniel was able to just go on with his service to God even in the face of persecution (see Daniel 1:8)?
- What does it mean to have an “excellent spirit”? How can we strive to do this? Try looking up “excellent” in Strong’s concordance or in a Bible app.
- Why do you think the fellow satraps wanted to catch Daniel doing something wrong?
- How did Daniel respond when the government tried to limit his faithfulness to God? How should we respond? What are some ways this is relevant today?
- What can we learn from Daniel’s prayer life? Am I known for being regular in my prayer and service to God? Can others count on me to petition the Lord (like the evil governors could “count on” Daniel)?
- Is there anything significant about the king’s response

when he found out Daniel had been caught breaking the law? What did he say about Daniel’s God?

- How did Daniel respond when confronted? Where had he placed his trust? Where should we place **our** trust?
- What happened to Daniel in the lions’ den? Have you ever been in a situation that seemed hopeless? Can you think of a way that God gave you an escape like He did when He shut the lions’ mouths for Daniel?
- How did this situation affect those who witnessed it (especially the king)? In what ways can our faithfulness affect those around us?

Questions for children

- What law did the king make?
- What did Daniel do when he heard about the law?
- What did the king’s men do to Daniel?
- How did the king feel when his friend was caught?
- Where did the men throw Daniel?
- How did God protect Daniel?
- Prayer is talking to God. What are some things we can talk to God about?

Suggestions for interaction with children

- Act out the story of Daniel in the lions’ den.
- Find or make up a song about the story.
- Make lion paper bags or stick puppets or paper plate lion masks.
- Make a prayer photo book with pictures of people or things your child can pray for each day.
- Read a child’s storybook about the story of Daniel.
- Let your children draw their favorite parts of the story and have them retell it. ■

If you have questions, please feel free to contact Kerri at kerripling@gmail.com with email subject of “Christian Family Study.”



CF: *How did you come to Christ?*

Kate: I was raised going to the Lutheran church. Down the street from where I grew up is a camp run by the churches of Christ called Michigan Christian Youth Camp (MCYC). I started going there in the summer as a camper around the age of 12. By 15, I was working as a wrangler in the summers. It was there that I was introduced to the Lord's church. I absolutely loved the staff meetings each evening, where we would have a devotional and sing acapella. Singing acapella was new to me coming from the Lutheran church. It also amazed me that all of the staff, from different areas of the U.S., held the same beliefs. That was new to me as well, as I had never visited another Lutheran church to see if that was the case. I worked at the camp every summer through high school. After my freshman year of college, I decided to get a different job. Well, that didn't work out and I decided to return to working at the camp. It was then, at the age of 18, that I was baptized.

Brandon: There was a girl (Kate!) that I really liked at college. She was really pretty and quite frankly, out of my

league. But when I asked her out, to my surprise, she said "yes." On our first date, she said, "Look, I go to church on Sunday morning, Sunday evening, and Wednesday night. So, if that does not seem like something you can do, then we should probably move on." What could I say, but "Okay, I'll go"? Six months later, after being challenged numerous times from sermons and studying, I obeyed the Gospel on a Wednesday night. I was 21 years old.

CF: *Where has your married life taken you?*

We were married in 2005, and, a year later, we purchased a house in Portage, MI, worshiping with the Portage church of Christ. We lived there a few years before a job move took us to Cleveland, TN. While there, we worshiped with the Central church of Christ. We were there almost five years and our twins were born in Chattanooga, TN. Another job move took us to Granger, IN, where we worshiped with the Willowdale church of Christ in Elkhart. We were there four years and our youngest was born in Mishawaka, IN. From there we moved to Jeffersonville, IN. While there, we worshiped with the Hamburg Pike church of Christ. We were there for two years before a job promotion brought us to where we have been for two years now, Lansing, MI, worshiping with the Swartz Creek church of Christ. While we recently accepted another new job, we are so thankful it didn't require a move this time!

CF: *Tell us about your children.*

Callie is our creative leader. She loves art, crafting of any kind, and is my go-to girl if I need help in the kitchen, or with anything really. She loves turtles and horses. She also loves to read.

Imri has an engineering mind like his dad. He's the go-to fix-it guy when dad's not home. He is very kind and compassionate and has a special bond with his younger brother. He loves horses and also loves to read.

If you ever meet **Titus**, you'll likely leave with a smile on your face. He's an energetic, spunky, people-person who keeps everyone laughing. He's working on becoming a voracious reader like the rest of the family and he absolutely loves dogs.

CF: *What goals do you have for your family?*

We would love to say we are good at making and keeping goals, but, honestly, we just aren't. We have goals for our

children to grow in their Lads to Leaders participation every year. We would love to take our whole family on a mission trip when the kids are a bit older too. We know that we only have a few short years with our kids at home and acknowledge the ultimate goal is heaven. In the meantime, we'll just let God use us where we are, for His glory.

CF: In what ways have you served in the church?

Brandon served as a deacon for some of our time with the Hamburg Pike congregation in Jeffersonville, IN. We have both taught classes in various congregations—Brandon mostly teaching adult classes or filling in for a few sermons and Kate teaching from nursery to 3rd grade. We work at the monthly food pantry at the Swartz Creek congregation. We have also helped in various ways with the Lads to Leaders program since our children have first started participating.

CF: How has the church impacted your life and relationships?

The church has greatly impacted our lives. Through all our stressful moves, the church has been our main foundation and blessing. We have met so many different people from all over who have had huge influences on our marriage and parenting. Since neither of us were raised in the churches of Christ, we have had to work together as a couple, watching and learning from Christian examples around us, to have a marriage that puts Christ first and, as parents, to raise a family dedicated to serving Christ. We still have a lot of work to do in these areas, but the church has been foundational in guiding us in our 15 years of marriage. Even though moving is very stressful, we are so blessed to have so many great friends from each of the places we have lived. We can't imagine not having those wonderful relationships.

CF: Since you homeschool your children, what advice would you give to parents thinking about homeschooling?

Before we had children, I never imagined I would homeschool my kids! After they were born, I joined a homeschooling Facebook group and just watched and listened to all the curriculum recommendations. It was so incredibly overwhelming! I wrote down all the different methods and curriculums mentioned and then began researching them to see if they would be a good fit for our family.



When I stumbled upon Classical Conversations, I knew it was just what I was looking for! That is the first step I would recommend if parents are thinking about homeschooling: doing some research to see what will fit your family and your children. It's easy to think that because something works for a friend that it will work for you too. It might, but it's more likely that it probably won't! And that's **okay!**

For us, having a homeschooling community has been a necessity. While some families enjoy and prefer to do their own thing, having our Classical Conversations community has been a huge blessing for us. Besides the church, we have always been able to jump into a new community every time we have moved. For me, it also provides the accountability and motivation I need to keep going! So, those are a few important things to consider: are you a do-it-yourself type mom? Do you need the accountability of others to help stay on track? Do your kids thrive on interaction with others, or are they good to just do things on their own or with siblings (or maybe they get enough interaction at church activities or in sports)?

For parents of younger kids, I would also tell them not to worry about starting a formal education too early. Let them be little and enjoy time going to the zoo, or playing with other friends from church, etc., while they are still young. This is good, not only for the kids, but also for the moms to build relationships with other younger moms during that time. ■

Living a fulfilled life as a

by Joyce Artibee

As a single Christian, I had to learn to accept that I am single and have faith and trust in God that I can be of great service to Him while being single (Philippians 4:11-13).

When I think about my service to Christ as a single person, being “stronger” depends on what may be going on in my life at a given time. Being single is not easy when what you have wished for in life has not happened. There are times when my faith is strong and there are times when it is weak. Having no one in the home to keep me encouraged causes me to reach out to extended family and close friends (James 5:16).

When I was younger, I felt that I was always on the outside looking in. I didn’t fit in with married couples, couples with families, or widows. There were many times I just wished I could have been invited to join them for lunch after the morning services, for example.

The year 2020 was a very difficult year for me. In January, I had left knee replacement followed by right knee replacement in June. Then, four weeks later, on one early July morning, I was awakened by chest pains, and, as the day progressed, the pain got stronger. Early that evening, I called a lady from the congregation to take me to the emergency room, and I was admitted into the hospital. I needed a quadruple bypass.

In early August, another trip to the emergency room was required per my primary care physician. At that time, I was readmitted to the hospital with an infection in my chest incision which caused my left knee replacement to become infected. Again, a surgery was needed to clean out the infection. A few days later, I had to endure another surgery to reopen my chest and clean out the infection, and a wound vac was inserted to combat the infection. One week later, I had to go through another surgery to remove the wound vac and reclose my chest. Finally, after being released from the hospital, I had to go back every day for nine weeks for antibiotic therapy infusion.

In this long journey of illness and needing help, I realized my church family was there by sending cards of encouragement, calling me on the phone, driving me to appointments, spending the night with me, and preparing meals. All this showed me the true love of my church family. As Galatians 6:2 says, “Bear one another’s burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.” It is so comforting to know that, as a single person, there were many there to help ease my burdens.

Whether a single person is younger or older, going to college or working or both, they like to feel included. They may have more time to study to teach Bible classes, help organize the food pantry, provide child care, assist with care for shut-ins, etc.

Singles can contribute much to the church! It all comes down to being made aware of a need, asking if they would have an interest in helping, and providing directions on how to begin. So, let me end with this, singles can be a great blessing in the Lord’s church (cf. 1 Corinthians 7:34)! ■



SINGLE CHRISTIAN

Interview with Torey Sandy

CF: *How has Jesus helped you adjust to life as a single Christian?*

I have been fortunate enough to have a wide variety of friends with my work in the medical field, my family, and with my brothers and sisters in Christ who make me feel fulfilled and whom I can rely on in times of need. I don't feel I have to "adjust" to single life. Since my occupation keeps me pretty busy (especially during the beginning of my training), it is much easier being single (at least up to this point in my life) to balance my work, my spiritual life, and my social life.

CF: *In what way(s) has your Christian life been different, maybe stronger, because you are single?*

I don't think necessarily my walk up to this point would've been much different. Of course, having a spouse to share your faith with and your walk with God may help. However, I have had a few role models and mentors in my life that have helped me in my faith and walk in life. These role models, my family, and friends have been pillars to me during my walk with Christ.

CF: *How has the church helped you in your walk?*

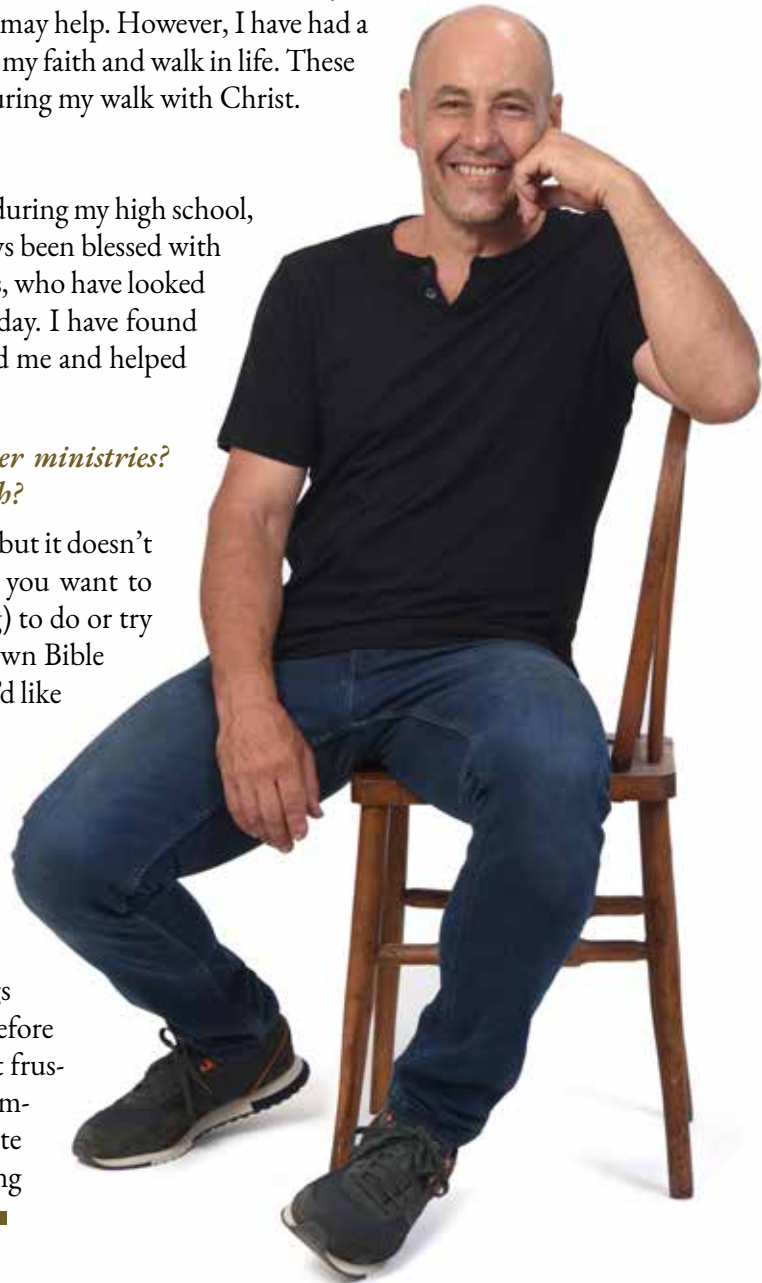
I grew up in the church and have had to live in various places during my high school, college, graduate school, and training afterwards. I have always been blessed with the brothers and sisters in Christ that I have met over the years, who have looked out for me, and who have remained friends with me to this day. I have found mentors and friends throughout my life who have challenged me and helped me to become more of a leader in the church.

CF: *In what way can the church use singles better in her ministries?
What can singles contribute to the work of the church?*

You might be limited in some leadership aspects being single, but it doesn't stop you from doing the overwhelming majority of things you want to do. You likely have much more flexibility (generally speaking) to do or try new activities such as going on mission trips, starting your own Bible study, or other community service or outreach programs you'd like to organize.

CF: *What would be your advice for a person who is having a hard time coping with his/her single life?*

That would depend on what aspect you're struggling with coping with being single. Do you hate being alone? Find a group of Christian friends to hang out with or reach out and visit family. Do you feel like you're missing out on things to do? Pick up a new hobby or something you've never done before and wanted to do. The biggest thing is to identify what most frustrates you with being single. Talking it out with a family member or close friend helps some people; others need to just write it out. Everyone is different in what they want, but identifying exactly what you want will help ease and resolve the tension. ■



I LOVE THE LORD MESSIAH!

by Melanie Pinedo

“I Love the Lord Messiah” is one of my favorite children’s devotional songs. This song has a lot of meaning and there are several lessons we can learn from it. Each of these verses has the words “deep down in my heart.” When I have God hidden deep down in my heart, my love for Him is going to show in my life and with my family; and this love will show my desire to go to heaven.

I love the Lord Messiah...

Let’s start with the first verse. The first line says, “I love the Lord Messiah deep down in my heart;” this line is repeated twice. Why should we love the Lord? We are commanded to love the Lord with all our heart, with all our soul, and with all our mind (Matthew 22:37). What does “love” even mean? “Love” means to be deeply committed or connected to someone or something. God has such a deep love for us that He sent Jesus to die for us (John 3:16). We can never repay God for what He has done for us, but we can love Him and obey His commandments. He tells us that if we love Him, we will keep His commandments (John 14:15)! We should show as much love to God as He shows to us.

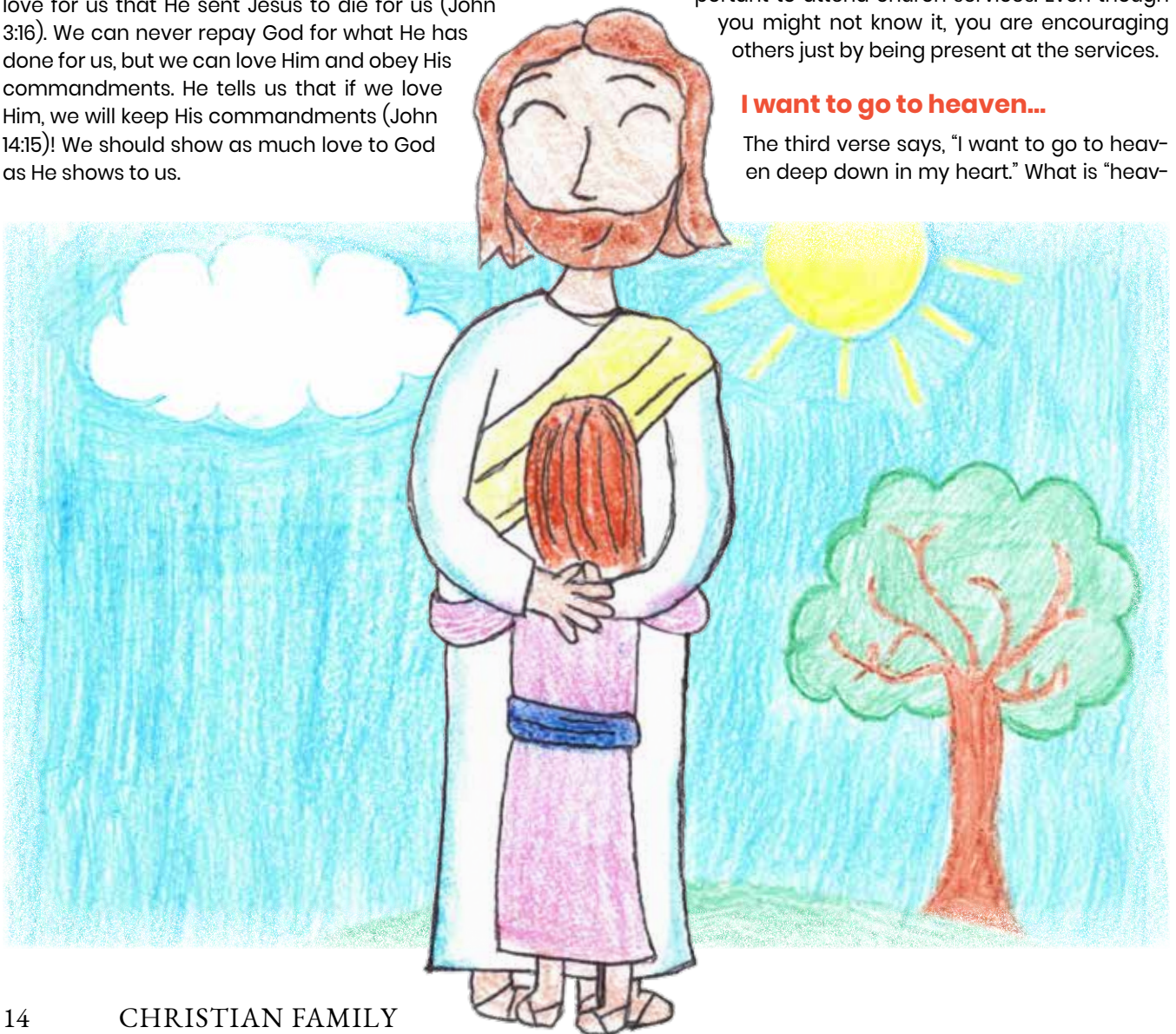
I love my Christian family...

Now let’s move on to the second verse. The first line says, “I love my Christian family deep down in my heart;” this line is also repeated twice. Having a Christian family is a huge blessing. John 15:12 says “This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.” This means we are to love our family as Jesus loves us. Ephesians 6:2 says, “Honor your father and mother.” We honor our parents by following their rules; this makes God happy. Ephesians 6:1 says, “Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right.” When we obey God and our parents, we have a house that runs smoothly. Even if you are not blessed by living in a home with Christian parents, you can still show love and respect to your parents.

We also have a Christian family in the church. God gave us the church to be like a family that loves, cares, encourages, and uplifts each other. This is why it is important to attend church services. Even though you might not know it, you are encouraging others just by being present at the services.

I want to go to heaven...

The third verse says, “I want to go to heaven deep down in my heart.” What is “heav-



en”? “Heaven” is the dwelling place of God. It is a place of peace, where nothing bad happens. The ultimate goal of Christians is to go to heaven. But how do we achieve this goal? God will give us heaven by His grace but requires of us to hear and believe His Gospel, repent of our sins, confess Christ’s name, be baptized and be faithful until death or until Jesus comes back (Romans 10:17; Mark 16:16; Romans 10:9; Acts 2:38; Revelation 2:10). Heaven will be a wonderful place; there are several verses in the Bible that describe the greatness of it (Revelation 21).

Deep deep, down down...

This part is repeated with every verse and emphasizes our need to have deep love for the Lord, our family, and heaven.

Love is not just a feeling; it is an action. First Corinthians 13 is known as the love chapter, and we read in verses 4-8:

“ Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails.

Concerning our Lord, 1 John 4:19 says, “We love Him because He first loved us.” When we love the Lord and follow

in His ways, it makes for a good life. We are to deeply love our Lord Jesus Christ!

Our love for our family is shown by our actions. You can show love by helping around the house, playing with a sibling, or making something for a family member. As for our church family, we can do several things to show our love. We can send cards, call people, or go and visit with them. Romans 12:10 says, “Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love.” This means we are supposed to show love to all people, especially our family and church family.

Heaven is a place we are to deeply love. We should want to go to heaven! Heaven is the reward for the faithful Christian. Matthew 5:12 says that “great is your reward in heaven.” If you obey God and follow His commandments, you can receive the reward of heaven.

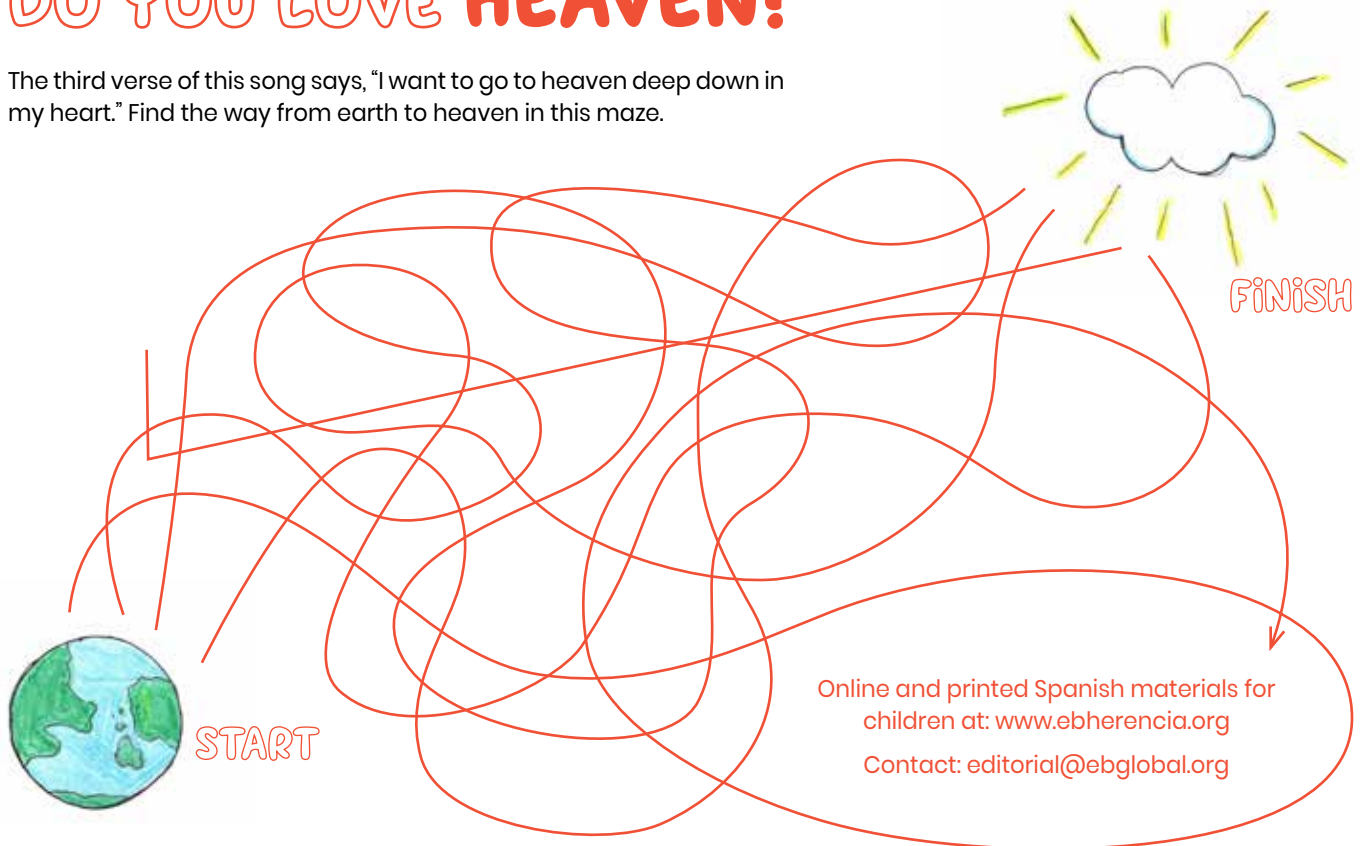
What a wonderful song to sing and love! ■



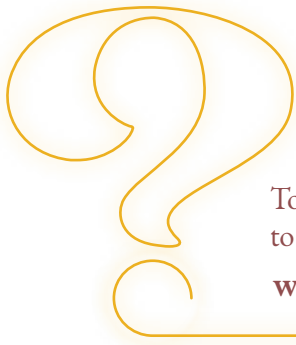
Illustrations in this spread by Kelsey Pinedo (age 11)

DO YOU LOVE HEAVEN?

The third verse of this song says, “I want to go to heaven deep down in my heart.” Find the way from earth to heaven in this maze.



Online and printed Spanish materials for children at: www.ebherencia.org
Contact: editorial@ebglobal.org



To ask a family-related question to the editors, go to:

www.ebglobal.org/info/cfq

Q: *How can a family overcome the adultery of a spouse and live together again?*

—SAN LORENZO, PARAGUAY

Adultery violates the most intimate of the most basic relationship we have on earth. It is so devastating to the marriage that it is the one cause for which God will allow a marriage to be ended and a second marriage begun (Matthew 19:1-9). If the spouses, however, want to remain married, then forgiveness is the key. Israel committed adultery against God (read Hosea), but He forgave her. It will not be easy, and the offending spouse needs to make every effort to rebuild trust. But, with time, patience, and much prayer, the marriage can be restored and strengthened. —PH

Q: *How should I deal with a teenager who is always mad and does not want to help in the house?* —EL SALVADOR

First, try to determine what makes the teenager mad. Our anger is usually generated by unfulfilled expectations. What is he (or she) expecting from the family? If those expectations are reasonable, then the parents can work to help the teen fulfill them. If the expectations are unreasonable, then the teenager has to understand that and change his expectations. Secondly, you can negotiate with the teen about helping around the house. Explain you need him to do certain chores to help ease the burden on the family. Perhaps you can work out some rewards for his help—they might be financial or certain privileges or freedoms extended. —PH

Q: *Should I corporally correct my children who are younger than six years old? Wouldn't that harm them psychologically?*

—ALAJUELA, COSTA RICA

Proper discipline, that usually includes corporal correction, should start early in the life of a child and should not

harm him psychologically (cf. Proverbs 29:15). How early in life depends on how much your child understands instruction and discipline. Little children understand the word “No,” and sometimes a soft pat on the hand may reinforce the instruction. However, no discipline should become abuse. Christian parents should discipline their children with love and self-control. Please, read Paul Holland’s article titled “Spank Appropriately” in volume 5, number 1 of our *Christian Family* magazine (pages 4-5) for more information. —MP

Q: *How should I to treat a sibling who committed adultery?* —LIMA, PERU

Love your sibling who has committed adultery or has fallen into any other kind of sin (1 John 4:8); but how this love is expressed to that person will depend on several factors. First, has your sibling truly repented of his (or her) adultery? If so, forgive him (Mark 11:26) and help him to be stronger (1 Thessalonians 5:11). On the other hand, is he living in impenitent adultery? If so, rebuke him (cf. 1 Corinthians 5). Show him that you disapprove of his sin, but most importantly, that God disapproves of it (1 Corinthians 6:9-10). Is he a Christian? If so, does the church know about his impenitent adultery? If not, tell it to the church so the elders and other leaders and members may exhort him to repentance (Galatians 6:1). —MP

FOR MORE MATERIAL, VISIT:

www.ebglobal.org/eng

