

## **One Step in Helping Our Children Grow To Be Faithful Servants**

Bud Rader

In the over 27 years we've been on the field we've seen many come and go at one point or so directed. By God's grace we've not been among this number. Some never make it to the field, some last a short time, some longer, some cave in when their children begin leaving the home.

### I. Character Flaw

Speaking in generalities, I've noticed an increase in what I consider a character flaw that seems to be on the rise. Simply put, a Lack of Determination. That tenaciousness that, by God's grace, keeps us faithful...Staying Power. This has long been with us as can be observed in Acts 13:13 concerning Mark and II Tim 4:10 concerning Demas.

This is a problem that permeates our entire society. Having little patience. Not much staying power. It seems we give up easier than we used to (situation in Iraq).

A. This is a fairly new phenomenon in America.

1. Pilgrims
2. Puritans
3. Ancestors who settled these territories.

B. This is something we used to say of others.

I believe it was General Wendel Scott who said of the Mexicans during the Mexican/American war, "They fight well, but they give up too fast." In other words "They fight well, but they don't fight for long." Ashamedly, we can say this of most of God's servants, of God's missionaries, of God's children.

**They serve well, but they don't serve for long.**

### II. Institutional Flaw

Where does the blame lie for this? Unfortunately, we've become very good at shifting the blame. Avoiding responsibility for our actions.

A. Government: We can blame society but this is not legitimate because in the

U.S. we determine what our government is like we make society what it is.

B. Church: Perhaps, some blame can be placed here but even this isn't correct because we determine the personality of our churches.

C. Family: It is safe to say that the lion's share of the responsibility lies in the family. Understanding the Scriptures as we do we must admit that to a large degree the character flaws that exist in our children are the work of the fathers. We men, can and must make a difference.

### III. Fixed Flaw

Of course, it is never easy nor is it painless to mend such a flaw.

A. Col 4:17, "Take heed to the ministry which thou hast received in the Lord, that thou fulfill it."

"Take heed"—Be aware of. See it; Perceive, Attend to.

"Take heed to the ministry" let me say, "take heed to the family which thou hast received in the Lord..."

Apl: Let's make the effort to be aware of our ministry knowing that we are responsible for our family, children and grandchildren . Let's decide that our children will not lack determination.

Il: Recent (Oct 2003) events in La Paz. Some missionaries left but some stayed. Determination. \_\_\_\_\_ in SC (1983/4). "Not safe for us to be here."

B. Prv 22:6, "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old he will not depart from it."

Train (chanak): To narrow; discipline; dedicate.

Way (derek): Course of life; manner.

Expl: We begin with this very young, yet very carnal, wild, unruly, lying creature filled with flaws and a sin nature that is capable and will drive him/her to the depths of depravity. This is what we have to work with. However, we are fortunate in that this creature is not a brute beast that can understand only instinctive drives and rudimentary commands, but this is a member of the only race that God has ever created, the human race, thus a creation specially formed in God's image and he is moldable!!!

We are to take this child and discipline him, dedicate him, we are to narrow his ways, his course of life, his very manner so that he is a man of character.

**Dcl: Men, I really have only one point to make this morning.**

**That is that we dedicate ourselves to molding our children to be models of Christlike determination.**

We can do this.

Il: Cupesi, Agarrobo, 'Taco. Prodigal Son and these husks.

Explain its use in Valley region of Andes for storing corn.

Peasant farmer forms it little by little through the years so it will be useful. This doesn't happen automatically. He makes a concerted effort over a period of years. He gives it constant attention until it takes on a new form, a new nature similar to the old but different enough to make it functional. He trains it to be more useful.

Apl: Let's make this effort men. You need to be determined to do this for God's glory, for your children.

If we had been doing this for the last 2 generations do you realize that we would have maybe 10 times the number of missionaries on the field that we do now because many more would have stayed. We'd have more men in our pulpits. More faithful Christians in our churches. A far more godly society. It's a big job/ministry but if we dedicate ourselves to the Lord to accomplish this, if we take heed then God will be glorified and He will honor our efforts.

*Lance, "Bud," is a genuine Yooper, born and raised in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. His family has been involved in "back country" church planting since 1982. The Lord has used the Raders to establish 5 churches in the Bolivian Andes, with a couple more works in progress. In addition to church planting, they are involved in a Bible institute, aviation ministry, orphanage, Bible camp and a hands-on missionary training program. He met his wife, Karen, at Northland Baptist Bible College and God has blessed them with 6 children, several of which are serving the Lord as missionaries.*