



Pastor's Perspective – Proverbs 22:6

By Dr. Ron D. Lindholm, Senior Pastor

The difficult task of parenting is sometimes made more difficult when we naively buy into the popular misconceptions that surround Proverbs 22:6—like the one which would have us believe it's a promise that if we train our children well in the ways of the Lord, then no matter what happens in the volatile teenage or young adult years, they will eventually follow the Lord and embrace a godly lifestyle. But what I would tell you is that while the verse expresses hope, it makes no promise.

Proverbs 22:6 is a proverb—and the nature of a proverb is that it sets forth a general truth in a memorable way.

An example of a popular proverb, not from the Bible, is: “An apple a day keeps the doctor away.” When we use it, we don't actually believe that eating an apple every day guarantees excellent health. But we do believe that, in general, healthy eating contributes to physical health.

In the same way, biblical proverbs contain general truths, but not promises. The general truth of Proverbs 22:6 is that if a parent works hard to train their children to live a godly lifestyle, then it's likely that the children will continue to walk in those ways throughout their lives. What parents need to

understand from Proverbs 22:6, is that they need to be devoted to teaching their children to live moral and godly lives.

Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it.
~Proverbs 22:6

It also needs to be said that training involves more than instruction—it includes living out before our children, daily, lives that honor the Lord. It includes giving our children practice and correction to help them learn the godly lifestyle. These things require dedication on the part of

parents. In fact, properly understood, the whole focus of this proverb is on the parent, not the child.

It's generally true that a child raised by godly parents to live a godly life will embrace that life and live it out, but it's not a guarantee. There are many children who have bought into the ways of the world and no longer follow the Lord, though they were raised well by godly parents. The book of Proverbs speaks to this as well. But this specific proverb challenges parents to raise their children for the Lord and offers hope that the probable outcome will be glorious.

So as one parent to another, let me encourage you to fully embrace your responsibility and to prayerfully entrust the results to God.

One Year Later – Praising God for His Goodness and Grace

By Dr. Ron Wasserstein

One year ago, Sherry and I received the message we were waiting for. At 5:15 PM on April 29, 2014, we received these words: “We have Abner's visa in hand. You are all set to travel.” Peterson's visa had been received months before, but an inexplicable delay in Abner's had held up the proceedings. Twelve hours later, we were on the way to DCA for a flight to Haiti via Miami. Forty-eight hours later, we were through immigration in Miami and en route back to DCA with our two boys.

You, our wonderful church family, prayed over us before we went, and have held us up in prayer ever since. Though you see us all the time, Sherry and I

owe you a report on how things are going.

The first word that comes to mind is “humbling.” We are humbled by our lack of wisdom and our own selfishness. We see that the things we ask the boys to do — to trust us, though we are not their natural parents, to obey us, even when it is hard to do, and to love us, knowing the sacrifices we make for them — are the very things the Lord asks of us. He seeks our trust as His adopted children. We have strived never to give Peterson and Abner reason to distrust us, yet they struggle to trust. Our Father has never been anything but trustworthy, yet new challenges

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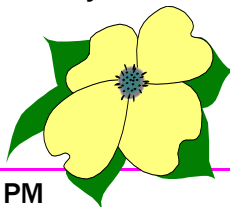
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sometimes lead us to doubt. When we ask the boys to obey us, we ask it because we know that it is for their best. With pure motives and in perfect righteousness God seeks our obedience, yet how often like children we say "I don't have to obey you." Most of all, our Father deserves our love, because He sacrificed His only Son on our behalf. Does anything say "I love you" more clearly? Yet how often our love is tentative or tepid, so it is not surprising that our boys are still trying to sort out what it means to love Mom and Dad.

There is another important word that describes year one: "wonderful." We are so happy with our boys, with the progress they've made, with their desire to make the best of things. We have a kind of life in our home that we've never experienced — including dance moves not seen in a thousand generations of Wassersteins! Because of the boys, we have contacts in our community we would not otherwise have. Please pray we will be able to be ambassadors for Christ in these many new relationships we have.

Our goal in raising these boys is to follow the example of how He loves and raises His children. Their special needs are requiring new ways of thinking for us, and your prayers that we would seek our Lord's wisdom and follow Him in obedience are eagerly sought.

You helped us start this journey in prayer. We implore you to continue to hold us up before the throne of grace. We cannot succeed in our own strength. Thank you all, and please join us in praising God for His goodness.



May Calendar

May 6	Fellowship Dinner, 6:30 PM
May 7	National Day of Prayer
May 9	Mother's Day Breakfast 9:00 AM
May 12	Nursing Home Ministry, 2:00 PM
May 14	ESL Class party, 8:00 PM
May 17	Awana Award Ceremony, 6:00 PM
May 23	Spy Museum and Cookout (Youth Outing)
May 26	Memorial Day Lunch (No PM Ministries)
June 6	Spring Festival, 12:00 - 4:00 PM

Ministries Plan Year-End Events

Our school year ESL classes and Awana program come to a close this month. On Thursday, May 14, ESL will have their Year-End Party at 8:00 PM and on Sunday, May 17, Awana will have their Award Ceremony at 6:00 PM.

The entire congregation is invited to both events. Even if you have not been a part of either of these ministries, the year-end parties give us an opportunity to meet and encourage many who do not usually attend services here.

Annual Festival Volunteers Needed

Our Spring Festival is just around the corner. This labor-intensive outreach ministry is Saturday, June 6, and there is a job for anyone who is willing to help. From cake baking to manning booths, from cooking hotdogs to sharing the Gospel, from playing games to giving a friendly smile, the Festival is our way of telling the neighbors they are welcome at our church and that we have Good News!



Please contact Brian Platt to tell him how you would like to be involved.

Money Matters

April Giving Per Week (General Fund)	\$4,656
Weekly Need	\$4,933
Year-to-Date General Fund Giving	\$79,133
Year-to-Date General Fund Need	\$83,861

2015 Bible Memory Project

May Verse

A good name is more desirable than great riches; to be esteemed is better than silver and gold.
Proverbs 22:1



Fellowship Baptist Church

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