THE EPOCH TIMES LIFE TRADITION

Pastor Greg Laurie's
Message for Tough Times:

'Turn Your
Panic Into
Prayer'

Greg Laurie is a sonior
pastor of Harvast
Christian Fellowship.

Evangelical leader stresses personal relationship with God-and compassionate outreach to others who are hurting



Laurie at a Harvest open house.

MAUREEN MACKEY

astor Greg Laurie of Harvest Christian Fellowship has long ministered to the faithful. He has been holding his well-known evangelical events, called Harvest Crusades, for more than 30 years on campuses in California and Hawaii, and he has a strong online presence as well.

Today, especially, when so many Americans are suffering through extremely challenging times as a result of the coronavirus, this dedicated faith leader says we must turn to God above all else and remain focused on our personal relationship with him.

"Our faith is so important at this time in our culture," he said, "and it seems that, more than ever today, even nonbelievers are asking spiritual questions."

He noted that, because of COVID-19 lock-downs and limits, instances of depression, suicide, and drug use are up, and marriages are unraveling. "We've never been through a time like this that I can recall, certainly not in my lifetime," he said.



People ...
need others
who care
about them,
someone to
say to them:
'You know,
you are loved.
Your life
matters. I care
about you.'

Greg Laurie

'Best of Times, Worst of Times'

But Laurie, speaking in his clear and resonant voice, points to the silver lining for all.

"Remember the opening line of 'A Tale of Two Cities,' 'It was the best of times, it was the worst of times'? Well, in many ways, that is the case today," he said. "It's very bad times right now, yes, but there are good things happening as well. We find that when God closes one door, he then opens another."

Laurie and his fellow ministry leaders had to, quite literally, close the doors of their church for a number of weeks last year due to COVID-19.

"Then we went outside to the big tent on our campus in Riverside [in California] and in our parking structure at Harvest in Orange County. And we've been having services there. But what also happened is that we found a brand-new audience online," he said. "Where we would have, on average, perhaps 9,000 people watch our service online in pre-COVID times, now

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US HISTORY

Time Machine Books: The Story of Our Past

JEFF MINICK

In February, I was browsing the shelves of our local secondhand bookstore, looking for birthday gifts for two grandchildren, when I came across Hermann Hagedorn's "The Book of Courage." This 90-year-old collection of biographies for young people salutes luminaries as diverse as Clara Barton, Daniel Boone, David Livingstone, Mahatma Gandhi, and Queen Elizabeth I.

Here, too, are figures our culture

has canceled or derided in the past decade, men such as Andrew Jackson, Robert E. Lee, and Abraham Lincoln. The years and the fingers of earlier generations have left this volume tattered and worn, but for \$5, it was still a bargain. Today it sits on my "grandkids' shelf" in the living room, awaiting new explorers of the past.

Frequently, readers write me asking for book recommendations for students, particularly those having to do with history. Despite "cancel culture," we can still find excellent

accounts of our nation's past for young people. Here are some of my personal favorites, books I read as a child, shared with my children, or discovered from other sources, and which can supplement your study of American history.

Elementary School

"A Child's First History of American History" by Earl Schenck Miers seems a fine narrative history for readers 8 to 12 years old.

Continued on Page 2



"History is who we are and why we are the way we are," wrote author and historian David McCullough.

ALL PHOTOS COURTESY OF SHELLY SHEPHER

Time Machine Books: The Story of Our Past

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The history runs from the days when the Vikings came to North America up to the mid-20th century. Though I have never read the book in its entirety, homeschool book reviewer Cathy Duffy urges readers to buy it in the hardcover edition "because you will probably want to hold onto it forever."

DK Publishing puts out the "Eyewitness" books and other works on American history, many of which can be enjoyed by primary grade children. Even my 3-year-old grandson enjoys the pictures in the Eyewitness books on cowboys, the American Revolution, and the Civil War.

Boyhood Favorites

Some of my favorites books as a youngster were those found in the "Childhood of Famous Americans" series. Suitable for readers in grades 3 through 6, these biographies tell the stories of the early years of famous Americans, and then, in the last chapter, relate their accomplishments as adults. Biographies of Amelia Earhart, Henry Ford, Ronald Reagan, and some 40 other men and women remain in print.

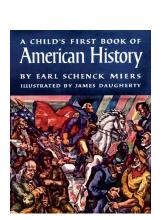
Despite 'cancel culture,' we can still find excellent accounts of our nation's past for young people.

Other favorites of my boyhood were Holling C. Holling's stories of our past. In "Minn of the Mississippi," for example, which I still own, a snapping turtle, Minn, floats down America's longest river, and we accompany it, learning science and history along the way. Also at home on my bookshelf is Holling's "Tree in the Trail," which focuses on a cottonwood tree and through its history tells the story of the Great Plains and the Santa Fe Trail. These books are appropriate for upper-elementary and middle school

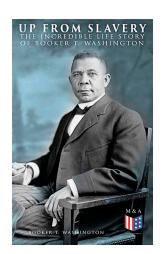
Genevieve Foster's "World" books might also enhance your children's study of American history. In volumes such as "George Washington's World," "Abraham Lincoln's World," and "The World of William Penn," Foster explores not only the lives of such historical personages, but also spends time introducing the young to the era in which they lived. Students ages 8 and up should find these biographies chock-full of information, and even adults might learn from them.

Textbooks for Teens

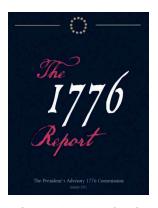
Depending on the reading abilities of your teenagers, they can find plenty of solid histories for their edification and enjoyment. Google "classical American history books



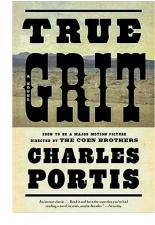
"A Child's First History of American History" by Earl Schenck Miers.



"Up From Slavery" by Booker T. Washington.



"The 1776 Report" by The President's Advisory 1776 Commission.



"True Grit" by Charles



Novels based on historical events are a great way to explore the past.

for teens," and you'll find several textbooks available that might provide excellent overviews of American history. I've read "A Patriot's History of the United States" by Larry Schweikart and Michael Allen; I used Paul Johnson's "A History of the American People" as a text for my Advanced Placement U.S. history class; and I have raved to friends and in reviews about Wilfred M. McClay's "Land of Hope: An Invitation to the Great American Story" and the workbook that accompanies it. All of these books offer a balanced account of our American past. If you are considering using one of them as a textbook, I would highly recommend "Land of Hope."

Let me suggest as well including "The 1776 Report" in your home studies of America. It's a fine summation of our story.

Famous Lives, Great Events

Biography is an excellent vehicle for teaching our teenagers about the past.

When I was teaching, my students read autobiographies such as Booker T. Washington's "Up From Slavery" and Louis L'Amour's "Education of a Wandering Man," which offers an excellent look at that writer's reading habits and adventures during the Depression. Older students studied the early life of Theodore Roosevelt in David McCullough's "Mornings on Horseback" and read his biography of John Adams as well

Students might also explore historians such as Stephen Ambrose, whose books such as "Undaunted Courage: Meriwether Lewis, Thomas Jefferson, and the Opening of the American West" and "Citizen Soldiers" deservedly became bestsellers. Here I would highly recommend making an expedition to your public library, introduce your teens to the American history section, and spend some time browsing with them. There you should find a large number of good, interesting books on the history of our nation.

Historical Fiction

Novels based on actual events are another

wonderful way to explore the past. Here are just a few suggestions.

Esther Forbes's "Johnny Tremain" recreates Boston just before the American Revolution. Michael Shaara's "The Killer Angels" vividly recounts the Battle of Gettysburg, a novel in which Schaara brings characters like Robert E. Lee and Joshua Chamberlain to life on the page. An earlier novelist, Kenneth Roberts, did the same for Colonial America and the Revolution in stories such as "Rabble in Arms" and "Arundel." In "True Grit," author Charles Portis introduces us to Mattie, a girl determined to avenge the murder of her father and who embodies the Code of the Old West. Betty Smith's "A Tree Grows in Brooklyn," another book read by some of my students, transports the reader to immigrant life in that borough at the turn of the 20th century.

Loving the Past

Many complain today of the widespread ignorance of so many Americans regarding their heritage. We blame their education, and perhaps rightly so, but if we fail to teach that past, we are responsible as well.

With all the resources available—we've only reviewed a fraction of them here, and we haven't even looked at the many fine movies about the past—we have little excuse for our failure to hand on our culture to the next generation.

David McCullough once wrote that "history is who we are and why we are the way

If we learn some history, we'll know who

Jeff Minick has four children and a growing platoon of grandchildren. For 20 years, he taught history, literature, and Latin to seminars of homeschooling students in Asheville, N.C. He is the author of two novels—"Amanda Bell" and "Dust on Their Wings," and two works of nonfiction, "Learning as I Go" and "Movies Make the Man." Today, he lives and writes in Front Royal, Va. See JeffMinick. com to follow his blog.

Week 11, 2021 THE EPOCH TIMES

Bomb Survivor Double-Amputee Aims for 2021 Paralympic Games

LOUISE BEVAN

Nearly 16 years ago, a baby girl survived an explosion when her impoverished birth parents detonated a bomb inside their home in Vietnam. She lived but lost her legs.

After being adopted by a loving family from the United States, Haven Faith Shepherd, an inspiring double-amputee swimming star in the making, has found ways to own her identity.

As an advocate and a hopeful paralympic swimmer, Haven takes joy and pride in being an amputee.

"It is what makes me ... me," she said in her story she submitted to Love What

"I was supposed to die that night, and I almost did. I was found 30 feet away from the destroyed, flaming hut, mangled and burned with shrapnel in my head and tiny, little body. I know this from the scars I still have today."

Haven, born Do Thi Thuy Phuong, was just 16 months old when her desperate parents set off a bomb inside their tiny, thatch-roofed hut in Vietnam's Quang Nam province on July 19, 2004. Haven doesn't remember the explosion, nor does she know why the bomb went off. Her parents died in the blast.

"I've had to piece together my story from things told to my adoptive parents, newspaper articles translated from Vietnamese, and later interviews done with my biological grandparents," Haven wrote.

The media reported that Haven's father lied about having another family, was kicked out by Haven's birth mother, and returned vengeful, with a bomb. Her grandparents told a different story of hopeless lovers believing a murder/suicide was "the only way they could be together forever.'



Haven with her adoptive mother Shelly Shepherd.

One thing my mom told all of us over and over is: **Your sport is something** you do. It's not who you are. You always need to have a grasp on who you really are.

Haven Faith Shepherd

Haven said that she was rushed to a hospital by her grandmother; the medics amputated Haven's legs beneath the knee. Too poor to pay the bills, Haven's grandparents accepted donations to keep the baby girl in the hospital for a total of 38 days.

A New Family

Overseas, Shelly and Rob Shepherd of Carthage, Missouri, were thinking of adding to their brood of six biological children. Reading about Haven's horrific ordeal in the news, Shelly's heart was set on helping.

Working with their close friends' organization, Touch a Life Foundation, the couple flew to Vietnam and brought Haven back to the United States on a medical visa. The Shepherds adopted her, giving Haven four older sisters and two older brothers.

"I became a part of the most amazing family," Haven wrote. "I was taught to embrace my differences, along with pursuing my destiny, with everything I had.

"They didn't just teach their adopted disabled child these things because I was a 'miracle.' They taught and expected these things from all their children because we were all 'miracles!""

Haven's siblings were all budding athletes. Encouraged to pursue her dreams despite her disability, 7-year-old Haven got running blades and tried track, but running was painful, she recalled. At 10, Haven changed lanes and tried competitive swimming. She loved it.

"I was hooked," she wrote. "I could take off my prosthetics and move freely in the water without anyone's help, or any piece of equipment."

At the age of 12, Haven was put on the USA Paralympic Emerging team. As her athletic star burned brighter, opportunities for advocacy work and educating young people about diversity and disabil-



Shepherd hopes to qualify for the 2021 Paralympic Games in Tokyo should they proceed as scheduled.

ity also presented themselves. Haven also began modeling and doing some motivational speaking.

Haven said her mother encouraged her when she briefly struggled with the pressure to perform, fearing her failure might discourage all those people who had put their hopes in her.

"One thing [my mom] told all of us over and over is: 'Your sport is something you do. It's not who you are. You always need to have a grasp on who you really are. That way when you fail at what you do, you will have a firm foundation to land on."

Haven learned never to see herself as a victim; she knew she was living an amaz-

"I have met the most amazing people with amazing stories, because let's face it, everyone has a story," she reflected. "I have traveled to other countries, and I have gotten to share my story with thousands of young people. ... I am so thankful."

At 17, Haven chronicles her life on her Instagram page, @HavenFaithShepherd. She hopes to qualify for the 2021 Paralympic Games in Tokyo, Japan, should they go ahead. Her swimming coach, Shawn Klosterman, is behind her every step of

It's a far cry from her tragic start in life. "As the saying goes, the rest is history ... although I'm just 17 and have a lot more history to make!" she said.

"It's a lot of pressure saying you're a miracle, but I guess I am."

Mihaela Noroc: Capturing the Beauty of Motherhood

JENNI JULANDER

One remarkable photographer is capturing the beauty and wonder of motherhood—along with the hearts of those who see her photos—by taking some extraor dinary portraits of mother and child from all parts of the world.

Mihaela Noroc, a Romanian photographer, is known for her book "Atlas of Beauty," which features her photographs of 500 women from more than 50 different countries, which she took while backpacking across the globe.

Her latest collection now focuses on the bond between mothers and children from a rich spectrum of cultures throughout the world—from Kathmandu in Nepal, to Peru's Andes Mountains, to New York City.

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Noroc said of the bond between mother and child: "There's always an intimate chemistry between them. And there's always so much beauty and kindness in these special moments."

It was during her travels that the photographer noticed something unique about mothers in every country.

"There are so many differences between the cultures of the world when it comes to raising a baby. The way a newborn is fed, carried, or educated is never the same," she said. "But what's [most] similar all over the world is the intense love of a mother," she said.

Before long, she realized that she wanted to capture this "universal feeling" in her photography. Her collection of photographs, from six

continents and 28 countries, celebrates the deep love between mother and child. Through these photos, Mihaela says

she hopes to prove that a mother's love

knows no bounds, and that it prevails ev-



told me: 'We are resting after a long day at work."" Amsterdam



and her son Alex." Andes



erywhere in the world

"I think the mother's love is the most intense feeling that exists," she said. "And we must talk more about it; we must show it more often in mass media because it can be a cure for all the hate and negativity that surrounds us today."

Mihaela added that her own journey of motherhood also served as an inspiration. This particular project has helped her grow

closer to her daughter Natalia, who has traveled the world with her for the past two years.

"Traveling with my little daughter in all corners of the world is both challenging and amazing," she said. "There are [many] more stories waiting to be discovered, and now, as a mother, I feel an even stronger desire to bring my small contribution in making this world a better place for future generations."

mother and

Kathmandu.

PARENTING

Tackling Chores, Teaching Humility

ANNIE HOLMQUIST

Years ago, one of my little sister's least favorite jobs was sweeping the kitchen floor. Although the kitchen was small, the chore would take her forever, and she would often sit there amidst the scattered chairs, broom in one direction, dustpan in another, particles of dust and crumbs trickling into an attempted pile.

Suddenly, however, this forlorn picture was transformed. Although young, my little sister soon became one of the best sweepers. I'd also venture to say that this chore became one of her favorites. What changed?

One day, our dad—likely when my sister was sitting amidst a pile of scattered dust and crumbs—came up to her and walked her through the chore, teaching her to methodically go over each floorboard.

That simple training, parent with child, side-by-side, doing a chore together, turned that miserable job into something my sister, young as she was, could be quite successful at. That same tactic is one that Michaeleen Doucleff recommends in a recent article

Doucleff is the author of "Hunt, Gather, Parent," a new book that looks at other cultures and examines the ways in which they raise children to be helpful, uncomplaining laborers in the journey of life. One of the main tricks to raising children in such a way, Doucleff says, is to have them do the same chores their parent is doing at the same time.

Such a task, while it sounds easy, isn't, for getting children involved in an adult's work is both messy and time-consuming. Yet if parents want to take the easy way out and do everything themselves, they are programming their child to lose interest and later complain when asked to pull their share of the load around the house.

But in doing so, parents aren't only training their children to be lazy at home; they are also training them to be less successful at life in general. That point is one made by Julie Lythcott-Haims in "How to Raise an Adult." Citing research by family education professor Marilynn Rossman, Lythcott-

Haims explains that success in later life is directly related to childhood chores, for "those who were most 'successful' began doing chores at three to four years of age, whereas those who waited until their teen years to start doing chores were comparatively less successful."

So why are children who learn to do chores early on more successful at life in general? I would suggest it's because chores not only teach life skills, but because they teach humility as well.

time to train

children to do

long-lasting

Family physician and author Dr. Leonard Sax makes such a claim in his book "The Collapse of Parenting," saying that kids who are let off the hook when it comes their chores has to chores get the idea that they "are too important to do menial tasks." This "unintended message puffs up the bloated selfesteem that now characterizes many

American kids," Sax explains. In reflecting on his comments, however, I started thinking. Our children may get too puffed up when we don't train them to do chores ... but is it possible we aren't training them because of our own prideful, selfabsorbed mentalities?

As the NPR article suggests, we neglect teaching our children these things because

it takes more of our time to train them, and even then, the chores aren't always done up to our standards. We want our houses to look good to others, so dishes or vacuuming done by a child still learning the task might not make the house as presentable as we would like. Likewise, we claim we don't have time to

too busy with work, or helping on a school committee, or organizing an event at church, or orchestrating the community garage sale. These activities are public-facing and can make us feel like we're Taking the

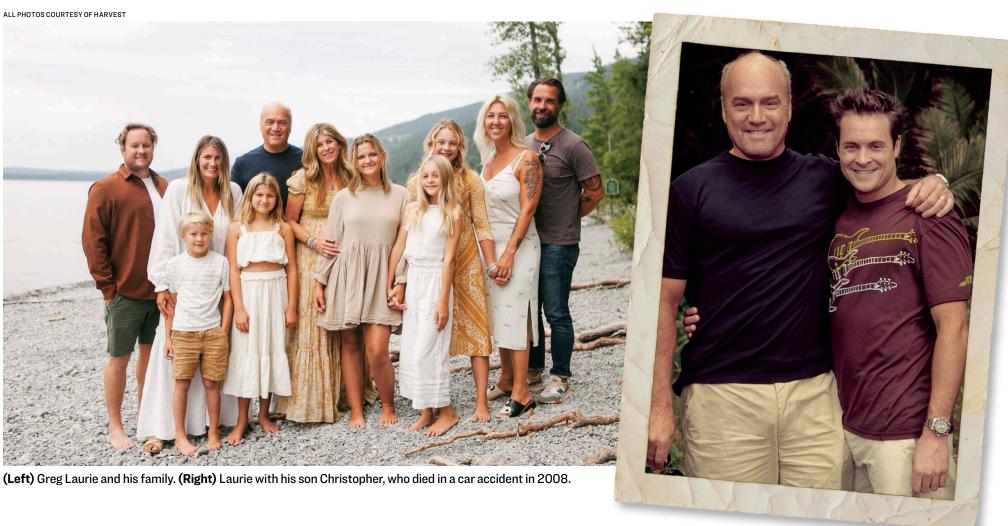
teach our children these tasks because we're

But what if we adjusted our perspective, recognizing that our children are the most important things in the world? If we pause to remember that children are a parent's legacy, then the

accomplishing a lot of good.

time we spend training them, while time-consuming and not always initially rewarding—perhaps even humbling—will eventually reap a huge return on investment as we see our children turn into responsible, successful, and hard-working adults.

Annie Holmquist is the editor of Intellectual Takeout. This article was originally published on Intellectual Takeout.



Pastor Greg Laurie's Message for Tough Times:

'Turn Your Panic Into Prayer'

Pastor Greg Laurie at a Glance

- Born Dec. 10, 1952
- Born in Long Beach, Calif.
- Became a devout Christian at age 17 and led his first Bible study at age 19
- Began holding largescale evangelical events, known as Harvest Crusades, in 1990
- · Launched Harvest America in 2012, which uses the internet to simulcast live HD video to thousands of Harvest Crusades have also been held across
- Served as honorary chairman of the National Day of Prayer in 2013

the globe

- · Has been married to his wife. Cathe Laurie, for over 40 years
- Has two sons, Christopher and Jonathan, and five grandchildren



Greg Laurie in New York in August 2018.

Continued from Page 1

it's about 400,000 people who are watching. And we're having thousands of people come to faith in Christ."

Last year alone, he noted, some 150,000 people made a profession of faith to follow Jesus through the Harvest ministry.

"So this is the open door," Laurie said. "While COVID has brought so many bad things, there are some good things to keep in mind as well. People are spending a lot more time at home with family. That's a good thing. It's also challenging for all of us. But we need to remember that we have a relationship with God. And we shouldn't worry. Instead, pray to God. The Bible says: 'Don't worry about anything. Pray about everything and God will give you His peace, which surpasses human understanding.'

into prayer. Turn your worry into worship. And look to God, who will give you a time like this that I can the strength to get through what we're all going through together.

"With so many people spending so much time on their phones and tablets and screens in general—there is a whole new Greg Laurie audience to reach, and people are coming back to God."

Laurie shared the history of his Harvest Christian Fellowship ministry with The Epoch Times. "For 31 years, we've been doing our stadium events, our Harvest Crusades. And for the first year in our history, we couldn't hold them because of COVID. So we did what we called a cinematic crusade. We created 'A Rush of Hope.' We took the elements of a crusade and put them into this film—that way, we've reached more going through. But there was Immanuel. people than we would have reached in a And that meant leaning into my faith. And usual stadium event. Oh my goodness, it I'll be honest with you: If God did not come was an audience of perhaps 2.5 million people—maybe more—who have viewed have given up preaching. I needed God. He it so far. Then a huge number—20,000-plus helped me. And now I've been preaching people—made a commitment to follow

The faith leader urged all of us, no matter where we live or work, or what our station in life might be, to reach out to others—and to share faith. "There may be neighbors, or grief in his life." family members, or coworkers, or friends, that you've tried to have spiritual conversations with before that haven't gone all that well. Now, all of a sudden, they may be coming to you with problems they're facing, or challenges, or a sense of despair or depression. We can point them to God. There is a God who cares about them."

He noted that many young people who have been isolated from their friends and communities especially need our attention and care. "People need personal interaction. They need communication and friends. They need others who care about them, someone to say to them: 'You know, you are loved. Your life matters. I care about you.' So I think this is a great moment for believers and the church in general to step

'A Deeper Compassion for Others'

Laurie experienced great tragedy in his life

when he lost one of his children—his firstborn son, Christopher—in a car accident in 2008. He doesn't shy away from discussing the grief and the pain that he and his family went through due to that tragedy and still are going through—but he comes back, again and again, to the blessings of Jesus Christ.

"When our son died in an automobile accident 13 years ago now, our life changed forever. It changed permanently," he said. "We grieved then, and we still grieve now. But the Bible says we don't have to grieve hopelessly. We have hope—and as believers, we know we will see our loved ones again if they've died in faith. And my son was a strong believer in Jesus Christ, so I don't grieve hopelessly. I grieve hopefully.

"So I encourage people: Turn your panic We've never been through recall, certainly not in my lifetime.

"Yes, I still miss him, and I mourn himand that's an important process we have to go through when we've lost a loved one, because communication is now cut off, and so many dreams and aspirations and hopes that you had are shattered. But we believe, as Christians, in the afterlife—and we believe that there will be opportunities to have more conversations, more adven-

tures, more time together in the future." He also realized early on that "there was no manual to get me through what I was through for me during that time, I would for almost 50 years."

When his son died, he said, "it wasn't like I was a pastor dealing with it; I was a father dealing with it—a father like any other father who experiences loss and pain and

"And I know that God the Father understands what it's like to lose a son. And He was with me, and He is with me—and He helped me through it and helps me through it today, as I know He will in the future, too.

"The experience has given me a deeper compassion for others who have lost loved ones, especially children. I know that sense of devastation that people experience when they hear the worst news imaginable."

Laurie says he takes the time to reach out to those who are suffering "to talk to them. They're dealing with the same pain. And I can help comfort them because I myself have been comforted."

The most important thing, when offering compassion and help to another person, isn't to try to explain tragedies or offer to "fix" the situation, he said, since no one can "fix" it. Instead, it's best to simply say, "I'm

sorry. I love you. I'm here for you." "Just be there with the person. Walk with that person. Be present," he said.

"The good news is, God has not forgotten us. He is always there for us. He says in Scripture, 'You are calling me and I will answer and do wonderful things for you.' Sometimes, when you're on your back, the only way you can look is up. So, look to the Lord and call upon Him-He's there, and He will help you and encourage you."

In addition to his ministry work, Laurie is the prolific author of more than 70 books. His latest book, published in September 2020, is "World Changers: How God Uses Ordinary People to Do Extraordinary

"It's about how God can use you to change your world," he said. "I ask the question, 'Are you a thermostat or a thermometer?' A thermometer tells you what the temperature in the room—but a thermostat sets the temperature. So my question is, Are you a world changer, or is the world changing you? I base the book on the great men and vomen of the Old Testament who took bold steps of faith—and how that made all the

They were very "flawed people who made a lot of mistakes and sinned," he added. But it was their faith that motivated them to make a difference.

Billy Graham

Laurie also has a new book due out in April about the life of the great evangelist Billy Graham, called "Billy Graham: The Man

"I wanted to introduce Billy to a whole new generation, to younger people who have heard his name but may not have known the role he played in our culture. He was a pastor to every president from Truman to Trump—and he shared the Gospel with more people than any other man in human history," Laurie said.



Laurie with evangelist Billy Graham.

Laurie knew Graham personally. "I've been on his board of directors, at his request, for 25 years, and I spent a lot of time with him privately," he said. "It was my privilege to learn evangelism as taught by the greatest evangelist who ever lived. But what I show in the book is the human side of Billy—and what you discover, as you get to know him, as I did, is that the private Billy was even more impressive than the public Billy. He was a humble, gracious, caring guy, and the most godly man I've ever met. So I wanted to share my stories and insights."

Maureen Mackey is a digital content executive, writer, and editor based in the New York City area.

'What We Do in Life Echoes in Eternity:' Embracing the Arena

JEFF MINICK

THE EPOCH TIMES Week 11, 2021

"Nothing in life," Winston Churchill once wrote, "is so exhilarating as to be shot at without result."

Though I'm a Churchill fan, and though no one's ever shot at me with or without result, here I must disagree with him. Falling in love, and having that person love you, is surely exhilarating. An inheritance of a couple million dollars or a big-time winning lottery ticket might also induce euphoria. As for me, escaping death three times in as many years certainly proved exhilarating.

Doe and Heart

A little more than two years ago, I was driving from North Carolina home to Virginia on I-81 at 74 miles per hour when a deer appeared out of nowhere and smashed into the side of my car. Both the car and the poor doe were totaled. Although at another point in my life I might have cursed this piece of ill luck, this time I stepped from my totaled vehicle and silently thanked whatever powers that be for my salvation. Had that deer struck my Honda Accord a split-second earlier, she would undoubtedly have broken through the window shield, separating my body from my soul.

All of us. whatever we do, however long we live, however insignificant our deeds, leave a footprint.

Last September, I had planned a trip back to North Carolina. I had cleaned the house, packed my luggage in the car, and was 20 miles into the trip when I pulled from the interstate into the parking lot of a gas station in Woodstock, Virginia. For a couple of weeks, I had suffered an aching in the left side of my chest, a pressure I'd ignored—I'm often a fool in such matters.

At any rate, I sat for five minutes in the car, contemplating the pain, which seemed worse, and then ordered the fool temporarily banished. I drove back to Front Royal's urgent care center, fearing the whole way I might drop dead from heart failure. After the staff had administered various tests, including an EKG and a blood pressure check, the doctor informed me I was suffering from costochondritis, an inflammation of the upper rib cage. He prescribed some cheap medication, and I left that clinic with a spring in my step and a smile on my face.

Visit to the ER

In mid-February came the latest travail. Not only had the inflammation returned, but my heart rate and blood pressure had both accelerated, like some race car shooting out of the starting post. Encouraged by two friends, and by the readings from a blood pressure cuff I'd purchased earlier, off I drove once again to the urgent care center. A nurse listened to my complaints, and then advised me to go to the emergency room at our local hospital.

For the next five hours, I lay on a gurney in a room without books or magazines. An attendant gave me the remote control to the television, but I haven't watched TV in years and didn't intend to start then. The cubicles around me, rooms with porous walls and in some cases curtains rather than doors, provided some diversion. One man across the way complained of excruciating back pain, a young woman vividly described her suffering from kidney stones, and a poor child in the next room spent three hours crying, whimpering, and intermittently throwing up.

My bed faced the hallway, and as I watched the sick and wounded pass my door, I thought what a sad parade of humanity they made, and even sadder, that I was a member of that parade. I pondered the stupidities I had practiced in my lifetime—smoking at times, drinking too much wine and other spirits, failing to exercise these past two years—and thought, "Well, whatever's coming down the pike, you have no one to blame but yourself."

Then once again came the reprieve. The doctor recommended I notify my family physician about the incident and my symptoms, which I had already done, and then ask him whether I needed to begin taking medication to reduce my blood pressure. Otherwise, I was good to go. Once again came a feeling of exhalation.

On arriving home, had it not been for the melting snow and patches of water on the ground, I might have dropped to my knees and kissed the earth.

Lessons Learned

Many of my readers, I am certain, have undergone similar experiences, times when an

illness or an accident might have killed or maimed them. Once averted, these disasters can act as teachers for us, reminding us of the preciousness of life and leading us to see the world through a new pair of glasses.

Many of us, for example, may fall more fiercely in love with the world. Life is short, and all too often we fail to appreciate it. We get so wrapped up in obligations and duties that we overlook beauty: a sunset, the smile of a child, the laughter of a young stranger at the next table in the coffee shop. In the past 10 years or so, I've gotten better at appreciating the little things, but the deer and the two health care visitations underscored my need to find even more time for such diversions.

Those five hours in that hospital bed with out diversions also made me think of those I cared for or loved. Some of them, I am confident, would miss me were I to hit the dirt rather than sticking around for as long as possible. My daughter and my friend John have already told me they'd be angry with me for failing to take better care of myself. It's past time to reform some of my habits and aim for longevity. Plus, I have promised a beloved and adventurous 8-year-old granddaughter that when she turns 21 we'll have a wild party.

Finally, I told myself I needed to get my personal affairs in order. If I were to die suddenly, I would leave behind a huge mess for my children. Bank accounts, life insurance, the phone numbers and emails of friends, funeral arrangements, a will: all these need to be recorded in an orderly fashion, and I will soon have in hand a workbook that will help me in this endeavor.

Gladiator

The morning after my latest adventure, and for no particular reason, the movie "Gladiator" popped to mind. Ridley Scott's film contains some memorable lines about death, and three in particular seem appropriate here.

At one point, Maximus, a Roman general enslaved and forced to fight as a gladiator, says of his mentor, Marcus Aurelius, "I knew a man who once said, 'Death smiles at us all. All we can do is smile back."

To be afraid of death, which comes to us all, seems to me a fruitless enterprise. I do fear a prolonged fatal illness, one that would make my hours on that gurney look like a stroll in the park, but regarding death itself, I find myself in agreement with a remark made by Giovanni Falcone, the Sicilian prosecutor and hero murdered in 1992 by the Mafia: "He who doesn't fear death dies only once."

"When a man sees his end, he wants to know there was some purpose to his life." So says Marcus Aurelius to Maximus, and the emperor then questions his own purpose and how others will remember him.

Those words set me to thinking. What has been the purpose of my own life? Why am I here? What is the meaning of my life and how will others think of me when I am gone? Big questions, and I continue to mull over

the answers.

In the Arena

As Maximus prepares to lead his men into

battle against the Germans, he says to them,

I believe this to be true. All of us, what-

ever we do, however long we live, however

insignificant our deeds, leave a footprint.

That now-unknown Roman foot soldier

in the legions of Marcus Aurelius may

"What we do in life echoes in eternity."

his generosity and humility. His was but a tiny ripple in the big pond of history, but a ripple nonetheless.

That line from "Gladiator" then led me to recollect Theodore Roosevelt's "Man in the Arena" speech. Here is the core of that address:

"It is not the critic who counts; not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles, or where the doer of deeds could have done them better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood; who strives valiantly; who errs, who comes short again and again, because there is no effort without error and shortcoming; but who does actually strive to do the deeds; who knows great enthusiasms, the great devotions; who spends himself in a worthy cause; who at the best knows in the end the triumph of high achievement, and who at the worst, if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who

Every day, I see men and women who enter that arena, who rise from their beds and assume their responsibilities. They go to work, raise children, and perform a thou-

These people along with heroes from history and literature inspire me to enter that arena as well, no matter my advancing years, to stay engaged and in love with life. Like the aged Ulysses in Tennyson's poem, I have been "made weak by time and fate," but must push myself, as must we all, "to strive, to seek, to find, and not to yield."

Jeff Minick has four children and a growing platoon of grandchildren. For 20 years, he taught history, literature, and Latin to seminars of homeschooling students in Asheville, N.C. He is the author of two novels, "Amanda Bell" and "Dust on Their Wings," and two works of nonfiction, "Learning as I Go" and "Movies Make The Man." Today, he lives and writes in Front Royal, Va. See JeffMinick.com to follow his blog.



The speech by

popularly known

"Citizenship in a

as "Man in the

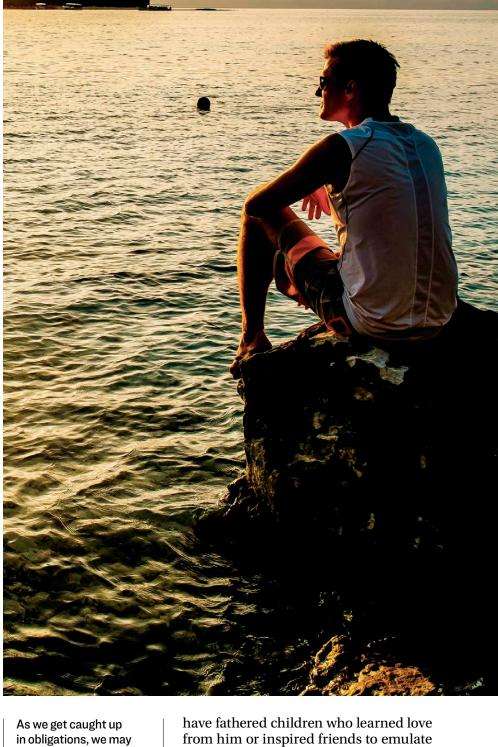
Theodore Roosevelt,

Arena," was entitled

Republic," and given at

the Sorbonne in Paris

on April 23, 1910.



The Age of Postman

JOSHUA CHARLES

hen I was 19, I read a book that would forever change my life. It was Neil Postman's "Amusing Ourselves to Death." Though published in 1985, with each passing year, its insights have become more and more relevant and ominous.

Postman contends the following: Electronic media is dumbing us down, transforming our dialogue into mere forms of entertainment driven by profit rather than substance, which in turn prevents us from not only speaking like adults, but even thinking like one. He traces this phenomenon in the realm of politics, religion, and education.

The introduction makes his terrifyingly prophetic thesis plain:

"We were keeping our eye on 1984. When the year came and the prophecy didn't, thoughtful Americans sang softly in praise of themselves. The roots of liberal democracy had held. Wherever else the terror had happened, we, at least, had not been visited by Orwellian nightmares.

But we had forgotten that alongside Orwell's dark vision, there was another—slightly older, slightly less well known, equally chilling: Aldous Huxley's Brave New World. Contrary to common belief even among the educated, Huxley and Orwell did not prophesy the same thing. Orwell warns that we will be overcome by an externally imposed oppression. But in Huxley's vision, no Big Brother is required to deprive people of their autonomy, maturity and history. As he saw it, people will come to love their oppression, to adore the technologies that undo their capacities to think.

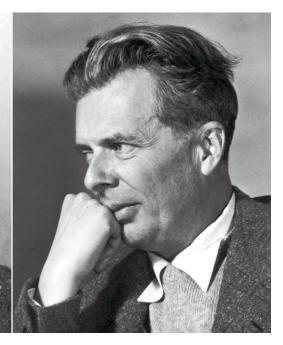
What Orwell feared were those who would ban books. What Huxley feared was that there would be no reason to ban a book, for there would be no

It is thus a great twist of irony that perhaps never before has America been so inundated with information and at the same time

so bereft of

wisdom.

In "Amusing Ourselves to Death, author Neil Postman asserted that people were more oppressed by their addiction to amusement, as reflected in "Brave New World" by Aldous Huxley (R), rather than by the state, as portrayed in "1984" by George Orwell (L).



feared those who would deprive us of information. Huxley feared those who would give us so much that we would be reduced to passivity and egoism. Orwell feared that the truth would be concealed from us. Huxley feared the truth would be drowned in a sea of irrelevance. Orwell feared we would become a captive culture. Huxley feared we would become a trivial culture. ... In 1984, Huxley added, people are controlled by inflicting pain. In Brave New World, they are controlled by inflicting pleasure. In short, Orwell feared that what we hate will ruin us. Huxley feared that what we love will ruin us. This book is about the possibility that Huxley, not Orwell, was right."

one who wanted to read one. Orwell

How can we read these words—surrounded by the ruins of a bankrupt and exhausted

culture—and not conclude that, in Postman's words, we have become "a trivial culture," and are thus well on our way to becoming a captive one? The Founding Fathers made two things exceptionally clear: For a society to remain free, its citizens must be both virtuous and

knowledgeable. Freedom can't be main-

tained by a society full of passion but de-

void of reason. And this is precisely why our politics has gone insane, and constantly extends itself deeper and deeper into our daily lives: We, as a culture, don't hold these values in high

esteem. We denigrate them. We don't value the pursuit of truth (do we even believe it exists?); we value the self-reinforcing echo chambers of our own creation. We don't value knowledge; we value talking points and tweets (self-reinforcing, of

We don't value the self-control of virtue; we value the unrelenting narcissism of uninhibited self-expression and actualization. We don't value history, and all the treasures of the human experience available for our training and growing in wisdom; we value anything new, fresh, hip, and contemporary that will satisfy our moment-tomoment desires and inexhaustible supplies

We don't value substance, depth, and rationality; we value whatever can be sold, marketed, and peddled with glitz, glamor,

And all of these tendencies, in the "Age of Postman," are now being used against us, to undo our capacity to think, and thereby dissolve our society which was always dependent on a thoughtful, informed citizenry to survive.

It's thus a great twist of irony that perhaps never before has America been so inunused for many years, social media trans- and insidious than we realized. forms adults into children with their own enthusiastic consent. This is exactly what Postman predicted: a time in which discourse would "abandon logic, reason, sequence, and rules of contradiction" in favor of mere entertainment. Aesthetically, Dadaism; philosophically, nihilism; and psychologically, schizophrenia.

And that is the great risk of a free society—that its people can become utterly corrupted, and that its government eventually, in one way or another, becomes a reflection of its people. Our politicians have obliged us, and in turn, we experience the bitter fruits of a populace dumbed down by a constant stream of external stimulation that requires zero mental exertion. It's overwhelmingly sensory, appealing merely to our passions and our baser nature—the parts we share with animals. And yet it's the mind that distinguishes man from animals. Its debasement, therefore, is a debasement of our most fundamental human nature.

Postman warned of how this is precisely the sort of thing tyrants of all ages have sought to achieve:

"Tyrants of all varieties have always known about the value of providing the masses with amusements as a means of pacifying discontent. But most of them could not have even hoped for a situation in which the masses would ignore that which does not amuse. That is why tyrants have always relied, and still do, on censorship. Censorship, after all, is the tribute tyrants pay to the assumption that a public knows the difference between serious discourse and entertainment—and cares. How delighted would be all the kings, czars, and führers of the past to know that censorship is not a necessity when all political discourse takes the form of a jest."

But we didn't need Postman to recognize this danger. We simply needed to heed the warnings of our founders. They told us that while the American experiment was special, we ourselves were not. We Americans are human beings, the same as all the rest. "We make ourselves popular," John Adams warned, "by telling our fellow-citizens that we have made discoveries, conceived inventions, and made improvements. We may boast that we are the chosen people, we may even thank God that we are not like other men. But, after all, it will be but flattery, and the delusion, the self-deceit of the Pharisee."

As I wrote in 2016, "To echo our Declaration of Independence—when a long train of trivialities and amusements, pursuing invariably the same object evinces an obsession with comfort, fun, and entertainment, it is the people's burden, their punishment, their harvest, to bear the affliction of a politics likewise made rotten and corrupt by their loss of moral health and intellectual energy."

Absent what Churchill in the 1930s called "a supreme recovery of moral health and dated with information and at the same vigor," a new age has dawned, or at least time so bereft of wisdom. In a phrase I've been consummated—one far more sinister Ours is the Age of Postman.

> Joshua Charles is a former White House speechwriter for Vice President Mike Pence, No. 1 New York Times bestselling author, historian, columnist, writer/ghostwriter, and public speaker. Follow him on Twitter @ JoshuaTCharles or see JoshuaTCharles.com





(Above) The Royal Chapel of the Trinity was built during King Francis I's reign (1515-1547). The chapel connects to the Francis I Gallery. (Left) Since the reign of King Henry IV, in the late 16th century, carp have been in the pond at the Château de Fontainebleau

LARGER THAN LIFE: ART THAT INSPIRES US THROUGH THE AGES

The Heart of the French Renaissance: Château de Fontainebleau

The art and architecture of the Château de Louis VII built a hunting lodge and chapel Fontainebleau in France influenced the evolution of art not only in France but also across Europe.

From the 12th to the 19th century, the kings and queens of France lived at the Château de Fontainebleau. First, King on the site. Then in the 13th century, King Louis IX (St. Louis) transformed the lodge into a château.

In the 16th century, King Francis I had the grand vision to make a "New Rome" on the site. He commissioned the best French

architects and craftsmen, as well as Italians such as the painter Francesco Primaticcio and sculptor Benvenuto Cellini. These great artists combined the best of Italian and French art to create a style called the School of Fontainebleau. And it was this

Italian art influence that made a lasting

impact on French Renaissance art. Other notable works at the site included when Louis XIV commissioned French

landscape architect André Le Nôtre to redesign the gardens, resulting in the elegant grand parterre, the formal ornamental







(Left) In 1808, Napoleon converted the king's bedchamber into a throne room. Today, the room is the last Napoleonic throne room in existence. (Middle) Oak-paneled pillars with fluted pilasters are some of the stunning features in the ballroom. (Right) The Francis I Gallery shows remarkable Renaissance craftsmanship, the extravagance of which France had not seen before. In this gallery, carved wood paneling and stucco blocks with rolled leather motifs dominate the space, and magnificent sculptures frame the frescoes.

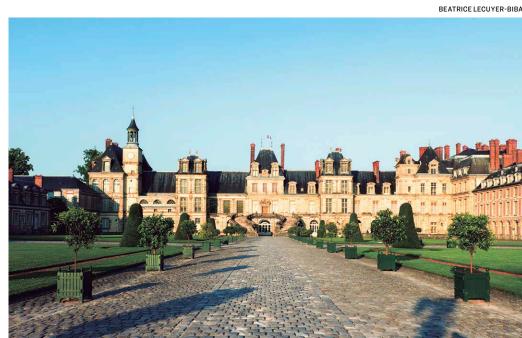






(Left) Anne of Austria's bedroom at the Château de Fontainebleau when she was queen of France, first as the wife of Louis XIII and then as the regent queen for their son, Louis XIV. (Middle) Successive queens of France, from Marie de Medici to Marie Antoinette, once slept in the empress's bedchamber, which is lavishly decorated with symbols of fertility and femininity. (Right) The council chamber at the Château de Fontainebleau.





(Left) Louis XIV commissioned landscape architect André Le Nôtre and architect Louis Le Vau to create the Château de Fontainebleau's Grand Parterre. The elegant formal gardens were created between 1660 and 1664 and cover around 35 acres. (Right) The Court of Honor is the main courtyard at the Château de Fontainebleau and faces out to the town of Fontainebleau.

Bring Back Real Romance and Love to Your Life

→ Advice from our readers to our young people

Dear Next Generation:

You have been witnessing a cheap, dollar store version of love in our current culture. From TV shows to music to popular magazines—what is portrayed looks like the most fantastic love, but in the end, it's only a fantasy. It isn't real. The quality of our lives is based upon the quality of our relationships. There are ways to have quality, romantic, loving relations with people, but it isn't what they are selling in Hollywood—those are dollar store relations that are cheap, come apart at the seams, and they don't last very long.

Real love is patient. It takes time. A gardener plants a seed, waters the soil, pulls the weeds, and waits for the fruit to grow and ripen. If he picks the fruit before it is ready, it's hard and sour and not good for eating. Patience.

When you fall in love with someone and Until you say "I do" in the public arena, cost. It will cost you physically and emo-

you are not an authentic husband or wife, you are pretending.

I have seen some pretty good ceramic fruit in my day. It's pretty to look at, but you can't eat fake fruit, no matter how attractive it looks. Bringing back real love and romance requires patience and integrity. You will be much happier in your relationships if you don't play a role you haven't signed on for. Being the husband who sacrifices and puts his life on the line to protect his wife, and being a woman who desires to love and care for her husband in tender moments are the scenes of the romantic movies we watch. We yearn to live like that.

Real love is patient. It takes time.

For quite a while now, the culture has espoused "free love." Love anyone, anywhere, anytime—whatever makes you decide to move in together, you are essenfeel good. Sex is what they are selling tially picking the fruit before it's ready to and who doesn't love free stuff? Even free come off the vine. You are acting like a hus- love! Well, like every good sales pitch, the band and a wife—sharing bills, moments, culture has left out some pretty valuable chores, meals, and a bed, but that's just it: information about the free love it's ped-You are acting like something you are not. dling. Love isn't free and sex does have a



A man helps a woman out of a car, circa 1935.

tionally. The quality of your life deteriorates as your body and your mind write the checks for this so-called free love. I could prove it to you by listing statistics like diseases, divorces, babies without stable homes, and depression, but statistics don't change people's minds. Thinking changes minds.

If you want a quality, romantic, loving relationship, it will cost you. Real love is never free. Just think about the best love relationships you have witnessed. The happiest couples are real husbands and wives, not just play-acting. They are patient with one another, they sacrifice their own needs to honor the other. The happiest couples have created a beautiful garden filled with delicious fruit that has grown over time. It certainly wasn't free. They paid a great price, but what they have is of the highest quality. You won't find this kind of love in the dollar store.

—Alyson Hudson, Florida

What advice would you like to give to the younger generations?

We call on all of our readers to share the timeless values that define right and wrong, and pass the torch, if you will, through your wisdom and hard-earned experience. We feel that the passing down of this wisdom has diminished over time, and that only with a strong moral foundation can future generations thrive.

Send your advice, along with your full name, state, and contact information to NextGeneration@epochtimes.com or mail it to:

Next Generation, The Epoch Times, 229 W. 28th St., Floor 7, New York, NY 10001

Making the Mundane Magnanimous

TRICIA FOWLER

innertime again in a typical house on a typical day in America. The mother's hands are elbow deep in dishwater when she hears a little gasp across the kitchen as her 6-year-old shuts the fridge. Mothers know these small but significant sounds. She turns to survey the damage while shutting off the water and listening for the overflow of boiling water from a simmering pot.

"What happened, honey?"

"Nothing," says the 6-year-old.

Mommy walks over and looks hard at the little one who is now bracing herself spread-eagled against the fridge as if all hell is about to break out.

Interruptions

When I had my first couple of children, scenes like this were still new to me and quite frankly, I didn't handle them well inwardly even if I may have handled them well outwardly. My children's mistakes left me feeling disrupted as if their upbringing wasn't my main purpose. I was unprepared for the unexpected. Life with children, of course, is a series of interruptions just as the sea is a series of waves. As parents, we either navigate each wave and ride it in with grace and poise, or we wipe out.

C. S. Lewis once stated this very eloquently: "The great thing, if one can, is to stop regarding all the unpleasant things as interruptions of one's 'own', or 'real' life. The truth is of course that what one calls the interruptions are precisely one's real life—the life God is sending one day by day."

I'm not certain that Lewis was speaking of parenting specifically when he said this, but it certainly does apply to all the "The disruptions caused by my children. Dozens of divinely appointed clashes between the true character of my children and the true character of myself. When the rubber meets the road, the true health of the home is revealed.

Full Attention

Taking inventory at intervals is good for parents and doesn't have to be a guilt-ridden process. We are all hopelessly flawed human beings so there will be temper flares, indolence, and indifference at times. Parents must never underestimate these seemingly insignificant moments and assume that some great school program, church group, or planned family time is going to train up a child in the way she should go.

We may believe we guide our children well because we have them in the right school, church group, or playdates. However, it's unrehearsed moments, the mun-

by Hugues

dane, that are critical for relationships and unpack a parent's most powerful weapon in training children: magnanimity.

To understand magnanimous parenting, look at its Latin roots. "Magnus," meaning "great," and "animus," meaning "spirit," are combined to portray a brave person who notices and studies the hearts of her children. This parent is generous not with money or possessions but with full attention to the details that are most critical; even as the full-tilt chaos of life with young people arises.

Mundane Moments

Some may not believe mundane moments have so much importance. In my earlier parenting years, the fridge mishap would have meant another mess to clean up and another way my child was failing. Now I ar wide awake and see the potential in these conversations. Knowing our children's hearts and specifically how they respond to our personalities should be our first and foremost goal as mothers and fathers.

the fridge, we can easily see what matters first and foremost. The mother can safely assume from the little gasp that an accident occurred. Parents should react as though an accident is different from willful disobedience. Discipline again changes accordingly for chronic carelessness, and of course, maturity. More importantly, the 6-year-old is trying

Attention is key. Using the story about

to hide something she sees as wrong. Hiding and lying are close cousins, which certainly is more concerning than any accident that could have occurred in the fridge. This child obviously knows her mother is aware of a problem yet persists in hiding it. This child has spontaneously revealed her tendency to distract this mother from the truth. Although the mother doesn't want to see her child hiding the truth, she is blessed. She has been given the opportunity to help her child turn from hiding and lying to transparency and truth.

Magnanimous Discipline

What if parents treasured up, planned for, and practiced executing discipline magnanimously during the times when their children don't act as expected? The children of our nation need strong, heroic parents like never before. Could it be so simple as distinguishing the important from the unimportant, and the urgent from the things that can wait? As parents take inventory, they should know that many activities and programs they trust to raise up the next generation, the parenting books, and the latest fad in child discipline are nothing compared to these magnanimous moments.

The mother looks down at the 6-yearold who is still bracing herself against the door. Concern about this child's character is front and center in the mother's mind. As the moment swells and the mother seizes it, the child is made accountable. The child understands that what matters isn't spilled milk but covering up truth. The child is held accountable by cleaning up the milk. The mother realizes that she has allowed her daughter to use distraction instead of facing weaknesses and failures head-on. Mommy rode this wave well and accessed what needed fixing in her own heart. Then she puts her hands back in the dishwater and smiles. She knows the 6-year-old will soon be 16, and the next wave could come any minute.

Tricia Fowler is a Christian homeschooling momma in the Midwest. She currently spends much of her time teaching math, feeding sourdough, and helping with whatever is in season on the hobby farm she shares with her husband and seven children.

EDUCATION

School Year Homestretch: 4 Things to Do Before It Wraps Up

BARBARA DANZA

Some of us have been homeschooling, some of us have been "virtual" schooling, some of us have been "hybrid" schooling, and a few of our children have actually enjoyed "in-person learning," to add to the list of terms we never needed before.

It has been a year colored with worry about physical health, mental health, "falling behind," and potentially "ruining the kids." So much worry.

But, wait—look out there just past spring break and a hair beyond Memorial Dayit's the finish line! We're almost there!

As you fling open your windows and enjoy the sights, sounds, and smells of spring, take a moment to reflect on this year. You may find there have been more lessons learned than you would have thought.

Review the Year

For example, you may realize that you did quite a bit of learning. Perhaps you find yourself more informed than ever before about your children's academic prowess and areas of interest. Who knew Johnny was a whiz at geometry? You have also likely learned a thing or two about your Lay Down Your Worries children's learning styles. Sally is a visual learner, while Mary is an auditory learner.

What's more, you may find yourself significantly more informed about the curriculum being offered at your children's

school. Perhaps the writing program is more robust than you realized. Perhaps you've been surprised to see what qualifies as history these days.

The information this forced situation has bestowed upon you is invaluable to you and your children. You'll be able to make more informed decisions about their schooling going forward and better help them or supplement their schooling as needed based on what you've learned. Take note and commit to staying involved in your child's educational journey.

Plan Next Year

This is a great time of year to think about next year. Many people have been considering homeschooling. Now's the time to make those plans. Continuing homeschoolers are likely gathering next year's curriculum and looking forward to more options for field trips (fingers crossed!).

Perhaps you'd like to look for different schooling options for your child based on your experience. If so, use the early springtime to nail down those details so they're in place by summertime.

As the year presses on, start letting go of the worries you may have been holding onto. It's understandable, of course, but you don't want to allow it to become a permanent fixture.



As the weather warms up, put some fun outings on your calendar.

C. S. Lewis

once stated

eloquently:

"The great

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things as

all the

can, is to stop

this very

This school year called for all the tools in the parenting toolbox. You've almost made it through.

Let the increased sunshine entice you and the kids outdoors. Consider whether you can get some fun day trips or outings on the calendar. Plan a simple celebration for the last day of school.

Do what you can to process, heal, let go, and find peace within your spirit to carry on without the shadow of worry looming so close.

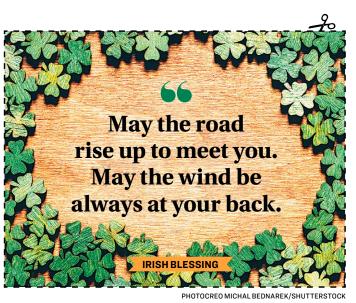
Pat Yourself on the Back

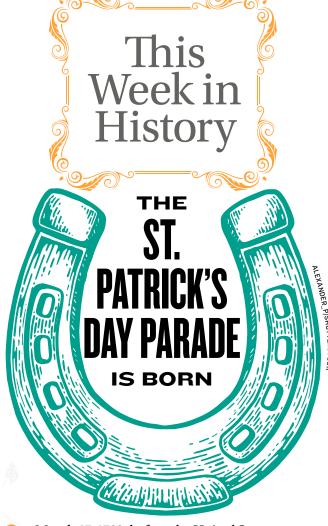
This school year called for all the tools in the parenting toolbox. You've almost made it through. Pat yourself on the back, and allow yourself a personal celebration by doing whatever you enjoy most. Congratulate your children for their valiant efforts in these most unusual circumstances. Make sure they know how proud you are of them. As for their teachers, whatever end of the year gift you usually give—double it.











n March 17, 1762, before the United States was even a country, New York held its first St. Patrick's Day Parade.

Those marching were colonists from Ireland who enjoyed the freedom to wear green (something they couldn't do in their home country at the time), sing the songs of their homeland, and revel in all things Ireland.

One of the most famous parades in the world, the tradition continues today—marching up New York's Fifth Avenue each year and culminating at St. Patrick's Cathedral.

By Aidan Danza, age 14



CATTLE

SHABBY DATWIN/SHUTTERSTOCK

Cattle, whether used for beef or milk, are the most important livestock in the country. Beef cattle comprise America's most important agricultural industry, generating \$66.2 billion in 2019 alone.

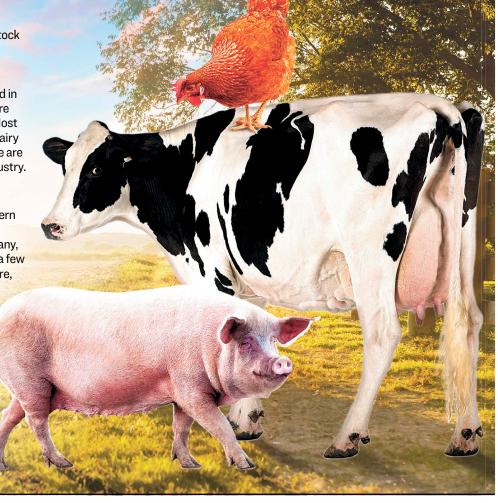
Other cattle, called dairy cows, are used for their milk, which is used in its raw form and made into various products like cheese. Since more people are eating these products, the dairy business is booming. Most dairy cattle are Holsteins, the classic black-and-white cow. Most dairy cow herds live on family farms, but in the beef cattle industry, there are many large cattle ranches making up a large percentage of the industry.

HOGS

Hogs are produced solely for pork. Many hogs live in Iowa and easterr North Carolina. In the past years, the pork industry has changed. It used to be that most companies producing pork were small and many, but now these have given way to larger establishments. There are a few different breeds of hog used in America. These include the Yorkshire, which is large, fat, and white, the Duroc, which is chestnut brown, grows quickly, and is very lean, and the Berkshire, which is very large. The Berkshire is black, with white feet, tail tip, and face.

CHICKENS

Chickens are used for both meat and eggs. Because of certain diet programs such as the keto diet and the paleo diet, which encourage the eating of eggs, many people in America are eating more eggs, causing the industry to boom. Also, chicken is regarded as a very healthy meat, and it's less expensive than other meats like steak and ribs. Most chickens reside in the southeastern United States





ously talked about

the large crops

The other large sector of

American agriculture is

another name for farm

animals. There are three

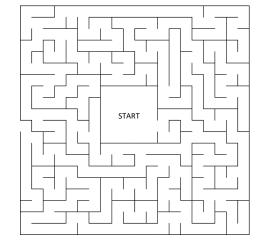
important animals in the

livestock industry: cattle, hogs, and chickens.

livestock. Livestock is just

can farms.

grown on Ameri-



USE THE FOUR NUMBERS IN THE CORNERS. AND THE OPERANDS (+, - AND X) to build an equation to get the solution in the middle. There may be more than one "unique" solution but, there may also be "equivalent" solutions. For example: 6 + (7 X 3) +1 = 28 and 1+ (7 X 3) + 6 = 28

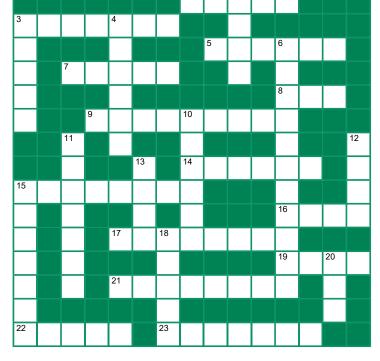


+ || - || × || ÷

01 - 41 × (E - 9)



30+2-3-5



3 The Easter ___ may visit! (5)

4 Shoot (6)

10 Kind of egg (6)

11 Another name for a raincoat (7)

12 A robin may build one in the Spring (4)

13 The early bird gets the ____ (4)

15 Arc of the covenant? (7) 18 Buds of onions, lilies, etc. (5)

20 April follower (3)

Across

R GALOSHES

W H D A A M

O M B R E L L A

What robin's eggs do in the Spring (5 What you will find on a cherry tree in the

spring (7)

7 In like a lion! (5)

5 Cottontail (6)

19 March goes out like a ____ (4)

14 It follows Winter (6)

17 Piece of rain gear (8)

15 Spring jacket (8)

21 Pair worn on a rainy day (8)

8 It will appear on a branch in the Spring (3) 22 Kite flying weather (5)

16 What snow does in the spring (4)

9 What a caterpillar turns into (9) 23 April ____ brings May flowers (7)

2 What happens outside in March (4) 6 They are born in the Spring (4,7)

THE EPOCH TIMES Week 11, 2021

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If you've seen big tech's conduct since the 2020 election, it's not hard to see how they're putting the gasoline on censorship.

After the violence on Jan. 6, they took down videos and photos, blocked or put warning labels on posts, and suspended accounts en masse.

What this has done is suppressed information, helping to shape a narrative that does not represent the full picture of what happened.

While this online censorship is not new, the pace and scale of it is, and we're afraid this is a trend that's going to continue.

We had multiple reporters and photographers

on the ground that day, taking photos and videos, getting interviews, and giving you timely updates on the events as they unfolded.

While we can't do anything about big tech's censorship, what we can do is to bring you more and better coverage of events like these.

To do this though, we need your support.



I urge everyone to financially support you to offset the demonetization efforts by YouTube. God bless!

In the overall state of media censorship and misinformation, The Epoch Times is a Godsend. My only sources for current events is The Epoch Times and your sister station NTD. Despite the big tech censorship from platforms like YouTube, I really enjoy watching your investigative presentations by Joshua Phillip as well as presentations by Roman Balmakov. Thank you for holding true to your motto, as it seems like Truth and Tradition are scarce commodities these days.

NICK MENDOZA

Because of the banning that Big
Tech is doing to a lot of people,
I would stay away from YouTube,
Facebook, Twitter and some of the
others. Go with free speech. I really
like that you're on Censored.news.
Keep up with the good work and
the true facts.

MARGIE MCMILLAN

I truly admire your courage in reporting the truth about what is happening in the U.S. and our world, and your defiance of the big tech censors in reporting on issues that concern millions of us, including election fraud and abuse of power by big tech. I urge everyone to financially support you to offset the demonetization efforts by YouTube. God bless!

RICHARD C

I have heard that The Epoch
Times YouTube channel has been
demonetized. Consider developing
a channel for media devices like
Roku. I believe the quality of your
content will make this successful
and would allow you to sell
advertising with (potentially) less
censorship from tech companies.

GEOFF BARNARD

I just signed up and love your news. So wonderful to read truth, not the lies and spin of MSM [mainstream media]. I am sorry you were demonetized by YouTube. You are patriots!

JULIE WIRTEL

I was discouraged to hear that YouTube is now trying to shut you down. That makes me all the more determined to support you as an independent media voice. I'm from Canada and there is virtually no independent media voice here. We even have mail delivery people refusing to deliver The Epoch Times, as if they're are somehow empowered to censor what views can be disseminated. Please keep up the amazing work you all do.

BOB HULLEY

We saw one of The Epoch Times' ads on YouTube about four months ago and subscribed. You got us through the election informed and sane, with coverage of what was happening we could find nowhere else. I have shamelessly re-posted your articles on my blog, forwarded to others information for which your reporters have done all the spadework and talked at least 3 other people into subscribing. Your \$1 offer is so ridiculously reasonable we are sending a contribution for your full subscription price to cover the last 4 months (and to make up for the demonetization/censorship). You're worth it!

JESSICA RENSHAW

Hope you guys hang strong after demonetization by YouTube. Epoch Times is awesome and [I] enjoy getting updates throughout the day.

HOWARD STEIN

Learn more at **EpochSubscription.com**

