

“A Treat For January”

On the 17th of this month we will have our second annual parenting conference. We are holding it in a way we hope and pray will maximize its impact—during Sunday morning. We have dedicated both the worship service and our adult Sunday School class time to the conference. Additionally, we will have a pot-luck followed by a Q and A time.

We have a treat for this year because our main speaker will be our AWANA missionary, Rick Hattan. Our church has known Rick for years and been aware of his passion for children. I have very quickly come to appreciate his heart and am excited to hear what he has for us that morning.

I encourage you between now and then to write down some questions you have wanted to ask someone about parenting. Rick, his wife (Fairy), my wife (Karen), and I will field questions during the Q and A time. What is more, we will have some fantastic parents among our congregation that day who will be able to give some great insight. Please don't miss this mini-conference which will be designed to equip moms and dads to raise their children to the glory of God.

Speaking of parenting, there are some parenting books we recently purchased for the church library I recommend you to check out and read.

The first is **BIG TRUTHS FOR YOUNG HEARTS: TEACH- ING AND LEARNING THE GREATNESS OF GOD** by Bruce A. Ware. Bruce is a first-rate theologian and author who compiled this book from discussions and lessons he put together for his own children. If you would like help instructing your elementary or jr. high children about God, you will find few tools to do this better. Check it out and read it with your children. Better yet, buy your own copy so you can have it for future reference.

RAISING A MODERN-DAY JOSEPH: A TIMELESS STRATEGY FOR GROWING GREAT KIDS by Larry Fowler (Executive director of global training for AWANA) uses the account of Joseph out of Genesis as a model for how to raise sons and daughters committed to Christ. It is a book showing how to raise youth who will keep their love for Him, retain their integrity—and all this in the midst of a hostile environment.

HOW TO RAISE A MODERN-DAY JOSEPH: A PRACTICAL GUIDE FOR GROWING GREAT KIDS by Linda Massey

Weddle is a sequel to Fowler's book and goes beyond the strategy to more details on the how-to's.

The final book is **NOT SO FAST: SLOW-DOWN SOLUTIONS FOR FRENZIED FAMILIES** by Ann Kroeker. This is a helpful, challenging, and very practical guide for how families can slow down and give their attention to those priorities to which God has called them, rather than losing themselves (and their Lord) in busy schedules.

These and other books we will highlight for you on January 17. Please pray for this mini-conference and come ready to see church families radically changed!

Tom