

News and Current Events :: Christian homeschoolers receive maximum jail time for death of child

Christian homeschoolers receive maximum jail time for death of child - posted by sermonindex (), on: 2013/11/5 15:23

In Washington state a Christian homeschooling couple received maximum prison sentences allowable under the law after being found guilty of beating and starving their adopted daughter to death in accord with Biblical based parenting techniques.

Superior Court Judge Susan Cook showed no mercy to Larry and Carri Williams, found guilty of causing the tragic death of their adopted daughter, Hana, by using Biblical based parenting techniques found in the controversial child-rearing book, To Train up a Child, by Michael and Debi Pearl.

Cook sentenced Carri Williams to 37 years in prison. Her husband Larry, convicted of lesser charges, was sentenced to just under 28 years. Both terms are well above the standard sentencing range. ...

read more: <http://www.examiner.com/article/christian-homeschoolers-receive-maximum-jail-time-for-death-of-child>

Re: Christian homeschoolers receive maximum jail time for death of child - posted by twayneb (), on: 2013/11/5 15:36

Very sad. But I can assure you that the Pearl's do not teach "beating and starving a child to death". I have been so very blessed by their teaching on child training.

Re: - posted by DEADn (), on: 2013/11/5 16:07

Beaten and starved. I don't really know who these authors are but I would seriously doubt they advocated beating and starving a kid. It sounds to me this couple got caught in a power control situation with their kid. How many people just ran away from God as a result of their actions?

John

Re: - posted by MaryJane, on: 2013/11/5 16:10

by twayneb on 2013/11/5 12:36:32

Very sad. But I can assure you that the Pearl's do not teach "beating and starving a child to death". I have been so very blessed by their teaching on child training.

I have read the book and had a very different response. I am not saying the authors advocate what happened but I don't agree with all the things they wrote either. In truth I ended up just throwing it in the trash. In my understanding some of the things advocated went way further than they should have especially concerning very young children.

Tragic situation

God bless
maryjane

Edit: again this was just my own experience with this book in particular I have not read other things by this couple and am not saying they advocated what happened in any way.

Re: - posted by sermonindex (), on: 2013/11/5 16:21

Quote:
-----Very sad. But I can assure you that the Pearl's do not teach "beating and starving a child to death". I have been so very blessed by their teaching on child training.

Yes the Pearl's are a godly couple and their ministry is good, it is just sad that this case will be setup against other home schoolers in the future. There is an agenda to stop saints to raise Godly children. May we stand strong and continue to teach our children the Word of God.

Re: , on: 2013/11/5 17:17

I have been blessed by their books and we should pray for them because you can see that a case is being manufactured against the Pearls. They have been very successful in training parents and teaching men to be men and the liberal forces do not like that.

Re: - posted by Heydave (), on: 2013/11/5 17:22

Obviously from the comments from folk who know the Pearl's ministry they are not advocating anything like what happened, but they are being made responsible for this terrible abuse and other similar cases.

Is there any truth in this statement in the news report? "To Train Up A Child advocates using a plumbing tool to beat children with starting at age one. The book also advocates giving children cold water baths, putting children outside in cold weather, and forcing them to miss meals, as well as beating them; all of which exemplifies the abuse investigators said Hana endured."

One thing I would say is that most intelligent parents can read books like this and come to their own godly conclusions about how to discipline their children in a sensible and loving way. However there will always be some who take what is written in an extreme and foolish way. This is why those who write to instruct others need to be very careful in what they write and how it could be taken.

We have the bible to instruct us in the basics of parenting and it is for each individual set of parents to interpret that in their own situation to their own unique children. Do we need anyone to give precise instructions as to how to do this in a blanket universal way? (rhetorical question).

Re: , on: 2013/11/5 17:40

HeyDave,

Everything is taken out of context and you know how the Liberal media handle things. A thin plastic tube is more akin to a "switch" (branch from tree) rather than a "plumbing tool".

It is not meant to be used to abuse someone but rather a "switch", such as a tree branch and it is to be used as one.

But, try explaining that to the media. The Pearls are correct in saying that you should never use your hand on children because your hand should be known as something loving and not something to be feared. Read the book and let me know what you think. Please don't listen to me or anyone else, without reading the book. It is small and inexpensive and full of wisdom but an evil heart will take everything to the extreme.

Re: Christian homeschoolers receive maximum jail time for death of child - posted by Jeremy221, on: 2013/11/5 21:25

Thanks for posting this.

When reading the article the tag line really struck me.

Quote:
-----For more news, information and humor relevant to atheists, freethinkers, and secular humanists

These people are skilled at manipulating language through the use of nuance. I find it interesting that the article doesn't actually discuss the cause of the daughter's death but is just a platform to attack the Pearls and "extremists Christians."

Re: Christian homeschoolers receive maximum jail time for death of child - posted by dolfan (), on: 2013/11/5 22:40

Without regard to any book, the other news outlets report that the husband in this couple actually said the wife DID abuse the girl and was responsible for the child's death. She said he knew what she was doing. I don't care what the book said, what these people DID was kill a child in cold blood. She was found face down, naked, outside, on a cold, rainy night. If you think that reasonable discipline involves that, Jesus is ready to fit you for your millstone.

Added:

This is from local news in Washington shortly after the child's death. This was abuse plain and simple and no one can reasonably say otherwise. Monstrous.

Hana, 13, was adopted from Ethiopia in 2008 by Larry and Carri Williams, of Sedro-Woolley.

She was regularly spanked and locked in a closet, and was forced to sleep in a barn and take garden-hose showers outside, according to an affidavit from the Skagit County Sheriff's Office. The affidavit was based on information from the couple's six natural children, another adopted child, medical experts and other family and friends. The interviews were conducted by detectives and investigators from the state's Child Protective Services.

In 2009, Hana weighed 108 pounds, but over the past two years of her life, she lost 30 pounds, largely because her parents denied her food as punishment, the affidavit says. She was so thin she couldn't retain enough heat May 12, the night she died. She had been outside with no clothes and died of hypothermia, an autopsy found.

On the backs of her legs were marks consistent with being beaten earlier in the day, the affidavit alleges.

According to the investigators, the Williamses were familiar with the Pearls and had given a copy of their book to an acquaintance.

Larry Williams, 47, a Boeing worker, told sheriff's detectives the children were disciplined with a piece of white plastic more than a foot long. It had a round ball on the end, and he said he had picked it up at a plumbing-supply store.

On Sept. 29, after four months of investigation, the Williamses were charged with homicide by abuse. They were also charged with assault for allegedly torturing Hana's adopted brother, 10, also from Ethiopia.

The couple are free on bail. If convicted, they face life terms in prison.

All but one of the Williams children have been placed with relatives or foster parents, CPS says. The eldest, now 18, is back home.

The Williamses, through their attorneys, declined to comment for this article.

Rachel Forde, who represents Larry Williams, said in an email: "Just because the government makes an accusation doesn't mean it's true. ... Once the jury hears the evidence, unfiltered by the prosecutor's lens, we believe that a much different picture will emerge about the lives of the Williams children and Hana's tragic death."

After Hana died, Michael Pearl issued a statement.

"We share in the sadness over the tragic death of Hana Williams," he said. "What her parents allegedly did is diametrically opposed to the philosophy of No Greater Joy Ministries and what is taught in the book, 'To Train Up a Child.' "

No Greater Joy Ministries is the name of the business the Pearls run in Pleasantville, Tenn.

If the Williamses had a copy of the book, Pearl said, they either didn't read it or "totally ignored its contents."

Re: Christian homeschoolers receive maximum jail time for death of child - posted by savannah, on: 2013/11/6 3:34

For the record, I begin by stating unequivocally that this couple stands guilty as charged. No blame-shifting ought to be allowed by any means.

That said, the book noted which is in question, is certainly not a book Christians ought to take instruction from in regard to child training.

The following is an excerpt from Tim Challies on, "(How Not) To Train Up a Child" :

What Pearl refers to as training can as easily be labeled conditioning. In fact, his training perfectly fits Miriam-Webster's definition of conditioning: "A simple form of learning involving the formation, strengthening, or weakening of an association between a stimulus and a response." Meanwhile Pearl says, "Training doesn't necessarily require that the trainee be capable of reason; even mice and rats can be trained to respond to stimuli. Careful training can make a dog perfectly obedient. If a seeing-eye dog can be trained to reliably lead a blind man through the dangers of city streets, shouldn't a parent expect more out of an intelligent child?" Between the book's introduction and first chapter, Pearl has compared children with mice, rats, horses, mules and dogs. This shows that he advocates no moral dimension to his training; rather, he advocates a technique that will bring about instant obedience of the mind and body without reference to the heart. The problem, of course, is that children are not animals and are far more complex and spiritual than animals.

Most Christians have understood Proverbs 22:6 to include a moral dimension, moral training that will in turn lead to behavior training. Yet Pearl believes the exact opposite, that it demands only behavior modification which will later lead to moral improvement. To understand why, we need to look to his understanding of human nature. This is where we really begin to see how his underlying theology shapes his child-raising technique; this is where we begin to see that his theology is probably very, very different from your own.

It would do all of us well to read his review in its entirety. As well as his review of another book by Michael's wife Debi entitled "Created To Be His Help Meet".

I myself have more than one copy of each of these books. I refuse to loan or recommend them to anyone. I only keep them for reference.

May some be helped by this post and spared from these teachings set forth in said books.

Re: - posted by MaryJane, on: 2013/11/6 7:36

by savannah on 2013/11/6 0:34:12

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I read the review posted on the site of both books and was stunned. I have read train up a child and did not like it, the method they spoke of would never work with two of my sons and I thank GOD HE allowed me to see and understand that. I have never read the second book "created to be His help meet" but was really shocked by the things posted as being said in it. Since you have read the book I was wondering was this review exaggerated at all? IF accurate, How could some of that advice given ever be considered Biblical???

God bless
mj

Edit: Just to clarify the questions I was asking were concerning the second book mentioned "created to be His help meet" and not the other. Did not mean to go off topic though.

Re: , on: 2013/11/6 8:02

Quote:
-----by Jeremy221 on 2013/11/5 21:25:33

Thanks for posting this.

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Amen.

Funny how people don't realize that God's "chastening" can be viewed as "conditioning", too. God does not spare the rod on those He loves, does He? Sometimes, it is pretty severe and the world accuses God of abuse all the time.

"Do not be mocked, whatever a man sows he shall reap".

The Pearls should not be on trial here because they do not teach abuse. Is everything they teach perfect? No, of course not. Any other Christian author who teaches not to spare the rod could have been used in this story and besmirched. Remember, the Pearls by their own admission are teaching technique, not a 'thus sayeth the Lord'. People need to use their own minds and like MaryJane figure out if it will work for their kids.

It would be good to hear from Michael and Debbie's kids.

Re: Christian homeschoolers receive maximum jail time for death of child, on: 2013/11/6 13:08

The government, lawyers and the media have stated that there is a connection between the death of children and the teachings of Michael and Debi Pearl on disciplining children. I think we should at least carefully examine our own heart, the Scriptures and ensure we are in the Father's perfect will in regard to how we raise and discipline our children.

Even in the last Godly Home series teaching preached by Denny Kenaston in 2003, who both Denny and the Charity fellowships have also been influenced by the Pearl's teachings, stated that you cannot have a Godly Home without the Holy Spirit. He made it very clear that you must be filled with the Holy Spirit to raise and discipline children.

"For the letter killeth, but the Spirit giveth life" (2 Cor. 3:6).

Therefore, the point is not to follow man, but the leading of God the Holy Spirit and the Word of God. If we follow God's teachings on raising and disciplining children without the LIFE of the Spirit then what will be the outcome? "The letter killeth."

"They who heard it said, 'Then who can be saved?' But He said, 'The things that are impossible with people are possible with God' (Luke 18: 26-27).

Re: - posted by PaulWest (), on: 2013/11/6 13:28

Quote:
----- There is an agenda to stop saints to raise Godly children. May we stand strong and continue to teach our children the Word of God
.

This is so very true brother. I remember when my wife and I disclosed to my mother we were planning on homeschooling our two children. She got so angry, she couldn't even talk to us anymore. The sudden change in her character was astonishing.