



Missions Minded - the Bakers

In May, Derek and Jenny Baker—our missionaries to the Yukon—spent the day at Canaan Bible Chapel. In the morning service Louise Long, president of the Ladies' Auxiliary, presented the Bakers with a quilt made by the group. Derek and Jenny both told how just living among the people of Teslin and being active in the community gives them many openings to talk about the Gospel and be an example of a Christian. They have seen growth in Teslin in many ways, including a new radio station and church.



Jenny & Derek Baker with Dawson and Emilie

Using the story of Philip and the Ethiopian from Acts 8, Derek talked about how there are opportunities for us to share Christ everywhere. There are people who desire to know God because they know something is missing in their lives. When we are willing, the Holy Spirit leads and works in us making things possible that seem impossible otherwise. We can be the one who delivers the good news to those who are seeking.

Derek described how the Spirit prompted him to give his personal testimony to a man he was working along side, even though it appeared this man was a Christian. As it turns out, the man was very "religious" but did not know that Jesus paid for his sin. In another instance, the Holy Spirit led a store owner to check his warehouse behind the store—something he rarely did. Finding nothing, he returned to work. The next morning, upon opening the store, he again felt the impulse to check his warehouse—only to find a burst water pipe. "Sometimes," noted Derek, "the Spirit tests us the first time just to see if we are willing to follow."

Thank You, Lord!

"And it shall come to pass that before they call, I will answer, and while they are yet speaking, I will hear." Isaiah 65:24

From The Study

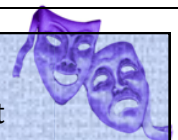
by Pastor Crispell



This month, we celebrate Father's Day. To some, it means another new tie or other appropriate item. To others, it is a special day of getting together with family for a picnic. But to some it is a time of regret as they are reminded of past failures in their fathering. As fathers, we have all failed at times; however, there is a difference between having failed at times in the fathering process and being a failure as a father. Ephesians 6:4 says, "And, ye fathers provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord." Colossians 3:21 says we should not provoke our children, "lest they be discouraged." Provocation is usually negative: **provoke not** — irritate not, by vexatious commands, unreasonable blame, and uncertain temper. But Hebrews 10:24 uses it in a positive way: "And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works." Fathers, let us motivate our children in this direction by emphasizing the positive." **Nurture** (Greek, "discipline,") namely, *training* by chastening in *act* where needed; **admonition**: training by *words of the Lord* such as the Lord approves, and by His Spirit dictates. I would encourage all of us fathers by our words and actions to be actively involved in our children's lives, and by the grace of God hear a well-deserved "Happy Fathers Day."

Do, Re, Mi

Academy Spring Rally Delivers a Hit



On May 6, under the direction of Betsy Black, Canaan Christian Academy treated guests to an outstanding performance of The Sound of Music. From Captain Von Trapp and Maria to Sister Margarita and Rolf, and all the Von Trapp children, the vocals, costumes and characters delighted the audience with the display of talent that could easily pass for professional. Reviews included a call for two performances next year.



Kay Black (L) and Ashlea Swingle



Shawn Beals and Delia Scotch and the "Von Trapp Children."



Nick Chupick (Rolf) and Bekah Misiura (Liesl)

Meet The Shaffers

Lois and I grew up in South Canaan so I knew who she was from a very early age. In 1942 I worked for a carpenter who was building a barn for her father so I saw her playing about the yard as we worked, but it was not until 1946 after I was discharged from the US Army and I returned home that she really got my attention. I attended our church's Young People's Meeting and when, after singing a song, the piano player swiveled around and faced the group that I turned to the fellow next to me and said, "Who is that?" He said, "That is Lois Miller". I filed that away for future reference.

At my first opportunity I approached her after a meeting



Lois and Ron Shaffer

and asked if I could take her home. She hesitated and said, "I will have to ask my brother." He did not object and so we renewed our acquaintance. One week followed another and seeing each other became more or less regular. In 1948 we became engaged. But our plans needed to be adjusted. Lois had to complete her education, and her mother's serious accident caused delays. At the same time, I had decisions to make. My eligibility under the GI Bill was going to expire if I did not enroll in college. I liked my job, but could I turn down the college opportunity? I started college in January 1950 and we were married that May.

We spent some years in New York City, then moved to northern New Jersey. In 1962 we moved to southern New Jersey and I began my 25 years of school teaching. Upon my retirement in 1987 we moved back to PA into the house where Lois had been born and have enjoyed our years back in the land of Canaan.

Our son, Bob, and his wife, JoAnne, live in southern PA. Our daughter, Pat, and her husband, Dale, live in Sugarland, TX. Our son, Gary, and his wife, Susan, live in NJ. We have six grandchildren.

Do you have an idea for a story in The Canaan Connection?

Contact Sharon Van Alstine (svan11@verizon.net) or Jerry Birmelin (birmelin@socantel.net). We are always looking for news about our church family and events.

Famous Fathers in the Bible¹

Being a father doesn't mean you have to be perfect. Look at these famous fathers and what they teach us:

Adam - The First Man: As the first man and first human father, Adam had no example to follow except God. He faltered on that, plunging the world into sin. He also had to deal with the tragedy of his son Cain murdering his other son, Abel. Adam has much to teach today's fathers about the consequences of our actions and the absolute necessity of obeying God.

Noah - A Righteous Man: Noah stands out among fathers in the Bible as a man who clung to God in spite of the wickedness all around him. What could be more relevant to today? Noah was far from perfect, but he was humble and protective of his family. He bravely carried out the task God assigned to him. Modern fathers may often feel they are in a thankless role, but God is always pleased by their devotion.

Abraham - Father of a Nation! What could be more frightening than being the father of an entire nation? That was the mission God gave Abraham. He was a leader with tremendous faith, passing one of the most difficult tests God ever gave a man. Abraham made mistakes when he relied on himself instead of God. Still, he embodied qualities that any father would be wise to develop.

Isaac - Son of Abraham: Many fathers feel intimidated trying to follow in the footsteps of their own father. Isaac must have felt that way. His father Abraham was such an outstanding leader that Isaac could have gone wrong. He could have resented his father for offering him as a sacrifice, yet Isaac was an obedient son. From Abraham he learned the invaluable lesson of trusting God. That made Isaac one of the most favored fathers in the Bible.

Jacob, Father of 12 Tribes of Israel: Jacob was a schemer who tried to work his own way instead of trusting God. With the help of his mother Rebekah, he stole his twin brother Esau's birthright. Jacob fathered 12 sons who founded the 12 tribes of Israel. As a father, however, he favored his son Joseph, causing jealousy among the other brothers. The lesson from Jacob's life is that God works with our obedience and in spite of our disobedience to make his plan come to pass.

Joseph, Father of Jesus: Surely one of the most underrated fathers in the Bible was Joseph, the foster father of Jesus Christ. He went to great pains to protect his wife Mary and their baby, then saw to Jesus' education and needs as he was growing up. Joseph taught Jesus the carpentry trade. The Bible calls Joseph a righteous man, and Jesus must have loved his guardian for his quiet strength, honesty, and kindness.

¹Fathers in the Bible

By [Jack Zavada](#), About.com Contributing Writer