

## Quotations about “Parents”

*“Fathers and mothers, do not forget that children learn more by the eye than they do by the ear... Imitation is a far stronger principle with children than memory. What they see has a much stronger effect on their minds than what they are told.”*

- J.C. Ryle -

*“You didn't have a choice about the parents you inherited, but you do have a choice about the kind of parent you will be.”*

- Marian Wright Edelman -

*“One of the greatest titles in the world is parent, and one of the biggest blessings in the world is to have parents to call mom and dad.”* - Jim DeMint -

### August Birthdays

4 Noah Perales	18 Keith Lovelady
6 Gigi Zamarripa	25 Pat Limburg
12 Debbie Hoffman	

### August Anniversaries

2 Buddy & Dolly Cashion    12 Barrett & Rhea Hoffman

#### Regular Meeting Times

Sunday.....9:45 a.m.  
Sunday.....10:45 a.m.  
Sunday.....6:00 p.m.  
Wednesday.....7:00 p.m.

**Preacher:**  
Mike McKnight

#### Church of Christ

81-377 Ave 46  
Indio, CA 92201  
(760) 342-1859

(Address Service Requested)

# Indio Informer

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“Just like me...”

## Bat-Cipher and Yokes

(from Houseto.com)

The selection process that Rabbis used to choose their disciples is interesting. At age 6, children began learning the Torah. This training was called Bat-cipher. From 8 to 10, they had to learn the Torah by heart (memorize Genesis - Deuteronomy). At the end of Bat-cipher, most children went to learn their family trade, but the best of the best advanced to the next level. The ones with the most natural ability then memorized Genesis to Malachi. After this, the best of the best of the best applied to a rabbi to become his disciple. A disciple did not just want to know what his rabbi knew, he wanted to be like his rabbi, and do what his rabbi did. Each rabbi had a different set of interpretations, which was called a rabbi's yoke. When one applied to a rabbi, he grilled the applicant. The rabbi wanted to know if this disciple could do what the rabbi did: Can he spread my yoke? After the rabbi grilled the child, he might say, “You love God and know the Torah, but you are not good enough. Go learn your family business”. But if the rabbi thought the child had what it took, he said, “Come follow me”. The disciple then left his family, friends, synagogue, and village to devote his entire life to being like the rabbi, learning to do what the rabbi did. This is what it meant to be a disciple.

In the Gospel Accounts, Jesus called Peter and Andrew to come and follow Him. Picture Jesus, a rabbi, walking along the beach, saying, “Come and follow me”. He is really saying, Come and do what I can do; be like me. They were fishing with their fathers, which meant they were learning the family business. This, of course, meant that they had not made the cut; they were not considered the best of the best. They dropped their nets and followed Jesus.

Jesus told his disciples that He chose them and they did not choose Him (John 15). A rabbi chose his disciples on the basis of their potential to be like him. Jesus must have faith in us because He tells us to go and make more disciples (Mark 16:15). He actually

believes that we can be like Him and live like Him! May we believe in God and may we come to see that God believes in us. That is why He chose us!

***“Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men”***

Matthew 4:19

## **We Go Everywhere Together**

By Phil Sanders

Bill Snell was a successful businessman. He owned and operated a large furniture store. Bill was president of a civic club and a member of the school board. He was a devoted husband and father. Bill was especially close to his son, Jerry. They were constant companions. Sometimes Jerry “worked” with his dad at the store. The boy was called “Mr. Jerry” by many customers. Someone said, “Jerry’s smile sold more furniture than all his dad’s good words.”

There was one place Bill and Jerry never went together. Bill never accompanied his wife and son to worship. Jerry often asked his dad to go, but Bill was always “too busy.”

Jerry loved Bible school. He liked his teacher and was among her most attentive students. One Lord’s Day, the teacher asked, “When you get to heaven, what are you going to do first?” Without hesitation, Jerry replied, “I’m not going to heaven! I’m going with my dad. We go everywhere together.”

Not long after that, Jerry’s teacher told Mr. Snell about his son’s remark. Bill said, “That’s just like him. He always wants to be with me...to go where I go.” She gently asked, “Where are you going, Mr. Snell? Where are you taking Jerry?” Bill never answered. Nevertheless, the question kept ringing in his ears. Happily, Bill soon responded to the Lord and put on Christ in baptism (Galatians 3:27). He became a faithful and dedicated Christian. He and Jerry could now go EVERYWHERE together. What about you and me? Where are we taking our children?

## **Our Children’s Heritage**

By Bryan McAlister

Creating a heritage for our children is essential. As parents, many are working toward the future with the welfare of our children in mind. It is a noble act to make provision for one’s family. In fact, for those who fail to provide for their families, they are rebuked sharply by the word of God; *“But if anyone does not provide for*

*his own, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever”* (I Timothy 5:8). The word provide as used by Paul in this passage, means to “take thought beforehand.” There are more things in this world that our families, that our children need, beyond the physical things of life. Our children, to truly be blessed by what we give them, need to know how to obey the Lord.

Solomon learned many lessons about obedience to God through the “school of hard knocks.” He knew what it was like to forsake the Lord and turn away from obediently following him (I Kings 11:4). Solomon’s father had failed in his relationships with his sons in the past, but with Solomon, he tried to instruct him and lead him in a better way (II Samuel 18:33; I Kings 2:2-3). Solomon no doubt had carried the burden of guilt and regret, and to his son, he offered urgent words of warning, *“My son, do not forget my law, but let your heart keep my commands”* (Proverbs 3:1). As parents, as fathers, we should be storing up a heritage and an inheritance in our families and in the lives of our children, what it means to obey the Lord.

We can truly be distracted through looking for and seeking out problems in the Lord’s church. It can be a drain on our hearts emotionally and spiritually if all we know about the church and the brotherhood world over are problems, controversies, and conflicts among the brethren. Letting this drive our purpose and perception of the church can be dangerous. However, denying that there are problems or those who would want to change the church is equally dangerous (Acts 20:28). Responsibility to the Lord, His blood bought church, and His truth, dictate we purpose our steps to follow only His (I Peter 2:22-23). No small part of that responsibility means that we teach our children about the Savior’s sacrifice for the church, His purpose for the church, and His identity of the church.

Will our children know how to teach others of the impact of sin and the separation it creates between man and God? Will our children learn the way out of sin is not through a recited prayer or mere verbal request for Jesus to enter our lives? Will our children teach others that salvation is found through obedient faith, including belief, repentance, confession, and water baptism? Will our children worship God in spirit and truth, and understanding, free from any intervention of man? Solomon provides the answer. I hope you know, if we keep God’s law in our hearts as parents, and instruct our children, lovingly, consistently, and conscientiously, our children can anticipate, *“length of days and long life and peace”* (Proverbs 3:2).