



Do You Get the Picture? - by Vaughan Durston

Recently I received a picture of the family God has given us. In it were my wife and I, our five children, their five spouses, and twenty grandchildren. Five of the grandchildren are married and therefore this was a picture with 32 people in it. Wow!



As we looked at all these faces we asked ourselves some questions: Have they all accepted Christ as their personal Saviour? Do they have hearts that desire to please God? Are they free of Pharisaism (self-conceit)? Do they realize that they can still sin and need to keep their hearts open to the Holy Spirit, and the teachings of God's Word? Do they realize they will need God's direction in choosing life partners, occupations, and schooling?

Our prayer is that all would be able to give a positive answer to each of these questions by the grace of God. Time will tell.

According to Rainer Research, approximately **70 percent of American youth drop out of church between the age of 18 and 22**. The Barna Group estimates that 80 percent of those reared in the church will be "disengaged" by the time they are 29.* These are sobering statistics and make us look at such family photos with even stronger prayers. My burden and cry is that this would not happen to those in our care.

Developing the *U.B. David & I'll B. Jonathan* program has shown us as staff that we have many others who are under our care, and so this is our prayer for them as well.

God can keep them steady, especially as they pursue His heart through studying the Word. And we are still assured that "greater is He that is in us than he that is in the world" (1 John 4:4).

Let's have a sense of direction for our families and pursue it. God will give them the victory.

*Drew Dyck, *Christianity Today*, November 2010

Testimony

"It is great and wonderful thing to know that my Savior is glorified and exalted in Heaven and that He is for me. And it is a wonderful thing to know that the Holy Spirit now lives in me." (new adult student)

Ten Terrific Traits

Part 7: DISCIPLINED

by Brian Cummins

As we continue to move down the list of characteristics of David's men (1 Chron. 12), this next one stands out prominently: **disciplined**.

Michelangelo was only 14 years old when he became a student of sculptor Bertoldo de Giovanni, but it was already obvious that he was enormously gifted. Bertoldo knew that gifted people are often tempted to coast along through life rather than to work and grow, so he kept trying to pressure his young student to work seriously at his art. One day, he came into the studio to find Michelangelo toying with a piece of sculpture far beneath his abilities. Bertoldo grabbed a hammer, stomped across the room, and smashed the work into tiny pieces, shouting his unforgettable message: "Michelangelo, talent is cheap; *dedication* is costly!"

It is costly; and no amount of talent can replace it. It's hard to be disciplined, but it is one of the most important of the ten terrific traits. The Bible says that those of Zebulun had it; so did the Danites and those of Asher (vss. 33,35,36). In fact, it is a characteristic which was true of ALL of David's army, as verse 38 declares: they "could **keep ranks**"...they could "keep battle formation."

To do so required tremendous *discipline* & *dedication*. When you think of the picture of "keeping battle formation", you see a disciplined group of people who stay together, in orderly ranks, even when the enemy is pressing down on them. In other words, they can **maintain relationships under pressure**. They have warm hearts and cool heads – a valuable combination indeed.



Encouraging Ourselves in the Lord

- Vaughan V. Durston

We were interviewed over a year ago concerning the *David & Jonathan* discipleship program, by folk from the "Power for Living" paper. It is an adult Sunday School paper made famous by Scripture Press. Their circulation is in the neighbourhood of 250,000. On Sunday October 24th the article was distributed all over the US and Canada in Sunday Schools. We have just received permission from the author to reproduce as many copies as we like. Just let us know of your interest and maybe you could give a few to your friends as well.

Power for Living Paper

If you would like a copy or copies of the *Power for Living* paper with our article in it for yourself or your church please email or phone and we will be happy to send some out to you.



Testimony

"I have to share some encouraging thoughts with you. You have encouraged my life with these lessons and with teaching me more about Jesus. God Bless." (age 9)

Our Mission

"developing young people
after God's own heart"



ALBERTA/BC

I consider it a privilege to serve the Lord by working here at David & Jonathan. It is so encouraging to see the Lord at work in the lives of our students by the notes they write or by the questions that they ask.

We have also been very encouraged by the number of lessons coming in from new students who attended camp or 5 day clubs this summer. We have a large number of new students who have already completed 10 lessons since coming on this summer. There was a comment on one of the lessons from a parent saying "this content is gold."

SASKATCHEWAN

The earthly pangs of sin's consequences cause each of us pain daily if we are to be honest. No respecter of persons—rich, poor, young or old—the heart-gripping pains of sin affect everyone.

Many of the letters received lately are testifying to the ache in so many people's hearts. What is the answer? Where can we find lasting hope? There is no other tried and true answer for hope than to depend utterly on God.

Romans 15:13 says, "Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost."

God never intended for any of us to live a moment without hope, but lasting hope is found solely in Christ himself. What a privilege it is to work with David and Jonathan as an administrator of hope by offering the

Word of God to searching boys and girls, men and women who write us thanking us for the hope they have found in Christ.

TEXAS

We have been reminded lately that we are in a spiritual battle. We are not just sending out “cutsie” little lessons with children’s story books and interesting prizes. We are standing alongside those who are coming to see their sinful condition and need of a Savior. We are encouraging those who are battling the enemy as he seeks to discourage them in their Christian lives. Your prayers for these children, youth and adults are so important.

A while ago a young man from Mexico completed 36 online lessons in Spanish and told us of his love for the Savior. But a few months later he became depressed. We were able to connect him with a pastor in his area and a few days later he wrote back saying he was feeling better.

Some months ago a middle-aged couple came to the Lord. They have enthusiastically completed all the paper Spanish lessons that we offer. Recently they have accepted the challenge to earn a quality Study Bible by reading through the entire New Testament and answering questions on each book. When the husband shared that he had lost his job, John was able to pray for him.

We have a powerful enemy who seeks to defeat and discourage. But we have an all-knowing, all-powerful God! (1 Corinthians 15:57-58)

Our Vision

“to see Jesus seated on the throne of every ‘David’ and ruling over all the aspects of their life.”

ONTARIO

We praise God for a great camping summer for all the camps. It is a blessing to be part of a tremendous ministry to children & youth. We continue to receive interesting notes or letters from teens needing help or encouragement. Often they say: “I am not sure if I am a Christian”, or “I don’t think I am prepared for His coming again”. Some give evidence of their faith in Christ at a young age but then in their teen years the pressures of school life, anti-Christian activity and attacks of Satan, cause them to lose their joy or assurance of their new life in Christ. This is where we can respond and encourage them to trust God’s promises in His Word and continue with Bible lessons.

We thank God for eleven camps that ordered lessons this summer, ten in Ontario and one in New Brunswick. The lessons are now flowing in.

Club DJ

Another fall of ministry with **Club DJ** is well into full swing. For the past 2 months we have been traveling conducting **Club DJ** Workshops in one community after another as God continues to open new doors for this ministry to children.

This fall we have added a new element to **Club DJ** called **Club DJ Quizzing!** We have purchased almost \$15,000 in Bible-quizzing equipment and have provided a set of quizzing equipment to every **Club DJ** church across Canada. The children in **Club DJ** will be encouraged to memorize their verses and will be quizzed electronically on quizzing pads as they try to be the first one to jump and answer the question.

As well, we have continued to develop **Club DJ Connexion** which continues where **Club DJ** leaves off. More and more churches are moving



forward with their young people to this next level of ministry. As we have noted before, up to 90% of the children reached through **Club DJ** continue on to **Club DJ Connexion** when given the opportunity.

God continues to open up new doors and we continue to send more and more information into the USA on the **Club DJ** program and believe it will be only a matter of time before God opens that door. Just last week, I was asked if I would consider going to Kenya to present **Club DJ** to about 40 pastors and churches there through **Club DJ** Workshops. We would appreciate your prayers in regards to this opportunity.

Check out these 2 exciting ministries on our websites: www.clubdj.ca and www.clubdjconnexion.com.

God bless you for your part in this ministry.

Our Method

Jonathans building up Davids
“And it came to pass, when he had made an end of speaking with Saul, that the soul of Jonathan was knit with the soul of David, and Jonathan loved him as his own soul.”

(I Samuel 18:1)

TESTIMONIES...

“I have already received Christ, but am hoping these Bible lessons will help me stay on track and live my life for my Savior.” (15 year old)

“Great lessons! This series has really been challenging and comforting for me. Keep 'em coming.” (17 year old)

“Thanks for the [gift] book. The main thing that I learned from reading this book is that I need to trust God way more and not let my pride get in the way of that. Thanks for your amazing work with all this D&J stuff.” (16 year old)

“Thank you for the advice you gave me. It's encouraging to know someone else understands how I feel.” (16 year old)

“I like David & Jonathan lessons so much.” (8 year old)

“Thank you for the studies, it helps to reconfirm what we have read from the Bible. They also keep us fresh in the word. God is at work in this mission field and abroad.” (a parent)

PRAYER REQUESTS

- * Pray that the new camp students will continue to have enthusiasm about doing lessons.
- * Please continue to pray for our need for an **executive director** for the **Alberta/BC** ministry.
- * Pray that many more children, teens and adults will find our **online lessons** and that God will use this resource for their spiritual growth.
- * Pray for our **expanding outreach** through the Internet to **Spanish-speaking** students.
- * Please pray for our financial needs.



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“HeartBeat”

is the periodic newsletter of
U.B. David & I’ll B. Jonathan, Inc.

Printed in Canada.