

Author says try parables on kids

By Kathy McPhail Friedrichs
staff writer

Betty Lightfoot's book isn't exactly a psychological treatise.

But it is, in the words of the Livonia secretary whose schooling includes neither psychology nor childhood education courses, the step-by-step description of "a simple behavioral technique with startling results."

"And it works," said Mrs. Lightfoot, whose book titled "What a Way to Go!" grew out of her experiences in caring for a 5-year-old granddaughter. She added that it's been tried by others and is useful for parents in disciplining their children.

The red-covered book was printed by the vocational graphics taught at John Glenn High School by her friend Richard Pray. She paid for the expenses and they took it on as a class project.

The technique it outlines is based on the parable, defined by Webster as "a short, simple story, usually of an occurrence of a familiar kind from which a moral or religious lesson may be drawn."

Parables are best known as the stories Jesus told in biblical accounts, and that's where Betty Lightfoot found her ideas.

IT ALL STARTED on a Sunday when she was caring for granddaughter Mary while her mother was house-hunting. Mary was having a tantrum and her grandmother was trying to reason with her.

She remembered her pastor had preached on parables that morning and she decided to try the biblical teaching method with her granddaughter.

She told Mary a story about a little girl in circumstances like her own. The story ended with the child making the "wrong" choice of behavior and experiencing negative consequences. Then came another story, similar but with

the main character making the "right" decisions. The parable child was praised for her insight and all sorts of good things happened to her.

At that point Mary was asked to pick "which one of the characters is most comfortable" and then "which one would you like to be."

Mary chose properly, her grandmother said.

"I have used it for two months almost daily and it has worked with both grandchildren," she added. "It has never failed that I know of."

NEXT, SHE SAID, she shared her technique with friends in the office of Honeywell Inc., where she is employed. One tried it on an alcoholic uncle and another with a friend's runaway teen-ager. They were successful too.

"Everyone likes stories," Mrs. Lightfoot said, "and with parables people aren't condemned and don't feel threatened."

Mother of Jean, now 22, and Russell, 27, she now wishes she had known about using parables when she was rearing her own children.

"As a grandparent, I wanted to have the children do as I asked but didn't want to spank them," she said.

Now she's hoping her "discovery" may be of benefit to other grandparents and parents too.

Her book costs \$3.95 in bookstores and can be ordered by sending \$4.25, which includes postage, to Reflection Publishing, Box 219, Farmington 48024.

"I am more interested in people hearing about the concept and using it than in making a lot of money," said Mrs. Lightfoot. She hopes sometime to devote full time to promoting the use of parables with those who have behavioral problems.

She will present her book and technique in a seminar in September in Clarenceville United Methodist Church of Livonia.



BILL BRESLER/staff photographer

Betty Lightfoot thinks the way to go is to tell instructional stories to children to produce better behavior.



COME MEET BRITAIN'S LORD WEDGWOOD

To mark the 250th anniversary of the birth of Josiah Wedgwood, Piers Anthony Weymouth, the fourth Lord Wedgwood of Barlaston and the sixth generation grandson of the founder of Wedgwood, will be visiting Jacobson's. Lord Wedgwood is an eminent spokesperson for fascinating and historical Wedgwood china. During his visit he will be available to answer any questions you may have and he will be pleased to sign your Wedgwood purchases. We hope you will join us on Tuesday, June 16 from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Jacobson's
BIRMINGHAM

Hills Sweet Adelines rev up for international competition

The Farmington Hills Chapter of Sweet Adelines, who are champions in this region, give one more call for singers to join them as the 75-member group gets ready for international competition.

Under the direction of Jim Pollard the chapter competed against 18 other

choruses to take the region's "Champions' Plaque" a few months ago. The region includes most of Michigan and Ontario.

The win will pit them against 22 other regional-winning choruses competing from U.S. and Canada in Minneapolis, Minn., in October, 1982.

Pollard would like to see the chapter expand to 90 members by that time.

All competitions are held under the supervision of Sweet Adelines International Organization, and judged in four categories: music, sound, expression and showmanship.

Evangelist Copeland leads 'Victory Crusade'

Evangelist Kenneth Copeland will conduct "Victory Crusade" June 25-27 in Cobo Arena. The crusade is open to the public and there is no admission charge.

"We're helping spread the word about the crusade," said Pastor Gray Harwell of Farmington Hills Christian Church. "We're acting as back-up, and providing information for Copeland's stay here," he said speaking for the congregation.

Farmington Hills Christian Church is an independent church which started with five members a year ago. The congregation has since grown to about 50 in number who meet for worship services in North Farmington High School.

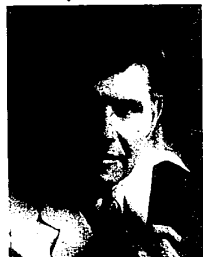
Purpose of the crusade is "To let Christians realize their rights and privileges as revealed in God's Word," said Copeland, who leads the three-day event with his wife, Gloria.

The crusade takes place at 7:30 p.m. each evening with sessions at 9:30 a.m. and noon on Friday and Saturday.

During the 9:30 a.m. sessions, Gloria Copeland will be teaching "Healing School," which deals with the provision

of physical healing according to the Bible.

In addition to leading "Victory Crusades," Copeland's ministry is extended through his "Believer's Voice of Victory" programs carried by 150 television stations weekly and 600 radio stations daily.



Kenneth Copeland
Victory Crusade

Ciao

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