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**For the Love of the Family Ministries™**  
**Missionaries to America's Forgotten Mission Field, the Family**  
**Pastor Terry L. Coomer**  
**Ministry of Elwood Bible Baptist Church**  
**P.O. Box 535**  
**504 North 12<sup>th</sup> Street**  
**Elwood, Indiana 46036**  
**765-552-1973**  
[TLCOOMER@juno.com](mailto:TLCOOMER@juno.com)  
[www.fortheloveofthefamily.com](http://www.fortheloveofthefamily.com)

### **The Respectable Rebel**

As I walk downtown, I meet two young men that I have known for some time. The first we'll call Joey. He used to attend our church but he quit a few years ago; he also dropped out of school. Joey is dressed in black, baggy clothes with a long chain hanging down his leg. He has tattoos and body piercing in several places that I can see, and God only knows where else. He has a blank look on his face that makes me suspect that he is "on something". He walks slowly with no definite purpose or destination. Everything about him says, "I'm a rebel and I want you to know it!"

Then I meet James, an entirely different type, also from our church. He is neatly dressed, he has no markings of the world as Joey does, and he greets me with a big smile and a firm handshake. I congratulate him on his recent high school graduation; he graduated with highest honors, by the way. I ask James about his plans for the future. He tells me that he is going to a certain college where he will study pre-med. Then he plans to get into a certain medical school, and then will specialize, etc.

I look at James and sadly remember Joey, thinking to myself, what a world of difference in the two! James is a respectable young man who knows what he wants and how to get it. He knows where he's going and how to get there. James will certainly be an asset to society. We need more young people like him!

A strange thing happens as I walk away. The Holy Spirit seems to bring some verses to my heart. "Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths." "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a

living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.” “For ye are bought with a price.” “And he trembling and astonished said, Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?”

I remember James’ words, “I want to...I plan to...I’m going to...I will...” I notice a lack of words like, “God wants me to...God is leading me to...I’m praying about...” I conclude that James is a rebel like Joey; he just is a respectable one! Neither boy is surrendered to God and seeking His will. Neither is following Jesus and carrying his cross. Neither is dead to self. Neither is remotely thinking about taking the Gospel to the heathen as Christ commanded.

Please don’t misunderstand me. I’m not saying a Christian shouldn’t be a doctor, or have any other honorable occupation. I am saying it is sinful for a Christian to choose his own way and not live by faith and seek God’s will for his life. C. Austin Miles put it this way: “Not what I wish to be, nor where I wish to go, for who am I that I should choose my way? The Lord shall choose for me, ‘tis better far, I know. So let Him bid me go, or stay.” Judging by the fact that there are thousands of language groups without any Scripture, billions of people who have never heard the Gospel, and tens of thousands of cities without churches, I would have to conclude that most Christians are indeed choosing their way, not God’s. They may be respectable but they are rebels nonetheless.

If you are among the few who are completely surrendered to God, and if He directs you toward a foreign mission field, please consider how the nine-month Baptist Bible Translators Institute course could help you learn the new language and culture much quicker and better.

By Rex L. Cobb, Director  
[rexcobb@BaptistTranslators.com](mailto:rexcobb@BaptistTranslators.com)

BBTI is an Independent Baptist ministry, sponsored by East Side Baptist Church of Bowie, Texas. Please contact us for more information and a free CD presentation and catalog: BBTI, P.O. Box 1450, Bowie, TX 76230, (940) 872-5751, [info@BaptistTranslators.com](mailto:info@BaptistTranslators.com), or <http://www.BaptistTranslators.com>.

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- 1. To encourage and help Pastors, parents, and the local church in strengthening and training their families and their children to live for and serve God. To have a strong church we must have strong families. (Proverbs 22:6, Ephesians 6:4).**
- 2. To provide literature, cassette tapes, videotapes, and resource material to churches and families from an independent-fundamental, Biblical, Baptist viewpoint that encourages godly families.**
- 3. To provide a magazine *For The Love of The Family Magazine* (under construction and coming soon) dealing with family issues that encourages godly living and provides practical Biblical training for the home. This will be a subscription-based magazine.**
- 4. To hold Family, Missions and Bible conferences in the local church. We also hold Family Living Seminars. Pastor Coomer is available on a limited basis for these conferences and seminars, as we believe the family is a great and forgotten mission field in many instances. We have a book table with godly family literature available during the meetings. Our booklet *For the Love of the Family*, a practical guide on rearing children spiritually to grow up and serve God will be available at the conferences and seminars. Some Pastors have placed orders for these books to give to each family in their church. Please contact us at the address, phone or e-mail address above to schedule meetings or order *For the Love of the Family* \$5.00 each, order 25 or more and the cost is \$4.00 each. See the order blank on our web site [www.fortheloveofthefamily.com](http://www.fortheloveofthefamily.com).**
- 5. To be Ambassadors for Christ (II Corinthians 5:20) to the forgotten mission field the "American Family."**
- 6. To see the salvation of families and to see families learning to serve God.**
- 7. To have a web site [www.fortheloveofthefamily.com](http://www.fortheloveofthefamily.com) for the Christian family to obtain godly family information in this apostate hour.**
- 8. To provide other godly literature to Pastors, local churches and families.**
- 9. To provide e-mail articles to a list of people, who want to have regular, practical, Biblical, godly family articles provided for them. If you or someone you know would like these articles on a regular basis please send the e-mail address to [TLCOOMER@juno.com](mailto:TLCOOMER@juno.com). To be removed from the list do the same.**

**As a Pastor for many years I have become greatly concerned and greatly burdened over the number of children who grow up not to serve the Savior from Christian homes. There seems to be a real lack of practical, spiritual, Biblical training going on in this apostate hour. I am also greatly concerned about the number of Christian families that are blowing apart and the tragedy that results from these lives. It is the desire of this ministry to help, encourage, and to provide training and Biblical help to families to not lose their children and for parents to know what it means to be godly parents, husbands and wives. Please feel free to contact us for more information. Contributions and support are appreciated to provide for the work of the ministry.**

**Other literature available currently:**

*For the Love of the Family - Rearing Spiritual Children to Serve the Lord*, by Pastor Terry L. Coomer. Pastor Coomer takes us step by step through the Bible in training our children to grow up and serve God. Extremely practical and a must read for every Christian parent who is serious about their children and family walking with God. \$5.00 each buy 25 or more \$4.00 each.

*Tongues Speaking in the Book of Acts and I Corinthians*, by Pastor Terry L. Coomer. This is an in depth study of all the passages dealing with this subject in Acts and I Corinthians. Easy to read and great to have available to give to people who are confused about this subject. One missionary who read the booklet commented, "I graduated from Bible College and I have never heard this subject presented in such a Biblical common sense way as Pastor Coomer has presented it. Great material." These booklets are available for \$4.00 per booklet order 25 or more they are \$3.00 each.

*What is Wrong With the Christians of America?* Sermon by Pastor Terry L. Coomer available by e-mail or by regular mail \$1.00 each. This sermon deals with the lack of spiritual desire by the Christians of America. A sermon that gives keen spiritual and Biblical insight to the spiritual problems that are causing great harm in the lives of many Christians and to our families.

*How to Have a Daily Time with God*, a practical step by step approach to having a personal, passionate, intimate relationship with God. Pastor Coomer shows you how to get the most out of your Bible reading, what books to read and how to have a daily journal of your insights with God. Extremely practical and easy to follow. Gives you the scriptural reason for having a daily time with God. These booklets are available for \$4.00 per booklet order 25 or more they are \$3.00 each.

*How to Deal With Hurt*, by Pastor Terry L. Coomer. Many Christian families are not serving God today because they have at one time been hurt. The tragedy to their lives, their children's lives, and to the church is great. In an exposition of Psalm 37 Pastor Coomer shows us the flesh cycle that many Christians live in when they are hurt and the spiritual cycle that God wants us to live in. Extremely practical and greatly needed by families who are hurting. These booklets are available for \$4.00 per booklet order 25 or more they are \$3.00 each.

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