

More Snippets from the Daily Log Book of Ideas

See earlier collections of Snippets in *Handouts* nn. 44 and 49

CHRISTIAN PRAYER

Praying in the Real Presence of Jesus Christ in the tabernacle, in the Presence of God Most Holy, we are akin to the disciples in His visible presence. Therefore it is even better than praying to God at our bedsides. Adoring the Blessed Sacrament of the Altar of Sacrifice, we might enlarge on the doxology at the end of the Eucharistic Prayer: "through Him and with Him and in Him," and adding "to Him," thus:-

Through Him: Priest, Mediator, Saviour;

With Him: true Man, incarnated as our Friend;

In Him: "Him in us" and "us in Him", Indwelling;

To Him: true God, Second Divine Person Incarnate.

Christ - Jesus - our - Lord

These four words of our faith match the above:

Christ: In Him, Anointed to send us the Spirit;

Jesus: Through Him: our Way to the Father;

Our: With Him, taking us to the Father with Him;

Lord: To Him, Himself true God to be adored.

COMPUTER PROGRAMMER WANTED

There is a growing urgency to campaign against the internet pornography which is far more depraved than TV porn. Internet access providers should be policed.

A programmer is needed to make a program for parents, employers and superiors to block access to internet porn and even record who tries to access it.

Another programme is needed which could be installed voluntarily but irreversible once installed, to prevent access to porn, especially on mobiles. It would be self-help like the pledge against alcoholic drink or a vow against pre-marital sexual relations like the promise of "True love waits" and "Say no!"

CATECHISM ON CLOTHING

What are clothes for?

**Clothes are for modesty,
dignity, honouring others,
while suiting work and weather. [12 words]**

WORDS STOLEN FROM THE LANGUAGE

"Green": Be able to say, "The vegies and trees I plant feed on CO₂. Also they make O₂, as well as food, shade, beauty, firewood and a GREEN Australia."

"Gay": begin reclaiming it by using "GAIETY" and "GAILY". [Further suggestions welcome.]

REAL OUTCOMES

Homeschoolers are being harassed by NSW government bureaucrats. An Authorized Person used inspect them every two years, but now for in-between years they must provide useless *boomp* of what they did over two years and a plan for two years *for each child*.

Maybe the secret is to **minimalize one's report**, and see if the bureaucratic chattering classes who, with insatiable appetites "feed on forms", will accept it.

Please tell Father Tierney of successful or failed efforts to minimalize this impost: Ph/Fx 02 4829 0297.

TOO MUCH, TOO SOON

Overuse of electronic gadgetry is damaging, e.g. toys, **computers and mobiles** or their hybrids/variants:-

- **bombing out** with sound (*musak?*), promoted to a narcotic, damages the mind and hearing irreversibly;
- **bombing out** with visuals: VDUs (Video Display Units, i.e. old cathode ray tubes or new flat screens) is addictive and damages concentration & reasoning;
- **"power presentations"** with sight/sound overwhelm and dull the senses of children, adolescents, adults.
- **further consequences** are stunted creativity, observation; more illiteracy, rushed/garbled/gabbed speech; and obesity from no exercise and fast-foods.

TOO LITTLE, TOO LATE

Lack of self-discipline leads to much unhappiness and many disasters. Noticeably missing are:-

- self-control to stop, come when called, do a task when told, and at once;
- to do what's right when our feelings are against it.

Inevitable consequences:

- **accidents** that kill or damage self, others, property;
- **choices** now less noble, less virtuous, less generous;
- **appetites** and Satan rush in to take charge ...

MOTHERING: A HIGHLY SKILLED ART

A mother learns her art as **wife and home-maker** from her own mother while growing up in a family, also from friends and books. Mothers are professionals, with multitudinous expertise. These include:-

- complementing a breadwinner in marriage who is father of their children making up a new family
- breastfeeding her own babies
- cooking and hygiene specialist
- singing, story telling, reading aloud
- home nursing and First Aid
- childcare expert far outranking all other caregivers
- counsellor, entertainer and friend
- psychologist in group dynamics etc
- handyman with her home appliances etc
- catechist of Christianity, tutor/teacher in Reading, 'Riting, 'Rithmetic etc usually up to the last level below her own, often learning as she goes.

FATHERING: also a highly skilled art

A father learn his art as **husband and breadwinner** from his own father while growing up in a family. He complements a homemaker, a wife who is mother of their children, and they "grow" a new family

Fathers usually learn their breadwinning skills in a trade or at labouring, business or profession. Readers can make similar lists to the above, and enhance them.

NEVER EQUATE fathering and mothering, nor replace them with "parenting" or "caregiver". Words make a vital difference: they can clarify or confuse. Note that there is **no unisex in VCII**: see GE §8

Mothering Matters

The sources of love, and how our culture harms infants, women, and society

By Dr Peter Cook, Australian psychiatrist retired after 50 years battling for motherhood

Note the double meaning in "mothering matters"

MOTHERS, PROFESSIONAL HOMEMAKERS

It is better that children be home-made!

MOTHERS who "stay at home": Lift up your hearts! What you are doing is vital for your babies, their future health, mental and emotional strength, social adjustment and happiness, the future of society itself and your own selves.

Our society is contradicting modern science, asserts Dr Cook — because human biology upholds mothers staying at home to rear their infant children:-

There is much we might do. We could aim to bring our culture and our society — that we can change — into better harmony with our biological givens that we cannot change, and would therefore do well to accept. We must learn to work with Nature, not against it. For human health, this involves valuing the unchanging facts of healthy mothering, breastfeeding, attachment and emphatic understanding of babies' feelings. Playfulness and joy are important natural aspects to compensate for the sacrifices that can be involved in mothering and fathering.

Natural patterns of mothering develop best when they are supported by the father, with an extended family or social group also available. It is essential to recognise the importance of these factors in human development if we are to promote good health and wellbeing in young children, mothers and society. In the modern world a nursing mother requires adequate freedom, with financial and social support within a facilitating environment. She also needs to feel respected and valued in her role as a mother...

Since economic arguments and pressures are so often used to get mothers back into the workforce and infants into early childcare, this policy is overdue for a full economic analysis that takes into account all the externalities and collateral damage that economists find it so easy to ignore and so hard to evaluate...

It is necessary to work with Nature and not against her if we are to promote health and well being in young children, their mothers and society... Infancy cannot be re-run later.

Mothering Matters: Cook, pp. 144-145, italics in original

CREDENTIALS

Dr Cook's credentials are beyond question. He has worked for a lifetime as a psychiatrist **helping the damaged products** of the economists, politicians and academics who promote the booming childcare industry.

And in a way he is "a hostile witness", i.e. a witness from the other side whom one might expect to be against anything as old-fashioned as mothering. For instance, while he draws faultless conclusions from all the surveys and learned papers he quotes, he can only explain them to himself from a fervent belief in Darwinian evolution and a distorted version of original sin from Calvin, Luther and Wesley, plus an inadequate evaluation of St Augustine and the scriptures.

He does not deal much with fathers or siblings, except that "sibling rivalry" of a 2 year old might be mother-deprivation.

GERMAINE GREER — primordial "feminist" She has recanted on motherhood!

In *The Female Eunuch* I argued that motherhood should not be treated as a substitute career: now I would argue that motherhood should be regarded as a genuine career option, that is to say, as paid work and as an alternative to other paid work. Dignified motherhood is a feminist priority... The immense rewardingness of children is the best kept secret in the Western world.

Germaine Greer, 1999, quote in Cook, p. 108

CHILDCARE

The damage done by **institutionalized childcare**:-

- makes **breastfeeding** unlikely hence a loss of the balance of nutrients, enzymes and antibodies which vary to suit the different ages and stages... also eliminates benefits for mothers recovering from childbirth, delayed menstruation and getting over post-natal depression and emotional benefits...
- breastfeeding is not simply supplying better milk... a vital **sensory experience** for both infant and mother, hence mutual attachment and love are reduced, also intelligence, and the wiring of the brain...
- not economical for society **in the long run**: the damage done for the future proves more expensive in \$ than if a government paid mothers to stay at home [Catholic social teaching would prefer tax deductions or tax splitting.]

(cf. Cook, pp. 24-32, emphasis added)

DETERMINISM

Dr Cook rejects the **cultural determinism** of Margaret Mead, anthropologist and educationist, who has now been shown to have been hoaxed by the Samoans. He blames her for relativism, post-Modernism and increased promiscuity.

Yet his own evolutionary **biological determinism** could be refuted in a similar way, from new and hard evidence!

STRUCTURE

Those who find his learned researches too heavy had **best start with the final Summary**, pp. 136-145.

The main text runs from a Synopsis to the Summary, pp. 5-145. Brief explanations and help with obscure words are in footnotes. Then pp. 146 to the end at p. 205 include fuller Notes; References to learned sources; Acknowledgments; Author's Autobiographical Note; a Postscript quoting "First and foremost, do no harm"; Appendices; and an apt Epilogue from Shakespeare. All in all, it's a very persuasive book.

ORDER A COPY NOW from the publisher

Freedom Publishing is worthy of high praise in bringing this book into being at the very time when our Federal Government is hell-bent on forcing mothers back into the workforce, abandoning breastfeeding at three months, and parking their helpless infants with a kaleidoscope of caregivers who cannot love and cherish as do the real mothers.

Mothering Matters is cheaply produced. The binding is so tight it won't stay open; sometimes the print fades (but not fatally); and it lacks an index. But it is priced low, and what you get for your money is beyond price.

Freedom Publishing, PO Box 251 Balwyn VIC 3103, ph 03 9816 0888, fax 03 9816 0899, email books@newsweekly.com.au: **\$24.95 plus postage \$5.**

Father James Tierney