DEALING WITH WAYWARD CHILDREN

“A child, even one raised with great love and care and carefully taught, may choose, when an adult, not to follow those teachings for a variety of reasons. How should we react? We understand and respect the principle of agency. We pray that life’s experiences will help them regain their desire and ability to live the gospel. They are still our children, and we will love and care about them always. We do not lock the doors of our house nor the doors to our heart.” — Robert D. Hales, *Ensign*, November 1993, p. 10.

"Choosing to be happy brings peace and increases parents' ability to deal effectively with their adult children." — July Ensign 2006, Garth Hanso, "Families are Forever" p.62.

“Some parents are so distressed by their difficult adult children that they stop doing the very things that will bring them a semblance of peace and balance in their lives. Hobbies are forgotten, exercising stops, recreational activities are foregone, and vacations are not taken. This is a mistake. Parents need to keep doing the things that have brought them relaxation and enjoyment in the past. These activities are more than pleasure; they are therapeutic. They are necessary pauses that allow parents to regroup emotionally and renew spiritually. If you haven’t developed a hobby before, get one now. Keep up with your weekly spouse dates, or start them if you haven’t been doing them. If you have been putting off a vacation until things get better, go on it now so things can get better.” — *Principles of Love*, p. 83.

“Though some of the sheep may wander, the eye of the Shepherd is upon them, and sooner or later they will feel the tentacles of Divine Providence reaching out after them and drawing them back to the fold . . . . Hope on, trust on, till you see the salvation of God.” — Orson F. Whitney (Quorum of the Twelve), *Ensign*, May 1992, p. 68.

To parents striving to raise their children in the light of the gospel, “I make you a solemn and sacred promise that if you will do this, the time will come when, looking upon those you have created, nurtured, and loved, you will see the fruits of your nurturing and get on your knees and thank the Lord for His blessing to you.” — Gordon B. Hinckley, *Ensign*, November 1993, p 60.

“I will go before your face. I will be on your right hand and on your left, and my Spirit shall be in your hearts, and mine angels round about you, to bear you up.” — D&C 84: 88.

“A successful parent is one who has loved, one who has sacrificed, and one who has cared for, taught, and ministered to the needs of a child. If you have done all of these and your child is still wayward or troublesome or worldly, it could well be that you are, nevertheless, a successful parent. Perhaps there are children who have come into the world that would challenge any set of parents under any set of circumstances. Likewise, perhaps there are others who would bless the lives of, and be a joy to almost any father or mother. My concern is that there are parents who may be pronouncing harsh judgment upon themselves and may be allowing these feelings to destroy their lives, when in fact they have done their best and should continue in faith.” — Howard W. Hunter, *Strengthening Families*, p. 117.