

# THE ANSWER

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NEWSPAPER

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## Prevent Child Sexual Abuse in the Church

### Special to The Answer

No church is immune to the problem of child sexual assault, regardless of size, location, or denomination. Child sexual predators exist, and they're always looking for opportunities to interact with children. They may volunteer to work with children in your nursery, Sunday school, or youth program. How are you going to manage this risk? Strengthen these areas within your ministry.

#### Use the Six-Month Rule

Don't give any volunteer worker the opportunity to be involved in nursery, children's or youth work until he or she has been associated with your church for at least six months.

#### Screen All Workers

— Investigating prior church membership and volunteer work.  
— Check references.  
— Develop an application form and have your attorney review and modify it.

#### Use the Two-Adult Rule

On or off premises, always have at least two adults supervising each room, vehicle, or other enclosed space- even if only one or two children need care.

#### Other Preventive Measures

— Discourage the use of teenagers as nursery workers.  
— Increase supervisors for large groups  
— Prohibit situations in which one adult is alone with children in changing areas or restrooms.  
— Use a "claim check" procedure so that children are released only to a parent, guardian, or other authorized person presenting the "check."



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— Don't permit participation in off-premise events, especially when they involve overnight stays, unless an adequate number of adult workers will be present.

#### Educate Your Workers

A good way to educate your church employees and volunteer children or youth workers is to use the Reducing the Risk Kit, 3rd Edition.

The kit is a turnkey training and implementation solution for a child sex abuse prevention program.

— Become familiar with state and federal laws dealing with child abuse so you know how to comply with them.

— Train your staff to watch for and identify inappropriate behavior

and to report such conduct.

— All workers should be trained to prevent situations in which an individual attempts to isolate himself with one or more youths.

Representatives from various state and federal agencies are available to provide information and

may be willing to assist you in your worker education program. A good place to start may be the National Clearinghouse on Child Abuse and Neglect, a service of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Administration for Children & Families.

## R.O.B. Celebrates Grand Opening With Bishop Paul Morton, Sr.

### Special to the Answer

Restorer of the Breach Ministries is living up to its reputation as one of the most progressive churches in Las Vegas as the members prepare to move a third time in three years – all to make space for the staggering growth of the congregation.

Kicking off the Grand Opening celebration Friday, September 9, 2011 at 7:00 p.m., the young but aggressive group is hosting Bishop Paul Morton Sr. — the founding Presiding Bishop of one of the fastest growing movements in America - The Full Gospel Baptist Church Fellowship International.

Officially leaving its current location at 2560 E. Sunset Blvd the last Wednesday of August, ROB's congregation plans to celebrate God's faithfulness in the new sanctuary at 6744 Spencer Street on September 4, 2011.

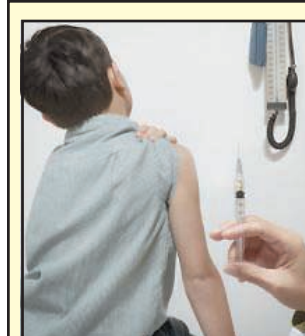
"We're excited about what God is doing at R.O.B., this is our season of favor," said Pastor Ontiwaun Carter, the church's founder and



Bishop Paul Morton, Sr.

CEO. "We're just embracing the overflow."

Humble, sensitive to the spiritually damaged, and ministry driven, Pastor Carter is known as one of the most dynamic, charismatic, prolific orators in ministry today, and people are flocking to the church hungry for The Word. "He is a no- (See ROB, Page 25)



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**ROB**  
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# DIVINELY SPEAKING

## Are You Spending Quality Time With God And Your Family?

By Art Fahy  
Answer Staff Writer



ART FAHY

How many times have you stumbled in the doorway after a tough day exhausted and plopped down into your favorite chair? You feel as if a school bus hit you and then backed over you. Your day is not over. Your wife takes your daughter to her soccer game and you are driving your son and his friends to their little league game. It's a wave, a blown kiss, or I love you as you speed off in different directions. When the family returns home, it's a fast food dinner or microwave meal, homework and the kids are off to bed. You crawl into your favorite chair and watch some television before you retire.

Is this quality time with the family? Is this the best you can do with your loved ones? If you are spending this kind of time with your family, what kind of time are you spending with God? Is it a quick read through a couple of bible verses? You may say a rocket prayer like "God protect my family today."

That prayer won't reach the ceiling.

Are you using your time wisely? You will never find time to do something. To have quality time with God and your family, you must make the time. You make time for dentist and doctor's appointments. You make time to plan a vacation. Why is it so difficult to make quality time for your family and God?

You may have to evaluate the quality of time you spend with your family. We all have distractions and they can be overwhelming. Your children have distractions such as

television, video games, radio, and peer pressure.

Family quality time is not you in the recreation room watching television and the kids in their room playing a video game. Pick a time and an activity the entire family can look forward to and enjoy. Consider including everyone in the chores around the house. Doing this cultivates responsibility in your children. Invite your children's friends to your house. This unstructured time can reveal information on friends and family. Are you and your spouse spending quality time together? Remember you married your best friend. Do you have a family devotion time? This is the most important time you will ever spend with the family. What concerns your spouse and children? Take them through the bible and show them God's promises and how He wants you to handle situations.

Let's examine the quality time you spend with God. Are you reading and studying His word daily?

What is your prayer life like? Would you be ashamed if you faced God right now and had to make an account of your time spent with Him? Are you living according to the standards of Jesus? It is easy to come up with reasons why you are not spending quality time with God. Susanna Wesley had a good reason not to spend time With God. She had 18 children and still everyday spent time with the Father. Two of her sons changed history. John Wesley founded the Methodist church and Charles penned hundreds of Christian hymns. Both of these men attributed their love for God because they saw how much their mother loved God. She prayed daily. What was her secret? She made a commitment to spend time with God. Every day she would sit

in her rocking chair and she would take her long apron and pull it up over her head. The kids knew if they bothered mom when the apron was over her head there would be consequences. With 18 children, Susanna made the time to be with God.

Spending time with God shows your family how important God is to you. It shows trust, obedience, and the love you have for God. Your family will grasp the meaning of Psalm 127:1Ö "Unless the Lord builds the house, its builders labor in vain." Help them recognize that God is the foundation for a strong home. Without God, a family can never experience the spiritual bond God brings to relationships. If your faith in Christ is real, it will prove itself in your home.

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# FAMILY

## August Is National Immunization Awareness Month

By Amanda Wynant  
Answer Staff writer

It used to be a no-brainer. A doctor told a mother that her child needed a shot and the kid got a shot. There were a few that went against the advice, but most just complied. In recent years, there's been more controversy surrounding the dispensation of vaccines.

Immunization requirements vary by state. A child must have certain vaccines to enter any public school and most private schools and daycares, unless a waiver is signed by parents and/or the child's doctor. In Mississippi and West Virginia, the parent can decline vaccines *only* for medical reasons, in the other 48 states; a parent can opt out of vaccines for a child based on religious beliefs as well.

Some 18 states offer a *personal belief exemption* for vaccinations. California is one such state — and lately, many parents in California have been exercising the right to refuse vaccines based on personal beliefs.

According to Watchdog Institute, of Southern California, 51 percent of the parents of children at the Waldorf School of San Diego filed personal belief exemption waivers to avoid all or some vaccines for their kindergarteners beginning the 2010-11 school year.

Allison Kempe authored a study for the University Of Colorado School Of Medicine this year. She



discovered that in the last 5 years, physicians have noted a rise in increase of parental concern over the administration of vaccines. Kempe, the 2011 winner of the Academic Pediatric Association Research award, also found that 79 percent of doctors report at least one refusal for vaccine in an average month and 89 percent report at least one request to spread out certain vaccines.

Nevada has more stringent state requirements than some, allowing exemption based only on religious or medical reasons, not for philosophical or personal beliefs. Many

parents have still chosen to delay or refuse vaccinations for their children. Amy Rose, 25, of Southwest Las Vegas, is one of them. She has an 18 month old baby who has not yet had any immunizations. Rose states that she is not completely opposed to childhood vaccines, but says that some are unnecessary, "Like giving a vaccination for Hepatitis B to a newborn whose mother is not a carrier of the disease." Rose is understanding of the reasons many choose to vaccinate, but has reasons of her own for waiting. She says, "I want to be confi-

dent that any decision to immunize my daughter is a fully informed decision, not just one that is based on what popular media or a health professional tells me."

Many parents that choose not to inoculate do so because, like Rose, they are concerned with the ingredients in the vaccines. "Some vaccines contain dangerous and toxic ingredients such as live viruses, mercury or formaldehyde...just to name a few. And I have yet to be convinced that the introduction of such ingredients to the fragile immune system of an infant or child is safe and healthy."

Dr. Rosalie Kalili, a pediatrician in Las Vegas, states "Some parents are concerned about the number of vaccines given at a time, ingredients in the vaccines, and reactions to the vaccines." Kalili suggests talking to a pediatrician about the concerns and looking at research-based websites, such as *cdc.gov* and *healthychildren.org*. Kalili has two boys and follows the AAP recommended vaccine schedule for her children. Kalili, and the entire practice at Bright Futures Pediatrics, are generally helpful and accommodating to parents who have concerns or want to vaccinate their children at a slower pace than the AAP schedule recommends. She takes time to answer questions from parents and keeps a copy of the Dr. Sears alternate schedule in the office for reference. Kalili said "Since

the availability of vaccines in the US, the CDC has shown a drastic reduction in yearly death rates from vaccine preventable diseases." She went on to cite a strong argument: "Before the Hib vaccine - that protects against a bacteria that can cause infection of the brain, blood, lungs, throat, bones, and covering around the heart was available - around 20,000 children under age 5, in the United States would get serious disease yearly and around 1000 people died yearly. Now that the vaccine is available, the yearly death rate is less than 10."

Kalili also referenced the whooping cough outbreak that occurred in California last year. It affected 9,500 people and resulted in 10 infant deaths. "It is important for parents to complete their children's vaccination series on time to prevent contraction and spread of diseases such as Hib, meningitis, whooping cough, and measles."

Despite much fear and debate surrounding the safety of vaccines, and the risk of not vaccinating,

a 2011 study by the Center for Disease Control (CDC) published that about 95% of parents reported that their children either had received all the recommended vaccines or would be getting them. According to Rose, "Whether parents choose to vaccinate or not, their choice should be rooted in the belief that they are doing what is best for their child."

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