

# One Day Monthly

March 2011

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## Yo, Mr. S... The Veil is Still Torn

*In this issue the Monthly introduces a regular feature: "Yo, Mr. S." Many of you will recognize that phrase either from David Swarbrick's license plate or by having heard it from the lips of one of Mr. Swarbrick's students. This month Mr. Swarbrick offers us a glimpse at his past and how he came to be where he is today.*  
-Editor

As a child, I grew up in a fairly traditional home. I was the only child of two only children, the obvious victim in an ongoing battle over which set of grandparents could spoil me the worst. With a father who worked incessantly and a mother who stayed home to raise me, in many ways, my life

was cushy. I had two rooms to myself, friends to invite over any time I wanted, and many people around to attend to my every need, real or perceived. Although my family was not a church-going or believing family, my parents were good folks who did a little volunteer work and helped out the neighbors when they needed it. Although not perfect, my life was idyllic. How quickly that can change.

My father died suddenly when I was 10 years old. My mother remarried within two years, and moved us 2,000 miles away to this strange place called "Texas." Things were different. My stepfather was not like my dad, the people in Texas were not like the people in New Jersey, and my grandparents were very far away. I made some friends, got involved in some activities, and even went occasionally to a youth group with my neigh-

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One Day Academy Executive Director David Swarbrick. Photo courtesy of Wayne Solum

### Special points of interest:

- David Swarbrick column
- 2011 Drama production
- Homeschool Handyman
- Student opinion:  
Michael Vick

## Showdown at Bitter Creek Coming Soon Mark Your Calendars for This Year's Theatre Production

Soon the stage will be set, the props ready, and the actors on-stage. Scattered boos and hoorays will echo through the crowd watching the old western melodrama, *Showdown at Bitter Creek*.

The twenty-three students in the One Day Academy Bastrop and Lakeline theatre classes are working hard to make this year's drama a finished product for early April, when it will be presented at the Bastrop Christian Outreach Center.

"I picked this play because it is an old-fashioned melodrama where the audience gets involved by booing the villain and hooraying the hero," said play director and class teacher Voni Dickson. "I thought it would be a good way

for the students to learn how to connect with the audience."

Zachary Pahlow plays Cactus Joe: this is his first drama production. "My brothers were in the play last year, and that inspired me to do the same thing that they are doing. I think I'll like being on stage, but I'm really going to like wearing a beard."

His brother William is in the play as well. "I am I.C. Black, and he is the banker. My wife in the play interrupts me every time I talk. I'll be the funniest person there."

Students are working hard to memorize lines and perfect their southern accents.

"Drama helped me get over stage fright," said Nicholas Pahlow, who is cast as the mayor. "It

also trained me to memorize lots of lines all at once."

"I guess it's in my blood; my dad's been acting his whole life, and so have I," said Kasey Knowlton, who plays Ms. Hillary.

"I believe it hasn't hit the students yet how close we are to putting on the play," Mrs. Dickson said. "Somehow, though, it always manages to pull together."

Bastrop Christian Outreach Center is located at 1096 Highway 71 West. Performances are scheduled for 7 pm on Friday, April 1, and 1 pm on Saturday, April 2. Donations will be accepted at the door.

-Justin Movalli

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*“Keeping the condenser coil clean is a necessary task to maintaining refrigerator power efficiency and longevity.”*

## Homeschool Handyman’s Corner

### Teaching Your Children Basic Homeowner Skills

#### *This Month: Cleaning Refrigerator Coils*

Do you appreciate your refrigerator? We tend to take our major appliances for granted, and refrigerators are really marvelous things. It wasn’t that long ago that people had to have blocks of ice hauled to a cooler in their kitchen; that was just to keep things fresh, not frozen. Now we can store away weeks’ or months’ worth of food at the cost of a bit of electricity.

Refrigerator electrical usage is the topic of this month’s corner. Modern refrigerators are sparing in their power consumption but are still one of the heavier users of electricity in the average home. Keeping the condenser coil clean is a necessary task to maintaining refrigerator power efficiency and longevity. Dust and dirt build up around the coils and obstructs air flow and heat transfer from the coils to the

room. This means the refrigerator compressor has to run longer to keep things cool.

In most refrigerators the condenser coil is down at the bottom behind the kick plate. A fan pushes room air through the

coils and transfers the freezer heat to the room. Unfortunately the recirculating air is down at floor level, where dust naturally accumulates; some of this gets caught in the coils. Dust on the coils tends to trap more dust and eventually it becomes a clogged mess down there. This in turn reduces the efficiency of heat transfer so the compressor has to run longer to compensate, wearing it out while costing money for electricity.

Cleaning the coils will help your refrigerator run less and extend the life of the appliance. Refrigerators vary somewhat, but a basic cleaning guideline can be followed. First you have to remove the kick plate from the front down at the floor level. Usually this snaps off but it may be fastened with screws. Once you get inside, you should see one end of several rows of serpentine coils. The basic idea is to get all the dust and dirt out from among the coils without damaging them. The coils are fairly robust, but could be damaged by sharp or stiff tools. The quickest and easiest method is to use a special, long narrow brush made just for cleaning refrigerator coils. This gets the dust off the coils so that the dirt can be vacuumed up. A long, flat vacuum attachment is also available for placing under the coils during or after brushing.

It is important to vacuum up all the dirt around and below the fridge because any that is left is likely to be sucked back up and deposited on the coils again. It is usually worth the trouble to move the refrigerator out from the wall to vacuum and mop the floor underneath, then push it back in place.

Once the coils are clean and you have vacuumed up all the dust, simply replace the kick plate. Cleaning should take place as often as needed, depending on your conditions. Hopefully you will notice the compressor running less frequently for shorter periods of time.

One other thing about refrigerators that may be an interesting homeschool topic is that the refrigerant system is really only for the freezer. Refrigerators simply pull some of the cold air from the freezer into the larger fridge compartment. Put another way, a fridge is really a freezer that borrows some cold air for non-frozen items.

More information on home repair topics can be found on my website at

[www.handyhomeowner.us](http://www.handyhomeowner.us).

*-Jim Peisker*

*jim@handyhomeowner.us*

*Jim is a homeschool dad who has worked 29 years as an electrical engineer; he has been fixing stuff all of his life.*



**Once you remove the kick plate, you should see one end of several rows of serpentine coils. The basic idea is to get all the dust and dirt out from among the coils without damaging them. Photo by Emily Peisker**

## The Veil is Still Torn

(Continued from page 1)

bors. But things were not like they had been. I never seemed to have anyone in my life to help me figure out who I was and where I was going in life. As I drifted through high school and into college, I often felt torn. At times, I tried to be a good person as I perceived my dad had been. But, at times, I felt angry and frustrated and could never figure out why.

All this changed when as a freshman at A&M I became saved through a dorm Bible study. I made friends with other Christians, I found older men to help me find my way through life, and I eventually felt the call to full-time ministry. Life moved quickly. I participated in campus ministry groups for three years at A&M, got married, and went off to seminary. I soaked up mentoring from every professor I

could, helping out with campus ministry, inner-city ministry, and youth ministry. At the end of the years at seminary, armed with a beautiful, godly wife, two cute little boys, and enough idealism to power a small city, I headed to Austin to plant a church.

What a disaster. I did not grow up in a church. I found salvation through campus ministry. I worshipped in college-oriented churches in both college and seminary. And I went off with a vision to reach the lost. I had never served as an associate pastor. I was in a denomination whose closest church to Austin was San Antonio. I did not know what I was doing, and I had no one around with whom to talk. Failure is always difficult to handle. It is especially tough to deal with when you fail at something to which you are sure the Lord has led you.

Amidst all the struggles, God was faithful, and taught me much about Himself and myself and the world around me. I thought often about the bigger picture of my life. I still loved Jesus and enjoyed time with Him. I still had a beautiful godly wife and now three cute, not-so-little boys. And I still had a way to provide for my family. What I lost in stepping out of the ministry, I gained in the freedom to rethink who I was and where God was calling me.

Every day I came back to the verse that helped me make sense out of life: John 10:10. "I came that they might have life and have it abundantly." Jesus lived and died and lived again so that I might live the kind of life God wants for all His children: abundant. Not hanging on until the end, not tolerating life for as long as I had to, but drinking in His Spirit and His Word and His presence. Even though my

life was not turning out exactly as I had planned, God was still good, the veil was still torn, and I could still chase after the thing to which He had called.

Looking back over my life since then, one fact remains crystal clear: God still wants His people to have abundant life. Not a flawless life; not a pain-free life, but a life built around His presence and the joy He brings. We can have an abundant life because He is an abundant God, able to do more than we could ever dream or imagine. From early on, my life has had its share of suffering and trials. Through it all, God has proven Himself to be a trustworthy friend and an able advocate. Praise be to Him who understands our sufferings and wants to help us live the abundance only He can provide.

*David Swarbrick is the Executive Director of One Day Academy.*

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*"When Vick was young, he had often used football as a way to stay out of gangs and other trouble. As an adult, it no longer worked."*

# Announcements

- One Day Academy **2011-12 registration** opens for returning families on March 1. Families must re-register each year: cost is \$40. For forms, visit <http://onedayacademy.com/wp-content/uploads/2008/01/Returning-Family-Registration2.pdf>. For schedules and teacher information, visit the website: <http://onedayacademy.com/>.

- One Day Academy **open houses** are coming March 22-31. Parents and students are encouraged to attend the events, held from 7:00-8:30 p.m. at the various campuses, in order to meet teachers, learn about courses, register for classes, and obtain general information about the 2011-12 school year. Go to <http://onedayacademy.com/event-calendar/open-houses/> for exact dates and locations.

- If you own a business, consider sharing the news with other homeschoolers. The **One Day Academy Business Directory** is offering pro-rated listings for the remainder of the school year. Contact Susan Peisker at [s.peisker@onedayacademy.com](mailto:s.peisker@onedayacademy.com) for more information.

- **Save the date!** ODA's End of Year party is scheduled for Saturday, May 7 from 10-2 at the Zilker Rock Gardens. Bring a dish to share and be prepared to play catch or visit with friends. For more information: <http://onedayacademy.com/event-calendar/end-of-the-year-party/>.

## Student Editorial

### Michael Vick: Is It Time to Forgive?

Since Michael Vick pleaded guilty to dogfighting charges on August 20, 2007, most people probably haven't heard much about him. Until now, former Indianapolis Colts Coach Tony Dungy has mentored Vick, who has also signed a one-year deal with the NFL's Philadelphia Eagles.

In a less-publicized story, Vick picked up his first endorsement deal since Nike, EA Sports, Coca-Cola, Powerade, Kraft, Rawlings, Hasbro, and AirTran dropped him like a hot potato. Unequal Technologies makes shock-absorbing sports equipment for athletes of all types, most notably Michael Vick. He made a deal with them when he began using their pads after a rib injury.

"We're real excited about it," Unequal Technologies CEO Rob Vito said. "Michael is good people. He paid his dues. President Obama reached out to him. He deserves an opportunity. This is what makes America so great. He's moved forward. He's a whole other person."

Now, Unequal Technologies is not exactly Nike, but it signals a step in the right direction for the two-time Pro-Bowler.

What's changed?

Vick's troubles started when his

friend Tony Taylor, who started Bad Newz Kennels (named after the town Vick grew up in Newport News, VA), persuaded Vick to purchase four pit bulls in his (Vick's) name. Taylor then allegedly convinced Vick to fund the gambling portion of the operation. Vick didn't think he was going to get into trouble with authorities until Taylor failed to show up for a hearing on Drunk Driving and Driving with Suspended License/Possession of Marijuana charges. The arrest warrant led to a raid on the house and the discovery and arrest of all involved.

After Vick pleaded guilty, several pro-athletes and ex-pro-athletes came to his defense. Stephon Marbury, a point guard for the Boston Celtics, called dogfighting a sport and compared it to hunting.

Clinton Portis, a star running back for the Washington Redskins, said, "I don't know if he was fighting dogs or not, but it's his property, it's his dog. If that's what he wants to do, do it. I think people should mind their own...business."

Unfortunately, public opinion was not as favorable as Vick went off to jail. After his arrest

authorities investigated 500 more dogfighting cases in the following 19 months; it seems Vick's mistake actually helped some pit bulls.

When Vick was young, he had often used football as a way to stay out of gangs and other trouble. As an adult, it no longer worked. He had run out of ways to use his fame to keep himself out of jail and was searching for a new god: not his football, but God. In his public apology, Vick said, "I'm upset with myself and, you know, through this situation I found Jesus and asked Him for forgiveness and turned my life over to God. I think that's the right thing to do as of right now."

People laughed, thinking Vick was looking for sympathy on his way off to the Big House. All that laughing seemed unfair; he has several evangelical Christians on his side, including his mentor and supporter, Tony Dungy. Now, he is a new man using football to portray his new image of not a self-loving ego maniac, but a humble Christian.

For Vick, God is in control.

*-Justin Movalli*

*Justin welcomes your feedback. Please send emails to the editor at [s.peisker@onedayacademy.com](mailto:s.peisker@onedayacademy.com).*