

JULY 21, 2025

MINISTRY UPDATE 2

*Randy Covington Named New
North American Global Director*

VERSE OF THE WEEK 3

Proverbs 13:24

MINISTRY LEADER PROFILE 6

*Valeriu Ghiletschi
Moldova, European Union,
and European Parliament
Ministry Leader*

ABOUT CAPITOL MINISTRIES 8



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FOCUSED ON THE WORD

The Importance of Parenting and the Course of the Nation



When the institution of the family flounders in its primary responsibility to *train up a child in the way he should go* (Proverbs 22:6), the state is eventually overwhelmed with insurmountable problems.

The state has a much easier job of maintaining civility in society when parents lovingly discipline their children at a young age. One might say that parents oversee the manufacturing plant of a good society. They are God's first remedy in a fallen world, His intended means of curtailing evil in a nation. The book of Proverbs has much to say to parents about how to raise a child.

Read on, my friend.

Ralph Drollinger

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WEEKLY BIBLE STUDIES

White House Cabinet and Governors: Wednesdays 8am (EST), light breakfast served

Senate Members: Tuesdays 8am, rotating offices, hot breakfast served

House Members: Thursdays 8am, Natural Resources, Longworth 1334, hot breakfast served



MINISTRY UPDATE

Randy Covington Named New North American Global Director



Capitol Ministries is pleased to announce that Randy Covington has been named as the new North American Global Director. Randy is stepping into the new role with both humility and enthusiasm as he transitions from his long-standing leadership position in Alaska to help launch new ministries in the USA and Canada.

Randy, who served faithfully as Ministry Leader in Alaska, brings a wealth of pastoral experience, a deep understanding of public servant discipleship, and a heart for encouragement. When Ralph Drollinger approached him with the opportunity, Randy and his wife Robin were preparing to retire and relocate to Arizona. The timing and

Continued on page 4

I. INTRODUCTION

A great country and a good culture are created first and foremost through good parenting.

To this point, Proverbs 28:4 states, *Those who forsake the law praise the wicked.* This passage relates to God's moral law in the Torah, but the principle being expressed here by Solomon could be applied in a broader sense to one's obedience to a nation's laws (cf. Romans 1:32).

It follows that those in the institution of government should not only prioritize their own parenting responsibilities, but in a professional sense, seek to strengthen policies that help the nuclear family to *train up a child*. What follows is a study almost exclusively from the book of Proverbs related to helping you, as a public servant, become a better parent both personally and professionally; it is doubly powerful when the leaders of a society not only model great parenting, but write laws that help to facilitate this with others.

II. THE PURPOSES OF PARENTS

As a public servant you have to fight your scheduler in order to be a good parent because good parenting takes time; you are in a constant battle over your priorities. This means you must be especially knowledgeable and skilled at parenting simply because you are likely to have less time to achieve this than your next-door neighbor will. Accordingly, give special attention to this study and its principles. The purposes of parenting are as follows:

A. TO INSTRUCT YOUR CHILDREN

Hear, my son, your father's instruction and do not forsake your mother's teaching (Proverbs 1:8).

My son, observe the commandment of your father and do not forsake the teaching of your mother (6:20).

This first purpose is perhaps the most important. If you get this right and not so much the other Scriptures to follow, you will probably still end up with good kids. Here's the big principle that is so often forsaken in today's American households: your child needs to clearly *observe the commandment(s)* of his or her parents and not be allowed to *forsake* them.

Obedience is not an option that the parent affords the child.

Rather, obedience is to be demanded—with immediacy—always. The above passages imply that the child or children must learn to revere authority. Allowing your children to show disrespect for your authority is akin to teaching them not to fear God, ignoring His authority. A healthy fear of God is the basis for your child to one day bow the knee to the Lordship of Christ (ideally at a young age) which is the ultimate objective and purpose for biblical parenting. The child learns there is no need to submit to God later if there is no need to submit to parents now. Such reverence for authority is created in a child at an early age through good parenting.



To receive instruction in wise behavior, righteousness, justice and equity (1:3).

With the parent's authority unquestionably established, this passage contains some of the lofty effects that good parenting can achieve in the child: to *instruct* a child in *wise behavior* means that parents have as their future objective to enable the child to govern him- or herself by choice. To train in *righteousness* means the child will learn to apply God's standards when evaluating himself, others, and God. When trained in *justice*, the child will conform to the will and standard of God. And lastly, *equity* has the idea of living life in a fair and pleasing way. Such children, borne from excellent parenting, not only end up loving the Lord, but make for wonderful citizens!

My son, if you will receive my words and treasure my commandments within you (2:1).

Notice how this passage relates back to 1:8 and the primary point I made in this study. Reading through chapter two of Proverbs, you will learn of all the things this *if* leads to. It culminates in verse 5, wherein is the *then: Then you will discern the fear of the LORD. Fearing the LORD* is wrought via demanding that your child *receive my [your] words and treasure my [your] commandments*.

For the LORD will be your confidence and will keep your foot from being caught (3:26).

As a result of your child's proper *fear of the LORD* and *treasuring* His *commandments* (and yours) your child

will experience an ensuing *confidence* and peace of mind. Your child will look to you his parents and eventually to God for guidance—and this Proverb indicates that God looks out for and intervenes for him! What a tremendous principle and motivation this is to be a good, instructive parent! Think of the summation of these aforementioned passages in this way:

Good parenting results in God's help for your child!

God will keep your child's *foot from being caught* if you teach your child to *receive your instruction* at a young age! Unfortunately for the parent, child, and society, too many parents simply do not *instruct* their children. In essence they live with them under the same roof, with the child, finding his or her own way. Leniency is in vogue—as though it were a higher virtue than *instruction*. It is not! It is bad parenting. Generally, there is too little proactive *instruction* in today's American families which result in so many wayward kids and social ills. The following Proverbs underscore this:

Hear, O sons, the instruction of a father, and give attention that you may gain understanding, for I give you sound teaching; do not abandon my instruction (4:1–2).

Incline your ear and hear the words of the wise, and apply your mind to my knowledge (22:17).

These passages serve to further illustrate the need of parents to be proactive—requiring their children to *apply* [their] *mind to the knowledge* of the parent.

VERSE OF THE WEEK



Proverbs 13:24

He who withholds his rod hates his son, but he who loves him disciplines him diligently.



Commit afresh and anew to this God-given responsibility that benefits not only the child, family, and society in the present and the future, but also the Kingdom of God.





Continued from page 2

nature of the position, however, felt like a divine appointment.

“This just seems to fit perfectly with my skill set and my desire,” Randy said. “I don’t see myself as a manager or supervisor. I see myself as an encourager, someone who comes alongside our state ministry leaders and helps them succeed in their calling.”

Randy’s approach to leadership is grounded in support and service. He aims to be a prayerful resource and spiritual partner to CapMin’s ministry leaders across North America, offering training, encouragement, and strategic assistance.

One of his passions lies in expanding the ministry’s reach to new territories. Under his leadership, the Alaska ministry flourished with consistent attendance of 20 and more lawmakers, even through political turnover.

Randy reflects deeply on the importance of discipling political leaders: “As go our leaders, so goes our nation,” he said. “God’s Word provides the foundation for sound, moral, and effective leadership—something every public servant needs, whether they know it yet or not.”

Having recently handed off the Alaska ministry to Jonathan

Continued next page

Don’t be a wimpy parent who allows his kids to call the shots. Wimpy parents are terrible parents. Children eventually defy wimpy parents.

B. TO EXHORT YOUR CHILDREN

Exhorting is what the passages in this section all have in common. Some good synonyms for exhort are: “urge strongly, advise, and warn.” The parents’ responsibilities go beyond instruction (my first point in the purpose of parenting section of the outline): beyond just instructing, the parent is to press God’s truths into not just the mind, but also the heart of the child by repetition, urgency, and reason. You must shepherd the heart of your child. The following Proverbs bear witness to a parent’s urgency in this regard. Notice the demanding, exhortative nature of the passages:

My son, do not forget my teaching, but let your heart keep my commandments (3:1).

My son, let them not vanish from your sight; keep sound wisdom and discretion (3:21).

“Now therefore, O sons, listen to me, for blessed are they who keep my ways” (8:32).

My son, keep my words and treasure my commandments within you (7:1).

C. TO CORRECT YOUR CHILDREN

Not only does the biblically driven parent instruct and exhort, he also corrects.

For whom the LORD loves He re-proves, even as a father corrects a son in whom he delights (3:12).

Hebrews 12:9–10 is the New Testament corollary passage to this Proverb:

Furthermore, we had earthly fathers to discipline us, and we respected them; shall we not much rather be subject to the Father of spirits and live? For they disciplined us for a short time as seemed best to them, but He disciplines us for our good so that we may share His holiness.

Notice the continuing association between the child’s obedience to an earthly father and his or her later submissive response to God. At the risk of “guilting you out” here,

Many people are rebellious toward God today because of bad parenting earlier.

The child never learned the value and fruit of correction at a young age. No one ever broke his self-will, and as a result, he carries around a rebellious spirit today. This idea is evidenced in the following Proverb:

“Forsake your folly and live, and proceed in the way of understanding” (Proverbs 9:6).

This is a passage that should be memorized and used by every parent when shepherding the heart of a child. Learn to say, “That’s wrong in accordance with God’s Word.” Such language best sets the stage for the child to have a sensitivity and desire to please God tomorrow.



Of course, for a humanist, believing that man is basically good, not fallen, there is no reason for correction. Quite to the contrary, the Christian worldview holds that man is fallen, including your cute little boy or girl, and is, therefore, in dire need of parental instruction, exhortation, and correction.

D. TO DIRECT YOUR CHILDREN

Notice the following set of Proverbs that speak to this purpose in parenting:

My son, if sinners entice you, do not consent (1:10).

My son, do not walk in the way with them. Keep your feet from their path (1:15).

So you will walk in the way of good men and keep to the paths of the righteous (2:20).

Do not let them depart from your sight; keep them in the midst of your heart (4:21).

The picture of a *path* is a wonderful metaphor related to the direction you walk in life (i.e., the straight and narrow *path*). Parents should not be remiss in correcting the direction their children are going as they age. These mid-course corrections are ultra-critical decisions wherein the parent must not prove passive. If you have taught a child submission to authority at a young age, it will not be as difficult for the child to obey at an older age (while still under your roof). In Danielle and my parenting, we chose our children's friends when necessary knowing that friends have such critical influence in the lives of young people.

E. KEEP THEM FROM SEXUAL SIN

A specific area of parenting spoken of repeatedly is that of keeping your child from sexual sin.

Keep your way far from her and do not go near the door of her house (5:8).

To keep you from the evil woman, from the smooth tongue of the adulteress (6:24).

That they may keep you from an adulteress, from the foreigner who flatters with her words (7:5).

A responsible parent will always know who his child is with and where he is—especially at night. Be passionate about making your child accountable in these areas at all times. Teach your child to not pander to his fallen nature, but rather to mortify the flesh, to *discipline* [his] *body and make it* [his] *slave* (1 Corinthians 9:27). Teach your sons and daughters that sexual desire is to be fulfilled in marriage only. Conversely, sexual involvement before marriage leads to absolutely nothing good for your children, their friends, your family, and our nation! As a governmental leader you know how much sexual sin ends up costing our nation in terms of the welfare rolls, medical costs, law enforcement, etc. Such are reduced by good parenting in this one particular area.

III. THE RESPONSE OF THE CHILD

Children are called to obey their parents in Ephesians 6:1. Proverbs echoes the same truth per the following. This is important to know when your child resists your authority:

Fisher, a young pastor and evangelist based in Juneau, Randy expressed confidence in the next generation. "Jonathan was part of our very first Bible study. He's humble, well-respected, and has a natural connection with both Scripture and people. I couldn't have asked for a better successor."

Randy and Robin Covington will soon relocate from Alaska to Arizona, strategically placing them for future travels. Randy enters this new role not only with the wisdom of experience but with a servant's heart. "I believe the best thing I can do for our leaders is to be someone who lifts them up in prayer and supports them however they need. That gives me as much joy as being on the front lines myself."

Randy will complete his term as Executive Director of the Alaska Baptist Resource Network on September 30, 2025. Capitol Ministries celebrates Randy's new role and looks forward to seeing how God will continue to use his leadership to build disciples among public servants throughout North America.



MINISTRY LEADER PROFILE

Valeriu Ghiletschi

*Moldova, European Union,
and European Parliament
Ministry Leader*



Valeriu Ghiletschi, who is believed to be the first evangelical Christian to be elected to Parliament in a former USSR Bloc nation is CapMin's ministry leader to members of the European Union (EU).

The freedom to worship God and share his faith is very dear to Pastor Ghiletschi, whose family suffered religious persecution in his home country of Moldova when it was a Soviet Bloc nation.

Despite the persecution, his grandfather became the first Christian in their village and established a strong Christian foundation upon which the family built their faith. While his nation was under Communist rule, Pastor Ghiletschi studied engineering in Odessa, Ukraine. When the Soviet Union fell, he earned his Bachelor of Divinity degree at Emmanuel University in Romania.

Continued next page

Then he taught me and said to me, "Let your heart hold fast my words; Keep my commandments and live" (Proverbs 4:4).

When I saw, I reflected upon it; I looked, and received instruction (24:32).

A parent must establish authority early on. This allows the child to gain a sense of conditioning as to the normative nature of parental authority in his life. It sets the stage for the future in the home. It follows that parents must curtail a young child's natural tendency to rebel; a parent must lovingly prove and enforce his authority at the earliest stages of a child's life. This is done through spanking. Notice the following Proverb in this regard:

He who withholds his rod hates his son, but he who loves him disciplines him diligently (13:24).

Foolishness is bound in the heart of a child; but the rod of discipline will remove it far from him (22:15).

Corporal punishment for wrong doing is replete throughout Scripture; it is one of the realities and necessities of living in a fallen world. But keep in mind always that spanking must be done in love and not anger.

IV. THE BENEFITS OF GOOD PARENTING

There are tremendous benefits from taking the time and possessing and practicing the biblical skills necessary for raising your children. The following benefits listed in Proverbs last for a lifetime! That's to say that investing in your good parenting skills today will come back to you a hundred-fold tomorrow! It is akin to creating an

investment portfolio with geometric returns!

A. A LONG LIFE

Hear, my son, and accept my sayings and the years of your life will be many (4:10).

Ephesians 6:3 quotes this promise also, as recorded first in Deuteronomy 5:16, *"that your days may be prolonged"* on the earth. Whereas a child must first be obedient, to accept *my sayings* for this principle to take effect, it implies (as we have seen) the discipline and commitment of a parent to be instructive and exhortative. Think about this: your child's length of *life* is related to your parenting skills.

B. A LIVELY AND PLEASANT HOME

How blessed it is to thoroughly look forward to each and every family gathering! There is little in this life to compare to the joys of family, but how many are those who, for a lack of wisdom in parenting, miss out on these later blessings. Be passionate about your parenting now, and it will accrue to a present and future lively and pleasant home for the rest of your life.

Keep my commandments and live, and my teaching as the apple of your eye (Proverbs 7:2).

For it will be pleasant if you keep them within you, that they may be ready on your lips (22:18).

Child-centered families are abundant today, but God's Word calls us to parent-centered families.



C. A BETTER SOCIETY

If a child doesn't learn obedience in the home, he is likely to be a cost to society, both literally and figuratively. Conversely, those who learn to respect authority in the home will be on the side of helping society by curtailing crime, as this Proverb bears out (and we saw in the prologue):

Those who forsake the law praise the wicked, but those who keep the law strive with them (28:4).

Parenting today relates and is connected to a good society tomorrow; the two are intrinsically intertwined in Scripture. It follows that public servants not only give attention to their own parenting skills but to lawmaking that helps parents achieve their God-given responsibility.

V. THE RESULTS OF BAD PARENTING

Proverbs lists the deleterious things that happen to a child when the parent allows rebellion—both passive and aggressive—in the home. What follows should serve as an additional motivation to prioritize your parenting while in office. It is by far more important to displease your scheduler and staff than it is to shirk from your God-given responsibilities at home. Be clear on this:

You must prioritize serving the institution of the family over and above serving the institution of the state.

Don't confuse these primacies lest, long after serving in office, you have to

live with the following results the rest of your life. Herein is what Solomon states to his son in this regard, who, in the context of the book of Proverbs, will someday be in charge of running the state:

A. A CHILD CHARACTERIZED BY RUIN

The wise of heart will receive commands, but a babbling fool will be ruined (10:8).

B. A CHILD CHARACTERIZED BY STRIFE

Through insolence comes nothing but strife, but wisdom is with those who receive counsel (13:10).

C. A CHILD CHARACTERIZED BY DEATH

He who keeps the commandment keeps his soul, but he who is careless of conduct will die (19:16).

D. A CHILD CHARACTERIZED BY GLUTTONY

He who keeps the law is a discerning son, but he who is a companion of gluttons humiliates his father (28:7).

E. A CHILD WHO IS UNREPENTANT

He who turns away his ear from listening to the law, even his prayer is an abomination (28:9).

F. A CHILD WHO IS UNRESTRAINED

Where there is no vision, the people are unrestrained, but happy is he who keeps the law (29:18).

He has served as the dean of the college of Theology and Education in Chisinau, as president of the Baptist Union of the Republic of Moldova, and as president of the European Baptist Federation. As a member of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE), Pastor Ghiletschi was the chairperson of the Committee on the Election of Judges to the European Court of Human Rights. He served as a member of the Moldova Parliament from 1998-2001 and again from 2009-2019.

As ministry leader to the EU, Pastor Ghiletschi is tasked with building discipleship Bible-study ministries to members of the European Parliament (EP) which is the legislative branch of the EU, a political and economic union that governs common economic, social, and security policies of its 27 member states. Pastor Ghiletschi is working closely with Slavik Rymyskiy, CapMin's Global Director for Eastern and Western Europe to plant and build ministries for political leaders in European nations.

Pastor Ghiletschi is passionate about evangelism and is experienced in making disciples in the political arena. "I believe as Christians, we must be present in every sphere in society, and it is important for the Christian message to be heard in the public square," he said. "There must be a Christian witness there. I pray and ask the Lord to open a door for this ministry in the European Parliament and other national parliaments."



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Too many bad things can happen to a child whose parents are negligent, whose passion for the privilege of parenting is eclipsed by the limelight of public service. It is too high a price to pay—to neglect your child and abandon your higher calling.

VI. CONCLUSION

As fallen human beings, we will all stumble at times in our parenting. That is to be expected, but thank God, He gives us around 18 or so years to *train up a child in the way he should go*. Pray that God will help you in this area and read biblically based books on this subject with your spouse. Continue to hone your skills in this area.

This study would contain less than *the whole counsel of God* on this matter without including mention of 1 Tim-

othy 2:15. This passage speaks about the primary role the woman has in raising children. Hers is a high calling of influence, love, and discipline in raising the next generation. Equally standing before God in their worth, God has assigned the role of leading this generation primarily to the man, who is the breadwinner, whereas He has assigned the role of influencing the next generation to the woman. *This is a much higher and much more difficult calling.* May both husband and wife commit afresh and anew to this God-given responsibility that benefits not only the child, family, and society in the present and the future, but also the Kingdom of God. Parents are to raise their children in *the discipline and instruction of the Lord* (Ephesians 6:4). This is not a suggestion; it is a God-ordained responsibility, a privilege to be extremely passionate about.

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