

NATIONAL PARENT STRIKE LIKELY

December 09, 2004

It's only two people in one small town today, but I think this has the makings of a serious national movement: Parents on strike against slacker kids:

The dishes, garbage and dirty laundry would pile up for days when Cat and Harlan Barnard's two teenage children refused to do their chores. So the parents decided to take a picket line to the picket fences of suburbia.

Earlier this week, the Barnards went on strike. They moved out of their house and into a tent set up in their front driveway. The parents won't cook, clean or drive their children — Benjamin, 17, and Kit, 12 — until they shape up.

"We've tried reverse psychology, upside-down psychology, spiral psychology and nothing has motivated them for any length of time," Cat Barnard, 45, said Wednesday as she in her driveway sat in a lawn chair at an umbrella-covered table decorated with Christmas lights.

Note from Pastor Kevin: but they never tried Jesus and His word. They never sought the book of wisdom, Proverbs, to find out that foolishness and selfishness is pent up in the heart of youth and that loving physical discipline and a teaching and instruction in the Word of God will drive it from them.

Below, the article goes on to say that Mr. Barnard is a social worker. Therefore, he has been trained with all the best tools of the godless government system, which when applied to his own family leads to misery.

I caution the reader to go to the manufacturer's instruction manual (the Bible) to learn how to raise children, rather than to psychologists and social workers who have enough on their plate dealing with their own misery.

*Prov 22:15 Foolishness is bound up in the heart of a child; the rod of correction will drive it far from him.
(NKJ)*

Prov 29:15 The rod and rebuke give wisdom, but a child left to himself brings shame to his mother. (NKJ)

Eph 6:1 Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. 2 "Honor your father and mother," which is the first commandment with promise: 3 "that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth." 4 And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord. (NKJ)

*2 Tim 3:1 But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: 2 For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, **disobedient to parents**, unthankful, unholy, 3 unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, 4 traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, 5 having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away! (NKJ)*

KIDS SURPRISED

The strike took Benjamin and Kit by surprise. They came home from school Monday to find their mother outside with handwritten signs that read "Parents on Strike" and "Seeking Cooperation and Respect!"

Cat Barnard and her 56-year-old husband, a government social services worker, decided their children needed to learn to be responsible.

The Barnards unsuccessfully tried smiley-face charts and withholding allowances. They even sought help from a psychologist. The breaking point may have been when Benjamin didn't offer to help his mother work on the lawn Sunday, even though she should have been resting after recovering from oral surgery.

I do think, however, that the Barnards have made one tactical error: they have ceded the house to the kids and are occupying the lawn. This may work in Florida in winter, when it's very very nice outside, but I don't think this will translate well to Minnesota.

The Barnards have slept on air mattresses in the tent during their strike and have barbecued while their children fended for themselves

with TV dinners inside the house. The parents only go inside to shower and use the bathroom.

On the other hand, if you put the kids in the doghouse in Minnesota, it's probably going to be considered child abuse.

Meanwhile, it does seem as if the Bernard kids may be getting the message.

A visibly angry Benjamin returned from school on Wednesday to find a dozen reporters in his parents' front lawn. He refused to say anything and went into the house followed by his mother, who tried to console him.

Hey kids — want to help move stuff in the house this evening?

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Parents strike to protest messy kids

Wednesday, December 8, 2004 Posted: 7:34 AM EST (1234 GMT)

DELTONA, Florida (AP) -- Even though the dishes, garbage and dirty laundry were piling up, homeowners Cat and Harlan Barnard were getting no help from their two children.

After begging and pleading with their 17-year-old son and 12-year-old daughter to help out around the house, the Barnards decided they were fed up. So they went on strike -- and moved out to the front yard.

"This was our last-ditch effort," Cat Barnard said.

Since Monday morning, the Barnards have lived in a tent in their front yard, going inside the house only to use the restroom or shower. The couple sits on lawn chairs and roasts marshmallows over a hibachi.

Their children were confused on the first day when they came home from school. "It's extremely inconvenient," said their son, Ben Barnard. "Every time the phone rings, we have to run outside to give it to them."

Whether the couple's actions could be regarded as abandonment depends on how much guidance the parents are still providing and "if the children are suffering as a result," said Carrie Hoepfner, a spokeswoman with the

Department of Children & Families in Orange County.

But Cat Barnard says the strike may already be paying dividends. She noted that her daughter washed her own clothes for the first time on Tuesday.

"This is war," Cat Barnard said. "I love my babies, but I don't like what they're doing."