

How Your Family Can Change the World, Episode 76



Power of Moms
A Gathering Place for Deliberate Mothers

With Saren and Richard Eyre

Parenting is getting harder. Parents are feeling alone and isolated when raising their children. The other institutions like the internet, media, education, corporate, financial, etc. pull children's loyalty away from the family, which should be the center, the bull's eye to which everything points.

The Turning is less of a how-to book and more of a response to the fact that parenting is getting harder worldwide and what to do about it.

No matter how many 'how-to' books are out there, if you can't grasp what is happening to families in the world, there is no way to combat it. Understand the forces that are working against you.

If you're listening this chances are you are a deliberate mother and want to build a strong family culture. But these other cultures do exist and can be quite scary, distracting at the least and tearing down at the most detrimental. Other cultures are out for their own self-interests, not for the interest of the family.

Problems can affect all families. Things have slipped so far that kids are getting sucked away to these other cultures, even with the maximum amount of effort on the part of the parents. This book is written for deliberate parents. How can we band together to form coalitions of deliberate parents? Stop giving media that hurts our kids. Stop 16 hour work days leaving no time for family. By creating a larger group of like-minded people, there is a chance for change, a chance for a turning back.

Things are getting bad: Marriage is dying. For every one couple living together in marriage, four others moved in without marriage. Has marriage become redundant? People are choosing to live alone. 82% of children born in Europe were out of wedlock. 42% of Americans thought it would be good to remove "til death do us part," as overly optimistic. Some countries are not maintaining their population because of low birthrates because people are choosing not to have children. 'Overpopulation' argument no longer makes sense when more than half the countries in the world have a negative population growth.

Why write a doomsday book? *The Turning* comes from scripture in the Old and New Testament (and is referenced in other religious books such as the Quran and Hindu texts): "...turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a

curse.” (Malachi, 4:6) The first half discusses the turning away or story of where we are now. The second half focuses on turning back or how we recover. In a nutshell, get all families to be deliberate! Strong families are longer the silent majority, they are the silent *minority*.

Richard’s three step solution:

1. Raise a strong family
 - a. Create a strong family culture.
2. Be a little more vocal
 - a. Popularize parenting. Be an advocate for families. Some young people don’t know much about families, because they’ve never been exposed to it. Show the satisfaction and joy you get from your family. One example (or lots of little examples) can make a big difference.
3. Reach out
 - a. Go to the-turning.com and sign up. The website will tell you about the book but will also help you join a team that allows you to be a bit more vocal on a larger scale. Sign the Family pledge to receive updates and tidbits on how to continue to strengthen families.

We cannot hide from the world or cut off the outside world. It’s not possible to hole up in a little fortress. We need to be in the world – do something to strengthen families. Get involved. Be a strong family. Be the positive force for good.

Chapter 9 is the book within a book and contains the best parenting ideas the Eyre’s have discovered over their years of parenting. This book is depressing, exciting, invigorating. A real roller-coaster.

How to involve dad?

A mom saying “honey, help me” can only be voiced so many times. *The Turning* is a book that dads can get their teeth into. It’s not a ‘mom book.’ It might be the trigger for a dad to do more. Perhaps, read it together and discuss. What does family mean to us? What image are we projecting? How can we protect our family? How can we create solutions to the larger problem? (Includes book club discussion questions.)

See links in show notes for links to The Turning and other family focused sites.

Transcribed by Rosie Liljenquist