

FOCUS ON THE FAMILY

BY DR JAMES DOBSON

FIRE UP BY CHURCHILL'S LEGACY

I confess that if I could spend one afternoon with any famous person who had ever lived during my lifetime, I'd spend it with Winston Churchill.

Churchill had a pitiful start in life. He was born premature, and was a weak and sickly boy with a speech impediment. He received virtually no affection from his parents, and he was at best, a mediocre student in school. He had more failures than successes in his political career, but his persistence paid off – he eventually became Prime Minister of Britain. Up until then, the media had ridiculed him because of his opposition to Hitler.

What I admire most about Winston Churchill is his dogged determination to do what was right, against all odds. His first speech as Prime Minister to the House of Commons (on May 10, 1940) is legendary: "I have nothing to offer but blood, toil, tears and sweat ... You ask, what is our policy? I say it is to wage war by land, sea and air... What is our aim? I can answer in one word. Victory ... Victory however long and hard the road may be, for without victory there is no survival." In time, Churchill led England to that victory. And he went to his final rest in 1965.

I hope that Winston Churchill's legacy will encourage you in the midst of your battles today. To victory!

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voices

High five for this gung-ho dad



HUMPHREY CHIN
42, Father of quintuplets

Ten years ago, Captain Humphrey Chin waited outside the labour ward at the KK Women's and Children's Hospital for his wife to give birth to quadruplets – and was told that he had become the father of not four, but five, children.

It was a pleasant shock for the young Air Force officer and his wife Dorothy.

While some couples today may cringe at the thought of having even one child, Humphrey, now a Lieutenant Colonel, chooses to live by the motto: "The more, the merrier." In a tribute to Fathers' Day this Sunday, **DAPHNE CHUAH** (daphne@mediacorp.com.sg) paid a visit to the family's home this week where she met Humphrey, a Republic of Singapore Air Force officer, who shared his secrets to being a good parent and how to juggle life with five 10-year-olds.

Throughout your wife's pregnancy, you were preparing for four children. What was your family planning like at that time, and did the news of the fifth child clash with those plans?



FAMILY MATTERS:
Humphrey and Dorothy with the children, (top, left to right) Amanda, Alicia, Annabelle and below (right to left) Andre and Adriel.

TREVOR TAN

All along, I was mentally prepared for four. The fifth child went undetected during the pre-natal checks and I was only told the news by someone when I was standing outside the operating theatre while Dorothy was in labour. At first, I was insistent that

someone had the numbers wrong. The reality only sank in when I went down to the post-natal wards and saw my children – all five of them!

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