Parents Are the Primary Educators
in a Child’s Life

If left to themselves, children will be rebels, so it is necessary for parents to train their children. A person cannot be educated in the fundamentals if that person is disobedient in one’s spirit. A key issue in parenting is to minister to our child’s spirit. Once the foundations of obedience and respect are laid, all kinds of creativity can be released. The ultimate authority behind parenting is God as evidenced in phrases like “in the Lord” and “of the Lord.”

Three goals are mentioned in Ephesians 6:1-3, “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’” (NKJV).

First, Citizenship Skills: Children need to learn obedience, which speaks of the potential for internal government and the expression of citizenship skills. Obedience is necessary for an internal conscience that reflects a biblical morality. The Greek word for “obedience” is hupokouo, which means to hear or listen intensely (Eph 6:1; Col. 3:20; Heb.5: 7, 8), coming from hupo, “under” combined with akouo, “to hear.” Obedience for children means the ability to hear under another voice and to respond appropriately. Children are to obey their parents “in the Lord.”

Second, Social Skills: Children need to “honor their father and mother,” which has to do with social-grace skills and the ability to function successfully in society and in Christian community. Honor also relates to the healthy development of one’s person, one’s personality, and the ability to respect others through good deportment and gracious interactions. The word, “honor” (Greek: timao), from which we get “time,” means to defer, give deference, recognition, and respect mingled with love.

Third, Success Skills: “That it may go well with you and you may live long on the earth.” This third goal has to do with life success skills and the development of a successful career capacity. Life-long skills are learned in the context of the home. Jesus grew in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and man in the context of his home as Mary and Joseph honed his skills for life (Luke 2:52). A child who learns to obey and honor enters into the promise of wellness and the enjoyment of long life on earth.

The need for healthy parenting finds reinforcement in an excellent publication released during the Reagan years by the U. S. Department of Education, entitled, What Works—Research about Teaching and Learning. Out of forty-one research findings, the first finding of what works in education is stated as follows: “Parents are their children’s first and most influential teachers. What parents do to help their children learn is more important to academic success than how well off the family is.”

In 1925, the United States Supreme Court in the case of Pierce v. Society of Sisters overturned a direct state attack on the authority of parents to determine the education choices of their children, when a state law was passed in Oregon in 1922 requiring only public school education. The Supreme Court overturned the law on the basis of the parent’s liberty over education.

“The act of 1922 unreasonably interferes with the liberty of parents and guardians to direct the upbringing and education of children under their control . . . The fundamental theory of liberty upon which all governments in this Union repose excludes any general power of the State to standardize its education.”

Continued on page 4
News from the Nations

Revive Israel, Tikkun, Asher & Betty Intrater - In Jerusalem, Congregation Ahavat Yeshua (the Love of Jesus) is growing and we are seeing souls added to the faith from week to week. In Judea at our base on Messianic moshav Yad HaShmonah, the discipleship school Sharr HaKerem (the Vineyard Gate) continues to see young Israelis impacted by consistent study, prayer and discipleship. Our prayer house Mishkan Elohai (the dwelling of my God) is growing in prayer, praise and prophetic insight. In Samaria, our partnership in prayer and finances with brave Palestinian evangelists that daily preach the Gospel to terrorists is expanding. Thank you for standing with us.

Shady Grove Pregnancy Center, Rockville, MD – We are inviting anyone to come to the center for a free sonogram. Please continue to pray for our outreach into the community.

Branch Ministries, Botswana, Rob and Mary Grindley – Pray for the growing women’s ministry that Mary is leading. Mary is also directing the construction of the orphanage buildings. Pray for Rob as he continues to raise up local workers to help in the ministry.

Living Grace Ministries, Thurlow and Lynda Switzer – We observe a genuine hunger in individuals as we are teaching the seminars on family life and parenting in three congregations. Pray for us and for every person receiving these teachings. We’re eagerly anticipating our annual Convocation, Stewarding the Mysteries of God at Northgate on February 24-26 with our guests, Apostle Dale Martin and his wife Loretta. Please join us in prayer for the convocation.
FLOCK HOME GROUPS

Germantown
Thursdays, 7:30 pm
Rick & Sue Brown, 301-972-2129

Germantown
Wednesdays, 7:30 pm
At Betty Money’s, 301-540-7293

Rockville/Silver Spring
Wednesdays, 7:30 pm, Devroy & Ruth McFarlane, 240-242-4242

Montgomery Village
Wednesdays, 7:30 pm, McRory Area; Alfred and Jacky Johnson, 301-977-2220

Montgomery Village
Wednesdays, 7:30 pm,
Shawn & Mindy Swander, 240-631-0322
Assistant Leaders Tim & Deborah Switzer

Middle School Discipleship Club
For all 6th – 8th graders, Fri., Feb. 18, 7:30 pm; Dan and Silvia Switzer, 301-977-1121
Assistant leaders Ron and Kahlia Davis

Sisters of Faith
Sisters of Faith Breakfast, February 12th, 8:30 am, at Bob Evans in Milestone

Men Under God
The men’s breakfast meets at the Gaithersburg Hilton on Feb 5th, at 8:00 am.

February Birthdays
Michael Switzer, Feb 4
Hannah Kauzlarich, Feb 6
Ethan Parr, Feb 9
Sika Abalo, Feb 10
Kathy Johnson, Feb 13
Dan Doody, Feb 15
Meme Perez, Feb 15
Jerrell Richards, Feb 18
Alfred Johnson, Feb 20
Ampa Johnson, Feb 20
Zinal Fardipour, Feb 21
Isaac Woode, Feb 22
Ben Brown, Feb 26

February Anniversaries
Geoff and Gina Parr, Feb 4
Matt and Jenifer Walker, Feb 4
Alfred and Jacky Johnson, Feb 19
Jimmy and Sandralee Brown, Feb 27

Praise and Prayer Requests
1. Pray for continuing grace and strength to Gwen in her rehabilitation
2. Rick Brown – recovering from thyroid surgery
3. Praise – Jim Wood is back home
4. Praise – Faith Wilson shares that Shawn had a good health report
5. Lourdes Reynolds’s niece’s baby Richard, had a good health report
6. Karen O’Connor – provision and protection
7. Pray for our nation’s leaders
8. Northgate pastors, elders, and families
9. Dan Doody’s son-in-law Dave – healing from cancer and a blood clot in his leg
10. Virginia Page – encouragement, healing
11. Praise – Larry Johnson is doing very well and has returned to work – 10 hours per day!
12. Madeline Crocksey – strength and healing
13. Praise – Cheryl Tom’s PET scan reveals that she is cancer free; pray for her as she begins chemo therapy.

Check out this blog spot: Living Grace Ministries, and leaders in friendship with LGM, under the editorship of Pastor Jon Switzer of Crossroads Valley Chapel in Frederick, MD, set up this blog spot: www.logsforthefire.blogspot.com.

Adventure in Family Life and Parenting Series

Apostle Pastor Thurlow Switzer and his wife Lynda will minister at Northgate on the Biblical principles of grace-filled, spirit-led Christian Family Life and Christian parenting on the following Sunday mornings and weekday evenings:

Sunday, February 13, 10 AM   Tuesday, February 15, 7:30 PM
Monday, March 14, 7:30 PM

Sunday, March 13, 10 AM   Monday, April 11, 7:30 PM
Saturday, April 9, 7:30 PM

Sunday, April 10, 10 AM   Monday, May 9, 7:30 PM
Sunday, May 8, 10 AM

(Nursery will be provided on Sundays and week-day evenings.)

Love Conquers All

The love for equals is a human thing—of friend for friend, brother for brother. It is to love what is loving and lovely. The world smiles.

The love for the less fortunate is a beautiful thing—the love for those who suffer, for those who are poor, the sick, the failures, the unlovely. This is compassion, and it touches the heart of the world.

The love for the more fortunate is a rare thing—to love those who succeed where we fail, to rejoice without envy with those who rejoice, the love of the poor for the rich . . . . The world is always bewildered by its saints.

And then there is the love for the enemy—love for the one who does not love you but mocks, threatens and inflicts pain. The tortured’s love for the torturer. This is God’s love. It conquers the world.

Frederick Buechner, The Magnificent Defeat

Invincible Love

In their book Falling in Love with Jesus, Dee Brestin and Kathy Troccoli compare the stages of marriage to a relationship with Jesus. All relationships, they write, go through three stages: first love, wilderness love and invincible love. Mary of Bethany, for example, experienced first love when she couldn’t tear herself away from Jesus while her sister Martha toiled. Then, when Mary’s brother Lazarus died, she felt wilderness love, “clinging to Jesus in the wounds of life.” Finally, Mary expressed overflowing invincible love as she poured her perfume and tears on Jesus’ feet, wiping them with her hair.

Brestin and Troccoli say most Christians never arrive at the final stage. “They simply have an occasional rendezvous with the One who used to be the Love of their life.” But nothing can compare to a “tender, mature, invincible love with Jesus.”

Anyway

People are often unreasonable, illogical and self-centered; forgive them anyway.

If you are kind, people may accuse you of selfish ulterior motives; be kind anyway.

If you are honest, people may cheat you; be honest anyway.

If you are kind, people may accuse you of selfish ulterior motives; be kind anyway.

If you find serenity and happiness, people may be jealous of you; be happy anyway.

The good you do today, people will often forget tomorrow; do good anyway.

Give the world the best you have, and it may never be enough; give the world the best you’ve got anyway.

You see, in the final analysis, it is between you and God; it was never between you and them anyway.

“The Paradoxical Commandments” by Kent M. Keith
children by forcing them to accept instruction from public school teachers only. The child is not the mere creature of the State; those who nurture him and direct his destiny have the right, coupled with the high duty, to recognize and prepare him for additional obligations.”

At least three basic premises are stated here: First, the child is not the creature of the state. By implication, this means the children have an extra-statist existence. Rather, the child is the creation of God. Second, parents, acting under the authority of God as His stewards, have both liberty and a “high duty” or responsibility to educate their children properly. Third, the state, whose power is derived from the Creator, has no authority to interfere in the parent’s liberty and responsibility to educate their children. The state must allow parents to seek out alternative forms of education including private schools and home schooling.

The primary institution in terms of educating children is the family unit in which the children are the beneficiaries. Parents are given the responsibility by the Creator for carefully instructing their children in the principles and doctrines of the Bible (Deut 6:6, 7). The Proverb is, “Train up a child in the way he should go; and when he is old, he will not depart from it” (Prov 22:6; cf. 2 Tim 3:15). The first actual mention of teaching in the Bible is found in the dramatic words of God about Abraham: “For I know him, that he will command his children and his household after him, and they will keep the way of the Lord to do justice and judgment” (Gen 18:19). The family is the first and most basic educational environment, where the child first learns religion, parent-government, self-government, and a wide range of subjects on a day-to-day basis, such as health, responsibility, the work ethic, and social skills. May God help us all in the nurture and training of our children for God’s kingdom destiny and for the Lord’s purposes.

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**Encouraging Words**

- I am made in God’s image, and he doesn’t make any junk. God loves me and wants me to live a fulfilled life.
- Communion with God constantly brings light, direction and blessings from Him.
- Life is astonishingly wonderful. Even the rough spots often turn out to be pluses. Hard lessons make me wiser, kinder and more fruitful.
- When I feel boxed-in or blocked, I can know that in God’s good time, He will help me be victorious.

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“I have been driven many times to my knees by the overwhelming conviction that I had nowhere else to go. My own wisdom, and that of all about me, seemed insufficient for the day.”

*Abraham Lincoln*

**February 2011**

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Northgate Community Church - Reaching People from All Nations for Christ!