Influencing Our Children

By Pastor Thurlow Switzer

The Influence of Grandmothers and Mothers

Grandmothers and mothers can have a great influence on their children and grandchildren. Paul wrote to Timothy, “I have been reminded of your sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice and, I am persuaded, now lives in you also” (I Tim. 1:5; II Tim. 3:15).

Timothy was maternally trained.
Timothy had living faith modeled to him.
Timothy was experientially alive in Christ.

Last week (July 2011), I enjoyed teaching the adult class for the Vacation Bible School outreach, in which we used the book of 2 Timothy as the basis for our study. We had between fifteen to twenty adults each evening. One section presented was about the awesome influence that Timothy’s grandmother and mother had on his upbringing. I would like in this article to appreciate and thank the grandmothers and mothers in our congregation for the godly influence you have on your children. We are privileged to have a great array of such stalwart influencers on the life of our children. To be sure, I am not leaving out the influence that godly fathers have on their sons and daughters, since Timothy was spiritually adopted by Paul as a spiritual son. It is well when natural fathers truly grant the spirit of adoption to their natural children so that they become spiritual sons and daughters, but here we will focus on the influence of mothers and grandmothers.

Luke gives a brief account of Timothy’s spiritual heritage in Acts 16:1-3. Paul, obviously better acquainted with Timothy and his family, gives a more detailed picture here. Timothy's mother Eunice was a Jewess, as was her mother Lois. Both women had Greek names, so they were apparently of the Hellenist Jews, who wanted to fit in with the Greek society of the day. Lois was the first in the family to accept Christ. She probably was a great influence on her daughter, and, as Christians, they both raised Timothy in the faith. Timothy’s father, however, was a Greek, and apparently had not accepted Christ, and had obviously not accepted Judaism earlier since Timothy had grown up uncircumcised. Timothy matured into a faithful Christian, and Paul is comforted when he remembers the young man’s progress.

a. “I have been reminded of your sincere faith” – Faith for God’s people before Christ came is not different in kind from the faith after Christ came. New Testament faith is essentially the faith exercised by Abraham. When Paul thought of Timothy’s faith, he had positive thoughts. It is possible, due to recent events such as the cowardice of the hypocrite Demas who forsook him, that Timothy stood faithful and this reminded Paul of the sincerity of Timothy’s faith.

b. “Which first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice” – Eunice was a Messianic Christian of Jewish background (Acts 16:1) as was Timothy’s Grandmother Lois. Timothy was a third generation Christian. Probably, Grandmother Lois had passed on her faith as well as Timothy’s own mother passing on her faith to her son. Their names are insightful: Lois meaning “no flight”: she did not flee from problems, but pressed into them and overcame. Eunice means “happy victory”: she did not live morbidly, but maintained a happy, victorious stance. In times of trial, there must be no flight or slipping away; instead, we are to face into spiritual perseverance to experience victory. Timothy’s mother Eunice was a believing Jewish woman, but
Sunday, July 3rd, Rob ministered at Northgate to a time of prayer for healing. On that same evening, Several people who came responded and Mary ministered on healing at Northgate.

Betty Intrater, Revive Israel, Tikkun, Asher & Courage on July 1st, and then Rob ministered to the campers at Camp Branch Ministries, Botswana, Rob support. Being saved because of your monthly donations. Lives are we serve and save, thank you for behalf of all the mothers and children children of Montgomery County. On we make a difference for the unborn together, our influence is greater and Rockville, MD Shady Grove Pregnancy Center, appreciates your on-going prayers.

Rob and Lynda Switzer – We praise God for testimonies that the Word of God and life in Christ was made plain to understand in the class on Keys to the Victorious Life during Northgate’s VBS. Also, God blessed at the Global Missions International Conference in Summerville, SC, as Thurlow ministered the Word and he and Lynda spent time with several couples in ministry.

Or Ha Olam, Light of the World Congregation. Recently Rabbi Marty Peltz and his wife Chieko had the joy of participating in and seeing their grandson Caleb have his Bar Mitzvah.

Pray Also for: Adwoa Yeboah-Marfo, Marfo Children’s Village, Ghana
Jesus Is Alive Ministries with Apostle William Tetey, Lome, Togo
Stanley and Karen Redwood, Jamaica
Crossroads Valley Chapel, Fred., MD

Northgate Community Church
Reaching People from All Nations for Christ!
Worship Schedule
Sundays, 9:45 am - Congregational Prayer
Sundays, 10:00 am – Worship Service
Midweek Flock Home Groups
We are always ready to serve you – Pastors Dan, Rick, Thurlow, and Elder Vance

All Nations Worship Service and Picnic
August 21st
10:00 am
Bring a Friend!
Bring a Dish!

Coming to Northgate . . .
Diane Oliver Guest Speaker
On Sunday, August 14th, we look forward to the ministry of Diane Oliver at Northgate. Diane works with orphans in China. She is Lee Oliver’s sister.

“Praise him, O ye servants of the Lord, ye that stand in the house of the Lord, in the courts of the house of our God” (Psalm 135:1). What a privilege to stand in praise before the Lord! It seems to me that today we always want to be moving on; we cannot stand still. So many things claim our attention that we are perpetually on the go. We cannot stop for a moment. But he who is spiritual knows how to stand still. He can stand before God in worship while God makes known to him his will. He can pause and await orders.

From Watchman Nee, A Table in the Wilderness
FLOCK HOME GROUPS

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

Germantown
Wednesdays, 7:30 pm
Thurlow & Lynda Switzer
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

Thurlow & Lynda Switzer
At Betty Money’s, 301-540-7293

Rockville/Silver Spring
Wednesdays, 7:30 pm
Thurlow & Lynda Switzer, 301-631-0322
Assistant Leaders Ron and Kahlia Davis

Middle School Discipleship Club
For all 6th – 8th graders,
Dan and Silvia Switzer, 301-977-1121
Assistant leaders Ron and Kahlia Davis

Sisters of Faith
Men Under God

August Birthdays
Jennie Lyman, Aug 2
Vance Kauzlarich, Aug 4
Marc Galley, Aug 5
Rebecca Raven, Aug 5
Betty Money, Aug 6
Jesse Parr, Aug 7
Sam Ayton, Aug 15
Peniel Johnson, Aug 15
Komi Goudjovi, Aug 19
Lea Anderson, Aug 23
Shawn Swander, Aug 23
Jennifer Anderson, Aug 24
Jessica Lyman, Aug 24
Thurlow Switzer, Aug 26
Dan Switzer, Aug 30

August Anniversaries
Dan and Silvia Switzer, Aug 11
Rick and Sue Brown, Aug 17
Vance and Linda Kauzlarich, Aug 30

Praise and Prayer Requests
1. Pray for continuing grace and strength to
Gwen in her rehabilitation
2. Madeline Cooksey – recovering in the
Wilson Rehabilitation Center
3. Pray for the spiritual life of all the
Northgate family
4. Praise - Benga Alabi’s job at Dulles Airport
5. Lourdes Reynolds’s niece’s baby Richard,
microcephaly -- his life will be a testimony of
God’s love and power to the glory of Jesus.
6. Karen O’Conner – 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; grace and strength for family
10. Antoinette Atsoo – praise for the healing
and strengthening of her arms
11. David Szymanski in AZ – prayer for
health and protection

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.

We give thanks to the Lord for each child, teenager, and adult who came to VBS.
Several who came to VBS prayed to receive Jesus Christ as their personal Savior.

The boys and girls at VBS gave $535.94 to help build a Christian School building,
Kingdom Focus Academy, with Kingdom Focus Ministries and Pastor Morris Brown in
Liberia, West Africa.

“God has given us two hands: one to receive with and other to give with. We are not
cisterns made for hoarding; we are channels made for sharing.” By Billy Graham
Continued from page 1

his father was a Greek, likely an unbeliever (Acts 16:1). The belief of the mother alone is mentioned. We know that the faith of one believing parent sanctifies a family (2 Tim 3:15; 1 Cor 7:14). Eunice was probably converted at Paul’s first visit to Lystra (Acts 14:6).

c. “And, I am persuaded, now lives in you also” – Paul remembers Timothy’s faith in the past as fact. He has confident persuasion that this faith dwells in Timothy now. Timothy’s name means “honoring God.” Abiding in Christ and allowing His word to abide in us is a key to successful Christian living. Paul is persuaded that Timothy has unfeigned faith.

Jesus said the following in John 14:23-24, “If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him. He who does not love Me does not keep My words; and the word which you hear is not Mine but the Father's who sent Me (NKJV, compare with John 15:7-10).

Five lessons we may derive from this passage are simple but powerful.

1) Live sincerely before your children and grandchildren. They will pick up your sincerity.
2) Do not flee from problems, but press into them and help your children to do the same.
3) Seek to embrace a happy and victorious stance toward life and portray that day by day.
4) Remember that a godly stance as a woman of God is able to sanctify the whole family.
5) Our persuasions as parents have a way of seeding into the lives of our children who learn to honor God.

Oh the blessing and influence of grandmothers and mothers! God bless each one in this journey of influencing and loving our children and grandchildren. Although, I wrote this article last week, today (07-24-11), Brother Alfred Johnson spoke excellently from the Book of Ruth about Naomi and Ruth. His message confirms the thrust of this article about the influence of a grandmother and mother. Naomi, a godly woman, and Ruth, a godly daughter-in-law, became respectively the grandmother and mother of a son, Obed, who was the father of Jesse, who was the father of King David. Jesus came from the lineage of King David. This next week we will be taking our five families and seventeen grandchildren on vacation together, and Lynda and I truly hope to have a godly influence on our grandchildren.

August

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