

LIVING GRACE
CHRISTIAN SCHOOL
20300 Pleasant Ridge Drive
Montgomery Village, MD
20886-4016

Phone: 301-840-9830
e-mail: dnslvs@aol.com
web site: www.lgcs.northgatecc.org



MAY 2015

LIVING GRACE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

Raising Champions

Principal's Message:

Encouraging Our Children in Having a True Relationship with Christ

By Dr. Daniel L. Switzer

An important character trait to inculcate in our children is that of *worshipping the Father in spirit and truth*. Jesus said in John 4:23-24, "Yet a time is coming and has now come when *the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in spirit and in truth*" (NIV, italics added). Worshipping the Father in spirit and truth is glorifying the Lord with an open, honest relationship in which our spirit connects with God's Spirit. I'd like to talk about encouraging our children in having this kind of relationship with Christ.

Worship the Father

Hebrews 13:15 says, "Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise—the fruit of lips that confess his name." God calls us to offer a sacrifice of praise unto the Lord. Sometimes we may "feel" like worshipping the Lord, sometimes not. But it really doesn't matter if we "feel" like it. God calls us out of obedience to praise and worship Him, who is worthy of our adoration. Just like we train our children to obey in other matters, we should train our children in this very worthy obedience of offering a sacrifice of praise unto the Lord.



Psalms 100:4 gives us guidance: "Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise." Giving thanks and praise unto the Lord starts the process of coming into the presence of the Lord. As we encourage our children in this—to learn to give thanks and praise to God out of obedience—they will gradually experience the reality of coming into his presence in this way.

I encourage you to make the time for praise and worship at home with your family. I like to turn on a praise CD and spend time praising the Lord with my children; in a sense, I am training—or practicing—praising the Lord with them. Also, I encourage you in congregational worship to be actively training your children during praise and worship—train them to enter into worshipping the Lord. The Bible calls for many outward forms of praise such as the dance, clapping hands, and lifting hands; these are excellent ways to engage children in praising God. Don't let your children simply sit and doodle or do whatever during these worship times. As parents, we need to involve our children during congregational worship and train them to actively enter into praise and worship.

Knowing, Loving, and Worshipping God the Father in Spirit

Romans 8:15-16 tells us, "For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship. And by him we cry, 'Abba, Father.' The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children." As children of God, we receive a spirit of sonship—the Holy Spirit connects with our spirit and encourages us.

Of course, this truth also applies to our children who have received Christ as their personal Savior and Lord. Our children can know, love, and worship Abba Father with their spirit. They can connect to God in spirit. As sheep of the Good Shepherd, they can learn to hear the encouraging voice of their Good Shepherd. And in this way, they know God! As parents we need to encourage our children to spend regular "quiet times" with the Lord for the purpose of knowing God more and becoming more like Christ. As our children learn to communicate with God through prayer—not only speaking but

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Supporting the Mission of Living Grace School: Raising Up Champions for God



“For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do” (Eph. 2:8-10).

Please share with your friends about Living Grace Christian School, a school where the parents, teachers, and children work together in positive Biblical teamwork and relationship to raise up champions of God—servant leaders of godly character who will advance the cause of Christ and make disciples of all nations. Living Grace Christian School is committed to Christian Discipleship, Academic Excellence, and Godly Character Development. Families are encouraged to apply for financial assistance based on need.

Please pray about supporting LGCS in the following ways:

1. Praying for the school.
2. Becoming a prayer partner—the school is committed to having consistent prayer support through seeking up to twelve prayer partners who agree to pray daily for the school.
3. Helping families who cannot pay the full tuition to send their children to the school through the “Student Champions Fund.” We are committed to a ministry philosophy of “ministry over money” in which no family is excluded from the school due to financial hardship. Checks should be made out to Living Grace Christian School with “Student Champions Fund” written in the memo.
4. **Supporting the long-term establishment of the school through the “Living Grace Christian School Endowment Fund.” Contributions to this fund support the building of the expanded facility. Checks should be made out to Living Grace Christian School with “Endowment Fund” written in the memo. Also, we ask you to invite family and friends to give toward your child’s school expansion. Gifts can be made online at lgcs.northgatecc.org—click on “Endowment Fund-Building Expansion.”**
5. Providing volunteer help at the school.

If you desire to help in any of these ways, please feel free to call or email Dr. Switzer.

Prayer Needs

As stated above, the school is committed to having consistent prayer support through seeking twelve prayer partners who agree to pray daily for the school. If you would like to be a designated prayer partner, please talk to Dr. Switzer. Obviously, we encourage everyone to be praying for the school—parents, teachers, students, and extended family.

Please pray for the following significant areas:

1. The spiritual life of all parents, teachers, and students, that our relationships with the Lord would be grace-filled and marked by integrity.
2. That parents, teachers, students, and Northgate congregants work together in positive Biblical teamwork and unified relationship.
3. Effective leadership and teaching, and a commitment to Christian discipleship, academic excellence, and godly character development.
4. Walking out our comprehensive plan for parent participation: pray that the teachers would effectively communicate with parents, be receptive and accessible to them, and treat them as partners in the educational process.
5. God’s provision for families, including financial and transportation needs.
6. Parents as they fulfill the role as their child’s primary teachers. Pray that parents would “reserve judgment” when their children give them a negative report about a school situation until they have the opportunity to talk with the respective teacher.
7. Excellent study habits, godly relationships, and prosperous health and safety for the entire student body.
8. Pastors and the larger Body of Christ to increasingly see the need to educate their children in a manner consistent with their Biblical beliefs.
9. Volunteers to help in the classrooms, office, and building.
10. Consistent financial support to help needy families to be able to send their children to the school through the “Student Champions Fund.”
11. The families of all the teachers, parents, and students.
12. That these children would know that God has a plan for their lives; that God would raise up these children to be champions of God—servant leaders of godly character who will advance the cause of Christ and make disciples of all nations! **Thank you for your prayers!**



Encouraging Our Children in Having a True Relationship with Christ

(continued from page 1)

also spending time listening to God—they grow in knowing Him more. They learn what is important to our Lord's heart. They develop a relationship with Christ!

Knowing God the Father in Truth

In addition, we need to encourage our children in having an open, honest relationship with the Lord. 1 John 1:5-9 gives us guidance regarding how to walk in this truthful relationship with God: "This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all. If we claim to have fellowship with him yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live by the truth. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin. If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness." We need to walk this out as well as regularly encourage our children to openly confess their sin to God. This practice, by its very nature, will foster an honest relationship with the Father.

Romans 12:1 says, "Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship." Ultimately, we need to encourage our children that our whole life is an expression of worship unto God. We have been created to praise His glory! As our children learn to worship God with their very lives, they will become closer and closer to Christ. They will have an ever deepening relationship with the Father—in spirit and in truth! I encourage you to ask God for guidance regarding training and fostering this kind of relationship in your children's lives.

Godly Character Trait for May: Worshiping the Lord in Spirit and in Truth

Recently we had an excellent **Youth Celebration** in which the young people really entered into praising and worshiping our Lord Jesus Christ. We've had very good chapels with the students being equipped to truly worship the Lord. As shared in this article, we need to challenge our children to have a true relationship with Jesus Christ. As parents, I encourage you to set aside times in your family to put on a praise song and train your children to truly praise and worship the Lord. Teach them to enter His gates with thanksgiving and His courts with praise. Exhort them to persevere—not get tired or get distracted—in going all the way into Christ's presence, the place of being changed. At church, train your children to stand up and give glory to Abba Father through praise and worship. In order for our young people to become champions for the Lord, they need to be true worshipers of Him.

As we pray for the school, I encourage you to refer to the "Prayer Needs" as given in this edition of *Raising Champions*. Please pray for God's presence, grace, and strength for the students, parents, and teachers as we finish the year. Pray for excellent communications between the teachers and the parents with the midterms on May 8th. Lift up the preparation for "Family Day" on May 15th; pray that the Lord will give us a wonderful day as a school family. **To the prayer partners and all who have been praying for the school, I am so grateful to you. We have had a grace-filled, peace-filled, and godly-character producing year; I attribute that to God's working through your prayers! The Lord bless you!**

Reminders

TUITION PAYMENTS TO SMART. Please remember that tuition payments are paid directly to the Smart Tuition Management Company. Tuition payments are due to Smart by the fifth of each month, August through May.

SCHOOL UNIFORMS. Remember to order necessary school uniforms for next school year. Orders can be made online at www.flynnohara.com, over the phone at 800-441-4122 ext. 8101, or in person at Flynn and O'Hara at Loehmann's Plaza, 5210 Randolph Road, Rockville, MD 20852. Orders should be placed by July 15th to guarantee delivery before school starts.

MAY 8th HALF-DAY

On May 8th, students will be dismissed at 12:00 noon so that we can have staff development. There will be no after-school homework club that day; parents should make plans to pick up their children at noon. In addition, midterms will be coming home with your child that day.



INVITE FAMILY AND FRIENDS TO REGISTER CHILDREN FOR NEXT SCHOOL YEAR!

We encourage you to share with family and friends about Living Grace Christian School. Share your own testimony about what God is doing with your child. We seek to be a school where the parents, teachers, and children work together in positive Biblical teamwork and relationship to raise up champions of God. We are committed to Christian Discipleship, Academic Excellence, and Godly Character Development. Also, families are encouraged to apply for financial assistance based on need.

LOOKING AHEAD

- May 30: Commencement: Senior Graduation 3:00 p.m.
- June 3: Half Day: Noon Dismissal—Students' Last Day
- June 5: Awards Assembly for All Students and Parents:
 - K-4th Grade: 8:30 a.m.
 - 5-11th Grade: 10:30 a.m.

Parent News

FAMILY DAY IS HERE!

Friday, May 15th, is Family Day! This event is designed to promote our relationships both as families and as a school family. We will participate in exciting games and activities as well as cheer on our children as they sprint, jump, shoot (basketballs), do hoola hoops, and much more! Your participation is very important to this day; we are sending home a memo regarding how you can help out. Each family brings a picnic lunch for their family, and each person should bring a water bottle. We will meet at the school building by 8:25 a.m. (Students should be in their classrooms by 8:25 a.m.) We will then walk over to the adjoining park for "Big-Circle, All-Family Prayer." We will finish by 3:00 p.m. We encourage parents to make plans to be here for this momentous day!

CAMP COURAGE IS COMING! Camp Courage, a Christian day camp, is offering three exciting programs this summer. In the **All-Around Program** (weeks of June 22 to 26 and July 6 to 10), campers enjoy all kinds of games and activities. The camp is also offering an exciting **Soccer and Games Program** the week of July 20 to 24. Brochures are available in the foyer outside the office. See Dr. Switzer if you have any questions.

WAY TO GO, MATH OLYMPIANS! A hearty congratulations go to our students for doing their best and performing wonderfully at the ACSI Math Olympics on April 21st. The following students participated (with award placements in the computation section of the competition): Danny Velis (fourth), Santiago Chitiva (fifth), Liliana Gomez (first), Aaryanna Flores (second), Nehemiah Switzer (first), Emily Parr, Josue Escalante, Promise Johnson, Isaac Jimenez (second), Peniel Johnson (third), Camilla Diaz, and Valeria Monchez. The following students participated in the reasoning section: Sarah Aguilar (fifth) and Andrew Wong (third). Liliana Gomez and Nehemiah Switzer also received special medals for exceptionally high performances. Also, we want to give a hearty "Thank you!" to Coaches Professor Toman, Mrs. Magaña, Mrs. Bazis, and Mr. Silva for their instruction, and for the faithful checking of math books by Mrs. Perdomo, Mrs. Diaz, Ms. Toman, Mrs. Wong, and our parent volunteers. In addition, we're grateful for the help from these parents: Mrs. Wong, Mr. Davis, Mr. Aguilar, Mr. Alfred Johnson, Mr. Diaz, and Mrs. Velis.

A GIANT OF A GREAT JOB! Outstanding job, Parents! You raised \$1,839 through the Giant program! You also raised \$109 through Box Tops this year. Please continue to get the "box tops" on cereal boxes (including during the summer) and place them in the box in your child's class. Much appreciation goes to our coordinator, Mrs. Gina Parr.

THANKS FOR HELPING WITH PASSOVER SEDER! We want to express our gratitude to Mrs. Robinson, Mrs. Perdomo, Mrs. Perez, and Mrs. Diaz as well as to the following parents for organizing and helping with the Passover Seder: Mrs. Armas, Mrs. Chavez, Mrs. Salas, Mrs. Campbell. You made it an edifying time for our students!

May 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8 Dismissal at Noon Staff Dev/Midterms	9
10	11 5/6th Field Trip Black Hills Survival	12	13	14	15 Family Day	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25 Memorial Day No School	26	27	28	29	30 Senior Graduation 3:00

"For I know the plans I have for you . . . plans to give you hope and a future" (Jer. 29:11).

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