

LIVING GRACE  
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LIVING GRACE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

# Raising Champions

## Principal's Message: *Redeeming the Time with our Children*

By Dr. Daniel Switzer

Over the years I have enjoyed taking my children on bike rides. I recall taking the opportunity to go on a bike ride with my youngest son Joshua. With Joshua sitting right behind me, we talked together, laughed together, and enjoyed the invigorating sensation of the wind blowing on our faces (especially when we rode downhill). In the process, I was sure to shower a lot of love and affirmation on my son. With the end of the school year and the start of summer, we often have more time to spend with our children. In this society, our lives can get so busy that sometimes we can go days or even weeks without enjoying and playing with our children. (I thoroughly enjoyed our recent Family Day in which as parents and children we were able to cheer each other on and enjoy a great day with one another.) Anyway, summertime provides us with some unique opportunities to “redeem the time” with the purpose of developing a close relational bond with our children.



The Psalmist asked the Lord, “Show me, O Lord, my life’s end and the number of my days; let me know how fleeting is my life. You have made my days a mere handbreadth; the span of my years is as nothing before you. Each man’s life is but a breath” (NIV, Psalm 39:4-5). Indeed, our heart’s cry to the Lord should be to teach us to number our days. Although we don’t know exactly what the number of our days is, there *is* a number to our days. God knows that number, and every day we have one day fewer on this earth to live for Christ and impact our children through our loving care and training.

Putting it positively, I’ve heard the saying that “Today is the first day of the rest of your life.” No matter how we’ve spent our time in the past, we can make a difference in our children’s lives today *while it is called today*. Ephesians 5:15-16 exhorts us, “Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil.” Each day is a gift from God, and we can choose to make the most of the opportunities that God gives us. With our children, we can choose to use the opportunities that God gives us to build an unbreakable relational bond characterized by open communication. Let me share with you a few ways that we can redeem the time with our children this summer.

### Daddy-Daughter Date or Guys Time Out

With my daughter Anna I like to go on a periodic “Daddy-Daughter Date.” With my boys, I call it a “Guys Time Out.” No matter what you call it, the purpose of this time is to spend some time away doing something that your child wants to do, shower affirmation on him or her, and listen to see what is really going on in your child’s heart and life.

### Indoor and Outdoor Games

Indoor games around the table can be refreshing times of enjoyment as a family. We laugh together and have the opportunity to affirm each other as the game is played. This kind of activity may seem trivial, but it is not a “trivial pursuit” in the lives of our children. Our children will remember and cherish these times which build family unity and camaraderie. Whether it’s playing an indoor game or an outdoor game of “Hide and Go Seek,” games provide an opportunity for families to spend time together doing something fun. Laughing together as part of play is very healthy for your children and your family’s esprit de corps. It’s fun to be a family together!

### Family Praise and Worship

I encourage you to praise the Lord together as a family. This

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

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***“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](http://lgcs.northgatecc.org)—click on “Endowment Fund-Building Expansion.”**
5. Providing volunteer help at the school.

## **Prayer Needs**

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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 advance the cause of Christ and make disciples of all nations! **Thank you for your**



# Redeeming the Time with Our Children

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should also be a very fun experience. Turn on a catchy praise song, one in which the words focus your children's hearts and minds on the Lord, and praise the Lord together as a family. This activity is a great way to train our children in the things of the Lord. What better thing to do as a family than to actively praise him—singing and dancing around the living room as unto the Lord!

## Family Trips

Invariably we go on some kind of family trip during the summer, whether it's to the beach or for a week away. During the ride to and fro, our children often start asking, "Are we almost there yet?" Well, we can make the most of that time in the vehicle by playing a game. Growing up, we enjoyed playing a game in which we would try to see how many license plates from different states we saw. Or you can play a game in which you accumulate points for calling out a horse (100 points), a tractor (50 points), a cow (25 points), or a motorcycle (15 points). Depending on the age of your children, you could play the parents versus the children (while keeping your eyes on the road, of course). Invigorating discussions as a family can also take place on trips (as opposed to your children simply being into themselves with their Minecraft).

## Reading and Discussing Character-Building Stories

I've said it before, but I'm a firm believer in the power of reading strong stories which illuminate Biblical values. Jesus used many fiction stories (parables) in his ministry that people could identify with. I encourage you to take the time to read a short story with your children. Get books that are based on Christian character as opposed to simply *The Cat in the Hat*-type books. This is an excellent way to spend some time together. As you read and discuss the values expressed in the story, you are planting godly seed in your children.

## Family Devotions

I encourage you to take the time to open up the Bible with your children from time to time. Read a passage that has spoken to you lately and discuss what it means as a family. Ask each child, "How does this apply to you? What does this teach you?" Let God's Word leave an impression on your children.

## Don't Miss Out on Normal Summer Activities with Your Children

Whether it's swimming, going to the playground, enjoying the fireworks on Independence Day, or simply going on a leisurely walk, take the time to do these things with your children. Avoid the temptation to simply "pass" on some of these times. Do every-day things with your children. The common denominator in all of these summer activities is that they give us the opportunity to **build relationship with our children**. Look for opportunities to communicate heart to heart through both listening and sharing with your children—and always encourage them. Don't forget to give your children the benefit of your godly perspective on life. Influence your children as you build relationship. In this way we invest life that will surely bring an eternal reward!

## REMINDERS

### **TUITION AND BOOK/ACTIVITY FEE PAID TO SMART**

Please remember that tuition payments and book/activity fees are paid directly to the Smart Tuition Management Company. The Book/Activity Fee is paid directly to Smart by July 5th. Tuition payments are due to Smart by the fifth of each month, August through May.

### **SCHOOL UNIFORMS**

Remember to order any necessary school uniforms for next school year. Uniforms can be ordered online, over the phone, or in person at Flynn and O'Hara at Loehmann's Plaza, 5210 Randolph Road, Rockville, MD 20852. Orders should be placed by July 15<sup>th</sup> in order to guarantee delivery before school starts. **Also, you can purchase the p.e. t-shirt at the school office.**



### **PLEASE PLACE THE FOLLOWING DATES ON YOUR CALENDAR:**

- July 5th: Book/Activity Fees Due to Smart Tuition
- August 5th: First Tuition Payment Due to Smart Tuition
- September 6th: First Day of School

### **AUGUST RAISING CHAMPIONS**

The August Raising Champions along with the school calendar and the What to Bring on the First Day of School List will be mailed to you. Please be sure to let the office know if you have a change of address or of phone numbers.

### **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

## Parent News

**THANK YOU TO OUR TEACHING STAFF!** We are very grateful to our teachers and staff for their work this school year. We have an excellent team of teachers and we're thankful for their commitment as unto the Lord!

**COMMENCEMENT SATURDAY, MAY 28TH!** We invite our school families to come for our Senior Graduation Exercises on May 28th, at 3:00 P.M. You will be encouraged in your vision for your own children as we honor and send out our graduates.

**DONATED USED UNIFORMS SERVICE.** We are very grateful for Mrs. Diaz, who has overseen our donated used uniforms service to our school families. With this service, families can donate used (cleaned) uniforms, which will in turn be passed on to other families. The proceeds of this service go to the Student Champions Fund. Please donate those uniforms that you would otherwise discard in order to help other families through this service.

**SUMMER TUTORING RECOMMENDATIONS.** Please be aware that along with your child's report card you may receive a notice of recommended tutoring for your child in a certain area. This is designed to encourage you to help your child yourself or to secure a tutor to help your child on a weekly basis during the summer. If you receive the recommended tutoring notice, we strongly encourage you to follow through with securing tutoring services for your child. Doing so will help your child to succeed academically next year. Please feel free to talk with your child's teacher to find out more specifically the areas to focus on.

**SUMMER TUTORS.** For those students needing tutoring this summer, the following are offering tutoring with their contact information: Professor Toman (math 5, Algebra 2; ahtoman1@verizon.net, 301-926-1772), Mr. Silva (math; jpsilva@syr.edu, 240-506-0105), Mrs. Bazis (K-5 math and reading; cbazis@hotmail.com, 240-426-4924), Mrs. Magana (1-6 math, language, & reading) hectoryclaudia92@gmail.com, 240-304-6753), Mrs. Griney (K-12 reading, vocabulary, & grammar; dgriney@gmail.com, 301-502-2312), Anna Switzer (math & grammar; aswitzer27@gmail.com, 240-778-8417), Diego Gomez (math & grammar; diego.gomez872@gmail.com, 240-755-3164), and Caleb Switzer (math & grammar; calebswitzer4@gmail.com, 301-977-1121).

**AWARDS ASSEMBLY FRIDAY!** The awards assembly for all students and parents will be held on Friday, June 3rd, in the school sanctuary. The ceremony for the kindergartners through fourth graders begins at 8:30 a.m., and the ceremony for the fifth through eleventh graders begins at 10:30 a.m. We desire to edify all of the students by commending them for a certain godly character trait that they have demonstrated during the year. Please be sure to be on time for this assembly. The assembly is required for all students; students will receive their report cards and achievement test results along with their awards. We're looking forward to building up the students on our last day together!

**TO OUR PRAYER PARTNERS.** On behalf of the entire school community, we want to thank you for your service of prayer. LGCS truly is His work and we are grateful for your prayer support. Your intercession really is a ministry as unto the Lord! While we hope that you continue to pray for the school during the summer, we thank the following committed prayer partners during this school year: Mrs. Brenda Gomez, Mrs. Lilian Gomez, Mr. Alfred Johnson, Mrs. Ruth McFarlane, Ms. Betty Money, Mrs. Marji Zetts, Mrs. Andrea Thomas, Mrs. Valerie Oliver, Mrs. Diana Salgado, Mrs. Isabel Juarez, Mrs. Mabel Toledo, Mrs. Lynda Switzer, and Dr. Daniel Switzer.

**YOU MAY STILL REGISTER FOR CAMP COURAGE!** God told Joshua, a mighty champion, "Be strong and courageous. Do not be

### June 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			<b>1</b> Half Day Dismissal At 12:00 Noon	<b>2</b> Teacher In-Service	<b>3</b> Awards Assembly for All Students 8:30 am K-4th Grade 10:30 am 5-11th Grade Report Cards Issued	<b>4</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> <b>Camp</b>	<b>21</b> <b>Courage</b>	<b>22</b> <b>All-</b>	<b>23</b> <b>Around</b>	<b>24</b> <b>Program</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>		

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

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