



A House of Prayer
for All Nations

The Ram's Horn

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THE SHEPHERD'S CORNER

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.

This Issue of The Ram's Horn

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Influencing Our Children

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

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News from the Nations

Revive Israel, Tikkun, Asher & Betty Intrater – This month has been full of challenging situations in Israel for the messianic community. Asher and another couple from his congregation were brought before the court on trumped-up charges by the Ultra-Orthodox in Jerusalem. We are grateful to report that all charges were thrown out by the judge as being baseless. However, we are well aware that this is part of a new, ramped-up effort by anti-missionary groups to intimidate and silence the messianic believers in Israel. Because of this, the team in Israel appreciates your on-going prayers.

Shady Grove Pregnancy Center, Rockville, MD – When we work together, our influence is greater and we make a difference for the unborn children of Montgomery County. On behalf of all the mothers and children we serve and save, thank you for your monthly donations. Lives are being saved because of your support.

Branch Ministries, Botswana, Rob and Mary Grindley – Rob ministered to the campers at Camp Courage on July 1st, and then Rob and Mary ministered on healing at Northgate that same evening. Several people who came responded to a time of prayer for healing. On Sunday, July 3rd, Rob ministered at Northgate. The Grindleys write, "All praise and glory be to our Lord that this is the year in which we proclaim His favor. We are so honored and grateful that you have joined with Branch Ministries to proclaim freedom to the people of Botswana through our Savior, Jesus Christ. With your help, children and adults are being led to the truth and finding comfort, gladness, and beauty. The

people are discovering that they are not who they thought they once were, but rather that they are children of the most high God, a display of His splendor. We extend our deepest thanks for your gracious contribution and enabling the ministry to spread the love of God."

Young Life, Montgomery County – Pray for many young people to come to a personal relationship with the Lord in the Young Life summer camps.

Living Grace Christian School – Preparations continue this month for the first day of the new school year on August 31st.

Camp Courage is concluding its final two weeks of Soccer and Chess camps and the Adventure Nature Program. We give praise to the Lord for the boys and girls who have trusted Christ as their personal Savior at Camp Courage this summer.

Wycliffe Bible Translators, Matt and Rosemary Ulrich, Paraguay – Matt had laser surgery on his right eye and then his left eye where growth over his cornea was removed. His vision is now almost back to normal. Rosemary had a serious case of dengue fever and was in the hospital for three days. She is rapidly regaining strength and able to again help Matt check the new revisions for the Maka translation of Acts. They spent July recuperating in Florida with their children and grandchildren there.

Living Grace Ministries, Thurlow 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



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

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

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

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,

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'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; 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.

Coming in September . . .

A Special Flock Group for Ladies With a Mission of Praying for God's Work in the Church

Led by Ms. Gwen Degraffinreid

Meeting on Fridays at 7:30 pm at Gwen's home
9308 Bremerton Way, Montgomery Village, MD



Thanks to David Lyman for taking this picture.

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.



Pastor & Mrs. Morris Brown and their four sons of Kingdom Focus Ministries in Liberia.



Kingdom Focus Academy – the VBS offering will help purchase the blocks to build the new school.

“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

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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; I 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

	1	2	3	4	5	6
7 Worship, 10 am	8	9 <i>VBS Team Appreciation Ice Cream Social, 7:30 pm</i>	10 Flock Groups 7:30 pm	11	12	13
14 Worship, 10 am	15	16	17 Flock Groups 7:30 pm	18	19	20 <i>Middle School Discipleship Club Cookout, 6:00 pm</i>
21 All Nations Worship Service and Picnic, 10 am	22	23	24 Flock Groups 7:30 pm	25	26	27
28 Worship, 10 am Kids Ch Leaders Mtng after church	29	30	31 <i>1st Day of LGCS</i> Flock Groups 7:30 pm			

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