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December 2011

LIVING GRACE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

# Raising Champions

## Principal's Message: Helping Our Children Walk in the Light (Or "Be Truthful the First Time")

By Dr. Daniel L. Switzer

Recently a number of situations have arisen in which students have lied to the authority when asked about a matter instead of telling the truth about what has happened. I've recognized that we have a need as parents to help our children to walk in the light and to be committed to being truthful even when it means that they have to share something with us that doesn't reflect well upon them. In other words, often our children have been "caught in a fault," and then they subsequently try to avoid the negative ramifications of their actions.

Over the years, I've recognized that parents sometimes train their children to lie to them through being consistently harsh with them. When children experience the harsh reactions of parents to their actions and if these harsh reactions occur consistently enough, children will develop a desire to hide their wrong actions from their parents out of fear of a harsh retribution. The Bible speaks of "the deceitfulness of sin." We all naturally desire to hide sin. However, we can discipline our children in such a way that they learn to bring their sin into the open and thus "walk in the light."

Ephesians 6:4 says, "Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord" (NIV). This training and instruction speaks of a process. However, a major way that we exasperate our children is by reacting to our children's actions in a harsh manner. Being harsh with our children in a reactive way is not Biblical training. Seeking to get our children to conform outwardly without addressing the need of the inner heart is not spiritual discipline.

True Biblical discipline of our children is a process that takes time to do it rightly and lovingly. I recall a time in which one of our children had committed a very serious offense against another person. When we initially confronted our child, my wife and I were careful to communicate our unconditional love toward him. We knew that if we came down harshly on him, that approach would not bode well for our continuing relationship with him. After our child confessed to the truth, we forgave him and then helped him to take responsibility for his action. We provided him with loving discipline through the entire process.

Biblical discipline of our children is not a harsh reaction in an effort to get our children to conform externally; it is a loving process that addresses the need of the heart. Our first response to our children should consistently convey the love of Christ—the fact of our unconditional love for our children. Hebrews 12:5-6 conveys the heart of our Father God toward us his children: "And you have forgotten that word of encouragement that addresses you as sons: 'My son, do not make light of the Lord's discipline, and do not lose heart when he rebukes you, because the Lord disciplines those he loves, and he punishes everyone he accepts as a son.'" True Biblical discipline incorporates unconditional love throughout the process in a way that the discipline encourages our children. They are encouraged by the fact that they have loving parents who care enough for them to provide good discipline. As Hebrews 12 points out, this discipline includes the rebuke, which should not cause our children to "lose heart." The purpose of the rebuke is that our children understand that what they have done is wrong. If

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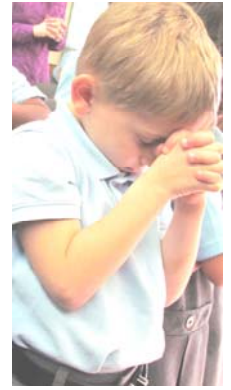


### Inside This Issue:

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- *Reminders*
- *Support & Prayer Needs*
- *Parent News*
- *Giving Opportunities*
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# Supporting the Mission of Living Grace Christian 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 for God—servant leaders of godly character who 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.” Checks should be made out to Living Grace Christian School with “Endowment Fund” written in the memo.
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

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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. We want to ask the entire school family to be praying for the Bush family. Cal Bush, who is in kindergarten, has a younger brother Rett, who has been diagnosed with lymphoblastic leukemia. Please pray for Rett’s healing and for grace and strength for the Bush family. You can check on Rett’s progress at [www.caringbridge.org/visit/rettbush](http://www.caringbridge.org/visit/rettbush).
9. Pastors and the larger Body of Christ to increasingly see the need to educate our children—the next generation of leaders in the Church—in a manner consistent with our Biblical beliefs.
10. Volunteers to help in the classrooms, office, and building.
11. Consistent financial support to help needy families to be able to send their children to the school through the “Student Champions Fund.”
12. The families of all the teachers, parents, and students.
13. 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 prayers!**



# Helping Our Children Walk in the Light (Or “Be Truthful the First Time”)

(continued from page 1)

our children are lying about what they have done, or shifting the blame on someone else, or making excuses for their actions, the rebuke has not achieved its purpose. However, if our children respond to our loving rebuke with acknowledgment of what they have done through confession, then the purpose of the rebuke has been achieved. 1 John 1:9-10 instructs us as parents, “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word has no place in our lives.” When our children confess their sin to us, we need to freely and quickly forgive them.

When questioning your children about what they have done, I encourage you to not focus on “Why did you do such a thing?” which leads to the giving of excuses. Instead, focus on “what did you do?” The answer to the “what” question is a confession. Often with confession come tears. While our goal is not to get our children to cry, often tears are an outward expression of the Lord working good soil in our children’s hearts. There is something that comes with telling the truth about what we’ve done that touches the heart, the person’s inner being. And that is what discipline should be about—helping our children to grow to be more like Christ.

After confession and forgiveness, we still need to follow through with an appropriate discipline. Our children see the need for the discipline because they have admitted to wrongdoing and in the process our relationship of love and respect between parent and child has been enhanced. James 5:16 says, “Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.” The most powerful force against our children is not sin; it’s hidden sin. When our children bring their sin into the light, they are healed, and the power of that sin is nullified. What’s more, we can pray for our children in a powerful and effective manner.

1 John 1:5-7 counsels us, “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 don’t have the truth with our children, we have no fellowship with them—no relationship with them. If our children are not being honest with us, that means they’re hiding something from us. In actuality, they are hiding themselves from us, and we don’t have true relationship. And if we don’t have relationship with them, our voice in their lives is severely limited. Let’s seek to talk with them and take the time to discipline them through a loving process. In this way our children will grow in their inner being toward the full stature of Christ.

## December’s Godly Character Trait: Hungering and Thirsting for Righteousness

As we pray for our children and the school, I encourage you to refer to the “Prayer Needs” as given in this edition of *Raising Champions*. **Jesus said, “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled” (Matt. 5:6). Psalm 63:1 speaks of thirsting and longing for God in a dry place. Indeed, Christ is the bread of life. Let’s pray that we and our children find our sustenance in Christ alone. Other key Scripture references are Psalm 42, John 6:1-59, John 7:37-39, and 2 Peter 3:13. Please intercede for the training of godly character in the students. May God’s presence and grace be upon you and your families!**

## 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.

### COLD WEATHER

Students go outside for recess whenever possible. With the colder weather, please be sure that your child is dressed warmly. On Tuesdays and Thursdays (P.E. days), students should continue to wear their P.E. uniform consisting of their blue t-shirt and gray sweat-pants and gray sweatshirt. The regular school uniform is worn by students on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays.



### SCHOOL PICTURES

If you have not done so already and desire to do so, you can still order your children’s school pictures from Snapfish. Simply open the email sent to you from Mrs. Perez to get the ordering instructions. If you want to purchase a class picture or the school picture, you can let Mrs. Perez know by emailing her at [tessben@yahoo.com](mailto:tessben@yahoo.com).

### CHRISTMAS PARTIES

On Wednesday, December 21st, we will be having class Christmas parties. More information will be forthcoming regarding these special events celebrating our Savior’s birth.

### GIANT A+ BONUS BUCKS!

We encourage all families to support our school through the Giant A+ Bonus Bucks program. Using ID 05644, simply “register your card” electronically via the website—[www.giantfood.com/aplus](http://www.giantfood.com/aplus). Also, every two weeks, Giant has different “extra credit” items marked in the store which earn more points and cash for our school. We ask all parents to register their card—it’s a great way to support our school! In addition, remember to clip your BoxTops and have your children bring them to their homeroom teacher. Finally, you can help the school by shopping at Box Tops for Education online at [btfe.com/marketplace](http://btfe.com/marketplace).

## Parent News

### **OUTSTANDING ATTENDANCE AT PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES!**

We want to commend the parents for their commitment to their children's education. At our recent parent-teacher conferences, we had outstanding attendance! Parents are encouraged to continue to emphasize those areas that are needful with their children in order to help them to maximize their potential, both academically and spiritually.

### **ASHLEY PERDOMO PLACES THIRD IN SPELLING BEE!**

At the recent ACSI District Spelling Bee, Ashley Perdomo placed third in the eighth grade competition. In the final spell-off with all of the finalists, she placed sixth. Congratulations, Ashley!



### **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.

## Student Champions Fund Drive Coming in January!

The school's annual Student Champions Fund Drive begins January 11th and ends March 14th. Many of our school's families receive financial assistance to be able to send their children to the school. **The Student Champions Fund is designed to help families who cannot pay the full tuition to be able to send their children to Living Grace Christian School.** Many schools have fundraisers that take up a lot of time and effort on the part of the family such as candy and fruit sales. Instead of involving you in these kinds of efforts, we are asking you to consider the value of this fund for its own merit. Therefore, we ask you to give generously to this fund as well as ask family and close friends to consider a donation.

During the fund drive, there will be a Student Champions Fund Drive box, decorated with pictures of students, in the school entryway. You may place checks in that box or use the envelope that will come home to send in your contributions as well as the contributions of friends.

Our goal this year is to raise \$16,000 to help needy families to be able to send their children to the school. All funds contributed toward this fund will be used for this sole purpose. Thank you for prayerfully considering this offering as unto the Lord.

# December 2011

**Sun      Mon      Tue      Wed      Thu      Fri      Sat**

|                                    |  |  |  |  |  |    |
|------------------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|----|
|                                    |  |  |  | 1  | 2  | 3  |
| 4                                  | 5  | 6  | 7  | 8  | 9  | 10 |
| 11                                 | 12   | 13   | 14   | 15   | 16<br>Midterms Come Home                           | 17 |
| 18                                 | 19   | 20   | 21<br><small>Christmas Class Parties<br/>1:00 PM</small> | 22<br><small>Christmas Break<br/>NO SCHOOL</small> | 23<br><small>CHRISTMAS EVE!<br/>NO SCHOOL</small>  | 24 |
| 25<br><small>Christmas Day</small> | 26<br><small>Christmas Break<br/>NO SCHOOL</small> | 27<br><small>Christmas Break<br/>NO SCHOOL</small> | 28<br><small>Christmas Break<br/>NO SCHOOL</small>       | 29<br><small>Christmas Break<br/>NO SCHOOL</small> | 30<br><small>Christmas Break<br/>NO SCHOOL</small> | 31 |

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

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