

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

Phone: 301-840-9830
e-mail: danswitzer4@gmail.com
website: www.lgcs.northgatecc.org

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LIVING GRACE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

Raising Champions

Principal's Message: Encouraging Our Children to Have a Personal Relationship with Jesus Christ

By Dr. Daniel Switzer

One of the main things I encourage our students to have is a great relationship with their parents. In addition, I often emphasize the need for them to have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. Our children's growth as champions for Christ is every bit dependent on their having a personal relationship with the Lord.

The Christian life is more than just trying to be a good person. In fact, the Bible says that our righteousness is as filthy rags compared to that of Christ's righteousness. As believers, we are called to live by faith, and that faith is expressed in a personal relationship with Christ. As our children learn to focus on Christ, the fruit of that relationship will come forth from their lives. Let's look at how we as parents can encourage our children to have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.



The Starting Point: Receiving Christ as Savior and Lord

Recently we were overjoyed as parents when our son Joshua received Jesus as his personal Savior and Lord. We had been praying for him to do so. When we would tuck him into bed, we would communicate prayers that hinted at him making this decision. Of course, he had been involved in church activities that have pointed him to Jesus such as Vacation Bible School, Kids Church, and Camp Courage. In fact, during the Christmas season, he heard a message related to Jesus being born in a stable. As he talked about the Kids Church lesson, he started asking his Mom questions, which led to him receiving Christ as Savior and Lord.

We should not downplay this starting level of faith in our children's hearts. Receiving Christ as Lord is the beginning of their relationship with Christ. 1 John 2:12 says, "I write to you, dear children, because your sins have been forgiven on account of his name" (NIV). For a child to know that his sins are forgiven and that he is going to heaven because he has received Jesus Christ into his heart is a very real spiritual starting point, called by Jesus as being "born again." As John 1:12-13 says, "Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God—children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God." God has made the way of salvation to be that of receiving a gift in trusting faith; let's encourage our children to take this simple step of faith.

Encouraging Our Children to Read the Bible

As our children gain the very critical skill of reading, we can encourage them to read the Bible daily. We can get them a children's Bible or a Bible devotional book that provides helpful commentary for children.

In our family, we encourage our children to love reading by having regular times of reading together. As our children have grown and are able to read on their own, we encourage them to start their day by reading the Bible as part of their daily devotions. This leads to my next point.

Starting Each Day with the Lord

A related way we can encourage our children to have a personal relationship with the Lord is having them begin each day with Christ through connecting with Him in prayer. In addition to having a plan for reading the Bible through a daily devotional, we can instruct them in how to start their day with prayer.

Each child should learn to pray the Lord's prayer as a model for their own prayers. Jesus shared his framework for praying in Matthew 6:9-13: "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily

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Supporting the Mission of Living Grace Christian 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 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

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.
9. Pastors and the larger Body of Christ to increasingly see the need to educate their children in a manner consistent with the Bible.
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 To Have a Personal Relationship with Christ

(continued from page 1)

bread. Forgive us our debts as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.” With the Lord’s prayer as a model, they can learn to commit each day into the Lord’s hands. They can use His prayer as a basis for the following elements in their developing prayer life: starting with praising God, then asking His Kingdom and will to be done in their life and family and friends, next asking for provision, confessing sin and receiving forgiveness as they also learn to forgive those who have sinned against them, and finally asking God for grace to overcome temptation and the evil one through the blood of the Lamb and the Word of their testimony. Encourage your children to start their day by reading the Word and connecting with the Lord through prayer.

Walking and Talking with Jesus

Finally, we can encourage our children to be continually growing in their relationship with Jesus Christ simply through remembering to walk and talk with Christ throughout the day. The Word of God tells us to pray continually. Well, prayer is everything that has to do with having a relationship with Christ. We don’t just start the day with Christ, say goodbye, and then forget about Him until the next morning. No, we’re called to have an abiding personal relationship with Him all day long. And this relationship with Jesus includes learning to listen to Him. Our children, as sheep of the Good Shepherd, can learn to hear the encouraging voice of their Good Shepherd in the stillness of their heart. As they do so, they will be overwhelmed with the love God has for them and the great plans He has for them. Our children will be motivated to live for Christ as they listen to Him!

Philippians 4:5b-7 says, “The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.” I tell our students that the antidote to worry is prayer. Whenever you’re tempted to worry, pray instead. Learn to bring everything to the Lord in prayer. In this way our children will be growing in their personal relationship with Christ. Jesus will be their all and all—the person that they can call upon any time of the night and day—the one they can trust.

I encourage you as parents to help your children to have a personal relationship with Christ. Lead your children in becoming born again through receiving Christ as Savior and Lord. Establish habits such as reading the Bible and starting the day with prayer. Ask them questions about their relationship with the Lord, such as the following: What has the Lord been saying to you through your devotions lately? What has God been speaking to you through reading His Word? How has God been encouraging you lately? What is He challenging you to grow in? Encourage them to bring everything to the Lord in prayer.

January’s Godly Character Trait: Being Merciful

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*. Please also lift up the students and the teachers as we finish the second quarter, including studying for end-of-quarter tests and preparing the report cards. Pray for excellent communication and teamwork during our annual Parent-Teacher Assembly on February 9th. Finally, lift up the school during our two-month “Student Champions Fund Drive.” Our goal is to raise \$16,000 to help needy families to be able to partner with us to raise up their children to be champions for Christ.

Please emphasize the character trait of Being Merciful with your children this month. Jesus said, “Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.” After Jesus went to the home of Matthew, a despised tax collector; and when other tax collectors and “sinners” came to eat with him, the Pharisees criticized Jesus. Jesus pointed out the importance of being merciful: “It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. But go and learn what this means: ‘I desire mercy, not sacrifice.’ For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners” (Matt. 9:12-13). Please encourage your children to act mercifully toward others instead of judging them. May God’s presence and grace be with 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 sweatpants and gray sweatshirt. (Students may wear a coat over their p.e. uniform.) 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 for ordering instructions.

SCHOOL CANCELLATIONS AND DELAYS

Living Grace Christian School follows the Montgomery County Public School system in determining school closings and delays because of inclement weather. Announcements regarding closings and delays will be broadcast on WJLA-TV ABC 7, News Channel 8, and posted on the www.wjla.com and www.news8.net websites. If there is a two-hour delay, morning-only kindergarteners are excused from school.

Parent News

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.



PARENT-TEACHER ASSEMBLY FEBRUARY 9TH

The Parent-Teacher Assembly is coming on Thursday evening, February 9th, at 7:30 p.m. This is one of our four team meetings of the year for all parents. We will be sharing of the school's future, giving important announcements, and fellowshiping with one another as we continue to build together as a school family. Dr. Switzer will share a message relating to our most critical task as parents. In addition, registration documents for next school year will be given to you. Please mark this important meeting on your calendars.

Student Champions Fund Drive

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 to ask family and friends to consider a donation.

During the Champions Fund Drive, your children will be aiming for the ultimate prize of the "All-You-Can-Eat Pizza Party" with Dr. Switzer. (Look for the letter coming home regarding how to qualify.) 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 contribution. During the drive, we encourage the students to bring to school any donations received on Wednesday of each week.

Our goal 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.

January 2012

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

1	2	3 School Resumes	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11 Student Champions Fund Drive Begins	12	13	14
15	16 MLK Birthday NO SCHOOL	17	18 Champions Donation Envelope due	19	20 End of 2nd Quarter Teacher In-Service NO SCHOOL	21
22/29	23/30	24/31	25 Champions Donation Envelope due	26	27 Report Cards Issued	28

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

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