



## PERSPECTIVES ON PARENTING

BY AL & JOY ROOT

*Over the next several months, I will present several “perspectives on parenting” from parents within our congregation. This month Al & Joy Root contribute some parenting wisdom.*

As we look at our children now, we are thankful that each of them desires to serve God with their lives. We are grateful to God for His work in their lives. While we may have done some things right as parents, we acknowledge that we fell short in many areas.

We have three children. Katie, 24, works at UPS in Des Moines, having graduated from Faith Baptist Bible College. She is looking forward to marrying Ben Wooster in May. Kevin, 22, lives in Roseville, Michigan, where he serves as a youth pastor intern after graduating from Baptist Bible College. Krisanna, 20, is a sophomore at Faith Baptist Bible College majoring in elementary education.

**We had a personal time with God that was visible to them.**

Here are some items our children brought up when we asked them what we did that impacted them:

- We had our personal time with God in a place that was visible to them. This reminded them that time with God was important to us and gave them an example to follow.
- When they returned home from a time with friends, we asked them what they did, who was there, etc. to hold them accountable and let them know that we were interested in what they did.
- We modeled hospitality by opening our home as a place for them to invite their friends. This had the benefit of allowing us to get to know their friends.
- We went through a book on managing money together to help them learn to be wise in handling their finances and give to God. We also taught them how

to balance a checkbook and use credit cards.

- We encouraged them to reach out to new people at both school and church.
- We allowed them to learn from their mistakes. Rather than having a lot of rules, we encouraged them to earn our trust through making wise choices.

Areas from their perspective where we did not do well were:

- We didn't provide much opportunity for interaction with unsaved people as they were growing up. We seldom had people in our home who didn't go to church other than our relatives.
- Dad needed to be more proactive in initiating discussion about issues rather than waiting for Mom to raise them.

Some general principles that we tried to follow were:

- Church and school activities took priority over other activities in planning our schedule. While we made exceptions, they were rare. This also assured that some of their key friends would be believers.
- We looked for opportunities where we could serve together. Examples were having them go with us to call on children from Sunday School classes or serving in the nursery together.
- We had them work a few hours to earn spending money and assist with college expenses. This provided them an appreciation for the value of money. But we didn't want work to keep them from being involved in church and school activities. Hy-Vee was one place that provided that opportunity for them.
- We said “yes” whenever possible and reserved a “no” answer for when it was the only clear answer. This was recommended in an article in the Focus on the Family Magazine.

- We recognized each of them was different. We didn't expect each of them to enjoy the same things or do the same things well. We tried to evaluate them against their potential and not in comparison with each other in areas like academics and athletics.

It was a great blessing for our family that Joy was able to be at home with our children when they were younger and only work part-time when they were older. She was also privileged to teach at Grandview Park Baptist School where they attended so she was accessible to them should a crisis come up during the day—like forgetting money.

**We allowed them to learn from their mistakes.**

It was our privilege to share our home with Hooi Lee, a Drake University student from Malaysia, and Lenny, a student at Grandview Park Baptist School from Indonesia. We believe that these provided rich opportunities for our family to learn about other cultures.

A final thought. As Paul describes the importance of different individuals “planting” and “watering” in the lives of believers in Corinthians, we are very grateful for the input that was given into the lives of our children by many teachers, coaches, and workers in children's and student ministries. They complemented what we were doing or compensated for things that we were not doing. We are especially grateful to God for His work in shaping their lives in the same way that He “gave the increase” to the Church.

*Al & Joy Root are members of Grandview Park Baptist Church and live in Pleasant Hill. Al is a Deacon, Awana Leader, and Upward Commissioner and Coach. Joy is the Awana Sparks Director, an Upward Commissioner and Coach, and a God's Garden Caregiver.*

# family spotlight



**Family Time Together**  
Eating out!

## the purdie family

### Bradley

- \* *Birthday:* 7/20/99 (4th gr.)
- \* *Favorite Bible verse:* John 1:1
- \* *Favorite food:* mac-'n'-cheese
- \* *Enjoys:* playing video games, jumping on the trampoline, hanging out with friends
- \* *Favorite sport:* basketball

### Jody

- \* *Birthday:* 11/5
- \* *Job:* Preschool Associate at GPBS; Medical Transcriptionist
- \* *Church Ministry:* Elementary WorshipTime Helper
- \* *Favorite Bible verse:* Jer. 33:3
- \* *Favorite food:* BBQ Ribs
- \* *Enjoys:* spending time with family and friends
- \* *Favorite sport:* volleyball

### Bob

- \* *Birthday:* 8/6
- \* *Job:* Aramark Route Sales
- \* *Favorite Bible verses:* Lord's Prayer, Parable of Good Samaritan
- \* *Favorite food:* pizza
- \* *Enjoys:* air brushing/drawing/painting; showing/driving his cars; spending time with family and friends
- \* *Favorite sport:* football

### Shelby

- \* *Birthday:* 5/16/03 (K)
- \* *Favorite Bible story:* Noah & the Ark
- \* *Favorite food:* mac-'n'-cheese
- \* *Enjoys:* jumping on the trampoline; hanging out with friends
- \* *Favorite sport:* dodgeball, basketball, baseball, soccer

## FACEBOOK TURNS 5 - THOUGHTS ON SOCIAL NETWORKING \_\_\_\_\_ BY AL MOHLER

*On the fifth anniversary of Facebook, Al Mohler offers thoughts on safeguarding the social networking experience:*

1. Never allow social networking to replace or rival personal contact and communication. God made us to be social creatures that crave community. We cannot permit ourselves to substitute social networking for the harder work of building and maintaining personal relationships that are face to face.
2. Set clear parameters for the time devoted to social networking. These services can be seductive and time consuming. Social networking (and the Internet in general) can become obsessive and destructive of other relationships and higher priorities for the Christian.
3. Never write or post anything on a social networking site that you would not want the world to see, or anything that would compromise your Christian witness. There are plenty of young people (perhaps older persons now, too) who are ruining future job prospects and opportunities by social networking misbehavior. The cost to Christian witness is often far greater.
4. Never allow children and teenagers to have independent social networking access (or Internet access, for that matter).
5. Parents should monitor, manage, supervise, and control the Internet access of their children and teens. Watch what your child posts and what their friends post. [My suggestion: If your child wants a Facebook account, tell him he has to accept you as a friend.]
5. Do not allow children and teens to accept any "friend" unknown to you. The social networking world can be a dangerous place, and parental protection here is vital.
6. Encourage older friends and relatives to sign up and use the technology. Grandparents can enjoy keeping up with grandchildren and with friends and loved ones separated by distance or mobility.
7. Use the social networking technology to bear witness to the Gospel, but never think that this can replace the centrality of face-to-face evangelism, witness, and discipleship.
8. Do all things to the glory of God, and do not allow social networking to become an idol or a display of narcissism.

*Dr. R. Albert Mohler, Jr., is the President of The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, KY. © 2009, All rights reserved, www.AlbertMohler.com.*

GRANDVIEW PARK BAPTIST CHURCH CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

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