

# PARENTS CHRONICLE

Growing in Grace at Grandview Park

## PERSPECTIVES ON PARENTING - ADOPTION \_\_\_\_\_ BY LORENE BURMA

*In recent months we have benefited from several "perspectives on parenting" from parents within our congregation. This month my mother-in-law, Lorene Burma, contributes her perspective on adoption.*

Adoption is a wonderful way to have children. My husband, Darrell (who passed away in 2005), and I had always talked that if we couldn't have any children, we would adopt. So when we found out we couldn't have children, we knew that adoption was the way we would go. We went to

Social Services in South Dakota and started the ball rolling. We opted for taking children who were a little older instead of babies, since it

would take a long time to adopt a baby. We were asked many questions, interviewed at home, by phone, and in person. We had to wait two years for each child. After the child was placed in our home, there was a six-month trial period before it became legal.

We adopted our son when he was 4½ years old. When we brought Jason home, it was like he finally felt he was home. At that time, agencies thought that a child could come to you with all of their baggage (and told you very little about their background), and all you had to do was give them a good home and love them. Sorry to say, it takes more than that when a child has been abused. Agencies are now seeing that counseling is helpful both for the child as well as for the adoptive parents. Since our son was 4½ years old, there were many issues that he never addressed and we had many difficulties throughout his growing up years. He still is dealing with many of

these issues. Nonetheless, we loved him as much as any son we could have had biologically.

We adopted Christy when she was 2½ years old. She had been with a Christian family for two years, so had a good start. We met with her foster parents and have kept in contact with them all these years. Christy didn't have as much baggage to bring with her, so she was an easier child to raise. She accepted Christ at the age of eleven, and we loved seeing her grow in the Lord. She has been a constant delight to us, and I would hate to think of life without her. We have now entered that part of our lives where we are friends; not just mother and daughter.

Basically, we felt that these children were ours in every way. We loved them just as much as if we would have had them born to us. We felt God

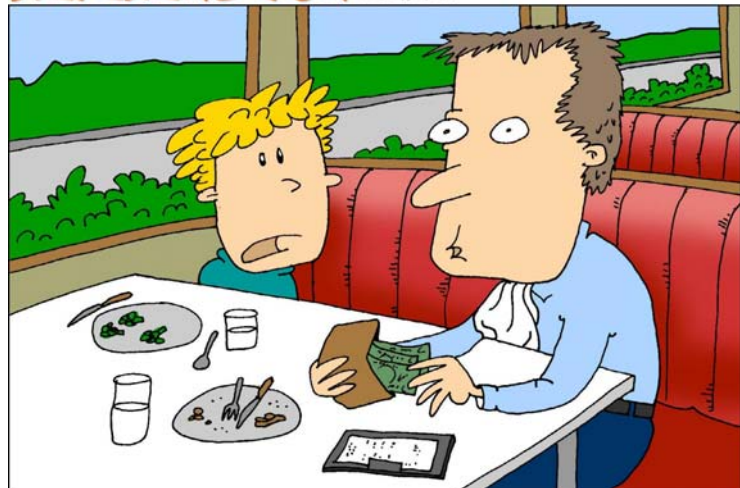
opening the door to allow us to have these children placed in our home. It was great seeing them involved in school, outside activities, church, etc. The blessings and challenges we experienced would be no different than a family with their biological children. It was a privilege and a responsibility to be the Christian parents we needed to be. My husband and I have loved Christy and Jason very much.

My recommendation to those of you considering adoption is to pray for God's will in your lives, first of all. Then really check out what all has happened to these children and get all the counseling you can get to help them cope with their background. Don't be afraid to get the counseling as well to help you become a better parent.

*Lorene Burma is a member of Grandview Park Baptist Church and lives in Pleasant Hill with her mother, Evelyn Taylor. Lorene was a Scorekeeper in Upward this last season.*

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## HOW TO EXASPERATE YOUR CHILDREN

BY ERIK RAYMOND

*Colossians 3:21 says, "Fathers, do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged." Erik Raymond offers twelve surefire ways to exasperate your children:*

1. Be a hypocrite.
2. Be a bully to them.
3. Be harsh to them.
4. Be emotionally distant from them.
5. Show favoritism to other kids.
6. Have unrealistic standards.
7. Be Mr. Question-Your-Kid's-Salvation-Guy. *[In other words, every time your children fail you use the opportunity to question whether or not they are saved.]*
8. Be Mr. Assure-Your-Kid's-Salvation-Guy. *[In other words, when your children question their salvation, you play the role of the Holy Spirit by assuring them they are saved based on your opinion, rather than allowing the Holy Spirit (Rom. 8:16) to use the Word of God (Heb. 4:12) to give them assurance of salvation or conviction of the need for salvation.]*
9. Don't discipline them.
10. Discipline them without biblical instruction.
11. Don't teach them the Bible.
12. Don't connect discipline to the gospel.

*<http://www.irishcalvinist.com/?p=2489>. Erik Raymond is the Pastor of Preaching (South Campus) for Omaha Bible Church in Omaha, NE.*

## COMING SOON: SUMMER FAMILY ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

## 13 WAYS TO SPEND TIME WITH YOUR TEENAGE DAUGHTER

BY RACHEL PAXTON

The older my daughter gets the more it's sinking in that I don't have much time left to spend with her! She's turning 16 in a couple of months, and I know I won't be seeing her much after she gets her driver's license.

It's hard to find things to do with your teenage daughter. You might be busy, they might have better things to do...I encourage you not to let this time slip away from you. Our interests may be very different from theirs, but there's always things you can do to bridge the gap.

If you have more than one daughter, then make sure they each get their special time alone with you. I have found that these activities are also great for bonding with teens you want to reach out to and build relationships with, like a step-daughter.

I've done all of the following activities with my daughter and/or step-daughter and haven't regretted a moment. Someday I will be able to look back and appreciate the moments we shared, and I hope they will too.

1. Take your dog(s) on a walk together.
2. Cook dinner together, letting her choose the menu and help shop for the ingredients.
3. Pick her up from school and take her out to lunch.
4. Drive to the closest big city for the night, stay in a hotel, and spend all the next day shopping and sightseeing, taking time to stop for lunch at an outdoor cafe.
5. Read the same book together and talk about it when you're done reading it.
6. Do a scriptural book study together.
7. Get up early on a Saturday morning, go get coffee, and spend the morning going to yard sales or looking through thrift shops or dollar stores.
8. Make cookies together to give to a friend.
9. Make holiday gifts together to give to friends and family (visit [www.crafty-moms.com](http://www.crafty-moms.com) for easy craft ideas).
10. Go with your daughter to the concert of her choice.
11. Buy her the materials to start a high school scrapbook. Work on your scrapbooks while she works on hers.
12. Join a local fitness club and work out together. My daughter and I joined a local women's gym that is very inexpensive (\$40/month for both of us). We get up at 5:00 a.m. three days a week to go exercise before she goes to school and I go to work.
13. Go to the local video store and rent a couple of "chick flicks" to enjoy together in the comfort of your home. Kick the men out of the house and lounge around in your pajamas.

*<http://www.christianfathers.com/father-daughter-relationship-2.htm>. Copyright 2003. Rachel Paxton is a freelance writer, mom, and owner of four home and family web sites. For scrapbooking, card making, gift-giving ideas, and more family memory-making activities, visit [www.crafty-moms.com](http://www.crafty-moms.com).*

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