



PARENTS **PARKids** CHRONICLE

Growing in Grace at Grandview Park

PERSPECTIVES ON PARENTING - GRANDPARENTING BY BECKY SHORT

There are a few things that I keep to myself, but when I am asked about my children and grandchildren I am more than willing to share how extraordinary, marvelous, astonishing and truly outstanding that I believe they are. It is not that they are perfect, but love covers a multitude of errors. Pastor Greg asked me to write this article, and far be it for me not to comply with his wishes! Below are Pastor Greg's list of ideas for me to cover, followed by my rambling thoughts. So think of this as just a time for me to share my heart.

Tell us a little bit about your children and grandchildren: who they are, what they do, and where they live.

Earl and I were blessed with three children. All three are graduates of Grandview Park Baptist School: Jay in 1991, Ryan in 1992 and Lara in 1995.

Jay graduated from the University of Iowa, with a degree in Economics. He married Krista Grismore and they live in New Prague, Minnesota. They have two darling children: Jaxon who is 5 and Kayla who is 3. Jay works for Oracle, a business computer software company, in Minneapolis. Krista stays at home.

Ryan graduated from FBBC & TS, with a degree in Biblical Studies. He married Rachel Smith and they live in Eagle Lake, Minnesota. They have three adorable children: Brayden who is 11,

Very few things are more valuable than time spent with family.

Jorden who is 9, and Lexi who will soon be 4. Ryan is an appraiser for Blue Earth County. Rachel stays at home.

Lara graduated from FBBC & TS, with a degree in Elementary Education. She married Peter Walsworth and they live in Ankeny, Iowa. They have two charming sons: Silas who is 23 months old and Seth who is 3 months old. Peter works in

sales for CCS Medical, a medical supply company. Lara stays at home.

We are thankful that all three of our children and their families are actively serving their Lord.

What are some blessings of being grandparents?

Earl and I enjoyed every chapter of our children's lives. And now watching them as parents is a true blessing. We are so pleased with their parenting skills. They are investing much time in the lives of their children and for us that is a joy to watch.

Becoming grandparents was a gift from God. We do cherish every opportunity that comes our way to spend time with them. When they do come for a visit, domestic skills are put aside and it is a time to play and enjoy, a time to create treasured memories! No fancy meals and lots of time for each other!

As grandparents, knowing that you are an important part of your grandchildren's lives is a blessing beyond compare. Grandchildren are the rich heritage of our years of living; the legacy that God has given us the privilege of viewing. And it is our God given responsibility and privilege to love and pray for them.

Being Grandparents is the reward that emerges as our youthful years become ancient history. And it is a GRAND prize!

What are some challenges?

Because of Earl's problems with mobility, visiting our children and grandchildren in their homes is complicated. Distance and their busy schedules make it difficult for them to come our way, thus it is necessary to be creative in finding ways to keep in touch. The US Postal Service is used on a regular basis. The phone allows for them to hear our voices and us

to keep track of what is going on in their lives. The computer is also a tool of great worth. Once they learn to communicate in writing and reading, e-mail is a joy! And SKYPE allows us to visit with them face to face. Technology has its rewards!

Seeing our children and their families struggle with illnesses, loss of jobs, personal disappointments, financial concerns is always a challenge. Being a parent, you always desire to fix their world. It is hard to let go and let God work.

How has being grandparents changed your perspective as you look back on your own parenting?

Many things that were once so very important are of little value now. We treasure the fingerprints on the glass! Having toys covering the floor is most beautiful. Very few things are more valuable than time spent with family. One cannot put a value on time... it is golden!

Looking back at our parenting skills, there are many things I wish we could change. But I am so thankful that God used both our good and poor choices in parenting to bring forth children who are good Godly parents. Obviously it was not us... it was all God!

The two things that I know we did right in parenting were loving our children and our God... and bringing our children before His throne in daily prayer.

How can parents with children in the home help and encourage their parents (their children's grandparents)?

The support our children give us through frequent phone calls: just to check and see how we are, to share their lives, to give us the opportunity to talk to our grandchildren is an expression of love that we treasure.

family spotlight



the johnsons

Family Time Together

Geocaching (www.geocaching.com) as well as walking and playing at the park

Prayer Requests

For salvation of unsaved family members

Jordan

- * Birthday: 7/5/99
- * Favorite Bible story: Jonah & the Whale
- * Favorite food: fruit snacks
- * Enjoys: coloring
- * Favorite song: "Jesus Loves Me"

Angela

- * Birthday: 11/25
- * Job: Baker Group Accountant
- * Favorite Bible verse: Eph. 2:8-9
- * Favorite food: ice cream
- * Enjoys: scrapbooking
- * Favorite song: "Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus"

Amber

- * Birthday: 1/13/01
- * Favorite Bible story: David & Goliath
- * Favorite food: Ramen noodles
- * Enjoys: animals
- * Favorite song: "Jesus Loves Me"

Tricia

- * Birthday: 4/3/93
- * Favorite Bible story: Samson & Delilah
- * Favorite food: peanut butter cups
- * Enjoys: dancing
- * Favorite Christian group: Barlow girl

Conner

- * Birthday: 2/6/06
- * Favorite Bible character: any one about Jesus
- * Favorite food: Cheetos
- * Enjoys: baseball
- * Favorite song: "I'm in the Lord's Army"

Brian

- * Birthday: 5/25
- * Job: Snyder & Assoc. Civil Technician
- * Favorite Bible verse: Jn. 14:6
- * Favorite food: Mexican casserole
- * Enjoys: music
- * Favorite Christian group: Phillips, Craig, & Dean

GRANDPARENTING — CONT.

Always requesting or reminding the grandchildren to say good night or good-bye... allows us to share our love with them... and it allows the grandchildren to express their hearts to us! And then do it yourselves... parents usually appreciate the simple acts of showing affection.

Trusting us with the care of our precious grandchildren is nice! Some alone time with them is delightful! Occasional one on one time is special! But remember that there is a reason that God gave children to the young.

Speak kindly of us in your homes and your children will value us too. Pray for us during your family prayer time.

It's okay to laugh at things we do... just don't laugh at us! Grandparents are a unique people... and until you are a grandparent, you will not understand.

Don't hurry the process... there is lots of life to enjoy on the road, before you become a grandparent. But it is most GRAND!

Earl & Becky Short are members of Grandview Park Baptist Church and live in Waukee. Becky teaches the Shepherds special needs Adult Bible Fellowship Group, whose members include David Burn, T. J. Burt, Ryan Van Hooser, and Steve Weiner.

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GOOD THING I FOUND YOU GIDEON ... IT SEEMS SOMEONE HAS BEEN HIDING ALL YOUR BIBLES IN HOTEL ROOMS

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