



Growing Families Australia — Queensland News

Reaching our state one family at a time

State Team Greeting

Welcome to our very first Queensland State Newsletter! We hope to bring you parenting information, news, reviews, alerts and parenting reminders on a regular basis to keep you informed on important matters for our Growing Families family in Qld.

In a few weeks, the celebration of Christmas, will bring its own set of unique pressures on family time. For many, except for those home schooling parents, this will be the longest single time to have all the kids at home. Over-tired and irritable kids; kids with upset tummies; little accidents and scrapes and visiting friends and relatives all challenge the family routine and harmony. Travelling also brings its own unique pressures.

We therefore need to remember:

- Context
- What our kids are generally characterised by
- To structure at least one time in the day to have meaningful family time
- To rest ourselves, and
- Pray!

May this Christmas time for you and your family be a truly wonderful time of fellowship, rest and celebration of a loving Father who sent His Son into our world onto our little blue planet to show us the way to live.

On behalf of the GFI Qld State Team, may you all have a safe, happy and Holy Christmas, and that 2008 will be a year blessed by the knowledge that He will not fail us or forsake us – that means your family too!

How do you teach your son to be a hard worker? Yes, the training can begin as young as 4-5 years of age. Not that he is put to work in a factory! However there are age-appropriate principles that can be utilized to teach your sons the basic principle of hard work.

See the book review on **page 3** "Preparing Your Son to Provide for a Single Income Family" by Steve Maxwell.

This book is available from http://www.titus2.com/ecommerce/products/prod_listing.php/1130 for US\$10 plus postage.

Inside:

- Gift ideas
- Movie reviews
- Christmas freebies
- Local events
- Training Day workshop

What's Happening in Queensland?

(Please send your details into qld_enquiries@gfi.org.au to have your local event or course listed here)

GEMS mornings	Friday fortnight	Brisbane Southside	3807 5118 - night's please
Training Day	Sat 2nd February	Gold Coast	3325 3787
Course - Preparation for the Toddler Years	Feb 2008	Brisbane Southside	3807 5118 - night's please
Course - Growing Kids God's Way	Feb 2008	Brisbane Northside	3325 3787
State Camp 2008	Labour Day W/E	TBA	



Love Languages at Christmas

With Christmas fast approaching here are some suggestions for giving gifts using the Five Love Languages as a guide!

Words of Affirmation - try writing a letter and including it in their stocking. Stationery is always appreciated for the avid writer. Maybe try a photo/scrapbook with special photos and messages praising their special qualities.

Quality Time - Vouchers or tickets for a movie (teamed with a coffee shop stop!), bike rides, breakfast out together. (For the budget conscious on Brisbane Southside, IKEA does a \$2 hot breakfast from 9:30am-11am. Try your local coffee shops for alternatives that won't send you broke). See this link for beautifully created and FREE gift vouchers (www.doorposts.net/free_resources/christmascoupons.pdf).

Receiving Gifts - try for something personal, something they'd really like. Ask them to write a list (with a range of costs) and prioritise the importance. Gift giving personality types don't lose the surprise by being given what they've requested ... they appreciate the fact that they've been given something meaningful.

Acts of Service - vouchers for offers of help to complete a project (ie fix a bike, put together presents, clean out Mum or Dad's car or some outstanding project needing an extra set of hands). Lessons to teach how to do a job in practical skills such as mechanics, woodworking, sewing or cooking. For the budget conscious - try thinking of people around you who would be happy to give the lessons in their skill such as grandparents, friends or older people in your Church. Sometimes it doesn't have to cost you anything - my sister teaches sign language to a friend's daughter while her friend prepares her dinner once a week. Also think of practical tools for their interests or any lessons you're paying for them. Our five year old received tools and a tool board (with shadows of where each tool would hang) and he now knows where he can find "his" screwdriver to tighten his baby brothers playpen hinge whenever he notices it's loose!

Physical Touch and Closeness - most of the quality time ideas will work well for this type. You could also try massage or beauty treatments or similar!

Every day we choose to love, or not to love (chapter 3 GKGW)



Looking for Christmas Presents?

Songs for Growing Kids is a CD that parents and children will both enjoy!

This unique collection of songs will appeal to kids of all ages, while emphasizing the importance of character and good manners. Kids have fun listening, playing, and exercising to the CD, and parents can rest assured that their messages of good values are being reinforced in every song! Songs include First Time Obedience, May I

Appeal?, Interrupt Rule, Love Languages, My Daddy is so Awesome and more.

Many of the songs uphold and reinforce the family values taught in the Growing Kids God's Way/Along the Virtuous Way parenting course by Gary and Anne Marie Ezzo.

Check out the Growing Families national website at www.gfi.org.au/resources/songs_growing_kids.html to order your copy. (AUD\$25)

Training Workshop

The State team will be running a training workshop designed to equip people to facilitate classes. It will include practical tips and resources so you can plan your 2008 year and include hassle-free ways to facilitate Growing Families classes and gain the most benefit. It will be held on Saturday 2nd February 2008 10am-2pm on the Gold Coast and will include lunch. The cost will be \$25 per couple, \$15 per single. Please register your interest as soon as possible (telephone 3325 3787 or email:



Christmas Freebies!!

Lap Book - Would you like to try a craft with your children that focuses on Christ, His glorious birth and incarnation? It makes a great Advent activity!

This is a free gift provided by Veritas Press, a Christian Educational supplier — a beautifully created lapbook. I would recommend it for upper primary to lower highschool age, however it could easily be done by younger children with some adult assistance.

To get your free colour copy go to http://resources.veritaspress.com/SL_Resource_Download.ASP and scroll down to Section 6 where there is a link to download the free Christmas Lapbook.

Colouring Pages - Also here is a link for some colouring pages for the pre-primary and primary aged children celebrating the nativity story <http://www.apples4theteacher.com/coloring-pages/christian-christmas/index.html>. Enjoy!

Book review - by Jared Armstrong

“Preparing Your Son to Provide for a Single Income Family” by Steve Maxwell

Our Australian society exerts much pressure on our families to have both parents working. Wouldn't it be nice if your son was skilled enough and hard working enough in his vocation and around the home that his wife did not *need* to work? Can you begin skilling your son with a good work ethic from a young age? If so— How?

"Preparing Your Son to Provide for a Single Income Family" by Steve Maxwell (father of eight including three wage-earning adults) is a book that considers such questions. In providing answers to these issues, Steve speaks from his own experiences and provides wise counsel. His 24-year-old son purchased a home debt free and his second son is financially able to do the same.

Steve's relationship with God is a continuing theme that comes through this inspiring and challenging book. Steve mentions his chapter on "Appetites" was probably the “hardest to write” and yet it is so relevant and life changing. Steve deals with this topic wisely, directly and very gently.

Although written for all dads about their sons, I highly recommend this book to mums as well. Also, many of the principles are equally appropriate for daughters.

WARNING

Movie: Golden Compass

*The trailer is slick and exciting!
It's the latest in children's fantasy.*

The newly released movie "Golden Compass" is a fabulously made movie by NewLine for children along the lines of Narnia's "The Lion the Witch and Wardrobe" etc. Many families and children will flock to see this movie, based on the first novel of three, written by Philip Pullman.

The trouble is the books are written by a militant atheist whose books are an attack against Christianity and God, a fact he is very up front about.

He has the freedom to do that of course, except that Christians should know what they may be allowing their children to watch and read and be informed so that THEY can make a proper choice as to what is suitable for their children.

Without parents doing their own homework/research, this movie presents itself deceptively compared to the books they are based on. The movie has cleverly watered down the more serious attacks against religion and so there will be many Christian parents who may then allow their children to read the trilogy, thinking the movie harmless enough (since these movies always spawn an enormous book buying/reading frenzy, like Narnia and LOTR) and not realise just how dangerous these books are to the minds of Christian children. Here is a link to some info: www.facingthechallenge.org/pp6.php or try www.snopes.com/politics/religion/compass.asp. You can also do an internet search on the key words and find out more.

Peter Hitchens who writes for Mailonsunday in the UK labels the author of the trilogy, Philip Pullman, as "The most dangerous author in Britain" (see Peter's article at <http://pers-www.wlv.ac.uk/~bu1895/hitchens.htm>)

One disturbing element is the fact people have soul-companions that are an animal of some sort (these creatures are part of their soul) and they are referred to as 'daemons' pronounced 'demon.' On the movie's interactive site children are encouraged to find out their own 'daemon' for fun....

We suggest that the word be spread to your fellow Christian friends and parents, alerting them to the dangers of this movie, so they can do their own reading and decide if this is really suitable for their children.

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Movie review "One Night with the King"

One Night With The King tells the story of Esther, her humble beginnings as a young Jewish orphan and how God raised her up to be Queen only to position her to risk her life to save her people from destruction. Extravagant costumes, lush locations and a cast that includes Peter O'Toole Omar Sharif John Rhys-Davies John Noble and newcomer Tiffany Dupont in an

unforgettable performance as Esther, have all come together to make this a film of remarkable scope and emotion, all set in an exotic world of adventure, intrigue, romance and wonder. Go online to find out where it is showing in your area – www.onenight.com.au





GEMS mornings

(Godly Encouragement for Mums)

If you're a Mum who would love some encouragement in using the Growing Families principles (from babies to teens) we'd love to see you at our GEMS mornings in the new year. We meet twice monthly (Brisbane Southside) on a Friday morning 10am to 11:30am.

To cover the variety of age-groups we alternate meetings between a focus on babies & toddlers (using Mel Hayde's material) and primary and up (using Joey & Carla Links - "Moms Notes"). This year we've covered teaching character skills in toddlers, developing character with the "angry child", food issues, routines for kids and how to make them work when you're dealing with multiple age-groups! and much more!!! If you'd like to be kept informed or would like to come email qld_enquiries@gfi.org.au or telephone 3807 5118 (nights

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Queensland Camp 2008

We are currently finalising arrangements for a Growing Families - QUEENSLAND State Camp to be held on Labour Day weekend (3-5th May 2008).

Please let us know if you would be interested in attending.

Please note that this is NOT a commitment, but to give us an indication of how many families would like to come so we can plan appropriately.

Drop us an email (qld_enquiries@gfi.org.au) - we'd love to hear from you!

Next Newsletter ... please share!

Feeling isolated?

Want to be encouraged in the GFA principles?

Looking for more ideas?

We realise that Queensland is the most demographically challenged state in Australia, with the population spread from major centres the entire length of the coast through to the large population bases in the inland too. We would love this newsletter to become a dynamic communication link for the GFA community throughout the State and encourage families and leaders of GFA courses in their ministries. Please spread the word and encourage other like-minded families (and all your course participants!) to sign up for this free newsletter. We would love you to send in your tips, stories, questions and suggestions ... and especially **notice of any events or courses you are planning locally** so we can encourage networking with like-minded families. We need you! Contact us on qld_enquiries@gfi.org.au

Keep us up-to-date!

Are you changing your email?

Have a new telephone number?

Planning to move in the next few months?

We would love to know your new details so we can keep you informed and connected with the Growing Families family! Email us on qld_enquiries@gfi.org.au