



# Growing Families Australia – Queensland News

Reaching our state one family at a time

## State Team Greeting

Hello again everyone.

No doubt most of our Qld readers are experiencing the cooler weather and also some would have been blessed by lots of rain. Maybe some of you who still need rain could let us know where you are and we will continue our prayers specifically for you. As Christians we do have a responsibility to care for the earth and to conserve our precious water. My sponsored child, from The Gambia, told me recently that “water is life and we have so little, that when we get rain, we know that God the Almighty has blessed us with life!”

Last newsletter, I made mention of Love Languages. As you may know, the use of Love Languages, or Touchpoints of Love, comes from the work and books of Dr Gary Chapman (used in GKGW Chpt 3). Well friends, this is such a powerful and positive message that it can be done as a stand-alone study for your family or home group. I would encourage you all to re-visit this part again if it's a while since you did this.

Some years ago a lady attended my office seeking help for her 10 year old daughter. After chatting for some time and observing the child, I asked her if she knew what her daughter's love language was. She looked perplexed and said – never heard of it – what is it? After explaining in brief form about the principles, she began sobbing uncontrollably. After composing herself, I asked “What is wrong, have I upset you?” She said no, but after hearing about the Love Languages, she had realised that her husband did love her, but she didn't hear or understand what he was doing or saying.

I encouraged her to go home and begin the process of rebuilding by first assessing the love languages of the entire family beginning with herself, her husband and her children. She looked sad as she told me she couldn't. She and her husband had divorced and he was remarried. It was obvious that she still loved him and was heartbroken that she had miss read him!

Understanding the love language of your spouse, your children, your extended family, your friends, those you work with, and those in your church, will help dramatically in building quality into your relationships.

May we encourage you all to revisit your love languages this week or this month! The old song goes – “what the world needs now is love sweet love” – and it's quite true but not just needing love, but understanding how we all love will add so much quality to all our relationships.

Till next time on behalf of the Qld state team,

Sean

### Looking for Current Leaders

If you have been teaching any of the Growing Families classes in Queensland somewhere or are looking to run a class and would like to advertise it email [qld\\_enquiries@gfi.org.au](mailto:qld_enquiries@gfi.org.au) us and we can put it in the newsletter. We would love to know how God is working in the ministry at your church and put you in touch with families in need of a community.

### What they said ...

*If people are good only because they fear punishment, and hope for reward, then we are a sorry lot indeed.  
your own - Einstein*

### Inside:

- GKGW key principle review
- Good manners check listed
- Book review—the five love languages
- Play in the park
- The National Conference - Families of Fire.

## What's Happening in Queensland?

(Please send your details into [qld\\_enquiries@gfi.org.au](mailto:qld_enquiries@gfi.org.au) to have your local event or course listed here)

Course - Growing Kids God's Way	Term 3 '08	Brisbane Northside	3325 3787
Play in the Park	13 Sept '08	Brisbane Northside	0429 861 918
National Conference - Stanwell Tops	April '09	<a href="http://www.familiesoffire.gfi.org.au">www.familiesoffire.gfi.org.au</a>	
Queensland State Camp	14 - 16 Aug '09	Watson Park - Dakabin	3325 3787

## Monthly Tip — Show good manners



A short check list -  
(put a  if your child is characterised by...)

- Never say anything to anyone that could hurt someone's feelings - such as teasing, name-calling or insulting. (Matt. 7:12; Eph 4:29)
- If you didn't hear someone clearly say, "pardon me?" or "I'm sorry. I didn't hear you." Avoid saying, "Huh?"
- When you have guests arriving, always go to the door and greet them. Take their coats and hang them up. Let them know how glad you are that they could come. (1 Pet 4:9-10; Rom 12:13)
- Play with all your guests. Don't choose one to play with and ignore the others. This will lead to needlessly hurt feelings. (James 2:1-9)
- When a guest, thank your host or hostess for inviting you.
- Don't read someone's diary without being given permission. (Matt 7:12)
- Don't brag about yourself. (Prov 16:18; 27:1-2)
- Consider your words carefully before you speak. (Prov 15:4)
- Gentlemen - always hold a door open for a young girl or woman and wait for her to go through first. This includes opening and closing a lady's car door. (Moses 12:1) - Esther - what do you reckon...
- Ladies - dress and act modestly so others around you do not feel distracted or awkward. (2 Moses 10:6)

This month's tips are taken from the book "What Every Child Should know Along the Way" by Gail Martin (available from GFI at [www.gfi.org.au](http://www.gfi.org.au)).

## GKGW Reminder

### GKGW Chapter 7 Key Principle:

Love is not rude



How about this week during  
**COUCH TIME**  
you discuss the character development of each of your children.

The natural relationships:

1. Authority
2. Parents
3. Age
4. Siblings / Peers
5. Property
6. Nature

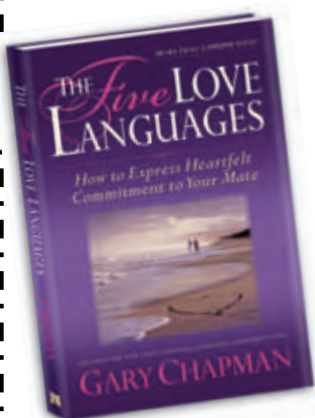
## How good are you...

- ▶ What are the names of Gary & Anne Marie's daughters?
- ▶ What's the name of the Australian lady in the video clip about saying hello?
- ▶ What is a helpful tool to encourage first time obedience when children are engrossed in an activity?
- ▶ What are the four phases of parenting?



Answers Page 3

## Book Review - The Five Love Languages



We need to choose to love - since we are called to be loving - and we call our children to that standard too. So how is it that you love your spouse, but they "don't get it..." The problem isn't your love - it's your love language! In this *best seller* Dr Gary Chapman reveals how different people express love in different ways. (This is the book that Gary & Anne-Marie base Chapter 3 - touch points of love in Growing Kids Gods Way). There are Five different ways to express love:

- ♥ Quality Time ♥ Words of Affirmation ♥ Gifts
- ♥ Acts of Service ♥ Physical Touch

Get a copy of this book from the Growing Families bookshop - [www.gfi.org.au](http://www.gfi.org.au). Also try Dr Chapman's web site for a 30 second quiz to help determine your love language - [www.fivelovelanguages.com](http://www.fivelovelanguages.com).



## One big happy day

The cartoon in this months newsletter come from [www.gocomics.com/onebighappy](http://www.gocomics.com/onebighappy) where you can get Ruthie sent daily to your inbox. One big happy day often have great cartoons for just those teaching moment - and the kids (young and old) will love them...

## Meet the Ezzos at [www.ezzo.org](http://www.ezzo.org).

*This site is not about the Ezzos' public teaching but a small window into their private lives, community, and pastime activities.*

How good are you... the answers

- ▶ Amy & Jenny
- ▶ Mrs Bathurst
- ▶ Five minute warning
- ▶ Discipline, Training, Coaching, Friendship

## A Day In The Park - Attention Northsiders

A "spontaneous" gathering in the park has been organised for the 13<sup>th</sup> of September. Look for the **Green** and **Red** Balloons to spot where the Bongers Family will have set up. Please bring your own lunch and games to share. We look forward to meeting new friends and strengthening existing ones.



You don't have to RSVP - just turn up between 11:00 and 2:00 at Sweeney Reserve - off Old Dayboro Road on the 12/09/08.

In the fast paced world we live in, many families are struggling to keep up with the busyness of life. Between work commitments, dropping the kids off, being involved, and keeping up with friends, the flurry of activity can sometimes make us forget why we're here. Why not take some time out to come away as a family and reflect on the calling God has for you.

### You are the light of the world... Matt 5:14

Do you ever feel like you're fighting a losing battle? That your desire to shine Jesus gets quenched by the clouds of darkness pervading our culture. We believe God wants to use Conference to strengthen His people, to refine us as gold, that we may burn brighter for Jesus in the dark times that we live in.

### Let your light shine before men... Matt 5:16

Families all around us are falling apart. With almost every second marriage ending in divorce, some estimate that the traditional family unit will be a minority group by 2017. We believe God wants to use Conference to spread the flame, to touch other families with the fire of God, that one by one, we may set our nation ablaze for Jesus.

### This conference is for you

So no matter where your family is on their journey with God, we'd love you to join us to be part of something special. To allow our Heavenly Father to gently lead us in the way of His Son, to be refined more and more into His that we may spread like fire across our nation.

That we may become... **Families of Fire.**

[www.familiesoffire.gfi.org.au](http://www.familiesoffire.gfi.org.au) to register

**Families of Fire**   
 GROWING FAMILIES AUSTRALIA  
 NATIONAL CONFERENCE 2009

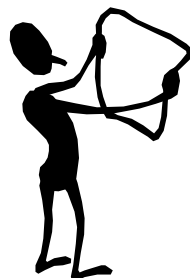
16th - 19th April 2009 | Stanwell Tops NSW

## Next Newsletter ... please share!

Have you anything you'd like to share in the next newsletter?

We are looking for tips, anecdotes, questions and any other contributions .... we'd love to hear from you!

Contact us on [qld\\_enquiries@gfi.org.au](mailto: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 & connected with the Growing Families family! Email us on [qld\\_enquiries@gfi.org.au](mailto:qld_enquiries@gfi.org.au)