



Growing Families Australia South Australian News

Reaching our state one family at a time

State Team Greeting

Well, it's hard to believe that April is here already. We hope that this year is shaping up to be a great one for you and your family.

There is so much happening in the world at the moment, and times are tough right here at home too. We pray that you can rest in God's hope & love, especially as we draw so near to Easter and celebrate what God has done for us through the precious gift of His Son.

What Easter traditions do you have in your family? Thanks to Geoff & Alicia Bongers, State Reps for QLD, we have some great tips, suggestions, and even recipes for Easter in this newsletter. (They have very generously let us all share their newsletter content and format!).

The focus of this newsletter is prayer – a vital skill that our children need to learn and one which will hold them in good stead as a Christian Life Skill. Do you have a chalk board which you continually update with praise points and requests – this is a great medium for prayer prompts as well as doubling up on the character trait or theme for the week or month.

As you read this newsletter make sure you have your diary or calendar handy to mark in the dates of our planned events. We look forward to these great opportunities to fellowship, and learn together with you throughout this year.

Lastly, we wish all the organisers, speakers, and attendees of the upcoming GFA National Conference & Teen Camp safe travel, and a wonderful time of refreshing and equipping!! (Keep an eye on the GFA website following conference for availability of session CD's & DVD's).

Did You Receive this Newsletter in the Post??

Please note that this is the last time we will be doing a "postal" mail out. But, we would love to continue keeping you informed, encouraged, and "plugged-in" to the Growing Families community in SA.

If you have an email address (...or access to one) **please** let us know so we can update our database. Thankyou!!

Key Principle - GKGW Chapter 15

Training children to restrain their unkind speech is one of the most overlooked areas in parenting.

Tricky Easter Word...

Gods
Riches
At
Christs
Expense

Inside:

- *Couch Time topic!*
- *CD Review - Baa Baa DooBaaBaa*
- *Growing Families core curriculum web site*
- *Monthly Tip - Pray for your children*
- *Easter give-away: Death by Chocolate*
- *Easter Traditions... what people do*
- *Tricky Easter words*

What's Happening in South Australia?

National Conference - Stanwell Tops	16 - 19 Apr '09	www.familiesoffire.gfi.org.au	
Bill & Joan Grosser Visiting SA	31 Jul - 10 Aug '09	Robyn Hamdorf	8381 3051
Leadership Training Day	1 Aug '09	Robyn Hamdorf	8381 3051
Combined GEMS Evening	7 Aug '09	Michelle Yip	8298 1461

Want Your Course Advertised Here... Then email or call us on:

sa_reps@gfi.org.au or 8381 3051

Monthly Tip — Pray for your Children

Intercede for your children in your own prayer times and with your spouse. Philippians 1:9-11 is a good scripture to claim for each of your children. Ask the Lord to lead your specific prayers for each of them and for a vision for each child. Pray with the long term in mind; for their spouse, for their witness for God as they grow in their career and ministry. Commit their weaknesses and the concerns you have to God and ask Him to guide you in these areas.

Let us remember to put the leadership of Growing Families before the Throne

We pray for Gary & Anne Marie, Bill & Joan, all the GFA leadership, GFA families and the national conference organisers:

- That their steps are ordered by you Lord, and their time with you is in place and a priority.
- For wisdom, direction and protection
- For provision in every area of need to accomplish the call and plan for their lives
- That they are surrounded with favour as with a shield
- For excellent health, nourishment, rest and healthy lifestyles
- For great marriages and family relationships, full of unity and love.

For your glory Lord,

In Jesus name, Amen.

EASTER TRADITIONS... Geoff & Alicia

We have used a number of things to celebrate and enhance the understanding of Easter in our family.

We have used the “Easter Story Cookies” (recipe in this newsletter), making pastry crosses as a family (which are puff pastry strips in the shape of a cross - brushed with milk and sprinkled with sugar and cooked in the oven). We also make a point of reading the whole Easter story including the events leading up to Easter in preparation using age appropriate Children’s Bibles.

We also attend Good Friday and Resurrection Sunday Church services as a family.

Tricky Easter word...

Justified... Just If I'd never sinned.

EASTER TRADITIONS... Laura and Sophie

Each Easter we get up early on Easter Sunday morning and drive to a beautiful spot down by the water and meet our family friends down there for a BBQ breakie. Then we play a game of soccer or botchie and then we go out on the water in our friends small boat. Then after all that the children have an Easter egg hunt.

It's just such a peaceful and stress free way to spend Easter & is great to be around family and friends. Sophie and I always remember the "real" meaning of Easter and reflect and thank God that we are able to have such a lovely day and that we are so lucky to be surrounded by such loving family & friends.

GEMS Evening - Advance notice

Saturday 7th August

Attention Ladies!! It's been a while since all our GEMS groups got together - so mark the date in your diary and watch this space for more details about this “not to be missed” event!!

For more info please contact Michelle Yip on 8298 1461.

Bill & Joan Grosser (GFA National Reps)

Available for Speaking Appointments : 31 July - 10 Aug

While they are here in SA, Bill & Joan have expressed that they would be more than happy to make time to speak to groups, individuals, families, or anyone who would like to catch up with them.

If you would like to make an appointment to catch up with them, or have them come and speak to your group please contact Robyn Hamdorf to “book it in”. Ph: 8381 3051 or email ahamdorf@picknowl.com.au.

What to pray can be hard for children (and adults...). Teach your child 'ACTS' as a tool to help them know what to pray about. Try putting it on top of your family prayer board as a reminder.

Acclamation

Confession

Thankfulness

Supplication (asking)

Give Away - Death by Chocolate Recipe Book



This book is proudly supplied by the Growing Families team in Queensland as a celebration of the death of Christ. It is the same Christ many celebrate at Christmas but are much less comfortable about at Easter time.

This book has been compiled by a great group of ladies (at the Christian Reformed Church of Launceston) who have a passion for the "lost" and chocolate. These ladies ran "death by chocolate nights" as an outreach event. Thanks for a great job - our family has surely enjoyed many of the tried and true creations in this book.

So if you want a copy - please go to the GFA website - www.gfi.org.au/regions/queensland/queensland.html

Leadership Training Day

Saturday 1st August, 2009

Venue to be announced soon...

Leadership training is not only for leaders of GFA Groups, but is a time where parents can be encouraged and learn principles that can be applied even in their own family.

Connect with other parents, build a network of contacts, and be part of a like-minded community.

Growing Families Core Curriculum

www.growingkids.org/gfi-core-curriculum

Serving as a secondary site for inquirers looking for more specifics about the GFI core curriculum. This location provides a general review of each course, as well as a FAQ section of related topics.

Chalk board themes for the day

- Blessed are the parents who make their peace with mud and spilled milk, for such is the kingdom of childhood.
- Blessed are fathers and mothers who have learned to laugh, for it is the music of a child's world.
- Blessed are parents who accept the awkwardness of their growing children, letting each one grow at their own speed.
- Blessed are parents who are teachable, because knowledge brings understanding and love.

This snippet comes from Facets Vol 1

CD Review - Baa Baa DooBaaBaa

This Colin Buchanan CD is a great "long tripper" for those wanting to put some biblical principles into the hearts of their children (in times of non conflict). The 25 songs are all direct scripture references set to some fantastic tunes that will get glued into your children's head (it will also make their ears prick up when they hear them in Church too). Songs include: James 4.7... submit submit. Isaiah 53:6... we all like sheep and John 1.1... in the beginning; in addition it has the books of new and old testament to song... This CD is available at most Christian book stores (watch for the specials) and is suitable from about 2 and up.



Reminder

How about this week during **COUCH TIME** you take the time to talk about your children's prayer life.



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: sa_reps@gfi.org.au

Easter Story Cookies

You need:

1 cup of whole Pecans
1 tsp vinegar
Pinch salt
Plastic bag
Bible

3 egg whites
1 cup sugar
Masking tape
Greaseproof paper / cookie paper

Preheat oven to 150C (this is important – don't wait until you are half done with the recipe!)

Place pecans in plastic bag and let the children beat them with the wooden spoon to break into small pieces. Explain that after Jesus was arrested, He was beaten by the Roman soldiers. Read John 19:1-3

Let each child smell the vinegar. Put 1 tsp vinegar into mixing bowl. Explain that when Jesus was thirsty on the cross. He was given vinegar to drink. Read John 19:28-30.

Add egg whites to vinegar. Eggs represent life. Explain that Jesus gave His life to give us life. Read John 10:10-11.

Sprinkle a little salt into each child's hand. Let them taste it and brush the rest into the bowl. Explain that this represents the salty tears shed by Jesus' followers, and the bitterness of our own sin. Read Luke 23:27.

So far, the ingredients are not very appetizing. Add 1 cup of sugar. Explain that the sweetest part of the story is that Jesus died because He loves us. He wants us to know and belong to Him. Read Ps 34:8 and John 3:16.

Beat with a mixer on high speed for 12 to 15 minutes until stiff peaks are formed. Explain that the colour white represents the purity in God's eyes of those whose sins have been cleansed by Jesus. Read Isa 1:18 and John 3:1-3.

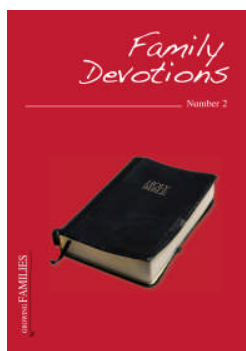
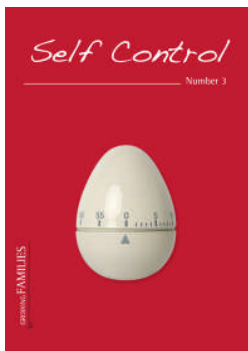
Fold in broken nuts. Drop by teaspoons onto a wax paper covered tray. Explain that each mould represents the rock tomb where Jesus' body was laid. Matt 27:57-60.

Put the tray in the oven, close the door and turn the oven OFF.

Give each child a piece of tape and seal the door. Explain that Jesus' tomb was sealed. Read Matt 27:65-66.

GO TO BED! Explain that they may feel sad to leave the cookies in the oven overnight. Jesus' followers were in despair when then the tomb was sealed. Read John 16:20 and 22.

On Easter Morning, open the oven and give everyone a cookie. Notice the cracked surface and take a bite. The cookies are hollow! On the first Easter, Jesus' followers were amazed to find the tomb open and empty. Read Matt 28:1-9.



NEW

Growing Families DVD Series

We have a new series of DVDs being produced in Australia by David & Charissa Scotford, creators of Babywise Bliss. The DVDs are based on the foundational principles found in the Growing Families International (GFI) courses, and are presented in a succinct way for this generation of parents. They are now being used by individuals, in churches, Mum's groups, schools, camps, conferences and increasingly in small groups within people's homes.

The DVDs are being produced as part of the Growing Families Australia (GFA) parenting ministry.