



Growing Families Australia

NATIONAL NEWSLETTER

Reaching our nation one family at a time

Inside:

- Christmas a time for reflection
- Holiday ideas
- Growing Families Australia Missions
- And more...

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 enquiries@gfi.org.au



WiFi Monkeys

Want today's WiFi password?

- a) make your bed
- b) vacuum
- c) walk the dog



Office Hours

Our office will be open up until December the 20th and we will reopen on January 5th.



Christmas

a time for reflection and celebration

Just recently the Australian public had moment to pause and reflect on life and death and 'what are we here for' with the sudden and public passing of Phil Hughes. It is rare for Australia to stop and reflect in such a manner – have a chance to put things into perspective... Christmas is another one of those opportunities – which unfortunately gets over looked by many.

Have you scheduled in time between lunches, work functions, shopping for presents, the rush of graduations, end of year shows, sporting contests, Christmas day plans... to reflect on why God sent his one and only Son to earth... The third verse of Hark! The Herald Angels Sing.

Hail, the heaven-born Prince of peace!
 Hail the Son of righteousness!
 Light and life to all he brings,
 Risen with healing in his wings.
 Mild he lays his glory by,
Born that man no more may die,
Born to raise the sons of earth,
Born to give them second birth.
 Hark! the herald angels sing,
 Glory to the newborn King.



WOW! Talk about Gloria In Excelsis Deo!

Blessings to your families this Christmas. May the celebration of God's coming to earth be a time of fellowship, celebration and reflection.

The National Overseeing Team.

December Special

Once again our special for December is a 10% discount on any order this month. The discount will be applied at the checkout. Also available are gift vouchers. Please contact the office if you would like to purchase one of these.

10%
DISCOUNT



When My Happy Gets Bumped

by Lysa TerKeurst August 2013.

(<http://proverbs31.org/devotions/devo/when-my-happy-gets-bumped/>)

“Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil’s schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.” Ephesians 6:11-12 (NIV)

Most days, I wake up fairly happy. It’s not like I wake up in a mood for a party but generally I’m not grumpy when I arise. I wake up and things seem pretty good, level and fresh with possibilities. And then inevitably something will bump into my happy.

An early morning meltdown by one of my people. It’s amazing what a bad hair day can do to a teenager’s attitude.

Or a forgotten something for school. And one of my people wants their irresponsibility to suddenly become my emergency.

Or an email from somebody who clearly gets pleasure from trying to bring others down.

Or me misjudging the time and suddenly everything is rushed, hurried and stressful.

Or my husband, Art, lowering the thermostat in the house to 68 degrees and I can’t stop shivering until the temperature hovers closer to 72. It’s amazing how much difference four degrees makes.

Things happen. Things that bump into my happy. And suddenly I’m a little off-kilter and little less nice.

Can you relate?

Well, I’m learning something about a little mental perspective I need to have when things bump into my happy. In that moment, Satan is scheming to have me help him out. If he can just get me jostled to the point where I react out of anger, it’s like lighting a spark near a puddle of gasoline.

Even the smallest spark can ignite quite a fire. A fire that will spread and feel much bigger than what the situation ever should have been.

Take the temperature discussion for example.

It should be just a simple discussion about the thermostat. But, add a little anger and suddenly things in my brain escalate to the point where I’ve just about convinced myself Art is completely insensitive and couldn’t care less about me.

Is that true? Of course not. He just likes to sit in his house

without sweating. Surely, we could find a compromise with the temperature or I could go put on some socks and a sweatshirt.

Instead, when he bumps my happy, a “growth opportunity” ensues that leaves us both feeling a little burned.

In other words, I play right into Satan’s scheme and help him out. Remember, Satan’s very name means one who casts something between two, causing a separation. Be it a temperature issue, tight finances, a misunderstood statement or one of the millions of little things that can bump our happy ... we have a choice.

We can choose to play into Satan’s schemes and enable his attempts to separate us from God’s best.

Or, we can choose to fight for our relationships and against Satan’s divisive attempts.

When I think about it in these terms, it helps me identify the real enemy.

My real enemy isn’t any of the people who bump my happy. My real enemy is the one who tries with all his might to get me to jump into a grumpy mood and help him tear down all that I love.

Knowing I need a strategy against these attacks, I turn to the wisdom found in Ephesians 6:11, *“Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil’s schemes.”*

You better back up and back off Satan. I’m on to your schemes. You are my enemy, not people. And now I have a totally new game plan for when my happy gets bumped. Starting with finding just the right pair of socks and a sweatshirt to wear in the ice cave.

Dear Lord, sometimes my happy gets bumped and my emotions get the best of me. Help me to react in a way that’s honoring to You instead of reacting in a way that will fuel Satan’s agenda. In Jesus’ Name, Amen.

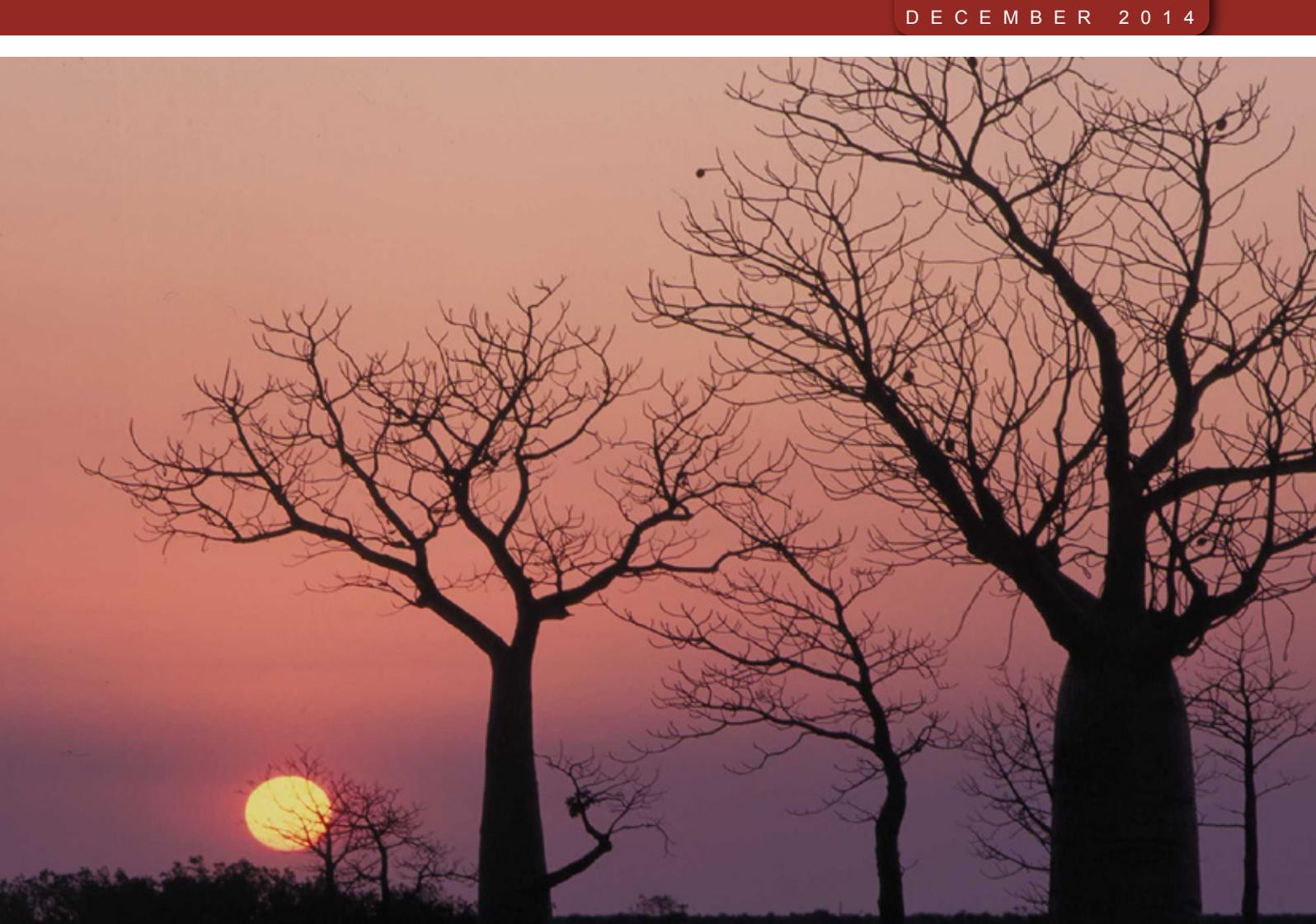
Reflect and Respond:

What bumps into your happy and sends you off kilter?

Could this realization that it’s not just you feeling jostled, but a scheme of Satan’s to separate, give you a different perspective?

Power Verse:

James 4:7, “Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.” (NIV)



Growing Families Australia Missions

We are excited to tell you about a wonderful new venture which Growing Families Australia is entering in to.

As many of you will be aware over the last few years Bill and Joan Grosser have been ministering in the Kimberley region in WA and developing parenting material based on the GFI material, especially for the Aboriginal population. They have been working alongside a small group of locals, including Greg and Linda Wilson.

Greg and Linda have been involved with Growing Families for some time and have been missionaries in a couple of different roles over a number of years, most recently with Kingdom Aviation in Derby.

We are thrilled to announce that from the 1st of January they will become the first full time missionaries for Growing Families Australia. To enable this to happen we have established a new "branch", Growing Families Australia Missions which will administer their support.

Please click here to read their newsletter which gives more detail on what they will be doing.

If you would like to support Greg and Linda please download their newsletter and supporters form and send the details in to us at the GFA office.

http://www.gfi.org.au/documents/Wilsons_Word_Email_December_2014.pdf

If you would like to donate a one off amount to help with the start up and establishment of Growing Families Australia Missions please contact Robyn Hamdorf at the GFA National office.

We are so excited by the doors which God has opened and are waiting in anticipation to see what He has in store for the Kimberley region and the way in which families will be changed by Him and for Him.

The National Overseeing Team.