



# REFLECTIONS

Grace OPC

## What's Going on with Missions?

By Pastor Brian De Jong

Is Missions a 'big deal' at Grace OPC? I believe so, and I think I can support that answer. When I first came to Sheboygan, I was impressed with the emphasis on missions – especially foreign missions. Don and Pam Schlernitzauer were particularly missions-minded, and their enthusiasm spread to the congregation.

Throughout the years, we've had numerous missionaries come visit Grace Church, and their presentations are always well attended.

The monthly mission reports given on the second Sunday of the month are received with interest and appreciation. Likewise, one of the highlights of the fall calendar is the "Harvest Home Supper" in mid-November. At that event, a missionary is invited to present his work to the congregation.

Yet another gauge of missions interest is the Missions/Benevolence Offering received each month. Through the generous and faithful giving, we support the following causes: OPC Worldwide Outreach, OPC Missionaries – the Hopps and the Robinsons, PMW Church Extension, three Seminaries, the Reformed University Ministry work at UW-Milwaukee, Menominee OPC, the Sheboygan County Christian High School, Pine Haven Christian Homes, Elijah De Jong's seminary studies, Brett Mahlen's ministry at Stateville Prison in Illinois, and other "miscellaneous" missions needs.



On top of this, our Sunday School offerings are typically given to a Missions cause, and other funds go to OPC Home and Foreign Missions through opportunities like the annual Thank Offering.

Encouraging short-term missions has been not uncommon in our congregation. In years past we've had members (including some young people) take summer mission trips. Whenever needs of this sort are known, giving is quite generous to help our short-termers to the field.

Over the past several years, the involvement of Brian and Dorothy Wingard has further heightened our knowledge of missions – especially our OPC missionaries. Their participation on the Missions Committee, and Dorothy's diligent reporting of information, has helped us be more current in our knowledge of foreign missions. The notebook of material that Dorothy has collected is available in the fellowship hall, and is a gold mine of info.

Finally, there is a regular stream of information available through our weekly bulletin, and in periodic inserts in our mailboxes, letting us know how to pray for missions and missionaries. For anyone who receives the information, they can easily keep up to date with what is going on in the work of God's kingdom around the world.

So the challenge for all of us is to take the time to absorb this wealth of

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### Mnemonics...

- *Session Meeting, September 3rd*
- *Church Campout, September 5-7th*
- *Pitch in Supper, September 6th*
- *Men and Boys' Leadership Breakfast, September 21st*



## 3 “Dos” of Fatherhood

By R. Kent Hughes

*Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.*  
—Ephesians 6:4

### 1. Tenderness

The words “bring them up” mean “to nourish or feed,” as in 5:29 which has the same Greek words describing how a man “feeds and cares” for his own body. Calvin translates “bring them up” as “let them be kindly cherished,” and goes on to emphasize that the overall idea is to speak to one’s children with gentleness and friendliness.<sup>1</sup>

When I was a teenager, my best friend’s father was a man’s man. He had spent thirty-two years in the Coast Guard as a noncommissioned officer, a chief bosun’s mate. He was a big man, and in his prime he had put on the gloves with Joe Louis. Officers greeted him first when he walked down the street. He could be rough and tumble. But do you know what he called his 265-pound son? “David dear.” I was “Kent dear,” and I did not mind at all. In fact, it made me feel great. He was not hung up on “Real men do not show affection.” In fact, he still kisses his grown son—a man’s man himself.

We are to be tender. Men are never manlier than when they are tender with their children—whether holding a baby in their arms, loving their grade-schooler, or hugging their teenager or adult children.

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Here, a statement from the wise Christian philosopher Elton Trueblood is to the point, extending the principle further. A child, he says,

... needs also to know that his father and his mother are lovers, quite and apart from their relationship to him. It is the father’s responsibility to make the child know that he is deeply in love with the child’s mother. There is no good reason why all evidence of affection should be hidden or carried on in secret. A child who grows up with the realization that his parents are lovers has a wonderful basis of stability.<sup>2</sup>

Tenderness—verbal and physical—comes naturally to a father living under God’s Word. Men, how do we measure up?

### 2. Discipline

Next, there is “training.” This is a strong word which means “discipline, even by punishment.” Pilate used the same word when he said of Jesus, “I will punish him and then release him” ([Luke 23:16](#)). Discipline certainly includes corporal discipline as needed. But it encompasses *everything* necessary to help “Train a child in the way he should go”

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## Fatherhood Continued....

([Proverbs 22:6](#)).

The tragedy is that so many men have left this to their children's mothers. Not only is this unfair to the mother, but it robs the child of the security and self-esteem which come from being disciplined by the father.<sup>3</sup> Men, do you leave the discipline of your sons and daughters to your wives? If so, that is a sad breach of domestic responsibility. You are not living under God's Word!

### 3. Instruction

Last, there is "instruction"—verbal instruction, verbal warning. The word "instruction" literally means "to place before the mind." Often this means to confront and thus is related to the previous topic, discipline. This is precisely where the high priest Eli was such an abysmal domestic failure in raising his sons. [First Samuel 3:11-13](#) tells us:

And the Lord said to Samuel: "See, I am about to do something in Israel that will make the ears of everyone who hears of it tingle. At that time I will carry out against Eli everything I spoke against his family—from beginning to end. For I told him that I would judge his family forever because of the sin he knew about; his sons made themselves contemptible, and he failed to restrain them."

The Greek word for "restrain" in the Septuagint has the same root as "instruction" in [Ephesians 6:4](#). Eli failed to *confront* his boys. He failed to *instruct* them about their sin. And because of this, they were destroyed.

Clear, forthright instruction is necessary for a proper upbringing. Men, if we are to own up to our responsibilities, we must be:

- Involved in verbally instructing our children.
- Regularly leading them in family devotions and prayer.
- Monitoring and being responsible along with our wives for the input that enters their impressionable minds.
- Taking responsibility to help assure that church is a meaningful experience.
- Above all, we must make sure that the open book of our lives—our example—demonstrates the reality of our instruction, for in watching us they will learn the most. Late in life Evangeline Booth, age eighty-one and then general of the Salvation Army, was asked when she had first wanted to be a part of the Salvation Army. "Very early," she answered. "I saw my parents [founders of the Salvation Army] working for their people, bearing their burdens. Day and night. They did not have to say a word to me about Christianity."<sup>4</sup>

### Conclusion

The "do's" of fathering—*tenderness*, *discipline*, and *instruction*—together demand one great thing, as a certain busy doctor came to realize. He would appear at meals, pay allowances, and give advice, often without really listening to the problems of his family before he spoke. One afternoon, as he was preparing an article for a respected journal of

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medicine, his little son crept into the forbidden sanctuary of his father's study. "Daddy," he appealed. Without speaking, the doctor opened his desk drawer and handed the boy a box of candy.

A few moments later the boy again said, "Daddy," and his father absent-mindedly handed him a pencil. "Daddy," the boy persisted. The doctor responded to this with a grunt, indicating he knew the boy was there but did not want to be bothered. "Daddy!" the boy called out again.

Angered, the busy doctor swung around in his chair and said, "What on earth is so important that you insist on interrupting me? Can't you see I'm busy? I have given you candy and a pencil. Now what do you want?"

"Daddy, I want to be with you!"

The "do's" of fatherhood cannot be lived out by proxy. You need to participate in putting your little ones to bed and praying for and with them. You need to be at their plays, speeches, recitals, and sporting events. You need to schedule *regular time alone* with each of your children. You need to take the lead in planning terrific family vacations and in celebrating and cementing family solidarity.

Now in mid-life I sometimes wistfully think, "Where did the time go between the two indelible memories of the birth of my daughter and the birth of her son?" To be honest, some of the years were long and hard. I thought we would never get through many of the stresses. But when these great events are recalled in all their color, there seems to be no time between them. That is why, whenever I have occasion to hold a baby in my arms, I often encourage the parents to savor every moment and not to rush through the experience—the child will be grown up and gone in no time. The realization that we have only a brief time to raise our children should give us huge motivation to make the most of it and should make Scriptural advice about fathering pulse with importance for us.

Men, time is the chrysalis of eternity—there is no other time but the present. I realize we all go through periods in our lives when we have little time for our families—it is part of the natural rhythm of life. But excessive "busyness" must not be by choice—as it so often is! We must beware of packing our schedules by saying "yes" to things which mean "no" to our families.

Now is the time to take time. There is no other! Will you do it? Will I?

*This article is adapted from Disciplines of a Godly Man by R. Kent Hughes.*

# 6 Tips for Reading the Bible with Your Kids

By David Murray



## Happy Childhood Memories

When we look back on our childhoods, among many other happy memories, we may recall our parents reading with us. “Jack and the Beanstalk,” “Little Red Riding Hood,” “Three Little Pigs,” and multiple other children’s classics cast a warm hue upon our earliest recollections.

So why don’t we do the same with the Bible? Why don’t we read the Bible one-on-one with our children? Wouldn’t it be wonderful to give our children that best of memories? If you haven’t started such a practice, let me give you some guidance to start the ball rolling.

### 1. Give them a good reason to read the Bible.

Students do best when they are motivated by the ultimate aim of their studies. That’s why it’s so important to answer the “Why?” question up front, and to keep it in front, when reading the Bible with our children.

“Why are we doing this?”

“We’re reading the Bible together because we want to know and love God, and live our lives for his glory and the good of others.” That’s my purpose statement. Yours may be slightly different, but without it, we won’t sustain the practice of reading the Bible with our kids. And let’s remind them of that glorious purpose continually, so that they too can catch the motivation.

### 2. Establish a routine.

Like everything else in life, reading the Bible with our kids is much more likely to happen if it becomes part of our routine. It takes about 6–8 weeks to build a habit by doing something at the same time in the same place with the same person. There will be ups and downs in that period, with times of forgetfulness and catch-up, but it will eventually become part of the fabric of life.

Reading the Bible with our kids is much more likely to happen if it becomes part of our routine.

Try to find a slot in your schedule that you can commit to, push through the first 6–8 weeks, and you and your children will have formed a holy habit.

### 3. Be realistic.

As someone who once tried to teach my hyperactive five- and six-year-old sons Hebrew, believe me, I know the folly of unrealistic expectations. That lasted about four days. And that’s about how long many of our Bible reading plans last, too. We set Everest goals and don’t even get to base camp.

It took me many years to grasp the limitations of my children’s minds when it came to my spiritual ambitions for them. However, by the time the boys were about ten or eleven, I’d drastically lowered my goals, and then it began to click. We read less, but learned more.

### 4. Be systematic.

When I was young, if I ever opened my Bible, I did so randomly and just read some verses

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here and there. The result was a patchwork of Bible knowledge with no sense of an overall story, and no sense of connection between the passages, the chapters, the books, or the Testaments.

When reading the Bible with our kids, let's do so systematically, reading whole books of the Bible together over time. Doing so will teach them to wrestle with harder passages, expose them to the whole counsel of God, and forge connections within books, between books, and between the Testaments.

### **5. Ask good questions.**

Asking our children questions about what they read increases their concentration, cements the content, and helps them to apply it to their lives. When children are young, the focus should be on content using the familiar *what*, *where*, *when*, and *who* questions. The aim is to build up their store of Bible knowledge. As our children get older, we can ask questions more focused on the meaning and implications of the passages.

Two questions I've tried to keep asking my kids are: "What does this teach us about God?" and "What does this teach us about salvation?" Again, I hope that, by repetition, these questions become part of the fabric of their thinking processes. Other general questions might include, "What does this teach us about sin . . . the world . . . the Christian life . . . mission and evangelism?" and so on.

We should also invite questions from our children, although they will sometimes ask silly questions or perhaps even stump us from time to time. We mustn't do anything that will stifle their inquiries and even when they strike us out, we simply say, "I don't know but I'll find out." Then open Matthew Henry's commentary or a good study Bible and make sure you do get back to them with an answer.

### **6. Ask God for help.**

By praying before reading the Bible, we demonstrate to our children the need for heavenly help if we are to benefit from our reading. We show our dependence upon God as we ask him for light on his Word. After reading together, why not help your children to turn what you've read into prayers. What in this passage can we turn into a praise, a confession, a thanksgiving, or a request?

The aim in all this is to establish patterns and habits that will eventually result in them reading the Bible independently with profit and pleasure

# Update from Malawi

Submitted by Ivan DeMaster

Dear Rev Ivan

Greetings in the our Lord Jesus Christ, I sent an email to inform you that on 17 August will be a graduation of mint's I'am invited to present as a Father of our student there , and after graduation we shall

have a discussion because another semester will be opened on September therefore they need to open another center at nchalo here I'm resided so they chose me to be as registrar of here so we have great privilege because the new student's who feel calling who wants to go to the seminary they will come here instead to go to Zomba which means transportation will be less and commodation will be free and they told me that I can continue to study with mints in Fair prize up to B A , I thanked lord because it was my dream but now has be accomplished so we shall have lot of discussion after graduation , on this journey transport will be required , I sent e-mail to inform you about my journey of Mozambique did you received it , thanks but we still pray for you although your strength is less but I hope God still using you to his ministry we do pray for you and entire family pass greetings our Mom Carla yours in Christ ,  
Peter Chikaonda.

Dear Peter,

Greetings in the name of the Lord Jesus!

Thanks for your emails. I am sorry that I neglected to reply. It appears that you had a good ministry with Dr. Jombe. It seems that you are doing some work together for which I am glad.

He invited you to the graduation and to participate in some of the activities. I was not planning to send any further funds until next month. However, it seems important that you should get to this graduation. I sent some funds this morning to use for your transportation and whatever else is important. I did not send as much but trust this will help. The number you need is 85789147.

You mentioned praying for me, my wife and family. What are YOUR special needs of your family? What are the ages of your children now?

We pray that the Lord will bless you in your work. Did the minister in Blantyre officially join the APC? May the Lord bless you and guide you.

In Christ,  
Ivan DM

Dear Rev Ivan

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, thanks so much for your consideration and help, you asked me about age of my children my first born is a daughter she has 19 years old second is a boy 16 years old third is a daughter 14 years old fourth is a boy 9 years old last one is a girl 5 years old her name is Glory but my first born and second were selected to secondary schools due for financial problem she was not going to school but only she went first and second term but third term she didn't go she is form 2 second born also selected to start form one on this coming September first semester will be opened on September which means I have big responsibilities which I carrying to send two children to secondary school I'am looking to God provision , you asked me about our needs but we have so many needs but if we get the money to buy sowing machine some other problems can be solved out through small business which we can run and my wife is willing to do that,

You mentioned to work together with Dr Jumbe yes indeed but not full time because he is belonged to RPC but if we want his advise he come to assist and we are working together through logos ministry to teaching elders in our church every month, you asked me about minister who living in Blantyre if he joined us yes but he is looking good place of worship but they gathered in school block as of now which means if they get good place and big we will built our church there, thanks so much indeed may God bless you and your family greetings yours in Christ peter Chikaonda,

## Women's Presbyterial



Ladies, Bethel Church in Oostburg will be hosting the Women's Presbyterial of the Midwest on Saturday, October 5<sup>th</sup>. Women from 35 OPC churches are invited to come together for fellowship and learning more about the mission work done by our denomination. Please mark your calendars, set aside the day to take part in this annual event, and even consider how you might be able to serve in making this a God-glorifying day. Would be nice to see a lot of ladies from our Church come to this event. If you plan on coming there will be a sign-up sheet on the bulletin in the near future.

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## Pine Haven Autumn Festival

Join the Pine Haven Women's Auxiliary on Saturday, September 7th, from 2:00 to 6pm at the annual Autumn Festival – featuring a brat fry, baked goods, crafts, and music from the Big Cedar Bluegrass Band. It will be held at the Haven Drive campus community center. If you have any crafts, bake goods, or produce you would like to donate, it would be greatly appreciated. We also need 3 pies from our church. Any questions see Deb Arndt or Ellen McNeese.





# September Birthdays

Howard Voskuil	7th
Bennett Arndt	10th
Mark Berenschot	12th
Elizabeth TenPas	16th
Kristen Berenschot	22nd
Virginia Berenschot	22nd
Stephanie Friberg	22nd
Joshua Arndt	25th



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## *September Anniversaries*

Carl & Phyllis Nyhof  
~September 3rd, 53 years~

Jonny and Alyssa Arndt  
~September 24th, 3 years~

Harlan & Nancy Harmelink  
~September 4th~

Paul & Linda Damkot  
~September 28th, 45 years~

Roger & Deborah Arndt  
~September 23rd, 36 years~

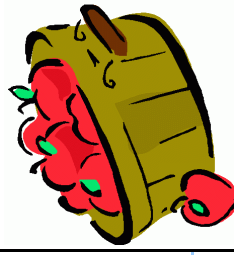




*Showing forth the excellencies of Jesus Christ*

Grace OPC

# September 2019



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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3 Session Meeting 6pm	4 Prayer Meeting	5 Church Campout	6 Pitch In Supper	7 Pine Haven Fall Festival
8	9	10	11 Prayer Meeting	12	13 Presbytery	14
15	16	17	18 Prayer Meeting	19	20	21 Men and Boys' Leadership Breakfast 7am
22	23	24	25 Prayer Meeting	26	27	28
29	30					

# Slow Cooker Beef Stroganoff

## Ingredients:

- 1 1/2 pounds top round steak, cut into strips
- salt and pepper to taste
- 1/2 onion, chopped
- 1 (10.75 ounce) can condensed cream of mushroom soup
- 1 (8 ounce) can canned mushrooms
- 1/4 cup water
- 1 tablespoon dried chives
- 1 clove garlic, minced
- 1 teaspoon Worcestershire sauce
- 1 cube beef bouillon
- 1/4 cup white wine
- 1 tablespoon all-purpose flour
- 1 (16 ounce) container sour cream
- 1/2 cup chopped fresh parsley

## Instructions:

- Place the beef in the bottom of a slow cooker, and season with salt and pepper to taste. Place onion on top of beef, and then add mushroom soup, mushrooms, and water. Season with chives, garlic, Worcestershire sauce, and bouillon.
- In a small bowl, mix together the wine with the flour. Pour over the beef.
- Cover, and cook on Low for 6 to 7 hours. Stir in the sour cream and parsley, and continue cooking for 1 hour.



*“For He  
has satisfied  
the thirsty  
soul,  
and the  
hungry soul  
He has filled  
with what  
is good.”*

## Church Campout Pitch-In Supper



This Friday evening is the annual church campout pitch-in supper at Kohler Andrae State Park. We will be meeting and eating at site 215 in the "new" section of the campground. The dinner will begin at 6:30 pm. Bring food to share. Drinks, plates/utensils/cups will be provided. In case of weather, or other questions, call or text Pastor Brian at 920-377-0242. If you have camp chairs, bring those too! Finally, think about inviting a friend to join us for a joyful time!



Showing forth the  
excellencies of Jesus  
Christ

Grace OPC

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## Spurgeon Corner

*"Trust in him at all times."*

Psalm 62:8

Faith is as much the rule of temporal as of spiritual life; we ought to have faith in God for our earthly affairs as well as for our heavenly business. It is only as we learn to trust in God for the supply of all our daily need that we shall live above the world. We are not to be idle, *that* would show we did *not* trust in God, who worketh hitherto, but in the devil, who is the father of idleness. We are not to be imprudent or rash; that were to trust chance, and not the living God, who is a God of economy and order. Acting in all prudence and uprightness, we are to rely simply and entirely upon the Lord at all times. Let me commend to you a life of trust in God in temporal things. Trusting in God, you will not be compelled to mourn because you have used sinful means to grow rich. Serve God with integrity, and if you achieve no success, at least no sin will lie upon your conscience. Trusting God, you will not be guilty of self-contradiction. He who trusts in craft, sails this way today, and that way the next, like a vessel tossed about by the fickle wind; but he that trusteth in the Lord is like a vessel propelled by steam, she cuts through the waves, defies the wind, and makes one bright silvery straightforward track to her destined haven. Be you a man with living principles within; never bow to the varying customs of worldly wisdom. Walk in your path of integrity with steadfast steps, and show that you are invincibly strong in the strength which confidence in God alone can confer. Thus you will be delivered from anxious care, you will not be troubled with evil tidings, your heart will be fixed, trusting in the Lord. How pleasant to float along the stream of providence! There is no more blessed way of living than a life of dependence upon a covenant-keeping God. We have no care, for he careth for us; we have no troubles, because we cast our burdens upon the Lord.

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Evening, September 1st, C.H. Spurgeon

## Front Page Concluded...

information, and to pray accordingly. While not all of us may have the opportunity or the calling to go to the mission field, we can certainly support our missionaries and their labors through prayer.

At the last General Assembly, it was very obvious that our foreign missionaries are involved in spiritual warfare, and are under heavy attack. Whether that is in China, or Eritrea, or Uganda, or Haiti – they need and covet our prayers. Will we be a praying congregation? That's our challenge!

