



Pastor's Perspective – On Raising Children for the Lord

By Dr. Ron D. Lindholm, Senior Pastor

I sometimes hear people lamenting and even despairing being able to successfully raise children for the Lord in our day because of societal conditions. They say, "It's so much more difficult today!" But is it really? I agree that our society is full of centrifugal forces which are seeking constantly to pull the family unit apart and away from the Lord, but when hasn't that been the case?

... a lot depends on us as parents.

If you want to talk about a difficult day to raise children for the Lord, Hannah's day is hard to match. Beginning in 1 Samuel 1:12, we're told that Hannah was in the temple praying, and that when Eli the priest saw her, and because her lips were moving but he could hear no sound, he assumed that she was drunk and scolded her...

Why do you think Eli assumed that Hannah was drunk? I know, "It simply may have been the first thing to pop into his mind." But I have another suggestion, given the moral and spiritual conditions of the day. He probably made the assumption because in that day it was a regular occurrence in Israel—something he saw frequently, perhaps even customarily—people drunk and coming drunk to the temple, ostensibly to worship.

This gives us insight into how bad things were in Hannah's day. The nation was morally corrupt and spiritually bankrupt. Just how much so is seen in 2:12, where we're told that Eli's sons, themselves priests, *were wicked men with no regard for the LORD.* What was true of the priests was also true of the people. Outwardly, they gave a nod to the one and only true and living God, but they did not know Him.

In such a day it was difficult to raise children for the Lord (which is to say that they might come to know Him personally and serve Him faithfully all their days), but it was not impossible. In fact, with the Lord's help, Hannah did it in remarkable fashion.

Though there is no guarantee that our children will follow the Lord, it must be said that a lot depends on us as parents. Whatever the conditions of our day, it remains our responsibility as Christian parents to raise our children for the Lord. May we be faithful to the Lord in doing that—praying all the while that the Lord would be pleased to give us the fruit of children who not only come to know Him, but also are committed to raising their children for the Lord, even as we raised them.

Annual Spring Festival: A Great Chance to Serve the Community

Our annual Spring Festival will be held on Saturday, June 7, from noon to 4:00 PM. A sign-up sheet will be available in the foyer. There are many positions that need to be filled and everyone can contribute—from manning booths to making cakes.



"The festival is a highlight of the church calendar," says Brian Platt, who is coordinating the event this year. "It's a great way to meet people from the community who we probably wouldn't otherwise have the chance to meet. Our goal is to make it a fun event for them, and to introduce them to the church—and, in some cases, to Christ. It's also a wonderful time of fellowship for the people who are volunteering their time to work at it."



Gary and Janet Godge, missionaries to France, joined us for fellowship, and shared about their ministry to the congregation and Awana clubbers on Sunday, April 17.

Ministry's Open Door Welcomed



Our weeknight ministry of teaching English as a second language (ESL) classes to the community draws to close this month, resuming in the fall. We have asked Matt Tucker, a new teacher this year, to reflect on the opportunity the classes have offered him:

The apostle Paul encourages us to "Make the most of every opportunity," in Ephesians 5:16 (NLT). When God opens windows and doors we often times are ignorant as to the time and with what degree of speed He will push on the painted wood frames until the clear sheet of glass separates us from what might have been. All that remains is an image through the pane. Yet, on occasion, our Heavenly Father will give us a glimpse with a gentle and patient turn of His wrist to view the face of time He's keeping.

Over the course of the past year I have had the honor and privilege of teaching the second half of our literacy class each evening. Inside that small white room, with its four walls and dry-erase board, I have forty-five wonderful, and at times patience-inducing, minutes—holding the eyes and ears of one to ten additional lives, hailing from countries and lands as diverse as their colorful and wonderful names and personalities. Like God squeezing tubes of yellow, brown, pale and white into a bowl, yet instead of the gray that our flawed mixtures produce, a rainbow is given life. Lee's teaching the first half leaves them spotted with smiles, loosing shoulders from the stress of the day, and through the brief fifteen-minute break that follows, I can almost hear his southern lilt drifting by through our students' conversations.

My portion consists of English vocabulary taught through a Bible parable or narrative that we practice reading separately and in unison, as if we're a mixture of grades and levels in one of those one-room school houses. As I said in the beginning, it is a rare thing to know the time we have been given. A student may return in a week, month, or season's time—or I may never see them again. My words are important, and any opportunity to share Jesus or the gospel must be seized. If they stay the year, all of us rejoice. Yet we still only have the year. I am so thankful for this year—and it makes me think—all of us are living on borrowed time. We are finite beings in God's beautiful creation, and so we always walk along paths of limited time. Have I made the most of the time I have been given? I pray that I will make the most of every opportunity.

2014 Bible Memory Project

May Verse



Now fear the LORD and serve Him with all faithfulness. Throw away the gods your forefathers worshiped beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD. But if serving the LORD seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your forefathers served beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD.

Joshua 24:14-15

Money Matters

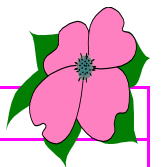
April Giving Per Week (General Fund)	\$5,060
Weekly Need	\$5,131
Year-to-Date General Fund Giving	\$77,388
Year-to-Date General Fund Need	\$87,227

Welcome New Members

- ◆ Jade Harberg
- ◆ Robert McWilliams
- ◆ John and Emily Davis



May Calendar



May 1	National Day of Prayer
May 7	Fellowship Dinner, 6:30 PM
May 10	Mother's Day Breakfast 9:00 AM
May 13	Nursing Home Ministry, 2:00 PM
May 15	ESL Class party, 8:00 PM
May 18	Awana Awards Ceremony, 6:00 PM
May 24	Washington Mystics (Youth Outing)
May 26	Memorial Day Lunch (No PM Ministries)
June 7	Spring Festival, 12:00 - 4:00 PM

Fellowship Baptist Church

5936 Rolling Road
Springfield, VA 22152