

The "Oh Yeah!"

Letter

THIS IS NOW, BELOVED, THE SECOND LETTER I AM WRITING TO YOU IN WHICH I AM STIRRING UP YOUR SINCERE MIND BY WAY OF REMINDER, THAT YOU SHOULD REMEMBER THE WORDS SPOKEN BEFOREHAND... "2 PETER 3:1-2A

WINTER 2007
VOL. 19

LOOKING FOWARD

BY: TIM LOPER

Life moves very quickly. "Yesterday" a lady at church told us that we needed to take "Preparation for Parenting". That initial request fell on deaf ears and arrogant (or ignorant) hearts. Then God gave us our youngest and third daughter and we soon realized that we needed to have prepared for parenting! God is gracious and we were able to play "catch up" with our infant and then we started to play catch up with our oldest. That was a longer race! God was so good to us, He honored our efforts to train, teach and reach her heart with the truths of God's Word, God's Love and God's truth.

Most of you have children who are no longer in diapers, perhaps no longer in elementary school. They are in the middle years or they are teenagers. My youngest is 14 now. They all have their promise rings. These days, there is still effort to watch and train their hearts and it is no small effort. However, the Ezzos are right:

the teen years are wonderful when they have been taught to respect you, love God and grow into little like minded (but unique) young adults. Life can be good and conflict can be pretty low. It can be easy to sit back, to let things slide, to lower our aim, to compromise. So what can we do to keep ourselves on our toes and in the game?

Looking forward. We have to remember that our efforts and love and time now still has benefits in the future. There are benefits for our children, for the Kingdom of God, and, as Ami and I have been shown, for our grandchildren. That's right, Ami and I are grandparents! Announcing the arrival of Jadon James Krupnik, born to Tim and Ashley

Krupnik on October 22nd, 2006. We are proud of Ashley and Tim as they are raising Jadon. He is approaching 3 months old and has been sleeping through the night for many weeks now. Truth is truth and it doesn't end because the generations have changed. It is humbling and encouraging to us as parents to see that our daughter has chosen to apply the principles in "Along the Infant Way - Preparation for Parenting" to her own parenting.

Look forward. Remember the goal and remember that our actions, or lack of action, will **impact the generations to come**. The goal is to reach our own children and to reach the world with the truth of

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dessert by candle light. We write love notes to one another and, of course, Dad passes out his own special Valentine's cards and boxes of chocolates to all his little Valentines.

No matter what has transpired at school on this day when little boys and girls often hold their breath with hope and fear, they should know that when they come home, love will be flowing in abundance and they are never alone.

Fun Idea of the Quarter

Valentine's Day is coming! Hopefully, you are looking forward to it and, if you're married, planning what fun date you might have with your spouse. (Me? I have jury duty, but that's another story.)

My question is: What is your child thinking about Valentine's Day? Is she wondering if she'll get a Valentine from that cute little boy in school? Is he

nervous about what his buddies will say if they find out he likes the red-head? Perhaps your kids need the confidence of knowing that the most important people in their lives love them more than any kids at school!

Why not plan a special Family Valentine's Night? We like to make a special dinner complete with heart-shaped pizza and a special



A Parenting Treasure from the Word

"Children's children are a crown to the aged, and parents are the pride of their children." Pr 17:6

Reminders

- * WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME YOU SAID A PRAYER FOR THE MINISTRY OF GROWING FAMILIES INTERNATIONAL? FOR US, GROWING KIDS CHANGED OUR LIVES! IT BEHOVES US TO PRAY FOR GOD'S BLESSING, PROTECTION AND FAVOR FOR THEM THAT THEY MAY CONTINUE TO REACH MORE AND MORE FAMILIES!
- * BE THE ENCOURAGER OF YOUR FAMILY! WRITE SOME NOTES TODAY!

Marriage

Over the holidays, it is easy to let some of the less urgent needs slide. While that's understandable, let's take this opportunity to correct things now that some of the hub-bub has died down (sort of). How's your couchtime? Are you having it at least five times per week? Are you taking the time to really listen to one another? Which night is your date night? Do you have goals to keep growing as a couple? When did you last speak your spouse's love language? At the start of this year, rededicate yourselves to the priority relationship of Husband & Wife.

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LOOKING FORWARD (CONTINUED)

Christ. We can't stop when our children are *mostly* obedient. We can't stop when they are *sometimes* respectful of us or the teachers. We have to pursue their heart and pursue a relationship with them that is honest and complete and where submission is not something they are afraid of. If we don't, we will not be assured that God's truth will have lit up their own hearts and they will turn to look for a different road than the one we walked. How can our

children surpass us in the kingdom if we have not faithfully walked the correct road with them hand in hand until the time that they walk on their own? Stay the course! Your future generations will be blessed by it!

Quotes Worth Remembering

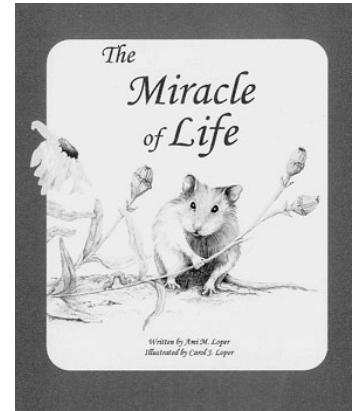
*"Grow old along with me;
The best is yet to be ~
The last of life for which the
first was made."
~ Browning*

BOOKS TO CHECK OUT...

It has been on Ami's heart to create a resource to assist parents in the discussions we learned in "Along the Innocent Way~ Reflections of Moral Innocence."

To fulfill that vision, Ami has written a book and my sister in law has illustrated it. This book will be that tool that guides parents through their conversations on the "birds and the bees" with their children.

"The Miracle of Life" will be available this Spring!



Coming Soon!

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