



A House of Prayer  
for All Nations

# The Ram's Horn

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## THE SHEPHERD'S CORNER

By Pastor Thurlow Switzer

### Parents Are the Primary Educators in a Child's Life

If left to themselves, children will be rebels, so it is necessary for parents to train their children. A person cannot be educated in the fundamentals if that person is disobedient in one's spirit. A key issue in parenting is to minister to our child's spirit. Once the foundations of obedience and respect are laid, all kinds of creativity can be released. The ultimate authority behind parenting is God as evidenced in phrases like "in the Lord" and "of the Lord."

Three goals are mentioned in Ephesians 6:1-3, "Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. 2 'Honor your father and mother,' which is the first commandment with promise: 3 'that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth'" (NKJV).

First, Citizenship Skills: Children need to learn obedience, which speaks of the potential for internal government and the expression of citizenship skills. Obedience is necessary for an internal conscience that reflects a biblical morality. The Greek word for "obedience" is *hupokouo*, which means to hear or listen intently (Eph 6:1; Col. 3:20; Heb.5: 7, 8), coming from *hupo*, "under" combined with *akouo*, "to hear." Obedience for children means the ability to hear under another voice and to respond appropriately. Children are to obey their parents "in the Lord."

Second, Social Skills: Children need to "honor their father and mother," which has to do with social-grace skills and the ability to function successfully in society and in Christian community. Honor also relates to the healthy

## Rejoicing in His Love

development of one's person, one's personality, and the ability to respect others through good deportment and gracious interactions. The word, "honor" (Greek: *timao*), from which we get "time," means to defer, give deference, recognition, and respect mingled with love.

Third, Success Skills: "That it may go well with you and you may live long on the earth." This third goal has to do with life success skills and the development of a successful career capacity. Life-long skills are learned in the context of the home. Jesus grew in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and man in the context of his home as Mary and Joseph honed his skills for life (Luke 2:52). A child who learns to obey and honor enters into the promise of wellness and the enjoyment of long life on earth.

The need for healthy parenting finds reinforcement in an excellent publication released during the Reagan years by the U. S. Department of Education, entitled, *What Works--Research about Teaching and Learning*. Out of forty-one research findings, the first finding of what works in education is stated as follows: "Parents are their children's first and most influential teachers. What parents do to help their children learn is more important to academic success than how well off the family is."

In 1925, the United States Supreme Court in the case of **Pierce v. Society of Sisters** overturned a direct state attack on the authority of parents to determine the education choices of their children, when a state law was passed in Oregon in 1922 requiring only public school education. The Supreme Court overturned the law on the basis of the parent's liberty over education.

"The act of 1922 unreasonably interferes with the liberty of parents and guardians to direct the upbringing and education of children under their control . . . The fundamental theory of liberty upon which all governments in this Union repose excludes any general power of the State to standardize its

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“THE PATH OF  
THE RIGHTEOUS  
IS LIKE THE  
LIGHT OF DAWN.”

PROVERBS 4:18, NRSV

### News from the Nations

**Revive Israel, Tikkun, Asher & Betty Intrater** - In Jerusalem, Congregation *Ahavat Yeshua* (the Love of Jesus) is growing and we are seeing souls added to the faith from week to week. In Judea at our base on Messianic moshav *Yad HaShmonah*, the discipleship school *Sharr HaKerem* (the Vineyard Gate) continues to see young Israelis impacted by consistent study, prayer and discipleship. Our prayer house *Mishkan Elohai* (the dwelling of my God) is growing in prayer, praise and prophetic insight. In Samaria, our partnership in prayer and finances with brave Palestinian evangelists that daily preach the Gospel to terrorists is expanding. Thank you for standing with us.

**Shady Grove Pregnancy Center, Rockville, MD** – We are inviting anyone to come to the center for a free sonogram. Please continue to pray for our outreach into the community.

**Branch Ministries, Botswana, Rob and Mary Grindley** – Pray for the growing women’s ministry that Mary is leading. Mary is also directing the construction of the orphanage buildings. Pray for Rob as he continues to raise up local workers to help in the ministry.

**Living Grace Ministries, Thurlow and Lynda Switzer** – We observe a genuine hunger in individuals as we are teaching the seminars on family life and parenting in three congregations. Pray for us and for every person receiving these teachings. We’re eagerly anticipating our annual Convocation, *Stewarding the Mysteries of God* at Northgate on February 24-26 with our guests, Apostle Dale Martin and his wife Loretta. Please join us in prayer for the convocation.

**Living Grace Christian School** – This month the children continue to work on the school’s annual Student Champions Fund Drive with a goal to raise \$15,000 to help needy families be able to partner with the school to raise up their children to be champions for God.

**Adwoa Yeboah-Marfo, Marfo Children’s Village, Ghana** – We thank God for each of the children; we hope to continue in transforming them so that they can reach their full potential. Glory to God as always because we could not be doing what we are doing without Him and those He leads to help us or to just care.

**Matt & Rosemary Ulrich, Paraguay, Wycliffe Bible Translators** – Rosemary retained her crown as “Comic Book Queen” in getting out both book 3, “History of the Jews after Moses” and book 4, “Birth and Ministry of Jesus” from the “Good and Evil” comic book series. These books are designed to present God’s message as a whole to the people. Interesting feedback has been that parts of these books are used as sermon illustrations and for family devotions. Also, the school director at Q village uses them to give even second and third graders reading practice. This year we’ve been able to sponsor 14 Maka students in pursuing advanced studies in Education, Medicine, and Computer technology.

**Young Life, Montgomery County**, Pray for the clubs in the Middle Schools and High Schools that many young people will give their lives to the Lord.

**Evangelistic Ministries International**, Thank you for your prayers for Alice as she is recovering from knee replacement surgery.

*Also remember in your prayers:*

**Crossroads Valley Chapel, Frederick, MD**

**Or Ha Olam**, Light of the World Congregation

**Jesus Is Alive Ministries** with Apostle William Tetey, Lome, Togo

**Stanley and Karen Redwood**, Jamaica

*Years ago, after folk-music trio Peter, Noel Paul, and Mary performed in Texas, a teenager approached Noel Paul Stookey backstage. “I want to talk to you about the Lord,” the boy said. “We ought to have a word of prayer.” After praying, the boy put the musician on the spot by telling God, “Noel wants to talk with you.”*

*All Stookey could bring himself to pray was, “I’m sorry.” He admitted he’d failed to honor God with his life. He was repenting and soon became a Christian. Stookey said that experience made him a new person. “You cannot change a man from the inside out and not have it affect everything in his life,” he said—all because of one teenager’s witness!*



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**Middle School Discipleship Club** will meet on  
Friday, February 18th, 7:30 pm  
At Pastor Dan and Silvia’s home  
Ron and Kahlia Davis are the assistant leaders.

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### Camp Courage Is Now Accepting Registrations for this Summer’s Sessions

Encourage your child to be a champion this summer! God told Joshua, a mighty champion, “Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.” The mission of Camp Courage is to help instill this attitude of courage in your child. Five sessions are scheduled as follows:  
*All-Around Program, June 20-24*  
*All-Around Program, June 27-July 1*  
*Soccer Camp, July 18-22, 9 am – noon*  
*Chess Camp, July 18-22, 12:30 – 3:30 pm*  
*Adventure Nature Camp, July 25-29*  
To register, pick up one of the red brochures in the church foyer. You can also register online at [northgatecc.org](http://northgatecc.org)—look for the Camp Courage link on the right side of the home page.

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### Prayer of Confession

“Dear God, we admit we’ve fallen short in all areas of our lives. We haven’t followed you faithfully, and we haven’t shown love to our neighbors. We don’t deserve your forgiveness. But we confess our sins, knowing that you are a God of grace. Thank you for offering us your riches at Christ’s expense. Give us a clean slate and help us live for you, now and always. In Jesus’ name, Amen.”

### Northgate Community Church

*Reaching People from All Nations for Christ!*

#### Worship Schedule

Sundays, 9:45 am - Congregational Prayer  
Sundays, 10:00 am – Worship Service  
Midweek Flock Home Groups  
We are always ready to serve you –  
Pastors Dan, Rick, Thurlow,  
and Elder Vance

## FLOCK HOME GROUPS

### Germantown

Thursdays, 7:30 pm  
Rick & Sue Brown, 301-972-2129

### Germantown

Wednesdays, 7:30 pm  
At Betty Money's, 301-540-7293

### Rockville/Silver Spring

Wednesdays, 7:30 pm, Devroy & Ruth  
McFarlane, 240-242-4242

### Montgomery Village

Wednesdays, 7:30 pm, McRory Area; Alfred  
and Jacky Johnson, 301-977-2220

### Montgomery Village

Wednesdays, 7:30 pm,  
Shawn & Mindy Swander, 240-631-0322  
Assistant Leaders Tim & Deborah Switzer

### Middle School Discipleship Club

For all 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> graders, Fri., Feb. 18, 7:30  
pm; Dan and Silvia Switzer, 301-977-1121  
Assistant leaders Ron and Kahlia Davis

### Sisters of Faith

Sisters of Faith Breakfast, February 12<sup>th</sup>,  
8:30 am, at Bob Evans in Milestone

### Men Under God

The men's breakfast meets at the  
Gaithersburg Hilton on Feb 5<sup>th</sup>, at 8:00 am.

### February Birthdays

Michael Switzer, Feb 4  
Hannah Kauzlarich, Feb 6  
Ethan Parr, Feb 9  
Sika Abalo, Feb 10  
Kathy Johnson, Feb 13  
Dan Doody, Feb 15  
Meme Perez, Feb 15  
Jerrell Richards, Feb 18  
Alfred Johnson, Feb 20  
Ampa Johnson, Feb 20  
Zinat Fardipour, Feb 21  
Isaac Woode, Feb 22  
Ben Brown, Feb 26

### February Anniversaries

Geoff and Gina Parr, Feb 4  
Matt and Jenifer Walker, Feb 4  
Alfred and Jacky Johnson, Feb 19  
Jimmy and Sandralee Brown, Feb 27

### Praise and Prayer Requests

1. Pray for continuing grace and strength to Gwen in her rehabilitation
2. Rick Brown – recovering from thyroid surgery
3. Praise – Jim Wood is back home
4. Praise – Faith Wilson shares that Shawn had a good health report
5. Lourdes Reynolds's niece's baby Richard, microcephaly -- his life will be a testimony of God's love and power to the glory of Jesus.
6. Karen O'Connor – provision and protection
7. Pray for our nation's leaders
8. Northgate pastors, elders, and families
9. Dan Doody's son-in-law Dave – healing from cancer and a blood clot in his leg; grace and strength for family
10. Virginia Page – encouragement, healing
11. Praise – Larry Johnson is doing very well and has returned to work – 10 hours per day!
12. Madeline Cooksey – strength and healing
13. Praise – Cheryl Tom's PET scan reveals that she is cancer free; pray for her as she begins chemo therapy.

**Check out this blog spot: Living Grace Ministries**, and leaders in friendship with LGM, under the editorship of Pastor Jon Switzer of Crossroads Valley Chapel in Frederick, MD, set up this blog spot: [www.logsfortheire.blogspot.com](http://www.logsfortheire.blogspot.com).



## Adventure in Family Life and Parenting Series

Apostle Pastor Thurlow Switzer and his wife Lynda will minister at Northgate on the Biblical principles of grace-filled, spirit-led Christian Family Life and Christian parenting on the following Sunday mornings and weekday evenings:

Sunday, February 13, 10 AM	Tuesday, February 15, 7:30 PM
Sunday, March 13, 10 AM	Monday, March 14, 7:30 PM
Sunday, April 10, 10 AM	Monday, April 11, 7:30 PM
Sunday, May 8, 10 AM	Monday, May 9, 7:30 PM

(Nursery will be provided on Sundays and week-day evenings.)

### Love Conquers All

The love for equals is a human thing—of friend for friend, brother for brother. It is to love what is loving and lovely. The world smiles.

The love for the less fortunate is a beautiful thing—the love for those who suffer, for those who are poor, the sick, the failures, the unlovely. This is compassion, and it touches the heart of the world.

The love for the more fortunate is a rare thing—to love those who succeed where we fail, to rejoice without envy with those who rejoice, the love of the poor for the rich . . . The world is always bewildered by its saints.

And then there is the love for the enemy—love for the one who does not love you but mocks, threatens and inflicts pain. The tortured's love for the torturer. This is God's love. It conquers the world.

Frederick Buechner, *The Magnificent Defeat*



### Invincible Love

In their book *Falling in Love with Jesus*, Dee Brestin and Kathy Troccoli compare the stages of marriage to a relationship with Jesus. All relationships, they write, go through three stages: first love, wilderness love and invincible love. Mary of Bethany, for example, experienced first love when she couldn't tear herself away from Jesus while her sister Martha toiled. Then, when Mary's brother Lazarus died, she felt wilderness love, "clinging to Jesus in the wounds of life." Finally, Mary expressed overflowing invincible love as she poured her perfume and tears on Jesus' feet, wiping them with her hair.

Brestin and Troccoli say most Christians never arrive at the final stage. "They simply have an occasional rendezvous with the One who used to be the Love of their life." But nothing can compare to a "tender, mature, invincible love with Jesus."

### Anyway

People are often unreasonable, illogical and self-centered; forgive them anyway. If you are kind, people may accuse you of selfish ulterior motives; be kind anyway.

If you are honest, people may cheat you; be honest anyway. If you find serenity and happiness, people may be jealous of you; be happy anyway.

The good you do today, people will often forget tomorrow; do good anyway. Give the world the best you have, and it may never be enough; give the world the best you've got anyway.

You see, in the final analysis, it is between you and God; it was never between you and them anyway.

"The Paradoxical Commandments" by Kent M. Keith

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children by forcing them to accept instruction from public school teachers only. The child is not the mere creature of the State; those who nurture him and direct his destiny have the right, coupled with the high duty, to recognize and prepare him for additional obligations.”

At least three basic premises are stated here: First, the child is not the creature of the state. By implication, this means the children have an extra-statist existence. Rather, the child is the creation of God. Second, parents, acting under the authority of God as His stewards, have both liberty and a “high duty” or responsibility to educate their children properly. Third, the state, whose power is derived from the Creator, has no authority to interfere in the parent’s liberty and responsibility to educate their children. The state must allow parents to seek out alternative forms of education including private schools and home schooling.

The primary institution in terms of educating children is the family unit in which the children are the beneficiaries. Parents are given the responsibility by the Creator for carefully instructing their children in the principles and doctrines of the Bible (Deut 6:6, 7). The Proverb is, “Train up a child in the way he should go; and when he is old, he will not depart from it” (Prov 22:6; cf. 2 Tim 3:15). The first actual mention of teaching in the Bible is found in the dramatic words of God about Abraham: “For I know him, that he will command his children and his household after him, and they will keep the way of the Lord to do justice and judgment” (Gen 18:19). The family is the first and most basic educational environment, where the child first learns religion, parent-government, self-government, and a wide range of subjects on a day-to-day basis, such as health, responsibility, the work ethic, and social skills. May God help us all in the nurture and training of our children for God’s kingdom destiny and for the Lord’s purposes.

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**Encouraging Words**

- I am made in God’s image, and he doesn’t make any junk. God loves me and wants me to live a fulfilled life.
- Communion with God constantly brings light, direction and blessings from Him.
- Life is astonishingly wonderful. Even the rough spots often turn out to be pluses. Hard lessons make me wiser, kinder and more fruitful.
- When I feel boxed-in or blocked, I can know that in God’s good time, He will help me be victorious.

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“I have been driven many times to my knees by the overwhelming conviction that I had nowhere else to go. My own wisdom, and that of all about me, seemed insufficient for the day.”

*Abraham Lincoln*

**February 2011**

		1	2 Flock Group Leadership Equipping, 7:30 pm	3	4	5 MUG Bkfst 8:00 am
6 Worship, 10 am	7	8	9 Flock Groups 7:30 pm	10	11	12 Sisters of Faith Bkfst, 8:30 am
13 Worship, 10 am <i>Family Life Series</i>	14 <i>Valentine’s Day</i>	15 <i>Christian Parenting Series 7:30 pm</i>	16 Flock Groups 7:30 pm	17	18 Middle School Discipleship Club 7:30 pm	19
20 Worship, 10 am	21	22	23 Flock Groups 7:30 pm	24 <i>Living Grace Ministries</i>	25 <i>Convocation</i>	26 <i>24<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup></i>
27 Worship, 10 am	28					

**Northgate Community Church - Reaching People from All Nations for Christ!**