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April 2011

LIVING GRACE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

# Raising Champions

## Principal's Message:

### Developing our Children's Work Ethic: Working Wholeheartedly Unto the Lord

By Dr. Daniel L. Switzer

One area in which I often encourage the students is their work ethic. As teachers, we talk with them about being committed to excellence and developing the daily study habits necessary to achieve that excellence. We contrast what it means to be half-hearted in doing our work as opposed to wholehearted in doing our work. We share what it means to do our work for Christ. In this article I would like to talk about developing our children's work ethic—working wholeheartedly as unto the Lord. Colossians 3:23-24 says, "Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving" (NIV). In order for our children to walk in this principle for life, they need to know how to work, how to work with their whole hearts, and how to work as unto Jesus Christ.

#### Work

First, this passage tells us that in whatever we do, we are to work. The Proverb tells us that "all hard work brings a profit" and warns of the dire consequences of laziness. The Bible teaches of the nobility of work. Work is a noble calling.

I tell my students to love work—that the sooner they see hard work as important to life the better. Our children need to know how to work and to embrace work as a major part of their lives. They need to know how to consistently apply themselves to the task at hand. For them, this involves both applying themselves during the school day as well as during their daily study time at home. We talk with the students about how to study and to do what it takes (with all integrity) to get the job done. In other words, when they get up into high school and college, they must be prepared to know how to do the work—the study—in order to succeed in their courses. It may mean that they work five times more than the next student, but they will do what it takes to succeed in all of their courses. Our children need to embrace work as a major priority of life.



#### Work Wholeheartedly

What does it mean to work wholeheartedly? What does it mean to love God with all of one's heart, soul, mind, and strength? God calls us to give our all to Him—our children learning to give their all is an important character quality for our children to develop. Giving our all to God includes every area of our life; with our work, it includes paid jobs, our household chores, and our academic pursuits. To work wholeheartedly means that students are putting their whole heart into what they are doing as opposed to half of their heart. It means that they have a single-minded focus. They are not double minded or have a split focus. It means that their mind is engaged on the task at hand—they're not doing one thing and thinking about something else. They're not daydreaming about something else while trying to do their work. All of their faculties are focused on the task at hand.

In addition, working wholeheartedly means that our children are committed to doing their work with excellence. They keep working at the task with persistence until it is done with excellence. When it comes to a writing assignment, they utilize the writing process—rewriting, proofreading, revising, and polishing—to make their writing craft excellent. They ask others to proofread their writing assignments to find errors that they have overlooked. Moreover, students committed to wholehearted excellence build into their schedule a regimen that helps them to review their various subjects consistently so they can master the content, especially with subjects such as language, math, science, and history, which have a large body of content.

#### Work Wholeheartedly for Christ

One day I was reading to my children a fictional story called "Dust under the Rug" by Maud Lindsay from William Bennett's *The Book of Virtues*. This story is about a daughter who did the

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# Supporting the Mission of Living Grace Christian School: Raising Up Champions for God

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***“For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do” (Eph. 2:8-10).***

Please share with your friends about Living Grace Christian School, a school where the parents, teachers, and children work together in positive Biblical teamwork and relationship to raise up champions of God—servant leaders of godly character who will advance the cause of Christ and make disciples of all nations. Living Grace Christian School is committed to Christian Discipleship, Academic Excellence, and Godly Character Development. Families are encouraged to apply for financial assistance based on need.

## ***Please pray about supporting LGCS in the following ways:***

1. Praying for the school.
2. Becoming a prayer partner—the school is committed to having consistent prayer support through seeking up to twelve prayer partners who agree to pray daily for the school.
3. Helping families who cannot pay the full tuition to send their children to the school through the “Student Champions Fund.” We are committed to a ministry philosophy of “ministry over money” in which no family is excluded from the school due to financial hardship. Checks should be made out to Living Grace Christian School with “Student Champions Fund” written in the memo.
4. Supporting the long-term establishment of the school through the “Living Grace Christian School Endowment Fund.” Checks should be made out to Living Grace Christian School with “Endowment Fund” written in the memo.
5. Providing volunteer help at the school.

***If you desire to help in any of these ways, please feel free to call or email Dr. Switzer.***

## **Prayer Needs**

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As stated above, the school is committed to having consistent prayer support through seeking twelve prayer partners who agree to pray daily for the school. If you would like to be a designated prayer partner, please talk to Dr. Switzer. Obviously, we encourage everyone to be praying for the school—parents, teachers, students, and extended family.

Please pray for the following significant areas:

1. The spiritual life of all parents, teachers, and students, that our relationships with the Lord would be grace-filled and marked by integrity.
2. That parents, teachers, students, and Northgate congregants work together in positive Biblical teamwork and unified relationship.
3. Effective leadership and teaching, and a commitment to Christian discipleship, academic excellence, and godly character development.
4. Walking out our comprehensive plan for parent participation: pray that the teachers would effectively communicate with parents, be receptive and accessible to them, and treat them as partners in the educational process.
5. God’s provision for families, including financial and transportation needs.
6. Parents as they fulfill the role as their child’s primary teachers. Pray that parents would “reserve judgment” when their children give them a negative report about a school situation until they have the opportunity to talk with the respective teacher.
7. Excellent study habits, godly relationships, and prosperous health and safety for the entire student body.
8. Pastors and the larger Body of Christ to increasingly see the need to educate their children in a manner consistent with their Biblical beliefs.
9. Volunteers to help in the classrooms, office, and building.
10. Consistent financial support to help needy families to be able to send their children to the school through the “Student Champions Fund.”
11. The families of all the teachers, parents, and students.
12. That these children would know that God has a plan for their lives; that God would raise up these children to be champions of God—servant leaders of godly character who will advance the cause of Christ and make disciples of all nations! **Thank you for your prayers!**



# Developing Our Children's Work Ethic

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housecleaning for twelve dwarfs. She was trying to make money to help her sick mother. One day she lost her focus and did not do her household work. As the dwarfs were about to return home from their day's work, she hastily did her work, cutting corners, and failed to sweep under the rug. Later at night, her conscience would not let her ignore the fact that she did not sweep under the rug. Feeling convicted, she got out of bed and went to finish this task. As she performed the job of sweeping under the rug, she found twelve beautiful gold pieces. Of course, the moral of the story is that she was rewarded for faithfully doing the task that was "unseen."

I shared with my children that there is one person who does see all things—and that person is our Lord Jesus Christ. We need to teach our children that God sees all things and that when they are doing their work, they are doing it as if they are doing it for Him. If we—and our children—truly believe that we are working for the Lord, who sees all things, that will dramatically change the quality of our work! Let's work at inculcating this godly work ethic in our children.

## Godly Character Trait for April: Encourage One Another

As we pray for our children and the school, I encourage you to refer to the "Prayer Needs" as given in this edition of *Raising Champions*. Please lift up the teachers and the parents as we work on the end-of-quarter grades and share together at the parent-teacher conferences on April 5th. Also, please pray that God would bless the preparation and the administration of the achievement tests, as well as blessing the students as they take them, on April 12th to the 14th. Finally, lift up the students who are participating in the ACSI Chess Tournament on April 15th.

During the month of April, we are focusing on the character trait of **Encourage One Another**. Romans 15:5-6 speaks of the Lord's encouragement of us and its effect upon us his children: "May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you a spirit of unity among yourselves as you follow Christ Jesus, so that with one heart and mouth you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ." As our children learn to encourage others, they will be used by God to bring unity to Christ's body—all for our Lord's purpose and to His glory!

## GOAL ACHIEVED FOR STUDENT CHAMPIONS FUND DRIVE!

We want to thank the parents, students, extended family, and friends for their efforts and contributions as part of the Student Champions Fund Drive. We exceeded our goal! Over \$15,500 was raised to help parents who cannot pay the full tuition to be able to send their children to the school. We also want to recognize Centro Cristiano Internacional (CCI) led by Pastor and Pastora Gomez for their heartfelt contribution to the drive. CCI generously gave \$2,000 to the Student Champions Fund in addition to contributions made by church members. Those students who qualified will enjoy the all-you-can-eat pizza party. Again, much appreciation goes to all who supported this very worthy cause. Thank you very much!

## REMINDERS

### TUITION PAYMENTS TO SMART

Please remember that tuition payments are paid directly to the Smart Tuition Management Company. Tuition payments are due to Smart by the fifth of each month, August through May.

### ACHIEVEMENT TESTING

The first through eighth graders will be taking the achievement tests on April 12<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup>. It is very important that the students are in school those days and are on time. Please do not schedule any doctor's appointments during testing days. There are no make-ups if your child is absent on these days. We encourage you to ensure that your children get a good night's sleep and that they have a healthy breakfast so that they can do their best on these standardized assessments.



### REGISTER SOON FOR CAMP COURAGE

Kids have a fantastic time experiencing all kinds of games, sports, arts and crafts, exciting character-building stories, nature activities, swimming, and more at Camp Courage. 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 as he or she learns to walk in the Lord's continual presence! Directed by Dr. Switzer and Mrs. Switzer, Camp Courage is offering its all-around program, a half-day soccer program, a half-day chess program, and the enriching adventure nature program! The soccer program (in the morning) and the chess program (in the afternoon) are on the same week. Parents should have received the red brochure for Camp Courage; if you need an additional brochure, please see Dr. Switzer.

### LOOKING AHEAD: MATH OLYMPICS

On Tuesday, May 10, some of our third through eighth graders will be participating in the annual ACSI Math Olympics. Please pray for our students, for math coach Mr. Toman, and for the homeroom teachers as they prepare for and represent the school and the Lord at this event.

## Parent News



### **MRS. MAGAÑA NEW TEACHER!**

We are pleased to announce that Mrs. Claudia Magaña will be our 7th/8th grade homeroom teacher next school year. (Mrs. Switzer will be the ninth grade homeroom teacher.) Welcome to our staff team, Mrs. Magaña!

### **INVITE FAMILY AND FRIENDS TO REGISTER CHILDREN FOR NEXT SCHOOL YEAR!**

We encourage you to share with family and friends about Living Grace Christian School. Share your own testimony about what God is doing with your child. We seek to be a school where the parents, teachers, and children work together in positive Biblical teamwork and relationship to raise up champions of God. We are committed to Christian Discipleship, Academic Excellence, and Godly Character Development. Also, families are encouraged to apply for financial assistance based on need.

### **SEND SCHOOL PICTURES TO MRS. PEREZ**

Mrs. Perez is working on our school yearbook. If you have any pictures that you would like to share from this school year, we ask you to consider emailing them to her. Her email is [tessben@yahoo.com](mailto:tessben@yahoo.com).

### **FAMILY DAY IS COMING!**

Our annual Family Day is an outstanding opportunity for you as a family and for us as a school family to fellowship together and to cheer on our children. Please set aside Thursday, May 12<sup>th</sup>, to join us for this special occasion. We will have a great day of games, fun, fellowship, and refreshment together. Family Day will be on the grounds of the school and the adjoining park.

### **APPLICATIONS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE**

Applications for tuition financial assistance are submitted every other year. If you received tuition financial assistance for the present school year, we will grant you the same percentage of tuition financial assistance for next school year. If you did not receive tuition financial assistance for the present school year and want to apply for assistance for next school year, see Dr. Switzer for instructions regarding how to apply online. Any applications for financial assistance need to be made by May 15<sup>th</sup>.

### **PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES**

In order to work together with strong two-way communication, we have parent-teacher conferences. These will be held on Tuesday, April 5<sup>th</sup>. Both parents are encouraged to attend. This conference is one of the school's four team meetings. If you cannot make your designated time for the conference, please be sure to talk with the teacher ahead of time to arrange an alternative time for that day. These are important times in which teachers and parents work together to address areas needing improvement as well as to provide students with specific encouragement.

# April 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Report Cards	2
3	4	5 Dismissal at 12:00 P/T Conferences	6	7	8	9
10	11	12 Achievement Tests No Make-ups	13 Achievement Tests No Make-ups	14 Achievement Tests No Make-ups	15 Chess Tourney	16
17	18 Spring Break	19 Spring Break	20 Spring Break	21 Spring Break	22 Spring Break	23
24	25 Spring Break	26	27	28	29	30

***"For I know the plans I have for you . . . plans to give you hope and a future" (Jer. 29:11).***

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