

February Birthdays:

3-Jared Seago
4-Chuck Adams
15-Carroll Humphries
19-Ellena Martinez
22-Jared Snowbarger
24-Rebecca Asi



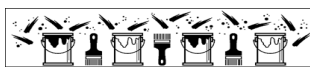
February Anniversaries:

No Anniversaries



*Celebrating
an Anniversary*

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**Golden Hills Community
Church of the Nazarene
744 Oak St.
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Family Connection

Golden Hills Church Of The Nazarene

February 2011

How to Really, Really Love Our Kids.

(Part One of Many)

“I just can’t sew, Mom!” Jenni ripped the threads out of the crooked seam on the blouse she was making for her sewing unit at school.

“Yes you can, honey. You just aren’t trying hard enough,” Mom opened the oven and pulled out another batch of chocolate chip cookies.

“Here, have one of these—they’ll cheer you up.”

Jenni’s eyes got big as she took a bite. “These are the best you’ve made so far. What did you do differently this time?”

“More vanilla extract. And I changed the ratio of brown sugar to white sugar.”

“Well—I think they’re close to perfect.”

Mom grimaced. “Close?”

Jenni giggled. “Yeah, they could use more chocolate chips, or maybe some nuts...I don’t know.”

“Hey, you wanna help me find some other cookie recipes on the Internet?”

“Sure—I’ll look right now.”

Jenni jumped from her chair and headed to the computer, trampling her unfinished blouse under her feet.

“Mom- can I help you bake?”

“Sure, that’d be great!”

Jenni and her Mom spent the next four hours baking batch after batch, making a mess of the kitchen, and tasting cookies until their stomachs hurt. They never did achieve the perfect cookie, but they learned a lot along the way. Plus—it was fun just being together.

The next morning, Jenni came out ready for school, crying.

“Mom – I forgot to finish my blouse, and it’s due today.”

“What? I can’t believe you could be so careless about finishing your homework! Now, you’re just going to have to pay the consequences of your actions.”

And she did. Jenni got an F in her sewing unit. Jenni’s mom called her teacher in a panic.

“Jenni is such a responsible girl – I just don’t know what’s gotten into her.”

“I do,” said her teacher. “It’s a love of baking.”

What we love will get into our kids. It’s pretty much guaranteed.

Given that truth, I also believe the following is true:

The number one way Christian parents can show their kids that they really, really love them is to really, really love God with all their heart, soul, mind, and strength.

Moses talked about what this would look like:

“Listen, O Israel! The Lord is our God, the Lord alone. And you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your strength. You must commit yourselves wholeheartedly to these commands that I am giving you today. Repeat them again and again to your children. Talk about them when you are at home, and when you are on the road, when you are going to bed and when you are getting up. Tie them to your hands, and wear them on your forehead as reminders. Write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.”
Deuteronomy 6:4-9

(Continued on page 4)



A Love Letter

In the New Testament, John writes a letter about God's love and the love we should show to other people.

DIRECTIONS: Working from left to right, write down all the 1's in the word blanks. Continue with the 2's and finally the 3's. Then read about love, from 1 John 4:11-12, NIV.

lives 3	in 3	us 3	Since 1	and 3	God 1	so 1	loved 1	his 3
us 1	love 3	we 1	If 2	also 1	is 3	made 3	we 2	ought 1
to 1	love 2	love 1	one 1	complete 3	one 2	another 1	in 3	us 3
another 2	God 2							

1 John 4:11-12, NIV

Answers: Since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. If we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.

PIECES OF LOVE



Send special reminders of your love by creating messages that people can assemble and enjoy.

What you need:

- Large wooden craft sticks
- Tape
- Permanent markers
- Scissors
- Zippered sandwich baggies

What you do:

1. Make a rectangle out of seven craft sticks by placing them next to one another, long side against long side.
2. Tape the sticks together.
3. Turn the sticks over and draw a special picture or message. You can include this Bible verse: "We love because he first loved us" (1 John 4:19, NIV).
4. Cut through the tape to separate each craft stick.
5. Put all the sticks in a baggie.
6. Give your special messages to family members, friends or teachers — along with directions for viewing them.

LOST By Mark Assi

Holly and I just recently finished a 6 year cinematic journey with the surviving passengers of Oceanic Airlines flight 815, otherwise known as Jack, Kate, Hurley, Sawyer, etc...etc... Okay, so if you haven't seen or finished the last season yet, you may want to skip down to the part entitled, "You're Safe," because what I'm going to talk about in the next paragraph may be a spoiler to you.

So a lot of crazy things happened in the show during the course of its 6 years. Everything from strange underground buttons that needed to be pushed in order to save the world, to polar bears on a tropical island, time and space anomalies, ghosts in vanishing old cabins, immortals, an old pirate ship, a black smoke monster, something called the Dharma Initiative, ancient ruins, and much much more. I have to admire the courage of the show's director, because after watching the concluding episode, you realize that you're not going to get a lot of answers about the island or many of the strange things that happened there. After watching the entire series, I came to the conclusion that I don't think the director or writers ever intended to explain, or even attempt, to make sense out of any of these weird and seemingly random story elements. In the end, my conclusion is that the series was based on the interpersonal relationships that developed between the characters, and all the weird things that happened on the island were just catalysts for bringing the characters together. When the series started, all the characters were dealing with inner demons, so-to-speak, and they were all single, even lonely. However, by the end of the series, there was Jack and Kate, Sawyer and Juliet, Hurley and Libby, Jinn and Sun, John and Helen, etc...etc... So in the end, it seems to me, that the story was really about getting the characters together by throwing random and crazy things at them, things that would never be explained, but things that would eventually lead to the characters being involved with each other in deep and meaningful ways. While all this is happening, the first part of the series starts out with flashbacks to the characters' pasts. The next part of the series utilizes

flash-forwards to help paint the characters' lives. Finally, to the best of my understanding, the last season shifts to what I call "flash-purgatories," where the characters are actually all dead now, but they don't realize it. As the last season progresses, each character is eventually reunited with the character they fell in love with during the series, and this results in the realization that they are actually dead. As each person reconnects with the one they love, they remember everything that happened to them, and how they came to love the other person through their experiences together on the island. At the end of the last episode, with each person reunited with their loved one, and with the memory of how their love was born on the island, they all head for a bright light and the show is over. As best as I can understand, the love a person has for another person, and the bright light, is Hollywood's best definition of heaven.

You're Safe

As far as Hollywood is concerned, heaven is a nice glowing light and warm fuzzy feelings toward the person you love and your friends. Wow! What a let down. Okay, so I can't tell you where Hollywood would say the nice glowing light comes from in heaven, but it's clear that the kind of love Hollywood is talking about is generated within ourselves. The best kind of love they have to offer is of human origin. Okay, I confess, I can't love perfectly. I'll also admit that I've never experienced perfect love from another person. No matter how much I love my wife, my kids, my family, my friends, my fish, I've always ended up hurting them and being hurt by them at some point...well, maybe I've never hurt my fish, and my fish have never hurt me, but that's beside the point.

I know it's hard to believe, but I'm not perfect, and therefore, I can't love perfectly. I'm willing to guess that 100% of the world's population, currently and throughout history, is in the same boat as I—that's a large boat. So Hollywood's best definition of heaven is a place where imperfect people love each other imperfectly under a bright light. Sorry—I want more.

(Continued on page 6)

Grapple Schedule

February 2, 2011
No Grapple

February 9th, 2011
Is Prayer Pointless?
What Takes God So Long?
Being Patient In Prayer.

February 16th, 2011
Is Prayer Pointless?
Do My Prayers Bore God?
Persisting In Prayer.

February 23rd, 2011
No Grapple

March 2nd, 2011
No Grapple

Grapple is a group designed to help kids in grades 4-6 apply biblical truths to the issues that they struggle with from day to day. Meetings are from 6:30-8:00 on Wednesday nights in the Upper Room (744 Oak Street) Call Jill at 238-4300 for more info.

(continued from page 2, Lost)

First, just in case Hollywood didn't realize it, God is that glowing bright light. It says in Revelation 22:5:

“There will be no more night. They [God’s children] will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, for the Lord God will give them light. And they will reign for ever and ever.”

Second, the Bible says, in 1 John 4:7-12:

“Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our

sins. Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.”

The only way we can love perfectly, the only way we can have a love worthy of heaven, the only way we can love without failing, is to love others like God loves us. And the only way we can love others like God loves us, is to allow God to love through us. The above passage from 1 John says, love comes from God, and if we allow Jesus to live in us, then his love is being made complete in us. When Jesus’ love is being made complete in us—that is perfect love. As for Hollywood, I think they’re simply...LOST.

For more on God’s love, read 1 Corinthians 13, otherwise known as the love chapter.

Family Connection is published monthly by **Golden Hills Community Church Of The Nazarene**
744 Oak St. Paso Robles, CA 93446
Church: (805) 238-4300

e-mail: pasonaz@charter.net, website: www.pasonaz.org

Pastor: Mike Osborne, ghccnaz@charter.net; **Youth Pastor:** Mark Assi, markassi@charter.net
Children’s Pastor: Jill Osborne, jillosborne@charter.net

Church Secretary & Newsletter Editor: Katrina Clays, pasonaz@charter.net
If you would like to be removed from the mailing list please contact Katrina Clays

FEBRUARY IS FRIENDSHIP MONTH

A pastor friend of mine used to ask his congregation, “Company’s coming; are we ready?” That’s a great question! Think about having company in your home and the experience you want your guests to have. You want them to feel safe, comfortable, welcome, valued, and cared for: a pleasant physical environment, relaxed conversation, and some good food never hurts! So we plan and prepare before the guests arrive with those goals in mind.

I’d like us to have the same mindset regarding our Sunday morning gatherings, where we plan and prepare for our guests to have an uplifting experience. Intentionally working on our friendliness quotient as a church will enhance the blessing of each person who walks through the door, whether long-time member or first-time visitor. And it doesn’t cost anything!

Toward that end, we’re declaring February to be “Friendship Month.” Related activities will take place each Sunday before the children and teens are dismissed, and both children’s lessons and messages for adults will focus on different aspects of that theme. Here’s the tentative schedule:

Feb. 6: We can have a friendship with Jesus.

Feb. 13: We show we love God by loving others. Also “Invite A Friend” Day!
Invite your friends to experience a relaxed, friendly, family-style service.

Feb. 20: We show we love God by making right choices.

Feb. 27: We show we love God when we “play nice.”

And to jump-start this focus on friendship, each of you attending Sunday services will receive a gift: a booklet called “Being A Faithful Friend,” for each age-group (children, youth, adults). I’ve read the pastor and adult versions, and there are some really helpful hints!

Jesus calls his followers friends (John 15:15), and the Apostle John wrote about the joy that comes from the fellowship (friendship) we share with each other and with God (1 John 1:3-5). So inviting others into our circle of friends, and together pursuing deeper fellowship with God (Father, Son, Holy Spirit), creates a win-win: God’s pleasure grows, and our blessing increases!

You can only contribute to our friendliness factor if you’re present, so would you make Sunday morning gatherings a priority for you and your family? And would you be willing to serve as unofficial greeters for everybody who comes through the door, as if you were hosting them in your own home? Thank you in advance; I know you can do it, because you’re a pretty friendly group of people!

Your Friend,

Pastor Mike

Bible Quiz

First Corinthians 13 is a popular Scripture reading at wedding ceremonies. The so-called “love chapter” provides an extended definition of what Paul calls “the greatest” gift (verse 13).

Which of the following characteristics of love isn’t found in 1 Corinthians 13?

- A. Love is patient.
- B. Love rejoices in the truth.
- C. Love believes all things.
- D. Love is childlike.

Answer: D



February 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Upper Room 2:30-5:30	2 NO R.I.O.T OR GRAPPLE	3	4	5 Yard Sale, Bake Sale & BBQ Fundraiser for Becky Rios @ First Mennonite Church 8am -2pm
6 Loaves And Fishes Sunday Celebration Service: 10:30	7	8 No Upper Room	9 The R.I.O.T 6:30-8:00 Grapple 6:30-8:00	19	11	12
13 FRIENDSHIP DAY Bring a Friend Celebration Service: 10:30	14 Happy Birthdays No School	15 Board Meeting 6:30 No Upper Room	16 The R.I.O.T 6:30-8:00 Grapple 6:30-8:00	17	18	19
20 Celebration Service: 10:30	21 PRESIDENTS' DAY No School	22 No Upper Room	23 The R.I.O.T 6:30-8:00 NO GRAPPLE	24	25	26
27 Celebration Service: 10:30	28					

(Continued from page 1, How to Really, Really Love Our Kids)

But why--after all the Israelites had been through with God--did Moses need to give them this reminder? You'd think they'd say,

"Duh. Of course we're going to do all that, Moses. God has done some miraculous things for us. We saw them with our own eyes. We're going to love Him forever—and so will our kids."

Nope. That's not the way it would go. Moses needed to remind them because he knew that they were about to enter the Promised Land – which was a very cool thing, but it held a spiritual danger as well:

"It is a land with large, prosperous cities that you did not build. The houses will be richly stocked with goods you did not produce. You will draw water from cisterns you did not dig, and you will eat from vineyards and olive trees you did not plant. When you have eaten your fill in this land, be careful not to forget the Lord, who rescued you from slavery in the land of Egypt." Deuteronomy 6:10-12

Moses knew that when things got comfortable, the tendency would be to forget about loving God. And they did. And it proved to be disastrous for the Israelites, their children, and for future generations.

The same principle holds true today. If we want our kids to really love God, they need to see that *we* really love Him too. I don't live in your house, so I don't know how this is going with your family. I'm praying it's going well, but only you know for sure. Chances are, you—like every Christian—fall short in this area once in awhile.

I'm writing this article to motivate you to *action*. Like the group DC Talk used to sing—Love is a VERB. So here are some EASY action steps you can take if you feel like you're lagging in the "loving God" department:

1. **Look for God sightings.** He is at work in your life and in the life of your family. Notice those things, and then tell your kids about them. You'll

be amazed at the things our Heavenly Father does to show how much he loves us.

2. **Read the Bible every day.** It doesn't have to be very much. Just a little bit of God speaking to you personally will increase your love for Him. Let your kids see that you're doing this too. Share some of the exciting scriptures you find with them. (And smile while you're sharing that "Good News"!)

3. **Pray.** It doesn't have to be for hours. Then, enthusiastically share the answers with your kids. Pray for specifics. You'll be blown away by how many of your prayers really are answered!

4. **Be involved with God's people.** God's people love God. Go to church. Meet together in a group of some kind. Invite a Christian family over on a regular basis. Talk about how good God is with them. (The truth is, if your family spends the majority of its time with non-believers, your love for God will begin to fade. I've never seen an exception to this.)

On a church-wide note: All of us—not just parents—need to take this list to heart. If we do, the spiritual temperature of our worship services will increase, and the kids of our church will see examples of people at all stages of life who love God and who are serving Him with all their hearts

Okay, that's enough for now. In fact, if you just pick *one* of the things on that list and you incorporate it into your family, I guarantee you'll all love God more by the time the next newsletter arrives—and you'll be ready for more tips

Serving Him,
Jill