

Emmanuel *Living*



Emmanuel Exists

to glorify God through the prayerful nurturing and sending of disciplined believers to present Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.

CATCH THE VISION SUNDAY!
MAY 29th, 9:30AM-NOON

Don't miss this special day of prayer, worship and vision!

Believing, Belonging, and Building

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Embracing a Mind-set

By: Holly Thiessen

Being a mother is a role which may seem exclusive to the relationship between a mother and her child, but motherhood is actually a job that all of us perform on countless occasions. While a mom parenting her child is a powerful relationship, we as Christians and servants assume the role of a mother to others over and over again. The model of a parent raising, supporting, and teaching their child is an example we mimic when we serve others.

What makes a good mother? Her earnest care and concern for her child's well-being, her unconditional love, her patience, her selflessness and willingness to sacrifice her own desires for the benefit of her child are all things which we would consider admirable in a mother. But are these traits not also the attributes which would describe a good servant and a good witness? Someone who can care deeply for others and love unconditionally, someone who can

be patient when things don't go as planned, and sacrifice their needs to accommodate others. We see this all around us in the people who serve in our churches and communities, people displaying mothering characteristics through serving others. This is a way in which we can all be 'mothers' to the people in our lives. In some ways we can replicate the love that exists between a mother and child in our everyday relationships.

When we are serving others, it is important to remember that we are God's hands and feet, and to keep in mind that model of motherhood. "*Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind*"; and, *'Love your neighbor as yourself.'*" (Luke 10:27) A mother will sacrifice her desires in order to provide for her child, and a mother constantly has the needs of her child in the forefront of her mind. If we were to have this same attitude

(cont. pg.2)

Connecting

Embracing a Mind-set *(continued)*

when serving others, imagine the meaningful relationships we could build with others, and it sets an example for the type of relationship we can also share with our Savior. Creating good examples of relationships is essential when witnessing to others as well; when our relationships display self-sacrifice and unconditional love, it shows others the kind of love God has for all of His people.

Another important parallel that can be drawn between motherhood and serving is that motherhood is a job that never ends. Jesus says “*Anyone who wants to be first must be the very last, the servant of all.*” (Mark 9:35). When you are a mother, the role follows you everywhere you go and does not stop when your child is out of your sight.

Motherhood is a lifestyle, in the same way as serving should be a lifestyle for us as Christians as well. It doesn’t just start and stop with the time we set aside to volunteer at church and in our community; it is a continuous attitude that should dictate our everyday actions.

The relationship between a mother and child can be one of the most important earthly relationships we build in our lives, and it is a special relationship indeed. We can take the things we learn from this relationship and use it to build meaningful relationships with the people around us as well, by adopting the mothering attitude and serving God to the best of our ability through serving the people He has created.

Growing

Reflections ~ *encouraging each other by sharing how God is working in our lives*

This month we have a poem written by April Glauser—thank you April for sharing your poetry with us!

Serving

Keep a Smile on Your Lips and a Prayer in Your Heart

by April Glauser

A day that starts without a prayer is like an empty shell,
 And a day that ends without a prayer cannot be ended well...
 For when your heart turns heavenward you find a sweet release
 And you understand the meaning of “His mercies never cease”...
 When life brings pain and sorrow which you feel too weak to bear
 There’s strength in God’s abiding love and in the power of prayer...

Multiplying

So never start a day unless there’s prayer within your heart
 And never take an action of which prayer is no a part...
 Don’t make a firm decision until you’ve prayed about it
 For prayer is like a golden gift — you just can’t do without it...
 And though at times you feel as if your prayer has not been heard,
 Remember—God is listening and He hears your every word...
 He may not always give the things you wished and hoped He would
 But in His love and wisdom He does all things for your good.

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Missionary Hi-lights

David & Lena Chapman:



On May 19th Lena will once again travel to the Interface campus here in the Goroka Valley of Papua New Guinea. The Interface course is a college level course designed to give people from ages 18-70 a firsthand look at missions in a six-week program. Please **pray** for Lena and the other staff members as they work with this new group of students. Until then, Lena has a full schedule with Bible Studies and ladies discipleship groups each week. We also do a lot of hosting so Lena is busy with accommodation preparations, meals, and many other facets associated with hospitality. **Pray** for David as he has plenty of opportunities to help with aircraft so that they can be used as tools to move folks in and out of the very remote jungle locations here in PNG. During the next two years, David will be assuming more and more responsibilities while folks go on home leave. **Pray** for our children: Rachel in central Mexico in the area of Las Moras, Elisabeth in Texas, Joshua in Texas in pre-med studies at Tarleton State University.

Wes & Brenda Dyck:



We **praise** the Lord for the good health He has given us. We are getting into a busy part of our schedule in the missionary training program as we have just 6 weeks until graduation. Then the graduates will go back to their home areas and do partnership development and we'll get into the jungle camp program with the first year students. **Pray** for continued stamina and alertness for us as we are involved with the students in unique ways during that time. Later in July, we look forward to a visit from all 3 of our children and their families. **Praise the Lord** it looks like we could be full for this next school year. Thanks so much for being part of the team in reaching unreached people groups around the world through your prayers and gifts. We appreciate you so much.

Isi & Tessa Masi and Jules & Naomi Maelama:



So far this year has been very stretching for us as a ministry; stretching in good ways, but a bit uncomfortable nonetheless. The biggest venture we have been on is preparing to run our first Discipleship Training School (5-6 months intensive program). This requires everything from promoting the school to recruit students, creating all our student materials, as well as coordinating with speaker's schedules, and so on. The list seems endless but it's a small price to pay for the final result – a successful school where students have the opportunity to grow incredibly in their relationship with God. At this stage we have 7 possible students and will be starting on May 2nd.



Opportunities to Partner with Us: If you are looking for a way to partner with us, here are some options. We may have events coming up where we may need deserts/food items donated,

or you could let us know if you'd like to get to know our student group over a meal on a weekend. We would also love to know if there is a community connection that we can become involved with as a school group. We also would love your prayer support. Thank you so much for keeping us in your prayers. It makes an incredible difference to our lives and our ministry.

Pray:

- for a smooth transition into DTS for our students and no opposition
- for strength and wisdom for our staff team
- for our DTS speakers as they prepare their material for lectures
- for our students to have open hearts to all God has for them
- for continued good health for our team and students

Children's Ministries ~ Partnering Page

8 Easy Tips for Family Devotions

By: Pam Friesen

I don't know if I should be some one to talk about family devotions. It isn't something that has come easy in our family. We have often felt like we are doing a very poor job, we have been very inconsistent and we wonder if the kids "get" the application. But God is helping us to persevere, even with our short-comings and here are a few tips that may help you as you try to implement a family devotion time in your house.

1. Keep Them Regular: I know this is something that we didn't do well near the beginning, and then life happened. Len's schedule changed, the kids were getting older and involved in school activities and we often weren't together for supper. We realized that we had to change and get a consistent time together. What is the time of day that works for your family? It could be breakfast, after dinner or before bed. Sticking to the routine will help you to incorporate it more regularly into your daily life. And if you miss a day or two, don't feel like you have failed. Continue on the next day!

2. Keep Them Easy: Have everything you need to do your devotions in a prominent place. For example, utilize a dining room table basket as a centerpiece and as reminder. In the basket, include napkins, salt and pepper shakers, a Bible, and a small devotional book. Even if the adults forget to initiate the devotions, your kids will see the visual and remember.

3. Keep Them Engaging: Cater your Bible teaching to the age of your children. Keep it relevant to their daily life. For younger children, keep the devotions short to coincide with their attention span. For older children, communicate with them as adults. Allow them to select topics, ask questions, and give them the responsibility of teaching occasionally.

4. Keep Them Real: Make sure your children know that you are not infallible. If you have wronged them in any way, ask for forgiveness and explain how you want to handle yourself next time. Provide a model of grace, humility, and forgiveness for them to follow.

5. Keep Them Growing: Think of practical ways that you can each apply what you have learned in the devotions. Be the first to apply the lesson. Deliberately look for love in action in your children or spouse. Encourage one another.

6. Keep Them Flexible: Inevitably, there will be days that will not fall into the routine. Be creative and do devotions on the run. Incorporate a favorite Bible verse or challenge into the plans for the night. Live out your faith in the drive thru, at the soccer game, and while grocery shopping. (Some of our best faith conversations have been in the car.)

7. Keep Them Imperfect: No one's family devotions will be perfect. Know that and keep trying anyway. Persevere and hold onto the truth that God's Word will not return void.

8. Keep Them Fun: The last thing you want is for your kids to roll their eyes during this time. You want them to eagerly anticipate the Bible teaching. Consider acting out lessons with dress up clothes and/or puppets, make verses hands on, create things together, have fun, and be silly.

Clearly, this is not an exhaustive list. So, what works for your family? We would love to hear your comments and suggestions!

Pam Friesen is our Children's Ministry Assistant here at Emmanuel. She's married to Len, and they have 3 kids: Nathaniel, Colton, and Rebecca.



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