

Celebrate the Glory

Testimonies of lives being transformed from glory to glory!

2 Corinthians 3:18

- "This was a totally unique event. Certainly unlike anything I have ever been to before. What a blessing to be encouraged in something so vital as loving God's Word as a family. I plan to attend again next year."
- "What I appreciated so much about CTG was the opportunity to see other families with the same desires when it comes to family worship. It is wonderful to know that there are others out there thirsting for ways to worship God together and to raise their children in the training and admonition of the Lord."
- "Thanks so much for underscoring the importance of God's Word, and for helping us all to memorize a specific passage on that day. My wife went home and wrote a song to Psalm 112:1-2, and now even my 2 ½ year old can say (sing) the verses by memory!"
- "Thank you so much for bringing this to our area. I truly enjoyed it. My daughter and her future husband really benefited from it."
- "Thanks! We thoroughly enjoyed the day and were challenged to be more "engrafted in the Word." Our family read-aloud through the entire Bible last year and are doing it again the second time and what a blessing it has been!"
 - "Great speakers and great topics... a wonderful dose of encouragement to press on."

Just wanted to let you know that we had a wonderful time at CTG this year. We were surprised at how much our kids enjoyed *Unfolding Drama*. They were on the edge of their seats the whole time.

One of the greatest outcomes of CTG for our family is the encouragement that we get from gathering with so many families that are united in purpose and goal. It provides our children with the knowledge that our family is not alone in this crazy pursuit of God's will. Among other possible outcomes, it will eventually let them know that there are potential spouses out there.

Last year, at CTG, we were encouraged that daily Bible reading could really make a difference. Arnold Pent's talk and his CD entitled, "*The Good Soil*", made a major impression on us. Since then, there has rarely been a day Sean doesn't read the Bible to our family before bedtime. The kids are addicted to it and express shock if there is some suggestion that it might not happen. To them, it's like brushing teeth. Wow! I wish I had had that.

Another related impact was the freedom that we found to "just read the Bible." Sean had previously felt pressure to extract some nugget from his Bible readings each devotional time. Since CTG last year, he has devoted himself to reading through (or even listening to a CD of) numerous chapters with a view toward taking in the grand sweep of scripture in a short time (almost done.) Eric Wallace's encouragement to read "Transforming Grace" was a further encouragement in this regard (i.e., to take in the whole story.) The unfolding drama reinforced this point today.

Keep up the good work. God Bless and maranatha,
Sean and Jen Agnew

Thank you for the encouragement to start family Bible study and devotions. I have to admit that I had grown sloppy in the spiritual feeding of my family and that I was depending on the church to teach my children. Sure, I was reading a Bible story here and there with the kids and praying at bedtime. I was not however, being systematic and proactive. Some of my own study led me to the understanding that the family is a stand-alone sphere of authority, right along with the church and the state. Understanding this helped me see that my family is the "congregation" I've been given and the "nation" under my care. I am to be their "pastor" and "president".

Starting out, I was a bit awkward and fought thoughts that I was boring the children and maybe even being overbearing. With practice though, the children have come to look forward to Bible study and to accept the behavioral limitations during this time. I guess you could say it was a "fake it til ya make it" sort of thing.

Hearing about the style of family devotions in Mathew Henrys' boyhood home gave me a pattern to imitate and now I also simply read and then translate into terms that I know my children can understand. Recently we've been reading in Exodus about the laws given to the Hebrew nation and I've wondered how to understand some of it, let alone, to teach it. For help in this I've been downloading sermons about that days' passage from Sermonaudio.com and listening on my mp3 during the day while I work. As I pick up new understanding from different sermons, I get excited to share that later with my family.

One of the biggest benefits of family devotions to me personally, has been the shift from just believing that I am the head of my family, to experiencing that indeed I am acting like the head. Additionally, Biblical conversations have become more natural and commonplace around our house as our Bible study seems to continue into our other daily activities.

-Eric Zehr