Rhode Island Christian Bulletin

"For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ" (1 Cor 3:11, NKJV)

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FREE

The Basic Message of the Bible By James Moriello

If you ask ten professing Christians what Christianity is, you will probably get ten different answers. However, you do not need to look any further than the Holy Bible for the truth. "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work" (2 Timothy 3:16). Some may trust in tradition and some may trust in emotional experiences and feelings, but the Bible will never steer you wrong. The basic message of the Bible, or the Gospel of Jesus Christ, is very simple. All men and women are sinners separated from God, and all need a Savior (Romans 3:20-22). That Savior is Jesus Christ, and He paid for all your sins past, present, and future at the cross (Hebrews 10:12). "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life" (John 3:16). A place in heaven is promised by God to those who believe in Him and come to Him through the Risen Son of God Jesus Christ (John 14:1-6). And by the way, do not listen to the false teachers who say you can lose your place in heaven, for Jesus Himself said: "And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of my hand" (John 10:28). Now if Jesus is able to grant eternal life, who are we to think that we can undo what God has done? Friend, do not put your trust in man made rituals, your good deeds, money, or anything else. The basic message of the Bible is simple. Believe and live! This does demand a decision on your part. You can accept God's gracious offer or you can reject it. The Lord awaits your answer. Do not deceive yourself by thinking that you will sit on the fence for a while, for you may run out of time and you will miss out on what God has in store for you in heaven. You have access to a Bible, so look up these Bible verses I just set forth and see them for yourself. May God bless you!

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In the Crosshairs: Christianity meets Culture

Society changes but God's Word never changes! Here are two truths:

Psalm 139:13: "For you formed my inward parts; You covered me in my mother's womb". The baby in the womb is a living human being. Terminating a pregnancy is terminating a life, and that is murder.

Genesis 2:24: "Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh". Marriage was instituted by God in the beginning. One man plus one woman equals a marriage.

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www.firmfoundationri.com
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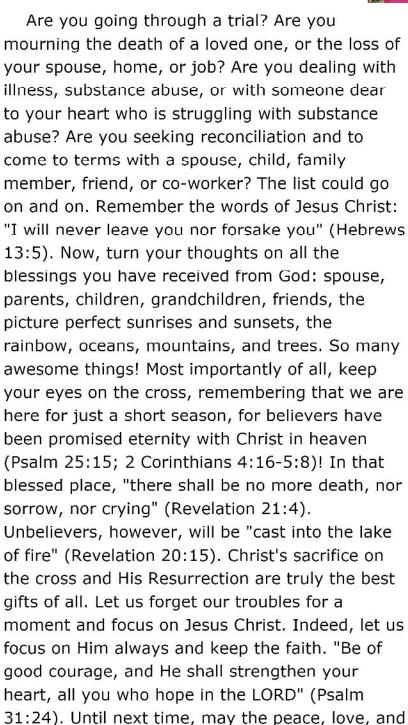
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Wisdom for Women By Susan Moriello

"To everything there is a season, a time for every purpose under heaven" (Ecclesiastes 3:1)



Rhode Island Christian Bulletin

grace of Christ Jesus reign in you.

James Moriello, Editor
Contact Us: 401-765-0107
Email: firmfoundationri@verizon.net
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Some Common Questions About Homeschooling

By Jeanne Morse

What is Homeschooling? The laws of our country and state declare that it is the parent's right and responsibility to academically educate their children, and they may choose whether it be a public school setting, private school/charter school, or a decision to keep the child home while providing a state-approved academic curriculum. There are many curriculum resources to be found. Christian Book Distributors (christianbook.com) makes purchasing available; a helpful resource is The Rhode Island Guild of Home Teachers (rihomeschool.com); homeschooling conferences and conventions in New England can also be found by doing a search on the computer.

What is a curriculum, and how does it work? The home environment provides stress-free learning, and allows for an individually "tailored" curriculum: reading, writing, math, science, history, and geography, at appropriate grade level, on a workable schedule, 180 days a year. The freedom exists to be flexible with your curriculum. In essence, we might enjoy math in the early morning and reading later in the day, etc., or vise versa, but we are on track as long as we maintain a commitment, and progressively move forward. Setting a daily course to stick to, moms and dads, provides discipline and encourages self-discipline. Setting and attaining goals weekly and monthly also sets an enthusiastic "attitude" as we meet each challenge with a sense of accomplishment.

What about social skills? Personally, I believe social behavior begins at home. Whatever things are socially available to any school age children are also available for the homeschooled kid... and then some! There are more extracurricular activities sponsored through homeschooling programs and homeschooling educators than anything available anywhere else. You just have to get in there and participate. The one thing that comes to mind I find exceptionally beneficial is that all age groups and gender are exposed to: 'all age groups and gender'! Ha! For example, field trips, music and language classes, and sports groups. On the other hand, had I decided not to home school my daughter and left her in public school, she would be growing up with the same girls & boys her age and grade level year after year through elementary school at least. There is nothing wrong with that; we just made a different choice.

(Homeschooling FAQ's, continued on page 3)

Family Page

Jesus loves the little children and blesses them By Tanya Hay

In Mark 10:14-16 we read: "Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of God. Assuredly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will by no means enter it."

And He took them up in His arms, laid His hands on them, and blessed them."

FROM OUR CHILDREN: What is your favorite bible verse?

Faith: "Will God hear his cry when trouble comes upon him?" (Job 27:9). Faith's favorite bible story is Daniel and the Lions Den (Daniel 6). (continued on page 8)

Coloring Picture: Cross and Rainbow By Alexandra Hay



(Homeschooling FAQ's, continued from page 2)

Can you think of any other benefits of

homeschooling? One of the major differences in my younger son was the availability of the one-on-one attention he needed. Where he had a "lack of interest" – to put it mildly, he eagerly responded to homeschooling. I realized after seeing it, that learning is retaining, not memorizing. But actually seeing the understanding coming together to make a growing and maturing young mind; that is awesome!

Do you need to be certified? No. You need only apply to your local Superintendent's Office. Anyone can home school. Homeschooling is a dedicated and personally rewarding lifestyle. I have found the home school experience to be a spectrum of opportunity for academic learning and socializing for my children, for personal growth in myself, and very rewarding as a family focused on growing.

Word Search

HNKGSCBTKNPBVPYURAVW J P K K A M O G P R K U K D P L V Z T D OQPLLLSMINQEGJRPMIAA DYRQVOXGMSBBFBSOHZNH SVEZAIHEGASXSWMITACO GKWPTBHLJSNOSIMLITYA X F E P I M W L I U N D R V I Q A Q N G BBOIONPBVIFRMCMBFPBC MQBJNICDOGXAJEKHBRKS CJZXHBAHFMROMENLPAPE EHESCNBSHDGNTIETHYEA SLRCGELBIBUQSSLXOEQL ZOCELPICSIDUSETYPROS WYLAEYBLHISIBSEYEVTU GFYQRWGBOENHPINBEMHX WKTOGIKHJGSQZMKAYRWG CHURCHMSPEACEOFUCRFR CYPBUSDHKNCHBRJNSHMW TBYKLTDEMCYUYPKIYOGR KWPFIWHPOPKZPKRQNWRS

ANGEL BIBLE BLESSING CHURCH
COMMANDMENT CROSS DISCIPLE
FAITH
FAMILY GOD HOPE JESUS
LOVE MIRACLE PEACE PRAYER
PROMISE SALVATION TRUTH
WORSHIP

Gerry's Testimony, By Gerard Lachance

"Come and hear, all you who fear God, and I will declare what He has done for my soul." (Ps. 66:16)

My name is Gerard, and approximately thirty years ago a young lady witnessed to me. Her name is Jeanne. I remember thinking: "Why is this young lady, twenty years my junior, even bothering with me?" I was with a group of people who were spiritually, physically, and mentally sick, and very lost. At that time I didn't realize we were sick. We were in a desperate search for answers. In those days, I had very low self-esteem. I didn't think I was good enough to be anybody's friend. Ten years earlier, in 1971, I was honorably discharged from the U.S. Navy. I served four years active sea duty supplying naval gunfire support missions for our men in Cambodia and Vietnam.

Allow me to backtrack a bit. A man who was fifteen to twenty years my senior was helping me to get sober. Those who knew him referred to him as "Uncle Fred", a term of endearment. One night he trusted me, a drunken stranger whom he barely knew, enough to offer me a safe haven in his home. Later, I found out some people were planning to mug me and steal my pay and leave me for dead. These people were my so-called "friends". As time went on, he, "Uncle Fred", gave me a King James Bible. I put it on my night stand where it collected dust for a time. I was on my knees thanking God for keeping me sober and safe for just one more day when I glanced over to my night stand where my Bible was and I thought to myself: "One day I will learn how to read that Bible." I got into bed and slept a sleep that I hadn't slept in a very long while. Oh, I passed out a lot from drunkenness and "came to" the next morning or afternoon, but never fell asleep and woke the next morning.

"When you lie down, you will not be afraid; yes, you will lie down and your sleep will be sweet" (Prov. 3:24)

A short while later, a few days or maybe a couple of weeks later, Jeanne spoke to me. She invited me to go to a Bible Study Group and I did. Although I was still single but living in sin, I did become born again of the Holy Spirit when I was in a Bible Research Ministry with Jeanne. I thank God that 'once saved, we can't lose salvation'. Now, for reasons and/or circumstances that I can't recollect, we lost contact with each other and I began to backslide into the desires of the world.

"And some fell among thorns, and the thorns sprang up and choked them...Now he who received seed among the thorns is he who hears the word, and the cares of this world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and he becomes unfruitful." (Matt. 13:7,22)

I am sixty-four years old and at the age of fifty-seven I was diagnosed with Hepato-Cellular Carcinoma (Liver Cancer). The tumor in my liver was 5-1/2 centimeters, which is about the size of a baseball. At this point in time, I was searching for guidance and direction. I needed to make a medical decision that could make the difference of life or death. It was a Sunday morning and I was going about my daily routine, nothing special. I sat in my recliner to watch TV and another subtle thought came to me: "I wish I could find something worth watching". That's when I saw and heard a minister telling his congregants of his mother's victory over cancer through faith and prayer. This was the answer I was seeking. So, I went to my bedroom and picked up my Bible, dusted it off, and started to get revived and strengthened through God's Word.

"Revive me according to Your word. I have declared my ways, and You answered me; teach me your statutes." (Ps. 119:25b-26)

Putting myself in God's Hands, I finally decided to proceed with the recommended chemo-embollization, which is the use of chemicals inserted directly into the liver to kill the malignant tissue and shrink the tumor so that a surgical procedure could remove the tumor safely. Prior to being taken into the procedure room, I prayed the Lord's Prayer with my wife, Joyce, and my sister, Bernadette. At that time I asked God to guide the doctor's hands and oversee his team's duties. I confidently put my life in the doctor's hands and trusted God to bless the procedure in Jesus's name as I reiterated "Thy will be done". As the R.N. on the team was disconnecting one of the monitors, she noticed a blood clot from the insertion site heading towards the liver. She immediately called the doctor in and he did what he had to do to disperse it. Praise God! While convalescing, I continued to read and study His Word, meditating daily on His precepts and glorifying His name in all that I said and did. I had medical follow-ups, and I am still having them, with doctors' visits, MRI's, MRA's, sonograms and the like. I had transferred to a new Primary Care Physician, who told me that if I had had liver cancer I would be dead. (*Gerry's Testimony, continued on page 7*)

How Child Sponsorship Changed My Life By Amanda Lane

A child's drawn-out battle with cancer...The crystal clear song of a girl singing for Jesus...The concerned expression etched into an orphan's face...The poised and selfless prayer of a teenager...The fulfilled dream of an 8-year-old; these are the moments that changed my life forever while meeting my 5 sponsored children in Honduras.

When I chose to sponsor through Compassion International, my focus was on the ways in which I would be helping a child. What I didn't expect were the ways in which that child would ultimately help me. Compassion offers you the unique opportunity to develop a relationship with your sponsored child by exchanging letters with them. I soon realized that I was growing to love these children far more than I'd anticipated, and I desperately wanted to meet them. I was nervous, but eager to see Compassion's ministry firsthand on a sponsor tour to Honduras. Compassion is distinct in that it is Christ-centered, child focused, church based, and committed to integrity. I was curious to see how that would look in the field.

The poverty broke my heart, but the faith I witnessed was inspiring. These children have so little, but they turn to Jesus for everything. They also look to their sponsor for the affirmation they may not receive at home, which places us in a very important role. I never imagined that a teenager would call me "Mommy," or that my first Mother's Day card would come from someone else's child. But in Honduras, I realized that I'm not "just" a sponsor. These children are my family. By sponsoring a child with Compassion International (compassion.com), you are indeed doing a great thing...but don't be surprised if you find your own heart changed by the great things the Lord will do in you.

Amanda Lane (25) has served as a Child Advocate with Compassion International for the last year. She and her husband live on the North Shore of Massachusetts. You can visit her blog at http://compassionadventure.blogspot.com to read more about her experiences as a sponsor.

Notable and Quotable

"Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life" (Jesus Christ, John 5:24)

"The righteous considers the cause of the poor, but the wicked does not understand such knowledge" (Solomon, Proverbs 29:7) "For I know that my Redeemer lives, and He shall stand at last on the earth; and after my skin is destroyed, this I know, that in my flesh I shall see God, Whom I shall see for myself, and my eyes shall behold, and not another. How my heart yearns within me!" (Job, Job 19:25)

"Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life" (Peter speaking to Jesus, John 6:68)

"Surely I am coming quickly" (Jesus Christ, Revelation 22:20)

Bible Trivia Test your Bible knowledge!

Bible Trivia Matthew 1-8:

- 1) What does Immanuel mean?
- 2) Where was Jesus born?
- 3) What 3 gifts does the Bible record were brought to the infant child Jesus by the wise men?
- 4) What did John the Baptist eat?
- 5) How many Persons of the Trinity were present at Jesus' Baptism?
- 6) Which Book does Jesus quote from when he is tempted in the wilderness?
- 7) Finish the Beatitude "Blessed are the poor in spirit..."
- 8) What sinful thought/emotion leads to murder?
- 9) What sinful thought/emotion leads to adultery?
- 10) If we do not forgive others, what is God's response toward us?
- 11) What is the "lamp of the body"?
- 12) What should be the first thing the Christian should seek?
- 13) Which gate leads to heaven?
- 14) How can you know a false prophet?
- 15) What does a foolish man build on?
- 16) What does a wise man build on?
- 17) Name the three Old Testament saints that Gentiles will sit down with in the Kingdom of Heaven.
- 18) Who took our sicknesses unto Himself?
- 19) At Gadara, what animal did the demons enter?
- 20) What happened to the swine in which the demons were cast into at Gadara?

(Answers appear on page 7)

Life Application Page

The following is an excerpt from 'What the Bible Teaches about Anger', by James Moriello. The Bible gives us a number of ways to deal with our anger. Here are ten biblical principles.

- 1) Live close to the Lord. "I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit, for without Me you can do nothing" (John 15:5). If you are living near to the Lord, you are more likely to be spiritually attuned, and less prone to sinful anger. Also remember that our teaching is from a biblical perspective, not from humanistic psychology. You do not have the power to change yourself without the help of Jesus.
- 2) Pray. "Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:6-7). Seek the Lord in prayer. Be honest about your feelings to your heavenly Father, and you will be blessed.
- 3) What does the Bible say? "For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ" (2 Corinthians 10:4-5). The Bible is your handbook for life. It is your friend, and it will never steer you wrong. The more Scripture you know, the more prepared you are when the temptation to sinful anger comes.
- 4) Is it worth being angry about? "Then the LORD said, 'Is it right for you to be angry?" (Jonah 4:4). Many things in life just are not worth getting angry over. Ask yourself it will really matter next week, or next year. Why lose your peace over something unimportant in the overall scheme of things? It's also quite possible that all you are doing is pouting.
- 5) Take time to think things through. "So then, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath; for the wrath of man does not produce the righteousness of God" (James 1:19-20). Instead of lashing out impulsively, take some time to calm down first.
- 6) Evaluate the consequences. "An angry man stirs up strife, and a furious man abounds in transgression" (Proverbs 29:22). Everything we do sets other things in motion. You do not want to get into a 'this for that' grudge match if you can help it. Sinful anger adds fuel to a fire that is already burning. Bear in mind also that the other person or people involved may not even know you are angry, and your lashing out at them may be looking for trouble where there was none before.
- 7) Seek godly counsel. "Get wisdom! Get understanding!" (Proverbs 4:5a). Sometimes you are too involved in a situation to see it clearly. Seek out your pastor or a trusted mature Christian for advice. They may be able to point you in the right direction before you make a horrible mistake.
- 8) Tame your tongue. "But no man can tame the tongue. It is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison" (James 3:8). We cannot take back the words spoken or written in anger. Think before opening your mouth. Your words have the power to build someone up or to tear someone down. If you are going to say something nasty, close your mouth before it opens.
- 9) Be respectful. "A soft answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger" (Proverbs 15:1). This goes along with our last point, and it is worth the double emphasis. When we speak to another kindly and respectfully, that goes a long way towards reconciliation, and it shows maturity and Christ-like character.
- 10) Forgive. "And be kind to one another, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you" (Ephesians 4:32). Sinful anger, just like any other sinful emotion, is based in pride. Forgiving others costs you your pride, but it earns you peace and God's approval. Weigh the benefits.

Bible Trivia Answers (from page 5)

Bible Trivia from Matthew 1-8 Answers: (All references from the Book of Matthew)

- 1) God with us (1:23)
- 2) Bethlehem (2:1)
- 3) Gold, frankincense, and myrrh (2:11)
- 4) Locusts and wild honey (3:4)
- 5) All Three: God the Father, God the Son (Jesus), God the Holy Spirit (3:16-17)
- 6) Deuteronomy (4:4,7,10)
- 7) "For theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven" (5:3)
- 8) Anger (5:21-22)
- 9) Lust (5:27-28)
- 10) He does not forgive us (A barrier to our fellowship with Him is erected) (6:14-15)
- 11) The eye (6:22)
- 12) The Kingdom of God (6:33)
- 13) Narrow Gate (7:13)
- 14) By their fruits (7:16)
- 15) Sand (7:26)
- 16) Rock (7:24)
- 17) Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob (8:11)
- 18) Jesus (8:17)
- 19) Swine or pigs (8:28-32)
- 20) They drowned (8:32)

Scoring:

16-20 correct: Excellent; a true Bible

scholar

11-15 correct: Very Good; Bible scholar

in training

0-10 correct: You have a thirst for knowledge and wisdom; keep plugging

(Gerry's Testimony, continued from page 4) My oncologist told me that I was probably in "the one percentile of liver cancer patient's that might never need treatment again". Praise God, again! The doctor that performed the embollization told me that he believes I am a medical miracle. I said something to the effect of "Doctor, not to make light of your successful work, but, I would be remiss if I didn't give God all the glory". The doctor had a smile on his face and responded with "I'm but an instrument of God, used by Him". Praise Jesus! Medical history shows that most liver cancer patients only live two to ten months after they are diagnosed; doctors told me I had an eight month window. That was seven years ago. Praise be to God!

The past twenty to thirty years, when I would think of Jeanne, I would pray for her and her two children, Adam and Jill. Two plus years ago, I ran into my son, whom I hadn't been in contact with for many, many years. His mom and I were divorced for more than twenty-five years. Douglas, my son, introduced me to Pastor James of "The Firm Foundation Christian Church". I began to attend the Sunday Worship Services at this church. I started to think of Jeanne, wondering if she and her family were safe and in good health. So, my prayers concerning her became more frequent. I put her in God's Hands. One day while at Sunday worship, there she was with her husband, Brad, and her children, Brad, Jr., and Amy. Talk about God's favor and His "omniscience" and answer to prayer and His abundant blessings!

"The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much." (James 5:16b)

One day when I was at that same Bible Study with Jeanne twenty to thirty years ago, she passed me a note that read, "I'm glad I have you, you being my Brother-in-Christ is a gift to my life"! I kept that note all these years in the Bible that Uncle Fred gave me. I still have it today. Jeanne looked at home for a picture of the Bible Study Group that was taken back then and gave it to me with a photo printed message on it. It reads, "I am still blessed that you are my Brother-in-Christ." Likewise, Jeanne, I'm also still very blessed that you are one of my Sisters-in Christ.

"One generation shall praise your works to another, and shall declare Your mighty acts. I will meditate on the glorious splendor of Your majesty, and on Your wondrous works. Men shall speak of the might of Your awesome acts, And I will declare Your greatness. They shall utter the memory of Your great goodness, and shall sing of Your righteousness."

(Ps. 145:4-7)

Are you interested in learning more about the Bible? Take Emmaus Correspondence Bible Courses for credit! Firm Foundation Christian Church offers very inexpensive independent Bible Study classes that you can do at home! More information can be found on our website www.firmfoundationri.com/emmausclasses.html. To get started, call 401-765-0107!

News & Notes, By the Editor

I thank God for the freedoms we enjoy in this country. Shame on those who would disgrace our veterans by seeking to remove Place Jolicoeur memorial, Woonsocket, RI simply because the cross offends them!

Over 50 million babies have been murdered since Roe v. Wade legalized abortion in 1973. Those babies were not given a choice.

Capital punishment (the death penalty) was instituted after the flood, is part of Old Testament Law, and was never abrogated in the New Testament (Genesis 9:6; Exodus 21:12; Romans 13:4). It's purpose was to deter heinous crime. If we go soft on penalties for lawbreaking, we will have more crime. It's that simple.

According to the Bible, homosexuality is a sin and not a condition one can be born with because it is an issue of the heart (Leviticus 18:22; Proverbs 4:23). It is unnatural (Romans 1:26-27). However, like any other sin, it can be forgiven if it is repented of (1 Corinthians 6:9-11).

Firm Foundation Christian Church: About Us

Rhode Island Christian Bulletin is a publication of Firm Foundation Christian Church, Woonsocket, Rhode Island. We are an independent gospel preaching and teaching church. Our mission is to promote the Gospel of Jesus Christ by any and all means possible, as the Lord allows.

Please come join us Sunday morning at 10 AM for worship service, or Friday evening at 7 PM for Bible Study. We meet at 84 Cumberland Street (St. Ann Arts and Cultural Center) in Woonsocket, Rhode Island.

You can contact us at 401-765-0107 or by emailing us at firmfoundationri@verizon.net. We also encourage you to visit our website www.firmfoundationri.com and listen to a sermon or read an article or topic that interests you.

"For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ" (1 Corinthians 3:11, NKJV)

God's Love, By Cindy Camelli

For Thou art the Giver of Life
Who bestoweth Your Love upon thee
Like a rose emerging from a blanket of
fallen snow
Unscathed by the cold



(Jesus Loves the Little Children, from pg 3)

Jennelle: "Remember now your Creator in the days of your youth, before the difficult days come, and the years draw near when you say, 'I have no pleasure in them'" (Ecclesiastes 12:1). Jennelle also likes Proverbs 22:6 which says: "Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it."

Nhick: "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge" (Proverbs 1:7).

We should all remember to count our blessings. What are you thankful for?

Alexandra says: "I am thankful that I am healthy and that we have food."

Arianna says: "I am thankful for my beautiful family and for a roof over my head." Arianna's favorite story is Noah's Ark (Genesis 6-8).

Proverbs 23:22-25 provides excellent words of wisdom for children of all ages:

"Listen to your father who begot you. And do not despise your mother when she is old. Buy the truth and do not sell it. Also wisdom and instruction and understanding. The father of the righteous will greatly rejoice, And he who begets a wise child will delight in him. Let your father and your mother be glad, And let her who bore you rejoice."