



Lively Stones

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Holding forth the word of life

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Golden Age Parents

Godly grandchildren are the crowning glory of godly golden years parents (Proverbs 17:6a). They leave their inheritance to them because well-brought up grandchildren who are God-fearing and God-loving are a cause for joy and dignity of golden years parents (Deuteronomy 6:6-9; Proverbs 13:22). Of course, this inheritance does not apply only to financial inheritance. *“And if there is no earthly substance to leave; yet a church in the home; a family altar; the record of holy example and instruction; and above all, a store of believing prayer laid up for accomplishment, when we shall be silent in the grave will be an inheritance to our children of inestimable value”* (Charles Bridges). To Christian golden years parents, a rich spiritual heritage is preferable to wealth for their grand-children. The Bible exalts the part played by grandparents. Most grandparents have the wisdom of long experience coupled with the love of an understanding heart.

The Role of Grandparents in Today’s Society

As grandparents, they can offer their time which parents lack, especially if they are both working. There is no better substitute than grandparents. No matter how good their domestic helpers may be, they will never be able to offer the love of parents and grandparents.

“Grandparents need grandchildren to keep the changing world alive for them. And grandchildren need grandparents to help them know who they are and to give them a sense of human experience in a world they cannot know.” (Margaret Mead).

Grandparents can make themselves not only available but also accessible to their own home. The Government’s policy is to encourage parents to live in close proximity with their golden years parents to make easier accessibility to one another. Even if grandparents are not living in close proximity, there are many ways where they can communicate with one another through visits, phone calls, etc. Because of their wealth of experience and wisdom, they can impart many lessons of life both practical and spiritual through their **PRESENCE** with them.

Grandparents usually have the means to provide some form of support for their grandchildren materially and financially because of their life-long savings; moreover, their wants are also few and getting fewer as the years go by. Grand-parents may, if necessary, make such a **PROVISION**.

How To Be Godly Golden Years Parents

We praise and thank God for giving us four lovely and loving grandchildren whose ages range between 17 years and five years.

In this article, we would like to share with you our relationships with our grand-children. Our oldest granddaughter, Sharon, aged 17, is studying in Vancouver, Canada, and of late our other three grandchildren are studying at an American International School in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil because my son-in-law, Ban Tat, has been posted there by his company.

It is always good to have grandchildren around because they somehow draw families together. We value our grandchildren’s presence with us just as much as they value our presence with them. Although they are not living with us, yet whatever available time we have, and whatever free time they have, and whenever their parents need us, we’ll always make ourselves available and make time for them. Our grandchildren always look forward to our being with them. Each of them is unique as God has so made them. One loves to be cuddled; another loves to be praised; and then another loves to receive and give gifts; and yet another loves to serve table, etc. When they were young, they loved to hear me tell stories, especially stories from the Bible. I bought for them many Christian books, videos, CDs and DVDs not only from Singapore but also from various parts of the world during my spiritual shuttle ministry.

Whenever we are in Singapore, when we are not travelling, my granddaughter, Lisa, who is aged 10, would ask me to tell her something about my life

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