

AUG 2003 EMAIL TEXT

From: "GFI admin" <admin@gfi-singapore.org>

Subject: August Mailer

Date: Saturday, August 02, 2003 11:45 PM

Clear DayHi folks,

By God's grace we have started Childwise in July at St. Steven's. Another GKGW class is starting in Orchard and there are a few other classes running. Pray along with us that through this process, families get strengthened. Yes, including facilitators. We cannot emphasize how valuable that is. Like any knowledge, if we do not use, we forget. In the rush of life, it is so easy to go back to older, less desirable habits we as parents have, whether being too strict or too lenient. So, guess what, the call this month - join us! One fear for many parents is "We can't get our act together yet!" - if we humble ourselves to learn, the serving will make us get our act together! We cannot do it but with God's help, we can. We have the privilege of having the main coordinating couple for GFI Singapore to share with us this month! We are thankful for their passion and energy!

Sidetrack - One thing to clarify about the voting, yes, when you have voted, your vote will not be accepted from the same machine - this utility we used (created by someone else) uses network address to keep track but we won't know your address that's for sure, so be rest assured we won't know who vote what! OK, having said that, could you check out July's vote? We are going to leave it for another few days before the next one shows up!

For those who enjoyed Patch Adams, watch The Awakening (Robin Williams) - you will be touched too! OK, if you want some fun, go see Finding Nemo without your kids!

Have another blessed month ahead!

GFI Singapore

LEARN AS ONE FACILITATES

God: Adam, it is not good for you to be alone. A perfect helper can be yours but it would cost you an arm and a leg.

Adam: What can I get for a rib?

(Folks, that's what we have today! Wives would say what a bargain! Husbands would realise the source of all issues!)

LEARNING THROUGH SERVICE

My husband and I have been running parenting cells since 2000. We started with having cell that meets at our home once a week, using Mr. Gary Ezzo's "Growing Kids God's Way" as the study material. As the class size grew, we switched to using commercial premises. We have run 9 cycles of the programme since. More than 100 couples have gone through various parenting programmes under us: from parents with infant to parents with teens. The best thing that came out of these classes is a team of core facilitators has joined us to run classes. These facilitators come together because we all share the same vision of reaching the nation, one family at a time.

The topic of parenting naturally opens up to talks of key live values and moral standards. These classes offer many opportunities for us to share about our own struggles and how, being Christians, we had prayed and God had come through for us. We have found that when we share with sincerity, the amount of trust that class participants have in us is quite overwhelming. Many felt safe enough to share very deep family issues with us. Their readiness to accept our advice and suggestions is most humbling. It awakens us to the need to pray and rely earnestly on God's wisdom. Most welcome our laying hands and praying for them, yes even the pre-believers.

Every week as we run the classes, we are reminded that we are in battle. Especially in the area of family ministry, the devil will fight very hard because he knows that when he loses, he loses big. The team's prayers become very focused and serious as they see the attacks that come every week prior to each class. However, God never allows any temptation that is too big for us and He always provides what we need to face it. At every battle, when we look to Him, He never fails to come through for us. And because of what we are experiencing, a passion like never before

has arisen within us for ministry. Each time when we see a family turn around, we know we can continue to run for God. Our husband & wife relationship strengthens as we work side-by-side. In the process we too become better partners and better parents.

Over the past two years, we have grown and matured in our understanding of family ministry and what it entails. Each facilitator has seen growth in our ourselves and our spouses as we learn to draw closer to God when in battle. This alone is worth all the effort. Now when we minister, each husband & wife team is working as one in the Lord.

With the launch of "Childwise", a secular parenting programme, into community many organisations are also inviting us to do similar classes for them. We need more couples who are willing to join us.

If you believe:

- a) a close personal relationship with God is what makes a strong marriage
- b) a strong marriage is what makes family strong
- c) a strong family is what makes a strong nation

Then come join us and experience the power of family touching family.

Andj and Dorcas

Indeed, the word is willingness, not ability! As we grow with the parents who are so willing to learn, our hearts go out to them. We sometimes want to do more but are limited by time and resources. Imagine this, when there are enough like-minded parents, around the neighbourhood may have dependable, like-minded parents whom you can leave your kids with occasionally or families you can interact with. Impossible? For us: maybe. For God: never.

Jeremy and Suan Ai