

The B.A.C. Page



November 2009

Blessing Our Grand's

By Ron and Sharon Govero

You may be as I was, a father who was not there for his child or children while they were growing up. Perhaps you were too busy at work or ignorant of the need or even you were denied the opportunity by someone else.

Whatever the reason or cause, now your child is an adult with children of their own. Now, years later you suddenly find yourself a grandparent. Wow! How wonderful is that? All through those years when I could not be a part of my daughter's life, I could do nothing. So I prayed. I prayed to God for her emotional health, her physical health, her education, her friends, her future husband; that God would keep her pure until that that man he was preparing for her came on the scene. Give me no credit. I was only doing what obedient Christians should do concerning their kids.

Now here we are, after 18 years of silence. Not knowing what God was doing, but trusting He would do what I could not and be where I could not be. Today, He is revealing what those years of living in obedience and faith have produced. My daughter is "born again". She attends a church that declares the truth of the Word of God. Her husband is the man I hoped she would have and I am a grandfather to a 3 year old little sweetheart.

I have made it! All is well! I can rest now! NOT HARDLY. I will continue to be the father who fears God and keeps His covenants and observe His instructions. God's Word says that if I will live this way His righteousness will be toward my grandchild (Psalm 103:17-18). What greater gift could I give her? Selah (think on these things)

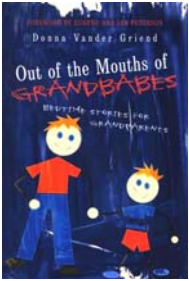
As parents, we struggle to give our children all they need and want. We do so much to please them; to give them a happy life so that they will be prosperous when they are grown and on their own in order that our grandchildren will have the blessings of God on their lives too. But in all of the business and struggles, are we giving them the correct things; the one thing that they truly, truly, need to have God's blessings of righteousness upon their life?

In all of the activities we do, are we keeping God's covenants? Do we really know what it is to fear the Lord? Are we learning His word? Are we keeping to His instructions? Because in order to have God's blessings of righteousness on our grandchildren, we have to do three vital things that we could miss if we're not careful. To fear the Lord, to keep His covenant and to observe His instructions.

The Lord promises in Psalm 103:17-18, "But from eternity to eternity the Lord's faithful love is toward those who fear Him and His righteousness toward the grandchildren of those who keep His covenant, who remember to observe His instructions." (Apologetics Study Bible).

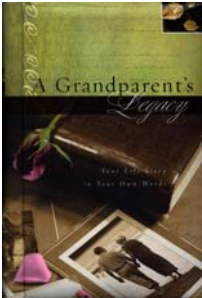
We are just starting out as grandparents, but these verses remind us both that our job is not over. That we cannot relax and enjoy the benefits God has given us. What we do today and into the future will depend on whether the Lords righteousness will be toward our grandchild. Are you blessing your grandchildren today? 📖

Resources For Grandparents



Out Of The Mouths Of Grandbabes: Bedtime Stories for Grandparents *by Donna Vander Griend/NAV Press.*

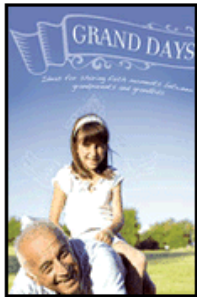
Jesus taught truths by telling stories, and we continue to learn those truths in surprising stories including those told by our grandchildren. Let your spirit be refreshed as these 40 delightful stories told by grandchildren help you to sense the wonder and awe of God and His creation as though you were a child again. Available at Christianbook.com



A Grandparent's Legacy: Your Life Story in Your Own Words

Countryman / 2006 / Hardcover

Organize your cherished family memories in this keepsake diary! Designed as a yearlong project, each month offers 12 intriguing questions with space to record personal answers. Topics explore family history, childhood recollections, cherished traditions, spiritual adventures, a lifetime of dreams, and more. 192 pages, 5.25" x 8.25" spiralbound padded hardcover. Available at Christianbook.com.




Grand Days: Ideas for Sharing Faith Moments Between Grandparents and Grandkids

Group Publishing / 2008 / Paperback

Grandparents want to share their life and faith with grandkids-and these fun activities help that happen in a natural way. Whether grandkids live across the country or down the hall, now grandparents will have an easier time having a lifelong impact.

Real grandparents contributed ideas to this book-ideas appropriate for grandparents of all sizes, shapes, ages, and abilities. That's because each activity draws participants closer to each other as they have fun, talk about life, and talk about God. Available at Christianbook.com


All of the above resources can be purchased online at www.christianbook.com 

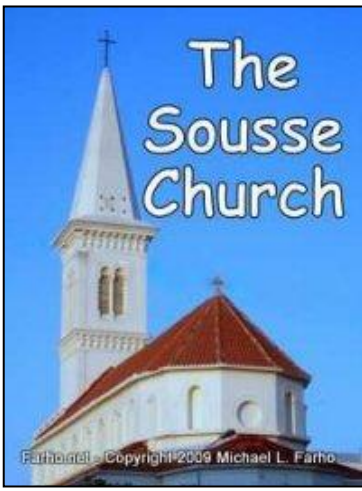
Grandparents

Few can bring the warmth
We can find in their embrace,
And little more is needed to bring love.
Than the smile on their face.

They've a supply of precious stories,
Yet they've time to wipe a tear,
Or give us reasons to make us laugh,
They grow more precious through the years.

I believe that God sent us Grandparents
As our legacy from above,
To share the moments of our life,
As extra measures of His love.

- By Unknown Author 



The Farho's In Sousse, Tunisia

09/29/2009 - Today, Joshua and I went on a field trip to the Good Shepherd Catacombs. From some time after 70 AD until 312 AD, it was the place of worship and graveyard for the Christians in Sousse. It is estimated that over 5,000 Christians are buried there. We're sure grateful those days are over. We are also grateful for the beautiful sanctuary where we worship each Sunday. You can see photos at our new website <http://SousseChurch.org> and at [Facebook](#) even if you aren't a member!

10/13/2009 - One of many high points last week was our meeting with the Mayor of Sousse. Can you imagine being the Mayor of a city that is more than 3,000 years old? It was exciting to listen to his stories, as he has served in every region of Tunisia, even as a governor of an important region. He shared with us the importance of Christian and Jewish people in Sousse over the centuries. He also explained the ethnic diversity of Tunisia.

History of Sousse

"In the 11th century B.C., the Phoenicians founded Hadrumetum. The city allied itself with Rome during the Punic Wars, thereby escaping damage or ruin and entered a relatively peaceful 700-year period under the Pax Romana. Livy tells us that Hadrumetum was the landing place of the Roman army under Scipio Africanus in the second Punic War. After the fall of Rome, the Vandals, and later the Byzantines, took over the town, renaming it, respectively, Hunerikopolis and Justinianopolis.

In the 7th century A.D. Arab-Islamic armies conquered what is now Tunisia and rapidly spread Arab culture across what had been a thoroughly Romanized and Christianized landscape. The Arabs seized the city, which in the aftermath of Rome's fall was but a remnant of its former self. They renamed the city Sûsa and within a few decades elevated it to the status of the main seaport of the Aghlabid Dynasty. When the Aghlabids invaded Sicily in 827, Sûsa was their main staging ground.

In the centuries that followed, as Europe gained technological ascendancy and began pushing back at Islam, Sûsa was briefly occupied by the Normans in the 12th century, was later more thoroughly occupied by the Spanish, and in the 18th century was the target of bombardments by the Venetians and the French. The French renamed the city Sousse (actually the city is still called "Sûsa" in Arabic, so no-one renamed it since the Arabs conquered this area: the French just adapted its name for their own language, and the British borrowed it from the French).

Despite the turmoil around it, Sousse's character had retained the solidly Arabian look and feel it had assumed in the centuries after Islam's wars of conquest. Today it is considered one of the best examples of seaward-facing fortifications built by the Arabs. Its ribat, a soaring structure that combined the purposes of a minaret and a watch tower, is in outstanding condition and draws visitors from around the world.

These days, Sousse, with a population of more than 540,000, retains a medieval heart of narrow, twisted streets, a kasbah and medina, its ribat fortress and long wall on the Mediterranean. Surrounding it is a modern city of long, straight roads and more widely spaced building." Wikipedia.org

Prayer Requests

Heavenly Father, we thank You for the martyrs who gave their lives for their faith in Jesus. Encourage us to love You more than our earthly lives.

Thank You Heavenly Father for this informative visit with the Mayor of Sousse. Give Mike an equally educational visit with the Governor of the Region of Sousse in the week ahead.

Grateful for your partnership in prayer,
Mike and Sue Farho

[The Sousse Church at Facebook](#) 

Padang Earthquake Report


October 13, 2009

The following report comes from a field worker on the ground in Indonesia. It was originally dated October 6, 2009.

Pariaman and Sicincin are two communities that were hit hard. Almost every house either heavily damaged or completely destroyed. The communities are primarily family based with about 30 heads of families in an area. No power or public water source. Well water is fine. While some wells sustained damage or were filled with falling debris, most are functioning.

Death count is still not dependable. Govt. is saying 550, however, two major landslides may have claimed hundreds of victims. Also victims from the Chinese community are being buried without any report to the government.

The government is saying that over 30,000 homes have heavy damage, most cannot be repaired. We have decided to purchase and put together tool packets so that people can salvage usable materials from their houses. Tool packet contents are as follows: hammer, shovel, saw, file to sharpen saw, hoe, mallet, 3 kilos assorted nails, crowbar, pliers and two pair gloves. Initial purchase is 50 packets which we'll distribute Tuesday afternoon. If this is received well by the community, we anticipate a purchase of 200 more tool packets.

We anticipate the arrival of a number of national workers that will help with cleaning of destruction debris and tool packet distribution. Adequate housing in the city of Padang has been secured. For the village area we've purchased tents and a small gen-set. 

Former Khmer Rouge Solider Is Sold Out for Jesus

October 15, 2009

Editor's Note: The following is an excerpt from the summer 2009 Alliance Asia Pacific Regional Update.

Earlier this year, the Khmer Evangelical Church (KEC), the C&MA national church in Cambodia, elected Pastor Sok Sophon to serve as its new president. He had been a Khmer Rouge soldier who fought against the Vietnamese after they invaded Cambodia in 1979. His wife, Maram, was nearly killed by a napalm bomb that was dropped on her family's home by the U.S. military in the early 1970s. She still has horrific scars on her back, arms, and hands. Eventually, she became a nurse. She met Sok Sophon in a hospital

during his recovery from a shrapnel wound through the neck that nearly killed him.

Captivated by Christ

Years later, in the early 1990s, Maram became very sick during her first pregnancy, and Sok Sophon brought her to a refugee camp in Thailand for treatment. While in the camp, Sok Sophon heard the gospel and quietly began to attend the camp church. He did this secretly, sitting in the back row and slipping out of the service as soon as it ended. At first he was skeptical, but the story of creation captivated him and eventually led him to Christ.

Soon after, he began to study TEE (Theological Education by Extension) in the refugee camp with Bounoeuy Kes, now an Alliance worker serving in Cambodia. Bounoeuy and others noted Sok Sophon's voracious appetite for God's Word. To this day, he has an amazing ability to memorize the Bible. There isn't yet a proper concordance in the Khmer language, but he is a walking concordance.

Maram also came to Christ during the time she and Sok Sophon were in the Thailand refugee camp. In 1993 they were repatriated back to Cambodia and went to live in Sophon's home village of Kuttessot. Joe Kong (the former director for Intercultural Ministries at the U.S. C&MA and now an Alliance missionary serving in Cambodia) and Bounoeuy met Sok Sophon there and asked him to consider moving from his home town to help start a church in the much larger provincial capital of Sisophon. He and Maram did so, and they have both been tireless workers for the gospel ever since.

Nothing Less for Jesus

Sok Sophon once said, "I used to walk days for the Khmer Rouge with no thought of food, water, or pay; how can I do anything less for Jesus?" The Lord has worked through him to start more than 15 churches in northwest Cambodia over the past 15 years. He has been one of the key leaders to implement TEE in northwest Cambodia and has personally taught more than 100 TEE students.

Over the years Sok Sophon has been involved in a number of special events and speaking engagements throughout Cambodia. As Pastor Sok Sophon leads the KEC, pray for him and Maram to maintain a close walk with God, to be filled with the Holy Spirit, and to experience health and safety in their many travels.

Learn More

Check out our Alliance work in [Cambodia](#).

What You Can Do

Help keep Alliance workers on the field. Donate now to [Alliance Great Commission Ministries](#). 