

Reflecting On My
Grandparenting Journey

By Lillian Penner

I was very excited to become a grandparent at the age of forty-four years of age. However, I learned that along with this gift came a sacred trust to imprint another generation with the message of God's faithfulness. Reflecting on my new responsibility, I realized my prayers were too general and vague and I became frustrated with how I was praying for my grandchildren.

After I asked God for wisdom and read several books about prayer, my praying changed dramatically. I discovered God's Word was a great resource to help me with my praying, not only for my family, but also for myself.

In Hebrews 4:12 we read, “The Word of God is full of living power.” When I pray according to God’s Word, I am in line with His will, enabling me to pray with direction, power, and wisdom.

As I started claiming God’s promises and personalizing the scriptures, I experienced more boldness and confidence in my praying. Nothing threatens the enemy (Satan) more than when we are intentionally praying God’s Word for our children, grandchildren, and ourselves. Many scriptures in Psalms, Proverbs, the Gospels and Paul’s writings can be used in our prayers.

I not only found myself in intimate communication with God, but my mind was being renewed to think His thoughts about the situation for which I am praying, instead of my own thoughts. Ultimately, God shrunk the situation that I thought was overwhelming and impossible into a viable possibility. He gave me peace as I waited for His answer. Surfing on the Internet looking for help in my praying, God directed me to the Christian Grandparenting Network. After sharing my passion with them, they invited me to become their National Prayer Coordinator, writing devotionals and prayer suggestions on their website.

Christian Grandparenting Network (CGN) is devoted to challenging Christian grandparents to live intentionally as representatives of Christ for their future generations. It is committed to providing a network of resources and opportunities for grandparents to have a powerful effect on their families.

We live in a time when the darkness of sin and unrighteousness ravages our land seeking to capture the minds and hearts of our youth and young families. The enemy is determined to steal their faith and the plans God has for them.

The enemy's attacks against our families and our nation's moral foundations are relentless. It is urgent that grandparents stand in the gap praying for the spiritual, emotional, and physical protection of these who are under attack.

SIGNIFICANT GRANDPARENTING

I found a letter in my family archives, written by my great-grandfather in Poland, addressed to my grandfather who had immigrated to America. In the letter, he wrote that he was praying for my grandfather, his children, and his future generations. It was a special blessing for me to see in writing that my great-grandfather prayed for me before I was born.

A few years ago on a sunny autumn day, my husband and I were traveling in the beautiful Rocky Mountains of Colorado. I was mesmerized by the reflections on a pristine lake of the rugged snow-covered mountains and golden aspen trees. I could not help but ask myself: Do my children and grandchildren see God's love reflected in my life? Do they see Jesus in me? Pondering the answer to this question led me to realize that the sun must shine on the water to create a reflection. In order for God's love to reflect from my life, the love of God's Son, Jesus Christ, must shine in my heart.

My great-grandfather's prayers had a ripple effect on my grandparents, my parents, my life, my children, my grandchildren, and now my great-grandchildren. If you did not have a Christian heritage, you have the privilege of starting the ripples in your family. God has given us the awesome opportunity to partner with Him on behalf of these dear ones as prayer warriors. As we get older and face physical limitations, we might feel less useful. Yet God has a purpose for us for these times — to be front-line prayer warriors for our grandchildren.

A note from my oldest granddaughter confirms that praying for my precious grandchildren is never a wasted effort. She writes: “Your phone calls, cards, and e-mails were encouraging and made a significant impact on my life, especially in my teenage and college years. Your prayers and encouragement have been rock-solid reminders of God’s truth in my incredible, crazy life-shaping years, and now in my married life. Your prayers help me surrender the craziness of my life to God.” Her words warmed my heart; I felt like she had given me a beautiful bouquet of roses making my efforts significant.

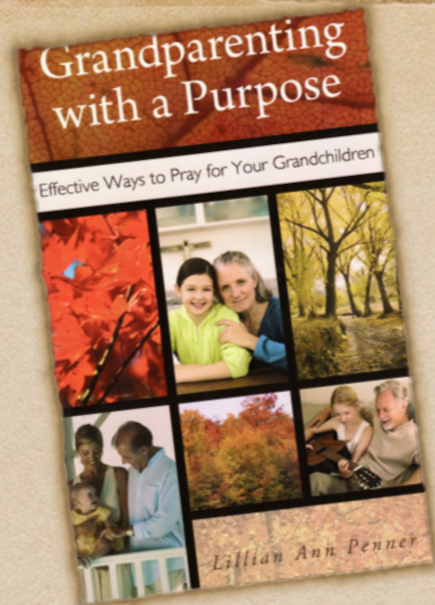
My husband and I thank God he has given us the opportunity to be prayer warriors for our nine grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. Serving Him in this way and leading the cause through CGN's prayer ministry has given my life fulfillment and significance.

May the light of the Son reflect in you, and may you know the delight of serving as God's prayer warrior for another generation. He has given you your specific children and grandchildren.

I want to share some available Grandparenting Resources

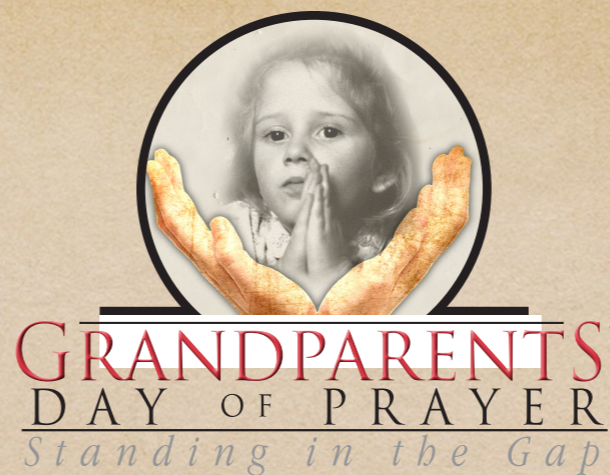
• **Prayer cards:**

- 31 Scriptures to Pray for your Grandchildren
- Suggestions to Pray for School Children-Preschool-College
- More Scriptures to Pray for your Grandchildren



- **Book:** *Grandparenting with a Purpose: Effective Ways to Pray for your Grandchildren* by Lillian Penner, National Pray Coordinator for Christian Grandparenting Network. The book challenges grandparents to stand in the gap for their grandchildren by living a godly example and being their prayer warrior. It provides creative suggestions for prayers based on Scriptures, and other helpful tools. It is available at www.grandparentingwithapurpose.com.

- **Book:** *Courageous Grandparenting: Unshakeable faith in a broken world*, is written by Cavin Harper, Founder and Executive Director of Christian Grandparenting Network. The book is a call for grandparents to *rise above the conventional view of grandparenting* to embrace a radically courageous life that stands apart from the politically correct crowd. It's a call to intentionality — not settling for simply being good and grandparents. He appeals to the emerging masses of Boomer grandparents to choose to stand in the gap and live as conduits of grace and truth for the next generations. The book is available at www.christiangrandparenting.net.



- CGN proclaimed a Grandparents Day of Prayer, coinciding with **National Grandparents Day** designated by a Senate proclamation in 1978. It is a way of engaging grandparents to unite in an intentional day of prayer for their grandchildren. Many participants reported how they were blessed as they united in prayer with other grandparents in a common cause. The seventh Grandparents Day of Prayer will be **Sunday, September 10, 2017.**



- Just as Esther stood in the gap for her people, the Jews, when they were threatened physically, likewise today grandparents can stand in the gap with prayer for their grandchildren.

Grandparents@Prayer (G@P) calls grandparents around the world to intentionally and regularly meet together to pray for their grandchildren, their parents and communities. Join one of the G@P groups are meeting in many areas of the U. S. and around the world praying together for their grandchildren.

Please check out my website at www.gdptpr.com
or the CGN website www.christiangrandparenting.net
for more information.

Contact me at info@grandparentingwithapurpose.com for more
information about the Prayer cards, Grandparents Day of Prayer or
Grandparents @ Prayer.

Lillian is an author, speaker, and National Prayer Coordinator for the Christian Grandparenting Network. She has been active in church ministry for more than fifty years, Currently Lillian and her husband, John, reside of Portland, Oregon. They have three sons, nine grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren.

