



Quarterly Newsletter

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INTERACTION WITH OUR GRANDCHILDREN

SEE

Having reached the age of 66 this year (2026), I am now fully aware that the imagination and creativity of our youth days are still needed now as I spend time with my grandson.

Jonas, my grandson, who is going to be 3 years old in this year (2026), is rather a playful boy. One can say this is common for children of his age. They are exploring the world and looking for things to play with or experiment in their own way. He is attending Nursery now from Monday to Friday and has a Mandarin class once a week.

He comes over to my house on Sundays. He keeps me and my wife busy on Sundays. We love to have him on these precious days and he always reminds us that Life is still fun.

In my house, I have a statute of a dog. It was actually a present given to me during my earlier marriage days. I also have a torchlight on my bed to check on the time when my bedroom is dark. So here comes Jonas, pretending to be doctor, and asks for my torchlight. When I hand over the torchlight to him, he will go the statute and methodically examine the eyes, ears, mouth, paws and tail of the dog. His parents have obviously brought him to see doctors when he is not well and so this is a caricature.

He loves buses, yes, the public buses. He calls them "purple bus" and "green bus". He identifies them by the colours and lately by the numbers. We, adults, identifies mostly by numbers. And so sometimes we take him for short rides on Sundays afternoons, putting

ourselves in his shoes and enjoying the rides. Jonas always looks out for the “uncle” who drives the bus.

I come to know that it is important to enter into these children’s world to understand them better and to manage our expectations. My children and my grandchildren are different in many ways. My grandchildren will be brought up by their own parents. But clearly the role of grandparents is important and will have an influence on their grandchildren. If we, grandparents, could not be WITH them when they are beside us, we have lost our roles. To be WITH them, is to understand and be playful like them while teaching them the boundaries of the game.

JUDGE

1. In 1 Chronicles 17 verse 3, Our Lord promises David that David will have a son whose Kingdom will be strong. In our lives too, God endows us with grandchildren who grow up strong. Where is our gratitude to God? It is in laboring to assist our children to bring up our grandchildren well. Looking at ourselves, how far have we achieved our grandpa/grandma duties?
2. When we help to look after our grandchildren, do we turn to Jesus to ask for his guidance? If not, why? What does the Bible say on this aspect?
3. How do we create conditions in our homes for a loving extended family?

ACT

1. How can I strive to be a loving grandparent?
2. How our parish and community help?
3. Are CFMS values supportive of the roles of grandparents?

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