



Chapter Twelve

# THE FAMILY GROWS

*Proverbs 22:6*

Train a child in the way he should go and when he is old he will not turn from it.

IMPORTANCE OF FAMILY

Throughout the Old and New Testament, the value of family is stressed repeatedly. As the Scriptures unfold, the word, “children”, appears not only to describe young people, but adults as well; meaning both you and me. From the beginning, we are called, “Children of God”. As our Heavenly Father, He never takes His eyes off our being; which means He never leaves or forsakes us; day or night. Furthermore, He is slow to anger, patient and forgiving, no matter how undeserving we are of this kind of unfathomable love. However, even though He is patient beyond our imagination, His love is so great, when necessary; His children will feel discipline coming from His mighty hand; not from a position of anger but out of His desire for us to regain balance in our lives. This fact is substantiated in Lamentations 3: 22 where it is written, “Because of the Lord’s great love we are not consumed, for His compassions never fail.”

Furthermore, family was so important to Jesus, that just prior to taking His last breath on the cross, He asked John His disciple and close friend to take care of His mother. This very act from our Savior serves as the example for all mankind to follow. In fact, the purpose for Christ’s death on the cross was to redeem His children from sin with the offer for each individual to believe in Him and become a member of the family of God forever.

From the beginning, God in all His wisdom realized the value of family to each and every person. Although society has never possessed the wisdom to develop the perfect formula for being a successful parent, it has been available for one and all who are willing to open the pages of His Word; the Holy Bible.

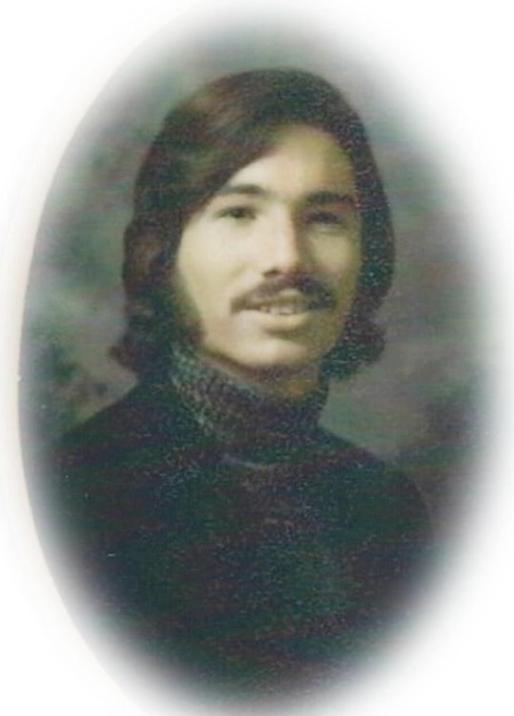
In today's society where the importance of the family unit has been diminished and replaced by self gratification, many children have no role model for developing the much needed parenting skills they will need later on. Instead, they spend not only childhood, but their entire lives hungrily searching for mom and dad; replacing the basic need with people or activities found within the darker side of life.

Consequently, unless individuals in society show compassion to these less fortunate young people by helping them find a new family, they will never walk down the path of peace or hope for a better tomorrow. The cycle of abuse in which they are caught as a victim will continue to repeat itself from generation to generation.

### **COMING TOGETHER**

As Dick Du Puis' family began the arduous task of blending the array of colorful personalities into one harmonious unit, each day presented its own challenges. Not only was dad now totally in charge, supported by a competent and colorful Nanny, but the blending into the mix of each child's personality had to smoothly occur.

In order for you, the reader, to understand the complexity of the situation and also as a way to proudly introduce his children to you, Dick lovingly described each of his five children with the following words below:



***SERIOUS, ORGANIZER, DELEGATED RESPONSIBILITY,  
LEARNED TO SHARE WITH OTHERS***

**RICK**



*(NICK NAMED NINI)*

*ORGANIZER, GO TO GIRL, ENJOYED  
CONTROL , MOTHER HEN, COULD PLAN  
AN ENTIRE PARTY FOR SELF AND  
OTHERS*

**DANEEN**



*LOVING, GIVING, UNSELFISH, CURIOUS, LOUD,  
MISCHIEF MAKER, EXPRESSED EMOTIONS  
EASILY, LARGER THAN LIFE PERSONALITY*

**NEAL**



*SHY, DADDY'S HELPER, SWEET, DOCILE,  
HAD TO LEARN TO SMILE ONCE AGAIN,  
WOULD INFORM ON HER SIBLINGS*

**JODI**



*SHY, AVOIDED PROBLEMS, PERFECTIONIST,  
QUIET, WONDERFUL BABY,  
HAPPY ALL THE TIME*

**BROCK**

## A BUSY DAD

When school began that fall, the children soon adjusted and had an array of friends. They were involved in various activities which required dad's total participation. Out of dedication to his role as a parent, Dick always made sure his busy career as a fashion designer never overshadowed his responsibilities as a dad. No matter the situation, his children came first! Thus, many times the school activities were attended by the mothers of the children along with Dick as the only male. He also made sure he was at every conference to hear firsthand about the progress of each child. Today, he will tell you with laughter that his son, Neal, required dad's presence at school more than any of the other children. He truly was the mischief maker!

One evening, when Dick was busily entertaining fourteen guests at his dinner table, his daughter Jodi approached her dad informing him that her dance teacher desired to speak with him by phone, immediately. Hurrying to the phone, Dick found himself accepting her request that he host a party to occur the following evening for Jodi's entire dance class; a total of 60 people. Reacting quickly, he pulled together cupcakes punch and festive decorations in time to greet the noisy group at his front door. Then, at the conclusion of the party, Dick found he was shocked and honored to hear the dance teacher inform him that the girls' parents had unanimously voted him as FATHER OF THE YEAR for his tireless dedication to the program. He not only attended all recitals, but made by hand, all the costumes the children would wear. Today, that FATHER OF THE YEAR TROPHY, is prominently displayed on his dresser; a symbol that this father of five had his priorities in order.

## COMPASSION EMERGES

Just four short months after the children had begun school, the already busy home became a hub of activity because of all the friends the children had acquired. Thus, it was only natural that Daneen (Nini), Dick's second oldest child, invite her friend, Mandy, for a weekend sleepover. This invitation would be the first sign that the compassion dad had always demonstrated to others had made an entrance into the hearts of his children, as well.

Therefore, as the weekend came to a close, an observant Dick noticed Mandy's appreciation of being included with family as standing out more than anything he had ever witnessed. Then, in just a few short weeks, an astute Dick concluded that this sweet beautiful girl should be invited to join his family forever as his daughter. Observing her behavior from a father's perspective caused him to conclude simply, "I NEEDED HER AND SHE NEEDED ME." Consequently, from that point forward, Mandy became as much a daughter to him as his own girls, Daneen and Jodi.

Even today, the bond between Dick and Mandy remains strong and freshly alive. Still holding the hand of Dick Du Puis, her dad, she will tell you from a platform of love that she walks down the path of peace because “SHE NEEDED HIM AS MUCH AS HE NEEDED HER.”



**SENSITIVE, CARING, HIGH EXPECTATIONS, AMBITIOUS**

**MANDY**

Then, in just another short period of time, Jodi, still Dick’s youngest daughter, followed suit and brought her friend Judy home for a sleep over which had an identical ending to Mandy’s situation. Therefore, Judy became daughter number four in Dick’s household because, once again, “HE NEEDED HER AS MUCH AS SHE NEEDED HIM.”



**SHY, STANDOFFISH, FOLLOWER, HUNGRY FOR ATTENTION**

**JUDY**

Following Judy's arrival, Dick's youngest son Brock became friends with Shawn, a young man who also ended up joining Dick's family unit, bringing the number of boys to four. The Du Puis family now totaling eight children that were labeled by many as a miracle had been born simply because they all needed one another.



HAPPY, EAGER TO PLEASE, INQUISITIVE

**SHAWN**

At this point, every bedroom was occupied with active, growing children. Dick's home in Pasadena was now bulging at the seams with children who willingly shared all the blessings in their lives with one another. As this scene unfolded, it was obvious to all that the acquisition of rare and beautiful treasures in the Du Puis household were not material things of this world, but children of God.

#### WORK AND PLAY

The following poem called "My Day" written by Helen Lowrie Marshall from her book called A GIFT SO RARE, best describes the climate Dick, Nanny and the eight children enjoyed together as a family.

#### My Day

This be my day----  
Some honest work,  
A bit of play----  
To laugh and love,  
And live and pray  
With God beside me  
All the way----  
This be my day.

The historic house in Pasadena that had been damaged so badly by the earthquake; the place where the children spent their first night together, soon became beautiful both inside and out. As the children and Dick toiled together, they were taught the importance of working as a family unit for the good of all concerned. Although they tease Dick today about being treated like slaves, they soon learned the importance of working hard and achieving their own goals in life.

Therefore, the once plain outside grounds became what Dick described as a happy welcoming garden for both family and friends. Spectacular flowers brightly bloomed, creating an enormous pallet of color and fragrance, while birds sang their notes of appreciation from the tree tops. Even Nanny took part in the pleasure of gardening by transporting her favorite plant on one of her flights from Gueydan to Pasadena. After the plant matured enough to produce pear-like fruit, Nanny would make a big production by walking out to the bush and counting the harvest for all to hear. They would hear her joyfully keep track by saying ONE...TWO...THREE...FOUR...! Then, when she reached NINETY-SIX, her voice seemed to almost tremble at the thought of reaching ONE HUNDRED! Unfortunately, Nanny being Nanny, when the one hundredth fruit never appeared, declared the situation a complete and utter failure. However, the rest of the family members were totally astounded by the marvelous yield.



**(NANNY'S MAGICAL PLANT)**

## HOLIDAYS

Since the table in the dining room accommodated sixteen people, it became the center for not only entertaining guests, but for family holiday meals as well. Dick, a master chef, would work for days creating delicious recipes and table centerpieces that would always receive raving reviews. Then, as each child celebrated a birthday, their dad would prepare a meal to be served just like the ones he concocted for special guests. It was a big deal to celebrate a birthday identical to adult parties.

One special holiday occurred at Easter with not only a meal at the beautiful dining room table, but an Easter egg hunt, as well. Each child was given an empty basket with his own color of ribbon attached to the handle. The ribbon then wound its way all over the house which each child was told to follow in order to fill the basket with treats. As each child followed his own colored trail, squeals of laughter would fill the house. There would be no fighting or competition among the eight children because each child had his own colored ribbon to follow. In addition, that hands-on dad designed and sewed outfits for the whole family. They truly were a sight to behold in all their finery at Easter time.

## IRON EYES CODY

The actor, Iron Eyes Cody, referred to by some as the “crying Indian”, was a friend of Dick’s mother’s side of the family. Since he was originally from Kaplan, Louisiana, Dick’s relatives knew him as Espera DeCorti; of Italian descent and not Indian. However, although Iron Eyes was not born an Indian, he lived his adult years as one married to an Indian woman (Bertha Parker) and adopted two Indian boys Robert and Arthur. Even so, the public remembers him in commercials with a tear, (actually made from glycerin) that rolled down his cheek as a way of bringing attention to destruction of nature from pollution.

Since Dick was well acquainted with him, he thought the children would get a kick out of meeting him in person. Therefore, Dick secretly invited him for an outdoor celebration with the family as a special surprise.

Thus, dressed casually in jeans, he arrived with his long hair that resulted in giving him his much recognized Indian appearance. Then, Neal being the first child to arrive, walked across the backyard, shocking his dad by totally ignoring Iron Eyes. Obviously unimpressed, he simply walked to the wading pool, filled his hat with water and poured it over his head as he sauntered away.

However, it was a different story when Jodi, the youngest daughter, arrived. She stopped dead in her tracks like a statue, with her eyes fixed on Iron Eyes as if locked in place. Her penetrating eyes pierced his face until Dick excused her to go and play. Then, in ten minutes,

she returned with two friends who also joined her in the act of rudely staring at Iron Eyes. Finally, hearing her dad curtly call her name so she would cease the behavior, she said, “Can I introduce him to my friends?”

Entering into the conversation, Iron Eyes gently stated, “Oh, my dear! I would love to meet your friends!” Then, without hesitation, Jodi sweetly made the first introduction by saying, “SUSIE, THIS IS JESUS! MARY, THIS IS JESUS!” Not wanting to hurt their feelings, Iron Eyes gently told them how glad he was to make their acquaintance.



**(IRON EYES CODY)**

## ESPECIALLY FOR DAD

As the seasons passed, the eight children and dad shared numerous poignant moments, ripe with such love that they would forever act as a priceless fulfillment for the soul; a golden wealth of joy to cherish. Mistakes would be recalled as lessons learned, tears as sparkling diamonds of wisdom and a love so deep that its seeds of compassion would be sown throughout the cycles of time.

Then in a time of reflection, as a dad who left no stone unturned when it came to his eight children, would still have times when he second guessed himself or wondered if he had done enough. In his memory, it seemed only yesterday that they had begun their journey together as a frightened family in need of a steady hand. Yet, when he closed his eyes, the vision of each child's departure was as clear and bittersweet now as it was then. So many thoughts! So many questions unanswered!

However, sometimes a thing of awesome beauty arrives, unexpectedly, causing pent-up emotions to pour forth from the deepest shelf of the heart. That is what happened to Dick Du Puis upon receiving a poem his daughter Jodie had composed for him on Father's Day. The heart wrenching words written so tenderly by his once shy little girl, now all grown up, served as a benediction for his life, making him realize he had been given the honor and privilege of walking among those truly blest.





To My Daddy  
by Jodi

Little Girl on Daddies lap  
Up she looks and smiles  
" More Daddy more" she says  
When he makes her laugh  
Not caring about lifes trials  
Cleopatra tickle time  
Daddies hands show grace  
Only thing on his mind  
To see her smiling face  
Little girls learning life  
Missing Daddy  
Starts new life  
Must grow up  
Moms in need  
Girl to help her dress and feed  
Always knowing  
Never Doubt  
Daddies love  
Want be without  
Little girl turning nine  
Mamas gone will be just fine  
Go to live a life thats new  
Being taught Dads ways will do  
Lost the smile  
I used to have  
Pictures showed my sadness  
Never notice Daddy try  
Though all daily madness  
Tried so hard and did succeed  
Roofed my head  
Taught me to heed  
Cook and plant  
Paper and sew

Taught me everything I know  
"Walk like this "  
" Tummy in "  
" Get good grades"  
"Go Jodi you'll win "  
Now a woman  
Definately so  
Often wandered  
How'd I know  
Example died  
Who to follow  
Truth is easy  
Not hard to swallow  
Woman come from man  
Taught by Daddy  
That I am  
Ever grateful  
Always Thank  
Your Dad each day  
For love guidance talent  
This I can't repay  
Repay I'll try  
As you grow old  
Keep you warm when you are cold  
Feed you bath you  
Cleopatra Tickle  
Smile and pet you when your  
Fickle  
Surround you with the things  
You love, Kittens, Puppies  
Turtle Doves  
Circle of Life, circle of love  
Soon to be my turn  
Dad you are my first love  
In my heart forever burn



# FATHER OF THE YEAR TROPHY

# THE FAMILY



## STEPPING STONES



# GROWING



## BIRTHDAYS



# GROWING



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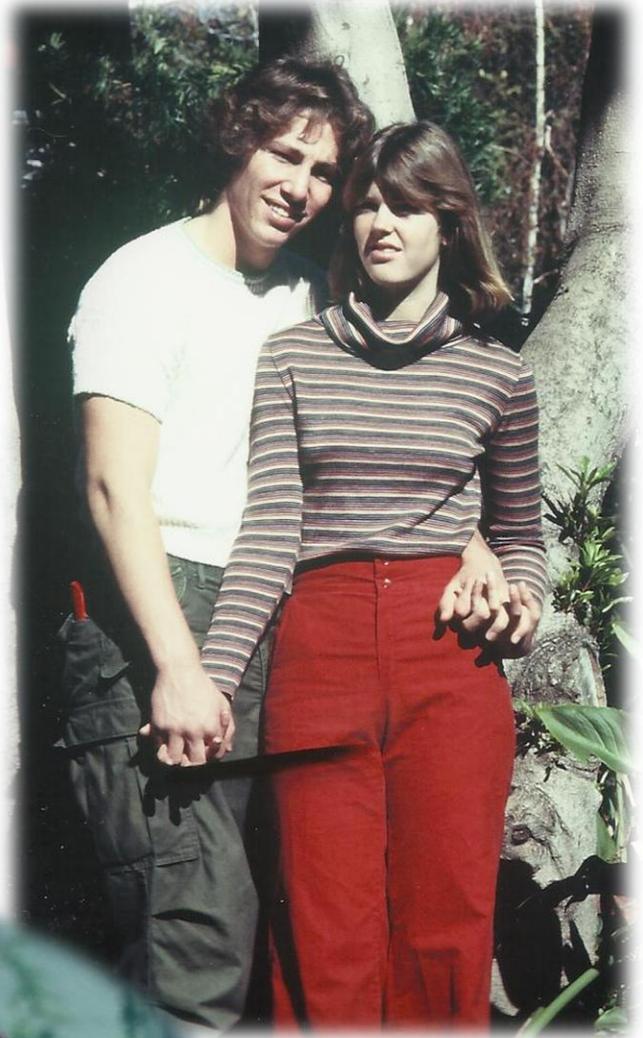
# SPROUTING WINGS



TIME FLIES



# DAD'S RULES



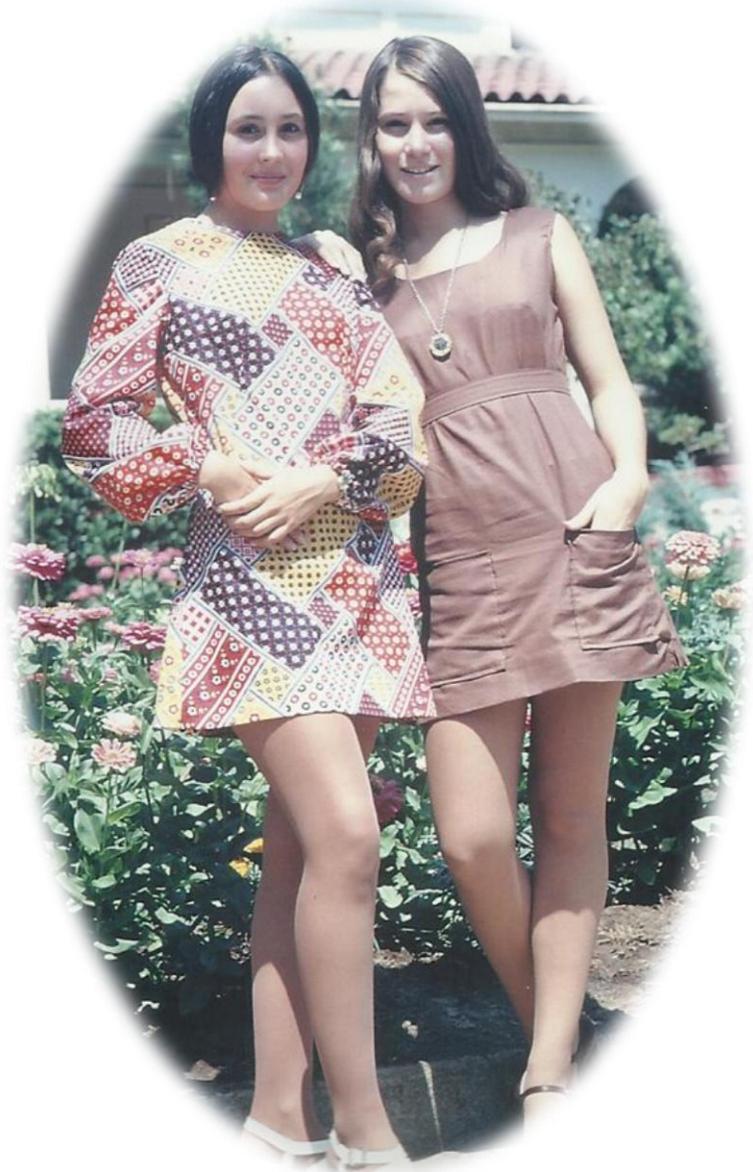
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# GROWN

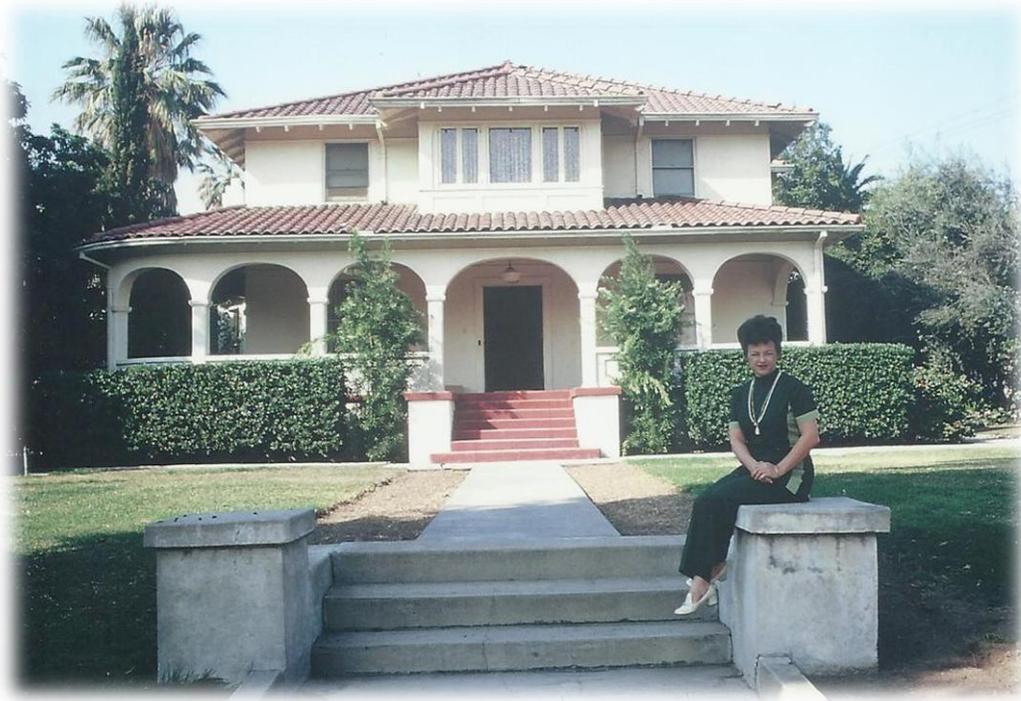


# GIRL TALK



# PROMS

# BEFORE



# AFTER



# FRONT PORCH



# LANDSCAPING



# THE KITCHEN



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