

PARENTING ON PURPOSE

By Bette Moore

March 1998

Tanner Timothy. Eight months ago I had never heard that name. He was simply, “Monica’s pregnant.” Now he’s “Tan the Man” . . . a real person . . . God’s gift to the world, entrusted to us, his family, to help him discover his purpose on this earth.

And he made my little brother a grandpa!

When I heard Monica talking to Tanner about “Grandma,” I thought she was talking about *my* mom. When I realized she was referring to Ginger, my sister-in-law, my whole universe shifted. I am now in the “grandparent generation” and “Little Timmy” is the dad!

Tanner is the first child of a new generation in a very large family.¹ My grandfather, William Norman Moore, was one of six children. He was born after his parents, Caleb and Mary, moved to Pasadena, California and started their family. Caleb was the tenth child of Walker and Anna Moore, a Pennsylvania Quaker family of eleven. Caleb’s father, Walker Moore, was the grandson of Andrew Moore who left Ireland and landed at New Castle, Delaware on Aug. 3, 1723. Andrew’s grandfather, John Moore was born in Glasgow, Scotland, in 1648. Records have it that he was a “Non-Conformist” who immigrated to Ireland after the Battle of Boyne in 1690.

Quakers did not register family information with government agencies until the late 19th century so the records are a bit confusing. We do know, however, that Caleb married Mary Harvey in February 1886 after moving to Galena, Kansas. No one seems to be quite sure about why Caleb left Pennsylvania, but from what I’ve been able to gather, he was an adventurer – or perhaps a bit of a rebel?² (One of Mary Harvey’s cousins was Paul Harvey’s father . . . so maybe he could help us figure out “*the rest of the story.*”)

William and Loretta Moore, my grandparents, had eight children - six daughters and two sons. Since my uncle Earl was killed in active duty in 1944, my father, Oscar, was the only surviving son. The Moore family name was in serious jeopardy when I was born, a girl, in 1946. However, my little brother, Richard Earl, was born three years later and the name lived on.

¹ My uncle Ernie Boehr has done extensive research on our family dating back to 1649. Ernie is my dad’s brother-in-law, his sister Barbara’s husband. See attached notes on the Paternal Ancestors of W. Norman Moore – Ernest J. Boehr 2007

² On June 29, 2009 my dad’s older sister Dorothy told me that Caleb left his family in Pennsylvania to bring the family grocery business to the west. She mentioned he may have been a bit of a “black sheep” . . . which is interesting since his early ancestor John was called a “Non-Conformist.”

My brother and his wife, Ginger, had three sons, so once again, the Moore family name was safe and well. Tim, their oldest son, married Monica in 1995 and presented a very large family with its first namesake, Tanner Timothy, born Sept. 17, 1997.

Even if he were not the single namesake, it would be impossible for me not to consider the implications of being the first born in a brand new generation. How do we, his family, handle this gift? How do we prepare Tanner for a world which, according to Kahlil Gibran, “we cannot visit, not even in our dreams”?

This weekend I think I learned something about the answer to that question from Tanner’s parents, Tim and Monica. In the past, when overwhelmed with the demands of parenting, many people would throw up their hands and say, “Well, they don’t come with instruction books!” Monica and Tim, however, don’t believe that. They know that our society *has* learned something about how to parent and have intentionally devoted themselves to becoming the best parents they can be. Children *do* come with instruction books now . . . and if parents will take the time, much can be done to avoid the problems our society is now confronting after we “Baby Boomers” took our turn at parenting.

Intentional parenting. I like the sound of that. **“Parenting on Purpose.”**

Monica and Tim have committed themselves to giving Tanner what he will need as an adult in the next century. They are *parenting on purpose*. They admit that they don’t know it all. They listen, they consider, they read, they reflect, and they have enrolled in a new parent class that demands a long-term commitment of both time and energy.

They believe Tanner is worth it, and he is.³

³ Update - June 2016: Tanner is graduating from Oakmont High School in Roseville, CA and has been accepted at Cal Tech in Pasadena. His younger brother Casey is beginning his senior year at Oakmont. Their dad, Tim is the head football coach at the same school. Tim’s younger brother Greg now has two children Cooper and Alice. Once again there are three Moore boys to carry the family name: Tanner, Casey, and Cooper.