



Good Sense is a Good Idea

Truth is good. Doing the right thing is good. Especially, well, especially always. But most especially when children are involved.

Did you catch the article in the *Journal & Courier* earlier this month about lying to our children? It's really not a good idea, the article said. The author of *Pinocchio Parenting: 21 Outrageous Lies We Tell Our Kids*, Chuck Borsellino, says even well-intentioned lies are not good. "If we justify white lies, soon we become colorblind and then we start to change where the standard is. Our kids watch us move the bar up and down." A lie is a lie, and when kids realize we're lying to them, that gives the signal that they can lie to others. Uh, did anybody really need to write a book to tell us that? One would assume there are some things parents should be able to figure out for themselves.

But, maybe that's asking too much. Nominated for the all-time award for the dumbest things parents ever did was a sequence on a *Phil Donahue* talk show in 1991. The guests were mothers talking about their children's sex lives. So how did they know about their children's sex lives? These mothers were allowing their children to engage in sexual activity right in their homes. Wrote Chuck Colson in his first "BreakPoint" radio commentary on September 2, 1991, "These families had told their kids that sex was not something done in the back seat of cars. It was safer and cleaner in one's own bedroom. One family even came up with a special code: When the daughter stuck a piece of green tape to the bedroom door, that was the signal for 'Keep Out-Intercourse in Progress.'" But the most amazing part of the program is that the audience was sympathetic with these moms, and not a single person stood up to say, "This is insane, immoral, and I'm leaving to go clear my head at Starbucks!"

Biblical morality and good sense are twins. When one leaves the room, the other is never far behind. G. Crowe

***Our vision:
Knowing Christ, Making Christ Known***

Looks Like Reign

As American citizens, it is difficult for us to embrace the idea of someone reigning over us. As Americans we tend to embrace the idea of rights (i.e., the right to be free; the right to teach our children as we see fit; the right to do as we please on the weekends; the right to believe what we want about spiritual things). Certainly there are those who would point out that we have a government and a president that tell us the limits of what we can or cannot do. However, the masses overwhelmingly agree that those in Washington actually work for us, not the other way around. We are the bosses.

That is why the declaration of Paul, as he draws upon an early Christian hymn in *Philippians 2:5-11*, is still rich with correction for the American church. Jesus as Lord?? To think that at his name every knee will bow and every tongue will confess this truth is very offensive to those who see no reason to bow to anyone.

Lordship, though, is precisely what we are called to embrace. As Americans we have to be more intentional than others because we are not used to being reigned over. Imagine the church when all those who profess to be believers in Christ also begin to function under his lordship and allow his rule to be the final authority in their lives. Now that is a church I can serve in....a church like that does not question (like James and John) who is the greatest, but simply serves the Greatest side by side. ~Dan



"A King Is Coming to Town"

2006 Children's Christmas Musical

The 1st through 8th graders will practice **this Wednesday, November 29** from **6:30 until 8:00 PM**. **This coming Sunday**, practice will be from **3:30 until 5:30 PM**. The four-year-olds through kindergarten practice during class time on Wednesday nights and Sunday mornings.

What's Ahead...

Sunday schedules at Elmwood often change around the holidays. To answer the questions before you think about asking them-

1. On Sunday morning, **December 24**, during the Bible class hour we will have a brunch in A-2 in place of our regular Bible classes.
2. On Sunday evening, **December 24**, we will have an evening worship time at **4:00 PM**. This will allow families to return home to participate in their regular Christmas Eve traditions.
3. On Sunday, **December 31**, our schedule will return to normal, with services at 8:00 and 10:45, Bible classes at 9:30, and evening worship at 6:00 PM.

Christmas Card Fund



In lieu of sending cards, once again we are offering all who wish to contribute to the Christmas Card Fund, to do so now. You may hand your check to one of the elders or ministers, or drop it into the mail and send it to the church. If you give cash, be sure to attach your name on a piece of paper. In the December 19 newsletter we will include a list of all who have contributed to this fund and who thus send their greetings to member of the congregation. This year you have 2 options: your donations can go towards the CSC building fund or the mission work in Fiji for Mike & Timbra Wiist (where the Boyds, Middletons & Alison Ruhl participated in Let's Start Talking last summer).

New Class for 20's/30's women

On Wednesday evenings at 7:00 Yssa DeWoody will begin a new topic for the young(er) women's class. Titled **"Managing Your Moods,"** it promises to explore scripture for answers to these challenges for all women.

A New Day at the CSC

The Christian Student Center building project needs everyone's help to raise funds! Right now, there are three ways you can help: 1) PRAY! 2) volunteer to help with fundraising 3) provide current names and addresses of people who have been part of the CSC for the past 35 years. Please e-mail names and addresses to boyd@purdue.edu OR put hard copies in Josh Boyd's mailbox in the library.



Our sincere sympathies to **Mike Gaylor** whose father, **Donald Gaylor**, died Sunday evening. He was 77 years old. His family will receive friends one hour prior to his funeral on Wednesday, from 12 noon until 1:00.

Christmas Community Needs

The Mental Health Association of Tippecanoe County sent this request list for their Holiday Gift Lift for 2006:

Sweat shirts and sweat pants (up to size 3xl); heavy pajamas & gowns (larger sizes); sweaters or cardigans; long sleeve shirts; flannel shirts (men and women); heavy socks; gloves; hats & scarves; and personal hygiene items. They will accept monetary donations as well. The list of families includes over 200 names. There is a box in the Farris foyer for your items. Questions? Call MHA at 742-1800.

November 19, 2006

Class: 163 Worship: 267

Contribution: \$6,142

Budget: \$8,550

The total amount donated to the Shults-Lewis Milk Fund was \$9,540!



Thanks to all who contributed.

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You're a mess...I am too!

"You are a mess!" Did you ever hear those words from your mom? I have heard them said to other children... even my own, but not so much me. I know I was a weird kid. I have always been very self-conscious of body odor and general appearance. No, I didn't like playing in the mud and stuff like that - I said I was a weird kid. When I got messy, I wanted to clean up and change clothes, quickly. Truth is I have played a lot more messy games, etc., since I became a youth minister; it goes with the territory. At any rate, children as a general rule are messy and God's kids are no exception.

In his book **Messy Spirituality**, Michael Yaconelli says: *"Spirituality is not a formula; it is not a test. It is a relationship. Spirituality is not about competency; it is about intimacy. Spirituality is not about perfection; it is about connection. The way of the spiritual life begins where we are now in the mess of our lives. Accepting the reality of our broken, flawed lives is the beginning of spirituality not because the spiritual life will remove our flaws but because we let go of seeking perfection and, instead, seek God, the one who is present in the tangledness of our lives. Spirituality is not about being fixed; it is about God's being present in the mess of our unfixeness."*

Don't misunderstand, Yaconelli is not saying that God does not or cannot change us...He does. What he is saying is that God chooses to use us right where we are. There is not some magic waiting period or some level of competency that we must attain in order for us to be used. God chooses to use us in His army as soon as we enlist. Knowing where you and I were when we "signed up" is a little scary...at least it is for me. Someone might ask, "What would that look like if God put my life to work in His service immediately?" The answer, MESSY! Yaconelli goes on to support his premise by looking at the people He has used. You will remember the names, Abraham, David, Moses, Rahab, Noah, Jonah, Mary Magdalene and the list goes on. The cool part is that as the list goes on, your name and mine gets listed as well. We are all imperfect, messy people being called to service by a perfect God. What an honor it is to serve Him. What a relief it is to know that the cleaning up and smoothing out process is not our job...it is His. If God needs me to be more perfect, He will work on that as long as I am seeking and serving Him. What are we waiting for? We are already messy, let's get to work and encounter other people who haven't yet learned that God wants them now, not when they are "more presentable." God's still working on me. In the meantime, I'm a mess!

- Lee



Kaden Koebcke is now off oxygen!! Praise God for answered prayers!...**Delores Hill** fell last week and broke her foot in two places and sprained her wrist....Continue praying for **Jim Willison, Willard Farmer, Sue Durham, Annie Crowder, Ella McBride, Linda Smith, Steven Rutledge, Marcia Swails, Gail Monnet, Mark Eddy, Amy Weismiller, Lynn Robinson, Delpha Allen, Anna Dale, Minnie Scott** (Elaine House Nursing Home, Crawfordville), **Carrie High** (Regency Place), **Irene Fox** (George Davis Manor Nursing Home), and in Rosewalk Village: **Ruth Marks, & Burnell Gulden.**

Serving in Iraq: **Jon Kiefner** (home on a short leave); **Loren Sniffen** is now home! Praise God! Serving in South Korea: **Amanda Martin..Jeremy Crable** will soon be deployed to Afghanistan, and **Brian Guthrie** will be going to Iraq in January.

Snow Servants



Elmwood is in need of some volunteers for light snow removal this winter. You may be asked to assist a senior servant or someone just home from the hospital. All you need is a snow shovel, a loving spirit, and some time to volunteer. Sign up on the back of your yellow attendance card this Sunday with a telephone number where you can be reached.



Nov. 29, 6:30 PM...1st-8th graders practice

Nov. 29, 7 PM...Bible Classes for all

Dec. 3, 3:30-5:30 PM...Children's Musical practice

Dec. 3, 6 PM...LIFE Groups meet, last time until January

Read:
Zechariah 11-14; Malachi 1-4;
Psalms 132-137; Rev. 1-6

2006 Spiritual Adventure

Week 50: December 10-16

Zechariah 11-14; Revelation 1-6; Psalms 132-137

I don't remember my dreams very often, but when I do remember them it seems significant and so I try to decide if there is a message for me in them somewhere. The Bible is full of dreams and they are all significant and affect those who dream as well as those who hear about the dreams. In our readings for this week much of the material deals with dreams and/or visions. Zechariah has several "night visions" and they are filled with the fact of God's sovereignty and of His ultimate care and protection for His people. John, in Revelation, has the vision or revelation given him by the Lord. As you know, his vision is filled with imagery of the awesomeness of our Lord and too of His ultimate care and protection for His people (the church). Some of the Psalms included for this week are Psalms of Ascent – Psalms the people would recite as they made the journey to Jerusalem to worship at the temple. While these Psalms are not necessarily dreams, they do cause the hearer (or reader) to have a vision – once again of God's ultimate care and protection for His people.

Zechariah's visions were used to inspire the people to move to finish rebuilding the temple in Jerusalem and to cause them to long for the "day of the Lord." John's revelation was given so those receiving the message would be moved to faithful living as we look forward to "the day of the Lord." The Psalms of Ascent were a way to remind the people of God's work in our lives.

As these servants of God shared their dreams and visions, the people were inspired. Do the dreams God has given others inspire you? What dreams do you have that could be used to inspire others of faith? May the messages of faith from the servants of God past and present cause us to worship our sovereign God and to remember His ultimate care and protection for His people while we continue to look forward to "the day of the Lord." Maranatha! -Lee Porter