

Living on the edge...

A quarterly newsletter by Ron Taylor Superintendent

The security line, though long, moved briskly. The TSA officials at the security checkpoint efficiently transferred my carry-on bag, shoes, and pocket junk through the screening machine. I made it to the gate – barely – just as boarding started. Entering the plane, I became disappointed with my seat assignment. I was seated next to a large gentleman and assigned the window seat - a bad combination. The flight was crowded and cramped, but it was uneventfully safe, and after a few hours we landed.

Upon landing, the rush through the airport ensued. Over the loud speaker a clear announcement could be heard. “Attention to those in the terminal. Homeland Security has placed the terrorist alert at orange, which indicates a high risk of terrorist attacks.” While waiting for the rental shuttle, this message was repeated three times. Not exactly the type of welcoming a traveler desires. Alone in a new setting, I was struck by the matter-of-fact nature of the announcement. Prior to 9/11 an announcement such as this would have been unthinkable, but it is now commonplace.

Our world is a scary place. As parents, we do all possible to protect our children from these worldly perils. Surely, as a parent, you are well aware of these countless dangers – dangers beyond terrorism: Internet predators, riding a bicycle or skateboard without a helmet, drug and alcohol abuse, eating disorders,

steroid abuse, driving without a seat belt, early sexual activity, and the list could easily continue. We strive to protect our children from perilously falling. That is what parents do. “Watch out dear.” “Remember your helmet.” “Yes, we need to talk about the relationship with your boyfriend/girlfriend.” “And no, you cannot have your own computer in your bedroom.” These are common phrases heard in nearly all loving homes.

The other evening I was reading a *Newsweek* editorial written by Anna Quindlen, entitled “Frightening and Fantastic.” She wrote,

“I’ve always wanted them [referring to her children] and their friends to have all the information necessary to make smart choices and avoid dangerous situations. But for a long time, I’ve had the uncomfortable feeling that the result has been a generation enveloped by a black miasma of imminent disaster...The net effect could be that the drumbeat of danger becomes persistent white noise, unremarked, unheard, unheeded.”

She lamented over the loss of serendipity and joy we have taken from our children in this age of fear, and then she wrote the following,



Ron Taylor,
BCS Superintendent

“So this is a plea to have That Talk with your kids. No, not the one about smoking cigarettes or driving under the influence. That’s the one they will certainly get. What they need to hear occasionally is about the pleasures, not just the perils. Even when we talk about September 11, we can tell a tale of human goodness *and* evil.”

In this global-age, where the frightening realities of life and suffering are instantly transmitted through the Internet and HDTV, scripture speaks timely truths.

“For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of love, and power, and a sound mind.”

“Perfect love casts out fear.”

“For I have come that you might have life and have it more abundantly.”

“For I know the plans I have for you declares the Lord.”

“For you are fearfully and wonderfully made.”

“For you are His workmanship created for good works in Christ.”

“Nothing can separate you from the love of Christ.”

Protect your children. Let them know of the perils before them. Teach them of life’s dangers so they can be wise and prudent adults – aware and prepared for life’s difficulties that await them. And yet, do *not* stop there. Tell them of God’s serendipitous love. Explain the

joy of Christ. Tell of God’s miracles in *your* life – the underserved, the unexpected, and the unanticipated that left you breathless and overwhelmed by God’s love.

So, I say, as Anna Quindlen did, “Go ahead have that talk with your children. No, not *that* talk, but the talk that expresses how lavish God’s love really is for them. The “Talk” that propels them to willingly and obediently place their gifts, talents, and abilities where God is pointing and directing them, in spite of the circumstances of cultural conventions that may signal another path.

Keep the conversation going,

Ron

Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.
Deuteronomy 6: 5-9

Bellevue
CHRISTIAN
School

Learning to think through life.