

NOVEMBER 2018

FROM THE DESK OF PASTOR BILLY AND BONNIE YORK

# CHILDREN'S

*Ministry Newsletter*



"DEVOTE YOURSELVES TO PRAYER, BEING WATCHFUL AND THANKFUL."

—COLOSSIANS 4:2 NIV

# A MISUNDERSTOOD THANK YOU

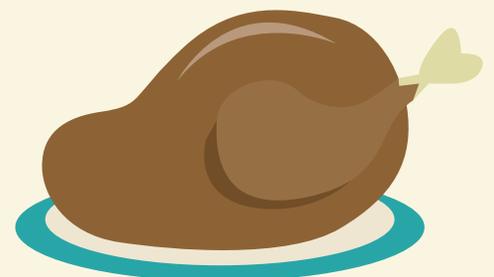
I have a funny story to tell. Years ago I was coaching high school when I overheard some of my athletes talking about a teacher in one of their classes. Apparently it was a new teacher who was having a very frustrating time getting the students to pay attention and respect her. I asked my athletes what was going on and they said there were a few dominant students in the class that were causing the teacher to have a challenging school year. I brought together the entire team and told them that some people focus on the negative in others which results in a negative experience for everyone. I then asked the team, “How many of you have ever vocalized thanks and appreciation to the teachers for the work she pours into their classroom?” The answer—no one. I told them that they as athletes love to hear praise and thanks when they work hard and do well, and their teachers were no different. I then challenged all the athletes to express their thanks, appreciation, and love for their teachers. It was agreed that all the athletes would do it—I was anxious to hear the results.

## **It didn’t take long to hear what happened.**

The first one I heard was totally unexpected. The next day I got a phone call from the principal of the school. He was concerned because some of my athletes were sent to the principal’s office for being disrespectful. I was dumbfounded and listened as he told me the circumstances. Apparently, the same athletes I had overheard tell of the difficulties with their teacher went to her class in the morning and told her that they appreciated her, thanked her for her hard work, and loved her. They were sent directly to the principal’s office for making fun of the teacher and being disrespectful. The students told the principal what we had decided to do as team the night before, and he called me to confirm if this was true. When I assured him it was true, he said that he would follow through and get back to me. Within the hour he called and told me that other teachers were confirming what I had said. As a result the students and the teacher met and the teacher apologized to the students for her misunderstanding.

But wait, there’s more! Something unexpected happened. The attitude of the teacher changed. As the athletes continued to thank her for her hard work on their behalf, the attitude of the whole class changed. As time progressed students were starting to tell me that her class was one of their favorite in the whole school. Is there someone you need to thank? Don’t put it off. It may very well be the thing that person needs to hear that will encourage him or her to excel in good works. 1 Thessalonians 5:11 says “Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing” (ESV).

**“Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor” Romans 12:10 (ESV).**



# NO DEPOSIT NO RETURN — A LIFE LESSON —

Recently I watched a news program where a young man committed a horrendous crime. As I watched the news it went on to say that he came from an unstable background without a father, and that the mother was hooked on drugs. It was a very sad story for everyone concerned. Later that same night I saw a very positive story about a young man who was raised in desperate conditions, but somehow was achieving great things. His mother made a commitment to pour her life into raising the child to respect authority and to value education. She then went on to explain that she made sure they attended church on a weekly basis.

You reap what you sow. Our first young man did not have anyone who took the time to make him understand the difference between right and wrong and its eventual outcome. I felt sorry for the first young man even though I hated what he did. Our second example had a mother who recognized the importance of depositing into this child positive attributes that he would be able to draw from as he matured into adulthood. She had to be patient and consistent, but time revealed that what she deposited into this

young life reaped a fruitful return. I know parents who are providing so much for their children, and yet are neglecting the moral and spiritual part of a child's life. About 20 years ago I visited a family for the first time and found myself in the family room talking and watching an eight-year-old child play a video game that was extremely violent. I was actually horrified watching the scenes and listening to the child rejoice at the horrendous scenes of death portrayed on the TV screen. When I mentioned something to the parents, suggesting that this may not be the best video game for a child to play, the response they gave me was, "Well we told him not to play that game while other people were in the house, sorry." This young boy grew up and started abusing drugs. He ended up going to prison.

Life is about patterns. Here is what I have observed: Adults who have invested in the physical, mental, and spiritual growth of their children reap a faithful return. On the other hand when these areas are neglected the returns are often embarrassing, hurtful, financially draining, and sometimes deadly. This does not mean every child who has been neglected will turn

out bad, nor does it guarantee that a child whose parents strive to teach their children godly attributes will have children who choose to do right. However, life has definitely proven to us that the percentage of children who are lead to righteous conduct and behavior are more likely to succeed. Foolishness is bound in the heart of a child. We as adults must recognize that and take action to direct our children on the straight and narrow path. Galatians 6:7-9 says, "Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. Whoever sows to please their flesh, from the flesh will reap destruction; whoever sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life. Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up" (NIV).



# Wall of Fame - Be a Copycat

I read a story about a child who had posted on his wall, pictures of people he admired and wanted to become. They were positive role models approved by his parents. The very first picture was Jesus. This was followed by other pictures of men who had either overcome difficulties, had an inspiring work ethic, or had benefited the lives of others. Every day of his life, as he grew and matured, he had a visual target of the direction to head toward in his life. This man became very successful because of the constant reminder and example of others that he grew to emulate.

This made me think. How often do we hear stories about people making a difference or setting an example for others to follow? If you ask any child or teen about a person they admire, chances are they'll name a celebrity or sports hero. But, as you examine the lives of these people you will find, in most, a lack of important character attributes, which eventually lead to a destructive lifestyle.

What are we to do as parents? The Bible gives us an example in Hebrews chapter 11, known as the Heroes Hall of Faith. Scripture tells

us to look to the past for examples of ordinary people who did extraordinary things because of their faith and trust in God. If we currently lack examples of extraordinary people, it is important that we look to the past and identify people who, because of their faith, dedication, and hard work made a difference, and are worth emulating.

Parents, make a Wall of Fame with your kids. Present people, their accomplishments, and what happened in their lives that made them worthy of their Wall of Fame. It is important that you work with your child, letting them make the final decision on who they choose for their wall. It will be fondly remembered by you and your kids as the years go by.

My wife and I raised two boys. The walls of their bedroom were covered with pictures of people they admired. The pictures multiplied as the years went by. They were on every wall and even on the ceiling. As they grew older and left the house it took days for my wife and me to pick out the staples to get the walls ready to repaint. It was worth it.

Hebrews 11:2 "Men of God in days of old were famous for their faith." (TLB)

## OCTOBER



### Children's Ministry Flyover

#### Holidays

**November 4** - Daylight Saving Time

**November 6** - Election Day

**November 11** - Veterans Day

**November 22** - Thanksgiving

#### Harvest Kids Dates

**Every Tuesday**

**Christmas Rehearsals (3-5 year olds)**

11/13 - Tuesday Kids Christmas Picture Day

11/20 - No Tuesday Christmas Rehearsal

**Every Friday**

**Christmas Rehearsals (3rd-6th grade)**

11/16 - Friday Kids Christmas Picture Day

11/22 - No Friday Christmas Rehearsal

**Every Saturday**

**Christmas Rehearsals (Kinder-2nd grade)**

11/17 - Saturday Kids Christmas Picture Day

11/24 - No Saturday Christmas Rehearsal

**November 4** - MYT Training

**November 18** - Leadership Meeting

**Tuesdays | 10AM | Bookstore** - Storytime

#### Children's Services

Sunday: 8:00 AM; 10:00 AM;

12:00 PM, and 6:00 PM

Wednesday: 7:00 PM

## Quotes and Verses from Pastor Billy's Library

*I would maintain that thanks are the highest form of thought, and that gratitude is happiness doubled by wonder.*  
- G.K. Chesterton

*We need to discover all over again that worship is natural to the Christian, as it was to the godly Israelites who wrote the psalms, and that the habit of celebrating the greatness and graciousness of God yields an endless flow of thankfulness, joy and zeal.*  
- J.I. Packer

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harvest **KIDS**