
❖ Restoration Village ❖

June 2011

BE THE ONE PERSON

I carried the little, blond-headed, green-eyed girl from room to room to show her off to all whom I could find. Few knew her story, of the prayers for her, or why I enjoyed carrying her.

In 1965, Kenneth Keniston wrote of the growing segment of culturally alienated youth that is pessimistic and firmly opposed to the established order of doing things “as usual.” These youth were to age with an assumption that human nature is untrustworthy and that only passion, feeling and awareness would be the most reliable force at man’s disposal. In 1970, Frances Schaeffer was to write, “... the majority in the middle class have no real base whatsoever for their values since they have given up the Christian viewpoint. They just function on ‘memory.’ These people are plastic, ugly and plastic, because they tell others what to do on the basis of their own values. They have no base and they have no categories.”

Schaeffer predicted that America and the world would begin to fall into three universals:

1. Hedonism—where every individual does what he wants to;
2. Dictator of the 51 percent—the sociological law that the opinion poll becomes the Lex Rex (Law is God);
3. An elite or dictator—that will tell society what to do. To support his thesis he contended that the Christian culture was placing their values upon affluence (practical materialists) and personal peace at any price.

Today’s news headlines have become a consistent reminder of the closing statement of the Old Testament book of *Judges*, “... every man did that which was right in his own eyes” (21:25). Road rage, red-light runners, drive-by shootings, domestic violence, street gangs, divorce, to the halls of Washington, D.C. we see a world gone mad with “do your own thing.”

This is not a time for anger in America; it is a time for anguish. It is so easy to look at others sins and throw stones and to be angry. It is

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not so easy to look at our own sin and then look at others' sins and to weep. We are overdue for some Nehemiah 1:5-11 where, as an individual, he weeps over the sin of his people, his sin and the offense against God. But Nehemiah was also willing to make himself available to be a part of the answer. He cared enough to get involved, to weep, to pray and to get up and go to work.

Remember that little girl at the beginning of this chapter? You didn't know that she just celebrated her first birthday in spite of spending months in the hospital in a body cast as the result of severe physical abuse, and that she is currently a ward of the courts. As I carried her around for those few moments, there were tears welling in my eyes each time I introduced her to others, but I also was rejoicing for her wellness and her resiliency.

Dearly beloved, do not fret at the world's situation. Become a part of the remnant that is born in grief and in intercession. By being that one person who makes a difference in another's life you will be provoked by adversaries and you will be misunderstood, but the renewal and restoration is because you are that one person. *"And the word of the Lord was precious (rare) in those days; there was no open vision" (1 Samuel 3:1)*. God only talks to those who have prepared their hearts to listen. It starts with yourself, put down the rocks, and cry out to the Lord.

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Jonathan Edwards said:

Resolved: that every man should live to the glory of God.

Second: that whether others do this or not, I will.

Make that your resolve, join the small group of powerful leadership and carry the wounded who are not whole on your shoulders.

David Engle

Village News



ONE OF THE SOMETIMES PLEASURES AND HONORS FOR ME HERE AT THE VILLAGE is to officiate a wedding for those whom we have intertwined our life with over the years. Last month I was allowed to officiate the wedding of Tonya and Terrance Roach. We have known Tonya for years. She and her fellow employees have done volunteer projects for the Village (some peach trees that she and her crew planted last year up at the Children's Advocacy Center are blooming now) and even aided in securing some corporate donations to the Village. Terrance is a California Highway Patrolman and they will be residing in California. Thanks for the memories, the friendship and the joy of officiating your wedding.

WHEN THIS NEWSLETTER ARRIVES, Beverly and I will be in Washington, D.C. at the annual National Children's Alliance Leadership Conference. The event also allows for us to visit the Congressional Delegation from our home state of Arkansas. Our particular delegation of Senators and Congressmen are pro-children, interested in protecting children from harm, and have been beneficial in helping support the Child Protection Regional Training Center located at the Northwest Arkansas Community College.

FOR THOSE OF YOU WHO LIKE TO READ BLOGS, I ENCOURAGE YOU to check out www.experimentaltheology.blogspot.com. Specifically, the Richard Beck blog for the date of 5/13/11 regarding the "Labor of Grace." (experimentaltheology.blogspot.com/2011/05/labor-of-grace.html) It is one that should be read in churches and across America in regards to the killing of Osama bin Laden.

DAVID WILKERSON, FOUNDER OF TEEN CHALLENGE, AND RETIRED SENIOR PASTOR OF "CHURCH ON BROADWAY" IN NEW YORK CITY died on April 27, 2011. I knew this family and his writings have been a source of inspiration for over 40 years to me personally. His last daily devotion, posted on April 27 reads in part: "To those going through the Valley and shadow of death, hear this word: weeping will last through some dark, awful nights – and in that darkness you will soon hear the Father whisper, "I am with you...Let Me embrace you in your hour of pain."

I am confident that his family and many associates feel that embrace now.

THREE OF OUR STAFF EARNED THEIR MASTER'S DEGREE FROM JOHN BROWN UNIVERSITY AND GRADUATED IN MAY: Tara Lentz, Advocate and Mentor at Restoration Village, MS in counseling; Erin Kraner, Forensic Interviewer and Advocate at the Children's Advocacy Center, MS in counseling; and Megan Jones, Bilingual Forensic Interviewer at the Children's Advocacy Center, MS in counseling.

Congratulations ladies! We are proud of you and your accomplishment and appreciate your role here with the Village and the CAC and in the lives of families and children.

THE BARN A GROUP (10 May 2011) REPORTS SOME OF THEIR LATEST POLLING INFORMATION WHICH CONFIRMS what many Americans already knew – we are being personally affected by the economy. The past eighteen months have been affected by the economic downturn, rising costs, and the employment slow down. The Barna group data says that 3 in 10 (church going adults) have reduced their giving to their church and over one- half have curtailed their giving to non-profit organizations.

The biggest sub division of givers are those 45 years of age and up and made at least \$40,000.00 dollars per year or more. Those younger than that have curtailed back on the giving that they did do, but are more likely to volunteer their time to non-profits or to the church. Here at the Village, we are experiencing the cut backs and have attempted to tightened up the budget requirements. We are appreciative of the food drives, the volunteers, and those that bring us items of necessity for the mommies and babies. We have not had to cut back any services to those we serve. Our automobiles still drive the searchers for employment to potential opportunities; we still get them to doctor's appointments, their social services meetings, or whatever the need may be; our meals and availability of food items is plenteous; and the utilities are still working.

We are grateful to you who have chosen to sacrifice of yourselves and continue to support these whom we serve. Your faithfulness has kept the doors open and the opportunities for grace, love, and a new beginning to continue. Thank you!