

Restoration Village Newsletter

AUGUST 2013

One of our grandchildren, Isaiah who is 11 years old, was traveling with his parents and one of his friends. Isaiah told the friend that they were going to the Village. The friend asked him: "What's the Village?"

Isaiah replied: "There's just a bunch of people who live there and ...

annoy my grandpa."

In this whole earth there is not another person just like you or me. Billions of people with different personalities, motivations, body mass and emotional facilities. Different religious beliefs, favorite sports teams, political beliefs, regional territorial beliefs, prejudices, philosophical differences, and despite some judicial and societal demands to be "politically correct" it doesn't really happen (and there is not a one of you who thinks "p.c." will occur 100%). And there are not any of us that at some time or another cannot be absolutely free of the reality of "annoying" -those irritating, troublesome, bothersome, disturbing, pesky, exasperating, and displeasing disagreeable situations. After all, if we both were temperamentally just alike, one of us would not be needed.

Six years ago we organized a meeting at another family's house for the express purpose of introducing Victor Vieth to as many local citizens that knew of Restoration Village and the Children's Advocacy Center as possible for the purpose of hearing his "Unto the Third Generation" proposal to end child abuse within the next 100 years. The food was delicious and plentiful, the downstairs of their house was overflowing and many of us were upstairs on the balcony or sitting on the stairway up to the balcony. The presentation was the launching into the future and eventually the establishment of the

National Child Protection Training Center at the Northwest Arkansas Community College scheduled to open in November of this 2013.

Imagine that in the midst of the meeting, Victor is speaking and then some sheetrock from the ceiling fell from the roof and landed on some visitors on the front row couch. Some larger pieces of sheetrock fall, some of the shingles fall into the floor, and eventually as all eyes are focused on the roofing, a blanket is lowered into the room with a man wrapped in the blanket and presented to the gathered crowd. The man needed a miracle in his life. The miracle occurred and the large crowd rejoiced with the cured man. But, no one tells us how the owner of the house might have felt as he pondered the question of: "whose going to repair that roof?" "How about taking a repair bill offering folks?" (see Mark 2:4)

After all, if we both were just alike, one of us would not be

For the homeowner that day, I wonder if he was "Annoyed?"

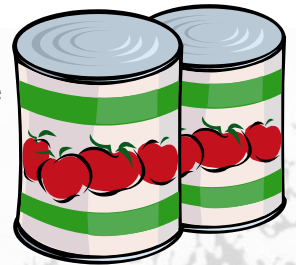
Even those whom tell the truth can be annoying. The most well known evangelist who wrote the valued books of the early church, the Apostle Paul eventually got "annoyed" by a truth teller. A young girl would follow Paul as he preached throughout the city of Thyatira shouting at them: "These men are the servants of the highest God, which shows us the way of salvation." To me, it sounds like free advertising and

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AUGUST 19th IS THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL for the Village children. Summer has gone too fast and school seems to be upon us too quick. We have gathered up school supplies and back packs, but we do need some extra aid this year for some of the mommies to secure clothing needs. Gift cards to Kohl's, Belk, Wal-Mart, Old Navy, or J.C. Penney would sure help these families. There is also a benefit of allowing the children and their parent to shop, the children being allowed to pick some of their own styles, etc. where this type of gift aids us to aid them.

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES ASK US; INDIVIDUALS ASK US; CIVIC CLUBS ASK US and too often the newsletter fails to remind you that we can and could always use some very basic supplies. Sugar, flour, laundry detergent, brown sugar, canned foods, cereal, canned fruit, soups, and cleaning supplies (Windex, pledge, pine sol, white vinegar, etc.) are always in need. As the fall season approaches, baking supplies are appreciated greatly! There is just something about coming back here from school and the fresh smell of chocolate chip cookies on the counter is alluring to the Village children.



IT IS NOT TOO EARLY TO PLAN TO ATTEND THE ANNUAL BANQUET FOR THE CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY CENTER, September 19th at CrossChurch, Rogers, Arkansas, 6:00 P.M. the guest speaker will be Erin Merry. I have no doubt that most of our readers do not know who she is, but I guarantee you, she has already made an enormous impact in changing laws and speaking out to protect your children, your grandchildren and children unto the third generation. She is the reason for a new law, entitled "Erin's Law" that has been passed in 6 states, including Arkansas, and is pending in 14 more states this fall.



You can Google information regarding this young lady's endeavor and see clips from the Oprah show, her testimony before the State of Arkansas in April of this year, and read her story.

Erin's Law requires in-service training programs on sexual assault, awareness, and prevention for standard teaching certification of school teachers. She brought tears to the eyes of the legislators at the Arkansas meetings prior to the vote and will do the same for us in September. Her presence here, and the only speaking engagement in September for her, is one more of those special moments that accents that we here at Restoration Village via the programs that have their beginnings rooted in our history believe that child abuse can be eliminated unto the third generation. This is the works of giving children their voice of healing instead of allowing offenders to silence them.

"I was not educated on not keeping secrets if someone was hurting me. My mission, through this legislation, is to educate children on what I never learned. I will not stop until children in all 50 states are protected from sexual abuse." - Erin Merry



The shrimp boil is a great way to prepare for the fireworks performance.

JULY 4th IS A CELEBRATION AT RESTORATION VILLAGE THAT BRINGS IN VISITORS, FORMER RESIDENTS BACK TO VISIT and that one holiday where our own children never miss coming home to enjoy with us. Ever year, Beverly waits to write in her diary: “Another year, no injuries.” Last year was cancelled because of the drought and this year was eagerly awaited.

EARLIER THIS YEAR THE *TAMPA BAY TIMES* NEWSPAPER published a series of investigative articles regarding the “Fifty Worst Charities.” The paper reported that research of the financial reports of charities, over a ten year period, showed that the fundraisers received 970 million; the charities received 380 million from the fund raising, and only 49 million went to direct aid to those in need. Eight of these agencies were cancer related, ten were for fulfilling wishes for children, and six were for Veterans Services. Bottom line is that only .05 per cent of the monies raised went to helping the people who needed help.

Each year after our Accountant presents back the audited papers I look to see the line that tells us, and I can report to you the actual amount of your giving that goes directly to client services. Ninety-six (96) percent of your sacrificial gift went to client services in 2012. A contribution to Restoration Village is a gift that is important and used with stewardship to give “mommies and their babies” a chance for a new beginning. We are grateful to you for your compassion.

THERE IS STILL TIME FOR YOU TO DECIDE TO DO SOMETHING YOU HAVE NEVER DONE: SKYDIVE FOR KIDS. It is a fundraiser, and a fun raiser for you, but the funds for the Children’s Advocacy Center of Benton County make for a most valuable memorable day for all. If skydiving is on your “bucket list” now is the time. See: <http://cacbentonco.com/events/skydive-for-kids/>



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she was telling the truth. But it is recorded that after many days of her crying out that Paul became annoyed and turned and "...commanded a spirit to come out of her." The business managers of the girl became annoyed at the man who had been annoyed and arranged for Paul and Silas to be put into jail for ending the girl's career and the owner's money making practice. (Acts 16:16-40)

Being annoyed might get a person beaten, arrested, and lead to singing praises at midnight and a miraculous ending to the annoyance.

In Mark, chapter 7 is a remarkable story of a portion of the life of Jesus where He finishes a discourse on the psychological aspects of man and then goes to visit in a home. The text reads that He didn't want people to know (probably He went there to rest?) and yet a mother with a young child possessed by an unclean spirit found him and wanted her daughter to be healed. The mother rebuked Jesus by telling Him that "the dogs get the crumbs under the table" and all she wants is her daughter "well." Jesus tells her the daughter is healed because she said "give us a crumb." And he tried to get away to another town, and "they brought unto him one that was deaf..." I don't know who "they" were, or if the man wanted to be healed of his deafness (but the Village can relate to "they brought her to us") and the text says that "looking to heaven, he **sighed** (emphasis mine), and said unto him, Ephphatha, that is, Be Opened."

The word "sighed" means to murmur, to groan, or grudge. So if I can pronounce it, maybe the next time I get annoyed I will attempt to remember the word," Ephphatha "or at least not let anyone see me roll my eyes.

It was comforting to discover years ago that Dietrich Bonhoeffer wrote in "Letters from Prison" the words, "I find

people extremely exhausting." For if you are involved in the lives of people, with all of our differences, you know what he meant. The same man wrote: "Let him who cannot be alone beware of community. Let him who is not in community beware of being alone." There is no such thing as solitary living. The church, the community, and all our associations involve people, sinful people. And the foundation of community is people with burdens, sufferings, challenges and difficulties. And the ministry we all are called unto is to serve those we meet, those we will meet, and to find that our endeavors are not to be the leader, but to be the least for in our weakness comes our strength.

"I find people extremely exhausting."

I get annoyed, I can roll my eyes, I sometime murmur, and interruptions are a continuous obstacle to getting to early completion of some projects, but there is a passage of scripture that I find great comfort in and entrust the same to you as irritations, interruptions and annoyances enter upon your daily life: "And what think you? A certain man had two sons; and he came to the first, and said, Son, today go work in my vineyard. He answered and said, I will not: but afterward he repented and went.

And he came to the second, and said likewise. And he answered and said, I go, sir: and went not. Which of these two did the will of the father?" (Matthew 21: 28-31) I may murmur and be annoyed, but I will repent and get it done after all, there just may be a miracle waiting for me to observe when I realize that I am not in control anyway.

David Engle

