Dear Lexie,

Growing Great Kids

One of my great privileges over the past 18 years has been teaching Earliteen Sabbath school. One of the nice things is job security: most adults would consider it pure torture to be shut up in a room with 20 to 25 seventh and eighth graders. So in all the years I’ve been teaching Earliteens at Sligo Church, I’ve had only one complaint.

Can We Defeat Despair?

Hope against despair
This Sabbath:
June 1, 2013

Speaker:
Pr. Pranitha Fielder, “Growing Pains”

Special Musical Guest:
Ryan & Charlotte Conway
Oboe and Piano

Sligo Adventist School-Choir
Middle School

Director, Joya Follete,
Kerrian Wanga, Soloist
Charlene Jenkins, Contralto

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One of my great privileges over the past 18 years has been teaching Earliteen Sabbath school. One of the nice things is job security: most adults would consider it pure torture to be shut up in a room with 20 to 25 seventh and eighth graders. So in all the years I’ve been teaching Earliteens at Sligo Church, I’ve had only one complaint.

But the most rewarding part of teaching Earliteens is watching them grow into responsible adults and take their place as citizens of God’s kingdom. Some of those who now serve Sligo Church as local elders were once in my class. Some now own their own businesses and are leaders in the community. One of the Earliteens I taught years ago now has a son in Earliteens.

Aside from making me feel old, each of these success stories reminds me of the potential each kid has for Christ’s kingdom. As we celebrate the baccalaureate of Sligo Adventist School this weekend, it’s a good time to remember that with a little positive reinforcement today’s Juniors, Earliteens, and Youth will soon grow into tomorrow’s leaders (some already are).

This is not just the responsibility of our school teachers, Sabbath school leaders, and parents. All of us are responsible for our kids. Every Sabbath they deserve a greeting, whether we know their names or not. Just walk up to them, extend your hand and say, “It’s good to see you. I’m glad you’re part of Sligo Church.”

It’s funny: We sometimes complain about today’s kids: what they wear, what kind of music they listen to, how they behave. Yet when they show up at church we ignore them, or pretend that we don’t see them.

Take it from a survivor of Earliteen Sabbath school: We don’t have to be afraid of today’s kids. They’re a lot like us. They respond to kindness, a friendly greeting, a word of encouragement. A lot of worldly influences are trying to steer our kids away from church. As long as they’re here, let’s make them feel welcome.
Growing great kids is not just a slogan, it’s a mindset; it’s our way of making sure we pass along our faith and values to the next generation. Kids most often learn what they see. Do they see Jesus in us?
Can We Defeat Despair?

http://sligochurch.org/can-we-defeat-despair

pesposito

Growing Great Kids DAT Feature: We Have This Hope!!

Last Monday, in solemn celebration, we honored the sacrifices of those who gave their lives to defend our freedoms. Yes, freedom in this land of liberty is a precious gift. We are however in a sustained season of uncertainty and insecurity. Many have a slippery hold on hope. We frequently become grabby just holding on, fearing further falling, and seldom raise our heads in the rare air of fresh hope.

Research shows that folks when asked to recount events in our lives remember four negatives to each positive! We could succumb to the elephant syndrome. A baby elephant is brought into the circus and chained to a stake in the ground. The chain is strong and the elephant learns to only move the distance allowed by it.

Years pass... The chain is replaced by a weak rope that could easily break, but the now grown elephant does not try to pull it because its belief is that there is no escape. The flimsy mental rope has imprisoned its mind in a belief that there is no hope of escape.

The tragedy is that this elephant behavior is found in many human lives. A recent survey of those near death aggregate their major life regrets. Here are the top five:

1. I wish I had the courage to live a life true to myself.
2. I wish I did not work so hard.
3. I wish I had the courage to express my feelings.
4. I wish I had stayed in touch with my friends.
5. I wish I had let myself be happier.

We are however captives of hope, with a firmness in the fact that while there is life, there's hope!
I want you to imagine that someone reading this post maybe succumbing to one of these regrets. Focus on one despair trolls and use the comment section to share a word of hope to combat that despair. Like sharing a cup of water to a thirsty soul, sharing words of encouragement and hope can water a heart.

We whose faith is anchored in hope have the stuff to change a life.

By: Chris Daley

Please use the comment section below to share your favorite Hope quote.

You can also subscribe to receive a weekly hope nugget by texting: hopefortoday to 70000

Or find us on

facebook: www.facebook.com/FindHopeToday

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On, Monday, May 20, an EF-5 tornado touched down in the town of Moore, Okla. The tornado devasted an estimated 30 square miles, including two elementary schools. See how the Adventist Community Services Disaster Response Team has responded and read ways that you can help and become involved.

Sligo Seventh–Day Adventist church also joins in supporting those affected by this tragedy. The Sligo Prayer Guardian team has prepared and sent a special package for our brethren in the area, showing our support and sharing words of hope and comfort in this time of need.

If you would like to know how you can help too, please read the following message from Adventist Community Services:
Moore is serving as a distribution center.

Pray for the thousands of individuals who have been affected by and will be responding to this tragedy and consider giving a financial donation to ACS to support their efforts. To donate:

Visit www.communityservices.org | Call 1-800-381-7171

Mail a check to ACS, 12501 Old Columbia Pike, Silver Spring, MD 20904

Place a donation in your church offering plate marked “ACS Disaster Response”

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“Truly I tell you: whoever does not accept the kingdom of God like a child will never enter it.” — Mark 10:15

“. . . babies and young children are like the research and development division of the human species.” — Alison Gopnik

Most of us have heard this comparison, that we should be more like children when it comes to faith and that children somehow have insights into the mysteries of the kingdom that the rest of us just don’t have. I’ve wondered what that meant. Do I wipe out the years of study, conjecture, listening to others, idle speculation, fervent longing and moments of insight? Are children blessed because they simply accept at face value what adults say? But anyone who knows little children also knows, with a sigh sometimes, that more often than not they decidedly do not accept, without question, what they are told. Well, perhaps it means that they trust implicitly, without wavering. Sometimes this is true, but they can also be wracked with doubt and fear—just like the rest of us. Perhaps it means that they are innocent of evil, unaware of what lurks in the heart of darkness in all of us, but if that were true we are still left with the memory of pain such evil instills.

I got a glimpse of another way to imagine this through a TED talk I recently saw by Dr. Alison Gopnik in which she asks, “What Do Babies Think?” She describes her research with four–year–olds who work their way through rather complicated experiments, making calculations and assessing probabilities on the fly. What she found is that young children are much better than adults at coming up with unusual hypotheses to solve unusual problems. They aren’t afraid to try out this and that, see what works and what doesn’t, and keep at it until they get someplace. In other words, they’re pretty good little scientists and experimenters.

Gopnik found that babies and young children don’t think like adults do. Whereas adult thinking is like a spotlight that focuses on one thing and excludes everything else,
children's thinking is like a lantern that casts its glow on everything around it. Young children don’t exclude—they include—and they’re very good at taking in a lot of information from many different sources at once. Their brains are flooded with neurotransmitters that stimulate learning and that don’t inhibit what comes in. “So when we say that babies and young children are bad at paying attention,” says Gopnik, “what we really mean is that they're bad at not paying attention. So they’re bad at getting rid of all the interesting things that could tell them something and just looking at the thing that’s important.”

It’s like falling in love, says Gopnik, or being in a place you’ve never been to before. The brain is sparking, taking in all this information, neurons and synapses firing, all senses on high alert—a veritable learning organism that experiences life in all it’s buzzing, blooming confusion and can’t get enough of it.

As we grow and develop our brains learn to filter and focus. We screen out the things that throw us off or distract us. We learn to concentrate, pay attention, get the job done. Gopnik reassures us that there’s nothing wrong with this: it’s all part of filling our place in the world as adults. But she likens babies and children to one stage in the process of the species and suggests that they are the butterflies, flitting from one idea to the next, open, creative, and filled with wonder. Adults, in a curious turn, are the caterpillars, inching along their prescribed paths.

That’s what it usually requires to do what must be done. “But,” says Gopnik, “if what we want is to be like those butterflies, to have open-mindedness, open learning, imagination, creativity, innovation, maybe at least some of the time we should be getting the adults to start thinking more like children.”

Adventists, like many Protestants, are a cerebral lot. We want evidence, lots of it, preferably from the Bible, for what we should think and do. We are long on reason, but rather short on imagination. Both are needed for the spiritual life. Reason eliminates the unsound and the dubious; the imagination kindles our emotion and our compassion. Would we dare to open ourselves fully to God’s love without the flame of desire for God? Would we believe in grace, an element that is delightfully unreasonable, so that our lives could be lifted and freshened, were it not for this childlike openness to all that God has for us?

Ellen White, no stranger to the realms of glory, urged us to take up “experiential religion.” No other form, she suggested, would be enough to open our eyes, free us up, shake us around, and follow Jesus. If babies and young children are the research and development branch of the species, says Gopnik, then adults are the sales and marketing division of the
enterprise. To put it in religious and spiritual terms: if you’re tired of selling it why not do some R & D for awhile? You just might see the kingdom in a whole new light.

Barry L. Casey, a long-time Sligo member and a co-leader of the Believers and Doubters Sabbath School class, teaches philosophy and communications at Stevenson University, Trinity University DC, and Washington Adventist University.
VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2013

By Darius Thibodeaux On April 17, 2013 · Add Comment · In Children's Ministry, Events

SLIGO ADVENTIST CHURCH

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

KINGDOM ROCK
Where Kids Stand Strong for God

JULY 14 – 19, 2013

6:00 – 8:45 P.M.

KINGDOM ROCK IS FILLED WITH INCREDIBLE BIBLE-LEARNING EXPERIENCES KIDS SEE, HEAR, TOUCH, AND EVEN TASTE!

KINGDOM ROCK IS GREAT FUN FOR YOUR CHILDREN, AGES 1 – 12; YOUR TEENAGEERS CAN SERVE AS VOLUNTEERS WHO HELP THE YOUNGER CHILDREN.