Dear Lexie,

What Counts

Have you ever read a book that captivated your attention so the extent that you just could not put it down? If you have, you will know that when you are reading such a book meal times and other routine activities become almost a blur as you bury your face in its pages, turning every leaf eagerly and impatiently as you wonder what comes next. Nelson Mandela's "Long Walk to Freedom" had that effect on me.

Read more>>

Upcoming Events

This Sabbath:
March 14, 2015

PowerUp Children's Church!
All children are invited to join us on March 14, from 11AM-12:30PM in the Memorial Chapel for Children's Church. We're continuing our theme of "Superheroes of the Bible", focused on the story of
This Sabbath:  
March 14, 2015

Speaker:  
Pastor Charles A. Tapp  
"The Church on Trial, Part V: Here Comes the Bride"

Special Musical Guests:  
First Service:  
Kaingu Milunga  
Second Service:  
Crawford Adventist Academy Choir & Concert Band

Elijah and Baal. There will be singing, puppets, crafts and activities! Bring your friends and don’t miss out!

Sligo Underground  
This week, the Frederick SDA Church will be here, and Pastor Mark Sigue will be our guest speaker. If you are in high school and want to enrich your spiritual life, join us this Sabbath from 11AM-12:30PM in the Youth Chapel.

Future events include:  
- Prayer Gathering (every Wednesday night @ 7PM)  
- Hymn Festival, March 21st @ 6:30PM, featuring Evonne Baasch & Strings for Joy  
- Resurrection Weekend, April 1-5

Practicing Stewardship for Every Brain  
Our cultures, for better or for worse, assign certain roles along gender lines. For example, boys play with tools while girls play with dolls. Want to see parents get uncomfortable quickly? Suppose their son wants to play with dolls or their daughter is more interested in playing with cars? Sure there are gender differences but do we make these differences discourage our children from developing their God-given capabilities?

This Week's Special Musical Guests  
This Sabbath we'll be joined by the Crawford Adventist Academy Choir and the Crawford Adventist Academy Concert Band. They're currently touring the United States with a 30-voice choir and 25 musicians. The choir is conducted by Riter St. Luc. The band is conducted by Aaron Manswell.
More information on the academy's musical groups can be found on the music department website.

Missed Last Week's Sermon?

Watch Live or OnDemand:
Sligo WebTV>>

Sermon Audio Archive:
Audio Archive>>
What Counts

dmcfarlane

Have you ever read a book that captivated your attention so the extent that you just could not put it down? If you have, you will know that when you are reading such a book meal times and other routine activities become almost a blur as you bury your face in its pages, turning every leaf eagerly and impatiently as you wonder what comes next. Nelson Mandela’s “Long Walk to Freedom” had that effect on me. Though a tome of over a thousand pages, it took me less than a week to read it from cover to cover. I am currently reading Richard Templar’s international bestseller, “The Rules of Life,” which is only 233 pages, but which reads like a modern rendering of the Book of Proverbs. Every page is accessible and every rule laden with practical insights. This book, I guess, comes under the heading of ‘self-help’ but it’s different from most other ‘self-help’ books I have read, in that it merely invites you to do the kind of things that your Mom or grandparents told you to do or not to do. Just like the Book of Proverbs, it’s not rocket science; it’s just down to earth practical stuff.

One of Templar’s rules that resonates with me is, “Know what counts and what doesn’t.” He expands this rule by saying, “Being kind and considerate counts. Getting through each day without seriously offending anyone or hurting anyone counts. Having the latest technology doesn’t.” Of course, there is nothing new in this but it’s important to be reminded of this basic principle from time to time. Sadly, what counts and doesn’t count seem to have become conflated in the lives of many of us. This, in many ways, is the basis of a lot of stress in our society and a mountain of debt. Many of us get ourselves into huge debts in an effort to acquire things that do not count. Having a roof over our head and being able to get from one place to another counts but procuring a very expensive house or car, just to ‘keep up with the Joneses,’ does not count. I am not suggesting that one should not own an expensive house or car; am merely saying that they are not items that add value to life.

In my opinion, the most important responsibility of being a parent is teaching our children what counts and what does not count in life. Teaching our children to be respectful, truthful, honest and providing them with a basis to choose God’s lordship in their lives counts but buying them the latest designer clothes does not count. Helping them to understand that the fulfilled life is a life of service counts but buying them the latest gadget does not count. If we are looking for a reason to send our children to an Adventist school, this is it. The Adventist school may not be the best equipped in town but it will most likely help our children understand what really counts in life and what doesn’t.

I guess what counts and what doesn’t was what Jesus had in mind when he said, “But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.” (Matt 6:33) In other words, place emphasis on what is most important and other things will fall into place.

What counts for you in life?

Tagged with → matthew
Our cultures, for better or for worse, assign certain roles along gender lines. For example, boys play with tools while girls play with dolls. Want to see parents get uncomfortable quickly? Suppose their son wants to play with dolls or their daughter is more interested in playing with cars? Sure there are gender differences but do we make these differences discourage our children from developing their God-given capabilities?

If we dig deeper, we can realize that media and other influences may place us in straight jacket thinking. This in turn can limit the possibilities for our children and place them at a disadvantage as far as their career aspirations are concerned. There is a startling fact that brings this issue into sharp focus.

80% OF JOBS IN THE NEXT DECADE WILL REQUIRE TECHNOLOGY SKILLS.

So why is this important? Well the research is showing that girls are three (3 X) less likely than boys to aspire to be scientists or engineers!

Sure, girls can be brilliant even if they don’t want to study science and engineering, but if they come to that career choice without appreciating the full scope of their options, we would have failed to practice the stewardship of fully informing them. We have organized below a set of factoids regarding girls and technical education that we hope will stimulate your thinking around girls and technical education. These are:

- Playtime can open her mind to possibilities that break down gender stereotypes. The only way we’ll end up with more women in science is by using playtime to spark her imagination for subjects like astronomy and physics.
- Doing it for them tells girls they can’t do it on their own. Introduce technology early and one day more than 7% of tech startup executives will be women.
- Doing is how you learn. Let girls solve problems on their own and they’ll learn to be more independent.
- Girls are less likely to challenge themselves when they’re not exposed to activities that push them outside of their comfort zone.
- Only 10% of parents encourage girls to try engineering. Using tools and creating things inspires her to build her own future.
- Between middle school and high school, girls’ confidence drops from 72% to 55%. Remind her that success comes from experimentation, not from being perfect.
- Studies show that confidence predicts how well you do on math tests. Teach girls that even when the answer isn’t right, you learn by taking risks.
- Women make up half the workforce, but less than 25% of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) jobs.
• STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) job growth is outpacing the rest of the economy by about 300%.

Over the past several years, a growing number of corporations have been combining efforts to encourage parents and communities to expose our daughters to technical fields. For example, Microsoft created a winning video to encourage girls technical career path.

We hope one of the nuggets shared will stimulate fresh thinking and let you be an agent of fresh possibilities for our girls. We do have some further nuggets to share on this topic over the week-end. We would like to encourage you to share your sentiment on this page. If you have practiced one of these nuggets, or have been blessed by a mentor to pursue a career path, make your testimony be known! Some girl will certainly be eternally grateful for your sharing!

(by Chris Daley & Dawn Reynolds)

Tagged with → STEM • Stewardship