AM I SOMEBODY’S THANKSGIVING?
Adventist Risk Management, Inc. | Weekly Newsletter

Providing Risk Management Solutions for the Seventh-day Adventist® Church

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AM I SOMEBODY’S THANKSGIVING?

How can I be a reason for someone’s Thanksgiving? If you are actively seeking ways to be another person’s Thanksgiving in 2015, will that change how you approach life?

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Thanksgiving is just around the corner. Soon families will gather around the dinner table and give thanks for the past year. Gratitude is a virtue to cultivate. Being more aware of your blessings brings happiness because you value things more.

At Adventist Risk Management, we are always grateful for the individuals in churches, schools, and institution who proactively seek to provide a safe and secure environment for others. As we pause to reflect on God’s providence in 2014, we also look forward to 2015 and what experiences we will value because we are proactive.

What would you like to be thankful for next year? Does that depend on you? This year, what if your family used the Thanksgiving season to put things in perspective for next year? Can you make it happen? Use this question to help start the dialogue—How can I be a reason for someone’s Thanksgiving? If you are actively seeking ways to be another person’s Thanksgiving in 2015, will that change how you approach life?

Many people spend much time navel gazing. They have become obsessed with excessive self-contemplation and thinking too deeply about their own feelings and experiences. In general, sin causes humans to be egocentric. When things don’t go our way, many times we feel frustrated or upset. It’s all about our expectations in regards to what we want or think we need.

This behavior starts when we are, little. Most of the time we only want what is good for me. The sad part is by working on what we want, we become so focused on ourselves that we don’t actually do what is expected of us. That is the opposite of what Jesus did on this Earth. He was always looking for ways to be a blessing in people’s lives. What a journey He had!

My 4-year-old son, Kyle is very focused on what he wants. He can become really upset when he doesn’t get his way. In my learning and teaching experience with Kyle, I play a game. The objective is to try to make him to focus first on others, then on himself. No matter what Kyle is doing, he should give a turn to whoever is near him. It has taken time, but Kyle is finally beginning to understand the principle of thinking of others first and he is becoming more aware of his surroundings. Now, Kyle is happy when he tells me he allowed his friend to go before him in the lunch line.

Kyle plays the game with me, as well. When he gives me the first option Kyle makes sure I notice. Even as adults, we need to be reminded of these principles because it is easier to think of ourselves first.

We should follow the steps of Jesus. How much better would this world be if we think of others first? That is what He expects of us. He gives us the means so we can share our faith, our home, our shoulder to cry on, and our smile to those who don’t have that light.

I encourage you to make yourself available to those around you. Let the light of Jesus shine out of you. Make a difference by giving people what they need most—LOVE. Be a reason for someone’s Thanksgiving!

Much of this discussion is on the way we can make a difference through our personal lives. Ask yourself how you can impact others in your professional life. Perhaps you lead out in a Church ministry. Through good risk management skills and loss prevention tactics you help to protect your church and school. The students, teachers, and all those who worship at the church, are blessed by your ministry.

As you mentor others in safety awareness and risk management, they can pass their knowledge on to others. A
school or church where safety is a primary objective is a blessing to those who are served within its walls.

The ministry of ARM is to protect your ministry. Take charge of what God has entrusted you. You can make a difference. Imagine how you will feel next year, if you have been intentional for 365 days of being Thanksgiving for someone else! I challenge you to make a difference, just as I have challenged myself.

Happy Thanksgiving!

by: CArina Franca

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