



Abundant Living Ministries

Encouraging Christian Living since 1978

July 2018

Ten of our 12 grandchildren were here for the day. What joy they bring to Sharon and me! There was happy chatter around the breakfast table with immediate questions as to when they would be able to play outdoors. And excitement about the bowling planned for the afternoon! Their conversations stepped on each other as more people talked than listened.

One of my granddaughters is a great story teller. "Grandpa," she asked as she climbed up on the counter stool next to mine, "Would you like to hear a story?" I felt bad as I explained to her that I like to look at her and pay attention when she tells me a story but that, right now, there was too much going on... too many conversations in the room and that I'm not very good at listening to three or four things at the same time.

In the evening, the children needed to practice their music. Out came two violins, a viola, and a "toot" ... at the same time. The piano also was being played. And there were four walkie-talkies with their volume turned to MAX! I tried to hear each one as they played their instrument while explaining "feedback" and why the walkie-talkies squawked when held too close together.

And then it was about 8:30 and time to put the garbage out by the curb for pickup in the morning. When finished, I came back inside. Younger children had been tucked into bed while happy sounds, by the older ones, continued to come from the basement. I wanted to join the fun activity downstairs but realized I had had enough of all the sounds. I snuck away to a private spot for some "peace and quiet."

As I enjoyed my quiet retreat, I thought of the NOISES I hear every day... each one competing for my attention... and how easy it is for me to get distracted, even sidetracked by the many loud voices rather than staying focused on the ONE VOICE THAT COUNTS in my life... the voice of Jesus Himself!

I understand a certain type of headphones are called "noise cancellation headphones." They are often used by people traveling by airplane because the special headphones are capable of canceling out the drone of the jet engines, leaving the passenger to enjoy silence or the music of their choice. Wouldn't that be nice, if we could simply wear certain headphones which would silence all the distracting and competing noise, allowing us to hear ONLY the voice that really counts... HIS!

Well, it's not always as easy as wearing headphones, but we surely want to hear HIS voice... every day and all day long!



My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. (John 10:37)

Whoever is of God hears the words of God. (John 8:47)

Blessed are those who hear the word of God and keep it! (Luke 11:28)

The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. (John 6:63)

Let me hear what God the Lord will speak, for He will speak peace to His people... (Psalm 85:8)

Let's listen to Him today!

John (for Sharon and the rest at ALM)

P.S. You have been kind and generous with your continued, regular financial and prayer support. Thank you so very much!



A Heart Check-up for Children

Question: I'm concerned about our children's spiritual state. We go to church and most of our friends are Christians, but I'm not sure how my children are doing in their relationship with God. Any suggestions for helping them become more spiritually "in-tune?"

Response: Excellent question! Actually many children who grow up in Christian homes reach adulthood without an understanding of how to be saved.

Of all the duties of parenthood, the most important is preparing children for life AFTER this present life. Parents often make critical mistakes in fulfilling this obligation...

... by assuming their child knows and understands what it means to be rightly related to God.

... by assuming their child has picked up the knowledge of salvation from some source outside the home, such as Sunday School, Vacation Bible School, Christian School, camp, etc.

... by assuming their young child's decision to "ask Jesus into his/her heart" was a mature, fully understood decision.

The following is a list of scriptures on salvation to study and talk about at family time: John 3:3-7, Romans 10:9-13, John 3:16-21, Galatians 1:4, James 2:14-19, I John 5:4-5, Luke 14:25-35, Hebrews 2:1-3, Isaiah 55:1-3, I John 3:7-10, II Corinthians 6:2, Acts 3:19, Mark 8:35, II Corinthians 7:9-10, Luke 13:23-24, Revelation 3:19, John 10:27-28, I John 1:9, Acts 4:12.

New parents are understandably interested in performing the practical tasks of infant care... how to feed, burp, diaper, dress, and bathe their child, etc. These *are* essential to the physical well-being of their baby. As the years go by, these same parents often spend huge amounts of time, energy and finances in catering to the interests and activities of their child. Emotional well-being, as well as physical provision for the child, are priorities. But just as critical is the spiritual well-being of the child! Even a tiny baby is an *eternal* being! What are some things a parent can do to promote spiritual life and health in their child?

1. Pray! Pray with and for your children. Let them hear you pray.... not just when you're in trouble, but even when you just want to express thanksgiving and praise to God as your Savior and best Friend. Teach them to pray... even before they can talk, they

can reverently bow their heads and fold their hands... to quiet themselves for prayer. As they grow, encourage them to keep a prayer list and check off the answers to prayer as they come..

2. Practice what you preach! Do you want Jesus to be your child's best Friend? Let him/her see that you love the Lord above everything and everyone else! Do you want your child to obey God's Word? Hold yourself to that same standard.... in speech, interpersonal relationships, work responsibilities, citizenship, financial management, etc. Are you tolerating a particular sin in your life? Don't be surprised if your child carries on that sinful habit.

3. Plan for righteousness. Just as an athlete must train in order to achieve excellence in his/her chosen sport, so a child must be *trained* in spiritual excellence. Parents need to talk to their child about God, teach him/her Scriptural truth, encourage involvement in many forms of Christian ministry. Wise parents are willing to rearrange schedules, make financial sacrifices, and commit themselves wholeheartedly to the spiritual development of their child. The rewards will far surpass any earthly accomplishments!

4. Talk about the amazing truth of the gospel. Christ died on the cross to take the penalty for our sins so that we wouldn't have to pay the debt for our lawlessness. Do your children know this? Have they opened their hearts to receive His gift of salvation? If you're not sure... don't wait until it's too late! Talk to them about it when you're in the car, around the table, before bedtime, etc. Learn from the example of the father in this true story:

A father had but one son. His salvation was the object of his father's daily thought and prayer. The time of revival meetings came before it was possible to finish the spring planting. When the day of the opening service came, the farmer hitched up his wagon and invited the family to go to the church meeting. "But Dad," said the boy, "you aren't going to leave the field by the lane unseeded? It will never be in as good form again this season." "The field will have to take its chances," said the father. "The meetings have first place." "During the meetings, the boy gave his heart to Jesus. Less than a year later, he came down with a fatal illness. As the boy neared death's door, just before he slipped out into eternity, he put his arms around his father and drew him close. With a shining face the boy whispered, "Dad, I'm so glad you let the field wait."

Lay Christian Counselor Training

Six Monday evenings
October 1-November 5, 2018
7:00 - 9:00 PM

**\$120 per person or \$150 per couple
(textbooks included)**

Designed for those who wish to be more-effective people helpers within the Christian community.

Please register no later than
SEPTEMBER 10th by calling the ALM office.



Open Arms Childbirth Class

Five consecutive Thursdays at 7:00pm
October 4 - November 1, 2018

Taught by an experienced childbirth educator, this class covers the same information offered in a hospital course, but includes a distinctively-Christian perspective. You will meet and connect with other expectant couples and gain many practical helps as you prepare for a great labor and delivery. There is no cost for this course. Please register by contacting the ALM office (see contact information below).

Contact Information

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