



Abundant Living Ministries

Encouraging Christian Living since 1978

September 2020

Two of my grandsons were laughing at old photos. "Seriously, Grandpa... that is you? Oh my... I do NOT like your hair and your beard!" I don't think they knew the word "sideburns," but they definitely did not think I looked good with them! As I decided to include an old family photo in this letter, I went searching for one in which I was pretty clean-cut.

Oh, the good old days! Now that I am a gray-haired grandpa, I guess I can encourage and exhort you younger ones to take seriously your parenting and teaching within the home. Guard your home from ungodly influences. Make careful decisions concerning music, videos, leisure activities, reading material. I remember discussing situations with our children when they commented, "we are the only family we know of that seems to believe this way." We responded, "We understand this may be frustrating and disappointing. But God has not made us responsible for your friends' family and standards. God has made us responsible for our own household. We will serve the Lord!"

Sharon's article, just below these comments, offers practical guidance in the training and teaching of our children. You'll appreciate it.



Enjoy your family!

John (for Sharon and the rest here at ALM)

Question: My children seem oblivious to danger. I don't want to be a hovering, over-protective parent, but there are so many possible sources of harm in our world. How do I help them be aware and alert, without arousing unnecessary fear?

Response: Proverbs 22:3 (NLT) would be a great verse for every family member to memorize... *A prudent person foresees danger and takes precautions. The simpleton goes blindly on and suffers the consequences.*

Take some time to discuss this Scripture with the entire family. Encourage the children to suggest situations which could be potentially dangerous and actions they could take to avoid harm.

Parents can share examples from their own lives of times they were spared from injury or harm, by making preventive plans.



An Ounce of Prevention

By Sharon Charles

Point children to Biblical history when men or women foresaw coming problems and took action to save the day. Joseph, Abigail, David, Mary and Joseph, Paul are all good examples. Ask your children to share examples from their own history studies of other people who were spared destruction through their wise planning ahead of time.

In her book, *Five Conversations You Must Have With Your Son*, Vicki Courtney urges parents to teach their boys (and it is just as practical for girls too!) a three-letter acrostic to help them develop better self-control and avoid being drawn into harmful situations:

S... STOP!

T...THINK!

P...PRAY!

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She makes the point that if children are capable of learning the “stop, drop and roll” phrase for fire safety, they are certainly able to remember this STP reminder. Dads and Moms can describe various scenarios which could pose risk to a child. Then they can invite family members to suggest how the STP strategy could work in those circumstances.

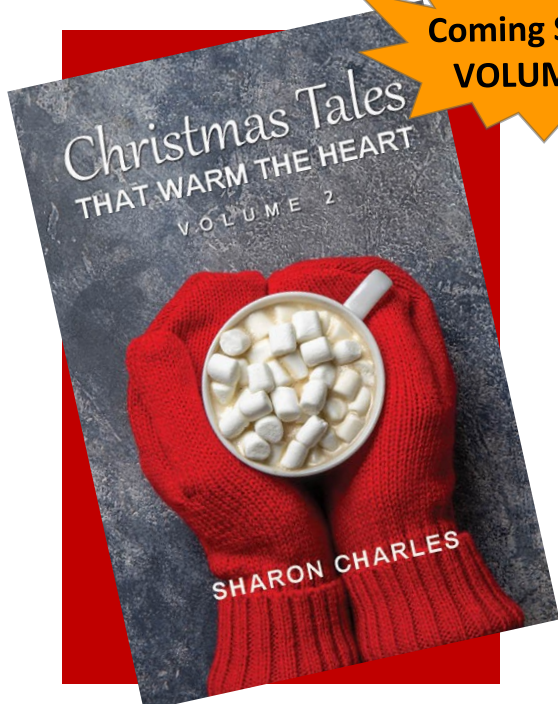
We live in troubled times, when even many adults are making rash, foolish decisions. Rather than giving in to fear and anxiety, Christian men and women should keep alert to approaching trouble and make wise, pre-emptive decisions. Remember that the Lord is glad to give wisdom for any tough situation... *If you need wisdom, ask our generous God, and he will give it to you (James 1:5 NLT).*

It is impossible to protect ourselves and our children from every danger lurking ahead. However taking precautions before tragedy strikes can often lower the risks. Make a habit of praying daily that the Lord will protect each family member from evil, danger and harm of any kind, whether it be physical, emotional or spiritual in nature. Then jump-start your faith, by thanking Him for answering that prayer. At that point, relax and rest in His peace, knowing that His watchful eye is on those you love all day long!



Sharon Charles

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\$11.00 (plus shipping & handling)

WILL BE AVAILABLE ON AMAZON (mid-November)

Lay Christian Counselor Training

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6 Monday evenings:
Oct 5 - Nov 9, 2020 7:00-9:00 PM
\$120 per person or \$150 per couple
(cost includes textbooks)

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For more info on a scholarship or to register for this class,
contact the ALM office or email Chris at
info@AbundantLivingMinistries.org

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Covering the important information offered in a hospital course, *Open Arms* adds a distinctively-Christian perspective. You will enjoy meeting other expectant couples as you gain practical help in preparing for a great labor and delivery. There is no cost for this course.

Register by contacting the ALM office.

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