



The "Oh Yeah!"

Letter

Living a Life of Great Impact

by Tim Loper

We are all called to live a life that glorifies God our Father. We all do reflect Him, accurately or not. Some of us have more impact than others. Those Christians that live a life of great impact challenge me, through their life and in their death.

During this last 3 months a man who lived this way has gone to be with his Maker and to hear the words of Christ when he says "well done thou good and faithful servant". This man was a leader, a pastor, a counselor, a discipler. He served Growing Families International as the regional director in the Southwest for years. He was the Family Pastor at East Valley Bible Church. He taught and lived discipleship wherever he was.

Chris Christiansen lived the last few years of his life battling brain cancer and the effects of the treatment. Ami and I attended the memorial service on August 5th in his honor. The service was a time of sorrow and joy, tears and laughter. It was a time of personal challenge. This was a man who came from a non Christian childhood to become a man who impacted hundreds directly and thousands more indirectly. The service was attended by hundreds of men and women. There were community leaders, church and ministry leaders, and men. Lots of men. Men that Chris took the time to disciple. Men he led to fall in love with God and God's Word through his teaching and through his life. I sat in the service and listened to man after man stand up and speak about how Chris would drop what he was doing and make the time to listen to them, to pray with them or to serve them in a myriad of ways.

The question in my heart and I believe in the hearts of many of those attending the service was, "Who will stand up at my memorial and what will they say?" Will I have impacted anyone? Will I have been the friend that others could count on? Will I even have impacted my own children so powerfully? So I am challenged to be more than I have been towards my God, my family and my friends and the men around me.

To God be the Glory for every breath we take.



* Are you remembering to give your children the "Freedom to Fail"? As they start a new school year, do your children know they can come to you when they fall short?

* Are you still giving the moral and practical reasons why? If you've been doing is for a while, start asking them what the reasons are!

* Are you losing peace and joy in yourself and your children? Could it be consistency in discipline that is lacking? Often in the interest of convenience or temporary peace, we become inconsistent, leading to added strife and irritated parents and children!

☺ Marriage ☹

Marriage is fun! Marriage is exciting! Marriage is fulfilling!

Marriage is a process. Marriage is death to self. Marriage is forgiving. Marriage is hard.

It may sound ironic, but we've found that marriage can be all these things ~ even in the same 24 hour period! In fact, we've discovered that the more a marriage contains the tough, trying, forgiving side, then the more genuine and lasting the fun and fulfilling side will be.

Marriage is an art, but it is an art that requires discipline. It demands the discipline to be unselfish, to be freely forgiving, to be a servant. And then it requires the discipline (yes, discipline) to let it all go and have fun and enjoy one another!

Kid Funny!

At Sunday School they were teaching how God created everything, including human beings. Little Johnny seemed especially intent when they told him how Eve was created out of one of Adam's ribs. Later in the week his mother noticed him lying down as though he were ill, and said, "Johnny what is the matter?" Little Johnny responded, "I have a pain in my side. I think I'm going to have a wife."



A Parenting Treasure from the Word

"He who fears the LORD has a secure fortress and for his children it will be a refuge." Proverbs 14:26 Are you being an umbrella of protection over your children through your relationship with God?



FUN Idea OF THE Quarter

THIS year our family HAS been MAKING its way THROUGH a FLIP calendar called, "Love Talks" For Families (there IS another calendar For couples). It is by Gary Chapman and Ramon Presson. We've all enjoyed going around the table at dinner ANSWERING questions like, "What is one of your Favorite stories that your parents tell about you?" or, "If you could ASK God any question what would you ASK?" or, "Recall a time you were really embarrased." It HAS opened up NUMEROUS occasions For WONDERFULLY intimate conversations and really seeing each other's hearts.

Quotes Worth Remembering

"Life's short and we never have enough time for the hearts of those who travel the way with us. O, be swift to love! Make haste to be kind."

~Henri Frederich Amiel

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Single Parents' Corner

Just a reminder that God is on your side! Who is it that we are to care for of our religion is "pure and undefiled"? Single parents! (James 1:27) Whose heart is it that God makes sing? Single parents! (Job 29:13) Whose son was the first recorded person to be raised from the dead by Jesus? A Single parent's! (Luke 7:12-16) Who said to God, "You are the God Who sees?" A Single parent! (Gen 21:9-14) And who did Jesus say gave more than the rich men because she gave out of her need? A Single parent! So be encouraged! God is on your side! He thinks highly of you! He is looking out for you! He is close to you! And you are whole in Him!



feedback!

WE WANT IT! TELL US WHAT YOU THINK OF THE NEWSLETTER! IS IT HELPFUL? IS IT ANNOYING? WHAT SECTION IS VALUABLE TO YOU? WHAT SECTION ISN'T? WHAT DO WE NEED TO ADD? WE ARE MAKING THIS NEWSLETTER FOR YOU, SO WE WANT TO KNOW WHAT YOU WANT FROM IT! PLEASE CHECK OUT THE "CONTACT US" SECTION FOR OUR EMAIL ADDRESS TO DROP US A QUICK NOTE. THANKS! WE NEED YOUR INPUT! ~T & A

Books we love...

It's Fall!! Huzzah! A time that means hearts brimming over with joy and thankfulness! One book that has special meaning is a book we've made ourselves. We started it in 1996 and continue to expand it each year. It is our "Thanksgiving Book." Each year starting 10 days prior to Thanksgiving, we spend a few minutes after dinner sharing something we are thankful for. All is recorded for posterity. It has now become our tradition to also read some of the older entries. We all laugh at the length of Ashley's entries - if you're going to let her speak, be ready for writer's cramp! We smile at our soft-hearted Alyssa thanking God for her sisters and we shake our heads at a very silly three and a half year old Abigail who decided to thank God for our dishes. It truly is a family treasure.

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