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Youth Supports

A resource to encourage and empower youth leaders for the expansion of the Lord's kingdom.

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Personal Attention from the Lord

Being a dad is great. My daughter just turned one. Of course we had the cake, party, balloons, and all the fun stuff. People brought presents that make sounds, light up, have animals, and she really loved the wrapping, boxes, and the bows. My wife and I are really learning that a schedule helps her out and therefore we benefit as well. Every night after her bath it is "daddy reading" time. She has about 20 books that she loves, and we read 3 or 4 each night and rotate through them. One book that she really likes has a mirror in the back page. Really the mirror is just shiny plastic. One night I reading this particular book and looking at the mirror. I could bend it to make me skinny or fat. So really I could look at myself in three ways; skinny, regular, or fat.

Looking at this mirror reminds me of college coaches. I used to help keep statistics for my college, and I have witnessed a bunch of different styles. The best style was when the coach knew whether to show you that you are "skinny, regular, or fat." You see, each athlete responds differently to each style of criticism.

Some youth need to see themselves in a flattering way to keep going. These are the kids that get into a game, hit a couple shots and then really get fired up. They probably also struggle if they miss a couple. So the coach needs to build them up.

Other kids need to see themselves as fat. The coach can yell and scream and that is what gets these athletes going. At the same time, if these kids are not pushed they will not get "hot."

The final group just needs to see things as they really are. You simply need to give them the facts.

Jesus used all three of these styles as well. He forgave the sins of a prostitute with a loving and tender touch, which is what she needed to get "back on track." He was also very short with the Pharisees, called them hypocrites, in order to get them to realize they need help. With the disciples though, He just shot straight. He told them one of them would betray him. He told another he was a rock, but yet He also called that same person "Satan."

There are times when I get down in my ministry and I need to be uplifted.

May God bless
you in the way
that you need
to help you
get "back on
track."

Words from Jeremiah 1:5 give me encouragement:

*"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you,
before you were born I set you apart;
I appointed you as a prophet to the nations."*

Other times I feel more highly about my self then others. In John 7, I am reminded that it is not about me. I need to do it for Christ and us His words, not mine.

Jesus answered, *"My teaching is not my own. It comes from him who sent me. If anyone chooses to do God's will, he will find out whether my teaching comes from God or whether I speak on my own. He who speaks on his own does so to gain honor for himself, but he who works for the honor of the one who sent him is a man of truth; there is nothing false about him. Has not Moses given you the law? Yet not one of you keeps the law. Why are you trying to kill me?"*

God has put us here to worship and serve Him. We have the great opportunity to help people realize what God's love really means. I think God gives us what we need when we need it.

I love the Jeremiah passage because I think that if we were set apart for His will, then everything that has happened in our life has been preparing us for ministry.

May God bless you in the way that you need to help you get "back on track." May you know when God is trying to help you.

And may you give praise to God when He helps you grow.

– Ben Bauer, Director of Education, Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Aloha, OR. <thes5_11@hotmail.com>

Find past issues of Youth Supports at:

http://www.nowlcms.org/educational_services/YouthSupports.aspx

K-Scope on
Hood Canal!

"Kaleidoscope," one of the premier youth ministry programs of the Northwest District, is set for July 8-13, 2007. Arranged by the the Youth Ministry Task Force of the district, this creative and dynamic experience of the Christ community will be held at the Christ Lutheran Retreat Center near Belfair, Washington. The registration fee is \$150. Congregations are encouraged to offer scholarship assistance for their high school youth. Because of the nature of the program, only 35 participants will be included — and no more than four from one congregation. Youth currently in high school are encouraged to apply by June 11 (postmark). After this date registrations will be accepted on a "first come, first served" basis. Jeff Kranich, DCE at Hope/Seattle, will serve as the dean. Pastor John Schmidt (Prince of Peace/Tacoma) serves as the K-Scope Coordinator and will be the "pastor-in-residence." Registration opens March 1. Contact Pastor John Schmidt for more information at 253-584-2565 or KscopeNOW@cs.com

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