



connexions

A Newsletter for the families and team members of kidZ connexion
Calvary Baptist Church — February 2011

The More Excellent Way: A Parent's New Normal

The snowstorm came as expected, keeping our Andy overnight in Milwaukee after his flight home from Minnesota was canceled. His college friends had come to surprise him at the airport so I found myself with the pleasure of entertaining them for 24 hours until he arrived safely at home. We decided to head out to the dollar theater instead of staying cooped up at home, arriving just after the first scene of the movie. As we found our way to our seats, I began to quietly unwrap myself from my snow attire. As the scarf made its way off of my neck and shoulders, it snagged and caught on the bridge of *my glasses!* I attempted to set it free with my glasses still on my nose but to no avail. I took my glasses off to fix the snag and pull the scarf and glasses apart. Again, no go. I finally put my glasses back on to see if I could endure the movie with it hanging from my spectacles while I inconspicuously worked it loose. As I turned to Andy's friend next to me, whom I had just met I might add, with the wool scarf obstructing my view and flapping around following every move my head made, she and I began to laugh...uncontrollably. The moment was indeed comical.

Have you ever had a phrase from the Bible stick to your heart or snag in your mind in such a way that no matter which way you turned it seemed to follow your every move, show up everywhere you looked as my scarf in the movie theater followed my head? The last phrase of I Corinthians 12:31 in the Amplified Bible has been "stuck in my heart"

like that in recent weeks.

I will show you a still more excellent way [one that is better by far and the highest of them all--love]."

The more excellent way "caught" on my heart and mind in such a way that it wouldn't let me escape its impact. **The more excellent way is His love ... no matter what, no matter when, no matter who.**

In this day of technology and information overload, parents are beyond informed. There are a plethora of parenting strategies and methods; so many "ways" to raise our children. Some are healthy and helpful. Others, not so much. Regardless, God has a way that is the "still more excellent way" no matter the strategy, the method, or the approach with our kids— *His love* expressed through the actions and attitudes of parents. I know we all love our kids. We really do; beyond description, with little effort and without measure. However, in his book, *How to Really Love Your Child*, Clinical Psychologist Dr. Ross Campbell explains that "the feeling of love a parent has in their heart for their child may be strong. But it is not enough." He goes on to emphasize the magnitude of actions over words and behavior over feelings stating that when it comes to loving our children "what we *do* as parents holds far more weight than what we say." That's God's point in I

Corinthians 12:31 and all of I Corinthians 13, the infamous "love chapter." **The more excellent way is His love in us.**

So, how do our children come to experience God's unconditional love for them personally? By going to kidZ connexion or youth group or having the right friends or being protected by well-meaning parents? Though these are all good things, they fall short. **Experiencing God's unconditional love becomes a part of their emotional and spiritual DNA by experiencing His unconditional love through the lives, actions, behaviors and reactions of their parents; love and grace mingled together in a package that causes parents to lead and respond to their children like Jesus.** Dr. Campbell likens children to mirrors. He says, "They reflect, but do not initiate love. If love is given to them, they return it. If none is given, they have nothing to return. Unconditional love is reflected unconditionally, and conditional love is returned conditionally."

Let the more excellent way – His love in you – catch in your heart, snag on your mind and follow you wherever you turn. Let His more excellent way be your "new normal." Love in God not just *with* God and watch the transformation take place in you, and in those around you. Your child will begin to reflect His love back to you, and to others and you will see God's more excellent way become their "new normal" too.

Sherilyn

Role Changes in kidZ conneXion

As Calvary grows, so do our needs in kidZ conneXion and beyond. A few roles are shifting so that our growing needs can be met more efficiently.

New KC Directors at 1250 —

Darleen Morehead and **Barb Neuhard** are replacing **Sherilyn Jameson** who is transitioning out of that role and into the role of Central Resource Coordinator for all Calvary sites.

New KC Director at Gray's Woods —

Theresa Perez, soon to be Theresa Heinz, is replacing **Dani Mangene** who has transitioned into full-time Director of Calvary Kid Care.

Our thanks to these women who have served and are serving with such excellence!



Breaking Free Sports Camp

June 27-30, 5:30—8:30 pm

Registration details coming soon!



Kid MANIA Rally

1st-4th Grade

- RALLY
- GAMES
- PUPPETS
- SWIMMING (free!)

PIZZA POP STACKS \$7

5th-8th Grade

former PENN STATE FOOTBALL PLAYER
JOE ROSE

- BASKETBALL
- VOLLEYBALL
- MUSIC
- SWIMMING (free!)

Save a Spot
482-8300

State College Area High School
April 22, 2011 *9:30am to 3:30pm
Sponsored by Child Evangelists Fellowship®