



The Outer Leaf

Live Oaks
Community Church

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"Leading edge news and views of the ministries of Live Oaks Community Church"

The Blisters Always Come First

My Grandfather's Son is an inspiring memoir of the life of Supreme Court justice, Clarence Thomas, told in his own words. One life principle that Thomas' grandfather passed on to him was, "the blisters always come first." When young Clarence would show up at his grandparent's home to work with his grandfather during summer break, he was never allowed to use gloves while he transitioned from the soft handwork of college study to the tough handwork of construction. He remembered how sore and blistered his hands would become in the first couple of weeks. After the relatively brief period of pain, the strength, toughness, and calluses would come that made his work go smoothly. This saying, "the blisters always come first – then the calluses" became a metaphor for life. It is also a metaphor for the life of a disciple.

Each time God has called Jodi and I into a new ministry or job there was always a period of apprehension learning the ropes of the new position and finding the foundation to stand upon. However, after a time our work routine/goals became clear and we knew where we stood. "The blisters always come first – then clarity in your ministry/work." Likewise, when Jesus led us to a new home or city it was awkward in the beginning. Nevertheless, once we got a feel for where we were and became familiar with where what we needed was located that new place became comfortable and felt like home. "The blisters always come first – then the feeling of comfort and home." Finally, each time the Spirit encouraged us to step out to develop or use a gift God had given us for ministry, it seemed difficult upon our first steps to use the gift, but the gifts did progress with consistent use and practice. "The blisters always come first – then the skill and effectiveness in ministry."



There is always a period of uncomfortableness and even woundedness (blisters) when trying to make a change and work at something new. Yet, if we will endure the pain, in dependence on the Holy Spirit, at the beginning of any new pursuit before we know it the new strength, calluses and reward will come. The goal of God for each disciple, "to be conformed into the image of Christ" means the disciple is called to follow in a transformation process – a process that has change as a constant.

Here are some questions to ask as you inventory your thoughts, heart and life in view of this metaphor for a disciple's life... In your desire to be your "Heavenly Father's son" are you willing to follow through the blisters? Where are you attempting to isolate yourself from God's plan for your life? You are trying to insulate yourself and your life from any pain even though you are not happy in your present state. Where are you fearing the brief upfront period of "blisters" and forgetting

the long lasting "rewards" that always result from journeying through the blisters? What attitudes, behaviors, ways of living and even relationships must you rid your life of like taking off a pair of gloves so you can experience life for real and the abundant life God intends?

Even though the holidays are coming, let us follow the Lord without insulation or isolation, and receive the blessings on the other side of the blisters.

Lord bless,

Pastor Kelley



You Are Invited To Attend:

What: Live oaks Community Church Holiday Dinner
When: Sunday, December 2nd 5:00pm—7:30pm
Where: Cross Road Fellowship Bible Church
Cost: \$5 per person/ \$20 per family



Missed Opportunities

Submitted by Jan Burt

This parenting article is taken from the book "Home Improvement", by Scott Turansky and Joanne Miller, authors of the curriculum we are using in Sunday morning J-Kids.

Every day parents have opportunities to touch the hearts of their children. Sometimes it's through a story or a hug, or an apology, but often it's through the daily correction that children need.

Addressing the heart is important. Unfortunately some parents respond to their children in ways that miss the heart. One of the mistakes parents make is that they make excuses for their children. We've all heard them.



He'll grow out of it.
 She's so cute.
 At least she's doing what I asked.
 He's tired.
 He's just going through a stage.
 At least she's better than other kids her age.
 That's the way kids are.
 She's a teenager.
 He's a two-year-old.
 He's a boy.
 She could be a lot worse.

Each of these is an excuse for not disciplining and often represents a missed opportunity to teach or direct a child on a deeper level. Remember, we aren't just trying to help children change on the outside to develop appropriate behavior. We're trying to help them change their hearts.

Since these statements might have truths behind them, we may choose to discipline a little differently, postpone a consequence, or redirect children. There's nothing wrong with that, but we must be careful not to ignore heart issues in the process.

Look for ways to challenge your children on a heart level this week. You'll be surprised at how many opportunities are out there.

This idea was taken from the book, "Home Improvement: Eight Tools for Effective Parenting," by Dr. Scott Turansky and Joanne Miller, RN, BSN.



10 Questions with a Live Oaks Family



1. Q. *What are your names?*
A. Jalynne and Ron (Sr.) Inkelaar
2. Q. *Do you have any children? If yes, what are their names and ages?*
A. Rhonda—20; Ronnie—19; Joshua—16.
3. Q. *How long have you been married?*
A. 21 years.
4. Q. *How long have you attended Live Oaks Community Church?*
A. Since Fall 2000. Just before the church's 5th Anniversary.
5. Q. *How long have you lived in Wichita?*
A. We've lived in the area all of our lives, but we've actually lived in Andale for 16 years.
6. Q. *Where do each of you work?*
A. Ron Sr. works at Spirit Aero systems building thrust reversers; Jalynne works for the Sedgwick County SPED in Goddard and is a para-educator for visually impaired students. I am learning to type things in Braille which is interesting; Rhonda works for Right At Home Home healthcare; Ronnie is a student at Wichita Area Technical College; Joshua is a Junior at Goddard High School.
7. Q. *What are each of your hobbies?*
A. Ron Sr.—Flower gardening & fishing; Jalynne—Photography, email, riding 4-wheelers, MySpace; Rhonda—Spending money & tubing; Ronnie—Motorcycles!!, paintball, hunting & camping; Joshua—Fixing motorcycles, hunting, wrestling, running, fishing, riding mini-bikes & 4-wheelers.
8. Q. *Do you have any pets? If yes, what are they and what are their names?*
A. Oh my goodness! We have tons of pets it seems like! First is Lexie, she is our 13 year old Schipperke. We have another Schipperke who is much younger named Cole; the boys call him Colebear. We are down to two cats now, Curious George and Puss in Boots. We call them George and Boots for short. After that we have Zipper, a 5 year old parakeet and Zeus, our Leopard spotted Gecko.
9. Q. *What are each of your favorite sports?*
A. Ron Sr—Wrestling is the only real sport; Jalynne—likes to watch her kids wrestle but walking and bike riding are her type of sports; Rhonda—hates most sports but was the Football manager for 3 years at Andale High School; Ronnie—likes Football and wrestling, paintball and dirt biking; Joshua—likes Cross Country, wrestling, weightlifting and riding dirt bikes.
10. Q. *Tell us something about yourself (each of you) that no one else in the Church may know about you.*
A. Ron Sr—Used to rebuild cars. Sold his favorite baby a 69 Mach 1 Mustang when Rhonda was born because he was broke and we needed the money. Jalynne—used to take Hula lessons & was a Girl Scout leader and worked with the Girl scout council committees for the Wichita neighborhoods. Rhonda—Finished High School in 3 years! Ronnie—Writes his own song lyrics and plays guitar a little bit. Joshua—Took Gymnastics when he was little.



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