



The Outer Leaf

Live Oaks
Community Church

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

How The Bridge Came Tumbling Down...

On August 1 the unthinkable occurred. The eight-lane I-35W Bridge over the Mississippi river in Minneapolis, Minnesota collapsed during rush hour. The fallen bridge plunged six stories (60 feet) into the Mississippi taking many vehicles with it and claiming 13 people's lives, while injuring many others.

As folks watched this horrific event on the evening news the question was asked repeatedly, "How could this happen?" "How does a commuter bridge which is regularly inspected come down in one dramatic fall?" The newspaper reporters and magazine columnists pondered the same questions. I think you and I should do the same. We have many forms of bridges in our lives and ministry, and they serve a very important purpose.

Any **"bridge"** spans the gap between two or more things and connects them. Bridges create relationships and maintain them because they physically connect people through the endeavors of life and are a conduit for the free flow of information. A strong relationship between two people or groups of people will have a large and strong bridge connecting them equal to the open and honest investment they have made in each other and their connection (bridge). However, what is true of physical bridges is also true of relational bridges. Regardless of the size and strength of a bridge (connection) between people, without proper maintenance, the bridge will eventually come tumbling down.



Therefore, why did our bridge in question fall?

The cause may be much more subtle than you might think... For instance, consider the cause of major bridges that fell in the past. The Mianus River Bridge in Connecticut (three dead in 1983) was triggered by metal fatigue in a single steel pin: when it finally failed, the loss of support transferred excess stress on other parts, which couldn't handle it, causing them to fail in turn and the bridge to fall. Then, the Silver Bridge, spanning the Ohio River between Ohio and West Virginia (46 dead in 1967) was ultimately traced, again, to a single piece of metal, which had been forged with a tiny, unnoticed crack that weakened further with corrosion. Both bridges had small flaws, cracks, wounds that when left unfixed over time brought the whole bridge down!

The contributing causes to the I-35W bridge collapse are still under investigation. Nevertheless, investigators feel that "Pigeon dung" is one of the many smaller factors working together, over time, which may have brought the mighty span down. In a Time magazine article experts claimed the corrosive guano deposited all over the span's framework helped the steel beams rust faster. Pigeon droppings contain ammonia and acids, said chemist Neal Langerman, an officer with the health and safety division of the American Chemical Society. If the dung is not washed away, it dries out and turns into a concentrated salt. When water gets in and combines with the salt

and ammonia, it creates small electrochemical reactions that rust the steel underneath. "Every time you get a little bit of moisture there, you wind up having a little bit of electrochemistry occurring and you wind up with corrosion," said Langerman. "Over a long term, it might in fact cause structural weaknesses." (St. Paul, Minn.) Pounded and strained by heavy traffic and weakened by missing bolts and cracking steel, the failed Interstate 35W bridge over the Mississippi River also faced a less obvious enemy: pigeons. (Time Magazine)

Apparently, the bridge fell in about 4 seconds! How quickly a solid connection can be gone! Relationships are fragile as are the bridges that make the relationship. The parallels between the failure of these physical bridges and the potential failures of our relational bridges should be obvious. It is the "little flaws" that we allow to eat at us and the erosive properties of the "garbage" we let build up that ultimately destroys a relationship. And at the same time, it is us who decide to let little things separate us. If

we would just handle our little irritations God's way, by exercising patience (Prov 19:11), overlooking an offense whenever possible (Prov. 19:11 & 17:9), not letting the sun go down on our anger before attempting to resolve our issues (Eph. 4:26-27), using God's guideline for resolving conflict (Matt. 18:15-22), speak the truth in love (Eph. 4:15), relying on the fruit of the Spirit to help us relate to people who are different than us (Gal. 5:22), and offering forgiveness "7 times 70" (Matt. 18:21-22) - we would maintain strong connections, experience secure relationships, and overcome the little things.

Obviously, it takes two to have a relationship. If one party in a relationship wants to sever the connection there is not much the other party can do. Yet, let us make sure to do all we can to maintain the relationship - all we can to live at peace with the other person as far as it depends on us.

In closing, we sometimes forget that many people depend upon the health and maintenance of a single relationship. How many people depend upon the strength of the bonds between a husband and wife? How important is the connection between a teacher and student or a coach and athlete to the passing of information and the development of skills? How many people are affected, in the immediate and eternally, when a spiritual or ministry leader lets garbage erode their connection with God and they fall? A school bus filled with more than 50 children who were returning from a summer field trip was among the vehicles on the bridge when it collapsed. There is always collateral damage when a relational bridge deteriorates and collapses.

Lord bless your bridges,

Pastor Kelley

Sunday Morning J-Kids & Family Ministry

By Jan Burt

Most of you know that J-Kids has moved to Sunday mornings, and the Children's Ministry has made some changes to the format and curriculum used in J-Kids. In addition to our Sunday morning ministry with the children, we hope to be a source of blessing and encouragement to families. This month we would like to share a short article - called a "Parenting Tip" from the National Center for Biblical Parenting. We hope it is a blessing for you and your family!!



Sibling Conflict: A Great Opportunity:

"When the bickering gets too bad I just go in my room and shut the door!" one mom said in exasperation. The fact is that many parents believe the solution to arguing and bickering is to allow children to "fight it out."

That's one solution parents commonly use when their children start fighting. Other parents separate the children and try to keep them apart in order to maintain peace. They imitate a referee at a boxing match, breaking up the conflict and sending the fighters to their opposite corners. Unfortunately, continually separating children doesn't solve the problem. In fact, the children often come back again to fight some more.

We believe both of these solutions are inadequate because they lack the depth needed to bring about lasting change. When parents only separate the offenders or walk away, they miss valuable opportunities to help their children grow.

Conflict with brothers and sisters is a child's first class in relationship school. Your home is the classroom, you are the teacher, and honor is the curriculum. Each conflict situation becomes an opportunity for teaching children how to get along.

When two children are fighting, call one out of the room and talk about how to deal with the conflict. Teach children how to confront, ignore, negotiate, compromise, talk about problems, and be peacemakers. Then send the child back into the situation to try again. If necessary, call the second child out and give helpful suggestions before trying again. Whatever you do, don't try to discipline them together. Kids have an amazing way of deflecting discipline when they are together. Be listening to your children's interaction and continue to coach them in relationships. You may call the same child out of an activity five or ten times in an hour to continue to point out the change that needs to take place. Help children know what right actions are appropriate, and as long as they are willing to try to do the right thing, send them back into the situation to try again.

Use sibling conflict to teach about healthy relationships. It takes a lot of work but you'll be preparing your children to deal with the difficult relationships they'll encounter for the rest of their lives.

This parenting tip is taken from the book, ["Say Goodbye to Whining, Complaining, and Bad Attitudes. In You and Your Kids."](#)

A little Reminder

By Ashley Callstrom

Although I have a pretty good sense of humor most of the time, I am also guilty of taking myself o h - s o - s e r i o u s l y . Of course *my* problems are bigger than everyone else's. I have mountains to climb and obstacles to tackle, life's a challenge for me to solve. The pressures of this world are quickly building when I cry out in panic.

All too often I need the hand of our loving Father to gently remind me of His infinite capacity. He whispers to me in assurance—He cares about the smallest details of my life. And then—He does what only He can do—He reminds me of how small I am and how narrow my focus. Softly, patiently, and calmly God hushes my anxious heart, tending to the needs of my selfish heart.

10 Questions with a Live Oaks Family

1. Q. *What are your names?*
A. Danny and Autumn DeNayer
2. Q. *Do you have any children? If yes, what are their names and ages?*
A. Devon—12; Duston—10; Dakota—5; Tiana—10 1/2 months
3. Q. *How long have you been married?*
A. Almost 2 years.
4. Q. *How long have you attended Live Oaks Community Church?*
A. Autumn & Dakota—3 years; Dan, Duston & Devon—almost 2 years.
5. Q. *How long have you lived in Wichita?*
A. Autumn—all my life, except for college (3 1/2 years at PSU — GO GORILLAS!); Dan—12 years.
6. Q. *Where do each of you work?*
A. Dan—Cessna Citation X flight line; Autumn—Professional wife and mother (although I do have a BSW).
7. Q. *What are each of your hobbies?*
A. Autumn—cleaning, taxiing the kids, oh...and if time allows reading and Starbucks; Dan—Nascar, Nascar, Nascar! (And Nascar simulation racing on Tuesday nights); Devon—riding bikes and hanging with friends; Duston—riding bikes and playing X-box; Dakota—playing with brothers & friends & riding my bike; Tiana—crawling and putting anything and everything in my mouth.
8. Q. *Do you have any pets? If yes, what are they and what are their names?*
A. No.
9. Q. *What are each of your favorite sports?*
A. Autumn—Hockey & Rugby; Dan—Nascar & NFL; Devon—soccer; Duston—baseball; Dakota—soccer; Tiana—crawling.
10. Q. *Tell us something about yourself (each of you) that no one else in the Church may know about you.*
A. Autumn—I often sing along to elevator music without realizing it; Dan—I run Dale Earnhardt Jr.'s Nascar simulation racing league online and been on Nascar shows & in magazines with Jr.; Devon—I have been on a cruise; Duston—When I was little I would hide and fall asleep, then everyone would be scared while looking for me; Dakota—I am going to work at Blockbuster when I grow-up and bring my parents and grandparents free movie rentals; Tiana—I am very ticklish.



REMINDER From Page 2:

However overwhelming I feel my life may be, it is but a grain of sand. The colossal hands of God are constantly ready to remind us that we are but grains of sand. But O, the love of our God despite our diminutive perspectives! His love never tires, nor does He become impatient as we flounder in our attempts to "please" Him. I can only stand in awe as I realize that my human capacity to even begin to comprehend our God is a miracle in itself. This is like a single molecule of water being able to comprehend the sun's light or its warmth. My perception of God cannot begin to encompass all of His goodness, nor can I understand His ways. The Lord of all creation, known and un-knowable, loves me, made me, and wants me to know that I'm special and my life matters. My problems and obstacles count—but not compared to what counts in the end. I must rest in God's goodness and trust in His promises. And thankfully, I know He will always be ready to remind me when I start making mountains out of molehills.

**¹You have searched me, Lord,
and you know me.**

**²You know when I sit and when I rise;
you perceive my thoughts from afar.**

**³You discern my going out and my lying down;
you are familiar with all my ways.**

**⁴Before a word is on my tongue
you, Lord know it completely.**

**⁵You hem me in behind and before,
and you lay your hand upon me.**

**⁶Such knowledge is too wonderful for me,
too lofty for me to attain.**

Psalm 139:1-6



www.liveoaks.org

Mailing Address:

P.O. Box 9522

Wichita, KS 67277