



Peace Progress

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Editor, Kay Glathar

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A Word from Our Pastor:

Dear Family of Peace,

It is surprising what you can actually find out when you simply ask questions and listen.

I have been known to be a procrastinator when it comes to buying Christmas presents for family. I wait until the last minute and then assume that what I am purchasing for the person is exactly what they need. It so happened this last Christmas that one of my assumptions proved to be incorrect. When my parents visited recently, I noticed that my dad was carrying his bathroom supplies in a plastic Zip-Lock kind of bag. Somewhere in my brain the Zip-lock bag was tucked away in my memory. When it became crunch time to buy gifts, I simply remembered the Zip-Lock bag and thought, "it might be good to get dad something a little nicer to carry his bathroom supplies". I purchased, wrapped and presented my gift thinking that all would go well on Christmas day.

When my dad opened his gift, however, he was not as excited as I thought he would be. To my surprise, I found out that my dad already had a bag to hold bathroom supplies. The gift I gave him was not something that he needed! With receipt in hand, I

took the bag back for a refund, all the while frustrated with myself for not checking beforehand for what my dad needed.

I share this recent story because it teaches a truth: asking questions and listening are the best ways to begin when trying to help someone.

This is true also for Peace. No doubt Peace is wanting to share its peace with the community of Philomath. But before we can do so, time needs to be given to ask questions, listen and then assess the needs in the community.

Some may object, "Why go through such efforts--it is obvious what the needs are in Philomath, let's just find something to do and go to work!"

But.....are the needs of Philomath that obvious? I recently sat down and had a conversation with one of the leaders in the community. The conversation flowed quite easily as we talked about our backgrounds and where we had travelled. We hit it off quite well with very little pause between thoughts and topics of conversation—it was like talking to an old friend. But then I asked a question that really threw the conversation in a completely new direction. I asked him, "What are the needs in Philomath?" He is the kind of person rarely short on

words and when I asked him the question, a puzzled look came upon his face. He thought quite hard and finally said, "Wow, I haven't heard someone ask me that question." I was surprised.

This person thought even longer and stated, "The needs have really changed in my opinion just in the last 5 years." He then went on and explained the struggles families are facing and the influence that drugs are having upon people of all ages. I just listened. No words were needed.

After having that conversation, I came across a blog online that made this statement, "We think that people are surveyed to death and that by asking questions, they will resent us. More often, the opposite is true. Most people are rarely asked about what they think about community needs or projects."

It is important that we ask away! And listen. We need to make sure that the gifts we offer bring the healing and joy that are desired most.

Please keep in prayer our Task Force and our community leaders as more of these conversations take place. May the Lord soon multiply our efforts!

In Peace,
Pastor Lucke



Healthy Families

If Kids Can Hear Promises, They Can Hear Requests—Getting your child to listen to you is easier than it sounds

By Jim Fay

You can train your child to hear you the first time you say something. Or, you can train them to ignore you. Raising a child who listens to adults is a source of joy. Raising one who doesn't is a constant source of frustration and torment.

Our actions either train kids to listen or not to listen. Consider this situation I witnessed in an airport recently. Joshua, a five-year-old, was running out into the concourse.

"Joshua. You stop that running!" called his mother. She did not follow through, so Joshua continued dashing in and out of a crowd of irritated travelers.

"Joshua. You get over here!" Once more, she barked an order, but did nothing to enforce it.

"Joshua! Get off of that!" Another order was shouted by mom and ignored by Joshua.

Suddenly, Joshua was right at my feet staring up at me.

Mother ordered again, "Joshua. You get away from that man. You come over here. Quit bothering people."

I looked down at Joshua and asked, "Joshua, what's your mom going to do if you don't do what she says?"

He knew the answer immediately, "Nothing."

Of course he was right. His mother had trained him to know that she would bark orders, but never enforce them. Why should he listen if he could do as he pleased - without adult interference - by not listening?

In fact, Joshua never had to walk back to his mother in the airport. She came over to him, held his hand, and apologized to me with, "I'm so sorry. You know how five-year-olds are. They won't listen to a thing you say."

It took a lot to keep me from saying, "I've known a lot of

five-year-olds who listen to their parents. But their parents mean what they say."

Training kids to listen is not brain surgery. It's not complicated. Joshua's mom could retrain him to listen by first retraining herself to do the following:

Make a commitment she will never repeat herself.

Kids unconsciously learn how many times each parent will repeat a request before taking action. She can give Joshua the gift of knowing she will only say something once.

Be prepared to act.

She needs to be dedicated to making her child's life somewhat uncomfortable each time he fails to listen the first time she says something. This means as soon as he disobeys she goes to him, takes him back to his seat, and makes him stay with her saying, "How sad not to listen. Now you can stay with me."

She should never accept, "But I didn't hear you," as an excuse.

When confronted with this excuse, she should respond with, "How sad not to be listening. Maybe your ears will get better." It is important she says this without sarcasm and follows through with the consequences of not listening.

Be prepared for Joshua to have a fit about not getting his way.

Even though this will be uncomfortable, other adults around her will secretly applaud her courage and willingness to put forth the efforts to raise a well-behaved child.

Get ready to enjoy a more responsible and happier child.

I have worked with kids and families for 47 years. During that time I have never met a child who failed to hear a parent's promise. They always hear promises the first time. I've also learned their ears work the same way for requests when parents learn and follow the four steps I've outlined.

Training and expecting kids to listen is one of a parent's greatest gifts.

.....It's the Love and Logic way!