

for Parents

November 7, 2005

November's hidden treasure: *Courage to do the right thing*

"Be strong and courageous, because you will lead these people to inherit the land I swore to their forefathers to give them. Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the law my servant Moses gave you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, that you may be successful wherever you go." *Joshua 1:6-7*

Just as Joshua was forced to choose between listening to the spies ("There are giants in the land!") or Almighty God ("Every place that the sole of your foot shall tread upon, that have I given unto you, as I said unto Moses"), so are we forced to choose which voices to listen to in our decision making. There will always be contending opinions about the courses of action between which we choose. Courage is found in choosing the voice which lines up with God, even if it means not being very popular here on earth.

This morning in assembly I challenged our students to listen to voices that agree with God's Word, and to have the courage to do the right thing even when nobody else is. This is no easier for young people than it is for adults. You can encourage your young person this month by letting him or her know about the things in your family's life which require courage. Allowing a child this glimpse into the adult world comforts them against the notion that all the preaching is just for little folks. Be a model of courageous "standing alone" for your child to see. Allow him or her to pray for you to do the right thing, just as you pray for your child.

Some folks have asked me about the large photo of Scottish bagpipers I keep in my office. Aside from the fact that I have Scotch-Irish ancestry (as well as British and Dutch – a mixture like most Americans!), looking at it inspires me to do difficult things. The Scottish Reformer John Knox was chained to the oars of a galley ship for preaching truth to his congregation when it was not politically correct. His life and work for God became so powerful that the Queen of Scotland is quoted as saying, "I fear the prayers of John Knox more than all the assembled armies of Europe."

This month's hidden treasure for the Cornerstone community:

Courage is the determination to do the right thing, even when no one else is.