

Emra Expressions



God Given Idea

August, 2018
Volume 39, Issue 8

In September John and I will be going to Traverse City, Michigan to teach the eight week parenting course, "Raising Responsible Adults".

One of the exciting things that has happened in the process of preparation for this class has been the request by the Church to have Michigan certify the course for use in the Children's Services system.

We have always had a heart for parents, grandparents, teachers and youth leaders who feel the need to learn more about working with their kids. This certification would allow us to reach out to parents who are mandated by the court for parenting classes and prospective Foster Parents.

As we have been traveling we have been asking people to pray about the certification. Just a couple of days ago one of our dear friends responded to the news by saying, "Boy, we need that class in our state. Wouldn't it be exciting to see every state in the country adopt it!!"

To be honest, I had never - ever thought of doing that. What a God given idea!!!

It would mean a difference in how we distribute the course. It would also mean that our approach to training and enlisting others to teach the course would need to change.

As I write this letter I find myself excited and overwhelmed at the same time. Up to this point we have traveled all over the United States and even the World teaching the concepts of Life Is Full Of Choices by ourselves. For me, expanding like this is a completely new idea.

Keep this in your heart and continue to ask God to lead us in the way He wants us to go.

If this expansion is truly a God given idea, He will provide a God given direction!

Lovingly,

Sheryl
for John and Sheryl Emra

Life Is Full Of Choices
PO Box 6179
Whittier, CA 90609
www.LifeIsFullOfChoices.org

John and Sheryl Emra
1210 Marilyn Jayne Lane
Rockwall TX 75087
pj@lifoc.org (John)
semra@lifoc.org (Sheryl)
(855) 285-4362

Answered Prayer

We have traveled 4,985 miles so far on this trip. Our safety is because of your prayers!!!

The divine appointments we have had with people along the way have been wonderful.

Prayer Requests

We have 2,100 miles to go before we are home.
Pray for safety.

Pray for children, all over the country, who are in the State Social Service systems. That God would use judges and lawyers to put the safety and welfare of those children first.

That God would help the people of the United States create reasonable laws that protect children from abusive or neglectful parents.

For the Lord to cover the sensitive hearts of children.

Continue to pray not just for the politicians but for everyone in the United States. That we would seek Gods answer to the issues that face our country.

The Rest Of The Story

In our recent prayer letters we have shared about our travels around the United States.

As we were planning this trip - since we have been pulling the 5th wheel, I made the choice to stick to freeways and main roads to make traveling a little easier in case of emergencies. That was my choice!

I am therefore unable to blame anyone else for what happened on those roads; the two blowouts and the ruined transmission. I could blame the roads, the tire company for the tires, or the car company for the transmission but I have made the choice not to blame others and become a victim in these circumstances. Buying the truck, tires and the 5th wheel were my choices and therefore my responsibility.

When others blame me, and I accept that blame, I can begin to feel guilt. In this example there is no guilt because I have accepted responsibility for the choices that were mine and am not dealing with the choices that others made (the tire company and the car company).

I use this as an example of what happens as we raise our children.

Sheryl and I tried our best with our kids - but we made mistakes. For our mistakes we have apologized and are moving forward because while we are responsible for our choices, we are not responsible for the choices our children are making.

So many of the people we are talking to, believe the lie that they are responsible, and are dealing with false guilt because their kids got pregnant, are using drugs or are running away from God.

Guilt, when from God, should lead us to repentance (and an apology for the choices we made that affected their circumstances). But an ongoing battle with guilt is not from God. It is from the enemy and its purpose is to destroy my faith in God!

If you are dealing with this guilt, apologize for the choices you have made and move on. You are not responsible for your kids choices anymore than God is responsible for the choice Adam and Eve made. Trust God to deal with your kids.

If you know someone who is dealing with this guilt, share this letter with them and pray with them in order to help them understand their choices and the responsibility they have.

I am responsible for the roads I choose, I am not responsible for the road my kids choose or where it will take them!