

George's Jungle Volume 6

Lent Lessons

Ashes to Ashes

Ash Wednesday was last week. Each year, I partake in the "season of Lent". I practice it by surrendering most meats, soft drinks, candies and desserts.

- 1) Lent is a period of 40 days, like Jesus spent in the wilderness. It's a time of reflection and preparation.
- 2) Lent is marked by laying aside certain things in remembrance of Jesus laying aside the glories of Heaven.
- 3) Lent is 6 days of "sacrifice" and Sundays are days of celebration. It's a great reminder that one day there will be a great day of celebration in person with Jesus that will never end!



Cold Runnings

Over the last week I've been able to attend Ella's first two track meets. She's been running for the Trinity Lions Track Team in the 400m, 4x100m relay and 4x400m relay. Both track meets were cold but the second was by far the coldest!

Reflections

Even though it was cold, the track meets went on as scheduled. What is notable about this? That even though it was cold, parents showed up to cheer and encourage their children. All of us were willing to brave the elements because of something we felt very strongly about: encouragement.

We cannot neglect how important encouragement is. It's not that Ella could really hear me above the crowd, but she knew I was there. One of the things I've come to learn in all my years of going to various kids' events: the encouragement isn't just in the words but also the actions. Just showing up, and braving the cold even if they can't hear your voice, is great encouragement when anyone is running cold.





A year ago...

It's hard to believe a year has passed already. This time last year I was in Vijayawada. These are some of the students from the Children's Home.

We support S.A.C. Ministries there and are good friends with Pastor Rajendra. He's doing a great work in India, not only with children, but widows and homeless. He also does work training pastors and equipping them to lead churches in their own areas.

I've been able to go to India several times and it has always been a blessing to see the people and what God is doing there. Please keep SAC Ministries, Work For Good Ministries, WDA Ministries, RHEMA Ministries and International Network Ministries in your prayers. All of these are people I'm familiar with from India. For more information on their work, please visit www.vision2hear.com



Encouragement

The Bible plainly and adamantly tells us to encourage one another:

"Therefore encourage one another and build up one another, just as you also are doing." 1 Thessalonians 5:11

If we look at the root word of encouragement, we can see the word "courage". That's very interesting to me. Do you often think of courage as a part of encouragement? One reason I think it's important to note is because in reality, to offer encouragement requires a couple of things:

- 1) Courage to put the spotlight on someone else. When we encourage another, we are moving the spotlight from ourselves and letting someone else shine.
- 2) Courage to build up. Building another up may mean setting them up for greater success. Encouragement isn't just puffing someone's ego but establishing them in the confidence of others.
- 3) Courage to keep encouraging. It's not always easy to give the encouragement when you aren't getting it but as the verse above challenges us...keep doing as always!

So let me encourage you to keep encouraging others. You never know what a word of encouragement or how showing up could encourage someone. Your words and actions carry weight and influence and can make all the difference in someone's day...especially a cold one! Until next week!

If you want to jump in on Lent, here is a link where you can get some daily devotional material: <https://mailchi.mp/gospelinlife/len>

Peace in the Jungle!

