

CAUGHT IN A CROSSFIRE!

Have you ever been in the crossfire of two four-year-olds shooting "guns"? You really get showered with lots of spit! There is no regard for your clothes, skin or glasses. The volume level is so high, you're not sure whether YOU are the one who got shot. Then you hear a weak, faint voice of the "wounded," saying, "You shot me and made me bleed."

Kids love to pretend and dream about what they will be when they grow up. It's fun to hear the occupation change, sometimes several times a day: an Army man, policeman, fireman, cowboy, pilot, tractor driver, Indian chief...the list goes on and on. It's pretty sobering when someone chooses the same occupation you have chosen. There is a humble sense of mirroring something correctly, without taking the credit.

Through the years, I have been amazed at those under our pastoral care, who heard the call of God to pursue full-time ministry. A few weeks ago, while praying over some who were leaving for Bible college, I couldn't help but weep. Am I laying hands on the next Aimee Semple McPherson? My heart was overwhelmed with gratitude for those whom God had entrusted to us.

I WANT TO ENCOURAGE all who work with children and youth. You never know who and how you are influencing for the furtherance of the Gospel. We must continue to affirm, encourage and equip. We must set atmospheres for them to hear from God concerning His will for their lives.

We must be obedient to speak prophetically into their lives, regardless of what we see with our physical eyes. I Thessalonians 12:7-8 says, "We were gentle among you, like a mother caring for her little children. We loved you so much that we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God, **but our very lives as well**, because you had become so dear to us." I wonder who will be the next one to exit the our assigned area of service in order to enlarge the Kingdom of God.

Just in case, I'll keep a towel (and basin) on hand for the next time I'm caught in a crossfire, as I'm daily living His example.

For the next generation!
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