



Dear Fellow Children's Ministry Workers,

With 2019, still in its infancy, I presume many of us have spent some time reflecting over the effects of the year prior and gazing forward to what this new year might hold. 2018 is a year which Tom and I will forever have etched into our minds. On Tuesday, February 6, both of our mothers passed from this world within hours of each other. While these may simply be words on a page to those of you reading this, from the difficult moments the Lord has brought across your own paths, I'm sure you are able to empathize with us the depth of impact such things can make upon one's heart and mind. Circumstances as these bring us to a deeper understanding of how fleeting this life truly is and, in concurrence with Pastor Mark's sermons of late from 2 Timothy, how important it is to live well so that we might die well.

As Tom and I have watched the generation above us, one by one, leave this world, we have come to realize that we are now amongst the senior society of planet earth. And, such as it is, a new season of life brings with it a host of novel thoughts and considerations. One of my favorite Bible verses, the one which is reflected in the numbers of my email address, Psalm 71:18 states, "Even when I am old and gray, O God, do not forsake me, until I declare Your strength to this generation, Your power to all who are to come." This is our heart's desire and cry for the days we have remaining to us. We long for those who are coming up behind us to know and to believe that He is the One, true God and that He is deserving of all of our affection and devotion.

But how do we go about declaring anything to the next generation in a manner that they might believe it, that they will know it to be truth? It certainly isn't accomplished in a single announcement. A child comes to know his parents' love for him not because the parents on a particular moment on a given day proclaim that they love him, but rather because in a succession of many moments on many days they express that love, not only in words, but in a plethora of selfless actions. This, our dear fellow laborer, is exactly what YOU do.

The next generation will never learn from us that Jesus is Lord by our proclamation on a given day, but rather, they will come to know it by the time and time again that one of you rocks a fussing little one in the nursery so that his mom can sit in service. They will come to know it by the repetitious times one of you bends over a toddler to help him glue a cotton ball cloud onto a blue construction paper sky as you declare to him that it was God who made the earth and all that is in it; that it was God who made him and it is this Creator who desires and deserves his life allegiance. They will come to know it by the unremitting times you prayerfully prepare a lesson and then zealously share it with a group of boisterous, interruptive children. They will come to know it because you, dear saint, are ceaseless in your sincerity, persistent with your presence, and resounding in your resolve to serve your Savior by joyfully declaring to our children that Jesus Christ is, indeed, the way, the truth, and the life.

And so it is for these things, that Tom and I want to say thank you. Thank you for joining us in this battle, this fight for the souls of our young ones. The enemy knows his time is limited and it seems he is throwing his entire arsenal at this next generation in attempt to hasten their slide into the depths of spiritual death. God has placed a decree upon us, as His church. We are called to train up our children to boldly march in the corridors of the King, to stand firm as the waves of deception and selfish desires crash over them. They can do this only if they are grounded upon the Rock. So, in sincerity, we thank you for all the successions of moments that you invest in helping us to place that Rock beneath each of our precious children's feet. The Children's Ministry at G2G stands because of you!

**Many continued blessings,
Tom & Mary Masters**