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What we're all about

Reach Out, Columbia is committed to presenting the heart and works of Jesus Christ in clarity and purity. We strive to encourage a deeper, more steadfast love toward others as well as provide a vehicle for the body of Christ to come together as one voice in corporate agreement and expression of faith.



Letter from the
Editor

Russian author Fyodor Dostoyevsky once said, “The soul is healed by being with children.” I think Jesus agrees.

I’ve always been touched by the squabble between Jesus and his disciples over the children. Apparently mothers haven’t changed much over the millennia. The moms of Jesus’ time were a good judge of character, and many of them saw what the men of the day missed—that Jesus was God in the flesh. And like today’s mothers, they wanted Jesus to bless their children.

Picture the scene. It was bustling, because Jesus drew a crowd everywhere he went. The sick, the demon-possessed, and those in need of spiritual counsel pressed in around him. Conversation was difficult, but somehow, Jesus knew the needs of every heart. Sometimes, he’d ask them what they wanted him to do for them, to see if *they* knew what they really needed. Some would ask him to heal their bodies and discover they really needed him to heal their souls.

Jesus’ ability to hear with his heart, not his ears, was probably how he became aware of the tussle at the back of the crowd.

“But Sir,” one mother said, “we just want to ask Jesus to lay his hands on our children and bless them. I’m sure he wouldn’t mind. He’s very kind.”

“Not now, woman,” the over-worked disciple responded, “Can’t you see he’s busy with important things? He doesn’t have time for silliness.” *He’s got two exorcisms to perform, four paralytics to heal, and who knows how many cases of leprosy, blindness, and lame limbs. And these women want him to stop what he’s doing to bless their runny-nosed kids? Humph.*

“But Sir . . .” the women persisted.

“I said, not now,” the disciple barked, cutting her off in mid-sentence. Turning his back, he came face to face with Jesus. And Jesus wasn’t happy.

Kneeling down, Jesus opened his arms and called, “Little ones, come here.” Their mothers’ gentle nudges were unnecessary as the children flocked to the man with kind eyes and a tender smile. When he turned his eyes toward his disciples, however, they weren’t as kind.

“Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these” (Luke 18:1).

This month’s feature stories embody the spirit and love Jesus has for children. Lael Arrington’s cover story spotlighting Kim Wright’s work with young athletes is a powerful demonstration of how creative and committed adults are reaching into the spiritual darkness of our schools and universities. Dawn Gonzalez’ profile story on Dan and Esther Dennis heralds a couple who, because of the love of Christ in their hearts, are ministering to the “least of these” in Jesus’ name. And Rhett Wilson, in his parenting piece, “I’m Melting – Instilling Honesty into Our Children,” shares his witty approach for teaching young ones to tell the truth.

I’ve no doubt God included the story of Jesus and the children to remind us we can learn some valuable lessons from the little people who share our world. They make us think, laugh, and pray. Most of all, their simple faith and child-like trust show us the way to Jesus. Perhaps this is what Dostoyevsky glimpsed when he said, “The soul is healed by being with children.”

Lori