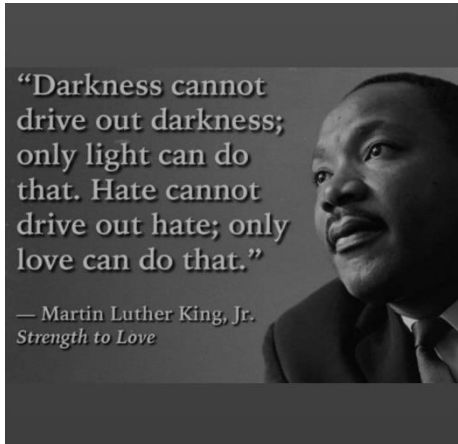


Safe Neighborhoods Newsletter

Making Neighborhoods Safe for Kids & Families!

Monday - 1/22/24

Our newsletter shares information to empower and keep children, families, and neighbors safe, and provide steps to make neighborhoods, communities and cities safe, healthy places to work and live.



Americans can win the spiritual battle between love and hate, good and evil. People in free nations choose to believe in a loving God, a controlling God, or no God! A loving God empowers, a controlling God dictates behavior, and no God creates spiritual ignorance. Without any spiritual understanding of self, anger and hate can become self-destructive. Americans have the freedom to choose how to live their lives.

The power of hate: In cultures where dictators are in power, they control speech and behavior.

Rules must be obeyed.

Women are told how to act and dress.

Children are taught to hate people who don't believe the way they do.

Everyone bows down to their leaders.

In Israel, it was easy to see hate as controlled men attacked free people at a peace festival and in their homes. Women were raped, babies beheaded, and men were slaughtered. The October 6th attack was an unmistakable picture of hate, but "spinners" persuaded American students that the killers were oppressed, not controlled. The question should be asked: why didn't college students see hate from Palestinian leaders and Hamas, and why were American youth so easily influenced?

After World War II, Americans saw the power of hate when we liberated Nazi concentration camps. We saw gas chambers, emaciated human beings, and piles of naked dead bodies. Everyone was horrified by man's inhumanity to their fellow human beings. Americans assumed that would never happen again.

So why was it so easy for college students to become radicalized? Did families become weakened by the good life in America? Did we take freedom for granted? Did we expect government schools to educate children about the power of love? What went wrong?

Politicians and money cannot solve this problem; this is a spiritual crisis. Many American youth are spiritually immature because they grew up without any spiritual understanding of themselves. I saw adults more concerned about how they look and feel than how they behave. As a crime and violence prevention specialist, I observed spiritually unaware parents abusing and neglecting their children, using drugs, and abusing each other as gangs formed to create family and community.

We gradually became a nation that didn't understand the power of love. As a result, many of today's young people are angry, feel entitled, and are self-absorbed. Gangs of young people band together to loot, carjack, abuse innocent people, and destroy property. We also see juveniles taking drugs, dying from Fentanyl, and suicide at an all-time high. Child abuse and neglect cost taxpayers \$220 million a day as "we the people" ignore American children. Americans are paying a high price.

The power of love: Why did we assume Biblical teachings of "Love God and Love Others" were no longer critical for youth? Every newborn is a spiritual being who needs to grow and learn from an involved, supportive family with caring neighbors. If this spiritual crisis continues, we will destroy ourselves and our freedoms.

The time is now for caring adults in our churches and synagogues to demonstrate "Love thy neighbor" and unite Americans as we take back neighborhood involvement and support. COVID proved that social isolation creates mental health problems for young and old alike. We all have a role to play if we are going to remain free people.

How we treat each other, forgive, guide, and support children will determine our future. The power of love can transform America! We must become proactive!

For those who do not believe in God, watch movies about redemption. Netflix movie, "I Can Only Imagine," tells the true story of an abusive father who turned his life around and his victim, his son, found peace. We can change and live peaceful lives.

A Call to Action: The first step is to connect with your God for a spiritual understanding of self. Prayer or meditation can bring inner peace and should be on everyone's bucket list. Ask for guidance, wisdom, and a mission. We have a forgiving God who can direct our path. Consider reaching out and bringing neighbors together to end the social isolation that allows criminal behavior to flourish. This is a gradual process, so be patient with yourself, and you will be rewarded.

About the Writer: STEPHANIE L. MANN Author; Crime and Violence Prevention Consultant, Founder – Safe Kids Now National Network. She authored, "Empowerment Parenting: How to raise resilient children who become happy, self-reliant adults. She co-authored, "Alternative to Fear: Guidelines to Safer Neighborhoods," in 1975. With the help of California's first lady, Nancy Reagan, the CA Youth Authority funded the guide and thousands were sold to police departments, police training centers, state and government agencies around the country, including the FBI. "Alternative to Fear" helped educate police about the potential of involved citizens and popularized the "Neighborhood Watch" Programs. Author of six books on home, family, neighborhood, and city safety. www.safekidsnow.com

Here are some short and straightforward suggestions from me that can help you elevate the conversation, lessen the negative vibe, and even shift the atmosphere from criticism to understanding to collaboration wherever you go.

First, listen and be present. Don't think of your response as the other person makes their point. Speak to them, not 'at' them. You're not in a sword fight. Lecturing and speaking over the top of someone as they are speaking doesn't solve anything. That's called 'dissing' or disrespecting someone.

Second, use restraint. Two-way conversation is not about winning the debate. It's about understanding. The Bible says it this way. "...and to your knowledge, self-control." 2 Peter 1:6. Self-restraint is as vital as passion in communication.

Third, ask questions. Try to see from another's perspective. You may disagree, but please try to understand how they got to where they are from their viewpoint. Look at people who disagree with you with grace-healed eyes. See them the way Jesus sees them. Try to find something in common upon which you can agree.

Last, understand that often, the issues that a person has come from another issue. What's on the inside of them is leaking to the outside of them. Maybe it's unforgiveness, a childhood issue, a relationship issue, disappointment, or a search for identity or significance issue. Perhaps they are defensive because they feel one inch tall. If you 'dis' them, they will fight you because they don't want to feel one-half inch tall. Therefore, don't allow their accusatory or defensive verbiage to offend you.

This year, elevate the dialogue wherever you are. Take a moment and ask yourself the following questions. Does my entrance into a room elevate the dialogue, conversation, or discussion up or down? Laurie Beth Jones asks us to ask ourselves the following questions. "What form of dialogue does my group, family, or workplace use---polite, coercive, directive, reflective, accusatory, or defensive? What could I do to elevate the dialogue? What might the results be if I did?"

Remember Proverbs 12:18: "But the tongue of the wise is health. When people attacked Jesus, Jesus elevated the dialogue. How about us?"

"THERE IS NO KEENER REVELATION OF A SOCIETY'S SOUL THAN THE WAY IN WHICH WE TREAT ITS CHILDREN." - Nelson Mandela

Action Items...

From the Editor: In previous editions, we offered an announcement via a "Call to Action" to let our readers know that Safe Kids Now News was on LinkedIn. Since that time other readers approached Safe Kids Now to place relevant announcements about important events aligned with our efforts to shed light on the problems that kids, their families, and America's neighborhoods face in the midst of the confusion today, largely brought about by the toxic rhetoric and propaganda. So, we continue with the action items with this section of the newsletter...

Call to Action: Get “Magical You” for a teen you love! If you get a copy of Stephanie Mann’s new book on Amazon, note that there are at least two books on the Amazon page with the same title. The complete title you want is: "Magical YOU: Empowering Teens to Stay Safe and Healthy in an Unsafe World!" Order (Kindle version is only 99 cents for a limited time) via the link here...

Also, please write a few lines on Amazon (after at least three days since Amazon doesn’t readily accept rapid reviews within hours of the purchase. It is important to help spread this message, and readers’ views help to promote the message, too! This book is an inner journey to help teens stay safe and healthy no matter what has happened in their lives. I was a victim of abuse in my home, abandoned in Mexico City at age 15, and didn’t speak the language. I learned how to survive and thrive; teens can do it too.

2nd Call to Action: Send in words of support for the efforts that Safe Kids Now are promoting and revealing. Let us know you’re there!

The graphic features the Safe Kids Now logo (A NATIONAL NETWORK www.safekidsnow.com) and the title "TIP TOONS". It contains four panels:

- Crime Fighting Granny:** Illustration of a granny in a cowboy hat and a yellow smiley face with the text "Handling Anger".
- LIFE IS GREAT WHEN YOU STAY "CENTERED":** Text on a green background.
- HANDLING ANGER IN A POSITIVE WAY:** A list of four tips: 1. Learn Lessons from Anger, 2. Discover Tips to Stay Cool, 3. Let Go of Anger, 4. Develop Self-Awareness. Below the list is the text "GAIN SELF-CONTROL!".
- "Learn to Laugh at Yourself":** Illustration of a clown in a blue suit and a mirror.

Important Reading...

From The Washington Stand (Family Research Council): WHO Chief: Nations Must ‘Counteract Conservative Opposition’ to Abortion, Promote Transgenderism – 1/22/2024

From LifeSite News: Sound of Freedom was more than a blockbuster. It was a cry to end child sex slavery – 1/22/2024

From Focus on the Family: 4 Truths in a Culture of Lies – undated

From The Washington Stand: Christian Teachers Reinstated as Lawsuit over Transgender Policy Continues – 1/17/2024

From Focus on the Family (w/ video): Breaking the Cycle of Absent Fathers - video - 6/19/2020

From The Washington Stand: Shocked Parents on School Secretly Transitioning Their Daughter: ‘I Thought They Were in Our Corner’ – 1/10/24

From For Kids And Country: Title: A Fail of Two Cities by Larry Sand: – 1/9/2024

ICYMI > From LifeSite News: Texas education board approves new guidelines for prohibiting sexually explicit books – 12/19/2023

Inspiring & Transforming Stories...

From The Washington Stand: Number of Children Living with Two Parents Increasing, Data Shows – 1/11/24

From LifeSite News: Man who adopted 46 disabled kids inspires March for Life with his total pro-life commitment – 1/19/24

From The Good News Network: In 30 Years East Palo Alto Went From ‘Murder Capital’ to Zero Homicides in 2023: A Complete Turnaround – 1/11/24

From Focus on the Family: 6 Ways to Develop Self-Confidence and Positive Self-Image in Children – undated

From For Kids And Country: Karen Cuen - In the backward logic that rules government unions, workers are not only forced to join state and national organizations that claim to fight for their freedom but are also compelled to financially support union political aims with which they often strongly disagree.

Perhaps worst of all, while unions claim their main value is in protecting their members, it is not unusual for them to attack those members, sometimes viciously.

It happened to Karen Cuen. The reason? She had the outrageous notion she’d like to help make things in her community a little better. That’s why, in the 1990s, she decided to run for her local school board.

Though a noble idea, Karen, an elementary school music teacher, admits that back then she was terribly naive about education politics.