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Preschool 25th Anniversary Celebration
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Back to the Preschool and back to the preschool teachers. I am sure that there are many frustrating days here in the preschool; many days where you think you are not necessarily making a difference; days when your energy is low and your patience is thin and the rest of your life is complicated and hard and the burdens of life seem heavy and the problems of life seem insurmountable. Please remember that GOD USES EVERYTHING. And the essence of what you are teaching these little ones, these little lambs of God, is that God loves them, God loves all of them, the good parts and the bad, the things they think are OK and the things they think are the “rap music” of their lives. Imagine, 25 years of planting the seeds of God’s love into the hearts of little children. Imagine, all those seeds taking root. A child, who is now an adult, who remembers somewhere back in the dark recesses of their mind and heart, that they are loved by a presence that will never leave them nor forsake them, and on their worst, no good, terrible bad day, they pull that memory that they learned one day in preschool, that they learned from you, and they are OK, because they remember how God uses everything for good, that a loving God loves them, and that is enough to get them through whatever life threw at them that day. Imagine that, please. And celebrate 25 years of planting those seeds into the hearts of countless children, who are now adults. Can there be a higher, nobler calling than this?

and bring the children of God out of slavery in Egypt? You are precious and beloved of God. A loving God has called out your name in the night in love. A loving God has called you and claimed you, no matter what else is going on in your life right now. God uses everything. And God has chosen to use YOU, for planting seeds of love into the hearts of people and leading them out of bondage and into a Promised Land. God uses everything. And God has chosen to use YOU. Who am I? you may ask yourself. YOU ARE --Chosen by God and precious and beloved in His sight. And we learned that in preschool. And Amen.

By: The Reverend Dr. Stuart D. Broberg, The Church of the Covenant, Washington, PA

IF THIS HAS BLESSED YOU, PLEASE PASS IT ALONG TO A FRIEND!
GOD USES EVERYTHING
Preschool 25th Anniversary Celebration
The Church of the Covenant

God uses everything. Like a good preschool teacher, God uses everything. I watch your bulletin boards over the years; they are creative and engaging and wonderful, and I also notice that you recycle letters, and cut outs and images. Because like God, you use everything in order to teach little children they are loved and they are loved by a loving God. Today we are celebrating the planting of those seeds of God’s love into the hearts of children and for 25 years.

I have shared previously about a young man, Sammy, who I met in Haiti through the New Testament Mission, the ministry of Pastor Pierre in LaCroix, Haiti. In prayer before I left I felt I would meet a young person who would be struggling with a call into ministry and when there I felt that the young man was Sammy. So we’re riding up the bumpy road to the small village of Paul, two hours one way and two hours the other way, and I have my opportunity to engage Sammy in a discussion about ministry, the call of God, and the way God works in our lives. As we are bumping along (and I will never complain about potholes in Western PA ever again; I would have rejoiced to be riding over a road with potholes and not landslides, boulders and deep gullies crossing over open river beds) and it popped into my mind to share with Sammy the story of Moses’ call as a leader of God’s people the scripture we just read today from Exodus. There is a burning bush and a voice calling Moses by name; the call of God is always personal because it comes from a personal, alive God into real live people’s hearts, personally. God knows our name and we are precious and beloved in His sight. Moses responds: “Here am I” (Exodus 3: 4)—Here I am, Lord. I am here for You; I am available to You; You may use me as YOU wish, Lord. When God calls, our answer is Yes; yes, Lord, I am here and available. Now the funny thing about this is that these are the very verses from the Bible that Sammy has read and are the very verses propelling him into a sense of call into ministry. I know nothing about this in advance but I have randomly picked out of the air the Bible verses that God popped into my head. They are the very ones that Sammy has read and from which he has discerned a sense of call. Amazing. I don’t believe in coincidence anymore; I believe in “God incidence”; I don’t believe in a random universe; I believe in a loving, purposeful God.

So both Sammy and I realize that the Spirit is at work in my bringing up this scripture verse. And as we are talking he brings up the notion that he is not “worthy” enough to be a pastor. For that matter I think there are plenty of people out there who think they are not even worthy enough to be a member of a church or to be a Christian. And so I take these scriptures and share them with Sammy. The story begins as Moses kills an Egyptian. Moses is a Hebrew but has become a Prince of Egypt; he lives in Pharaoh’s palace; he eats from his table. But he sees the affliction of his own Hebrew people who are slaves and he murders an Egyptian who is mistreating a Hebrew. So he has to flee and loses being a Prince of Egypt. Surely see the spiritual irony in the fact that Moses, who has killed someone, will be sent up a mountain to receive Ten Commandments, one of which is “Thou shalt not kill”. The murderer Moses becomes the lawgiver who brings the second tablet of the law, which includes “Thou Shalt NOT KILL.” God uses EVERYTHING to accomplish His mighty inscrutable purposes. “And Sammy, if God can use Moses, then surely God can use you.” Well, then Sammy shares why he thinks God would never call him into ministry. It seems that when he was in the university he was into rap music and was himself a “rapper”. So God couldn’t possibly use him. I almost laughed in his face when he shared that with me. I was sort of “That’s it; that’s why you think you can’t go into ministry?” (By the way, the things most people think preclude them from the Kingdom of God are about on a par with the egregious nature of rap music!) So I spoke to him about how GOD USES EVERYTHING; our strengths and our skills and our
learning and our abilities, to be sure, but ALSO, our weaknesses and our faults and our past and our mistakes and the things we wished we hadn’t done and the things we have left undone. GOD USES EVERYTHING. And then I said to Sammy: “My hunch is that God will use your gift for rap music, and you will write CHRISTIAN rap music, and the churches you will serve will be packed with young people. Because just like Moses, God will use this for HIS glory. “All things (not just some things) work for the good for those who love the Lord.” GOD USES EVERYTHING. The addict who struggles with addiction, God can use to help others break addiction in their lives. The person who struggles with some issue in their life, can be used by God because they are humble and teachable, they know that the only reason God uses them is because of HIS GRACE and mercy, not because they are somehow perfect. God pours His power through our weakness, not our strength. GOD USES EVERYTHING, everything in our life, everything we lift up to HIM, everything we say, HERE I AM and HERE EVERYTHING IS IN MY LIFE< please use it for the GLORY of Your Son, Jesus Christ. God uses EVERYTHING!

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“Who am I?”, asks Moses. (Exodus 3: 11) Who am I?, He asks the Loving Lord God. Who am I?, murderer, tender of sheep on a hillside, fallen Prince of Egypt. Who am I? that I should go to Pharaoh
and bring the children of God out of slavery in Egypt? You are precious and beloved of God. A loving God has called out your name in the night in love. A loving God has called you and claimed you, no matter what else is going on in your life right now. God uses everything. And God has chosen to use YOU, for planting seeds of love into the hearts of people and leading them out of bondage and into a Promised Land. God uses everything. And God has chosen to use YOU. Who am I? you may ask yourself. YOU ARE --Chosen by God and precious and beloved in His sight. And we learned that in preschool. And Amen.

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