

Is there a Mary Magdalene in your life?

OTHER VIEWS

Danny Tyree



Mary Magdalene on Resurrection Sunday.

I can think of lots of words to describe the mood of Mary Magdalene and the other friends/followers of Jesus immediately following his arrest, mock trial and crucifixion: blindsided, dejected, disillusioned, heartbroken, anxious, fearful, rudderless. ...

Two days after the crucifixion, when Mary Magdalene discovered the empty tomb, it was not yet the symbol of hope that has inspired millions of Easter sermons throughout the centuries. The rock rolled away from the tomb left her confused and distraught. She implored the man whom she mistook for the gardener to tell her where her beloved teacher's body had been relocated.

The "gardener" — in an action reminiscent of the Almighty God speaking to the prophet Elijah in a "still small voice" — needed to utter only one word: "Mary."

Lost pets may wander home after 10 years. Loved ones feared drowned at sea may find refuge on a remote island before achieving contact with civilization. But has

there ever been such a transcendent moment in human history as the "late" Jesus of Nazareth revealing Himself to one of his inner circle?

Suddenly, Mary Magdalene's earlier negative emotions gave way to relief, elation, comfort, joy and unprecedented zeal.

Is there a Mary Magdalene in your life — someone who needs a little unexpected reassurance and inspiration?

Perhaps there is a friend, relative or business partner whom you haven't spoken to in years because of some long-forgotten disagreement. True, some relationships are beyond repair; but you never know the emotional impact of an olive branch until you try. You may find yourself lifting a dark cloud and making up for lost time.

Are your children or grandchildren enablers of bullies? Instead of letting them cheer the bullies or give tacit approval of the bullies, nudge them to show support for the underdog. Encourage them to defend the new kid in town, the weird kid, the sissy kid. It could be life-changing for

an entire classroom.

Are there shut-ins on your street (or in the local nursing home) who face long, dreary days because of physical impairment and the fact that their children live thousands of miles away? Drop in for a chat. Offer to do some chores. Let them know they matter.

Human beings do not have to be rudderless, purposeless and hopeless. They do not have to live lives of quiet desperation — if someone cares enough to give them a sense of self-worth and brighter tomorrows.

Whether you embrace the Gospel or consider it a fairy tale, the possibilities for uplifting, "out-of-the-blue" attitude adjustments are endless.

Whether you cherish the cross of Calvary or not, you can still be the cavalry riding to the rescue of fellow humans who have given up hope.

Danny Tyree welcomes email responses at tyreetyrades@aol.com and visits to his Facebook fan page "Tyree's Tyrades."

Embracing technology and still building comprehension skills

OTHER VIEWS

Scott Smith



tion. For a period during COVID, homeschooling with school support became our norm in the majority of American homes. This is neither bad nor good but part of our changing world. As we move forward one thing that does remain the same is the development of our children's knowledge and understanding.

As parents, aunts, uncles, and grandparents, we can use this technology to expand our children's brain and memory development with a few minor adjustments.

After a child watches a show, taking time to have them tell you about that show or information they learned is when the learning takes place. We need the child to learn to recall information and tell about what they saw or heard. When younger children begin discussing what they saw or heard, the faster those pathways are built in their brains to be able to recall information from different interactions they have experienced and books they read.

Going way back in history the one and, basically, the only way to pass information on to younger generations was through storytelling. Children listened to

the stories and then they were expected to retell the story. This was how history was passed on. In our environment today we depend on our tech knowledge. Not that long ago you knew the phone numbers of your parents, friends, and important businesses you used all the time. Today most of us depend on our cellphones and just hit the call button on the phone.

Now more than ever we need to have young kids tell us about what is happening in their lives along with what they experienced. Explaining what they experienced, saw, or heard are the beginning steps of building both short-term memory and long-term memory.

Having your kids send you a video or text about a couple of things that happen during their day is one way of embracing the technology that fascinates the kids but works part of their brain that needs to be developed to be able to recall information. After a child watches a show or video have them tell about it or have someone ask them questions. This will also help build their ability to recall information. If they are unable to tell or answer questions then they need to watch it again.

Reading comprehension is a transferred

skill. Being able to remember what you read and then discuss it comes after we have developed the skill of being able to remember and tell about life events. If you have a child that is unable to recall what they read you probably need to step back and have them learn to recall what is happening in their environment or retell stories. They should then be able to apply those skills to their reading rather than just reading words.

There are lots of great podcasts and informational videos available for children today. Have them watch those but remember to go one step further and have them tell you about what they saw or heard. Start off with having them tell just a couple of things and build to telling several things. After older children tell about what they saw or what happened, have them write (text) about it depending on their age.

Embrace technology and build comprehension skills in your children.

Scott Smith is a 40-plus year Umatilla County educator and serves on the Decoding Dyslexia Oregon board as its parent/teacher liaison.

What about our children? Part 2

OTHER VIEWS

Carl Kiss



peting ideas in the United States. *But if your political opponents effectively use books and true history to win the battle of ideas in that American marketplace, boys and girls, better violate our treasured First Amendment by banning the ideas and true history your opponents effectively employ. (If you're wondering how to best ban books and truth, look to Putin's Russia and Hitler's Nazi Germany.)*

And, by the way, how dare public school teachers teach the true history of slavery and discrimination in the U.S.! That could end up making our children feel compassion and empathy for minority groups, and even feel badly about egregious past wrongs. Sure don't want that! (Guess I've been wrong to think that compassion and empathy are essential Christian values.) Don't repeat my mistake, boys and girls. *Legislating ignorance may violate the First Amendment and traditional Christian values, but it's clearly worth a few unconstitutional and immoral acts to provide the bliss of ignorance to future Republicans.*

As I struggle to hold onto optimism about our country's future, I see far too many among our future generations raised to favor political intolerance, reliance upon lies, and anger too extreme to permit rational thought. *Today's Republicans, please know this: Until you speak out against such affronts to democracy and truth orchestrated by today's Republican Party and its leader, your silence and votes aid and abet the Republican Party's continuing attacks on our democracy. And your children and grandchildren will eventually come to know this about you (if they haven't realized it already).*

Hesitant to speak out now in favor of the principles upon which this country was founded, and against today's Republican Party's continuing attacks on our democracy? Well, then picture your most beloved child or grandchild hesitatingly approaching you to ask why you no longer believe in freedom, equality and justice for all, and no longer believe in the importance of truth and loving your neighbor. Because sometimes only the wise and innocent words of a beloved child can open a closed mind.

Carl Kiss is a lawyer living in Enterprise, and would welcome the opportunity to discuss these ideas, and opposing viewpoints, in Wallowa County classrooms. His email address is ckisslaw@aol.com.



Celebrate Earth Day at the Recycle Center

REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE

Peter Ferré



The first Earth Day was celebrated in 1970, when a United States senator from Wisconsin organized a national demonstration to raise awareness about environmental issues. Rallies took place across the country, and by the end of the year the U.S. government had created the Environmental Protection Agency.

Our planet is an amazing place, but it needs our help to thrive. That's why each year on April 22 more than a billion people celebrate Earth Day to help protect the planet from climate change and pollution. By taking part in activities like reducing what we buy and use, recycling and reusing everything that we can, picking up trash and planting trees, we are helping make our world a happier, healthier place to live.

This year the Friends of Wallowa County Recycling will again be hosting a three-day Spring Cleaning and Educational event — Thursday, April 21, to Saturday, April 23 — at the Recycling Center in Enterprise in honor of Earth Day. Volunteers will be there to answer questions about recycling. There will be a kid's coloring contest this year as well as Spin-the-Wheel (back by popular demand). Prizes will include recycled feed sack shopping bags hand-made by volunteers. Come join us.

In addition to volunteers doing a "deep clean"

of the Recycling Center and the surrounding area, this year there will be a Community Upcycle Yard Sale where you can bring your reusables and shop for other reusable items such as tools, housewares, furniture, clothing, outdoor gear, etc., etc., etc. ... All the funds generated from the yard sale will be used to maintain and expand the Recycling Center.

The yard sale will be Saturday, April 23, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. We will be accepting donated items for the sale Thursday-Friday, April 21-22, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday morning before the sale. Please bring any and all of your reusable items that another might enjoy and benefit from, to help support the county's recycling efforts.

As you know, the Recycle Center accepts white and mixed paper, rigid plastic six-pack holders, metal and aluminum cans, clean plastic containers, (without lids), and cardboard. Next week help us celebrate the beauty of our planet, and the fact it needs our help by bringing your recyclables down to the center, (ask a friend if you can bring theirs as well), picking up trash you see on the side of the road, (much of which is recyclable), using your own shopping bags at the grocery store, thinking twice about the packaging something comes in before buying it, and remembering that the planet is all of our backyard.

Thank you for bringing your reusable items to the Recycle Center next week to help raise funds to support all of our recycling efforts, and joining us at the Community Upcycle Yard Sale on Saturday, April 23. We look forward to seeing you at the Recycle Center.

Peter Ferré is a member of the Wallowa County Recycling Task Force.