

Forward-Living Letter

Success Strategies for Life



Early October 2005



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Mark's Madness!

Occasionally there are times in my life that reveal a genuine revelation of common sense. I say it's common sense, but it seems that, as a society we don't subscribe to a common sense way of living anymore.

So, in this section, Mark's Moment, I would like to share with you little gems; tools for life. Not just tools though. Forgotten common sense that seems to have been lost in a world of careless and reckless abandonment for truth, love and what is right. To some, it may be offensive.

To others, it may cause a light bulb to come on. And still for others there will be a deep sigh of refreshing breath – just glad that someone else is still sane in this world we call life.

Today, I want to talk about our future. But not like you think. Our future are the little people running around at our feet screaming and yelling for our attention. Our children are tomorrow's leaders, defenders and pioneers. . . maybe.

You see, parenting is a huge responsibility and it has been my observation in various situations that there are a lot of people out there that aren't ready for it – and they already have children!

There are parents out there – middle class – people with good-paying jobs – that do not see the significance of shaping and molding a solid character in their children.

Common Sense Parenting Tips

Healthy Child: If you care about your child's health, understand that they will look to you as to how to achieve this health. Do you eat right? Exercise? If you do, your child will. If you don't, he/she won't.

Child of Character: Do you return extra change if you get too much back from the store? Do you talk about people? Do you build others up? Do you help when you can? If you do, your child will. If you don't, he/she won't.

Child with Habits: Do you want your child to grow up as an under-aged alcohol drinker? Do you want your child to have access to pornography? How about tobacco products? Chances are, if you participate in any of these habits, the percentage chance that your child will participate also are exponentially increased. So the question is, 'Is it worth it?'

I don't mention this to make anyone mad. I've just noticed some of these things lately and thought it deserved a mention in this section of this newsletter. After all, it's all just common sense.

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“Our greatest natural resource is the minds of our children.” - Walt Disney

Watch What You Say - By Jim Donovan

"Now don't you go getting any ideas, Harold".

"Don't you get any ideas either, Terry".

"Don't you two get any ideas".

The young mother's words to her small children echoed in my head for several days. While I realized she was probably warning them to not do something against her wishes or something that could harm them, I can't help but wonder about the effects that a situation like that, heard over and over for a period of years, will have on their lives and their ability to realize their potential.

Flash forward - It's 20 years later and now little Howard and Terry are all grown up, sitting in a conference room where they both work as marketing managers, having graduated at the top of their classes in college. The CEO is pacing back and forth saying, "Okay gang, what we need now, if we want to save this company, are some really good ideas." As their bosses words trail off, Howard and Terry are jolted back in time to that day at the Eagle Diner. All they can hear is their mother's voice telling them not to get any ideas. The conflict that this is causing has blocked their creative abilities. The contribution they might have made has been stifled by a poor choice of phrasing some 20 years ago.

I know this sounds a bit extreme but if you stop and think about it, this happens all the time. We are constantly being conditioned by the messages we hear, especially in our formative years.

We use phrases like "don't get smart" and then wonder why children are doing poorly in school. There is a connection. Whatever is repeated, over and over, will be absorbed into the sub-conscious mind of the person listening, in this case your children. McDonalds knows this, as does every other successful advertiser.

In my seminars I ask people to complete this phrase. Winston tastes good like a _____. Even audience members in their 20's can complete this advertising slogan, though it hasn't been used for more than 25 years!

The words you choose and the phrases you use repeatedly will have a lasting impact on your children. Why not choose words that will help them realize their potential as unique, creative, bright, loving, powerful and successful human beings?

Imagine what could happen if you made a habit of using positive, empowering, self-esteem building messages every day? Imagine all your children could become!

Decide right now to create some positive messages you can implant in the young minds of your children. Make a daily habit of using positive messages when speaking to your children.

For example, you might say, "You know (child's name), every day you're getting better and better in every way." (This is a take off on a phrase from Claude Bristol's classic self help book, The Magic of Believing.)

Jim Donovan is a motivational speaker and the author of several books who asks, if you had all the information and tools you needed to live your dream life, would you use them? Yes? Then take advantage of his special, limited time offer and click here - <http://hop.clickbank.net/?selfgrowth/jimdonovan>

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Blessings,
Mark Thompson

P.S. A great start to life change is a very inexpensive resource called Personally Developed. Check it out at www.personallydeveloped.com