

Kevin's Komments – Parent Newsletter 9/20/2013

Upcoming Schedule:

9/25 – Discipleship night

9/25 – See You at the Pole – check your school's plan

10/2 – Fun night

10/9 – Discipleship night

10/16 – Service night

10/23 – DWU youth night featuring the Skit Guys

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TEXTING WHILE DRIVING IS EXTREMELY DANGEROUS, SIR, AND IS AGAINST THE LAW

* You can see our full schedule up to Christmas on the church web site:

<http://www.firstreformed.com/youth/index.htm>

You can get a feel for what the Skit Guys are like at their web site: <http://skitguys.com/>

Stuff...

Suicide Prevention

In what Piers Morgan has called the "most inspiring interview I've ever done," Pastor Rick Warren and his wife Kay spoke with CNN, sharing for the first time details of their son's suicide, Christianity Today reports. Their interview with CNN is just one of the many ways the Warrens are fulfilling their vow to help fight the stigma of mental illness in churches. In April of this year, their son, 27-year-old Matthew Warren, took his life after a life-long battle with mental illness. The mega-church pastor repeated that there's purpose to their pain, holding fast to his faith in the midst of their grief.

"I never questioned my faith in God. I questioned God's plan," Warren said. "There's a big difference. I know God is a good God. ... But not everything that happens in the world is God's will. Everything that happens in the world God allows, he permits, because it couldn't happen without his permission. But we live in a world where there are free choices, so if I choose to do wrong, I can't blame God for that. So God isn't to blame for my son's death. My son took his own life. It was his choice."

But Kay Warren affirmed her son's faith in God, saying, "Matthew's body was broken. That gun broke his body, and he was buried in brokenness. But he's going to be raised in glory," a reference to 1 Corinthians 15:43. Warren shares on Pastors.com just how meaningful the interview experience was

for him and the filming crew. "Several members of the tech/camera crew were in tears, hugged us, and told us that their lives had been profoundly impacted by the experience. Piers Morgan was unusually sensitive to the moment, allowing us all the time we needed without interruption. At lunch, Piers shared that it was the most moving interview he's ever done."

This interview comes as the Warrens launch a sermon series on grief and a campaign to help churches address mental illness at their church, Saddleback. Erasing the stigma of mental illness, particularly in the church, means overcoming a lot of preconceived notions. Many Christians believe taking your life will keep you from eternity with God. Christianity Today sites studies that claim 48 percent of evangelical Christians believe that people with serious mental illness can overcome their condition through prayer and Bible study alone.

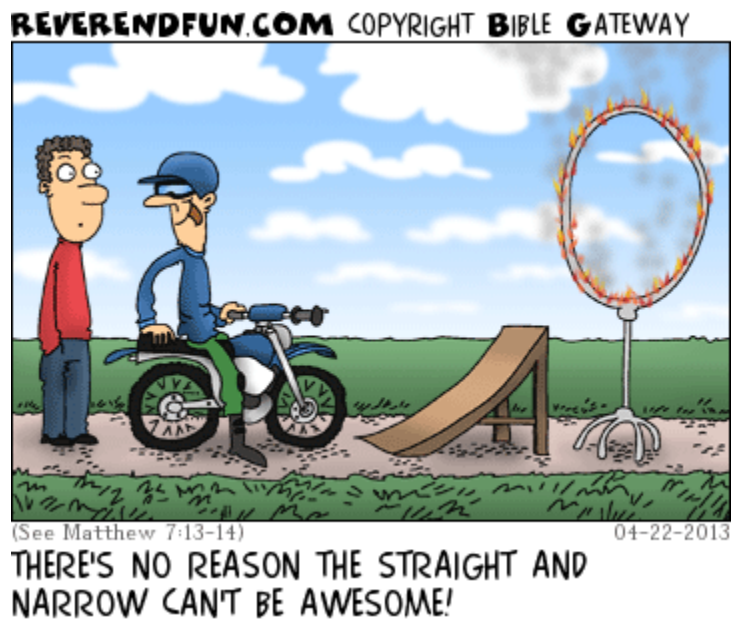
"Any other organ in my body can get broken and there's no shame, no stigma to it," Warren explained to Piers. "My liver stops working, my heart stops working, my lungs stop working. Well, I'll just say, 'Hey, I got diabetes. My pancreas or my adrenaline glands, or whatever,' but if my brain is broken, I'm supposed to feel bad about it. I'm supposed to feel shame. And so, a lot of people who should get help don't."

<http://www.crosswalk.com/blogs/christian-trends/rick-warren-tells-story-of-son-s-suicide-on-cnn.html>

A Little Humor...

Maybe you've heard about the preacher who was visiting various classes during the Sunday School Hour to see how they were doing. One Sunday he visited the class of 6th grade boys. They were talking about things in the Old Testament. He listened for a while & then asked, "Who knows who knocked down the walls of Jericho?" Two boys answered, "Preacher, we don't know who, but we sure didn't do it."

Surprised by their lack of Bible knowledge, he turned to the teacher & asked, "What do you think of that answer?" The teacher replied, "Well, I've known them since they were little, & they've always been honest. If they said they didn't do it, I believe them." Dismayed, he went out into the hallway & saw the chairman of the church board. He told him, "I was just in the 6th grade boys' class & asked who knocked down the walls of Jericho. Two boys held up their hands & said, "We didn't do it, preacher." And the teacher told me that if they said they didn't do it, he believed them."



The chairman of the board interrupted him & said, "Preacher, let's not fuss about who did what. We'll just fix the walls & pay for it out of the General Fund."