

Back to School

Parents are sending their children back to school. This now adds to our worries about them for some and is a relief for others. My children grew up in a time where school shootings were nonexistent. Until Columbine in April of 1999, it was unheard of. Some have said it is the influence of violent video games and that children think it is okay to kill their “enemies.” Some have said that the games cause the children to escape the realities of real life and that they confuse reality and life. I grew up in a time of war. I started school in 1940 and was in school for World War 2 and then the cold war, and Korea, and then was in Nurses Training when Viet Nam started. It did not incite violence in us. We grew up with air raid drills and evacuating the building and then crawling under our desks. I went to the Principal in High School and complained about the danger of huge windows in the event of a nuclear bomb. He was patient with me and never said that in the event of a nuclear bomb windows would not matter much. He was accustomed to me coming to him to point out the flaws in the High School. He was a good man, but it was rumored that he had been a warden in a prison prior to coming to us and no one messed with him. If he spoke, you stood up and listened.

Now our children, grandchildren and great grandchildren will be headed off to school and we will hold them in prayer that all are safe. That they will learn their lessons and not be presented with lessons that our children and our children’s children or our children’s children’s children should never have to learn. Like hiding in a closet or being threatened with a gun or having a classmate injured or worse. Hold them in prayers.

Deuteronomy 6:5-9 Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments I give you today, are to be upon your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you sit down and when you get up. Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.

Lord, we thank you for each precious day we are given. May we use our days in serving you. Be with our children, our grandchildren, and our great grandchildren as they enter another school year. Be with the teachers and workers in the schools, may they be a blessing to the children and may the children be a blessing in their lives also. Be with those beginning and returning to college. Guide their lives and their studies and efforts. May they remember they are your children and loved by many. Be with our church Lord may all who enter find you in our midst. Be with our Pastor and his family as they serve in your name. Lord, we ask your blessings upon them. Be with our staff and Leaders, inspire them and walk with them in their efforts. We pray in Jesus most holy name. Amen

Grace Epperson