

PEDIATRIC POINTERS

by Dr. Joseph T. Bell
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In past issues we have had the chance to discuss different types of childhood rashes. Some of these included atopic dermatitis (eczema), chicken pox and roseola. This week I thought it would be good to discuss another common rash called impetigo.

Impetigo is the most common skin infection in children. It is a contagious infection of the top layers of the skin that begins as a blister or pus bump and then drains and scabs over. There are two classic forms of impetigo: the bullous (blistering) and nonbullous forms.

Bullous impetigo is the least common form of the two. It is caused by a Staph germ and is characterized by the presence of blisters. The blisters are soft and transparent and usually rupture in 1-2 days, leaving scant crusty scabs. This rash usually appears on the face, buttocks and chest.

The nonbullous impetigo rash usually starts as a red bump in a traumatic area (scratch, insect bite, etc.). The bump rapidly turns into a thick crusted, honey-colored scab. This form of impetigo is found mostly in exposed areas such as the face and extremities. A type of Strept germ (like the one in Strept throat) is the

cause of nonbullous impetigo.

Since impetigo lesions are seldom painful, the diagnosis may be delayed for days or weeks. Fever is usually absent. Without treatment, impetigo tends to remain stable or become slowly progressive over several weeks, and in most cases it will spontaneously heal. Occasionally, the sores may become chronic with skin ulcer formation. Only rarely will impetigo lead to other complications such as cellulitis or kidney disease.

The treatment of impetigo depends to some degree on how many sores are present. If the lesions are not widespread, your doctor may prescribe a topical antibiotic ointment to go directly on the rash. For more widespread impetigo, an oral antibiotic, such as Keflex or Erythromycin, may be prescribed. The rash should resolve within 7 days after starting treatment. I usually tell parents to use warm, soapy water to clean the infected skin. Remember, these sores are contagious, so until they dry up with treatment, the patient should be careful around other kids and adults.

Well, that's enough on impetigo. Take care, and we'll talk again next week!

According to Scripture

Sponsored by the Pembroke Seventh Day Adventist Church

Last week we saw that the New Testament and even Jesus said that the life of the individual is more important than a profession of faith. I'd like to illustrate this further by a parable that Jesus told himself. In this parable He speaks precisely about this issue of being in a continuing relationship with Him, not merely saying a few words, then living however one wishes.

John 15:1-6 "I am the true vine, and my father is the husbandman. Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away, and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit. Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you. Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me. I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned."

I'd like to give some definitions of the word "abide": endure, suffer, tolerate, remain, wait. These words do not indicate a change that is an ongoing abiding in Christ that will make the true follower of Jesus have the proofs of discipleship. One of which is found in John 15. Also we see verse 10. We can see that if we abide in Jesus' love, then we will be faithful to keep His 10 commandments. If one wants to bad enough, it is possible to externally keep the commandments. At least for a while. Jesus also said in Matthew 5:28 that to look on a woman with lust is also breaking the law. The Jews in Jesus day felt pretty good

about themselves with their external keeping of the law. But Jesus raised the stakes to include internal thoughts with which the Jews fell short. It is clear that sin begins in the mind. (James 1:12-15). But through reliance on the power of the Holy Spirit (see II Peter 1:4) we can overcome even the temptations that being in the mind. II Corinthians 10:5 Not through our own power, but through the power of Jesus. Keeping the commandments

is just part of the external fruit, another sure result is that we will show the fruits of the Spirit in our lives. (See Galatians 5:22-25). Now we want to look at something that to me is very definitive about the condition of eternal life. There is a Book of Life first mentioned in Philippians 4:3. How important is this Book of Life? In Revelation 20:12 we see that we are judged by what is written in the Book of Life and in verse 15 it says that who ever is not written in the Book of Life is cast into hell. Furthermore, Revelation 21:27 we find out that if we are not written in the Book of Life we will not be going to heaven. Once one is written into the Book of Life it is possible to have your name removed or blotted out? The best answer is not my human words but the words of inspiration.

Revelation 22:19 "And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book." So, God can take out our name. And again Rev. 3:5 "He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my father and before his angels." We see that our name can be taken out if we do not overcome. What do we need to overcome? Sin! Transgression of the law (I John 3:4).

What about the promise of John 10:28-29? Very simply, God does not allow external forces to come between or separate us from Him. However, this does not take away our freedom of choice! Even though no one or nothing is able to take us out of God's hand, we still have the power of choice that allows us to walk (even though foolishly) out of His hand (protection). Notice that in II Peter 1:10 "Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure; for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall." Even if one reads just this one verse once can still see the condition in the phrase "if ye do these things." Now go to the

Robeson County Nonprofit Groups Awarded \$50,028 From N. C. Arts Council

Raleigh, N.C. -- Nonprofit groups in Robeson County have been awarded \$50,028 in grants from the N.C. Arts Council for art programs and projects during 1997-98.

"Communities in our state can look forward to another year of meaningful activities in the arts," says Betty Ray McCain, secretary of the N.C. Department of Cultural Resources. "We are delighted to be able to fund so many excellent proposals."

The following organizations received funds for arts support:

Carolina Civic Center Foundation received \$5,500 to support a family series and a new professional artist series and \$7,000 to support restructuring of the educational components of Summer Stage I and II and \$2,528 to support various Art Projects; Fairmont received \$1,500 to support The Farmers Festival; Lumbree Regional Development Association received \$2,500 to support the Annual Lumbree Pow-Wow; Lumberton Parks and Recreation Department received \$1,500 to support community arts programs; the North Carolina Indian Cultural Center received \$2,000 to support the Native American Wild Game Festival and 11,000 to support the Arts and Crafts Co-op program, the presentation of artistic events at the amphitheater and a management/technical assistance program; Pembroke Magazine received \$1,000 to support the publication of Pembroke Magazine #30; Public

Schools of Robeson County received \$1,500 to support a community theater education project and \$5,000 to support a study of theater and journalism for middle and high school students called "Celebrate Theater" in partnership with the Carolina Civic Center, the North Carolina Press Foundation and two newspapers.

Red Springs Arts Council \$2000 To support community performances and residencies. Robeson Civic Choral \$1,000 To support community concerts. Robeson Arts Council \$1,000 to support an arts newsletter, calendar and expanding marketing. Robeson County Library \$1,000 To support a Sunday afternoon concert series. Robeson Little Theatre \$1,000 To support four musical productions. Rowland Christmas Festival Committee \$1,000 to support a community festival. University of North Carolina -Pembroke Gives Performing Arts Center, \$1,000 To support the "On Stage for youth" program. University of North Carolina-Pembroke \$1,000 To support Native American storytelling sessions.

The N.C. Arts Council awards grant money each year to provide diverse art experiences for citizens in all 100 counties of North Carolina. In 1997-98, the Council will distribute a total of \$4.5 million to arts organizations, schools and other nonprofit organizations that sponsor art programs.

"In our 30th anniversary at the Council, we are pleased to note the tremendous growth in the arts due to public support," said Mary Regan executive director of the N.C. Arts Council. "Organizations have certainly been innovative over the years helping us fulfill our mission of bringing the arts to all the people of our state, and this year is no exception. Outstanding programs have been planned across North Carolina" to be eligible for Council funds, organizations must produce quality art programs that provide community benefit. Grants require that matching funds be raised by the applicant organization.

The N.C. Arts Council was established in 1967 as a division of the N.C. Department of Cultural Resources. Its mission is to enrich the cultural life of the state by nurturing and support excellence in the arts and by providing opportunities for ever North Carolinian to experience the arts. The Council has been a catalyst for the development of arts organizations and facilities throughout the state by making grants and offering technical assistance for over 30 years.

For additional information or to request a complete listing of grants to each county, please contact Miriam M. Seals, statewide initiatives coordinator, at (919) 733-2111, ext. 33 or Nancy Trovillion, assistant director, at ext. 28.



Today, I want to share with you a precious memory that I recently recalled talking to Ms. Violet Locklear about my brother, Rev. Douglas Maynor, and a brotherhood meeting at a local church. A man named Brother Billy was sitting in her living room telling us "that he had always been scared of dead people until that night".

"The night of the brotherhood meeting the lights went out in the church. So, Brother Doug told the brothers" let's go outside and pray". They walked outside and crossed the road and climbed upon a hill. And Brother Doug told everyone to "kneel down and pray". Well, Brother Billy said that "my knee sunk in the dirt, I was praying and I noticed that the closer that the cars got the faster they sped up. Then this black man that they call "stick'em in the mud" was riding by on his bicycle. Well, "stick'em" got off of his bicycle and hoisted the bicycle on his back and took off running. I just couldn't figure out what was going on.

"The wind started to blow and a branch broke off the tree behind me and hit something. I stood up and turned around to find a TOMBSTONE. I was in a graveyard praying! About that time the lights came back on in the church. We proceeded back into the church and I stood in front of the church and told Brother Doug "you can throw me out of the brotherhood if you want to, but it doesn't say a thing in the Bible about going into a graveyard to pray".

This memory brought back smiles and laughter of my precious brother. Has anyone told you that "they love you today?" Well, I do.

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