



## ***Raising Daughters of the King***

*Princesses that bring Honor to their Royal Father*

### **Mom to Mom**

School is starting up. Summer days are ending. Fast pace life and activities are ramping up. Suddenly, mothers feel carried along by a current that you do not control. At times, the current seems to be totally in control of your children, your family and yourself. I do want to encourage you to do your best to slow down the pace and limit the number of activities. Let me assure you that the current, however fast or activity rich, is not in control no matter how it appears. But there is One Who is sovereign over the lives of our children and of ourselves.

This topic is pretty complicated for my human mind, but I know it's true. Somehow individual choices and free will enter into the mix. But God is still God even if we cannot quite understand and figure out what His sovereignty encompasses.

There have been times when even small questions have caused me to wonder about His sovereignty over human choices, such as: when administrative mistakes were made that cost one daughter the higher scholarship amount. Another time, much effort resulted in extended time being granted to a dyslexic child just to have distractions present in the testing room. Each of us with our own questions now and then. Some of those are the heart-wrenching questions that arise from divorce, abuse, or illness. Only God can really help us come to peace with some of those deep questions. Seek Him for those answers. Seek Him, for truly He is the only One who can satisfy your questions.

Follow me on Twitter @nanaqueenbee6  
Instagram: Janice\_utt  
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## Coach's Corner

What role do we play in our own present and future and the lives of our children. Do we just get born into that fast paced current and hope it is the one that God wants us to follow? I wonder if, when we get real, if most of us would answer “yes”.

I want to tell you a story here. I know you’ve heard it before and you can get all the most accurate details in the book of Genesis. But take a moment to read and let your heart listen to this story about Joseph.

Joseph was a young, happy boy. He had a good family that was wealthy and all of the family needs were met. Yet still, Joseph ended up the target of his older brothers’ jealousy since his family apparently made their free will choices and showed favoritism of one child over another. Eventually, the brothers sold their brother to a passing group of travelers, which as bad as that was, it was a step up from their original plan of murder. He experienced a betrayal from his family members that is beyond words. Then we know that his excellent character and God’s favor over his life landed him in the home of a high up official, only to have false accusations land him next in prison. Once more, there his fine character and ethics elevated his position to only be forgotten when he could have been freed. Finally, years later, he found himself once more in a position of leadership and there, before him, stood the brothers who first betrayed him so many years before. As he had worked through his hurts and as he began to pronounce forgiveness, He stated a truth that we today can cling to as we walk through our own hurts and those of our children: “What man meant for evil, God meant for good and for the saving of many lives.” The story is filled with disappointments and betrayals due to free will, bad, or evil choices. Yet, somehow, those bad choices were turned around and used for good, not only for the victim of those bad choices but also for the very people who perpetrated the bad behavior. So what do we believe about this?

As parents, we pray and we make our decisions based on His Word and what we believe God leads us to do. We choose not to live child-centered lives or self-centered

lives, but rather God-centered lives. We do our best to apply God's Word to our lives and to our families. And then what? We continue to pray and believe and trust.

Mom, as you try to decide what activities to allow your child to join, pray hard. Don't just make choices randomly. Spend time praying daily for your children. Intentionally parent. There are excellent suggestions on how to make those determinations in the resources listed in this website. Then again, trust a Good Father.

There have been moments in my life as a mom that I found myself asking God about His sovereignty. Sometimes we struggle with learning disabilities, health challenges, and other struggles that our most precious loved ones struggle with daily. I remember a sweet family that I worked with years ago who had two children with a genetic visual disability that would lead to blindness as their boys reached their teens. There are so many painful questions that we face. We ask ourselves really hard questions wondering what we have done that caused our children to face these struggles. As you pray and seek God's answers, listen for His Words spoken by Jesus in John 9:3 when Jesus said the disability was NOT due to sin of the parents but rather so God would be glorified.

And for those that have experienced heart or physical wounds from other humans, hear what God said through Joseph: what man meant for evil, God meant for good and for the saving of many lives.

Maybe it will help you moms today to memorize this verse if you have not already: Romans 8:28 "And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good...."

## **Game Plan**

- ❖ Pray. So simple to say and yet so powerful to do.
- ❖ Listen for God's guidance by reading the Bible, listening to advice given by wise counselors, and observing how circumstances line up.
- ❖ Determine to be willing to follow God's direction and surrender our own wills.
- ❖ Help our children make prayer a regular habit.
- ❖ Read stories from the Bible to your children using reliable children or teen Bibles.
- ❖ Say "no" to your children at times. And model saying "no" to activities for yourself.
- ❖ Limit the number of activities you allow your children to join. Cut back on activities if there is not time to do homework and small devotionals with your children.
- ❖ The best activity I ever did with my children was AWANA.

## Mission Trip Report

In each mission trip that I am blessed to participate as leader or worker, I like to put before God a desire to hear something special from Him. On this most recent trip, I asked God again to help me with my understanding of His sovereignty. I can title this trip to Paraguay: God is Sovereign in spite of human error.

Here is a brief summary of our trip to Paraguay.

Dr. Bill Fowler's devotional thoughts to us the first two days were to just be the cracked vessels that we are so that the Fragrance of Jesus can slip through the cracks to the people we encounter, and he reminded us that the collecting of the leftovers in the miracle of the feeding the 5000 was so that nothing (and no one) would be wasted. What a theme for this trip these turned out to be!

The Paraguayan church that we went to work alongside has a prayer chain every Tuesday, but for our visit, they added another week of prayer for our trip. I'm sure that is why our trip was such a success. We had a little trouble getting the glasses through customs – but God made a way. While the local pastor and I talked with the customs officials, members of his church and our team prayed. Suddenly, the official agreed we could go through and all of his helpers turned and walked away. We all grabbed our things and quickly left the area with everything!

My numbers show that we saw a total of over 420 people for glasses and for the salvation message in two different locations with approximately 82 decisions made to follow Jesus. Two hundred fifty people had lined up at 5:00 a.m. to be fitted for glasses. No person was turned away. We fitted more than 215 pairs of glasses and gave out more than 322 readers and numerous beanie babies.

We witnessed in 12 homes; shared in 4 cell groups and in 12 classrooms at school. We taught 46 children at the Saturday afternoon Bible class – we shared with them 50 stuffed animals and 46 snacks. No child left empty handed. We handed out over 100 t-shirts and pairs of shorts. No elementary child was left out even though we had not heard numbers before arrival. Crafts were needed for 166 children. By my

human error I had accidentally left the major supplies for crafts back in Texas. We had exactly enough! No child was left out. No craft was left over.

Our team shared messages in 4 services and sang 5 different special music presentations in church. Part of our team presented 4 messages of encouragement to approximately 80 national pastors. We gave out and received too many hugs to be counted. Truly, Paraguay was impacted. Our team was impacted. People prayed! God moved! No human error went without Divine intervention. Even an airline error allowed 9 of us to see the capital of Argentina as tourists. And a tour driver heard of hope in Jesus.

And we worshipped our Master Creator as He showed us His creative beauty not only at the Falls of Iguazu – but also in the faces of those He sent us to love for Him.

We worked really hard! And we loved every minute. God used our individuality to love on the people of Paraguay in very unique ways! Even when we did not find a fit with glasses for a very few, God used His testimony of love through us to show them His love. The people could not believe that we would still be patient dealing with them after standing from 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. to be sure that all those folks that had lined up at 5:00 a.m. were taken care of and with much love and patience.

At our cell group on the last night, one of the teachers was there that we had fitted for glasses. She was young with a small baby. She could not contain her tears of gratitude that she could now see. She was about to have to give up her job since she could no longer see to make lesson plans, grade papers, or even read her Bible. She cried the entire night with tears of joy and gratitude.