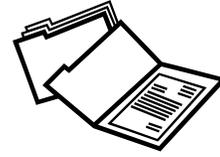


Council President's message for October 2006

by Erik Polkowski



“You are never alone”

Driving home late one evening from a business trip out of town, I focused on home. With school starting, the kids would be in bed when I arrived. How would they be going to sleep?

Since he was little, my son would reach over and rub your eyebrows if you lay down with him. It was his way of knowing he was safe and that you were beside him. My daughter has the ‘nah-ne’, a pink blanket, silky on the edges and one side, a soft plush on the other. We should have named her Linus. The ‘nah-ne’ goes everywhere. We have issues when it is being washed or forgotten. There is the ‘backup nah-ne’, a similar pink silky blanket. But she knows the difference, and it is NOT an acceptable alternative, especially when it comes to bedtime.

“You will leave me all alone. Yet I am not alone, for my Father is with me.” – John 16:32

If you ask any parent, your own included, we all had some routine or an item that fulfilled a need to feel safe and secure. That someone is beside us. Someone is there if trouble arises. Someone, with whom we can share our concerns, fears, hopes and confide in. We need to know that we are never alone. That we are in the care of something more than whom we are.

“God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.” – Psalm 46:1

And here in lies a change in perspective. While we are fearful and require an assurance, as a father, I find I need the assurance that my children are safe. I need to see and hear them. I need to know about their lives, their fears and their comforts.

While driving, a bright yellow beacon drew my attention to the rear view mirror. A car signaling a lane change was behind me. As I looked at the mirror, something else caught my attention. In the glare of the passing headlights, I could make out the two little handprints left on the rear window. In a way, I wasn't alone.

“And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.” – Matthew 28:20

We still have the need. Look for God's presence daily. You may not always see it at first glance, but it is there. Thank and talk to him. Take comfort in his presence. Take strength in the knowledge that you are never alone.

