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## Compiled Messages

**Subject:** Re:Introduction- Marcia Roberts **Topic:** Introductions  
**Author:** David Robertson **Date:** August 21, 2011 8:38 PM

Hi Marica - Good to meet you online. Sounds like you've got a lot going on in your life outside of teaching and going to UWG! I hope you have an excellent fall semester! - David

**Subject:** Re:Herrin-Introduction **Topic:** Introductions  
**Author:** David Robertson **Date:** August 21, 2011 8:59 PM

Hi Jessica - Great to meet you in this class. Third graders are a great age and I imagine it must fun to help these young minds embrace some of the newer technology available to them in the classroom.

I appreciate you sharing that you enjoy hunting & bowfishing with your husband. You are well on your way to a long and prosperous marriage!! :) Blessings - David

**Subject:** Introduction - David Robertson **Topic:** Introductions  
**Author:** David Robertson **Date:** August 21, 2011 8:55 PM

Hey everybody! My name is David Robertson and I live in Murfreesboro, Tennessee. This is my 3rd semester at UWG in the Ed.S. IT program and I am loving it.

I just accepted a part-time job in the Digital Media Studio at the James E. Walker Library at Middle Tennessee State University so I'm pretty geeked up about applying some of what I'm learning here in the real-world of helping some of our 25,000 students get their projects done in the DMS.

Since a picture is worth thousand words I have put together a little PowerPoint introduction that gives anyone who is interested a few snapshots of me and my wife and daughter and our pets (so at least there's something interesting to look at!)

I am looking forward to this class and projects and I especially enjoy reading posts in the discussion threads. I am probably one of the few (if not only) student in this class that is not a full time educator. -- David

Attachments: [David Robertson.pptx](#)

**Subject:** Re:Introduction - David Robertson **Topic:** Introductions  
**Author:** David Robertson **Date:** August 22, 2011 10:03 AM

Hi Marcia - One of my favorites things to do is to add value to others. It gives life meaning. I cannot tell you how much I have already learned at UWG and, not surprisingly, from my fellow students in the 4 classes that I have taken thus far. I am still slightly overwhelmed at the collegiality of the students in this degree program. It far surpasses my Masters program as far as fellow students' willingness to move ahead as a cohort and help one another when possible and practical. Having said that, I would be happy to share whatever technical tools I can to help you this semester. I have a growing collection in my electronic portfolio which I am happy to share with everyone. I still have the email addresses from other students in former classes who invited me to shoot them an email if I get stuck and I have and they came through for me! I feel like all of us are smarter than any one of us and we learn better together!

Please don't struggle too long or hard on any one technical obstacle you encounter but share it with the group and I'm confident you'll be pleasantly surprised at the response! :)

Best! David

**Subject:** Re:Introduction - David Robertson **Topic:** Introductions  
**Author:** David Robertson **Date:** August 22, 2011 6:28 PM

Hey Wendy - There's a reason the Dead Sea is dead. It only takes in but has no outlet. Your role as a librarian helping connect people with what they need keeps things flowing. No wonder you feel a strong sense of satisfaction. -- David

**Subject:** Re:Introduction - David Robertson **Topic:** Introductions

**Author:** David Robertson**Date:** August 22, 2011 6:30 PM

You are kind, Latasha. John Maxwell teaches a leadership principle called "the learning principle." It simply states that we can learn something from everybody. I have found that to be true and even more so when I am in a class like this surrounded by professional educators who have a passion for helping others learn. Blessings! - David

 **Subject:** Re:Introduction - David Robertson**Topic:** Introductions**Author:** David Robertson**Date:** August 22, 2011 6:55 PM

Hi Jessica - Thank you for taking a peek at a slice of my world in the PPT. I'm trusting that this new part-time job is synergy with my Ed.S. studies and God willing will open some doors for me upon graduation to work in higher education as a media specialist. I hope you have a fantastic fall semester! -- David

 **Subject:** Re:Introduction - David Robertson**Topic:** Introductions**Author:** David Robertson**Date:** August 25, 2011 8:54 AM

Shelia - Please don't underestimate the power of what you have done with this 5K run and the training that preceded it. This is a key to living because it generates momentum. Momentum is like a freight train with 100 cars behind it and 3 engines pulling the train - very difficult to stop once it gets going. Good habits are terribly hard to break. Go for it! David

 **Subject:** Re:Introduction - David Robertson**Topic:** Introductions**Author:** David Robertson**Date:** August 26, 2011 10:51 AM

The years you add to your life, Sheila, will be years of higher quality of living too because of this outstanding choices you are making now. David

 **Subject:** Re:Trish Vlastnik**Topic:** Introductions**Author:** David Robertson**Date:** August 22, 2011 9:56 AM

Hi Trish - Good to be in class again with you this semester. I enjoyed tracking along with you and reading your excellent posts in our previous class.

I appreciate that you are continuing your training in distance running. I am currently training for the Middle Half Marathon and am sore as I type this post to you!! David

 **Subject:** Re:Trish Vlastnik**Topic:** Introductions**Author:** David Robertson**Date:** August 23, 2011 8:46 AM

Hey Trish - The Middle Half is held at my alma mater, Middle Tennessee State University in Murfreesboro, TN, the exact geographic center of Tennessee. It is a flat course. My goal is to run it every year and shave a few minutes off my time as I age one more year. I love what you said about staying moving or rust! I just swam laps for 60 minutes - that is my life-long exercise right to the finish line, God willing!!

Here's the web site for the Middle Half:

<http://www.themiddlehalf.com/about-the-race/>

- David

 **Subject:** Re:LaTasha Arnold Introduction**Topic:** Introductions**Author:** David Robertson**Date:** August 22, 2011 6:31 PM

LaTasha - I have a lot of respect for anyone with a degree in mathematics. I thrive on the writing side of my brain! :) David

 **Subject:** Inspiration often lies in a bad set of cards - David Robertson**Topic:** Discussion Forum One (August 22 - September 4)**Author:** David Robertson**Date:** August 22, 2011 10:41 AM

"Life consists not in holding good cards but in playing those you hold well." - Josh Billings

It's a brilliant observation that Josh makes because who among us is 100% satisfied with the cards they have been dealt? I

personally don't know anyone that stands in front of the mirror and looks at himself or herself who wouldn't change a thing or two about their physical appearance if it were possible. Our cultural context doesn't help the cause often equating health, financial prosperity, perfect makeup and hair color, white teeth, slim figure, athletic ability, a nice car and home, etc. as the model of success.

But it's not to the "pretty people" that I look to for inspiration. For me, it's exactly what Josh Billings points out - those who take what they have been given by God and are good stewards with it. (The old "when life gives you lemons make lemonade" mentality.)

A few examples that come to mind include:

\* [Dr. Michael Brown](#) - A man hopelessly addicted to LSD who now has a Ph.D. and founded a school of ministry.

\* [David Ring](#) - A young minister who has cerebral palsy who they said couldn't live a normal life (now married with several kids and a national level speaker).

\* [Tom Papania](#) - A former mafia member whose dysfunctional relationship with his father pushed him into a life of crime who now speaks to hundreds of thousands of redemption and a second chance.

These are but three examples of a multitude of inspirational characters both historical and modern-day that have been dealt a bad set of cards but played the cards they had and are changing history.

I can't wait to exchange ideas on this topic in this discussion.

-- David

"I can be changed by what happens to me. But I refuse to be reduced by it." Maya Angelou

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**Subject:** Re:Inspiration often lies in a bad set of cards - David Robertson **Topic:** Discussion Forum One (August 22 - September 4)  
**Author:** David Robertson **Date:** August 22, 2011 6:41 PM

Hey Marcia - I had never heard of David Ring until a group of churches in our community did the same thing and had him come speak at the local university. He made such a deep impression on me I can still remember the title of his message: "Winning in the Game of Life." He challenged those who were afraid to try something new with this question: "I've cerebral palsy, what's your problem?" --

- David

[Reply](#) [Forward](#)

**Subject:** Re:Inspiration often lies in a bad set of cards - David Robertson **Topic:** Discussion Forum One (August 22 - September 4)  
**Author:** David Robertson **Date:** August 24, 2011 2:22 PM

More good thoughts from you, Cedric. Why is that we see celebrities divorce and enter rehabs? It's because they are "financial fakers" and "posers" and empty inside and have not thought through what you and we are discussing here in this forum.

I would prefer that my only daughter grow up to be a wise person of integrity than an individual who has adapted to the cultural norm. I've seen normal in our culture and it does not seem to be working well. -- David

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**Subject:** Re:Inspiration often lies in a bad set of cards - David Robertson **Topic:** Discussion Forum One (August 22 - September 4)  
**Author:** David Robertson **Date:** August 28, 2011 10:50 PM

Hey Tonia - I'm glad some of the the examples of inspirational people I happen to know were meaningful to you. We all know special people who will never appear on David Letterman's or Dr. Phil's show. These are common heroes who grind through life one controversial, unglamorous day at a time.

Like you, I learned so much in Internet Tools. One of my favs so far! Best to you this semester!! David

[Reply](#) [Forward](#)

**Subject:** Re:Cope Intro **Topic:** Introductions  
**Author:** David Robertson **Date:** August 22, 2011 6:35 PM

Hi Wendy - Sounds like you are living the dream! I am encouraged at your enthusiasm in your role as a media specialist, the very thing I am aspiring to learn to do vocationally.

Also, I am impressed with your commitment to the sport of triathlon. I have done 4 sprints and now train at the Olympic distance and try to do a practice tri every month on my own.

What a wonderful example you are for Haley and Tess. -- David

[Reply](#) [Forward](#)

**Subject:** Re:Tonia Conner-Introduction  
**Author:** David Robertson

**Topic:** Introductions  
**Date:** August 23, 2011 8:49 AM

Hi Tonia - I have always admired people with musical ability. I hope that you learn some technical skills in this degree that will help grow your business. -- David

[Reply](#) [Forward](#)

**Subject:** Re:Cedric Dickerson Introduction  
**Author:** David Robertson

**Topic:** Introductions  
**Date:** August 23, 2011 8:52 AM

Hey Cedric - Good to meet you! Although it's a lot of work, I always thought phys. ed. teachers have got the coolest job. Your role as coach for football and basketball play in perfectly with your desire to mentor young people. That is so awesome. I'm sure you are a great role model for your students whose are still "wet cement" and you can be an enormously positive influence on the direction of their lives. - David

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**Subject:** Re:Cedric Dickerson Introduction  
**Author:** David Robertson

**Topic:** Introductions  
**Date:** August 23, 2011 10:08 AM

Young adolescent boys, particularly, are in a receptive mode when they are doing something physical like athletics, building something, fixing something, etc.

Coach John Wooden is legendary in the life lessons he taught his players. I Googled a web with his quotes in case you're interested...

[http://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/authors/j/john\\_wooden.html](http://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/authors/j/john_wooden.html)

Have a great week!! - David

[Reply](#) [Forward](#)

**Subject:** Re:Tanetta's Introduction  
**Author:** David Robertson

**Topic:** Introductions  
**Date:** August 23, 2011 8:56 AM

Hi Tanetta - It's good to meet you in this class. I also want to thank you for your 8 years of service to our nation in the Marines. We cannot possibly thank our active service and veterans enough.

Also, than you for sharing your non-profit. I love it when I see people pursuing their passion and put legs on the dreams. - David

[Reply](#) [Forward](#)

**Subject:** Re:Kelen Owens' introduction  
**Author:** David Robertson

**Topic:** Introductions  
**Date:** August 23, 2011 2:22 PM

Hi Kelen - Great to meet you in this class! You have a fascinating story already in your life jorney. My wife is a licensed Christian counselor with a thriving practice. This is a field where you will never be short of clients to be sure.

No doubt this is a great class for you to be taking at this time. Best! - David

[Reply](#) [Forward](#)

**Subject:** Re:Kelen Owens' introduction  
**Author:** David Robertson

**Topic:** Introductions  
**Date:** August 25, 2011 8:59 AM

Thank you Kelen - I have not met the person yet who doesn't at times need encouragement. One of my favorite passages in the Bible says "anxiety in the heart of a man weighs him down but a good word makes him glad." (Proverbs 12:25) - David

[Reply](#) [Forward](#)

**Subject:** Re:About Me by Barbara Ishler  
**Author:** David Robertson

**Topic:** Introductions  
**Date:** August 24, 2011 9:18 AM

Hi Barbara - It is very good to meet you in class. I am thrilled to be in a class with such a diverse group of folks in that I have been driving hard this degree to learn all the instructional technology and Web 2.0 tools I can so it is mighty refreshing to have discussions that don't involve technology. I hope you enjoy this class immensely! -- David

[Reply](#) [Forward](#)

**Subject:** Re:Watson Intro  
**Author:** David Robertson

**Topic:** Introductions  
**Date:** August 24, 2011 9:21 AM

Hi Charlotte! It's wonderful to meet you and thanks for sharing about you coming back to school being "slightly older." You won my heart with that comment. I took a full 25 years hiatus from my undergraduate degree until I return to MTSU to obtain my Masters. Now, at 51, I'm halfway through my Ed.S. in IT and like you I am loving it! At MTSU I was put into 2 categories that I thought was interesting: (1) a "non-traditional student" - starting school later in life and (2) an OWL (Older Wiser Learner)! Have fun this semester! -- David

[Reply](#) [Forward](#)

**Subject:** Re:Watson Intro  
**Author:** David Robertson

**Topic:** Introductions  
**Date:** August 26, 2011 10:53 AM

Funn you should mention memory. I am 51 years old and I carry my digital voice recorder with me everywhere (often even when I exercise). It is my "photograhic memory!" -- :) David

[Reply](#) [Forward](#)

**Subject:** Re:Watson Intro  
**Author:** David Robertson

**Topic:** Introductions  
**Date:** September 2, 2011 10:30 AM

Well Charlotte, happy b'day to you! Thanks for sharing this great occasion with your classmates. I know as a 51 year old guy that you are inspirational to me! -- David

[Reply](#) [Forward](#)

**Subject:** Re:Watson Intro  
**Author:** David Robertson

**Topic:** Introductions  
**Date:** September 5, 2011 12:09 PM

Hey Charlotte - I was telling my wife about you over the weekend. You have inspired me! As I get older, I'm learning that the superior skill is not total recall but a good working knowledge of how to locate information quickly. -- David

[Reply](#) [Forward](#)

**Subject:** Re:Watson Intro  
**Author:** David Robertson

**Topic:** Introductions  
**Date:** September 6, 2011 10:41 AM

I like what you are saying, Charlotte! May I ask for some advice? I have a huge research project in another class on the developing technologies in libraries from the past to the future. I need 15 referred journal articles for this literature review! any ideas from EBSCO, etc.? I'm focusing in on a qualitative research case study of our digital media studios in our library at MTSU. Five minutes for you in searching is equivalent to 55 minutes of searching for me! :) - David

[Reply](#) [Forward](#)

**Subject:** Re:Research project  
**Author:** David Robertson

**Topic:** Introductions  
**Date:** September 6, 2011 10:09 PM

Research Seminar - MEDT 8484. - David

[Reply](#) [Forward](#)

**Subject:** Re:Watson Intro  
**Author:** David Robertson

**Topic:** Introductions  
**Date:** September 6, 2011 9:55 PM

Thanks very much, Charlotte. - David

[Reply](#) [Forward](#)

**Subject:** Re:Play Your Cards Wisely  
**Author:** David Robertson

**Topic:** Discussion Forum One (August 22 - September 4)  
**Date:** August 24, 2011 9:13 AM

Cedric - Your post today is full of wise sayings! Wow. So much to chew on. I loved that you brought up character. Character is one of the qualities that comes at a high price. You are dead on when you point out that those who obtain something easily don't appreciate it as much as those who work for it. I also appreciate that you have rightly spoken that those that fold their cards disqualify themselves from the game of life. The cemetery is by far the richest real estate on Earth. In every cemetery there are songs that have never been sung, books that have never been written, masterpieces that have never been painted, and on and on. Why? Because of what you said...people folded their cards instead of taking what they have been dealt and doing the best they could with what they had. -- David

[Reply](#) [Forward](#)

**Subject:** Re:Play Your Cards Wisely  
**Author:** David Robertson

**Topic:** Discussion Forum One (August 22 - September 4)  
**Date:** August 29, 2011 9:28 PM

Great quote from Henry Ford. He's also famous for saying (paraphrase), "The customer can have any color Ford he wants as long as its black." :) David

[Reply](#) [Forward](#)

**Subject:** Re:Tiffany World's Intro.

**Author:** David Robertson

**Topic:** Introductions

**Date:** August 27, 2011 3:30 PM

Tonia - I share your love for Isaiah 40:31. I often think of this verse before a half marathon race!! :) Thanks for sharing.  
David

[Reply](#) [Forward](#)

**Subject:** Re:Playing the hand you are dealt - Marcia Roberts

**Author:** David Robertson

**Topic:** Discussion Forum One (August 22 - September 4)

**Date:** August 25, 2011 9:06 AM

Marcia - I appreciate your comments immensley and the candor in which you sensitively shared about your observations of your mission trip to Bangalore. i celebrate the diversity and freedom we enjoy in this country and at this university to be who we are without fear or intimidation.

Interestingly, a few semesters ago Dr. Jason Huett exposed his students to the book, "The World is Flat" by Thomas Friedman where he wrote extensively about the technological breakthroughs that are occuring in Bangalore, India that are beginning to chip away at some of that cycle of poverty that the caste system has imposed on the culture. - David

[Reply](#) [Forward](#)

**Subject:** Re:Sheila Wheelis

**Author:** David Robertson

**Topic:** Introductions

**Date:** August 26, 2011 10:55 AM

Sheila - May I representatively thank you on behalf of all Americans for the service you have sacrificially performed for our nation as a military wife? Your contribution to hold the family together is incomprehensible. - David

[Reply](#) [Forward](#)

**Subject:** Re:"Playing the hand that you hold" \_Vlastnik

**Author:** David Robertson

**Topic:** Discussion Forum One (August 22 - September 4)

**Date:** August 25, 2011 4:39 PM

Hey Trish - I appreciate you taking the time to type in these excellent quotes. I think we all would do well to take to heart words that were spoken by men and women who didn't accept the cards they were given but rose above and now we talk about there words decades (or centuries) later. Cave into fear and your words will soon be forgotten. Be courgeous and your words will be remembered. At the end of the day, we want our sons and daughters to not allow the cards they have been dealt by DNA or the USA to hold them back but rather to have the courage to become the person that God intended them to be doing all they can with what they have -- David

[Reply](#) [Forward](#)

**Subject:** Re:Playing my hand better now than before

**Author:** David Robertson

**Topic:** Discussion Forum One (August 22 - September 4)

**Date:** August 25, 2011 4:31 PM

Sheila - Your post here is very encouraging. You exemplify the quote we are discussing so well. Your diligence to press through to personal transformation reminded me of a quote I saw on the wall at the YMCA that impacted me deeply:

"The time is always right to do what's right." Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

- David

[Reply](#) [Forward](#)

**Subject:** Re:Cards and Life

**Author:** David Robertson

**Topic:** Discussion Forum One (August 22 - September 4)

**Date:** August 28, 2011 4:30 PM

Hi Funlola - I love what you wrote when you said:

"Even if one is born with natural talents, it does not necessarily mean that those talents will blossom and grow."

This is so true and thank you for reminding us! Raw talent will never take a man or woman to the top. That's why virtually all professional athletes have a coach. They have some amazing skill and talent but they often lack the experience and character that governs the abilities. We have seen professional athletes gone wild - particularly in the off season when the coach is not riding them hard and reigning in their behavior with boundaries.

Having the best set of cards isn't as important as knowing how to the play the cards you have well. -- David

[Reply](#) [Forward](#)

**Subject:** Re:Cards and Life**Author:** David Robertson**Topic:** Discussion Forum One (August 22 - September 4)**Date:** August 28, 2011 4:28 PM

Hi Allegra - You've said some potent things in your post today. As i read your thoughts on the cards being metaphorical, I couldn't help but think of a short film I recently watched called "The Butterly Circus." In it there was a man featured with no arms and no legs. One of the characters in the film said the man with no arms and no legs that he had a distinct advantage over others. His victories were greater and deeper than those less challenged. It was an inspiring scene and this was not special effects that rendered the actor in this condition.

<http://thebutterflycircus.com/>

David

**Subject:** Re:Choices**Author:** David Robertson**Topic:** Discussion Forum One (August 22 - September 4)**Date:** August 28, 2011 4:33 PM

Hi Latasha - You have said some insightful things in your post. I think it would be wise for those dealt a strong hand of cards to look past the advantage that it brings to them and rather inspires them to reach out to those that are disadvantaged and marginalized in our culture like those you have mentioned. David

**Subject:** Re:The Card Game of Life\_Conner**Author:** David Robertson**Topic:** Discussion Forum One (August 22 - September 4)**Date:** August 29, 2011 10:13 AM

Hi Tonia - Thank you for reminding us of the excellent true story depiction of Chris Gardner played by Will Smith and his son. That is such a superb example of Josh Billings' quote. When I read your post and allusion to the movie, I was immediately reminded of another father/son team called Team Hoyt. I am a triathlete and so I was keenly interested in this father/son triathlete team who race with the dad (Dick Hoyt - in his late 60's) swimming 2.4 miles pulling his son (Rick) who has cerebral palsy along in a raft, and biking 112 miles with him in a special seat on the handlebars, and then pushing him 26.2 miles in a racing wheelchair in Full Ironman competitions. I get goosebumps typing this note to you about it. Talk about dealing with the hand you have beend dealt??? This is one of the most inspirational stories I have ever heard. You can Google Team Hoyt - here's a short YouTube clip of this amazing father/son team:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cxqe77-Am3w>

David

**Subject:** Re:The Card Game of Life\_Conner**Author:** David Robertson**Topic:** Discussion Forum One (August 22 - September 4)**Date:** August 29, 2011 1:54 PM

You bet, Jessica. We are surrounded by amazing people surmounting incomprehensible odds every day if we would just have eyes to see beyond ourselves. - David

**Subject:** Re:The Card Game of Life\_Conner**Author:** David Robertson**Topic:** Discussion Forum One (August 22 - September 4)**Date:** August 30, 2011 9:39 AM

Tonia - I share your heart on this one. I feel conviction as a parent when I watch how this father has selflessly devoted his life to his son. Thank you for your comment. -- David

**Subject:** Re:Introduction: Jonda Jordan**Author:** David Robertson**Topic:** Introductions**Date:** August 30, 2011 9:42 AM

Hi Jonda - It is so nice to meet you in this class. How I wish I had you as my math teacher when I was a young student. I struggled with math terribly and even in college I had a teacher that seemed to hate math, hate life, hate me! I was running with a guy from church last SAT and he said he was horrible at math until he hooked up with this one math teacher in remedial math in college and it changed his entire perspective. He aced the course and now loves math. It's teachers like you who love what they do and evidently love people who have the ability to tranform negative thinking about mathematics into something postive. -- David

**Subject:** Re:Deal me in: Cope**Author:** David Robertson**Topic:** Discussion Forum One (August 22 - September 4)**Date:** August 30, 2011 7:21 PM

Wendy - Thank you for sharing this very personal story of your mother and father's journey with MS. I am thankful that they did go to Ireland while they could and that have that shared memory. Your father is quite obviously a remarkable man, a solid example for us younger married men to be sure. -- David

[Reply](#) [Forward](#)

**Subject:** Re:Seeing the hand  
**Author:** David Robertson

**Topic:** Discussion Forum One (August 22 - September 4)  
**Date:** August 31, 2011 3:13 PM

Hi Tamisha - I loved what you quoted here:

" I use to listen to this guy on the radio and he would say that we complain about having no shoes, until you see the person with no feet."

I heard that same thing along the line somewhere and I remember saying it out loud as I was reading some of these posts! It is so true.

I like what you said about the dark times we walk through. I am reading the book of Job in the Bible right now and this poor fella walked through some mighty dark times but there was a higher purpose behind it all.

Thanks for your excellent post! David

[Reply](#) [Forward](#)

**Subject:** Re:Seeing the hand  
**Author:** David Robertson

**Topic:** Discussion Forum One (August 22 - September 4)  
**Date:** September 1, 2011 11:35 AM

Yes indeed, Tamisha. Nobody ever has all the facts. That's why I learned to trust in God which brings me a sense of peace that transcends my circumstances. -- David

[Reply](#) [Forward](#)

**Subject:** Re:Play and Live!  
**Author:** David Robertson

**Topic:** Discussion Forum One (August 22 - September 4)  
**Date:** August 31, 2011 3:17 PM

Hey Tiffany - I am smiling right now as I type this after reading your wonderful post! The poem you ended with is so funny! (Tragically funny for a lot of people probably because it mirrors their uneventful life that takes no risks.)

I particularly appreciated this statement you made:

"In the 'game' of life one must, first of all, decide if he is going to stay and play or throw and go." This is classic!

I'm sure your sermon "I Am on the Verge" was a great one and if I got the capitalization correct on your sermon title I think I may know which direction you went with this message!! :) David

[Reply](#) [Forward](#)

**Subject:** Re:Anissa Andrews  
**Author:** David Robertson

**Topic:** Introductions  
**Date:** September 2, 2011 10:29 AM

Hi Anissa - Welcome to the class! I know it is a major deal to rebuild a PC loading all your programs and getting your data in place. I'm glad you love your job in Henry County. When I took Dr. Huett's class "Introduction to Distance Education" we did online reviews of Luella Middle School in Henry Co. using the Angel login system. It was great. Best! David

[Reply](#) [Forward](#)

**Subject:** Re:Anissa Andrews  
**Author:** David Robertson

**Topic:** Introductions  
**Date:** September 2, 2011 6:27 PM

I worked with 7th Grade Science and Business Technology instructors. Very nice people. - David

[Reply](#) [Forward](#)

**Subject:** Re:Cards  
**Author:** David Robertson

**Topic:** Discussion Forum One (August 22 - September 4)  
**Date:** September 5, 2011 12:16 PM

Hey Earthwind - Thanks for the post today. Your life choices illustrate so well how we can either use the cards we have been dealt as a stumbling block or a stepping stone. I also like what you said to look at the whole hand you have been dealt. I've observed that the best hands don't always win no more than the strongest or fastest athlete comes out on top. Few know better than you that when you are carrying the ball you can trip or pull a hamstring or something unusual happens that stops forward motion. The flip side of course is that conditions can be perfect to allow a phenomenal event to occur right out of the blue catapulted a player (in football or the game of life) to instant notoriety. Funny how all that works but the main thing to me is to keep showing up and playing the cards you have no matter the odds. -- David

[Reply](#) [Forward](#)

**Subject:** Re:Playing the hand you are dealt--Andrews  
**Author:** David Robertson

**Topic:** Discussion Forum One (August 22 - September 4)  
**Date:** September 5, 2011 12:20 PM

Hi Anissa - Thank you for a sharing a very personal story. Helen Keller was once asked if there was anything worse than being blind. She replied, "yes, having no vision." Your mother in law had vision; she caught a greater glimpse of a larger purpose for her life beyond her disability. It is an unrealistic expectation to think that we will be healthy and strong and capable without ever encountering limiting factors in our life. That is the nature of being of human being born to die and have a "lifespan" as our course title rightly points out. In my opinion, we are eternal beings with a spiritual nature having a temporary human experience. -- David

[Reply](#) [Forward](#)

**Subject:** Re:Nature vs. Nurture  
**Author:** David Robertson

**Topic:** Discussion Forum Two (September 5 - 18)  
**Date:** September 6, 2011 10:48 AM

Hi Barbara - What an interesting observation you have made from within your own family regarding your stepchildren. I think we all can have a proclivity towards a hereditary behavior but the power of environment is a force to be reckoned with.

As the old saying goes, "evil companions corrupt good morals." Often, environment wins - with plants or with people's behavior. -- David

[Reply](#) [Forward](#)

**Subject:** Re:Nature versus nurture debate will continue...  
**Author:** David Robertson

**Topic:** Discussion Forum Two (September 5 - 18)  
**Date:** September 6, 2011 10:59 AM

Funlola - I winced when I read your telling of the at risk student who abandoned a scholarship for Wal-Mart. That hurts deep on many levels. Nevertheless the seeds that you planted in his mind, will, and emotions, I would argue, are still there and although dormant still have the power to breed forth life. I am thinking of seeds that archeologies discovered in an Egyptian pyramid that were dated at over 3,000 years old. They planted them in soil and began to cultivate them and guess what happened? They germinated into the same produce in this age as millenia ago! So what does that mean to us as educators. Some plant, some water, but eventually an increase is possible if the seeds get exposed to an environment conducive to personal growth. It is tragically true that those that think they can't often never will even try. Your student is a yet another statistical case in point. But, we should never underestimate what Elmer Towns calls the "hot poker principle." The hot poker principle states that to stay on fire, red hot in an area of growth and progress, we must stay around people that are growing like a hot poker stays red hot by being in live coals. Mr. Towns advises:

- \* listen to great people speak
- \* visit great places
- \* go to great events that will inspire you
- \* read great books
- \* listen to inspirational speeches or sermons

At the end of the day we must all take responsibility for our own life. Living in America, we have opportunities to learn and develop that are just a few keystrokes away. It will always be a choice and if we can motivate students to "do the next right thing" for their lives, we will have accomplished something. -- David

[Reply](#) [Forward](#)

**Subject:** Re:Human genome mapping...weighing the costs and benefits...  
**Author:** David Robertson

**Topic:** Discussion Forum Two (September 5 - 18)  
**Date:** September 6, 2011 11:51 AM

Funlola - Your two questions involving ethics are superb and really demand a debate in legislative bodies around the world. - David

[Reply](#) [Forward](#)

**Subject:** Re:Human genome mapping...weighing the costs and benefits...  
**Author:** David Robertson

**Topic:** Discussion Forum Two (September 5 - 18)  
**Date:** September 6, 2011 7:17 PM

Funlola - Great reply. Sadly, it doesn't take a large number of evil people to really mess things up as historical dictators have proved. The power to engineer human life would be a power that would be up to the highest bidder, there would more than likely be a black market for those who hack the system to sell DNA for dollars, and the like. The danger of living in a climate of technological, scientific, or biologically breakthrough is that what was meant for good can be used for less than noble purposes. In itself, this is not enough to stop genome mapping research, nevertheless, policy, protocol, and ethics need to be at the forefront of such issues. - David

[Reply](#) [Forward](#)

**Subject:** Nature v. Nurture: A Very Different Perspective - Robertson  
**Author:** David Robertson

**Topic:** Discussion Forum Two (September 5 - 18)  
**Date:** September 6, 2011 11:26 AM

Well, Dr. Hayes, gave us permission to be controversial so here goes!

The worst insult or the greatest compliment: "You are just like your father!"

Why is that we see generational issues from grandfather to father to son manifest in a family line? Alcoholism, drug addiction, promiscuity, thievery, lying, anxiety, depression, and the laundry list of negative personal and social issues goes on and on.

Then there is the flip side: Good morals, character, integrity, etc. also seem to be passed down from generation to generation.

Both of these extremes transcend hair and eye color, height, and body type.

Consider the following example of two persons lifted from history.

The following excerpt is from an article entitled "Generational Impact" by Jim Priest at this web site:  
[http://www.marriagenetworkok.net/engine/emw.exe/\\*qshome=home&st=203&kw=infset&ifn=26&trec=3&nr=42&lctype=6&p](http://www.marriagenetworkok.net/engine/emw.exe/*qshome=home&st=203&kw=infset&ifn=26&trec=3&nr=42&lctype=6&p)

\* \* \*

According to research conducted by Richard L. Dugdale in, "The Jukes: A Study in Crime, Pauperism, Disease and Heredity", there was a man named Max Juke who lived in American colonial times. Juke was reportedly an atheist who believed in liberation from laws. He allegedly advocated free sex, no formal education and hated imposed responsibilities. Dugdale wrote that Juke was "a hunter and fisher, a hard drinker, jolly and companionable, averse to steady toil, working hard by spurts and idling by turns. He had a numerous progeny, some of them almost certainly illegitimate." In other words, Juke was neither principled nor industrious.

Some years later, a gentleman named A. E. Winship studied what happened to the descendants of colonial era evangelist, Jonathan Edwards. Edwards was everything Juke was not: hardworking, God-fearing and Bible believing. Edwards "was a godly minister who was credited with igniting The Great Awakening through his sermons. He served for a brief period just before his death as president of what is now known as Princeton University. He believed in leading by example. He authored two books on the subjects of physical fitness and kindness. Mr. Edwards later became involved in teaching people to be responsible for their daily actions."

Certainly Juke and Edwards had an impact on their immediate families, but what about the generations to follow? Here's what happened in the years after Juke and Edwards died:

Of 1026 descendants of Max Juke, 300 were convicts, 27 were murderers, 190 were prostitutes and 509 were either alcoholics or drug addicts. Dugdale was able to estimate that the Jukes had cost the State of New York almost \$1.4 million dollars to house, institutionalize and treat the family of deviants. By contrast, the 929 descendants of Jonathan Edwards included 13 college presidents, 86 college professors, 430 ministers, 314 war veterans, 75 authors, 100 lawyers, 30 judges, 66 physicians, and 80 holders of public office, including three U.S. Senators, seven congressmen, mayors of three large cities, governors of three states, a Vice-President of the United States, and a controller of the United States Treasury."

\* \* \*

The point: Having a good family name with strong disciplines does not guarantee success down the family line.

However, the studies cited above of Juke and Edwards seem to confirm that how we as parents, educators, and mentors live our lives before those we influence can have a profound impact on those that follow our example. -- David

**Subject:** Re:Nature v. Nurture: A Very Different Perspective - Robertson  
**Author:** David Robertson

**Topic:** Discussion Forum Two (September 5 - 18)  
**Date:** September 6, 2011 9:59 PM

Funlola - Your reply is equally powerful. -- David

**Subject:** Re:Nature v. Nurture: A Very Different Perspective - Robertson  
**Author:** David Robertson

**Topic:** Discussion Forum Two (September 5 - 18)  
**Date:** September 6, 2011 10:09 PM

Hi Barbara - My wife and I watched the movie classic "Anna and the King" on Labor Day. This wonderful movie tells the true story of a British educator (played by Jodie Foster) who was invited to teach the the king of Siam's children, and especially the prince who would eventually replace his father.

If you know the story, her passion, compassion, and stubborn tenacity won the heart and affection of the king and eventually influenced national policy. The prince who became king in place of his father eventually abolished the cultural tradition of slavery in Siam.

The movie itself is a fascinating study of the nature-nurture issue. -- David

[Reply](#) [Forward](#)

**Subject:** Re:Nature v. Nurture: A Very Different Perspective - Robertson  
**Author:** David Robertson

**Topic:** Discussion Forum Two (September 5 - 18)  
**Date:** September 7, 2011 5:25 PM

Hey Tiffany - I am surrounded by technology all day long and I really believe that what others think matters.

I know the Jukes/Edwards example is a bit edgy for some but the principle is remarkably clear. I agree with your assessment. - David

[Reply](#) [Forward](#)

**Subject:** Re:Nature v. Nurture: A Very Different Perspective - Robertson  
**Author:** David Robertson

**Topic:** Discussion Forum Two (September 5 - 18)  
**Date:** September 12, 2011 10:34 AM

Hey Tonia - I appreciate you taking time to reply. I share your lament that the influence of friends and especially family is not always positive. I have a friend at church whose father turned him on to drugs. This young man can no longer be around his dad without being tempted to get into the drug scene even though the son has chosen to move on with a clean life and try to take a higher road to living. The father disrespects the son because of his own addiction and so the relationship remains dysfunction and broken to this day. Sadly, this is not an isolated case. As educators, I'm sure you know of a lot of children who come in and out of your classrooms whose home life is abysmal and dangerous on many levels. We cannot get discouraged or grow weary in continue to hold up truth, a good example, and caring concern for these young lives whenever we have opportunity. -- David

[Reply](#) [Forward](#)

**Subject:** Re:Nature v. Nurture: A Very Different Perspective - Robertson  
**Author:** David Robertson

**Topic:** Discussion Forum Two (September 5 - 18)  
**Date:** September 17, 2011 7:07 PM

Tanetta - You are right in what you have written. My wife is a professional marriage counseling and she uses carefully constructed surveys to delve into family of origin to bring up relationship strengths and potential growth areas. While the "leave and cleave" to your partner is 100% correct when you marry someone you nevertheless become joined to another family and will either contend with their issues or benefit from their family strengths. - David

[Reply](#) [Forward](#)

**Subject:** Re:Nature v. Nurture: A Very Different Perspective - Robertson  
**Author:** David Robertson

**Topic:** Discussion Forum Two (September 5 - 18)  
**Date:** September 18, 2011 5:14 PM

Shelia - Bah ha ha! That is so funny! You are correct though. In my home state, Tennessee, they offer a \$90 discount of your marriage license if you get pre-marital counseling. David

[Reply](#) [Forward](#)

**Subject:** Re:Nature v. Nurture: A Very Different Perspective - Robertson  
**Author:** David Robertson

**Topic:** Discussion Forum Two (September 5 - 18)  
**Date:** September 19, 2011 11:04 AM

Tanetta - I agree. When you drop your children off to the grandparents, who they are begins to work its way into the minds, hearts, and lives of the impressionable grandchildren - for good or bad. - David

[Reply](#) [Forward](#)

**Subject:** Re:Nature vs. Nurture  
**Author:** David Robertson

**Topic:** Discussion Forum Two (September 5 - 18)  
**Date:** September 6, 2011 5:10 PM

Cedric - It is clear that you have had some powerful encouragement from a loving parent. This is incredibly important. I am inspired by anybody who is a first-generation anything that is positive. -- David

[Reply](#) [Forward](#)

**Subject:** Re:Nature vs. Nurture/Human Genome?  
**Author:** David Robertson

**Topic:** Discussion Forum Two (September 5 - 18)  
**Date:** September 7, 2011 3:17 PM

Sheila - As I read your personal story of being a twin and then your comments about the problem of genome mapping, I realized that you are in some ways uniquely qualify to make the assertions you do and ask the questions you ask.

There are indeed complex ethical questions raised as you have pointed out. The drive to succeed as you and your sister have demonstrated is a powerful testimony that we cannot become too dogmatic on any cookie cutter approach to predicting success based on a genetic pattern. -- David

[Reply](#) [Forward](#)

**Subject:** Re:Human Genome/Nature vs Nurture

**Topic:** Discussion Forum Two (September 5 - 18)

**Author:** David Robertson**Date:** September 7, 2011 3:35 PM

Tiffany - I strongly agree your ethical stance on genome mapping for the reasons you have expressed. I think your last sentence is especially fitting and should be given considerable thought. At the end of the day, adults are responsible for what they eat. The metaphor in our discussion context, to me, translates that we as adults can and should take in from our environment (ie., education, positive examples, inspirational messages, sermons, etc.) those things that will add value to our lives. We all have a choice what we "eat" or allow into our minds. We cannot play the "blame game" and expect to be taken seriously as adults. - David

[Reply](#) [Forward](#)**Subject:** Re:Tanetta a little bit of both**Topic:** Discussion Forum Two (September 5 - 18)**Author:** David Robertson**Date:** September 8, 2011 5:43 PM

Hi Tanetta - I am inspired every time I read a story like yours. I appreciate also you realizing how important your mother's influence has been on you. I've heard it said "the hand that rocks the cradle shapes the world."

I glad for examples like you who were raised in a rough environment but made good choices in spite of conforming to the norm. -- David

[Reply](#) [Forward](#)**Subject:** Re:Nature vs. Nurture\_HGP**Topic:** Discussion Forum Two (September 5 - 18)**Author:** David Robertson**Date:** September 8, 2011 5:50 PM

Trish - You write about the upside and positive outcomes of gene mapping. I could not agree with you more. Anyone who has lost a loved one to cancer should appreciate the research that is being done by diligent scientists such as the HGP example.

Really, the science itself is amoral. Just like a firearm is neither good or bad, it is a gun. In the hands of one person it puts food on the table; in the hands of another it commits a crime. At the end of the day, much of this research is going to default back to the ethical choices of those who wield its discoveries and potential. -- David

[Reply](#) [Forward](#)**Subject:** Re:Nature vs. Nurture\_HGP**Topic:** Discussion Forum Two (September 5 - 18)**Author:** David Robertson**Date:** September 10, 2011 9:59 AM

Funlola - I like what you have written here. It reminded me of a quote from Martin Luther King, Jr. who said (and I have to paraphrase it):

"When this civil rights movement is over...it's not the people who opposed me that I will remember but those who were with me but never spoke up."

We as individuals, families, churches, and communities must stand up for what is right simply because it is what is right. If we remain silent, then we are doomed to submit to the will of the vocal minority. - David

[Reply](#) [Forward](#)**Subject:** Re:Nature vs. Nurture\_HGP**Topic:** Discussion Forum Two (September 5 - 18)**Author:** David Robertson**Date:** September 11, 2011 5:54 PM

Hey Trish - I think you have said it well here bringing up the keyword of "balance." If we will strive to keep out of the ditches by endeavoring to take a wise, prudent, and balanced approach to research then we can avoid the extremes that seem to be sensationalized in the media. - David

[Reply](#) [Forward](#)**Subject:** Re:Hill - Human Genome Project**Topic:** Discussion Forum Two (September 5 - 18)**Author:** David Robertson**Date:** September 11, 2011 6:07 PM

Hi Allegra - Your last sentence posed a question asking is it wrong for an insurance company to refuse business? The answer is "no" and it is done every business day of the year. You are correct in your assertion that business - unless they are non-profits - are in business to make profit. The bottom line indiscriminately refuses a risk and accepts a potential customer from who profitable trade can take place. This is business, pure and simple. Gene mapping or not, business owners are going to protect their investment to pay themselves and their employees. -- David

[Reply](#) [Forward](#)**Subject:** Re:Nature vs Nurture**Topic:** Discussion Forum Two (September 5 - 18)**Author:** David Robertson**Date:** September 11, 2011 6:39 PM

Hi Charlotte - I enjoyed reading about the 18 grandchildren with the same nose! I get it. There are identifying physical features in most families.

I particularly appreciated your comment...

"The genome project sounds like a worthwhile project. IF everyone is ethical."

I think that's where strong boundaries, policies, and laws can help keep the ethics front and center. - David

[Reply](#) [Forward](#)

**Subject:** Re:Kimble-nature vs. nurture

**Topic:** Discussion Forum Two (September 5 - 18)

**Author:** David Robertson

**Date:** September 11, 2011 6:43 PM

Hi Tamisha - I liked how you put it - nature first, then nurture - in that order. Regarding your own children, you discerned some of their characteristics (proclivity towards leading) and you worked with that propensity (letting them give directions). This is good parenting and how young lives are fashioned like wet cement to build great adults. - David

[Reply](#) [Forward](#)

**Subject:** Re:Conner-Nature/Nurture & Human Genome Project

**Topic:** Discussion Forum Two (September 5 - 18)

**Author:** David Robertson

**Date:** September 11, 2011 9:47 PM

Hi Tonia - Your post tonight is very well written. I can appreciate what you have witnessed as an educator over the years in your classroom with the nurture issue from parents or lack thereof, and the students that have either been stymied in their personal development as a result or grown beyond it because of other positive influences. - David

[Reply](#) [Forward](#)

**Subject:** Re:Andrews--Nature vs. Nurture

**Topic:** Discussion Forum Two (September 5 - 18)

**Author:** David Robertson

**Date:** September 12, 2011 10:36 AM

Hi Anissa - The word that stood out to me in your post today was the word "responsibility." I lead men's retreats at my church and last August I spoke to about 25 men that a real man accepts responsibility, rejects passivity, leads courageously, and expects a greater reward. This notion of stepping up and doing the right thing simply because it is right is what taking responsibility is all about to me. -- David

[Reply](#) [Forward](#)

**Subject:** Re:Human Genome Project/Nature vs Nurture

**Topic:** Discussion Forum Two (September 5 - 18)

**Author:** David Robertson

**Date:** September 12, 2011 10:43 AM

Hi Jonda - I was somewhat inspired by your writing today. I agree with your observation that "the more I know about genetics the more I think we are miracles."

I reject the theory that time + chance = everything. I don't believe that if you throw a grenade into a print shop out of the explosion comes an unabridged dictionary.

No, I prefer to believe in Intelligent Design. If you have a building, you have a builder; if you have a plan, you have a planner. If you have a creation, you have a Creator. I know this idea of God is not always popular but it takes less faith for me to believe in the miracle of life and the endless wonders of nature being the result of Intelligent Design than it does to believe that man's origin evolved from the goo to the zoo to you. -- David

[Reply](#) [Forward](#)

**Subject:** Re:Human Genome Project/Nature vs Nurture

**Topic:** Discussion Forum Two (September 5 - 18)

**Author:** David Robertson

**Date:** September 12, 2011 6:11 PM

Great post, Wendy. Greater minds than mine have debated these issues for millennia. Wisdom won't die with me that's for sure. There are some things that are non-negotiable in my belief system and others that are only personal convictions. The "old earth" or "young earth" argument that scholars have debated over is not a hill to die for me! :) David

[Reply](#) [Forward](#)

**Subject:** Re:Cope Human Genome Project: Unresolved

**Topic:** Discussion Forum Two (September 5 - 18)

**Author:** David Robertson

**Date:** September 12, 2011 6:31 PM

Wow - Your last paragraph about your friend and her daughter is powerful. David

[Reply](#) [Forward](#)

**Subject:** Re:Nature vs. Nurture

**Topic:** Discussion Forum Two (September 5 - 18)

**Author:** David Robertson

**Date:** September 18, 2011 5:17 PM

Hey Earthwind - I like what you have said in your post. You are right on when you say nature/nurture go hand in hand. It's like respiration. When you speak of inhalation you must mention exhalation as well. So it is with the nature/nurture

symbiotic relationship. They cannot be isolated as the single factor to determine behavior on either side of the two-sided coin. -- David

[Reply](#) [Forward](#)

**Subject:** Re:The Genome Project  
**Author:** David Robertson

**Topic:** Discussion Forum Two (September 5 - 18)  
**Date:** September 18, 2011 5:20 PM

Earthwind - We tend to live a little bit in a bubble supposing that our "world," community, society, neighborhood, workplace, etc. is pretty much represents how people live in general. So much goes on outside the scope of our experience and understanding. Nobody has all the facts and we see, at best, only a glimpse of what's going on in this extremely large world. With one minor exception, the entire world is made up of other people. - David

[Reply](#) [Forward](#)

**Subject:** Re:Nature vs nurture  
**Author:** David Robertson

**Topic:** Discussion Forum Two (September 5 - 18)  
**Date:** September 19, 2011 11:07 AM

Latasha - Wow! Your example of the brothers being night and day different was amazing. I have seen people who are like a fish in a fishbowl. I'm told that if you take fish who spend their entire little fish lives in a fishbowl swimming in circles and put them in a bathtub of water they still swim in circles the size of their fishbowl. People can be get stuck too. It takes "guts to get out of the ruts." - David

[Reply](#) [Forward](#)

**Subject:** Robertson - childhood issues / role of counselors  
**Author:** David Robertson

**Topic:** Discussion Forum Three (September 19 - October 2)  
**Date:** September 19, 2011 11:51 AM

This is a complicated topic and I think we will all gain insight by reading the various perspectives posted here.

I think the answers to this question can vary depending on where the question is posed. For example, on page 128 of our textbook there is a haunting photograph of precious children an impoverished country who the caption says are dying from dehydration and malnutrition. For them, it's not about thriving in elementary school it's about surviving to make it to elementary school age. Even in the USA, there are children who are not eating enough or properly and many teachers and counselors send them home with food in their backpacks on Fridays knowing that they literally need the extra food to get through the weekend. On the other hand, childhood obesity is rampant and epidemic in our culture and childhood onset diabetes is a real threat to our children. My home state of Tennessee is ranked #4 in the nation for obesity.

For many elementary school children, the school serves as a haven of rest from the tumult and turmoil of a hard life at home coping with parents living an addictive, violent, or abusing lifestyle. Thankfully, not every child lives on this end of the spectrum.

It seems to me that the continuum of early childhood development could have "horror story life" on one side and "fairy tale life" on the other end with the majority of children falling somewhere in between.

For this posting, I interviewed my wife who is a licensed, professional counselor of adults and children and put this question to her:

"How many adults that you counsel are still plagued with misbeliefs (baggage) about their identity formed in childhood?"

Her answer: "I would say 95%."

One tool in her counseling practice that she told me she uses is "Belief Therapy." This therapy identifies what she called "memory containers" that house lies about identity formed from misunderstandings or wrong perceptions of events from various stages of life.

My wife explained to me that children erroneously perceive that many serious adult situations are somehow their fault such as divorce, arguments, abuse (even sexual abuse), etc. This can cause them to adopt wrong beliefs about themselves that many times last into adulthood.

So, regarding issues elementary school children face on a consistent basis involves both physical and emotional factors. As a member of a church staff on the pastoral team, I would be remiss if I did not mention that I also strongly believe that children in this age group have spiritual needs as well.

To deal exclusively with only two-thirds of the whole person (physical & emotional/intellectual) and completely disregard the remaining one-third of what I understand to be a whole person (spiritual) would be, to my view, falling short of addressing the needs complete human being.

Issues of faith and being immersed into a community of faith offers an elementary child exposure to a customs, traditions, culture, role models, examples of right living and making good choices, experiencing a sense of security and well being, and a host of other positive contributions that involve being equipped with coping skills that are not the responsibility of the public school educator to teach.

Finally, I think the role of counselors for children at all age levels in public or private education is essential. As a troubled Junior High school student, I had access to a school counselor that helped me through the troubled times of transitioning from a little boy to a young man growing up on the rough streets of the Chicago area.

- David

[Reply](#) [Forward](#)

**Subject:** Re:Robertson - childhood issues / role of counselors

**Topic:** Discussion Forum Three (September 19 - October 2)

**Author:** David Robertson

**Date:** September 20, 2011 10:54 PM

Charlotte - It seems that bureaucracy doesn't discriminate, does it? All kidding aside, my wife who is a counselor has strict legal and ethic protocol she must comply with concerning documentation and the safekeeping of that data. As you know, information privacy is now a federally protected right. - David

[Reply](#) [Forward](#)

**Subject:** Re:Robertson - childhood issues / role of counselors

**Topic:** Discussion Forum Three (September 19 - October 2)

**Author:** David Robertson

**Date:** September 21, 2011 3:33 PM

Cedric - I agree. I think it is healthy for children to see parents or adults conflict in a reasonable way. But when it turns ugly or gets loud or some other "out of bounds" manifestation of anger, the conflict is no longer healthy and it would be much better for the child(ren) to not be exposed to that. - David

[Reply](#) [Forward](#)

**Subject:** Re:Robertson - childhood issues / role of counselors

**Topic:** Discussion Forum Three (September 19 - October 2)

**Author:** David Robertson

**Date:** September 22, 2011 11:16 AM

Jessica - Wow. What a blessing to you to have a partner within your school to identify and minister to kids who really need a listening ear and good direction during tough times. I think the weekly visits are an amazing idea. - David

[Reply](#) [Forward](#)

**Subject:** Re:Robertson - childhood issues / role of counselors

**Topic:** Discussion Forum Three (September 19 - October 2)

**Author:** David Robertson

**Date:** September 22, 2011 11:20 AM

Funlola - You are so right on in what you have posted. I feel like we as educators have 2 buckets that we carry at all times with us - a bucket of water and a bucket of gasoline. With one we can put out little fires provide nourishing, life giving refreshment through our encouragement. We can also be a "wet blanket" if we are not careful and extinguish something powerful that is trying to emerge from a young life we are mentoring. With the other bucket of gas, we can fan in flame burning embers of purpose in young lives and give them the necessary nudge out of the nest that they need to "try their wings" and soar to unimagined heights if they can make it past the fear of the heights. We can also irresponsibly add "fuel to the fire" if we participate in pettiness and favoritism and any flavor of discrimination if we are not very careful in an effort to be a student's "buddy" rather than a mentor.

It takes wisdom and discernment to be a person of influence and to know which bucket to use, when, and how, but the big idea here is that we each have tremendous power to add value to the lives of others - young and old. - David

[Reply](#) [Forward](#)

**Subject:** Re:Robertson - childhood issues / role of counselors

**Topic:** Discussion Forum Three (September 19 - October 2)

**Author:** David Robertson

**Date:** September 22, 2011 7:54 PM

Marcia - You are kind to take time to type out an encouragement to me. Much obliged! - David

[Reply](#) [Forward](#)

**Subject:** Re:Robertson - childhood issues / role of counselors

**Topic:** Discussion Forum Three (September 19 - October 2)

**Author:** David Robertson

**Date:** September 24, 2011 1:34 PM

Barbara - You have said it well. Peer pressure is typically negative but can also be positive. I've endeavored to teach my only daughter the wisdom to choose wisely which stream she chooses to drink from. "Streams," in the case, are relationships that serve as elevators either up or down. - David

[Reply](#) [Forward](#)

**Subject:** Re:Robertson - childhood issues / role of counselors

**Topic:** Discussion Forum Three (September 19 - October 2)

**Author:** David Robertson

**Date:** September 23, 2011 1:00 PM

Funlola - I am in agreement with you. Many cultures outside of our own are not intimidated about discussing matters of spirituality in their education context. There certainly is a vast difference between religion and spirituality to be sure.

One of my objectives as a Christ-follower is to be overtly spiritual without being obnoxiously religious. -- David

[Reply](#) [Forward](#)

**Subject:** Re:Robertson - childhood issues / role of counselors  
**Author:** David Robertson

**Topic:** Discussion Forum Three (September 19 - October 2)  
**Date:** September 24, 2011 1:37 PM

Tamisha - As I read your post my mind shifted to a missionary to Honduras that I am acquainted with. He works with communities of people who live in squalor, and yet the children stepping over and around the refuse seem oblivious and are conditioned to think that their condition is the way it is. The missionary comment that what helps drive him is that he is a voice to tell them that there is a better way of life and more for them than to live in abject poverty. He is empowering those who care to listen with tools to advance the station of life and, obviously, to give their lives to God as their source of enduring joy. - David

[Reply](#) [Forward](#)

**Subject:** Re:Robertson - childhood issues / role of counselors  
**Author:** David Robertson

**Topic:** Discussion Forum Three (September 19 - October 2)  
**Date:** September 25, 2011 5:25 PM

Hi Trish - I am glad you had a positive experience with counseling at various points in your life. To suggest that none of us ever need to sit down with someone a little further down the road than us or who has specialized training in an area that we struggle is either pride or ignorance.

Also, this notion of "relativism" (ie., there are no moral absolutes, my truth may not be your truth and ethics are situational) wreaks havoc with people, young or old. Try building a strong marriage on relativism. Relativism leaves the gate wide open for infidelity and immorality because who to say that adultery is wrong? Kids today whose parents elect to let little Johnny or Susie make up their own mind about God and spirituality are not doing them a favor or respecting them - they are, in my opinion, setting them up for some difficulties later in life. - David

[Reply](#) [Forward](#)

**Subject:** Re:Robertson - childhood issues / role of counselors  
**Author:** David Robertson

**Topic:** Discussion Forum Three (September 19 - October 2)  
**Date:** September 25, 2011 10:51 PM

Tiffany - It was Francis of Assisi who is quoted as saying: "Preach all the time and if necessary use words." While jurisprudence must be used in a school setting as it relates to spiritual discussions, the fruit of an educator who has his or her spiritual house in order will manifest in a thousand different and appropriate ways during a typical school year. David

[Reply](#) [Forward](#)

**Subject:** Re:Robertson - childhood issues / role of counselors  
**Author:** David Robertson

**Topic:** Discussion Forum Three (September 19 - October 2)  
**Date:** September 26, 2011 7:25 PM

Marcia - I appreciate your encouraging remark! Thankfully I have my wife of 24 years near me to remind me from time to time that I'm an idiot and put my foot in my mouth again so I don't get the big head. - David

[Reply](#) [Forward](#)

**Subject:** Re:Robertson - childhood issues / role of counselors  
**Author:** David Robertson

**Topic:** Discussion Forum Three (September 19 - October 2)  
**Date:** September 26, 2011 10:46 PM

Actually, my 19-year-old daughter also feels compelled at times to remind me that I don't have Superman tattooed to my chest! :) I've got all these females in the house ganging up on me including our female cat. My dog is male but he's not much help. - David

[Reply](#) [Forward](#)

**Subject:** Re:Issues in Childhood/School Counselors, Marcia Roberts  
**Author:** David Robertson

**Topic:** Discussion Forum Three (September 19 - October 2)  
**Date:** September 19, 2011 1:44 PM

Marcia - As I suspected, others in the class are adding to my understanding of common issues like bullying, absentee fathers, single parents cohabitating with a partner who is not the biological parents, etc. We home schooled our daughter K-12 and she missed out on some of the downside of educating high numbers of students in cramped quarters. Way back in 1978, I graduated from Downers Grove South High School in a class of around 1800. Remember bussing? I was part of that. Riding the bus is another stress producer for elementary - high schoolers to be sure (unless you are unusually large for your age and have facial hair.)

Thankfully, these tough times and hard issues are tempered with amazing experiences by thoughtful and caring teachers, wonderful friends we make along the way, and the joy of learning and discovery about the incredible world we live in. Plays, sports, movies, memorable assignments, affirmation, victories, successes also add to the whole experience. We tend to remember negative things sometimes even more than positive things but things rarely as good or as bad as they seem at the time. - David

[Reply](#) [Forward](#)

**Subject:** Re:Herrin-Childhood Issues/Role of Counselor  
**Author:** David Robertson

**Topic:** Discussion Forum Three (September 19 - October 2)  
**Date:** September 20, 2011 4:53 PM

Jessica - I appreciate you taking time to visit your school counselor before posting. This is a great chance to get a view from the inside that most of us don't get everyday.

It is sad that many parents of students are not responsible enough to take care of themselves let alone their children. Frankly, some parents don't even deserve to have a pet to neglect.

I agree that children need to feel safe, loved, and have a sense of belonging. This is why our gang population is growing exponentially in our nation. Gangs provide what dysfunctional families are not - a sense of pride, belonging, and partnership - even if the motives are wrong.

Educators who care can make all the difference in the world. I love watching movies like "Coach Carter" or "Remember the Titans" or "Facing the Giants" where courageous teachers dared to care and as a result turned the tide for at-risk students.

David

[Reply](#) [Forward](#)

**Subject:** Re:Herrin-Childhood Issues/Role of Counselor  
**Author:** David Robertson

**Topic:** Discussion Forum Three (September 19 - October 2)  
**Date:** September 22, 2011 11:21 AM

Amen to what you have said here, Funlola. - David

[Reply](#) [Forward](#)

**Subject:** Re:Vlastnik\_Discussion 3\_The Role of the Counselor in Elementary Schools  
**Author:** David Robertson

**Topic:** Discussion Forum Three (September 19 - October 2)  
**Date:** September 22, 2011 7:58 PM

Trish - I appreciate you helping me to see the "expanded" list of duties a typical school counselor might involve him/herself in. I really had no idea. I thought it might be back-to-back student sessions with administrative duties in between but you have shown that their role is so much more. Thank you. David

[Reply](#) [Forward](#)

**Subject:** Re:Vlastnik\_Discussion 3\_The Role of the Counselor in Elementary Schools  
**Author:** David Robertson

**Topic:** Discussion Forum Three (September 19 - October 2)  
**Date:** September 23, 2011 1:02 PM

Hey Sheila - It somewhat disheartening to think that children's counseling needs might go unmet because the counselor - to justify her existence in the budget - has to wear a number of other hats and perform many duties that prevent her from achieving the primary objective for them being on staff. - David

[Reply](#) [Forward](#)

**Subject:** Re:Lola-Childhood issues/role of counselors  
**Author:** David Robertson

**Topic:** Discussion Forum Three (September 19 - October 2)  
**Date:** September 22, 2011 8:03 PM

Funlola - I particualry was drawn to your statement which read:

"In addition, all stakeholders in a child's life (parents, teachers, family, neighbors, etc.) should all contribute positively to the long-term development of that child."

I think you bring up a really good point. For optimum growth and healthy socialization there needs to be a community working together as partners to raise a child. Those you named can be important role models, mentors, and "guidance counselors" even though they may not view themselves that way.

For example, Grandpa sharing stories of what it was like to grow up in The Great Depression where they were so poor they spelled "poor" with one "o" because they didn't have two of anything is an incredible supplement to a child's education.

David

[Reply](#) [Forward](#)

**Subject:** Re:Wheelis - Counselors in the elementary school  
**Author:** David Robertson

**Topic:** Discussion Forum Three (September 19 - October 2)  
**Date:** September 22, 2011 8:05 PM

Sheila - I appreciate you pointing out that counselors are PROACTIVELY visiting classes and taking initiative to reach out to

students, at-risk or not, right in there classrooms with routine visitation. This is really a capital idea. David

**Subject:** Re:Simple thank you  
**Author:** David Robertson

**Topic:** Discussion Forum Three (September 19 - October 2)  
**Date:** September 23, 2011 1:04 PM

Charlotte - All little boys crave, desire, need honor in their lives. You honored this young boy and he will respond to it and work hard to repeat the affirming experience. Good for you to being kind. I've heard it said that "an adult never stands so tall as when he stoops to help a child."

David

**Subject:** Re:Simple thank you  
**Author:** David Robertson

**Topic:** Discussion Forum Three (September 19 - October 2)  
**Date:** September 29, 2011 4:02 PM

Anissa - On my campus at Middle Tennessee State Univesity, our promotional theme is "I'm one." I would like to modify that slightly in light of your post to "be the one," or be that one person who makes a commitment to add value to people every single day. What do I mean by that? I mean determine to add value to people every day. Have a plan. What can you do - what will you do on purpose - to add value to a student with no strings attached?

Asking this question to ourselves as we plan our day or contemplating how we can "be the one" encourager (if no one else steps up that day) is a good thing to my view and is tantamount to a purpose driven living. -- David

**Subject:** Re:Kimble-conselors issues  
**Author:** David Robertson

**Topic:** Discussion Forum Three (September 19 - October 2)  
**Date:** September 24, 2011 1:40 PM

Tamisha - I admire your husband and appreciate his stance on the 4 P's. I can't cite the reference, but a study was done among adolescent gang members of why they chose to join a gang and live that lifestyle. One of the questions involved discipline at home. The respondents lamented that they had no rules and boundaries at home and the freedom to "do their own thing" was disorienting to them. They need some social order and found it in the gangs.

A youth pastor taught me this one time:

R+R+R-R = R+R

Rules+Regulations+Restrictions-Relationship=Rebellion+Resistance

I think he is right. - David

**Subject:** Re:Important Issue for Children Today  
**Author:** David Robertson

**Topic:** Discussion Forum Three (September 19 - October 2)  
**Date:** September 24, 2011 1:43 PM

Barbara - I feel your passion through your post for this topic. I like what you said about schools not allowing children to be children.

I was running with some guys from church this morning and one guy works with the high school football team. He said even the 3rd stringers got to play at last night's game but only because the team was ahead by 30 points. He said it grieves him to see many kids dress out every game and never get to play even one game the entire season. How can this be for unpaid, non-pro high school students? Does this sort of adult "win at all costs" ethic permeate other aspects of K-12? - David

**Subject:** Re:Tanetta's post  
**Author:** David Robertson

**Topic:** Discussion Forum Three (September 19 - October 2)  
**Date:** September 24, 2011 1:46 PM

Tanetta - Thank you for speaking about the plight of students eating inexpensive, unhealthy food. The dollar menu at McDonalds and Wendys is a major problem for our culture. Cheap food is readily accessible - too accessible - and it is causing us as a culture major problems with our children's health. As can be seen and easily researched, obesity (one example) in the elementary years nearly always leads to weight and health issues in adulthood. - David

**Subject:** Re:Interact  
**Author:** David Robertson

**Topic:** Discussion Forum Three (September 19 - October 2)  
**Date:** September 24, 2011 1:49 PM

Charlotte - To hear you comment that you are treating other children who are not your own as you would your own daughters tells me that you have the heart, the attitude, and the calling to be in the right vocation. You represent hundreds

of key influences strategically service in schools across this nation that are making a difference. The tide will turn in a emerging generation when teachers take the time to make eye contact with every student, will hold their comment until the young person finishes theirs, and will see something in them (and verbally point it out) that the student does not see in themselves. -- David

[Reply](#) [Forward](#)

**Subject:** Re:Interact  
**Author:** David Robertson

**Topic:** Discussion Forum Three (September 19 - October 2)  
**Date:** September 27, 2011 6:49 PM

Great comments, Funlola. Thank you for sharing your insight. What would the world be like if we treated others the way we would like to be treated? David

[Reply](#) [Forward](#)

**Subject:** Re:Interact  
**Author:** David Robertson

**Topic:** Discussion Forum Three (September 19 - October 2)  
**Date:** September 29, 2011 10:16 AM

Great post, Charlotte. Never underestimate the power of what you did at front door duty.

"Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as ever you can." - John Wesley

- David

[Reply](#) [Forward](#)

**Subject:** Re:Issues faced by children-World  
**Author:** David Robertson

**Topic:** Discussion Forum Three (September 19 - October 2)  
**Date:** September 24, 2011 1:52 PM

Tiffany - Our church works annually with school counselors in our community to distribute hundreds of backpacks filled with office supplies given to children who want one for free. This is one of the most important things we do as a community of faith. Instead of preaching a sermon we are trying to be a sermon to youngsters who are not looking for a handout but a hand-up. - David

[Reply](#) [Forward](#)

**Subject:** Re:Issues faced by children-World  
**Author:** David Robertson

**Topic:** Discussion Forum Three (September 19 - October 2)  
**Date:** September 25, 2011 10:56 PM

Tiffany - I agree with your statement. I am a result of many fine men and women who have extended the hand of counsel and wisdom and education and resources to help me develop and grow. -- David

[Reply](#) [Forward](#)

**Subject:** Re:Counseling and children  
**Author:** David Robertson

**Topic:** Discussion Forum Three (September 19 - October 2)  
**Date:** September 25, 2011 5:34 PM

Wendy - Wow. Your post today is very powerful. Your personal example of the MMR shot at the hands of an insensitive doctor is very sad to me. Whoever said that "sticks and stones may break my bones but words will never harm me" is an idiot. They obviously have never been cussed out or told they were stupid by a person of influence.

Max Lucado writes an amazing children's book called "You are Special" where unattractive, unpopular "Wemmicks" get "dots" and pretty, talented Wemmicks get "stars" applied to them from other Wemmicks. It's a tale of how the words of others can destroy our self-image. The classic line in the book is "the dots only stick if you let them."

I realize, as a professional minister, that at any given time I probably have 3-5 people mad at me. No telling what they are saying behind my back. But that's OK. If it's brought to my attention I'll promptly address it (clarification is a better word than confrontation). But I've come to the place in my maturity where I am not going to permit what others may or may not think of me to affect how I think of myself. I am careful to listen to those who carry the most influence in my life and if I am good with those people who I know have a substantial investment in my life (ie., my wife, my pastor, etc.), then I'll let the other negative talk slip off me like a dot that won't stick to a Wemmick.

David

[Reply](#) [Forward](#)

**Subject:** Re:Counseling and children  
**Author:** David Robertson

**Topic:** Discussion Forum Three (September 19 - October 2)  
**Date:** September 26, 2011 7:28 PM

Allegra - You are so right on with what you said. It took me years to get over insensitive people saying unkind things to me when I was younger to come to the realization that their comment was not about me at all. As I have grown older I have learned like many of you that hurt people hurt people. It's a defense mechanism. I've also learned the liberating power of

forgiveness in my own life and that when I forgive the one who gets set free is me. -- David

[Reply](#) [Forward](#)

**Subject:** Re:Counseling and children  
**Author:** David Robertson

**Topic:** Discussion Forum Three (September 19 - October 2)  
**Date:** October 1, 2011 3:40 PM

Barbara - Your post reminded me of a story I tell at men's retreats that I lead at my church. On the subject of forgiveness, I tell this story:

There's a Spanish story of a father and son who had become estranged. The son ran away, and the father set off to find him. He searched for months to no avail. Finally, in a last desperate effort to find him, the father put an ad in a Madrid newspaper. The ad read: "Dear Paco, meet me in front of this newspaper office at noon on Saturday. All is forgiven. I love you. Your Father." On Saturday 800 Pacos showed up, looking for forgiveness and love from their fathers.

Forgiveness is so powerful! - David

[Reply](#) [Forward](#)

**Subject:** Re:Counseling and children  
**Author:** David Robertson

**Topic:** Discussion Forum Three (September 19 - October 2)  
**Date:** September 26, 2011 10:43 PM

Charlotte -You made me smile with your reply. Thanks! David

[Reply](#) [Forward](#)

**Subject:** Re:Counseling and children  
**Author:** David Robertson

**Topic:** Discussion Forum Three (September 19 - October 2)  
**Date:** September 27, 2011 6:51 PM

Wendy - I am somewhat surprised at how much I am enjoying this class. It is pure joy compared to my other UWG class where I am grinding my way forward one unglamorous, controversial day at a time. I even had a blast interviewing a 4 year old girl and her parents over the weekend for my case study! My wife (the counselor) wants to read my textbook! - David

[Reply](#) [Forward](#)

**Subject:** Re:Counseling and children  
**Author:** David Robertson

**Topic:** Discussion Forum Three (September 19 - October 2)  
**Date:** September 29, 2011 10:17 AM

Wendy - I'll bet your husband will read your case study about his daughter!! :) David

[Reply](#) [Forward](#)

**Subject:** Re:Conner-Issues of Elementary Children & Role of Counselors  
**Author:** David Robertson

**Topic:** Discussion Forum Three (September 19 - October 2)  
**Date:** September 25, 2011 5:41 PM

Tonia - I enjoyed reading your post today. This line was particularly impactful to me:

"Often you see children who their basic needs aren't even taken care of at home, such as someone making sure they are fed, bathed, read to, and put to bed at a decent hour so they can get enough rest. These factors make a huge difference in how a child will act and how well they will do at school the next day."

I think you are so right on here. Imagine a child whose mom reads to her and his dad sits in the floor and play checkers with her and asks about her day. There are many dads who work hard providing a roof over their child's head and food on the table and books in their backpack but remain unengaged in their child's life. They are there physically but not present emotionally. I have talked to many men whose fathers were this way and it produces what is called a "father wound."

John Eldredge writes about this in his best selling book, "Wild at Heart, Discovering the Secret of a Man's Soul."

[http://www.amazon.com/Wild-Heart-Discovering-Secret-Mans/dp/1400200393/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1316986765&sr=8-1](http://www.amazon.com/Wild-Heart-Discovering-Secret-Mans/dp/1400200393/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1316986765&sr=8-1)

David

[Reply](#) [Forward](#)

**Subject:** Re:Conner-Issues of Elementary Children & Role of Counselors  
**Author:** David Robertson

**Topic:** Discussion Forum Three (September 19 - October 2)  
**Date:** September 25, 2011 10:54 PM

Tonia - I appreciate you sharing about the upcoming movie "Courageous." I make it a point to watch every movie that Alex Kendrick and his brother put out under the label Sherwood Films (I think it's called). They also produced "Flywheel" which is a tremendous movie about life transformation. Films like these impart enormous truth in a real life context and I think provide an avenue for discussions about the great questions of life.

Who am I? Why on earth am I here? Where am I going? Does my life have a purpose? Is there a God and can I know him personally?

David

[Reply](#) [Forward](#)

**Subject:** Re:Issues faced in early childhood and counselors

**Topic:** Discussion Forum Three (September 19 - October 2)

**Author:** David Robertson

**Date:** October 3, 2011 11:05 AM

Latasha - Your conversation with your precious daughter coming home from school confused about her conversations about sex with her little friends perfectly illustrates the next article that Dr. Hayes is having us read for our next discussion. The article talks about this challenging transition from the "world of the home" to the "world of peers and school."

I know we as parents invested everything we are into our only daughter - our moral code, our values, our faith, our acceptance of the diversity of others, etc. and pray to God that as we have trained her up in the way she should go that she will be wise and experience skillful living.

The article goes on to say that adults underestimate the influence that they wield over impressionable children looking to them for protection. The home, to my view, remains a wonderful place to set the standard for truth where youngsters can come home from school, the mall, or the movies and ask a parent to help them sort out truth from fiction. - David

[Reply](#) [Forward](#)

**Subject:** Re:Discussion 3

**Topic:** Discussion Forum Three (September 19 - October 2)

**Author:** David Robertson

**Date:** October 3, 2011 11:10 AM

Jonda - I appreciate your comments about peer pressure. Because of it I smoked cigarettes at high school even though it made me sick, dizzy, and stink. As an adult I now see both sides of the coin as I get up at 5am every SAT morning due to the "peer pressure" of my church running club to go run at 6am. I don't want to let my buddies down and it continually has the power to pull me out of bed.

The take away for me is to surround myself (and train and equip our children as best we can) how to choose companions well. What do you look for in a good friend? What are the signs? Who doesn't join in the bullying? Who walks away from the dirty joke being told? Who chooses the underdog on the playground? Who doesn't use profanity or pretend that he or she is the center of the universe? Those are good candidates to befriend and hopefully shoulder one another's burdens in school and create positive peer pressure. - David

[Reply](#) [Forward](#)

**Subject:** Robertson - Middle Childhood

**Topic:** Discussion Forum Four (October 3 - 16)

**Author:** David Robertson

**Date:** October 3, 2011 10:48 AM

The article "A View from the Middle: Life Through the Eyes of Middle Childhood" by Robin F. Goodman is an eye opener to be sure. For those in the class who made be educators in this age group, you may be well familiar with the content of this article but for others like me who don't normally rub shoulders with 6-11-year-olds it was a startling read.

The findings of the Sesame Workshop produced a bottom line statement:

"They determined that educational media do not adequately meet the needs of 6-11-year-olds."

I appreciated the qualitative research approach and methodology of recruiting 233 children from 15 shopping malls from one end of the nation (Santa Ana, CA) to the other (Brooklyn, New York).

The "All About Me" questionnaire for the 6-8-year-old age group and the "Kid's View" for the 9-11-year-old age group were creative ways to collect data.

The findings were enlightening and following is a brief summary of main points that I found impacting:

\* Finding: "Children are anxious about guns, death, and violence."

Big idea: 86% of 9-11-year-old childrens' perception is that the world is not a safe place to be.

\* Finding: "Children are concerned that their play spaces will be taken away."

Big idea: Changes to the natural environment concerns them.

\* Finding: " Electronic media play different roles in boys' and girls' lives."

Big idea: The media room is the "heart of the home."

\* Finding: "Girls are held sway by popular culture more than are boys."

Big idea: Pop culture has enormous influence over this demographic.

\* Finding: "Children yearn for relationships with engaged adults, especially extended family."

Big idea: Family ties remain an important cultural experience.

A key excerpt from the article captures the overarching theme: "Sesame Workshop concluded from their findings that children are feeling pressure from 'adult sprawl' in four particular areas of their lives: violence, urbanization, media, and pop culture. It is possible that children this age are feeling adult pressures due in part from viewing and experiencing adult content in these areas."

The transition from the world of the family to the world of school and peers can be a challenging one. Here is where the author contends that "mastery and competence" are important issues to this age group.

The age of innocence gives way to the realm of adult concerns in a trouble world filled with real life issues that impact young and old indiscriminately. Developing health coping skills becomes vital.

The article points out that adults probably underestimate the level of influence they wield in the impressionable lives that look to them for protection and role modeling.

Here is a statement that is absolutely true and has astonishing implications: "Media are ubiquitous in life today." From 9% of households in 1950 having TV sets to 98% in 1985 (26 years ago!), media wields unfathomable influence for good or bad.

Consider this scenario: If parents are CSI fans and follow the series, children can be exposed to a minimum of at least three murders per week in Hollywood detail.

Implications? "The research results support growing concern that children's development is being hindered by exposure to violent and adult content."

How can adults help during the middle school years? Goodman makes 5 recommendations that I feel are noteworthy:

1. Have children develop relationships with adults whom they can share their fear
2. Help children develop the tools to work through their fears
3. Provide good role models
4. Give children realistic expectations
5. Help children develop media literacy to enhance their ability to cope with "adult sprawl"

The future of every country on the planet depends on how the present middle childhood generation makes it through this period of their life development. Adolph Hitler had a keen sense of this fact in his day cried out to his German constituency: "Give me your youth!" and created the "Hitler Youth" movement who were groomed later to become his S.S.

This is an extreme example pulled from history but it underscores the importance of the five recommendations Robin Goodman points out in the article to help this age group make it through this season emotionally healthy and free from unrealistic expectations, irrational fears, and emotional baggage that the media and adult sprawl has passed on as their inheritance.

Source: [http://www.aboutourkids.org/articles/view\\_middle\\_life\\_through\\_eyes\\_middle\\_childhood](http://www.aboutourkids.org/articles/view_middle_life_through_eyes_middle_childhood)

-- David

**Subject:** Re:Robertson - Middle Childhood

**Topic:** Discussion Forum Four (October 3 - 16)

**Author:** David Robertson

**Date:** October 9, 2011 6:02 PM

Jessica - Thanks for the reply. When we can come up with creative ways to collect data that kids find fun then we are on the right track for sure. - David

**Subject:** Re:Robertson - Middle Childhood

**Topic:** Discussion Forum Four (October 3 - 16)

**Author:** David Robertson

**Date:** October 9, 2011 6:06 PM

Barbara - You make a keen observation and one that I think is very wise. When we say "adult entertainment" in our cultural context it suggests X-rated movies. But truthfully adult entertainment includes sit-coms and violent movies and shows that may not be suitable for younger viewers. The "parental discretion is advised" warning is good but only as good as the discretion of the parents who are charged with guarding the minds of their children. - David

**Subject:** Re:Robertson - Middle Childhood

**Topic:** Discussion Forum Four (October 3 - 16)

**Author:** David Robertson

**Date:** October 9, 2011 6:18 PM

Funfola - As an adult, I have learned that while some things may be permissible for me to participate in they may not be profitable. For example, while I am able to legally purchase and drink all the alcohol I want I choose not to drink at all. I'm not telling you or anyone else not to drink, it's just that I choose not to. I won't go into the reasons why with other adults unless they ask me but I will take initiative and explain to my own child why I don't drink and recommend that she abstain as well as she becomes an adult. - David

[Reply](#) [Forward](#)

**Subject:** Re:Robertson - Middle Childhood  
**Author:** David Robertson

**Topic:** Discussion Forum Four (October 3 - 16)  
**Date:** October 17, 2011 10:41 AM

Latasha - Thank you for your reply. Media is so powerful. Images viewed can be like seeds that germinate and grow and produce a fruit later on. I'm mindful that squeezing a lemon does not make the juice bitter or squeezing an orange does not make the juice sweet, the pressure of the squeezing only reveals what's inside. That is how media - for good or not - can affect children and adults.

We have a man in our town who has worked at the movie theater since he was a teenager. I suppose he has been working at the same theater for going on 30 years now. He gets to see every single movie that comes our for free! Pretty cool, huh? No, I don't think so at all. It is pretty dangerous to my view. This man, as we have occasion to go to the movies, is a very troubled person who is perpetually nervous, gittery, and walks around public places in town talking to himself. He is very strange and has obvious mental challenges. I use this precious person as an example that an over-exposure to unrestricted media might not be a good thing. It reminds me of the man in the documentary "Supersize Me" who ate every single meal at McDonalds for 30 days and his body was thrust into the danger zone in less than a month. Check out: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Super\\_Size\\_Me](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Super_Size_Me)

David

[Reply](#) [Forward](#)

**Subject:** Re:Wheelis - Middle Childhood article  
**Author:** David Robertson

**Topic:** Discussion Forum Four (October 3 - 16)  
**Date:** October 5, 2011 10:47 AM

Sheila - I am so sorry that you son struggled with fear issues. I think you are right on in how media has affected our young people and planted seeds of fear in their impressionable minds and hearts. We all know the news outlets tend to sensationalize most stories looking for the most graphic angles they can to hold viewer attention and build brand loyalty. You can't hardly walk into a coffee shop or restaurant without either sports or CNN being broadcast. ESPN does not breed insecurity like CNN does. I think a counter-balance to the enormous negativity that can pummel young and old alike like a crashing wave is a steady diet of the other side of the coin. There are remarkable things going on in our world that are inspirational and motivational. There some human interest stories like Nick V., the man with no arms or legs who travels the world as a motivational speaker with the message "I love life and I am happy."

Here's a clip: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H8ZuKF3dxCY>

Children who can come home and have meaningful conversations with their parents about faith, balance, truth, and love helps displace the lies of the culture that says they are unsafe, vulnerable, and in danger every day of their lives. - David

[Reply](#) [Forward](#)

**Subject:** Re:Jordan - Middle Childhood  
**Author:** David Robertson

**Topic:** Discussion Forum Four (October 3 - 16)  
**Date:** October 5, 2011 10:57 AM

Jordan - Great post! I was thinking as I read your article about the powerful influence of the media and all the time and attention middle schoolers devote to it that the media can be as immoral or amoral as the viewer chooses it to be. I have yet to see the day when a remote control wrestles someone to the ground and makes them watch anything. Thankfully, middle schoolers and adults have the freedom to choose what they watch. As responsible parents I think it is important that we train (yes train) our children how to enjoy media responsibly. I know this not a new thought but our culture seems to have a problem with knowing what is right and doing what is right. There is the gulf that one pastor has described as "the infinite gap between knowing and doing right." To bridge that gap will take conversations, discipline, and boundaries in the home.

I read a report just yesterday as I was preparing my PowerPoint Project about the high rate of children & adolescents that have a TV in their bedrooms. Hmmm. Even with HBO and Cinemax blocked I still don't think that's a great idea. I don't trust Comcast to train and equip my child with my values.

When my daughter was young, we had a family media covenant in writing that I had the entire family sign. The media covenant set in writing what our family values would be when it came to television and movie watching. To this day, we still won't go to the movie theater if certain words or sex scenes are in the review. We use [www.pluggedin.com](http://www.pluggedin.com) to preview language, sex, and other themes prior to renting a DVD. We purchased a TV Guardian that blocks nearly all profanity from TV and movies so that while we cannot stop Hollywood from putting the F-bomb in a film to earn the PG-13 rating (producers earn X millions more if they expand their audience with the rating) we can at least attempt to control what comes in our home. Best \$80 bucks we ever spent.

<http://www.tvguardian.com/>

David

[Reply](#) [Forward](#)

**Subject:** Re:Jordan - Middle Childhood  
**Author:** David Robertson

**Topic:** Discussion Forum Four (October 3 - 16)  
**Date:** October 7, 2011 11:06 AM

Cedric - You are so right on here. Our spouses and children are like a garden that needs to be tended. This imagery is more true than poetic. I lead men's retreats at our church and we try to tell our men if you don't pay attention to your wife someone else most assuredly will. In the same way, the culture has an agenda and a life plan for our children. If you don't believe that, look at the commercials. VISA has a plan for your child. McDonald's has a plan for your child. Toyota has a plan for your child when he/she gets a license. Our children are bombarded with a continuous stream of images and expectations to look good, smell good, feel good, etc. and if we as parents don't step in to bring balance and reality then our kids can easily be assimilated into the culture like millions have already to their own hurt.

I know this is controversial stuff but let's get real - the stats are the average American is about \$9,000 in consumer debt. This is one example of many we could discuss that tells us that "normal" does not seem to be working in our culture.

So, I'm thinking that let's be weird and have dinner together as a family, turn the TV off, talk, and play a game. - David

[Reply](#) [Forward](#)

**Subject:** Re:Jordan - Middle Childhood  
**Author:** David Robertson

**Topic:** Discussion Forum Four (October 3 - 16)  
**Date:** October 17, 2011 11:00 AM

Hi Sheila - You exemplify the right way to disagree with someone and I appreciate that. As you may or may not know, I am a bi-vocational pastor and my framework and grid reflects a biblical worldview. The Bible is rich with language and metaphors about tending gardens all the way back to the first man, Adam, whose job was to tend the Garden of Eden. The book of the Song of Solomon metaphorically reveals God's perspective on sex, love, romance, and marriage. Jesus spoke extensively in parables of soil, seeds, and fruit and stewardship issues.

As the head of my home, I feel I have a moral responsibility to be not only a provider and protector, but a good steward of my family's gifts. For example, my wife is a counselor. I have "tended her garden" in that we have made room for her gifts by providing finances to subsidize her counseling education, set up an office in our home, poured a paved driveway for her clients to park in, and I made room in our schedule for her to accommodate meeting with clients nights and weekends.

The reference to "tending a garden" is meant to be a term of endearment, my acceptance as a married man to reject passivity, embrace responsibility, lead courageously, and be willing to work sacrificially to make sure to esteem the needs of my wife and family as greater than my own. I have been married 25 years and it has taken many hard years to learn this lesson.

David

[Reply](#) [Forward](#)

**Subject:** Re:Jordan - Middle Childhood  
**Author:** David Robertson

**Topic:** Discussion Forum Four (October 3 - 16)  
**Date:** October 18, 2011 5:23 PM

Hey Sheila - I understand better now. I probably did not choose a good word to describe what I was trying to say. I talked to my wife about it and she said that she feels secure and good when I am interested in "watching out for her" and trying to "tend" to her needs/desires. She said that as a woman she could understand how some men would use "tend" as a controlling or manipulative gesture. It's like authority (civil, spiritual, family, etc.) can be either like an umbrella in a hail storm to protect those underneath it or it can be wielded to beat people over the head with.

Also, while I am thankful for many strong women who hang in there with their marriages despite chronic negligence or passivity from their husband, I am mindful that this puts some women in the unsavory position of being vulnerable and ripe for an affair. I guess being in ministry for many years has allowed me to see this sort of scenario actually play out multiple times.

Thanks for voicing your opinion. I am encouraged that our classmates actually read our posts! :) - David

[Reply](#) [Forward](#)

**Subject:** Re:Jordan - Middle Childhood  
**Author:** David Robertson

**Topic:** Discussion Forum Four (October 3 - 16)  
**Date:** October 19, 2011 2:04 PM

Hey Sheila - I am greatly encouraged by your post. I used to feel pretty intimidated and apprehensive about being "real" on the discussion boards not wanting to offend anyone ever. But you learned in one semester what took me several to learn and that is if you are respectful of the opinions, values, and perspectives of others, it's OK to have your own viewpoint. I don't need to feel compelled to convince or change anyone in a class and I don't feel threatened that I am going to lose

myself in a conversation.

Case in point is the professional counselors policy in the article we read. It doesn't get much more controversial than this! But while as a person who has a strong faith in God and chooses to allow the Bible to be my moral compass, I am also striving to learn to convey my ideas from my worldview in an appropriate way without compromising what I believe but at the same time honoring the views (even opposing views) of others.

This is stretchy ground and good training for us! - David :)

I have learned so much from my classmates in the forums.

[Reply](#) [Forward](#)

**Subject:** Re:Jordan - Middle Childhood

**Topic:** Discussion Forum Four (October 3 - 16)

**Author:** David Robertson

**Date:** October 8, 2011 11:37 AM

Marica - Some people collect seashells or postage stamps, I have collected discipleship resources for over 20 years. I have a vast library of resources that I use in my profession as an adult discipleship director at my church.

My wife and I have the Plugged In app on our iPhone so while we're at the video store renting a DVD we can look up any title in less than 60 seconds and see exactly what the plot, language, positive and negative aspects, sexual content, etc. is so we can make an informed decision right in the aisle of whether this is a good choice for use to view. - David

[Reply](#) [Forward](#)

**Subject:** Re:Herrin- Middle Childhood

**Topic:** Discussion Forum Four (October 3 - 16)

**Author:** David Robertson

**Date:** October 6, 2011 12:31 PM

Jessica - Good post. As I was reading your thoughts it occurred to me that not only is anxiety manifesting in children who are exposed to adult themes but adults themselves are struggling with adult issues. It seems obvious but we need to remind ourselves that our culture has many defense mechanisms and modes of escapism that they flee to by the tens of millions to get temporary relief from the stress of adult life. I can't quote the source but I heard recently in a sermon that while America represents a small percentage of the world population we are the #1 consumer of prescription drugs in the world. Our affluence and prosperity doesn't seem to be working very well for the population as a whole.

David

[Reply](#) [Forward](#)

**Subject:** Re:Herrin- Middle Childhood

**Topic:** Discussion Forum Four (October 3 - 16)

**Author:** David Robertson

**Date:** October 8, 2011 11:34 AM

Marcia - I apologize that I don't have the reference for this stat but it was given at a 2-year Bible Institute class my wife and I are enrolled and the speaker does his homework. I don't find it hard to believe that the most affluent nation on the planet also boasts some of the most troubling statistics as well. - David

[Reply](#) [Forward](#)

**Subject:** Re:T. World- A View from the Middle

**Topic:** Discussion Forum Four (October 3 - 16)

**Author:** David Robertson

**Date:** October 6, 2011 10:56 PM

Tiffany - Your 8-year-old's question when viewing some media - "Is it real?" - is a intriguing question. Parents can really help their children out by taking time to walk them through this element to sort things out and prevent irrational fears from creeping in. - David

[Reply](#) [Forward](#)

**Subject:** Re:Dickerson-Middle Childhood

**Topic:** Discussion Forum Four (October 3 - 16)

**Author:** David Robertson

**Date:** October 7, 2011 11:09 AM

Cedric - I know I've already posted a response to your other post but what you wrote here was so good I just had to respond!! :)

When you mentioned that they kids lack maturity you are right because they're kids! They are not supposed to be confronted with adult choices prematurely.

Blessed is the child that has a caring adult in their life that asks them this question: "What are you doing?"

David

[Reply](#) [Forward](#)

**Subject:** Re:Vlastnik\_Discussion 4  
**Author:** David Robertson

**Topic:** Discussion Forum Four (October 3 - 16)  
**Date:** October 10, 2011 3:34 PM

Trish - What a well thought out response. I appreciated your take aways that we less obvious. The PE time going away in many schools is disturbing to me. I appreciate that a correlation between problem solving skills and lack of playground time/PE time was mentioned. - David

[Reply](#) [Forward](#)

**Subject:** Re:Cope Discussion 4  
**Author:** David Robertson

**Topic:** Discussion Forum Four (October 3 - 16)  
**Date:** October 12, 2011 3:25 PM

Wendy - Cheers to you for great parenting. I appreciate very much what you have written as you have shared about your own family experiences and journey. I think families would be wise to mimmick your policy to put the TV in a public place in the home. The swap by Dave from talk radio to jazz is priceless! David

[Reply](#) [Forward](#)

**Subject:** Re:Young adult literature  
**Author:** David Robertson

**Topic:** Discussion Forum Four (October 3 - 16)  
**Date:** October 12, 2011 3:35 PM

Marcia - You walk a fine line working in a public school and I am sensitive to that. I would consider myself to have conservative values as well but am very careful to not impose them on others. At the same time, I am bold in my convictions and if another person ask for my opinion, recommendation, or explanation of my personal choices and beliefs, I don't hesitate to share them. It's taken alot of years but finally I am doing the right things at the right time for the right reasons with the right group of friends around me for support. I am not naive and actually am immersed in a university job setting bathed in diversity and while I regularly rub shoulders with people on the opposite end of the spiritual spectrum, at the end of the day I still remain me. I have come to peace with myself and am not intimidated by others who may not share my values.

That's probably not helpful in selecting books but the big idea is you do have an opinion and your opinion is worth alot.

- David

[Reply](#) [Forward](#)

**Subject:** Re:Young adult literature  
**Author:** David Robertson

**Topic:** Discussion Forum Four (October 3 - 16)  
**Date:** October 13, 2011 8:25 PM

Cedric - You have spoken very well here in my opinion. If we cease being real and authentic with adults or students, we do so as the expense of our influence. I realize that not everyone shares my faith in God as a Christ-follower, and I would defend their right to disagree with me. - David

[Reply](#) [Forward](#)

**Subject:** Re:Middle Childhood  
**Author:** David Robertson

**Topic:** Discussion Forum Four (October 3 - 16)  
**Date:** October 15, 2011 4:04 PM

Charlotte - Wow. Thanks for sharing. That was a precedent-setting event in that household. Dad obviously handled it well. If he had not spoken up at that time, then how could he later in good conscience object? We as parents and adults can send mixed signals to our children if we waiver or are ambivalent on issues like this. - David

[Reply](#) [Forward](#)

**Subject:** Robertson - Professional school counseling & adolescent sexual identity  
**Author:** David Robertson

**Topic:** Discussion Forum Five (October 17 - 30)  
**Date:** October 17, 2011 5:16 PM

I can see that this class is not going to skirt the controversial issues. :) America is greatly divided on the topic at hand and many groups polarize on either end of the spectrum with strong opinions.

The position paper on the role of the professional school counselor, however, is one that is quite clear and well written. As Dr. Hayes pointed out in her introduction to this discussion forum, "It is important to recognize your own beliefs in order to become an effective counselor, or educator in any other capacity."

I think the operative word in Dr. Hayes comments is "effective" counselor, educator, or any other capacity.

I think it is quite liberating to know that a school counselor or educator is not being asked or mandated to deny his/her personal convictions on the matter of working with the LGBTQ population in a school environment. The policy is clear:

"It is not the role of the professional school counselor to attempt to change a student's sexual orientation/gender identity but instead to provide support to LGBTQ students to promote student achievement and personal well-being."

We could just as easily insert any minority group in this statement and still walk away with the role of professional school counselors and educators safely intact:

"It is not the role of the professional school counselor to attempt to change \_\_\_\_\_ but instead to provide support to \_\_\_\_\_ students to promote student achievement and personal well-being."

Those students in the LGBTQ or \_\_\_\_\_ minority categories have access to pastors, teachers, parents, friends, and experts to help them navigate through the moral, social, economic, and physical implications of their choices.

David

[Reply](#) [Forward](#)

**Subject:** Re:Robertson - Professional school counseling & adolescent sexual identity

**Topic:** Discussion Forum Five (October 17 - 30)

**Author:** David Robertson

**Date:** October 21, 2011 10:46 AM

Tiffany - When we start picking and choosing who we will treat fairly we have started down the pathway of prejudice. I believe that we are all created in the image of God and every person deserves to be treated with integrity no matter what personal choices they make. I don't have to agree with people to like people and peacefully co-exist with them. I know sounds a bit flowery but I am even more mindful of this as a Christian I am immersed in a diverse university culture within a pluralistic society in a nation that serves as the melting pot of the world. - David

[Reply](#) [Forward](#)

**Subject:** Re:Robertson - Professional school counseling & adolescent sexual identity

**Topic:** Discussion Forum Five (October 17 - 30)

**Author:** David Robertson

**Date:** October 24, 2011 10:10 AM

Hi Marcia - As always, good post. This is a difficult subject because it involves heavy issues which deals with the fundamental identity of a human being and how they were created anatomically to function and express sexuality. There is an Intelligent Design as to how the human body was created and endowed with certain inalienable rights and privileges (aka sexual expression for procreation and pleasure). When young people depart from natural affection that is hardwired into their very beings, this is of concern.

While I agree that it is important to remain neutral and non-judgemental as a professional educator or school counselor, we have to be very careful not to put a "gag order" on ourselves when dealing with the LGBTQ minority group. Teachers and counselors are persons of influence. This is a big responsibility. And if a teacher is asked point blank by a student where they stand on these issues, they should have the courage, boldness, and freedom (constitutionally guarded) to express their own personal beliefs without fear of reprisal.

In the LGBTQ group, it's the Q part of that acronym that holds the most potential. The Questioning group are truth seekers. They are seeking answers to a very important question that will affect the rest of their natural life - the question is should I depart from natural affections and seek same-sex sexual relationships? It's the Q group where caring educators/counselors can make the most impact because these student have not yet made up their mind that they are LGB or T.

If being an educator or a counselors means checking my beliefs and influence at the door when I step into a schoolhouse I'd rather not hold the title. I'd rather meet students who fall into the Q category at Starbucks and help them gain understanding to the great questions of life:

- \* Why were you created?
- \* Is there a God and can you know Him personally?
- \* Why on earth are you here?
- \* Does God have a plan for your life?
- \* Will you be held morally responsible for your sexual choices?
- \* What are the long-term effects of your sexual preference for your family, your finances, and your health?

I regularly mentor a pretty large number of people ranging from teenagers to men with large families. I use all the influence that I can to help them become men of character, integrity, and to discuss how to live wisely and skillfully. I am in several accountability relationships where men have given me permission to ask them, "what are you doing? Is your PC porn-free? How are you treating your wife? Are you spending too much time at work? Are you going to your son's ball games?"

I know we all have to do the dance around political correctness but there is a time and a place to sit down with people - young or old - and have a heart to heart about how our decisions today affect our future tomorrow.

David

[Reply](#) [Forward](#)

**Subject:** Re:Robertson - Professional school counseling & adolescent sexual identity

**Topic:** Discussion Forum Five (October 17 - 30)

**Author:** David Robertson

**Date:** October 27, 2011 12:02 PM

Sheila - You are exactly correct in your assessment that educators and counselors are restricted and limited as to how to share their wisdom and render their influence in a school setting. That is why some persons choose not to be confined by an environment that mandates political correctness and elect to become pastors, or counselors in private practice, or engaged adults in the life of a student so they are free to share life-altering truths with questioning teens who are often not competent to make decisions of such an enormous magnitude (ie., sexual orientation).

"Everybody's doing it" and "if it feels good do it" are often the decision making framework whereby some teens make decisions. Educators, counselors, older family members, etc. can help a student who is trying to "find himself / herself" if they have a willing heart to hear. - David

[Reply](#) [Forward](#)

**Subject:** Re:Robertson - Professional school counseling & adolescent sexual identity

**Topic:** Discussion Forum Five (October 17 - 30)

**Author:** David Robertson

**Date:** October 24, 2011 10:16 AM

Hey Trish - You are so right. Everyone has a right to have an opinion even if their opinion is wrong. Many people make life-altering decisions based on misinformation. This is a sad fact of life. Students typically don't conduct interviews with older, wiser adults before they make up their mind to do something stupid. That's why suicide is the #3 killer of youth. We can all sit around all day long debating everybody's right to make up their own mind. But while we are having debates, kids are killing themselves every single day and alarming numbers.

These deaths are tragic, premature, and preventable. Elementary students making adult decisions that have enormous implications is not fair. Youth should have the help of adults to safely navigate through the minefield of a sexualized culture riddled with porn delivered right to your smartphone in 2nd period Social Studies.

David

[Reply](#) [Forward](#)

**Subject:** Re:Robertson - Professional school counseling & adolescent sexual identity

**Topic:** Discussion Forum Five (October 17 - 30)

**Author:** David Robertson

**Date:** October 24, 2011 10:56 PM

Hey Trish - Thanks for your thoughtful answer. Whatever is at the root of young people taking their lives (and you are absolutely correct, it may be different things for different people) my heart breaks for these kids and I just pray that some intervention takes place.  
- David

[Reply](#) [Forward](#)

**Subject:** Re:Robertson - Professional school counseling & adolescent sexual identity

**Topic:** Discussion Forum Five (October 17 - 30)

**Author:** David Robertson

**Date:** October 30, 2011 6:29 PM

Well put, Tonia. Thank you for your response. David

[Reply](#) [Forward](#)

**Subject:** Re:TANETTA'S POST

**Topic:** Discussion Forum Five (October 17 - 30)

**Author:** David Robertson

**Date:** October 18, 2011 9:30 PM

Tanetta - Wow - what a great heart! How blessed students would be to have a person like you to walk them through their problems. My wife is a Christian counselor and has a very successful practice working with children through adults. She is licensed but not "state" licensed so while she cannot accept insurance she is unrestricted in her counseling approach. My wife is happiest when she helps people experience breakthroughs. I hope you will explore your interest in this area. - David

[Reply](#) [Forward](#)

**Subject:** Re:TANETTA'S POST

**Topic:** Discussion Forum Five (October 17 - 30)

**Author:** David Robertson

**Date:** October 22, 2011 10:58 AM

Tanetta - This is more likely to happen if you were working in a private school environment. We have some very strong Christian schools in our community here that offers incredible academic instruction in a biblical worldview context that works for hundreds of families in our neck of the woods. - David

[Reply](#) [Forward](#)

**Subject:** Re:Dickerson - Professional school Counselor and LGBTQ Youth

**Topic:** Discussion Forum Five (October 17 - 30)

**Author:** David Robertson

**Date:** October 19, 2011 3:35 PM

Cedric - Great post on a tough issue. Your mom is a wise woman! - David

[Reply](#) [Forward](#)

**Subject:** Re:Sensitivity and acceptance of diversity...**Topic:** Discussion Forum Five (October 17 - 30)**Author:** David Robertson**Date:** October 19, 2011 3:39 PM

Funlola - You tell a sad tale of your college roommate. I am sorry for the betrayal she experienced at the hands of a counselor who had an opportunity to provide a confidential, safe environment to talk through issues but failed to do so. - David

[Reply](#) [Forward](#)**Subject:** marRe:Discussion 5: LGBT Youth and Counseling**Topic:** Discussion Forum Five (October 17 - 30)**Author:** David Robertson**Date:** October 25, 2011 7:24 PM

Marcia - I really like what you have said here that is not our job to change anybody. I've heard it said, "you can lead a horse to water but you can't make it drink...but you can put salt in its oats." This is where teachers/counselor can make a difference. Putting "salt" in their oats and helping students to see things from a different perspective. We all have blind spots and none of us have all the facts. Counselors and educators can help fill in the gaps to students can make informed decisions on small or big issues. - David

[Reply](#) [Forward](#)**Subject:** Re:marRe:Discussion 5: LGBT Youth and Counseling**Topic:** Discussion Forum Five (October 17 - 30)**Author:** David Robertson**Date:** October 28, 2011 1:25 PM

Allegra - I think you have made an outstanding point. Everyone can do something to help add value to young people if are hearts are in it...and do so in an appropriate way in any context. David

[Reply](#) [Forward](#)**Subject:** Re:Discussion 5: LGBT Youth and Counseling**Topic:** Discussion Forum Five (October 17 - 30)**Author:** David Robertson**Date:** October 20, 2011 3:08 PM

Jonda - I think this statement of yours brings a very good balance to the discussion:

"As educators, we must set the barriers and boundaries in our classrooms and schools. We have to create an environment that promotes equality and respect for diversity."

Well put. David

[Reply](#) [Forward](#)**Subject:** Re:ASCA- T. World**Topic:** Discussion Forum Five (October 17 - 30)**Author:** David Robertson**Date:** October 20, 2011 3:14 PM

Tiffany - As a minister, I think you have been able to successfully reconcile your own beliefs on the subject without compromising the rights of others whose diversity may be in opposition to your beliefs.

I am at my 3rd church staff position over the many years and have strong opinions on appropriate sexual expression. Fire is good in the fireplace but fire on the living room rug can be devastating. I think the stats shared in our textbook about STDs, teen pregnancy, substance abuse, bullying, teen suicide being the #3 killer, depression, etc. empirically shows that this adolescent population is experiencing a number of bitter consequences directly linked to sexual identity issues but also premarital heterosexual activity. - David

[Reply](#) [Forward](#)**Subject:** Re:in the news today: Transgender Girl Scout Controversy Sheds Light...**Topic:** Discussion Forum Five (October 17 - 30)**Author:** David Robertson**Date:** October 28, 2011 7:42 PM

Hi Sheila - I was reading about this very story on my iPhone on the way home tonight from dinner with my wife. What seems so black & white with clear, bold lines is trying to be blurred and gray. Where does it stop? Does the Boys Club have to assent?

Do Mothers Against Drunk Driving (M.A.D.D.) have to let men in? Once you go down this road, where do you exit? - David

[Reply](#) [Forward](#)**Subject:** Re:Arnold-Counselor Belief**Topic:** Discussion Forum Five (October 17 - 30)**Author:** David Robertson**Date:** October 31, 2011 10:45 AM

Latasha - What a powerful experience you had in the instance you shared! Wow. These are controversial times in which we live. I think it is important that we believe that we can stay true to our core values and religious beliefs without compromising them nor conducting ourselves inappropriately in a public school environment. - David

[Reply](#) [Forward](#)

**Subject:** Re:It's About Work Ethic  
**Author:** David Robertson

**Topic:** Discussion Forum Six (October 31 - November 13)  
**Date:** November 3, 2011 12:52 PM

Barbara - I think you comments in your post are outstanding. Your thoughts on work ethic are important. A strong work ethic will carry an individual far. I used to work at Nissan Motor Manufacturing and it was an amazing job but you would be surprised at the turnover of new workers who simply could not show up on a regular basis. This is IF they passed a drug test. The value of showing up faithfully, doing a little more than expected (the "and then some" principle), and learning how to get along with people will typically separate a worker from the rest of the crowd in no time. - David

[Reply](#) [Forward](#)

**Subject:** Robertson-PowerPoint Presentation Project  
**Author:** David Robertson

**Topic:** Discussion Forum Six (October 31 - November 13)  
**Date:** November 3, 2011 12:45 PM

I did not see a designated discussion board to post our PowerPoint presentations so I'll just post it here.

I had a lot of fun putting together my project on the topic of improving children and youth health. There are many terrific resources on the web to help parents, teachers, or physical education instructors. I've highlighted a few of them in my attached PowerPoint. I look forward to seeing yours! - David

Attachments: [8102\\_powerpointproject\\_dsr .pptx](#)

[Reply](#) [Forward](#)

**Subject:** Re:Robertson-PowerPoint Presentation Project  
**Author:** David Robertson

**Topic:** Discussion Forum Six (October 31 - November 13)  
**Date:** November 3, 2011 8:38 PM

Hi Tiffany - Thank you for your comments. Using the narration feature in PowerPoint is easy as pie. You can use the Help wizard in PPT or you can follow these links:

For Microsoft PowerPoint 2007  
<http://office.microsoft.com/en-us/powerpoint-help/record-and-add-narration-and-timings-to-a-slide-show-HA010338313.aspx>

For Microsoft PowerPoint 2010  
Here's a 4:40 YouTube video: [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QFmntINu\\_cI&noredirect=1](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QFmntINu_cI&noredirect=1)

I'm looking forward to seeing your PPT, Tiffany!

David :)

[Reply](#) [Forward](#)

**Subject:** Robertson - Then and now  
**Author:** David Robertson

**Topic:** Discussion Forum Six (October 31 - November 13)  
**Date:** November 3, 2011 1:26 PM

When I entered college at Middle Tennessee State University in 1979, I didn't have a computer, a cell phone, or the Internet. Worse than that, I didn't have a clue on what my purpose in life was, and as a result I drifted like a boat without a shoreline.

Sadly, I was immature and lacked much-needed character development to make wise choices.

Because I lacked some of the basic tools every young man needs, I essentially crammed 4 years of college into 5-1/2 years. I hung around the wrong crowd, always tried to take the pathway of least resistance, and barely squeaked by graduating with "B" average which I was glad to get. At that time, I have low standards, low morals, and even lower self-esteem.

Twenty-five years later, I showed up to MTSU once again to apply for graduate school. I went to the admissions office and asked (tongue-in-cheek), "well, has anything changed since I left?" My masters degree was a stellar experience, using laptops, Macs, iPads, smartphones, tablet PCs, wireless broadband at school and at home, and I finished strong with a 4.0 GPA.

I learned that I was a "non-traditional student" but at least I had some sense.

What made the difference? It wasn't so much the technology, it was that the undergraduate student and the graduate student were two completely different people. I had matured, I had grown, I had cultivated a healthy work ethic, I had gotten married, became a father, found a new faith in God that transformed me spiritually, and I began to value people. I discovered that when a man can stand himself he can stand a lot of things.

My daughter, Abbey, is 19 years old. My wife and I home schooled her K-12. She is currently studying to be a phlebotomist. She has never used pay phone, never played a cassette tape, couldn't tell me what a modem is if I asked her, and has a slight superiority complex because she has a hot rod Macbook Pro laptop and I have a Windows desktop. When we watch a

movie as a family, she sits with her laptop in her lap, texting on her Droid phone (her thumbs work as fast as all my fingers on my QWERTY keyboard), and her iPod touch is within reach. Times have changed.

My Abbey is technically savvy but we have had to work hard to teach her the value of a dollar. My first job (as my timeline project will attest to), I made \$2.35/hour. Abbey thinks her grandfather is a \$20 bill vending machine. I'm exaggerating of course by when you are born in 1992 the world is a different place.

Today's seniors will enter a highly sexualized culture where it will be difficult to choose purity over conformity. Abbey's generation will be bombarded with advertisers who each have a plan for my daughter's life, from VISA to Toyota. Abbey will face difficult economic times post 9/11 and flying the friendly skies will never be the same experience, from paying for bags & peanuts to being scanned for weapons on the way to the gate.

I think I can best guide my daughter, and other young people who I am privileged to influence, by encouraging them to strive to live a balanced blessed life. Balance is a keyword that I want to instill in my daughter. Keep out of the extremes; keep the bubble in the middle, and consequently keep your life out of the ditches. Take care of your physical health, get an education, and by all means tend to your spiritual life lest you walk through life blown about like a leaf by every wind of doctrine.

There's infinitely more than could be said on the thought-provoking questions that have prompted this unit's discussion. I am looking forward to hearing the ideas of others. And that's the final thing I would say to my daughter and to a younger generation - we all serve better together. All of us are smarter than any one of us and each of stands on the shoulders of those that have gone before. Wisdom is learning from the mistakes of others. To choose to ignore the advice of those more experienced is to enroll in the school of hard knocks. - David

**Subject:** Re:Robertson - Then and now

**Topic:** Discussion Forum Six (October 31 - November 13)

**Author:** David Robertson

**Date:** November 6, 2011 5:44 PM

Hey Barbara - My wife is much better at this than I am, but she continually points out that young people are young people, immature, and in some ways actually normally for their age. A teenager simply is simply not a deep well of knowledge at that age. I have been "digging my well" daily for over 50 years now and I have much to say on a variety of topics. My daughter who is 10, also has much to say but sometimes she doesn't know what she is talking about because her well is too shallow in the subject. Oh well, that's why we are working on those all-important relationships with those that we love and desire to influence. Hopefully, we will "earn a hearing" as we gain their trust and are able to plant seeds of wisdom from our own experience to hopefully help younger people from having to suffer the fallout of some of our mistakes. It's all about acceleration or deferment. Take advice, accelerate progress and growth; resist advice and delay the process.

David

**Subject:** Re:Robertson - Then and now

**Topic:** Discussion Forum Six (October 31 - November 13)

**Author:** David Robertson

**Date:** November 6, 2011 5:48 PM

Hi Marcia - I wish I had known you when I was contemplating entering college. I probably would have done better had I delayed entering college until I was more mature and had some direction for my life. As a result, I totally frittered away the experience and graduated with an essential meaningless degree. The diploma did help me enter graduate school so it wasn't a total wash, but I graduated without any life direction and never encounter a teacher, counselor, or older, wiser person (at least that I could had ears to listen to) that confronted me about my lack of purpose and direction. I am determined that I will be that man! I will care enough to ask tough questions of young people who are at crossroads and offer to help them get a life mission statement on a piece of paper and work backwards from there to develop a plan of action.

David

**Subject:** Re:Robertson - Then and now

**Topic:** Discussion Forum Six (October 31 - November 13)

**Author:** David Robertson

**Date:** November 10, 2011 12:09 PM

Hi Sheila - A life mission statement is a wonderful tool to help a person go somewhere on purpose with their life. I've learned that everybody is going somewhere, but few people are going somewhere on purpose.

As you know, I am on the pastoral staff of a church so understandably, my world view is from a Christian perspective. I know that's not everybody's cup of tea, and I'm cool with that. But if you want to know the best tool I've ever discovered on developing a life mission statement and discovering what is your purpose in life as it relates to your past experiences (positive and negative), your passions (what makes your heart beat fast?), and your spiritual gifts (how did God create you to be unique you?), then check out the Chazown Experience at this link:

<http://www.chazown.com/>

I read this book and it changed my life, ministry, marriage, and parenting.

Here is an example of my own life purpose statement at MyLife Coaching, a free, self-directed life coaching web site that I founded:

<http://mylifecoaching.web.officelive.com/AboutDavid.aspx>

Hope this helps!  
David

**Subject:** Re:Robertson - Then and now  
**Author:** David Robertson

**Topic:** Discussion Forum Six (October 31 - November 13)  
**Date:** November 11, 2011 11:34 AM

Thanks for taking a peek at MyLife Coaching to get an idea on life mission statements. Hope this helps you and ultimately your son, especially the Chazown resource. - David

**Subject:** Re:Lola-Lessons and Growth  
**Author:** David Robertson

**Topic:** Discussion Forum Six (October 31 - November 13)  
**Date:** November 3, 2011 8:33 PM

Funlola - I really appreciated your comments. How blessed to have had a college advisor that took shared the valuable perspectives you have listed. It is quite obvious that this person made an impact on you and now here you are in graduate school. What a fitting reward for any mentor that you should go on to greater success! David

**Subject:** Re:Cope: Adulthood  
**Author:** David Robertson

**Topic:** Discussion Forum Six (October 31 - November 13)  
**Date:** November 4, 2011 3:39 PM

Wendy - What a powerful post! I love the quote from Calvin Coolidge. Impressive. Persistence, dogged persistence, is the way marathons are completed and couples stay married for 59 years (like my mom dad on NOV 1st). I heard somebody say one time, "With persistence, even the turtles made it to Noah's Ark."

My wife and in charge of teaching our emerging leaders in our discipleship program. We teach what we call "the principle of focused energy." That is, focusing one's energy on a single objective resisting distractions, hesitation, and procrastination. We use a magnifying glass as a symbol of this principle. When a magnifying glass is held still over a newspaper outside in the sun for long enough, it can focus the energy of the sun to ignite a fire. That's a beautiful picture of this principle. As has been pointed out, our culture does not value "being still" or "standing still" for long enough to focus. The younger generation often operates more like sharks who have to constantly keep moving to keep water running over gills to breathe so they don't suffocate.

David

**Subject:** Re:Lola-PowerPoint  
**Author:** David Robertson

**Topic:** Discussion Forum Six (October 31 - November 13)  
**Date:** November 4, 2011 3:49 PM

Lola - Wow! What a wonderful, powerful PPT you did! I saved it to my hard drive just for the references you provided. Parts of the presentation I particularly enjoyed include:

- \* The quote that suicide is 100% preventable.
- \* Startling stats like suicide in the #4 killer of children between the ages of 4-10.
- \* That image that says "it's get better" is one of the most powerful images on this subject I have ever seen. if that is not a true picture of this time then I don't know what is.
- \* Corrie ten Boom's quote - I have tons of respect for this dear Holocaust survivor. Thank you for sharing this quote from a lady who knows how deep a pit goes.

I have shared with this class that my wife is a professional Christian counselor, and just last week she received a desperate call from a mom whose 9-year-old son took a BB gun to his heart and pulled the trigger to end it all. He is fine on the outside but not on the inside and this broken family is searching for answers.

I want to thank you for sharing this important presentation with us. - David

**Subject:** Re:Hard Work and Determination  
**Author:** David Robertson

**Topic:** Discussion Forum Six (October 31 - November 13)  
**Date:** November 4, 2011 3:55 PM

Jessica - Thank you for using yourself as an example to illustrate the wise advice of hard work and determination. Your story is inspirational. I wish I had as much going on for me - maturity and focus-wise - at 24 years of age as you do now.

I was the guy who was nearly 50 and still didn't know what I wanted to be when I grew up! There's a lot of men in America, little boys running around in men's bodies, who never had a rite of passage into real manhood. We have no such initiation in our culture like the American Indians, Massai warriors, and Jewish culture does for their young men. As a result, men walk around, having been wounded by absentee fathers or passive fathers asking the question that every boy carries in his heart: "Do I have what it takes?" A man becomes a man in the company of other men. Manhood is not something you get in the back seat of a car and a woman can't make a man out of a boy. No, manhood is conferred by a father or father figure. It has taken me many decades to learn this lesson.

I just want to commend you for having so much on the ball at such a young age. - David

[Reply](#) [Forward](#)

**Subject:** Re:Hard Work and Determination  
**Author:** David Robertson

**Topic:** Discussion Forum Six (October 31 - November 13)  
**Date:** November 6, 2011 5:50 PM

Cedric - You hit the nail on the head. You absolutely have spoken a true word here. I like to read a chapter out of the book of Proverbs each night and one proverb says, "all hard work leads to a profit." No hard work is ever wasted. I tell young men I am mentoring, if you just keep doing the right things long enough you will eventually collide with success. - David

[Reply](#) [Forward](#)

**Subject:** Re:Tanetta's Powerpoint  
**Author:** David Robertson

**Topic:** Discussion Forum Six (October 31 - November 13)  
**Date:** November 4, 2011 4:10 PM

Tanetta - Great job on your PPT! I can now see that is going to be one of my favorite parts of this class.

I now know how to distinguish between Type 1 and Type 2 diabetes and can recognize the symptoms. I especially liked how you took time to explain some of the benefits of exercise. Great job! David

[Reply](#) [Forward](#)

**Subject:** Re:Tanetta's Powerpoint  
**Author:** David Robertson

**Topic:** Discussion Forum Six (October 31 - November 13)  
**Date:** November 6, 2011 10:02 PM

Hey Tanetta - It warms my heart when a teacher loves the subject as well as the children they are teaching. That all adds up to an enthusiastic, effective teacher. David

[Reply](#) [Forward](#)

**Subject:** Re:Jordan\_Money Matters  
**Author:** David Robertson

**Topic:** Discussion Forum Six (October 31 - November 13)  
**Date:** November 6, 2011 5:53 PM

Jonda - I am impressed with your observation about the pressures today's college students face regarding money. I heard one pastor put it this way, "we buy things we don't need with money we don't have to impress people we don't like."

David

[Reply](#) [Forward](#)

**Subject:** Re:Jordan's PowerPoint Presentation Project  
**Author:** David Robertson

**Topic:** Discussion Forum Six (October 31 - November 13)  
**Date:** November 15, 2011 12:23 PM

Trish - I just finished going through your PPT on Vygotsky. I am so impressed with how you expressed your ideas in the presentation! You masterfully leveraged PowerPoint, images, and the web to convey your ideas on Vygotsky's theory. Amazing work. I saved it for future reference as a model of how to do a PPT correctly on a similar theorist. Nicely done! - David

[Reply](#) [Forward](#)

**Subject:** Re:Jordan's PowerPoint Presentation Project  
**Author:** David Robertson

**Topic:** Discussion Forum Six (October 31 - November 13)  
**Date:** November 6, 2011 10:09 PM

Jonda - I have to tell you that your PPT on AD is just terrific. I am especially interested in your presentation because my daughter had to put together her very first PowerPoint and do her first public presentation on this same topic just weeks ago! Naturally, mom and dad are the first ones she runs through her presentation with so some of your stats were familiar to me. I want to share your PPT with my daughter because she will also enjoy your fine work. Thank you! David

[Reply](#) [Forward](#)

**Subject:** Re:Young adulthood then and now - Roberts

**Topic:** Discussion Forum Six (October 31 - November 13)

**Author:** David Robertson**Date:** November 6, 2011 5:59 PM

Marcia - Thank you for sharing your story. Like you, my parents got married right after they graduated from high school, at 18 years old, and have been married for 59 years. I cannot commend you enough for working hard with your husband, raising your children, and putting the energy and drive into obtaining your degree later. Your children will draw great strength and inspiration from your example later in their own lives. David

 **Subject:** Re:Conner\_Growing Up**Topic:** Discussion Forum Six (October 31 - November 13)**Author:** David Robertson**Date:** November 8, 2011 8:16 PM

Tonia - I enjoyed reading about your growing up on the farm. I loved what you said, that "not knowing how to do something was no excuse for not doing it." Wow. My dad grew up on a farm and he had to learn so many things - from livestock care to mechanical work on every piece of equipment - all without instruction. As a result, my dad, like you, is not afraid to tackle new tasks and give it a whirl because failure is not an option. - David

 **Subject:** Re:Conner\_Growing Up**Topic:** Discussion Forum Six (October 31 - November 13)**Author:** David Robertson**Date:** November 9, 2011 10:49 AM

Marcia - I can see readily that your family is operating under a generational blessing. From your dad to you to your son, good things have passed down the family line that your son will value and pass forward as well. I love this! Thank you so much for sharing. David

 **Subject:** Re:Time magazine articles**Topic:** Discussion Forum Six (October 31 - November 13)**Author:** David Robertson**Date:** November 13, 2011 5:36 PM

Sheila - Thanks for sharing these articles. I don't read Time regularly so this is a find I would not ordinarily be exposed to. Many thanks! David

 **Subject:** Re:Meaning of Life**Topic:** Discussion Forum Seven (November 14 - 27)**Author:** David Robertson**Date:** November 14, 2011 7:02 PM

Jessica - I enjoyed reading your comments. Certainly life is an ever-changing proposition. From the moment of birth the process of our death unfolds. To my view, life has meaning and purpose. Just like loving parents want to have a child, to raise, to love, to invest a legacy in, in the same I believe that God has created each of us with a plan in mind. - David

 **Subject:** Re:Meaning of Life**Topic:** Discussion Forum Seven (November 14 - 27)**Author:** David Robertson**Date:** November 15, 2011 12:18 PM

Jessica - Knowing that people have intrinsic value makes life more precious and helps us to treat others with dignity and respect. In societies that don't agree with what you and are saying here, the sanctity of human life is degraded. The movie "Schindler's List" offers a sober and graphic example of this notion. Just like the movie "The Passion of the Christ" did not fully capture the gruesome horror of the scourge and crucifixion of Jesus Christ, so Schindler's List did not fully capture the horror of life in the death camps of Nazi Germany. Viktor Frankl, Corrie ten Boom, and other Holocaust survivors, offer a glimpse in their writings of what happens when the meaning of life is meaningful to those in power and meaningless to those who are subjected to their autocratic rule. - David

 **Subject:** Robertson - On Discovering the Meaning of Life**Topic:** Discussion Forum Seven (November 14 - 27)**Author:** David Robertson**Date:** November 14, 2011 6:07 PM

I love this class! While I am trying my best to choke down quantitative, qualitative, and mixed research methods in my other class, this class is a breath of fresh air to talk about the stuff of life that actually matters to me!

Over the years, motivational speakers like Zig Zigler and John Maxwell have often quote Viktor Frankl. His wise sayings and unique perspectives made their way in quotable quotes around the world for decades.

You can purchase the book that Dr. Hayes recommends from Amazon at this link:

[http://www.amazon.com/Mans-Search-Meaning-Viktor-Frankl/dp/0807014273/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1321310727&sr=8-1](http://www.amazon.com/Mans-Search-Meaning-Viktor-Frankl/dp/0807014273/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1321310727&sr=8-1)

Frankl's book, "Man's Search for Meaning," was actually published in 1959 under a different title: "From Death-Camp to Existentialism."

Frankl was Jewish and forced into a concentration camp during the Holocaust. That is why the quote i from his book that I would like to consider in this post is:

"We can discover this meaning in life in three different ways: (1) by doing a deed; (2) by experiencing a value; and (3) by suffering." p.176

"We can discover this meaning in life in three different ways: (1) by doing a deed; (2) by experiencing a value; and (3) by suffering." p.176

"We can discover this meaning in life in three different ways: (1) by doing a deed; (2) by experiencing a value; and (3) by suffering." p.176

"We can discover this meaning of life in three different ways: (1) by doing a deed; (2) by experiencing a value; and (3) by suffering" (p. 176).

It's that last word - suffering - that I think Viktor Frankl is a credible voice of authority to speak on. He was qualified to write this book. He was qualified to comment on the purifying power of suffering.

This notion of suffering, which nearly all of us try to avoid as often as possible, is best understood in retrospect rather than while we are going through it.

About everybody I meet is going through hard thing. They've either just come out of a hard season, are currently in one, or will be real soon. But I've learned that all suffering has meaning. There are advantages to adversity. Not everything that is bad to us is bad for us.

A wise proverb says that "open rebuke is better than hidden love." Chastisement is to be considered oil on our head. In other words, laughter is great but what do we learn from it? Suffering has a refining quality. Just like silver is purified by putting it through the fire to scoop the slag off of it, in much the same way we are defined by the trials we outlast.

I'm not trying to sound philosophical, but I only echo the admiration that Dr. Hayes for Viktor Frankl and his views on the meaning of life.

While I am never looking to suffer at any time, I know that suffering will eventually find me. None of us can hide from the dissappointments of life. But it's what we do after we fall down that reveals the stuff we are made of. - David

[Reply](#) [Forward](#)

**Subject:** Re:Robertson - On Discovering the Meaning of Life  
**Author:** David Robertson

**Topic:** Discussion Forum Seven (November 14 - 27)  
**Date:** November 18, 2011 2:40 PM

And thank you, Dr. Hayes, for recommending a book to us that has tranformational qualities for the reader unlike so many of the dry, boring texts that we may have had to wade through in our academic studies. - David

[Reply](#) [Forward](#)

**Subject:** Re:Robertson - On Discovering the Meaning of Life  
**Author:** David Robertson

**Topic:** Discussion Forum Seven (November 14 - 27)  
**Date:** November 20, 2011 7:31 PM

Hey Trish - Thanks the for the thoughtful reply. David

[Reply](#) [Forward](#)

**Subject:** Re:Robertson - On Discovering the Meaning of Life  
**Author:** David Robertson

**Topic:** Discussion Forum Seven (November 14 - 27)  
**Date:** November 20, 2011 7:34 PM

Marcia - Your comments really helped bring clarity on one issue - pettiness. How often I have become ingrateful and petty because I was so focused on my own pain, suffering, and inconvenience that I missed the whole point of the lesson I was supposed to learn. As I read your post, I thought of the old saying:

"I complained that I had no shoes until I met the man who had no feet."

We have got to keep our suffering in perspective with the big picture and the grand scheme if we are to bear it well. - David

[Reply](#) [Forward](#)

**Subject:** Re:Robertson - On Discovering the Meaning of Life  
**Author:** David Robertson

**Topic:** Discussion Forum Seven (November 14 - 27)  
**Date:** November 21, 2011 7:10 PM

You are so right, Barbara. I'm told even the most introverted among us influences over 10,000 people in a lifetime. We are being watched. How we react, respond, and deal with stress, pressure, injustice, bias, and downright unfair treatment is being duly noted by people we know and don't know. You never know where you'll find inspiration and provide it. - David

[Reply](#) [Forward](#)

**Subject:** Re:Robertson - On Discovering the Meaning of Life  
**Author:** David Robertson

**Topic:** Discussion Forum Seven (November 14 - 27)  
**Date:** November 27, 2011 5:46 PM

Funlola, Once again I am impressed with the depth of your answers. There is no doubt you have an authentic relationship with God and because of this I am certain that you will experience the lasting peace that you have described. - David

[Reply](#) [Forward](#)

**Subject:** Re:Robertson - On Discovering the Meaning of Life  
**Author:** David Robertson

**Topic:** Discussion Forum Seven (November 14 - 27)  
**Date:** November 27, 2011 5:51 PM

Sheila - thanks for your response. It's all relative, isn't it? You have chosen to get better and not bitter even though your life has not been perfect. Whose is, for goodness sake? We must teach the next generation that is is an unrealistic expectation to suppose life will be an easy sort of journey. No one gets out of life alive. Life is mostly uphill with some fantastic downhill slides along the way that are fun. Our traveling companions, attitudes, and faith make life not only tolerable but enjoyable despite the fact that there are atomic bombs, terrorists, crime, disease, and poverty. The other of the coin is that there is astonishing victories, successes, joys, creative inspiration, the arts, love, and relationships that defy explanation that make life the incredible journey that God intended it to be. - David

[Reply](#) [Forward](#)

**Subject:** Re:Life  
**Author:** David Robertson

**Topic:** Discussion Forum Seven (November 14 - 27)  
**Date:** November 18, 2011 2:43 PM

Hi Cedric - As always, you seem to have something insightful to say. I heard somebody just the other quote the proverb you posted - "whatever doesn't kill you makes you stronger!"

Yes, life is mostly uphill but it boils down to a choice. Will be choose to allow problems, hardships, or suffering a stepping stone or a stumbling block? - David

[Reply](#) [Forward](#)

**Subject:** Re:Life  
**Author:** David Robertson

**Topic:** Discussion Forum Seven (November 14 - 27)  
**Date:** November 20, 2011 7:35 PM

Tanetta - Your students have a wise teacher! David

[Reply](#) [Forward](#)

**Subject:** Re:T. World- Meaning of Life  
**Author:** David Robertson

**Topic:** Discussion Forum Seven (November 14 - 27)  
**Date:** November 20, 2011 10:47 PM

Tiffany - It is no surprise that I appreciate your comments as much as Marcia and Cedric have written in their replies to your post. If we believe as evolutionists do - simply put that we evolved from the goo to the zoo to you - then life has no meaning. Many subscribe to this belief system but find at the end of their days that there is no legacy to leave behind.

Sadly, my grandfather held to the notion of there is no God that will hold us accountable for our actions nor had a divine plan in mind when He created us. At one of our last family gatherings, the entire family tree present sat at the feet of our 93-year-old patriarch and asked for him to pass on his wisdom after having lived over 9 decades and 7 of those with the same woman. At that point, my grandfather began to tell his family line about all the livestock he had raised, crops he had sown, tractors, trucks, and farming implements that had passed through his hands, and so on. I walked away from the once in a lifetime moment uninspired and dissapointed. I saw in my grandfather's sun baked face empty eyes having lived without truly living, and loved without truly loving.

I share this personal memory to illustrate what it looked like (at least to me) to live a life devoid of a higher cause, a focused purpose, and a moral compass to guide an old ship into its final harbor.

David

[Reply](#) [Forward](#)

**Subject:** Re:T. World- Meaning of Life  
**Author:** David Robertson

**Topic:** Discussion Forum Seven (November 14 - 27)  
**Date:** November 23, 2011 10:25 AM

Tiffany - I could not agree with you more. If we aim at nothing we most assuredly hit the target. - David

[Reply](#) [Forward](#)

**Subject:** Re:Meaning of Life  
**Author:** David Robertson

**Topic:** Discussion Forum Seven (November 14 - 27)  
**Date:** November 21, 2011 7:15 PM

Charlotte - Thank you for shairng a glimpse of your life with us. I am sorry you had to endure hardships that none of us can fully appreciate. It is evident that you have what it takes to take rise above mediocrity and tragedy and make something of your life. The real benefactor in all of this, to my view, is your son. This young man will always have before him a role model of an overcome right in his own family to inspire him when life gets very, very hard...and it nearly always will. - David

[Reply](#) [Forward](#)

**Subject:** Re:Cope Discussion 7

**Topic:** Discussion Forum Seven (November 14 - 27)

**Author:** David Robertson

**Date:** November 23, 2011 7:59 PM

Wendy - You have shared some deep thoughts here in this post. Your first paragraph alone was worth logging into CourseDen this evening. Thank you for sharing glimpes from your personal journey with us. - David

[Reply](#) [Forward](#)

**Subject:** Re:Kimble: situations and circumstances

**Topic:** Discussion Forum Seven (November 14 - 27)

**Author:** David Robertson

**Date:** November 25, 2011 11:41 AM

Tamisha - I appreciate your boldness in plainly stating that in your experience the meaning of life involves a relationship with God. This may seem out of place in a graduate level course but in reality it is not.

Even a superficial review of human history reveals that all peoples in all cultures in all time periods worship something. Religious expression and spirituality have been a central theme in every people group since time began. Why? If one subscribes to the account of a Creator and a creation, a design and a Designer, a plan and a Planner, as the biblical narrative of world history matter-of-factly states, then one has no problem understanding the meaning of life (and life after death) from within this context. If one chooses a life devoid of acknowledging, let alone engaging a relationship with his/her Creator, say an athiest, then this also is accounted for in the first of the Ten Commandments (you shall have no other gods before Me) in that such an individual has chosen to create a god of his own design, typically himself where relativism,pluralism, and no ultimate accountability for moral choices exists.

Such a posture creates a number of problems, far more than simply believing what the heart, conscience, and spirit within a person is reaching outside himself to grasp meaning and purpose to justify his existence. - David

[Reply](#) [Forward](#)

**Subject:** Re:Conner\_The Meaning of Life

**Topic:** Discussion Forum Seven (November 14 - 27)

**Author:** David Robertson

**Date:** November 27, 2011 5:58 PM

Tonia - Thank you for taking the time to type in the Charles Swindoll quote on attitude. It is priceless, timeless, and useful.

John Maxwell puts it this way: "our attitude determines our altitude." One of my close friends is an airline pilot. he told me that all airplanes have an "attitude" guage. It tells the pilots if the nose of the airplane is up or down. How appropriate for us in the discussion of the meaning of life. It ties right in to the quote we opened the course with on the cards each of us were dealt. Attitude helps us play the cards we have with a smile on our face, a gleam in our eye, and a kind word to offer even if we don't have a royal flush. - David

[Reply](#) [Forward](#)

**Subject:** Re:Conner\_The Meaning of Life

**Topic:** Discussion Forum Seven (November 14 - 27)

**Author:** David Robertson

**Date:** November 27, 2011 8:51 PM

Well spoken Cedric - After all, what kind of person would you rather be around? An upbeat positive person or a pessamistic negative person? We all have a choice, every day, as to how we respond or react. - David

[Reply](#) [Forward](#)

**Subject:** Robertson - Lifeline PPT

**Topic:** PowerPoint Forum

**Author:** David Robertson

**Date:** November 27, 2011 8:35 AM

I've attached my lifeline project. I found this project to be a great deal of fun and it gave me an opportunity to have some rare and precious times with my wife, daughter, and parents. - David

Attachments: [8102\\_mylifeline\\_dsr.pptx](#)

[Reply](#) [Forward](#)

**Subject:** Re:Transitions and growth...

**Topic:** Discussion Forum Seven (November 14 - 27)

**Author:** David Robertson

**Date:** November 27, 2011 6:03 PM

Funlola - I so appreciated this statement in your post:

"I firmly believe that each day is a blessing whether there are positives or negatives occurring at that specific time."

It reminded me that life is alot like a train track with two rails. One might represent the positive things we are experiencing

on a given day and the other the negative things. Each day usually brings both. You may have a cold but you live in America. You may have had a fender bender but you do own a car. You may have not gotten a raise but you do have a job. That sort of thing. I've observed that things are rarely as good or as bad as they seem, either one. I like to tell the young men I am mentoring that I am plodding along one unglamorous, controversial day at a time. Some days are high, some days are low, but most days are just days. When we understand that every day of our lives cannot be like getting a hole-in-one or bowling a perfect 300 game, then we are not setting our expectations as perfection which is reality setting ourselves up for failure. A more balanced approach is that life is what you make of it. Thoughts. - David

[Reply](#) [Forward](#)

**Subject:** Re:Transitions and growth...  
**Author:** David Robertson

**Topic:** Discussion Forum Seven (November 14 - 27)  
**Date:** November 28, 2011 11:46 AM

Lola - Thank you for your wonderful response and wisdom. You are doing in GA what I am doing in TN - influencing those God brings across our path.

Your top 3 is in the right order! Love it! David

[Reply](#) [Forward](#)

**Subject:** Re:Andrews--Life Span project  
**Author:** David Robertson

**Topic:** PowerPoint Forum  
**Date:** December 1, 2011 5:09 PM

Anissa - Thank you for sharing your Lifeline project! You did a very thorough job. I was surprised to see that you taught at Luella Middle School in Henry County. In Dr. Huett's class, I did online reviews and audits fo 2 of the classes there through the Angel login system.

I saw that you got married in my neck of the woods, in Tennessee. My wife and I love to go to Pigeon Forge and Gatlinburg.

Great job! David

[Reply](#) [Forward](#)

**Subject:** How to archive all your discussion board posts into a single PDF  
**Author:** David Robertson

**Topic:** Discussion Forum Seven (November 14 - 27)  
**Date:** December 4, 2011 5:36 PM

Dear All - I have so enjoyed being in class with you I have learned as much from reading your posts as I have from doing my assignments and reading the textbook.

In case any of you would like to compile all of your posts into a single PDF for your electronic portfolio, here's an easy way to do that in CourseDen.

May you all enjoy the splendor of this amazing holiday season. Davd

Archiving all your CourseDen posts to a single PDF file

1. In the course click on the Discussions tab
2. All My Posts link
3. Scroll down to the bottom and make sure ALL posts are selected and displayed
4. Scroll up to the very top and click the checkbox beside Subject to select all posts
5. Scroll down to the bottom left and click Create Printable View
6. Print to a PDF program like CutePDF Writer

<http://www.cutepdf.com/products/cutepdf/writer.asp>  
(available for Mac too - all for free!)

7. Save PDF file of all your posts to your UWG server or an online file hosting serving like Dropbox or SugarSync.

8. Link your file to your final exit portfolio.

[Reply](#) [Forward](#)

**Subject:** Re:Lessons from Lifespan...  
**Author:** David Robertson

**Topic:** Discussion Forum Eight (November 28 - December 10)  
**Date:** December 5, 2011 8:12 PM

Lola - Your 3 observations are good take aways. Thanks for sharing your insight. - David

[Reply](#) [Forward](#)

**Subject:** Re:Course Reflections  
**Author:** David Robertson

**Topic:** Discussion Forum Eight (November 28 - December 10)  
**Date:** December 5, 2011 8:18 PM

Marcia - Good post! My wife, who is a professional counselor, plans on reading our Santrock textbook because I have been sharing various aspects of it with her throughout the term.

You have made many important contributions to this class and I am grateful to have been your classmate. Blessings to you!  
David

**Subject:** Robertson - course reflection

**Topic:** Discussion Forum Eight (November 28 - December 10)

**Author:** David Robertson

**Date:** December 5, 2011 8:43 PM

I don't know how everyone else feels, but I will remember this course as one of the high points of my UWG degree program. This was the one place that I could write more from my heart and less from an APA 6th edition book. I felt like Dr. Hayes created an online environment that was safe to be real, authentic, and even creative.

It was refreshing to see a class that did not shy away from controversial topics and discussions, but rather invited them. A few examples that come to mind include:

- \* nature v. nurture
- \* genome mapping
- \* sexual orientation and counseling
- \* Viktor Frankl and the meaning of life

This was the first class that I took in my I.T. Ed.S. program that was all technical and exposed me to other students who had different career objectives. This blend changed the dynamic of the discussions for me.

I was surprised at the level of depth the discussion posts provided with fellow students at times sharing stories of personal tragedies and/or spiritual insights that were important to them.

Finally, the assignments in this class were remarkably interesting. I did not perceive them to be "busy work" but to be valid instruments to force me to tap into my creativity and critical thinking. I enjoyed every one of them. I appreciated the Santrock PowerPoint slides which helped bring clarity to the chapter readings.

My evaluations that I filled out for this class gave me an opportunity to share with the powers that be of the value I think this class provided me as a student and how I thought the instructor effectively guided the class into meaningful discussions.

Thanks to all of you who enriched my own journey through this degree by your thought provoking comments.

Blessings to each of you this Christmas season and beyond. David

**Subject:** Re:Robertson - course reflection

**Topic:** Discussion Forum Eight (November 28 - December 10)

**Author:** David Robertson

**Date:** December 6, 2011 7:15 PM

Charlotte - I am a blessed man and I thank you for reminding me. It's easy to let lots of things obscure our view of the life that we live that few around the world experience. My thought processes changed the minute I heard that most of the rest of the world lives on less than \$1 per day. - David

**Subject:** Re:Robertson - course reflection

**Topic:** Discussion Forum Eight (November 28 - December 10)

**Author:** David Robertson

**Date:** December 6, 2011 7:19 PM

Marcia - Once again, you have been kind and encouraging to me. I wish you all the very best as you move onward and upward in your personal and academic pursuits. It has been a great privilege to have read the thoughts that have you written on a variety of subjects.

I told a friend from church today as we were talking that if human nature were to have full reign, we would probably only make friends with people who are most like us. What a small world that would be! Classes like this nudge us into the often awkward and uncomfortable world of self-disclosure and exposure to persons of different ideas, faiths, and thinking processes. I am determined to learn as much as I can from as many as I can so that when I have an opinion about something it carries more weight than only my own thoughts. All the best to you! - David

**Subject:** Re:Course Reflection

**Topic:** Discussion Forum Eight (November 28 - December 10)

**Author:** David Robertson

**Date:** December 6, 2011 7:24 PM

Charlotte - You have said it well in your post. Sometimes we don't appreciate what we've really got until we see the other side. I had another class this semester that was the polar opposite of this class (please don't ask me to disclose which one!)

There were over 3,000 discussion posts but they were there primarily to meet a stringent posting rubric where we had to

apply APA formatting in some of them. There was a private forum for students in this class and it was ablaze with complaints, gripes, and stress statements that are the antithesis of this class.

I am so glad that I took that other class so that I can appreciate this class even more! - David

**Subject:** Re:Good Reflections

**Topic:** Discussion Forum Eight (November 28 - December 10)

**Author:** David Robertson

**Date:** December 6, 2011 7:25 PM

Barbara - This sentence you wrote says it way better than I could:

"The assignments and discussions were completely representative of the topic we were studying. It was nice to have a course where I didn't waste time on assignments that didn't really teach me anything."

Love it - David

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