

What's News

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The Van Vleet's in China

While you are reading this newsletter Susan and John Van Vleet are in China leading two "Survival of the Dual Career Marriage" workshops with Procter & Gamble China.

Survival of a Dual Career Marriage is a course that deals with the special issues of work-life balance facing couples with careers. Some of you have requested Susan & John schedule a Dual Career Marriage course here in the United States. Trying to meet the needs of clients here in the US, we have scheduled a two day weekend retreat on August 24-25, 2002 in Colorado. Only 10 couples can attend.

If you are interested in reserving a place, please contact the office. The cost is \$3,000 per couple.

Companies, who like P & G China, would like to hold this course in their own location can contact our office for details.

Watch for our July/August Newsletter for more information on the China trip.

PEDOPHILIA

In all the talk about the sexual abuse in the Catholic Church a few things have been confused by the language used by the commentators, church representatives and victims.

We also have been focusing a microscope on the Catholic Church when all religious groups need to put themselves under the same microscope. None of us can afford to sit back and feel smug that it's a Catholic problem – it's not. No one religious group, in my estimation, has handled this well including my own.

Let's start with the type of abuse we're talking about: SEXUAL ABUSE

And the form of sexual abuse we are describing is Pedophilia. It is listed in the Diagnostic Manual of Mental Disorders IV as "someone who engages in sexual activity with a prepubescent child (generally 12 years or younger, girl or boy). The Pedophile is usually at least 5 years older than the child. Pedophiles must act on their fantasies with children to be considered full blown Pedophiles."

Pedophiles can sexually attack their own children and/or children in their own families or they can go outside their families as the priests in question did.

Although I have not seen updated statistics on this in many years, it is my understanding that most Pedophiles (whether they attach males or females) identify themselves as heterosexual and many are married and have children of their own.

Just because a man is a Pedophile and preys on young boys does not mean he is homosexual. In the literature I have seen, homosexuals are rarely pedophiles. To mix pedophilia and connect it in any way to homosexuality is not only morally wrong it is scientifically incorrect.

However it directs our attention to the wrong groups of folks if we want to protect our children from these sick human beings. Most often these people appear to live a normal, heterosexual life with families and spouses. Many are pillars of their respective communities. They are rarely "cured" and the recidivism rate is near 90%. They can be coaches, teachers, religious leaders, etc. Pedophiles always try to manipulate the situation so they can be alone with a child.

The way to deal with this very serious issue is to make sure your child is never alone with an adult without other adults/children present.

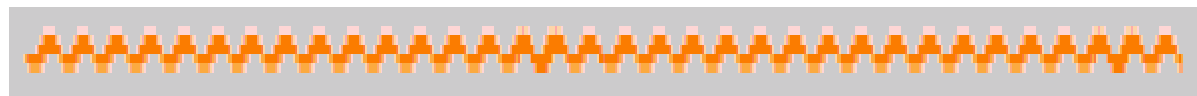
For example, our Temple ran a retreat program for teenagers in which they took great pains to let us know (the parents) that in this program we were not allowed to attend, only our sons and the Rabbis. Although we did not suspect any untoward behavior on the part of our religious leaders, we felt any program that did not welcome a parental presence was not something we wanted to send our sons to.

During basketball summer league out of town tournaments our son rode with us in a car or flew with us and stayed in a near-by hotel with us – not necessarily with "the team"! We would invite some of the team to stay with us as well or invite the team over for a team get together at our hotel.

What I am suggesting is that for whatever reason Pedophiles have an increased presence now and you must take extraordinary steps to protect your children from them.

It is not enough to not be a Catholic is not enough – our kids are all at risk and we should operate as if that is true.

If you have any questions regarding this issue or you need a referral, please contact us we'll be happy to support you.



We Recommend

Last issue we recommended some books for your summer reading
This issue we recommend you see the movie "Life or Something Like It"
It's a movie for our times – It's message is most important given the harried lives we all lead.

'A Fireside Chat on Leadership'

A video/cd with Susan and John Van Vleet

In this 9-10 minute video/cd, John interviews Susan regarding her views on leadership. John & Susan discuss the answers to questions such as:

“What are the critical components of leadership development?”

“What is unique in the development of women leaders?”

“Advise to managers whose job it is to develop leaders.”

The video cost is \$12.95, the cd if \$16.95, plus postage.

To order mail the enclosed form or fax it or email us

Congratulations Are In Order.....

To Deb Goldstein on her new job with Abbot Laboratories, but more importantly on her and her husband's) adoption of two young boys, Tyler, 12 and Sergei, 11 from Russia. Congratulations to the Goldstein family!

To Steve Ellston on his new job with Bruns Building and Development Corporation as a Construction Engineer and Developer.