

Family

I ran into a stranger as he passed by, "Oh excuse me please," was my reply. He said, "Please excuse me too; I wasn't watching for you." We were very polite, this stranger and I. We went on our way saying good-bye.

But at home a different story is told, how we treat our loved ones, young and old. Later that day, cooking the evening meal, my son stood beside me very still. As I turned, I nearly knocked him down. "Move out of the way," I said with a frown. He walked away, his little heartbroken. I didn't realize how harshly I'd spoken.

While I lay awake in bed, God's still small voice came to me and said, "While dealing with a stranger, common courtesy you use, but the children you love, you seem to abuse. Go and look on the kitchen floor, you'll find some flowers there by the door. Those are the flowers he brought for you. He picked them himself: pink, yellow and blue. He stood very quietly not to spoil the surprise, and you never saw the tears that filled his little eyes."

By this time, I felt very small, and now my tears began to fall. I quietly went and knelt by his bed, "Wake up, little one, wake up," I said. "Are these the flowers you picked for me?" He smiled, "I found 'them, out by the tree. I picked 'them because they're pretty like you. I knew you'd like 'them, especially the blue."

I said, "Son, I'm very sorry for the way I acted today; I shouldn't have yelled at you that way." He said, "Oh, Mom, that's okay. I love you anyway." I said, "Son, I love you too, and I do like the flowers, especially the blue."

If we died tomorrow, the company that we are working for could easily replace us in a matter of days. But the family we leave behind will feel the loss for the rest of their lives. We pour ourselves more into work than to our own family. Is it wise?

Do you know what the word FAMILY means?

FAMILY = (F) ATHER (A) ND (M) OTHER, (I) (L) OVE (Y) OU!

(Source: 30 Days to Taming Your Tongue Workbook By Deborah Smith Pegues)



COVID-19 Led to a Surge in Stillbirths, Maternal Mortality and Depression Globally

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a negative impact on pregnant women and their infants, suggests a global review of studies. According to the review, stillbirths and maternal deaths seem to have increased by nearly one-third, as per pooled data from 40 studies across 17 countries. Additionally, there has been a six-fold surge in ectopic pregnancies from January 2020 through January 2021. The number of women reporting symptoms of depression had also increased, and the rates of maternal anxiety were also found to be high. Researchers from St. George's University of London figured that several of these problems may be associated with a lack of access to healthcare during the COVID-19 pandemic. The findings have been published in *The Lancet*... (CNN)

COVID-19 Vaccine Rollout Very Slow in Europe, Cautions WHO

The regional office of the WHO that covers 53 countries and territories has expressed concern that the COVID-19 vaccine rollout in Europe is moving at an unacceptably slow pace, while new cases continue to rise among almost all age groups. Most countries have registered a spike in COVID-19 transmission over the past week, with 1.6 million fresh cases and around 24,000 deaths reported. New cases are increasing in all age groups, except in the 80 and above age bracket, thus pointing to early signs of the impact of vaccination, stated the UN agency. Dr Hans Kluge, the WHO's Regional Director, stated that vaccines seem to be the best way out of the pandemic, and are very effective in preventing infection. According to Dr Kluge, till the time vaccine coverage remains low, public health measures will have to be implemented to compensate for the delays... (UN)