

Christians in the World

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My October 2014 blogs
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What masks do we wear?

October 27, 2014

When my grandson was preschool age, he became fixated with Batman. I made him a Batman cape to go with his Batman mask. He wore them everywhere – to the bank, to the grocery store, to the neighbor's. When he went to kindergarten my daughter had a hard time separating him from his Batman identity. He wanted to “at least” take his cape and mask to school in his backpack “just in case” he was needed. He became a super-hero when he donned the mask and cape.



Halloween is here. American adults spend \$3 billion each year on masks for themselves. For one day, or one event, people become someone else; they hide behind the image of an alter-ego, keeping the real-them hidden beneath the fake face.

How many of us are hiding behind a mask? Perhaps not fabric or plastic, but a mask created by our vocations, money, athletic prowess or good looks? What about the mask of parenthood? Or the mask of being a Christian?

What happens when circumstances force us to remove the mask? Is our identity so tightly bound with our alter-ego that we forget who we really are? When we build our realities based on our masks, we do everything we can to maintain that reality. In spite of our best efforts, most of us will lose at least some of our masks. In the process some will lose a sense of who they are. We've all seen them: the dried-up athlete, the overweight prom queen, the retired executive, the empty-nester.

There is a solution to the mask. Even though we will continue to wear them, our priority should be to become the person God wants us to be. Nothing – not disaster or loss of job or loss of physical attributes – will change the person God created. Wear your mask of worldly identity if you must, but keep your real face the one God has created you to be.

Praying for clarity in identity and self-worth this week. Just wondering what was the last mask you gave up for God?

Regina

I want to do great things for God!

October 21, 2014

I want to do great things for God.

I want Him to entrust me with a major mission, or some special task. Imagine leading the Israelites to battle, or being given the instructions for the Temple. How about if I become the next Billy Graham, or the person responsible for lighting the flame that brings our country back to Christ?

Instead I am stuck with a huge imagination and an ordinary life.

I was reminded in church Sunday that God uses us in our everyday circumstances. Moses was a has-been prince running from the law and working at a dead-end job for his father-in-law. Then one day God called him from a burning bush and his life changed forever.

Moses listened to the voice of God. Sure, a burning bush is kind of hard to miss, but he could have shrugged it off as an optical illusion or a flight of his imagination.

How many times has God tried to talk to me and I have ignored Him, moved on to the next thought, or told myself it was “just my own thought.” How many times have I failed to listen, and therefore did not do what God had planned? Is any command from God too small?

Not all things are clear in their greatness. A kind word spoken to strangers may keep them from making a decision to end their lives. A card sent with love perhaps reminds the isolated that they are not forgotten. There is no difference if it is God’s voice that prompts your deed, or simply your own mind telling you it is a good thing to do.

My pastor’s message was finished with these words, “Let God be God. Trust Him. Have faith in Him. And most of all, remember that your life is not over.”

I may not be the next big Christian miracle, but my light is still important. Praying for victories this week, for me and for you.

Regina



TOUCHDOWN!

October 13, 2014

Touchdown! In case you live on some planet other than Earth and are unaware, this is football season. From about September through November life revolves around an oval leather ball and well padded players racing up and down a field.

In spite of the apparent chaos, there is one thing these players know: the goal. And players cannot reach the goal without two things: good coaching and practice.

In spite of my overall boredom with all things that happen in cold weather, there is a lesson here for me. Christians need to know the goal. Really know it. My goal is have a relationship with God. God is my coach.

The second thing I need to learn from the game of football is how to reach the goal. Just as with anything, it takes practice. I don't imagine making touchdowns is an inherited skill. It takes practice.

Walking with God is not an inherited skill. It takes time in prayer, bible study, watching others in the faith, and pushing beyond what you think you can do.

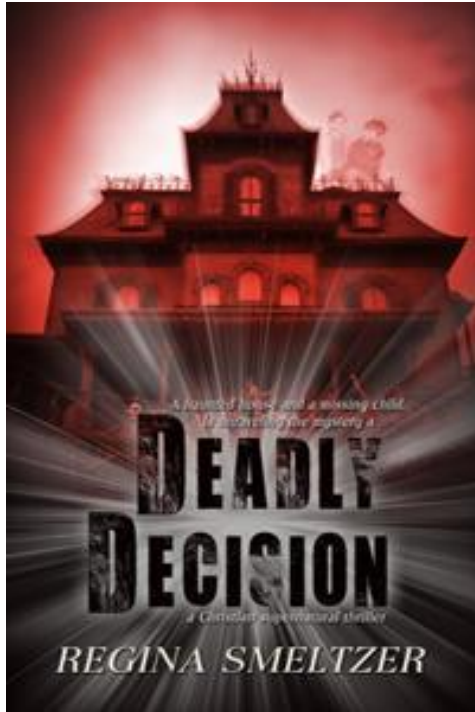
My two sons both played football in high school. Nothing stood in the way of practice. Practice was almost a sacred duty. Not rain nor sleet nor a family reunion could stop practice. They were focused on the goal: to win.

I know my goal, but how many times do I let distractions keep me from "practice?"

Let's pray this week for a personal TOUCHDOWN!

Regina





I have a book coming out October 31st!

October 8, 2014

I HAVE A BOOK COMING OUT OCTOBER 31ST!

The reality is just now hitting me. It is kind of like having a baby, I suppose. You carry the being within you forever it seems, and then, suddenly, there he or she is for the world to see. Of course all babies are beautiful. Not so, books. I admit to fear, a sudden and unexpected nervousness now that the world is going to see what was contained within me for so long.

WHAT IF no one reads it?

WHAT IF it is read and hated?

WHAT IF I get critiques that tell me not to quit my day job, and I have already quit?

WHAT IF?

Why did I write Deadly Decision? Was it for praise, or money or fame?

Honestly, I can say no to all of those. I had a concern about the paranormal and today's society, and a novel seemed the best way to share the burden.

I have to let go of the fear. Prayer has covered the entire writing and publishing process, and I have to trust that God will get Deadly Decision in the hand(s) of those who need to read it: the mainstream Christian.

If you have prayers to spare this week, share them with me. In spite of knowing in my head that God is in control, the jitters are still here. WHAT IF...

Regina

Speaking your faith through your actions

October 1, 2014

This past week I went to the flag pole at the Darlington Middle School and stood with my grandson. There were about 30 of us, students, teachers, administrators and janitors all holding hands in prayer.

As I gripped my grandson's hand I wondered what he was thinking. Cars streamed behind us, unloading students for the day of classes, and there he stood, a witness to his faith. Two junior high boys read scriptures on prayer as we stood linked as one.

The youth pastor who led the group said something that stuck with me. He told the youth, "You need to speak your faith in your school. We cannot do it. We are not allowed, but you – you are, and it is up to you to make the difference."

The students heaved up heavy backpacks and headed toward the school building. I had expected students; I had not expected so many school personnel willing to stand shoulder to shoulder with the youth in a profession of their faith. As the doors closed behind the students, I knew they would have adult champions inside those walls that refused to permit the message of Christ.

I will pray for those adults, as well as the students who have to struggle in an ever-growing faithless society.

Regina

