

The North Fulton Marriage Newsletter

Volume 3 – November 2009

God made you and God loves you...

Our daughter started preschool in August. She is in the “older two’s” class. We dropped her off on the first day: No crying, no fussing, no separation anxiety. My wife tried to give her a hug goodbye and she gave my wife the stiff arm, as if to say “I’m good mommy, time to play, please leave.” She attends preschool two days per week which gives my wife a much needed break. I get to drop her off in the mornings before heading to work. I love it. Simple pleasures. She is already learning new things at school. We have tried to reinforce good manners with her, but her preschool teachers have taken manners to another level. We are hearing a lot of “No thank you’s, please’s and you’re welcome’s” around the house now. She has also begun reciting a precious prayer they have learned before eating. The preschool sent out a flyer to parents which listed “spiritual concepts expected of two year olds.” I was fascinated by this list because it was so simple and yet so very sweet. Among those concepts that struck me were “God made you” and “God loves you.” How wonderfully straightforward and reassuring. Spirituality and religion can both become so complicated. I wish adults could keep it that simple: “God made you and God loves you...” When I first began writing these newsletters, now two-and-half years ago, my motivation for writing was to use the newsletters as a marketing tool. I think the newsletters have served, and continue to serve, that purpose. However, over time my motivation for writing has evolved. It recently occurred to me that I am writing these newsletters for my daughter. The newsletters will be archived and she will be able to look back over and read them as she gets older. How cool is that? A working journal of your father’s personal and professional life. Many of you may have heard of the late Randy Pausch, author of the book, “The Last Lecture.” Mr. Pausch was a professor, who when diagnosed with cancer, began to prepare his “last lecture,” which eventually became a book. My wife read the book and we both watched parts of his actual last lecture, entitled “*Really Achieving Your Childhood Dreams.*” At the end of the lecture given at Carnegie Mellon University in September of 2007, he revealed who the lecture had been written for. It was not written for his audience, it was not written for himself, it was written for his children. Powerful. Mr. Pausch, a father of three little ones, died of pancreatic cancer in July of 2008.

At this time, I am perfectly healthy (no worries) but I have also realized that much of what I do now, personally and professionally, is done for my daughter. What greater motivation could there be? Not money, nor power nor influence nor superficial success. Nothing, in my opinion, can trump the blessing of a parent-child relationship. As you proceed through your life and specifically through your married life, remember this: Your spouse is or was someone’s child. Treat them as their parent would want them to be treated. I forget this sometimes myself, always good to have a reminder. And, when times get tough for your marriage, remember that God made you and your spouse and that God loves you and your spouse. Allow this to be a straightforward reassurance throughout your life together.

If you would like more information about the last lecture, log on to www.thelastlecture.com to learn about Randy Pausch and the living legacy left behind for his wife and children.

John H. Pruett, Jr., MS, EdS, NCC, LPC
Founder & Owner
Georgia Professional Counseling Center, Inc.
[Locations in Alpharetta & Peachtree City](#)

Georgia Professional Counseling Center, Inc.
602 Abbey Court, Alpharetta, GA 30004
www.licensedtherapy.com
Phone: 770-656-9711