



601 North Center Street
Shelbina, Missouri 63468

Inspiring a Safety Update!

January 17, 2024

Dear Fox Creek Friends,

A young father was on the roof dutifully cleaning the chimney of his home when he realized he needed to head into town. He scurried quickly down the extension ladder and zipped right off. He would be right back. But not soon enough.

His toddler son was playing outside and had seen Dad working. He seized the chance to “be like him”. Older sister saw the situation unfolding and ran in to get her mother. Mom emerged immediately in panicked distress for her little boy in precarious peril atop the roof peak. Compounding the risk was her lifelong fear of heights, which froze her in terror on the ground.

Providentially, the little adventurer eventually descended the ladder unharmed. But not unchanged. This mortifying mayhem inspired a new Safety Rule in their family: “Leave no ladders up when you leave.” That awareness traveled with Dad to his job as a carpenter and home builder for decades.

I’ve met many such young “explorers” in my parenting ministry. So, how can you ever hope to restrain, constrain, or confine that overpowering, energetic trait in a child? Long answer: you don’t. Do not wear yourself out trying to either. Take that God-given energy and curiosity and ask the Lord to help you train and refine it instead.



Stan and Deb Moore became wise parents, and their young son, Kirk, developed a healthy risk assessment mindset. And all while becoming highly skilled with tools and machinery at a young age. His young spiritual toolbox began to develop in adolescence through the coach of a rival baseball team who was also a local minister. Although Stan coached against Preacher Dan, they became great friends. Dan Butcher and his church elders believed in entrusting young people with the chance to serve in the Kingdom. In Jesus' eyes Serving= Leading. Good call, Coaches!

Dan's love for Shiloh's ministry sparked him to bring his church to work at Shiloh 33 summers ago. By the time he was 18 years young, he was appointed as Foreman for their trips to Shiloh. Between Stan, Dan and Jesus, he had acquired some amazing servant and leadership skills.

During a summer work group at Shiloh, teenaged Kirk decided he wanted to be a Shiloh Homeparent someday. Nineteen summers ago, he married a beautiful girl from his church. Five months later, Denna and Kirk became Shiloh Homeparents. For as much as Kirk wanted to emulate his Dad, he took a job with another carpenter's Son. He works for Jesus.



“As we watch kids grow, it's awesome to watch them want to do things. To try new things. To learn new things,” Kirk observed. What about the risks? “Tools are amazing things when used right by trained people. When used wrong or by the untrained, they can be dangerous.”

He continued, “As a Dad working around the house, some projects take longer. After I use a drill or a saw, I unplug it...because I've got kids who want to 'be like Dad'.”

“I want kids who are ladder climbers and drill picker-uppers,” he mused. “Those same kids who used to follow me around...now show up and can grab them out of the tool trailer and start working with them.

[Storyteller's confession: This story about Kirk is actually inspired by a middle school boy from Shiloh who I decided not to embarrass. He has many of Kirk's “adventurous” traits. I've known for years not to leave tools where he can find them. Then I remembered Kirk's “ladder to success” and started having projects for him to work on with me when we're together. He is building on his successes.]

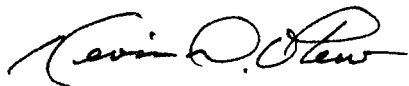
You've read this so far and I haven't asked you for anything. Yet. I was building up to it. This year, I'm boldly inviting you to give joyfully to help us reach more young hearts for an eternal home.

To keep "building" physical and spiritual homes for young people, I am asking for you to give to Shiloh. Your donation adds another opportunity for Homedads like Kirk to share their heart and skills to a young child, by teaching them to use a tool and sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

I'm also asking you to partner with us just as joyfully in prayer for every aspect of Shiloh every chance you get. We are so blessed by your monetary gifts, but for us to truly build Christ's Kingdom we will always cherish your prayers.

Thank you for sharing your love and gift with our Shiloh Family!

Your Kingdom Partner,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kevin D. Blew". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "K" and a stylized "B".

Kevin D Blew

Your gift is very much appreciated and fully deductible as a charitable contribution. A copy of our latest financial report may be obtained by writing to Shiloh Christian Children's Ranch, 601 N. Center Street, Shelbina, MO 63468 and 573-588-2191. Shiloh Christian Children's Ranch was formed in Missouri. If you are a resident of one of these states, you may obtain financial information directly from the state agency:

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