

JESUS AND THE SECOND GRADE TOURS

Today (Thursday) Lucerne Valley Market and Hardware was invaded. Not by aliens from outer space, although it might have felt like that at times, but by 48 or so noisy, chattering, still adorable second grade 7-year-olds.

This is an annual tradition. The entire second grade comes to our store to take a tour.

A tour of what, you might ask. I myself ask that. All I see is my everyday landscape of aisles, shelves, merchandise as far as the eye can see; I see floors and walls and dust bunnies and glass doors that inevitably need cleaning; I see cool stuff and boring stuff and opportunities for more stuff. (Really?? More???) The back rooms are just, well, back rooms. The baler is just a baler, kinda old, hangin' in there, doing its job.

I guess you have to look at it all through the eyes of a seven-year-old to understand their excitement at taking this tour. And maybe remember your own viewpoint at age seven, if you can remember back that far. Anything new and different was exciting. We could make anything funny by our childish code, bringing looks of patronizing tolerance from our oh, so clueless parents and other adults around us.

We start the tour at the front of the store. Brilliant, don't you think, to start at the beginning? The children obediently line up against the east wall of the store on the porch, and we meet them with our assigned tour guides who break them up into smaller groups for easier management. You've heard of herding cats, have you not?

Two cash registers are set aside for them, in training mode, with a few items and a step stool so they can scan the items and see how the register records them. Since I have no adult to help me handle my 12 cats, I assign the first boy Simon to be in charge of the front of the line and a little girl named Danica to be in charge of the end of the line. They line up around the checkstand and each one gets to scan two items, so that they now

qualify as cashiers. (If you come in and are waited on by a seven-year-old child, you might suspect that it really WAS a training, we are desperate for help, and we have no regard for child labor laws.)

After the checker training, the line traipses through the beverage box – ooh! Cold! Shiver! Marching down aisle 1, we enter the back room and watch how the baler crushes boxes to prepare them for recycling. Then through the forest of soda pop stacks to the produce prep area, into the produce cooler with its mixed “aromas” of cold cabbage, bell peppers, other veggies, and cold, wet floors, and then out the second door to learn how to use the time clock. You'd think that clock was alive, because my group seems afraid of it, jumping back at the startling BZZT sound as the clock records their time.

We climb the stairs to the break room to look out the windows over the whole store, walk through the back office to meet the gals who do the paperwork, down the stairs (HOLD ONTO THE HAND RAILS!), and through the produce department where I ask them to identify some items. Butternut squash was a mystery to most, but one boy shyly told me it was a squash. Well done!

Around a couple of corners and we come to the BIG walk-in freezer where they squeal at the cold, and come out at the other end in the meat department where Mark shows them how he cuts and packages meat. Then out the door, around two more corners, and we see the big ice cream storage freezer (ooh! Ice cream! Are we going to have ice cream?). And finally, we enter the deli cooler through one door and exit the other door into the deli department, where Pat is waiting with, yes, their ice cream!

Their excitement is infectious, and it causes me to take another look at things, through their eyes of innocence and pleasure at simple stuff. It can change perspective if we let it. We can get so burdened with the issues of this life, so focused on problems and solutions to serious questions, that we lose sight of the good, the beautiful, the wonder-full things that childish eyes still see.

One of those good things for

sure is these little ones themselves. They are still innocent, very curious, full of questions, but already learning our adult behaviors that aren't so attractive. I look at them and wonder what kind of family they have, if any. Is there a father? Is the mother focused on raising them right or focused on having her own good time? There is a sadness to these encounters, as one cannot help but consider what kind of future these kids face, what they will become, and what chance they have of dodging the bullets of self-indulgence, or drugs, or having babies because their friends do. Are they growing into a dead-end life? It makes me want to hug them and protect them from all that.

Jesus loved little children and seemingly they loved Him. They flocked around Him enough that the disciples tried to hold them back to keep them from pestering Him. He spoke of their innocence and of our responsibility to them, with harsh words for any that would lead them astray or harm them in any way.

“Jesus called the children to him and said, “Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.” (From Luke 18)

“But when the chief priests and the teachers of the law saw the wonderful things he did and the children shouting in the temple courts, “Hosanna to the Son of David,” they were indignant.

“Do you hear what these children are saying?” they asked him.

“Yes,” replied Jesus, “have you never read, “From the lips of children and infants you, Lord, have called forth your praise’?” (from Matthew 21)

“If anyone causes one of these little ones—those who believe in me—to stumble, it would be better for them to have a large millstone hung around their neck and to be drowned in the depths of the sea. (Matt. 18:6)

If you are like me, you have an image of Jesus as a blondish, blue-eyed, white-nighty-wearing guy floating along 6 inches above the ground, speaking in monotones. But try to picture Him with these seven-year-olds – laughing



Let the little children come to me and smiling, tickling and playing with them, maybe chasing them, and certainly sharing their wonder at the marvelous things they see. He is a guy full of life and spizz, a strong guy with an air of authority, Who says uncomfortable things to us adults and challenges us to give up our self-centered lives and commit our lives to His Father. We'd either love Him or hate Him.

How would you respond to Him?

Linda Gimmel

ON THE PORCHES AT THE STORE

SAT, March 4, 8A-2P, BAKE SALE, by L.V. Assembly of God Church. Raising funds for food ministry and women's group.

SERVICES AT CROSSROADS CENTER

LUCERNE VALLEY MARKET & HARDWARE 248-7311

WASH N SHOP COIN LAUNDRY 248-7311

FIRST MOUNTAIN BANK 248-2717

DR. ASHOK MELVANI M.D. 248-1070

ECHO RECYCLING 760-617-5407

On the north side of the store.

AT THE SERVICE COUNTER In the store

• COPIES • FAX SERVICE
• PACKAGE EXPRESS -- UPS only
• PAYMENT STATION SCE, Frontier & Verizon

PRESCRIPTION DELIVERY 242-4900
Rancho Drugs – Tues. 11AM, Wed. & Fri. 3PM

ECHO RECYCLING
760-617-5404

On the Northeast side of the parking lot.

Open Mon. - Sat. 9AM - 4PM

Closed for Lunch Noon to 1PM.

Closed Sunday

New! Special Prices

Aluminum CRV **\$1.80/lb**

#1 Plastic CRV **\$1.19/lb**

Offer and pricing good thru Mar. 8, 2017

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

LVEDA Meeting

(Lucerne Valley Economic Development Association)

TUES. MARCH 7, 5 PM.
at the Senior Center

- Update on Sunshot Initiative for our proposed community energy project.
- LVEDA's work on the Scenic Hwy 247 campaign and requested moratorium on industrial-scale solar projects.
- Status of Assemblyman Obernolte's state legislation to allow hauled water.
- Local crime stats and enforcement issues.
- Determine the most important projects from LVEDA's long-term work list and coordinate with the MAC.

L.V. School Board Meeting

Thursday, March 9, starts at 5:30PM.
At the Alternative Education Center,
8560 Aliento Rd up Highway 18.

Household Hazardous Waste & E-Waste Collection

Saturday, March 18, 9AM to Noon. Behind the fire station. Free disposal of household hazardous waste (Antifreeze, Auto & Household Batteries, Motor Oil & Oil Filters, All Paint, Pesticides & Fertilizers, Household Cleaners, home-generated Needles in approved container, Computers, TV's, Microwaves, Fluorescent Bulbs, CPU's, Printers, Clothes Irons, Cell Phones & Telephones, Space Heaters, Stereos, Radios, VCRs & DVD Players, & Musical Greeting Cards. Behind LV Fire Station, 33269 Old Woman Springs Road. For info call 1-800-OILY CAT.

e-mail address: Market.Hardware@lucernevalleymarket.com
website: lucernevalleymarket.com

LIMITS & MULTIPLE PRICING

Please, unless otherwise indicated, **ON AD ITEMS NO MORE THAN 6 TOTAL (including all flavors or varieties) OF ANY ITEM, PER FAMILY, DURING THE AD PERIOD, AT THE SALE PRICE**, except in produce and meat, which are limited to normal retail quantities, or which carry limits specifically stated. Sorry, we must reserve the right to further limit or refuse sales.

ON MULTIPLE PRICING, when purchasing items in quantities more or less than the multiple stated, the register is built automatically to charge the "each" price times the quantity. (Example: Price of item is 3/\$1. The price of: one = 34¢, two = 68¢, three = \$1, four = \$1.34, five = \$1.68, six = \$2.00).

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SEE <http://thenewlight.net>