

Holding the Key



Monday morning, as we made the final preparations for the arriving Vacation Bible School students, I asked Sandra to unlock the pantry. We hurried to the door and she slid the key into the lock – but it wouldn't turn. She jiggled the key several times, then laughed and explained that she had to remember to turn the key slowly, because whenever she tried to rush or force the key, it wouldn't work. So she turned the key slowly and the door opened. With a smile, she suggested there was a lesson to be learned there– and I warned her that she had provided us with this week's bulletin insert!

We've all been there, haven't we? We're so sure we have the key to the door, the solution to the problem, and yet as we shove the key in the lock and bang our shoulder against the door, nothing happens. Our impatience impedes the process. We push so hard that the pressure keeps the key from turning properly. We blame it on the condition of the lock or the weight of the door, but it's really about how we're using the key. It is only when we take a moment to think about how it should work – to pay attention to our own conduct, to consider the other person in the conversation, to reflect on the proper attitude for prayer – that we can make progress and open doors.

Throughout the week, we strove to teach the children that belief in the Lord provides them with the key to everlasting life, but we also discussed with them the responsibilities of good discipleship that go along with the joy of being God's children. As they go forward to be “bizzy bee-lievers,” we pray that they will hold the key firmly but use it gently, to make their lives and the lives of those around them richer, happier, and filled with the love of Christ.

Let's all endeavor to do the same in the days ahead, to hold our keys with faith and joy, and to open doors with love and forgiveness, that we may all move forward together and draw closer to the Lord.

“Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message.”

Colossians 4:2-3