

CONSIDERING OTHERS

It's not always an easy thing to make decisions that place others ahead of ourselves, but given the words of Jesus to do just that (Philippians 2:3-4), it is an important habit to cultivate.

My daughter, Aveline, is five years old, and we are purposefully teaching her this trait, along with many other valuable ones. Last week, she displayed a beautiful example of this thoughtfulness and uncomplaining sacrifice during a quick stop at the grocery store.

As we entered, Aveline said that she would like to get a treat for her dance teacher to take at class that afternoon. I encouraged her to choose something she thought her teacher would like. My daughter has a good eye for these things! We came across some nice cookies, and Aveline was excited to get a package to share. "I can get one for my teacher, and one for me!" she said.

Given the cash I had in hand, and the other needed items we had stopped for, there was only enough money for one package of cookies. When I told Aveline this, she said she would just get them for herself. I then asked her what God would want her to do. She immediately responded, "Get them for my teacher." She then put the cookies in the basket with a smile, and hopped on down the aisle without a complaint – ordinarily a difficult thing for a child to do in such a situation. It was Aveline's joy later that afternoon to give this treat to her dance teacher, along with a note of thanks she had written.

Friends, would you give your "one package of cookies" to someone else for their enjoyment or need, leaving you with nothing that you desire or crave? Isn't that level of consideration of others exactly what we are called to do? For my daughter, the joy of giving outweighed the sweetness of what that package held. How about for you?

BUILDING NEED UPDATE

We are so grateful for those of you who have committed to pray and give to help us find a space in which to grow! It has been a real learning experience to search for a proper building.

We found a spot in December that we were pursuing, but as we prayed and things developed, it proved not to be the right place for TEP. We continue to trust that God will lead us to a good building and provide everything that is needed.

Would you continue to pray with us about this building hunt, and how you might be able to be a part of helping TEP find a good home? We are blessed by your generosity!



Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.

Philippians 2:3-4

THE BOOK DROP REGISTRY

There are many ways to support The Encouragement Project, and to be a part of our Book Drop efforts. For some, that might be cleaning out your kids bookshelves and donating outgrown books. Or perhaps it's planning and running a book drive at your school or in your neighborhood. It might even be sending a financial contribution for us to purchase books for the kids we serve.

We now have a brand new way you could share the gift of reading with kids in need. We have just set up a "Custom Gift List" registry on Amazon. Most of the selections on the list are sets of books, so each purchase can help multiple kids.

- ➔ Go to "amazon.com"
- ➔ Select "Find a list or registry"
- ➔ Type in "The Book Drop" and select "Custom Gift List"
- ➔ List title "The Book Drop/TEP"



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www.theencouragementproject.org

serve@theencouragementproject.org

678.951.6235

PO Box 452 ~ Alpharetta, GA ~ 30009