
Prayer

Posted by Levenax - 2008/05/05 10:03

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk/7381542.stm>

I have the greatest sympathy for all parents of missing children and one can only imagine the torments that they must suffer. This week is first anniversary of Madeleine McCann's disappearance and there have been requests for everybody to pray for her or her safe return. As a non religious person I find this strange. If there is a god and he or she is omnipotent, omniscient and loving why did he or she allow an innocent child to be abducted and why hasn't the child been returned safely especially after the millions of prayers that must have been said for her? I know that the term "mystery of faith" covers a lot of dodgy things but I'm really perplexed by this one.

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Re:Prayer

Posted by LYDIA REID - 2008/05/05 10:40

It is a difficult subject, and the explanation for this needs a more intelligent and knowledgeable person than I am.

I can tell you how I feel.

When I lost my youngest son my anger at this non-existent God knew no bounds, and it lasted for years. Fortunately intelligence wins the day and I eventually realised that we have free will. We are given all we need to follow a good life, to live a good life, but we are human as are doctors and scientists and murderers and people who steal very precious children like Madeline McCann.

God cannot and does not want to control our every action he gives us guidelines, a framework to live by, and then trusts us to follow.

I suppose it is a bit like we as parents give our children a moral example to live by and then trust them to live by it. We are not with them every minute of every day so we cannot control their actions.

If we blamed him for everything then I would say he was the reason my oldest son got cancer or the reason my Dad died as young as he did, or the reason a man would abuse a child. I do not believe that is the case.

I believe we as humans have caused many of the huge disasters that effect man and we as humans must try to do better.

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Re:Prayer

Posted by Clare - 2008/05/05 16:30

Levenax wrote:

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Hi Lev. I don't understand why this perplexes you. Madeleine's parents were the ones who neglected her and left her and her siblings alone and unprotected while they went out. Even if we don't believe in a God all of us know the world is now a very dangerous place for children. I don't blame God for what happened to her, I blame her parents because for all they wail about how they are suffering the one who paid the real price is Madeleine. Did you hear Kate McCann saying how she didn't understand Maddie's question, "Why didn't you come when we were crying last night?" Can you explain to me why a woman, who is also a doctor, didn't understand? That question was asked on the morning of the day Maddie was taken so even tho she had asked a huge question of her mother, her parents STILL went back out that night and left their kids alone. God didn't do that Lev, her paprents did.

As for prayer I could give you many examples of when prayer has taken me through tough times, really tough times. I could tell you tales of astonishing results too. I know I have seen God working Lev, honestly, but I respect your own right to do your own thing.

We can look at the world sometimes and say why did God let that happen? But you know man runs the world and its us who have made a complete mess of it. Money, power, greed, they have all played their part even to the point where various religions fight each other. That's because they are affected by the pitfalls too, some bigtime, and they get caught up in the temptations out there too. I wouldn't call myself a religious freak. I love humour, I like people and not just those who share my faith, I like politics, I like to debate, I like to socialise. But I'm glad I have God in my life because I think it would be empty without Him.

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Re:Prayer

Posted by woodysdad - 2008/05/05 18:54

All prayers are answered.

But sometimes the answer is "NO".

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Re:Prayer

Posted by scunnert - 2008/05/05 19:00

Aye - Ah've been gettin a lot ae that answer lately.

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Re:Prayer

Posted by DavieDites - 2008/05/05 19:35

I saw somebody on another forum who had a postscript that ran something like:

I used to pray for a bicycle. Then I realised it didn't work like that. So I stole a bicycle and prayed for forgiveness.

Sorry for the levity ...

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Re:Prayer

Posted by Clare - 2008/05/05 20:25

DavieDites wrote:

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Sorry for the levity ...

:laugh: I've seen that one too.

=====

Re:Prayer

Posted by LYDIA REID - 2008/05/06 07:54

I have to disagree o the subject of the McCanns Claire

I watched their documentary and I believe why they found Maddie's question so hard to understand is because she had been checked on so often.

Would you have said the same if they had used a professional baby listening service which is available in many holiday resorts.

These parents felt at ease it was such a quiet resort and decided to be a baby listening service between them.

Personally I would not have left my children but neither am I a perfect person I have made many choices as a parent through ignorance or being in a hurry or for all sorts of reasons that I now regret. If we are all honest we have all made bad decisions as people and as parents we just don't get punished in the way that Maddie and her parent have.

Re:Prayer

Posted by Levenax - 2008/05/06 10:05

LYDIA REID wrote:

I have to disagree o the subject of the McCanns Claire

I didn't see the programme but although I was critical of the McCanns at the time for what seemed to be neglect I now realise that what they did was make an assumption that went disastrously wrong. Their daughter is probably dead and it looks as if they'll have to live the rest of their lives being tortured by the guilt and the horror of imagining what happened to her. As a parent I've done things that were wrong and that I now regret. My son ended up in hospital because I left a bottle of his medication where he could reach it when he was a toddler. He was OK, but I felt really bad because of my stupidity and carelessness and I still squirm at the thought of it. That same event could have resulted in his death - but I was lucky and the McCanns weren't

Re:Prayer

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If we are all honest we have all made bad decisions as people and as parents we just don't get punished in the way that Maddie and her parent have.

Lydia,I have thought long and hard about the McCann's part in all of this and I will never change my view. They took their children on holiday and the left them unattended, unprotected and vulnerable in a foreign country.

They took turns to go back to the apartment every so often yes but when you are talking about three children of 3 and under that isn't good enough Lydia. Ultimately those children were alone in that apartment, an unlocked apartment I understand. Domestic accidents can happen at home even when parents are present. Maddie was an active four year old. She could have been out of the door of the apartment or anything during the periods when her parents weren't doing their "checks".

Madeleine had herself asked the really important question that morning, "Where were you when we were crying?" On holidays I've seen many parents out in the evenings with huge buggies containing two children, maybe even three at times, all conked out sleeping, but they were safe and they were with their parents.

Yes we all make mistakes but every parent I know who has talked about this felt that leaving kids of that age alone was completely irresponsible.

I am sick of hearing about the McCann's and their suffering. The person I still think of every day is Madeleine because SHE is the one who suffered here. I hope if she is alive then its because someone took her to bring up as their own daughter. If someone took her for any other reason then I hope she is dead Lydia because it doesn't bear thinking about. There are wicked, evil people in the world who prey on helpless children and Portugal allegedly is part of that

network Lydia. Those two left their kids at the mercy of such sick people because it was too much trouble to take their kids with them or take turn about remaining with them.

Re:Prayer

Posted by Levenax - 2008/05/07 00:25

I still feel you're being a little harsh. This case hit the headlines because the McCanns had the resources to generate the publicity. A consequence of that publicity was an intense scrutiny of every aspect of their actions, inactions, characters and their well heeled lifestyle so obviously something they did was going to attract negative comment. Mr McCann came over as unsympathetic and cold and his nasal whiny voice didn't help. His wife looked odd to many observers and she was tinged with that well off veneer that the underclass don't like. The result was that the gutter press had a feeding frenzy. Unfortunately only The Express and its spastic sister The Star eventually got shot down for their disgraceful behaviour.

Dozens of other kids disappear without trace and we know nothing of it. When I was on holiday in Sicily in April I saw two different posters just like the McCann ones in different towns with pictures of bonny wee lassies who had vanished without trace a year or two ago. It happened at the other end of Europe, the parents may have been poor or ill educated and so it didn't make the news.

Re:Prayer

Posted by LYDIA REID - 2008/05/07 08:48

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All that knowledge is with hindsight Claire, it is only since Maddie that we now know how involved Portugal is in the abduction of children.

I have huge concerns about the reliability of the first police officer who ran the case. I wonder at his involvement.

I must admit to being a totally neurotic mum when mine were small always worrying over their health especially. When I took them on holidays I was still with their Dad and I would not have left them. I did do other things though.

Things that when I look back I think how could you?

My oldest son was asthmatic from birth and sometimes during the night he was up and down so much. One night when he had a temperature I had given him junior disprin, they used to come in blister packs. I was so tired when I eventually got him to sleep that I put these under my pillow meaning to move them in the morning.

I was a child minder in those days and had a toddler the same age as my second son as well as the two I had.

Upstairs as far as I was concerned was just as safe for them to play.

My second son went under my pillow removed the disprin and opened a whole packet. When I saw this I flipped, ambulance hospital, total panic.

After a blood test confirmed what he told me I realised he had been putting each one on a spoon just as he had seen me do, adding water but of course each time the little pill had washed off and down the sink. He had managed to take only one.

There were though 11 in the packet.

Can you imagine what could have happened if he had just eaten them, I still do. I had nightmares.

Trying as hard as I could I was not perfect and I am still not, I don't even wish for perfection, how hard would that be to live with. We just have to try as hard as we can.

I do though try to be understanding when people make wrong decisions because some of mine were not that great.

I believed long before the documentary that these people had felt safe in this resort. If they had felt this area was not safe I do not believe they would have left their children.

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Re:Prayer

Posted by LYDIA REID - 2008/05/07 09:02

Levenax wrote:

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Levinax

I think your assessment of this case is spot on.

I like to think that if nothing else the new alert system may help children like Maddie.

It is strange though how determined her mum is that she is still alive. Like Claire I have some not so Godly thoughts about if she is still alive. If someone has her I hope it is as a child to love and keep as their own and maybe one day she will be old enough to find her way home.

My nephew moved to Holland at age four and he still has vivid memories of his family life in Scotland, he is over thirty.

We don't know anything, and I think that must be the terrible torment for her parents. I often think though what a lifetime of terrible nightmares for one bad decision.

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Re:Prayer

Posted by Clare - 2008/05/07 10:55

Wow, I didn't realise that this was a "class" thing created by the "under-classes" who are simply jealous of the McCanns and are being mean to them when all they did was leave three children of under four alone in an unlocked apartment while they went out.

Personally I didn't call it along class lines. I just saw two very selfish, irresponsible parents whose daughter had actually questioned their behaviour herself on the morning of the very day they repeated the pattern and left her alone with her siblings, yet again! "Where were you when we were crying last night?"

Lydia, there has been knowledge of Portugal's role in international paedophile rings for some time. But even if that knowledge didn't exist it is surely the most basic rule of good child care not to go out and leave children alone. To excuse that horrifies me. I accept some newspapers crossed lines but ultimately the McCann's ARE responsible and I cannot find any sympathy for them. We aren't talking about a situation where they had to rush out urgently for some reason. They went out to dinner and by all accounts this seems to have been the regular pattern. They chose not to use the babysitting service available also. I think they were grossly negligent. I think most people do.

Re:Prayer

Posted by LYDIA REID - 2008/05/07 16:35

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Well I really did not know about Portugal and members of my family went to Portugal the year before Maddie went missing and although like me they would not leave the children I think they would have had second thoughts about going just because careful as you are you cannot have your eyes on them every second. Ours were old enough (10 and 12) for instance to go to kids clubs.

I have a feeling we must agree to disagree on the blame issue. I also feel that even if I were to blame them absolutely they and Maddie have paid the ultimate price for anything they have done wrong.

They will spend their whole lives in torture unless they get her back.

If they got her back tomorrow their lives will never be the same again.

All they can do now is pray for forgiveness and do what they are doing now, spend their lives looking for her, just in case she is still alive.

If they have the same God that I know he will forgive if their request is genuine.

Re:Prayer

Posted by Clare - 2008/05/07 21:10

LYDIA REID wrote:

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No Lydia, only one person paid the ultimate price and that was Maddie. Maddie was also entirely blameless.

Don't put their grief in the same category as her suffering because it doesn't even come close. She was the helpless wee girl. They were the parents who, it has already been stated, chose not to use a babysitting service and went out and left their three children alone and unprotected. And not just once either, it was the routine.

And if they truly want forgiveness then they are going to have to admit that their neglect of her and her siblings was to blame for what happened to her.

Whether one is aware of what goes on in a foreign country or not the very idea of leaving those children for them to go out to dinner in the evenings is disgraceful, reckless and utterly irresponsible. This is not an "Oh it could happen to anyone." situation. The vast majority of parents would not dream of doing what they did. I repeat, their daughter asked them that very morning, "Why did you not come when we were crying last night?" Out of the mouths of babes eh? Yet STILL they couldn't stay in that evening, or take their children with them. So if they're in torture Lydia its probably because they should be.

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Re:Prayer

Posted by Martin - 2008/05/08 07:14

Clare, where's your charity? Where do you get the proof that this was the norm?

There is none. The only reason we know that Madeline was crying that morning was because the McCanns told this to the police and they maliciously leaked it to the press to divert attention from their on incompetence. The McCanns were NOT out the previous evening when Madeline was crying. It was a nightmare!

To say that they are not suffering or that their suffering in unimportant or deserved is so cold it really does not sound like you.

It's true that they made a disastrous misjudgement. However, it's not as if they left their kids in a room for hours and went out and got blind drunk. I don't hear the same venom being directed at the Northern Irish couple from last weekend who didn't even have the decency to face the consequences of their action in a family court, but instead ran away home!

The McCanns at least were very close by and went back to the room on a regular basis. I'm not saying that what they did was entirely right, but it wasn't as heinous as you're making out. The restaurant is in the same complex. It's not so different as staying in a hotel and using the dining room while the kids are asleep or would you not do that either?

I rally wish that people would hold their rage for the lowlife who took her once the truth comes out.

Re:Prayer

Posted by Clare - 2008/05/08 10:39

Charity Martin? For whom, these two "parents"? Are you serious? When goodness knows what that child is suffering you ask me where is my charity for them?

And, where did you get the "It was a nightmare?" bit. It wasn't a nightmare, it was a question a little girl asked that was clearly connected with her parents being absent at a time when she and her siblings had been distressed.

And NO, NO, NO Martin it is NOT all right to leave children alone like that so stop saying it is. It isn't! I am sick of hearing people playing it down. Parents are urged to keep an eye on young children even when they're at home with them. How many die in domestic accidents? So please stop making out that they did nothing wrong.

And I will keep saying they should suffer because it is their fault Madeleine paid the ultimate price. I am SICK of hearing about their suffering. Children are now a target for the many sick people in the world Martin. All the more reason why going out and leaving them alone, especially in a foreign country, is utterly irresponsible.

I would condemn the other couple you mention too Martin for they showed the same blatant disregard for their children's safety as the McCann's. They were just fortunate nothing happened to any of theirs.

Re:Prayer

Posted by Clare - 2008/05/08 10:43

Oh and Martin, I have plenty of rage for the "lowlife" who took Madeleine, believe me. But I wish those who defend the irresponsible parents who left her vulnerable to and defenceless against such people would stop making excuses for them.

Re:Prayer

Posted by LYDIA REID - 2008/05/08 11:05

Clare wrote:

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Claire

one of the reasons I do not judge other people in this situation is that we were not there, for instance with the Irish parents. It seems from another news report that the mother does not drink much and took ill.

Her husband took her to the health centre and left the children in the care of the hotel. They left the health centre to pick up the children and social services had taken them into care.

I am very suspicious of all systems in Portugal and how they would use any British child to make a point. If they had thought these parents were totally incapable through drink do you believe they would have returned the children. Incidentally the health centre in Portugal backed the parents story, it was all there in the records.

A councillor from Ireland who knows this family well confirmed the mum did not drink and that this was a good and normal family.

Could this have been another story set up by portuguese police.

The reason they left so quickly was they were frightened they would seize their children.

In there situation I too would have left.

Is this a case for not allowing yourself to believe all you hear in the press.

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Re:Prayer

Posted by LYDIA REID - 2008/05/08 11:20

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Clare

I believe the charity bit comes not from the fact that people do not have an absolute fear and horendious anger at what happened to Maddie, believe me this little girl is the centre of prayers still daily for many people. The Charity bit comes in when you consider that no matter what the situation that happened one year ago it cannot unfortunately be changed.

Don't you think these parents live in torment, don't you believe this mother is praying and asking daily for forgiveness. What they are doing is trying their best, living their lives in the media spotlight, and trying to repair the damage they did. They are trying to make it better for other children, at the same time as trying not to lose hope, and trying to find her.

I do feel some charity for them. I do not and never will trivialise what has happened to that child or what may be happening to her right now. Nor do I think I would do what her parents did, but I am human enough to know that I am not dead yet, and try as hard as I do, to live a good life, how do I know what mistakes I will make before I die.

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Re:Prayer

Posted by Jamrie - 2008/05/08 13:24

Clare, as far as I am aware it was not normal practice for the McCanns to leave their children while they go out to enjoy themselves, this apparently was a one off.

I am really surprised at your total lack of sympathy towards the McCanns, I personally can't even begin to imagine what they have been going through, not knowing if their child is alive or dead.

Yes, of course it was their fault, and I am sure that they have said a million times over "If only". If only we didn't go out that night, if only we booked into another resort, if only we didn't go on holiday, and probably many other if only's.

You will probably call me old fashioned when I say that I lay the blame squarely on the shoulders of the evil scum who abducted their lovely daughter. Why is there very little said about these despicable ba....ds?

Portugal, along with Austria and the Czech Republic were the only countries within the EU that didn't feel the need to keep a record of all known paedophiles and child molesters. That has since changed since Maddies abduction, and now all countries within the EU have to submit a record of those who fall into that category, to the European central data-base which is now kept by Europol and Interpol, so at least one can say that some good has developed from this unfortunate incident.

Re:Prayer

Posted by Clare - 2008/05/08 15:14

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Yes, of course it was their fault, and I am sure that they have said a million times over "If only". If only we didn't go out that night, if only we booked into another resort, if only we didn't go on holiday, and probably many other if only's.

You will probably call me old fashioned when I say that I lay the blame squarely on the shoulders of the evil scum who abducted their lovely daughter. Why is there very little said about these despicable ba....ds?

Portugal, along with Austria and the Czech Republic were the only countries within the EU that didn't feel the need to keep a record of all known paedophiles and child molesters. That has since changed since Maddies abduction, and now all countries within the EU have to submit a record of those who fall into that category, to the European central data-base which is now kept by Europol and Interpol, so at least one can say that some good has developed from this unfortunate incident.

Jamrie

It has been established that it was a regular thing for the adult group to go out for dinner and leave the children in the apartment.

Oh its Portugal's fault now is it? Because they didn't have records that there were paedophiles and child molesters who may be about its their fault that no one told the McCann's it might not be a good idea to leave their three children unprotected, alone and defenceless? God, I've heard it all now!

How DARE you say some GOOD has come from this. How can you say such a thing given that Maddie is the one who paid the price? And to dismiss it as an "unfortunate incident" is absolutely breathtaking also.

There is no reason to say, if only we hadn't gone on holiday, if only we hadn't gone out at night. Nothing stopped them from doing any of those things. But they could have taken their children with them as lots of parents do, in buggies, where they inevitably fall asleep. Asleep they may be, but those parents know their kids are safe, the same as parents who use baby sitting services do.

I have nothing but contempt for those who seek to abduct helpless little children and you will find condemnation of those people everywhere. Yes they are evil, of course they are evil, but all the more reason for parents and adults who have children in their care to be alert, responsible and the true guardians of those children by ensuring they never leave them

in a situation that is a dangerous one and a threat to their safety. The McCanns did that. Maddie had to live with the consequences of it.

Re:Prayer

Posted by Jamrie - 2008/05/08 16:47

Good grief, you certainly take things out of context.

No Clare, I didn't mean that Portugal is to blame, how absurd, all that I was doing was following up your post when you said that Portugal is allegedly part of the child abduction network. That is the reason why I mentioned about the authorities there not keeping records of known paedophiles and child abductors. If they did perhaps they might have been better prepared. It's no secret that their investigations have been a complete disaster.

Yes, tragic as this case is I will dare to say that because of Maddie's abduction, countries are at last beginning to work together and perhaps their efforts will prevent this ever happening again, which in my simplistic mind can only be a good thing.

I find it rather sad that you don't agree.

Re:Prayer

Posted by Clare - 2008/05/08 17:01

Jamrie wrote:

Good grief, you certainly take things out of context.

No Clare, I didn't mean that Portugal is to blame, how absurd, all that I was doing was following up your post when you said that Portugal is allegedly part of the child abduction network. That is the reason why I mentioned about the authorities there not keeping records of known paedophiles and child abductors. If they did perhaps they might have been better prepared. It's no secret that their investigations have been a complete disaster.

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I find it rather sad that you don't agree.

And every potential danger to a child is likely to be listed yes? Actually, no, they aren't. There are still unidentified dangers to children everywhere. The vast majority of these monsters indulge in their activities secretly. Countries can only do so much and ultimately parents are the ones I would expect to take no risks whatsoever with their children.

I don't know how I took your remark, that something good has come out of this, out of context. Given the very high price Maddie paid I don't think the phrase you chose was a particularly apt one.

Most of all I remain horrified that the people some wish to keep defending are the parents in this situation.

I will leave it at that.

Re:Prayer

Posted by Jaimekens - 2008/05/12 11:03

Because as parents we make all kinds of mistakes.. and.. decisions that made sense at the time .. but in hindsight..were disastrous. Such as leaving my kids with my hubby while i went to work... and getting a call to come home... and.. the rabbit was over loved...(because.. he is not as good at judging what the children will do...:S so many things to consider..) and.. the time.. my living room got flour puffed...(2 days to clean up that one...in every nook n crannie!)needless to say.. i am very careful how i plan my exits and how my children will be tended with the hubster!!!:blink: and the time i went to

the pottie.. and my toddler wandered out...and...made a sugar beach in my kitchen...(within seconds)
(I am no more perfect.):blush: Lord help us! Forgive as He forgave us!!! Life is so unpredictable!:) Its what keeps our eyes glued to the road... for what jumps out in the middle of the night.. or the curve in the road!
Who knows the motivation.. but they are forever going to live with this mistake.. it will never leave them. No amount of jail will touch what they are feelin inside their hearts. The brokeness.. and the what ifs.. The hole in their heart.. the... not knowing.. Thats the worst part. Whatever happened to their little girl... they are living with a LIVING hell. The kind that eats you up from the inside out. Its the consequence of their actions as a parent.. Jail wont touch their mind. They will be dealing with it the best they can.. and forever be looking.. forever be replaying those moments... forever be seeing reminders that jog up memories of their little ones.. such as seeing another person's child.. or a favorite food she ate.. a flower that she liked.. a song will play.. children etch their ways into our hearts.. and those moments are locked in.. and... they are going to be locked into a human heart jailcell with those memories.. a mental torture.

Yes.. it was stupid. But, I think they understand that. They can no longer go back and redo.. hit replay.. make aright.. Im sure they wish they could 1000 times a day, everyday for the rest of their lives.

I remember a wreck where the gal killed her best friends... and.. she lived. The mental torture is.. a little bigger than you or I could do with our words...or with prisons.. It completely changes a person.. its the life changing moment that stops a person in their tracks...the defining moment. Unfortunately.. sacrifices are made before eyes are really opened up. Would your eyes not be open to the danger of trains and cars had not a person you knew died to them... A deeper connection to it.. than had it been a stranger.. sort of like the invincibility factor. Some of us.. feel THAT safe.. and would never consider anything happening to us such as that.. 'not in my town...' 'never imagined it ever happening here'...

Not that I condone what they did... but.. I have felt those feelings before.. of feeling safe enough.. on a scale of 1-10 in certain environments to give up your guard for a few moments.. as when your children have imaginary borders.. and you begin to give them the trust factor... like when you are pumping gas... and debating whether you can leave them or not in the car...(just an example) There are many a moments.. Letting them cross the road.. Letting them out of your sights... My three year old constantly tries to test my boundaries.. she wants independence she wants her own way.. she wants to do HER thing.. HER way. There are still some trust factors with her and HER capabilities as a child compared to my son.. at that age.. She has been pretty good about staying home and not wandering off but, as my other daughter has taught me.. there will be a day.. when she will simply walk away and go as far as she can... I did it. I did it in the care of my babysitter.. HER BACK WAS TURNED and i walked all the way home.. at three or four. I wanted to change my clothes after I had an pottie accident. Thankfully I lived to tell the story.. even through the beating I got later....dry:

It wasnt okay. But, worrying about it wont change what happened. And what happened to her or where she is.. You can no more control that as they can.. and.. that will be determined in a later date.. and the parties will be judged. Lots of missing children get taken each day. Even in their own homes! There is definitely sickness.. and.. its unfortunate. Life is very fragile. And it teaches me.. to rethink and tighten up that rope a bit..Unfortunately..at a cost. But also.. you cannot live and define yourself as living in the lockroom. Somewhere you have to have a balance..and that is what is so foggy.

Im sure public retribution hasnt been easy either.

What happened to Maddie.. is very sad and.. I pray that she is safe. Until we know for sure.. I will always remain hopeful.

=====

Re:Prayer

Posted by Clare - 2008/05/12 11:34

Jaimekens

I think the way you write is lovely when you are talking about your children.

As for the other subject yes I know about forgiveness, really I do, but these two really are something else. I read just this morning that they have only got through this last year by "not blaming each other".

Stuff happens I know even when you're at home with kids. That's what makes their decision to leave three of them under three on their own all the more incredible to me. That's when the "Its all very well with hindsight" argument infuriates me. It doesn't take hindsight to know that children of that age shouldn't have been left by themselves. And then they have the gall to say they've coped by not blaming themselves! In all honesty I think this alone is what has turned so many people against the McCann's Jaimekens. I think had they taken FULL responsibility from the beginning people would have viewed them in an entirely different way.

Madeleine McCann paid the ultimate price. I think about her still and I wonder, "Has someone taken you to love as their

child?" and of all the possibilities I hope that's what has happened. For all the other possibilities are too horrendous to contemplate.

Re:Prayer

Posted by LYDIA REID - 2008/05/12 14:37

Clare wrote:
Jaimekens

I think the way you write is lovely when you are talking about your children.

As for the other subject yes I know about forgiveness, really I do, but these two really are something else. I read just this morning that they have only got through this last year by "not blaming each other".

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Madeleine McCann paid the ultimate price. I think about her still and I wonder, "Has someone taken you to love as their child?" and of all the possibilities I hope that's what has happened. For all the other possibilities are too horrendous to contemplate.

Personally I think if more people put the same effort into finding Maddie as they do hating the McCanns she may be found by now.

It is the only reason I contribute to the discussions because to keep it in the media for whatever reason, to keep people talking for any reason, may very well find her.

It is all that is left that matters.

Re:Prayer

Posted by Clare - 2008/05/12 15:48

Lydia, I have not at any time said I hate the McCann's. Never.

I am not in a position to go and try and find Maddie. What I can say with absolute certainty however is that had she been in my care she would not have been left alone with her younger siblings in order to allow me to go out to dinner with friends, not for twenty minute periods, not for TWO minute periods. Had I done such a thing and seen the same thing happen to a child in my care I can assure you that the very LAST thing I would be telling myself afterwards was that I was NOT to blame.

Re:Prayer

Posted by LYDIA REID - 2008/05/12 23:06

Clare wrote:

Lydia, I have not at any time said I hate the McCann's. Never.

I am not in a position to go and try and find Maddie. What I can say with absolute certainty however is that had she been in my care she would not have been left alone with her younger siblings in order to allow me to go out to dinner with friends, not for twenty minute periods, not for TWO minute periods. Had I done such a thing and seen the same thing happen to a child in my care I can assure you that the very LAST thing I would be telling myself afterwards was that I was NOT to blame.

Their are times when I think it seems that way.

I did not actually mean that particular remark personally to you.

I have though often read so much which is clearly total dislike of this couple. So very few people think about the fact that they themselves are not perfect.

When my son's were small I was thought hard as a mother, when I would state things like "who knows how my children will grow up" "if they will do wrong things".
I was proven right my sons are and were beautiful people but they were not perfect. That does not mean that I love them any less that I would not give my life for any child of mine it just makes them normal.
If they did anything wrong I would love them anyway despite their faults and I am sure they felt the same. I am reminded of a reflection I took a copy of which I will copy to you

Compassion and healing

Compassion is not learned without suffering.
Unless we have suffered and wept,
we really don't understand what compassion is,
nor can we comfort someone who is suffering.
Unless we have walked in darkness,
we can't help wanderers to find their way.
But if we have suffered we become pathfinders for others.
And it is by reaching out to others
that we ourselves are healed.
Jesus bore the marks of our violent world on his body.
These wounds were proof of his love.
They were the mortal wounds of the Good Shepherd
picked up in caring for his sheep.
The wounds of Jesus are a source of consolation,
courage, and hope to us in our sufferings.
By his wounds we are healed.
Flor McCarthy, SDB, New Sunday & Holy Day Liturgies.(YrA)

So many members of the public spend so much effort writing so many nasty comments about the McCanns I think, I wonder if those same people have ever spent that same amount of time e-mailing even one poster or starting one text message to help that little girl.

These methods are the only way she will ever be found if she is still alive.

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Re:Prayer

Posted by Jamrie - 2008/05/13 12:42

You are quite right Lydia, unfortunately it seems that the World is no longer a compassionate place.
A quick glance at some at of the papers regarding this story will show you that those who care about the plight of others are in the minority.
Instead of concentrating on finding Maddie, it seems that the tables have turned into blame the parent's fest.

Everyone knows that it was the parents fault, but why go around pointing fingers.
If a child drowns in a paddling pool, do you rush up and blame the parents because they took their eyes of the child for a minute?
If a child dashes out in front of a car and is seriously injured whilst the parents are window shopping. Do you tell the police that the parent momentarily neglected it?
I for one certainly don't.

Parenting is never easy, and bringing them up is a constant worry. I've done my best, but I know that I have made many, many mistakes; mistakes that still make me cringe just thinking about it. Just like Lev, I am also guilty of leaving pills where my kids could have mistaken them for sweets. It's enough to make you come out in a sweat, you constantly say "what if"?

No matter how good your intentions are, mistakes are bound to happen, and some parents will pay the ultimate price just

as the McCann's are doing.

But I will not blame Kate and Gerry McCann, I'm sure that the blame that they are attaching to themselves is more than enough.

Re:Prayer

Posted by Clare - 2008/05/13 14:07

Jamrie the comparisons you make here are frankly ludicrous. This case simply isn't like a child drowning in a swimming pool because a parent looks away for a couple of minutes nor is it like a child running out in the road while a parent's attention is distracted. It was about parents going out for dinner and leaving three children all under three ON THEIR OWN! GOT THAT? The example you quote from Lev isn't comparable either so please will you try and focus on the real point being made?

My compassion is for Madeleine and as I stated earlier I think many more people would indeed have more compassion for her parents if they weren't still coming out with quotes like the one yesterday about how they have only "coped" with the last year "by not blaming each other."

And I would repeat Jamrie, that the McCann's didn't pay the ultimate price, Madeleine did.

Re:Prayer

Posted by Jamrie - 2008/05/13 15:14

The examples I gave, no matter how ludicrous you find them were just to show that in both the cases the parents are to blame, but no one is actually pointing a finger.

In the McCann's case as I have already mentioned, everyone knows that it was their fault, they also know that it was their fault, yet still there is this relentless McCann bashing and finger pointing.

Yes we know, and they also know that they are guilty of leaving three children on their own, (you don't have to shout) but what is the point of mentioning it in every post other than to run down the McCanns.

Yes I still have a great deal of compassion for the parents, but naturally my main concern is that their daughters well-being, and I pray that she will be found soon.

Re:Prayer

Posted by Clare - 2008/05/13 21:44

Jamrie wrote:

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NO Jamrie, in the examples you gave the parents were THERE, and in those situations a child can move in seconds into danger. They are entirely different situations from parents going OUT and LEAVING three children under four ALONE which is what the McCann's did. Why can you not see the difference? For the difference is huge.

And I wasn't shouting, I was just trying to emphasise the root of all of it Jamrie. If they hadn't left those children alone Maddie wouldn't have been taken. And I will say again, it made me want to throw up reading their quote in yesterday's paper that they have coped by not "blaming each other". So you see Jamrie, they don't accept they're to blame, that

quote yesterday proves it.

Re:Prayer

Posted by LYDIA REID - 2008/05/14 00:18

Clare wrote:

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I believe you said it yourself Claire they are not blaming each other that does not mean they are not blaming themselves and how are we to know what thoughts they have privately

That is I imagine a way of supporting each other.

Re:Prayer

Posted by LYDIA REID - 2008/05/14 00:28

Jamrie wrote:

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No matter how good your intentions are, mistakes are bound to happen, and some parents will pay the ultimate price just as the McCann's are doing.

But I will not blame Kate and Gerry McCann, I'm sure that the blame that they are attaching to themselves is more than enough.

You think as I do, I know I set out to be the best parent in the whole world nothing was as important as my children. I

read all the books I could find and asked every question I could think of when trying to decide how to....Like every other parent I know I did stupid unthinking things made wrong choices and cringe when I look back at my ignorance and naivety. As a grandmother I hope I have learned some of these lessons and can pass them on but we really will never know if we have given our best until our children and grandchildren are dead because all the lessons we have taught them will impact on the way they deal with generations to come.

That is life and you deal with it by simply doing your very best, and if you do things wrong you try your best to correct it. When other people do wrong you tell them and leave it at that as they do with you hopefully, another way of learning.

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Re:Prayer

Posted by Jaimekens - 2008/05/14 09:02

Tonight I was reminded of a graduation that will never be.

My dear wee cousin whom I cherished. He should be up there with his 2 cousins ... together as the trio that they once were grown up... He missed his cousin's prom queen the other night... or ..we missed him. I have a soldier boy..who is going to stand up for him in his honor.... my 'other' child who is graduating with my cousins...

When my wee cousin was three yrs.. he got very ill.. his parents believed it to be the flu.. my auntie was torn between a long trip to be with family for Christmas or to stay home with the pukies and poop shoots. It was to be an important trip.. that all the family would be together.. and so hubby offered to stay home and she could go on and take baby tot with her... When we all got wind of him how sick he was... there was a buzz... My auntie phoned home to check up on him.. and he had a turn for the worst.. his daddie took him in to the hospital... She was sick in the heart.. you could see it in her posture and eyes.. My unc.. offered to drive her home.. my ma told me to go with them to look after her baby... Four hours we drove through the night to reach home.. I stayed in my cousin's bed with the baby in the crib.. Later that night.. bout 3 in the morn... BLOOD CURLING cries... came brashening into my sleep... a cry i will never forget. a cry that frightens yer heart. not a panic.. a death cry. like...a guttural shriek... LORD... WHY, OH WHY DID YOU NOT TAKE ME FIRST!!!!????!!!! TAKE ME INSTEAD!!!!!! ITS NOT MY BABY'S TIME...!!!!TAKE ME!!!!????!!!! She came into the room... in the dark with the light of the doorway.. and grasped my baby cousin out of his slumber.. and held him.. and ached.. and just held him whispering in an aching agony... that his brother loved him so..(tears) it hurt me so bad to watch this.. i knew that something was not right at all... never in our minds did we THINK that he would pass away. She just clutched him in agony and tried to come to grips with her loss.. did i mention that she was over five months pregnant? So much loss. Do you think that she did not blame herself for leaving.. oh, baby... we were just trying to keep her alive... and the baby! The loss is more than you can imagine. The holidays.. the house... they eventually moved when they had the money... years, and years later... He was such a precious child... and VERY loved. Telling you this is breaking my heart to bits... but it must be said. for you to know the pain of a grieving mother.. in the best that i can even explain it.. a mother whom blames herself every day. She will be attending that graduation.. and i dont even know if I HAVE THE STRENGTH to watch her pain and what she is dealing with. Time goes on.. but we must cope the best we can with what life throws at us.

She grasped her baby.. as if.. she would lose him too!!!! And just circled the room... in a weak agony. we stayed up all night in tears. and the family finally received word and drove overnight and was home in the morning.. and one by one..(over 50 loved ones..) filed in her tiny home... and grasped her and we all grieved together. And the grief is still there. The small white grave... the christmass of the future.. i always end up there...crying at his stone... that he still loved and remembered even after over 15 years. You never forget.

My auntie had to be drugged just so she could get through the days.. of raising her child and working to the best of her ability... and finally her baby was born.. healthy.. and...she cherishes her babies like no tomorrow... and i do to.

but yet.. we all still make mistakes. we do the best we can. There are over 1000 ways we can end up screwing up each day.. and 1000 ways that they test us too! Just today i lost 2 kids in a matter of seconds.. ready to put an missing child report immediately.. heart skipping beats.. palpitations... one of the older kids had left the back door hanging open.. and i could have sworn baby had slipped out.. but.. then i forgot he went up the stairs to get his sippie cup.. i was all over the place like a mad hen trying to find his little body!!! i live by a highway! i had 5 kids searching.. everyone frantic.. and here he comes.. out the door with his little sippie..:blink:

then.. later on.. it was the 3 year old.. she was playing outside for just a few minutes.. and i was on the side of the house facing her playground digging up a hole with all the kids in view.. and somehow she slipped my radar.. and we are on panic mode YET AGAIN!!! palpitations.... blaming myself.. we were scanning the yard.. and thank the goodness i have children everywhere.. where.. we can cover the grounds quickly!! she comes mosing out of the house.....she had to go pottie.(where is my duh sign..?) Millions of ways.. and yet you STILL have to carry on and do your chores and sleep.. and cook... there are millions of ways each day. I WAS RIGHT THERE WITH HER. I still have to carry on the day.. and get things done.. and..all the while.. she wants to do HER thing.. but, THANK GOD, she didnt leave the yard.. and THANK GOD.. my kids are safe and we got through another day.:blink:

Heaven help me, i dont know how i do it sometimes!!!!!!!!!!!!:blush:

Just telling you of my kids today.. is getting the palpitations going again. Lord, i need a fence. But then again.. i might get too comfortable. I caint tell you.. two days in a row.. and i needed a aspirin by the end of the day.. but by golly, i love them to pieces!!!:)

The blame game.. Honestly.. i cannot imagine the pain that the McCanns feel towards each other over their daughter, but im sure.. that.. to keep the peace in the home front.. for the sake of the children they DO have.. and to keep their marriage intact EACH DAY.. they probably DO need to swallow the anger each day..and some days more than others.. and just forgive. Because that is all you really CAN do.. besides killing eachother with hateful thoughts and ill will...its not a healthy approach at all. I wouldnt suggest blaming either. Blaming is just like worry. Jesus said.. you cannot add one more hour to your day by worrying..its moot. (in so many words):blush: And he said.. to forgive our brothers seventy times seven.. even when they wrong you over and over... he forgave the prostitute.. 'if one of you are free from sin... you cast the first stone..' and not one of them were.. and they walked away. We all make mistakes.. we all sin.. he said that 'hate is just as bad as murder'... he forgave the murderer.. on the cross.. right before he passed.. he forgave him.

to forgive..

he asked us...(Matthew 25(the sheep and the goats))to feed the hungry.. to give drink to the thirsty.. to clothe the naked.. to take care of the sick.. and to visit the imprisoned. and if we did this.. we did it to him. that is one of the first things i learned about Jesus by my grandfather.. grandpa seeked the questionable..the 'unworthy'...the ones that no one would give the time of day.. out of passion for his Jesus! Jesus taught us the beauty of love for one another..not just our family members and friends(because what reward would you get with people who already love you?).. but the most undesirable the broken.. Please.. i beg you... have mercy on them. Let Jesus be the judge of this. For.. its not for our understanding..

and.. thats another reason why i think we need to clean out our prisons and start anew.

=====

Re:Prayer

Posted by Clare - 2008/05/14 16:02

Jaimekens, again I have to say that I love the way you write about your children and the children of others. That last post was beautiful.

I read all that you wrote and I do understand what you are saying, really I do. Your aunt left her baby with someone however, someone was caring for that baby while she was gone. We all know of tragedies that have occurred while parents were with their babies, their children because such things do happen. I know that too. So again, I'm going to say it. The McCann's were not with their children, theirs were alone and defenceless and that is why, for me, it is a completely different situation. I will never be able to see that situation any other way. I do know they will never lose the pain of it and I realise that too but when children are as small as that all they have to look out for them is a mum and a dad or another responsible adult because being alone means there is little they can do to stop bad stuff happening. Those children were alone. What chance did Maddie have? None.

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Re:Prayer

Posted by Martin - 2008/05/14 19:06

Guys, I'm getting very uncomfortable with this McCann bashing. Let's all agree that what they did was wrong, whether a mistake or carelessness or worse and Madeline paid the price. They are also paying a heavy price in grief and worry and we'll agree to differ on whether they deserve it or not. Personally, I would prefer to let God, who knows the facts and has not formed his opinion via the press, judge them.

Can we move on now..... please!

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Re:Prayer

Posted by Clare - 2008/05/14 19:45

Martin I'm fine with that with the exception of one thing. No one ever debated "whether or not they deserve it". No one ever said they did deserve it.

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Re:Prayer

Posted by LYDIA REID - 2008/05/14 20:36

Martin wrote:

Guys, I'm getting very uncomfortable with this McCann bashing. Let's all agree that what they did was wrong, whether a mistake or carelessness or worse and Madeline paid the price. They are also paying a heavy price in grief and worry and we'll agree to differ on whether they deserve it or not. Personally, I would prefer to let God, who knows the facts and has not formed his opinion via the press, judge them.

Can we move on now..... please!

I agree we could all agree to disagree

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Re:Prayer

Posted by Robin T Cox - 2008/05/14 20:45

Clare wrote:

Lydia,I have thought long and hard about the McCann's part in all of this and I will never change my view.

If a poster to Scotsgait is not prepared to change their view based on the discussion, then what is the point of the discussion?

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Re:Prayer

Posted by LYDIA REID - 2008/05/14 21:54

Robin T Cox wrote:

Clare wrote:

Lydia,I have thought long and hard about the McCann's part in all of this and I will never change my view.

If a poster to Scotsgait is not prepared to change their view based on the discussion, then what is the point of the discussion?

I think what we are saying is that through all the discussion we have all sometimes disagreed and sometimes not but your view that the McCanns were totally to blame has not moved. To be honest I think you are entitled to that view but likewise I cannot change mine so when a discussion gets to that point you are not left with much alternative but to say ok you think this, I think that, and so we must agree to disagree.

Mostly because I cannot think of anything else to say that would change your mind, and I know that I won't change mine, and cannot think of anything more to say to you to convince you of my point of view.

I could of course stamp my foot and go to bed in a huff but it hurts a lot when I do that so lets not fall out my feet hurt a lot today, and I still have some letters to write.

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Re:Prayer

Posted by Clare - 2008/05/14 22:20

Robin T Cox wrote:

Clare wrote:

Lydia,I have thought long and hard about the McCann's part in all of this and I will never change my view.

If a poster to Scotsgait is not prepared to change their view based on the discussion, then what is the point of the discussion?

Robin, I have not changed my view because the circumstances of this case will never change either. These parents went out and left their children alone. Those children were aged three and under. It was irresponsible of them and it was also gross neglect.

Based on the discussion how has anything changed? I have heard people go from "It could happen to any of us." to "They will always suffer for the rest of their lives." What about Maddie? The truth is it couldn't happen to anyone. Most parents would not dream of doing what the McCann's did. Others have given examples of children drowning or being run over while with their parents as a way of saying those parents are just like the McCann's. They simply aren't. The McCann's left their children in an unlocked apartment and went out. That is what the McCann's did. You simply do NOT do that to three children of three and under. Their daughter was snatched, taken, abducted and still no one can find her. And now a year later they are telling us they cope by not blaming each other. I just don't get that Robin. I don't think they should each blame the other, I say they are both responsible. Unfortunate, terrible and tragic accidents happen to children, yes. This one, this tragedy, it should just never have happened in the first place. No one should ever have been in a position to go into that apartment and just take a child.

I quite often change my mind during debates. It happens. I am saying on this issue I will not, I cannot. My sympathies are with the wee lassie who said "Why did you not come when we were crying last night?" Whether that was a nightmare or not, she said it for a reason, and it still didn't make her parents stay home that night or take their kids with them. Maddie paid the price.

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Re:Prayer

Posted by Clare - 2008/05/14 22:25

Oh and by the way, I never thought that I would get hell kicked out of my karma for saying that parents shouldn't leave small children alone. Wow! Ah well, never mind. I'll live.

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Re:Prayer

Posted by Robin T Cox - 2008/05/14 22:28

Clare,

Since you refuse to change your view as a result of the discussion, then please explain to me what useful purpose is served by the discussion.

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Re:Prayer

Posted by LYDIA REID - 2008/05/14 22:49

can someone please tell me what the karma thing is all about

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Re:Prayer

Posted by Clare - 2008/05/14 23:24

Robin, I don't think discussion will necessarily always result in a change of view by either side. It does sometimes I accept but on some issues it won't. I think most people would go along with that.

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Re:Prayer

Posted by Robin T Cox - 2008/05/15 07:32

Clare,

However, when one party declares that they are not going to change their mind whatever any other party may say, then that is not a discussion but a monologue. Such a stance puts a complete kibosh on all further discussion, and from then on the party refusing to change their mind is merely repeating themselves.

=====

Re:Prayer

Posted by LYDIA REID - 2008/05/15 10:26

Robin T Cox wrote:

Clare,

However, when one party declares that they are not going to change their mind whatever any other party may say, then that is not a discussion but a monologue. Such a stance puts a complete kibosh on all further discussion, and from then on the party refusing to change their mind is merely repeating themselves.

Normal debate is used by many to form views and that is a healthy conversation, but there are issues that we all feel strongly about. For instance for me I would not change my mind on the issue of vaccinations unless some huge independent research project proved me wrong.

You could not persuade me that abortion is the right way to go, I curl up inside at the thought of any human no matter the age dying. Especially if it can be avoided.

I am sure you have issues like that as well. We are all entitled to our opinion so there does come a point in many discussions where we must just say ok we have all put our point of view and now we must admit defeat and say we cannot change the view of the other person. I think that is healthy too.

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Re:Prayer

Posted by Clare - 2008/05/15 10:34

Robin, if I have repeated anything it is that the principle involved here doesn't allow me to change my mind because the principle hasn't altered. I find it odd that you are having difficulty with that.

It isn't a case of "refusing". What is it you are asking me to do? To say, "Oh ok then, I think it was ok for the McCann's to go out and leave their three children alone?" Are you suggesting that's what should happen here?

I find it interesting that others keep repeating that they won't change their view either but I'm the only one termed a "monologue".

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Re:Prayer

Posted by Robin T Cox - 2008/05/15 10:43

Lydia,

I do agree.

If we have such strong views about issues that we are not prepared to change our mind whatever others may say, the gracious thing to do, having rightly expressed those views, is to admit that we are unlikely to persuade others and to accept that further discussion is unfruitful.

=====

Re:Prayer

Posted by Clare - 2008/05/15 11:29

Robin T Cox wrote:
Lydia,

I do agree.

If we have such strong views about issues that we are not prepared to change our mind whatever others may say, the gracious thing to do, having rightly expressed those views, is to admit that we are unlikely to persuade others and to accept that further discussion is unfruitful.

Gracious??????????? Oh, am I being rude now too Robin? This just gets better and better.

Re:Prayer

Posted by Martin - 2008/05/15 12:38

Guys, can I repeat my previous plea and let's agree to differ and move on.

In an attempt to pull this this thread kicking and screaming back on topic

Levenax, you are asking a question about prayer which is very difficult to answer without going into some very deep and difficult (to explain, not understand) concepts which I am not sure I am qualified to talk to, but I'll try, and I'll try to keep in non faith biased. (No challenge there then!!)

Prayer is a very personal thing to a person of faith. It is the method by which they communicate with their God. It means something different to every individual. Some people recite by rote pre written prayers, some speak to their God in their own words and some believe that if they sit quietly, God speaks to them. Although all faiths believe in a deity (or deity) that is omnipotent, we also believe (s)he gives us freedom of will and choice to lead our own lives. So, we believe he does not pre-ordain everything. However, because we believe we have a personal relationship with him (or her) we hope that he may help things to turn out in our favour. However, in the christian tradition, we believe in "Thy will be done", in other words, we will accept the outcome no matter what. (This is so difficult, trying not to bias this towards Catholic Christianity).

I understand how athiests will not understand this concept as the basis is faith in a deity which they reject, but, in my own clumsy way, I have tried to put the concept in a nutshell. Scholars can discuss tis topic for months on end, but this is the potted version as I see it.

Re:Prayer

Posted by DoricMan - 2008/05/15 12:51

LYDIA REID wrote:

can someone please tell me what the karma thing is all aboutI can demonstrate how to change your Karma, I will click your Karma to give up it one Karma positive, as I think I have been a bit abrupt recently.

One other thing you cannot change your Karma score, and you are limited to a time delay before you are able to use it again.

Keep positive Lydia.:)

Re:Prayer

Posted by LYDIA REID - 2008/05/15 22:30

DoricMan wrote:

LYDIA REID wrote:

can someone please tell me what the karma thing is all aboutI can demonstrate how to change your Karma, I will click your Karma to give up it one Karma positive, as I think I have been a bit abrupt recently.

One other thing you cannot change your Karma score, and you are limited to a time delay before you are able to use it again.

Keep positive Lydia.:)

Doricman

I had intended to say "well I will just click your karma right back thank you" and I thought it said smile, but it does not it says smite, so now I will have to click it a few times to get it back sorry.

I promise I will restore it. I note you need to wait six hours. I assume you do this if you like what the person is saying.

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Re:Prayer

Posted by LYDIA REID - 2008/05/15 22:49

Martin I don't think i could have explained that any better.

Prayer is such a natural thing to a person of faith and I have real problems trying to understand what people do if they don't pray.

That is not a judgement it is a real question. I try to think what happens if something is wrong with say a person that they love and they want it to get better for them or say just now the people of Burma or the children buried in the School in China. How else can a person direct even their good thoughts to others.

What do they say in the private thoughts that every other person must have when they want to improve something.

I truly give respect to every-one's personal belief I don't believe any person has the right to try force a belief on any other person. I don't believe that it does any good anyway. If someone is ready to find God they will. My personal belief is God will find them. He found me but I bet he regrets it his poor ears must be sore.

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