

Contributing to the School and Community – making a difference

INTRO

Wherever we are, we make a difference. By you being somewhere, you're making a difference. But that difference isn't always a positive one. My challenge today is to make sure it is a positive difference... If you've seen anything like CSI on TV, you'll know that you can leave your mark where you've been – it may be a fingerprint, a footprint, DNA and a scent. As I've said before, when I worked as a temp at the medical records at the hospital, nurses would sometimes come in wearing strong perfume. One game was to follow where they'd been (after they'd left!) simply by sniffing the air and following their trail of perfume... Yes, sad but true. But you have an impact on this school, your family and your community.

OPTIONAL CSI VIDEO CLIP – 2mins14

In the CSI clip, they are tracing a bullet and trying to find out what happened at a crime scene. Although the people are no longer there, there is a trace of where they have been and what happened...

CSI Youtube Clip - http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8WMEQj_fKgc (there is an advert for up to 30 secs before this plays so have it cued up or download it as an mp4 video).

SAY

As a Christian, I believe God has changed my life and called me to do good, and be what the Bible calls a 'sweet smelling fragrance' – a trail that people can see and follow and know that it leads to God. This explains all that I do and am. It's not wussy and it's not cheesy, it's led me into some crazy places to meet some amazing people in interesting places.. (2 Corinthians 3.14-15, "...Now he uses us to spread the knowledge of Christ everywhere, like a sweet perfume. Our lives are a Christ-like fragrance rising up to God...")

CORN FACTS

The Bible talks about our lives being like a seed – seed is planted, then there is a time and then there is a harvest, when the seed has grown.

- An ear of corn averages 800 kernels in 16 rows.
- From a seed a single stalk arises that will reach from 2-20 feet
- A bushel of corn contains about 27,000 kernels.
- A pound of corn consists of approximately 1,300 kernels.
- 100 bushels of corn produces approximately 7,280,000 kernels.

- Each year, a single U.S. farmer provides food and fiber for 129 people - 97 in the U.S. and 32 overseas.
- Your bacon and egg breakfast, glass of milk at lunch, or hamburger for supper were all produced with corn.
- Corn is a major component in many food items like cereals, peanut butter, snack foods and soft drinks. In fact it's used in more than 3000 grocery products.
- U.S. researchers have led the way in finding many uses for corn - like in vitamins and amino acids.

So there's this tiny little corn seed which gets planted into the ground... From just one seed, there comes all this amazing stuff. That little seed can have no idea that when it grows into a corn plant, it will produce so much corn that will be used in so many areas across the world. In the same way, every little thing you do is like a seed. You don't know quite what impact what you say and do will have, so make sure that what you say and do is positive and builds people up. Then the 'seed' of your life will make a huge difference. You may not think about it now, but as you get older you will want your life to count. Doing good, making a difference, loving others is the way to do this.

PATRICK HENRY VIDEO CLIP - 6mins58

This is a moving and inspiring story of Patrick Henry from youtube:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-qTiYA1WiY8>

END

The clip and these stories let us know that no matter who we are, what we're like and no matter how small the difference we think we're making, it can be huge. Whether you just smile at someone, take time out to talk, don't stab people in the back with your words or whether you do something huge, it all makes a difference and changes things around you for the better. As a Christian, I believe this is the kind of life that God wants.