

Our Relationships | Feeling pain when they are not right

■ by Melvin Jonkman, MDiv, Chief Executive Officer

My wife and I recently became grandparents. What a joy! We look forward to meeting our granddaughter soon. Our son, daughter-in-law and granddaughter live in California. Skype is great and we can see her changing every day, but I want to hold her, cuddle her in my arms and kiss those chubby little cheeks.

As we have gone through this process, I've noticed something: I love her even though I have not had the chance to meet her. It's amazing how strong those feelings are. She has wiggled her way into my heart and I know that she will remain there and that I will love her for the rest of my life.



Annabelle
Mel will meet her this month

Having become a grandparent, I now have a greater appreciation and a deeper understanding of a verse of Scripture. Genesis 31 tells the story of when Jacob runs away from Laban. When Laban discovers that his family has run off he pursues them. When he finds them, one of the things he says to Jacob is found in verse 43. "The women are my daughters and the children are my children. . . ." Laban considers Jacob's children to be his very own children. While he wasn't the biological father of the children, he loves them and cares for them as though they were his own. I understand his feelings.

Being a long-distance grandparent will not be easy. I will miss spending time with Annabelle. I will not be able to be there for all of the special events in her life. I will miss out on a lot and it will be difficult. However, she will also miss out on a lot because my wife and I are not able to spend time with her. Kathy and I have learned much on our journey through life and it would be ideal if we could share that wisdom with Annabelle. Also, at least from what I've observed, grandparents often aren't as uptight about "parenting" while spending time with grandchildren. Grandparents are often more relaxed and it is healthy for grandchildren to spend time in that environment relaxing, playing and experiencing a blessing that Grandparents can provide.

In our broken world, relationships between parents and children and even grandparents and grandchildren can be fractured and broken. We can lose those relationships that are so meaningful to us. Laban understood the pain of that loss. He didn't like it and pursued what had been taken.

Maybe you've experienced this kind of loss in your life. You've tried to pursue what you lost, but things still haven't worked out. Don't give up. Christ came to bring healing and hope to all that is broken and as we partner with him healing can take place. ■

"We can lose those relationships that are so meaningful to us. Laban understood the pain of that loss. He didn't like it and pursued what had been taken....Don't give up."

If you are struggling with the loss of a significant relationship and would like to talk with someone about it, please call the Center. Our professional staff will walk with you and perhaps God will use that experience to bring some healing to the brokenness in your life.

Article taken from June 2011 issue of *PRESSING ON*, a Publication of Chicago Christian Counseling Center
Chicago Christian Counseling Center has locations throughout Chicagoland and Northwest Indiana

www.chicagochristiancounseling.org
800 | 361 6880 or info@chicagochristiancounseling.org

Promoting health and wholeness through professional counseling, consultation and education from a Christian perspective.