

The Lowedown

An update on the life and ministry of Dave & Jennifer Lowe



Casting Away 2019

A few nights ago, while channel surfing, I stumbled across the Golden Globes broadcast. Tom Hanks was being honored with an award for his lasting impact on the movie industry.

During the monologue outlining Mr. Hanks' long and illustrious career, there were short clips of the many noteworthy films he has starred in, including *Saving Private Ryan*, *Forrest Gump*, *Apollo 13* and *Cast Away*.

The short clip of *Cast Away* showed a scene where Hanks is talking to a face-painted Volleyball he has named Wilson.

If you're not familiar with the movie, the following may be considered a

spoiler alert. In the movie, Hanks is the lone survivor of a FedEx plane crash where he finds himself stranded on a deserted island with only a few salvageable packages, one of which is a volleyball. Hanks



Tom Hanks, paints "Wilson" the volleyball, in the movie *Cast Away*

paints a face on the volleyball and since it is a Wilson branded ball, he begins calling it Wilson. Throughout the movie, Hanks talks to the ball as if it's a real person, even responding to the ball as if it has talked back to him.

This strange dialogue might lead the viewer to conclude that Hanks, being alone on a small deserted island with no human contact, is going mad. But as the movie progresses, it becomes clear that Hanks' dialogue with Wilson doesn't indicate a step into insanity, but instead it's a step to prevent insanity.

Hanks becomes so connected to Wilson that the movie-viewer can feel the anguish as Wilson begins to drift away beyond reach during Hanks' attempted island escape.

As weird as this may seem, I can relate a bit to that feeling of anguish as the ball floats away. Numerous times this past year, we've had to say

goodbye to our boys, and they have had to say goodbye to each other. Each time, there is a profound sense of sadness as we go our separate ways.

Even with amazing technological advancements such as texting and video chat, there still exists a deep longing and profound desire to be *with* the people you love.

It appears that as humans we've been created with a deep need for human connection; our souls long for the physical presence of others.

In our ministry to Young Professionals, we know that this need and longing for connection **IS** the biggest need and challenge that they face. All of the most recent research and our own experience affirms that this is the case. Young Adults are desperately seeking meaningful connections with people who are in their life-stage.

In the past few years, we've positioned ourselves well to minister to Young Professionals by providing Leadership Development, Vocational Discipleship and professional level coaching. Yet a primary need and problem is helping Young Professionals develop significant connections with others.

As we reflect back on the lessons of 2019 and look forward to 2020, we would appreciate your prayers in these areas:

1. Pray for Jen and me to pursue and maintain significant relationships that would feed our souls and encourage us.
2. Pray for our boys to develop deep relational connections with others at their respective academies.
3. Pray for us to help the Young Professionals we encounter forge solid friendships with others that will spur them to continue to walk with Jesus and serve Him wherever they are.

We are grateful for you and your ministry to us. May you be richly blessed in 2020!

Love,
Dave & Jen



Joshua (left) and Jacob pose for a photo before running in the Wobble Gobble 5K on Thanksgiving Day in Philadelphia



Jen and Jacob embrace in August at the beginning of Plebe Parent Weekend