Teaching begins at home

There has been so much on the news about bullying and because of it, so many child suicides. Bullying is so prevalent in our school systems. From what I have read it is brought on by children/adults who are not given the attention from the parents or the parents themselves could be bullies and this is learned in the home. Parents and teachers sometimes don't even recognize the bullying. This is not my platform and I do not intend to make it one but it is one that is close to my heart and when it was brought so close to home this week, it still hurts. It brings back unpleasant memories of my middle elementary school years. I matured earlier than most of my friends and I was called some very ugly names, names that I had never heard but I knew they were not very nice. I can remember wearing a coat even in the hot summer days to hide part of my body from others. I was so very embarrassed and could or would not tell my mother about the harassment. However I have always had a mischievous streak inside and I learned to address the insults. I would get in their face and sometimes, sometimes I might intimidate them. I wish all the children being teased or bullied had a little of that spitefulness in their spirits but most of them are very gentle hearted and instead of retaliating they become self-conscious and ashamed. And, it is almost always impossible to just "turn the other cheek".

Peggy's Take

No two people are alike, some wear glasses some don't, some people are black others are white or red skinned, some have freckles others don't, some have curly hair others have straight hair, we all are different yet we are all the same. We all have feelings and we can be made happy or we can be hurt. Children who bully almost always have reasons they are this way. Some of them see others as better looking, others may come from a good family, they wear expensive clothes and shoes, they have more income, they make really good grades, and this list could go on and on. There are those who conceal a jealousy and this is the way they let it out – teasing and bullying. We are really not very different. If we were to share a friendship I feel that we would have several things in common that would cause us to be fast friends.

So parents and grandparents teach your children that we are all the same even if two people share the name of Saraphena Zuletta Avina, they would not be the same person, and they are still different, just the same name. They may walk with a limp from a birth defect, be larger in size, stutter as they speak, be so skinny their ribs protrude, or be a midget or a giant, but they are still one of their classmates just as their friends are just classmates. Teaching begins in the home with the parents and the hearts of the children are molded into a good person or a resentful, jealous person. This training good or bad remains with our children all through their lives.

This is my special recipe for "Humble Pie" – 1 cup of kindness, 2 cups of sweetness, 3 cups of tolerance, 5 cups of humbleness, 7 cups of self-control, 4 cups of acceptance (1) check yourself (2) pour all self- pride into a colander and sift until only humbleness is left (3) Mix all together with humbleness and zip your lip and pour into a soft heart shell (4) Let pie heat up but not boil over (5) Place in cooler for a cool down and serve with compassion

** Peggy Sims is a life-long resident of Attala County and columnist.*

Shalotta Sharp (standing left), special projects coordinator with Mississippi Coalition Against Sexual Assault, was the instructor on Wednesday, January 31 for area law enforcement officials and officers teaching medical and forensic aspects of sexual assault in the field. The afternoon long training was hosted by Lexington Mayor Robin McCrory and Our House Inc. based in Greenville. Law enforcement officials and officers from Tchula, Lexington Medical Center, Holmes County Sheriff's Department, Durant, Life Help, Greenwood, Community Students Learning Center, Holmes-Humphreys Regional Correctional Facility, Our House Inc., Mallory Community Health Center and Agape Counseling were in attendance, Topics ranging from rape trauma, neurobiology of sexual assault, post traumatic stress disorder and facts/myths of sexual assault injuries. Pictured above, Sharp presents a slide show of male and female genital anatomy to attendees. (Photo by Matthew Breazeale)

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