



LORNA S TAKE... ON BUILDING A WISE FOUNDATION

By Lorna Dueck, host of "Listen Up"



Every year about now, we notice that a persistent colony of ants tries its best to invade our home. We've learned that they cannot cross a thick line of chalk, nor can they withstand the best of pesticides applied properly and frequently. We usually have about a week of waging war, after which the humans finally walk away feeling victorious.

This year, I'm looking with a different set of eyes on these ants – the eyes of my heart – as Proverbs tells us watching ants is actually a Biblical directive, given to us as a caution for life (Proverbs 6:6-8; 30:24,25).

Scientists call the study of ants "myrmecology." They have uncovered facts such as: ants can carry up to 50 times their own weight; nest four metres deep, keeping their home cool in the summer and warm in the winter; adapt to changing environments; and work hard to pull their load. They also know the shortest path to their food source by following a scent trail prepared by those in line preceding them. Yet it's easy for these tiny creatures to lose their way if the scent is interrupted (explaining why the chalk line can distract them).

Thinking back to Proverbs, I can't help but realize that there's a caution in the activity of the ant for all of us to observe: We are easily distracted from the most effective path leading to life. It's a weakness that we all need to watch out for, and it's corrected by finding the path left for us by those who have travelled the way before. That's why living in the 21st century, with a multitude of daily choices, needs the earlier path of the Old Testament wisdom found in Proverbs. That's why parents need to be helping children; and why even the productive, who have travelled the path often, need community to correct them as a chalk line so easily distracts.

"Go to the ant, you sluggard! Consider her ways and be wise..." (Proverbs 6:6). 🐜