

Power of Parents Rally, October 7-8, 2005

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Friday Morning at the Power of Parents Rally

When I first decided to attend the Power of Parents rally on October 7-8, 2005 in Washington DC, I had no idea what to expect – and to be sure, I was not disappointed. Had the rally been last year, cross country travel would have been unthinkable; my then 3 year old son, Ryan, was simply too severe and too sick for me to even contemplate such an endeavor. But after a year of intense biomedical intervention, Ryan has now begun to thrive, and so I decided to invite a friend and go. As a side note, the sad reality is that the numbers in attendance at national rallies will never reflect our true numbers across the world; most of the children are too severely affected for the parents to consider travel for a few days. The reality of autism (what I believe in most cases to be mercury poisoning by another name) has also left many families penniless, teetering on the brink of financial ruin.

I had my sign professionally made at Kinkos. It was glossy and about five feet high. One side showed the Material Safety Data Sheet for Thimerosal - complete with skull and crossbones

and the major bullet points: Neurotoxin, hazardous waste, danger of cumulative effects, avoid release to the environment. The other side read “HEY AAP, PLEASE HELP US SAVE GENERATION Hg” accompanied by a picture of my beautiful son, Ryan, and the following: “Chelation + MB-12 Shots = Cure.” [Note: MB-12 is methyl-B-12 or methylcobalamin.]



Needless to say, we got a lot of inquiries throughout the airport about our signs and the usual question, “They don’t really put mercury in vaccines ... do they?” Of course I was armed with my Unlocking Autism flyers and my friend Tamara had the lab results for her children which showed the dangerously high levels of mercury. Interestingly, while her children do not have autism, Tamara’s older son has tics and the younger son has speech delay [1].

The first part of the rally was in front of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) building in the pouring rain. We shouted several slogans including “No More Lies.” The interesting thing about the rally was that even though it was 9:00 AM, you could not see a single worker anywhere near the Health and Human Services building—nobody working at desks, nobody coming or going. The thousands of employees had been warned and they had all cleared out and away from the windows. We could not see a single HHS employee anywhere.

The next stop was the Senate Capitol building. I kept trying to get in, but no matter how hard I tried, the security guards kept stopping me and asking, “They don’t really put mercury in the vaccines, do they?” and “Well at least there is no mercury in the flu shots they give the Capitol Police and security, is there?”

We heard the Honorable Dan Burton and Dave Weldon, MD, among others. We had the privilege of hearing David Kirby, and I also got to meet some of the parents like Liz Burt, Lyn Redwood, and Scott and Laura Bono who started the fight against mercury before my son was even born. If only “people in charge” had listened to them all those years ago...how many children would have been spared?

In the afternoon, everyone parted to meet with individual Congressman and senators.



Friday Night – the Candlelight Vigil

Well, Tamara and I had flown in from California and we did not want to miss anything. By Friday 7:30 PM the weather forecast was severe thunderstorms and flooding in DC. We decided that even if no one else showed up and even if we could not light a candle, we would go and honor the children. That is what we flew 3,000 miles to do.

When we got to the HHS, we found six other people, who like us, were bound and determined to have the candlelight vigil. It was one of the most special moments of my life. We had the moment of silence, shared stories and somehow managed to keep at least one candle burning for the better part of an hour.

Also, we were watched. There were three police cars and several unmarked cars across the street. There were about ten policemen in front of the HHS building. But in addition, there were about five plainclothes men that kept watch the entire time and were walking around the HHS building, apparently as a security precaution. These men did not appear to be ordinary security guards. At 9:00 PM a police woman approached us and told us that we would have to break it up. Eight of us standing in a thunderstorm—crying and holding candles—and she said—"Move Now!" We immediately complied, four heading for the Metro. The police woman came up to me and said, "Leave in smaller groups. You must disburse NOW. Please do not give me trouble." I apologized and said, "But my friend and I do not know how to get to the Metro." She instructed me to let the others get ahead and gave me directions to the Metro. She told me to lag behind the other three people for at least a block. Of course I complied, but kept in mind: this is downtown DC, at 9:00 PM at night in the middle of a thunderstorm. I think someone has touched a nerve.

Saturday Morning and the Back Door at the American Academy of Pediatrics – 75th Anniversary Convention

Thousands of doctors came through the back door and they did not miss our message, nor did they miss the brave mercury poisoned children who stood with us, drenched to the bone. Many pediatricians quietly supported us. However, one in particular shouted at me, "Don't eat so much tuna next time." And another said, "Go talk to the tuna companies." These cowardly individuals both ducked inside the door before I had a chance to respond. I did say to some of the ruder ones who would not

look at us, "The Truth is Uncomfortable. You will have to face it sooner or later."

The most support came from European media and doctors—many of whom said they gave us their full support. The Italians proudly proclaimed that they banned Thimerosal three years ago. I was interviewed by a major Italian television network, and the reporter said I would be on the Italian news the week after the rally.

Then there was the man in the black suit. He had a camera with a really long lens, photographed us and watched us for the better part of an hour from the other side of the street. He did come over to our side a few times and at one point got about a foot from my face, took a picture and then RAN back across the street. I did not see him again. But he was watching and taking pictures of us the whole time. To the best of my knowledge, none of us ever found out who he was.

By Saturday afternoon I had lost my voice and was completely exhausted. But we boarded our plane back to California, and most importantly, I made it home Saturday night so I would be there for my daughter's third birthday.

I pray that more children will experience the kind of progress my Ryan has made so that they too will have the time and resources to attend the next rally.

Reference & Notes

- [1] Medical Veritas Editorial Staff. Summary of highlights of scientific review of safety datalink information, June 7-8, 2000 at Simpsonwood Retreat Center in Norcross, Georgia. Medical Veritas, 2004; 1(1):64–7. Interestingly, in a meeting convened by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) at the Simpsonwood Retreat Center on June 7/8, 2000, Dr. Verstraeten on page 40 of the transcript stated: "... we have found statistically significant relationships between the exposures [to Thimerosal] and outcomes for these different exposures and outcomes. First, for two months of age, an unspecified developmental delay, which has its own specific ICD9 code. *Exposure at three months of age, Tics.* Exposure at six months of age, an attention deficit disorder. Exposure at one, three and six months of age, language and speech delays which are two separate ICD9 codes. Exposure at one, three and six months of age, the entire category of neurodevelopmental delays, which includes all of these plus a number of other disorders."