

SMALL CLOUD CHRISTIAN SCHOOL PRESENTS . . .

SMALL CLOUD CHRONICLES

"With God all things are possible." Mark 10:27

Winter 2006-2007

Vol. 11, No.2

P.O. Box 650, Wilton, CA 95693-0650

"MORE BLESSED TO GIVE"

Remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how He said, "It is more blessed to give than to receive" - Acts 20:35.

Small Cloud students spent the week before winter vacation learning about the blessings of giving. They viewed inspiring videos and received homework assignments that taught them in a practical way the important virtue of giving. Students were also asked to help those in other countries who are not as fortunate as we are here in America, by giving financially to provide clothing, hot meals, fruit trees, etc., for those persons.

One video the students watched is entitled *Emmanuel's Gift*. Emmanuel's full name is Emmanuel Ofosu Yeboah. Born disabled and poor in Ghana, he became an orphan but refused to beg for his livelihood. Emmanuel wasn't content to live in poverty either. This video told how he was able to rise above his severe physical challenge and become a hero and inspiration to people all around the world. His passion was to help other disabled people. In order to change his country's negative perception of such persons, he learned to ride a bicycle and even rode it across Ghana with one leg. Driven by courage and determination, Emmanuel continues to travel the world and organize help for the disabled.

Amazing Grace was another inspiring video the students watched. It tells about the origins of some of our most treasured hymns. The following is taken from the video cover: "For

more than 200 years these treasured hymns have touched the lives of millions, for they are the most compelling music the world has ever known. These beloved songs were a product of a special union between the Spirit of God and the human heart. They were forged in the real life crucibles of tragedy, pain and overwhelming joy. 'Amazing

Grace' was written by John Newton 25 years after he abandoned his life as an African slave trader. 'It Is Well with My Soul' poured from the broken heart of Horatio Spafford after his four daughters drowned in a tragic

shipwreck. Joseph Scriven penned 'What a Friend We Have in Jesus' after his fiancée drowned the day before their wedding. 'Silent Night' and 'How Great Thou Art' evolved from poems written by an Austrian parish priest and a Swedish pastor in praise and thanksgiving to their Creator. They are hymns that will endure forever."

Without question, the greatest gift man has ever received is expressed in John 3:16, where we read: "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

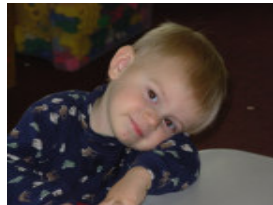
Such love is totally incomprehensible! How could God possibly love man so much that He would give His Son to be

so cruelly tortured and killed by the very people He had come to save! We can never explain it, but we can express our gratitude by reflecting that love to those around us.

Small Cloud celebrated its eleventh anniversary on January 27th. Mrs. Seely and Mrs. Nelson described, from A-Z, what God has done for Small Cloud. For example, "A" is for Adam (the fall of Adam and Eve brought sin into the world); "B" is for "burden" (the burden the teachers feel for educating children in the ways of the Lord); "C" is for "commitment" to the work. The teachers continued through all the letters of the alphabet. "F" is for "faith" (which keeps the staff pushing forward); "J" is for "Jesus" (the center of all true education); "K" is for kids (without whom Small Cloud would not exist); "M" is for the "money" God always provides to pay the bills; "P" is for "prayer" (our always available telephone line to heaven); "Q" is for "quit" (never an option); and "Z" is for "Zion" (the goal we earnestly desire for ourselves and each of our students).

Elder Larry Watts led the newly-formed SCCS choir, who blessed all those who attended with hymns such as "Knowing You," "Just As I Am," and "Dona Nobis Pachem." Our program ended with everyone singing the school's traditional hymn:

"Amazing Grace" (in honor of Mr. Albert Schendel, who allowed Small Cloud to begin in his barn). ■



Stephen Nelson—
no baby anymore!



Ms. Cindy Davis hems
up Kellie's choir dress.

A MOST GENEROUS GIFT!



Brittany



Davey and Andy



Sarah and Skye

A JUGFUL OF COINS!

Small Cloud students recently engaged in a very exciting project. A kind, generous donor had given Small Cloud a five-gallon jug full of coins, asking that the students count out the money. What a wonderful, hands-on math project! According to Megan Petrovich (age 4), "Counting money is good exercise for our fingers!"

It took several hours to count out all that money, which was then placed in large zip-lock bags. Can you imagine how much all those coins weighed? We don't know the weight, but the jug was delivered to us on a dolly. We want to thank Jim and Monika Demarest for taking all the individual bags to the bank for us.

So, how much did all those pennies, nickels, dimes, quarters, and silver dollars add up to? Would you believe they totaled \$1,554.14!



Mrs. Holmstroem and Megan



Paea and Christian



Brittany, Skye, and Elizabeth



Elizabeth and Brittany



Paea and Mrs. Nelson divide out the money while Andie and Christian look on.



Sarah, Skye, and Mrs. Nelson

GIVING

by Sarah (Bairu) Kidane, age 12

If I had a million dollars to give to the world, my first project would be to start orphanages, where orphans could go and feel loved. My second project would be to help the poor. In Eritrea I saw so many ladies with their children lying outside by the churches because the women's husbands had died or were in the army and the women didn't have a way to earn money. So they had to live on the streets.

But not only rich people can give; poor people can also. Sometimes poorer people are more willing to give than rich people. Rich people can get very stingy and not want to give anything away or even share what they have. But there are some rich people who are very generous. The people who don't have a lot of money can give love. Some people may have everything they want except for love, but anyone can show love.

God gave the greatest gift anyone has ever given or ever will—His only begotten Son. Imagine that you had to give away *your* parents, siblings, or anyone else you are very close to—especially if you knew that they would be mistreated and then crucified! God knew that all these would happen to His Son. God knew what Jesus would go through but also that in the end many would be able to go to heaven because of that sacrifice.

The Bible says, "It is more blessed to give than to receive." I agree; because when you give something to someone, you feel good inside. For example, when you give food to people who don't have any, you feel good

because you just gave them something they needed and that they will appreciate. Or if you treat a sick person for free, you feel very happy and so does the person you treated. But people aren't always thankful for what you do to help them, so you just have to be content with the fact that you did your best (if you did). When you receive things, you do not get the same feeling you do when you give.

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SARAH'S ACROSTIC

Sovereign King, abide with me.

Always by my side you'll be,

Reminding me of all You have planned.

Alas, I give myself; here I stand,

Hold me in Thy loving hand.

Be Thou my guide through all of life.

Always strengthen me through life's strife.

In heaven's golden streets I will sing,

Rejoicing for all of my blessings

Underneath your everlasting wings.



A PICTURE IS WORTH A THOUSAND WORDS!



HOME, SWEET HOME

Christian, James, and Skye
peeking out of their
refrigerator box playhouse.



OUR BUDDING VET

Kellie dissects
a sheep's brain

GOTCHA!

Elizabeth and Brittany
show off the duck
they caught



A MEDICAL MOMENT

Brittany and Sarah
practice using a
stethoscope



GIVING

by Kellie Hunter, age 16

Giving is a great thing to do. Sometimes it can be hard. Other times it can be easy to give things away, like when you have had something for a long time and you just want to get rid of it.

I think that one of the hardest things to do is to give away something to someone you do not really like. It



would be a lot easier to give something to your best friend. For example, I had a friend who worked at Bradshaw Vet, and she gave me some half-chaps and a Bradshaw Vet jacket; so I gave her a necklace that I really liked. It wasn't that hard to let it go.

One time I gave away something that meant a lot to me. It was a really cute horseshoe necklace that I bought at Longs for five dollars. It had fake diamonds on it, too. At the time I didn't want to give it away; but now that it is with a new owner, who loves it dearly, I don't miss it that much. I got a good trade for it, so I can say it was worth the loss.

I know a very giving person. If somebody needed twenty bucks, my friend would probably pull his wallet

out and hand over some money. My friend is always willing to give help where it is needed. Sometimes I wish I could be that giving, but I need to work harder at it.

People who are selfish aren't fun to be around. They want everything for themselves. I don't think I have really had a selfish friend, but I know I certainly would not want one.

In 2 Corinthians 9:7 it says, "God loves a cheerful giver." When you give, be cheerful about it. It is easy to be grumpy and sad about giving if you are an unhappy person, but it is also easy to be cheerful about giving. So be happy when you are giving.

God gave us something very special and valuable. He gave us His Son. Jesus was given to us so that one day we can live with Him forever. Jesus died for us. He did this because we are sinful and we need a chance at salvation. God sent Jesus to us to save us. Without that, there wouldn't be any hope.

God wants us to give Him one thing. In Romans 12:1 it says, "I beseech you, therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service." God wants us to give all to Him. He wants us to say, "Lord, here I am; take me; I am yours. Use my life the way you want to use it."

MEET ELIZABETH

My name is Elizabeth, but everyone calls me Lizzie. I am thirteen years old. I like playing my electric guitar every chance I get. The sports I like to play are football, basketball, baseball, and soccer. I also like to



ride my skateboard. I like to draw and make posters in my spare time.

I used to go to Albani Middle School. I liked going there because it was big and had more students than Small Cloud. Albani was more action-packed! The one thing I don't like about Small Cloud is the skirts. I'm a rocker; I don't wear skirts at home.

MEET JONATHAN

Hi! My name is Jonathan Renteria. I am fifteen years old. I am in the ninth grade. Right now I attend



Small Cloud Christian School. Well, what can I tell you about myself. I am active; I like to read; and my two favorite subjects are math and geography. Also, my favorite hobbies are swimming, football, basketball, and volleyball.

I like to try everything I can. In the future I want to be a chef. I am looking forward to opening my own restaurant, hopefully, and creating my own recipe books. I especially hope I can be what God wants me to be.

Editor's Note: Jonathan's brother, Christian, is also attending Small Cloud. Christian is nine years old.