

# The Cobbler

Ephesians 6:15

The Newsletter of the Christian Montessori Fellowship

January 2006

## National Conference 2006

### “The Icon of Faith”

July 27 – 29, 2006

San Antonio, Texas

Mark the dates on your calendar

## Regional Conferences

Honolulu	January 14
Phoenix	January 21
Shreveport	January 28
Washington D.C.	February 4

## New Year’s Revolution

Most of us will want to read that title as New Year’s Resolution but the challenge of the New Year is not resolution but revolution. In your hands you hold two of the most dynamic and revolutionary concepts of life.

Christianity is not a quiet, love-everyone, leave everyone alone “religion”. It is the power of God incarnated in Christ and through Him in us to become the transforming power in the world.

The difference in the power of God and all other demonstrated power (political, military, economic etc) is its gentleness, its humility, its humbleness. And Montessori education is the handmaiden of this gentleness, of this quiet transforming power that is so dynamic, so vibrant, so forceful that it

seems that it can only be entrusted to children. And we as the adults, Moses-like, can only seem to peer into the Promised Land.

You are the revolutionaries, the ones entrusted to bring about the change in our children and in our world. And we do it with the gentleness and humility of Christ (and often with the same misunderstandings of our purpose). Because it is “not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit,” says the Lord Almighty” Zechariah 4:6. Jesus tells us in John 10:10, “I have come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.”

Is there any more abundant life than the life found in the prepared environment? And is there anything more revolutionary?

## The Icon of Faith

### Part 4

God gives us the child as a gift. Not a gift to do what we want with but a gift that shows us the way to our Heavenly Father. Hebrews 11:6 says, “Without faith it is impossible to please God.” And in the child, God gives us an icon, a model of what faith is in its purest and most simple form.

In Matthew 19:14, Jesus says, “Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of Heaven belongs to such as these.” In Luke 18:16-17, He repeats the same words and goes

on to say, “I tell you the truth; anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.”

To begin to understand how the child becomes this icon of faith – this representation – we need to explore what the kingdom of heaven is and how we enter into it.

In Matthew 13:33 the kingdom of heaven is likened to “yeast that a woman took and mixed into a large amount of flour until it worked all through the dough”.

The words of Jesus emphasized the disparity between the yeast and a large amount of flour. The size of the faith of the kingdom (and its power) is out of all proportion to its effect. Therefore faith must be dynamic (dynamite), atomic, even nuclear in the release of its energy. Is not the child small (in our eyes) compared to the pureness and power of his embryonic faith?

What starts off as small (the yeast, the child) eventually releases into its environment (the flour and the world) a transforming power. If the yeast has become deactivated, it does not have its effect on the flour. And if the faith of the child is not nurtured, the faith of the future adult has no power to be God’s dynamite in the world. Power, from the Greek, *dunamis*, literally implying miraculous power.

And the conversion (normalization) of the child holds this very element of the “power” of faith. The power to transform the world. Montessori was not relying on the method to bring peace to the world; she was relying on the incarnation of God into each child to bring His kingdom about.

This icon of faith is the challenge for each of us to become transformed – to become normalized, to become what

God intended for us to be – whole, holy, and wholly His.

## **The Secret of Childhood**

Numbers in parenthesis are page numbers from Ballentine Books edition.

### **28. The Guiding Instincts**

“Instincts that are inherent in a species unexpectedly change their character. Many species will work to build a place of refuge. This tendency is not found in them at other times... Their building activities are directed to preparing a shelter for their young.” (202)

“A creature which has the mission of preserving the species changes its own inclinations and transforms itself as if the laws governing its own life had been for a time suspended and it stood in expectation of some great natural event – the miracle of creation. It then transcends its usual activities and performs what could be described as a rite in the presence of this miracle.” (203)

“The natural laws, which seem to be so absolute and unchangeable, are suspended for a higher good. They yield to the demands of new laws that favor the infant life of the species.” (204)

“Man is a builder, but where does he build a nest suitable for his child? It should be a place of beauty and uncontaminated by any outward need. It should be a place where generous love can store up riches not used for production.” (206)

## **29. The Child as a Teacher**

“As long as children cannot develop according to nature’s norms but suffer deviations, men will always be abnormal. The energy that can help mankind is that which lies within the child.” (207)

“Within the child lies the fate of the future. Whoever wishes to confer some benefit on society must preserve him from deviations and observe his natural ways of acting. A child is mysterious and powerful and contains within himself the secret of human nature.” (208)

## **30. The Rights of the Child**

“From remote antiquity down to our present days education has been synonymous with punishment.” (212)

“A child’s parents are not his makers but his guardians. They must protect him and have a deep concern for him like one who assumes some sacred trust.” (215)

“If workers produce what men consume and are the creators of countless objects, the child produces humanity itself and consequently his rights have still greater need of recognition. It is evident that society should lavish upon children the greatest care so that it may in turn receive from the child new energies and potentialities.” (215)

“As Emerson has observed a child is like the Messiah in that he descends to fallen man in order to lead them back to the Kingdom of Heaven.” (216)

## **What Does Love Mean?**

Out of the mouths of babes

“Love is when mommy sees daddy smelly and sweaty and still says he is handsomer than Robert Redford.”  
Chris Age 7

“Love is when mommy sees daddy on the toilet and she doesn’t think it’s gross.” Mark Age 6

“The next door neighbor was an elderly gentleman who had recently lost his wife. Upon seeing the man cry, the little boy went into the old man’s yard, climbed on his lap, and just sat there. When his mother asked what he had said to the neighbor, the little boy said, “Nothing, I just helped him cry.”

## **Heads of School Seminar**

### **The Ten P’s at the Heart of Management**

Come share three days with other heads of schools. Gain new insights into the challenges of creating the finest schools possible.

January 23 - 26

February 20 -23

For more details, visit us at  
[www.crossmountainforum.com](http://www.crossmountainforum.com)

## Regional Conference Information

**Honolulu January 14<sup>th</sup>**  
**Star of the Sea Early Learning Center**  
**(Meeting in Star of the Sea Social  
Hall)**

**4470 Aliikoa St.**  
**Honolulu, HI 96821**  
**Dr. Lisa Foster**  
**808-734-3840**

**Phoenix January 21<sup>st</sup>**  
**St. Anne Little Flower Montessori  
School**

**440 East Elliot Rd.**  
**Gilbert, AZ 85299**  
**Dee Tamminen**  
**480-603-0322**

**Shreveport, LA January 28<sup>th</sup>**  
**Christian Center School**  
**207 Idema**  
**Shreveport, LA 71106**  
**Mary Cook**  
**318-688-9858**

**Visit the Cross Mountain Press  
website**

**[www.crossmountainpress.com](http://www.crossmountainpress.com)**

**to see our publications designed for  
you and your parents.**

“Getting Your Money’s Worth”  
“Your Investment in Christian  
Montessori” is designed to help parents  
understand the daily benefits their  
children receive in your prepared  
environments.

The more your parents understand  
what happens in the classroom, the better  
they will be able to co-operate in the  
nurturing of their children. And the less

likely they will be to remove their  
children from an environment that is so  
pro-active in nurturing their children, not  
only for academic success, but for  
success in life.

## Just published

### **The Lakemont Toddler Handbook**

A complete guide to establishing a  
hands-on toddler program. Includes  
philosophy, materials, schedules,  
curriculum and resources. A must have  
for maximizing the potential  
development of the toddler intellectually,  
physically, emotionally and spiritually.

For years, this was the blueprint for  
the overwhelmingly successful  
Lakemont Academy toddler program.

Visit the website to order today.

## Telephone Survey

In the next month, we will be  
conducting a brief phone survey talking  
about the Cobbler, the fellowship and  
the future.

## New Year’s Resolution

Here is a resolution for the New  
Year! Many of you have been meaning  
to send in your membership. Now is a  
good time to put those good intentions  
into action.

The fellowship needs your support.

# Christian Montessori Fellowship

## Membership Application

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

How long have you taught? \_\_\_\_\_

School \_\_\_\_\_

Level you teach: \_\_\_\_\_

(Mark all that apply.)

Are you a: teacher \_\_\_\_\_

administrator \_\_\_\_\_

owner \_\_\_\_\_

other \_\_\_\_\_

What is your church affiliation?

\_\_\_\_\_

### Interests

What is your interest in Christian Montessori?

To teach in a Christian Montessori school \_\_\_\_\_

To start a Christian Montessori school \_\_\_\_\_

To transform an existing school \_\_\_\_\_

To be a better teacher where you are now \_\_\_\_\_

Not sure at this time \_\_\_\_\_

Are you familiar with hands on Bible curriculums (Godly play, Catechesis of the Good Shepherd)? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

Do you have an interest in being a regional representative for CMF? \_\_\_\_\_

Are you in a position to host or help host a regional CMF seminar?

Host \_\_\_\_\_ Help \_\_\_\_\_

www.christianmontessorifellowship.com  
fidellow@swbell.net

### Membership Benefits

1. Discounts at conferences, seminars and forums.
2. Discounts on CMF tapes and literature
3. Membership certificate
4. Reduced advertising costs in the Cobbler
5. Discounts from selected vendors
6. A nice warm feeling knowing you are not alone and are not the only one seeking to return to the true spiritual roots of this unique education.
7. Your membership will help you, and many others, to serve your children better in Christ's name by providing opportunities for fellowship, learning and encouragement.
8. We have found a "pearl of great price" and your support of the Christian Montessori Fellowship will help spread this "good news" so many more children might truly be nurtured intellectually, physically, emotionally and spiritually and come to know the Good Shepherd personally.

Join and support the fellowship by making your check for \$25 payable to: The Christian Montessori Fellowship or use your Visa, Master Card, or Discover.

Credit card number \_\_\_\_\_

Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

22630 East Range  
San Antonio, TX 78220  
210-698-1911

## Regional Conference Cost and Registration

<b>Seminar Fee</b>	<b>\$150</b>
<b>Early Registration</b> (Three weeks before Seminar)	<b>\$125</b>
<b>Membership discount</b>	<b>\$25</b>

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

School \_\_\_\_\_

Registration may be paid by check or  
credit card.

## Order Form

Membership	\$25	_____
Directory	\$15	_____
Conference		_____
Getting Your Money's Worth	\$ 7	_____
Toddler Handbook	\$39.95	_____
Total		_____

Make checks payable to the Christian  
Montessori Fellowship or use your Visa,  
Master Card, or Discover card.

Credit card Number \_\_\_\_\_

Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Christian Montessori Fellowship  
22630 East Range  
San Antonio, TX 78255