



The Cobbler

Ephesians 6:15

The newsletter of the Christian Montessori Fellowship
August 2002

National Conference

We missed you! We had a great time sharing our faith and learning to enhance our expertise. A conference is never just about the speakers but it is about the wonderful people you meet and the new ideas you take home.

Regional Conferences

We are setting up regional one-day Saturday conferences. We will be holding them from Mid September through mid November

Regions that have a major concentration of Christian Montessorians include Washington D.C., New Jersey, Atlanta, Seattle, and California. Other possible areas include Ohio, Illinois, Wisconsin and Michigan. Or anyplace else that we might be able to gather 15 people to share in the excitement.

We are looking for schools that would like to host the conferences. Hosting responsibilities are limited to providing a space for the conference. Everything else will be handled by the Christian Montessori Fellowship. Please call us to let us know of your interest.

Survey

The Christian Montessori movement is growing and we need to have a better handle on the demographics. Twenty years ago when we started the Christian Montessori Fellowship most members were Christians who worked in Montessori schools. Now many members work in Christian Montessori schools. One important phase of the ministry has evolved in helping people transform secular

Survey cont.

Montessori schools into Christian Montessori schools. At the spring conference in D.C. three of the schools represented were in the process of making that transition. **PLEASE** take the time to fill out and return the survey. Any additional thoughts and comments from you would also be greatly appreciated especially regarding training needs and desires.

How Jesus comes to your classroom: Part 7

The scriptures tell us that without Jesus nothing was made that was made. John 1:3. And in Colossians 1:16-17: "For by him all things were created ...all things were created by him and for him ... and in him all things hold together." It sounds like Jesus would be in favor of practical life.

I can see you scratching your head asking 'How do you come up with that?' When we wrongly think of practical life as just an intermediate step before we get to the "good" Montessori stuff we miss the lifetime significance of what is accomplished in these "banal" exercises.

How does the prepared environment become prepared and how does it stay prepared? Practical life. God created order – just look at the phylum in science. Look at the laws of physics. Order is a central part of who God is. What happens when "order" in society breaks down? All "hell" breaks loose. The creation and continuation of order and doing things in an orderly fashion is a hallmark of the presence of Christ. **REMEMBER** just because you don't see Jesus, or that people don't acknowledge Jesus' presence doesn't mean he is not there. He is present even if he chooses to remain verbally silent. His creation declares the glory of God. And we get to operate

How Jesus comes to your classroom: Part 7 Cont.

within his creation and to be his hands in recreating that creation.

Practical life impacts everything. It impacts the environment – which indirectly and directly impacts the children. The emphasis on order and beauty is a God given blessing that reaches deep into each child. Can they tell you what that does to them when we as adults have difficulty in articulating the pleasure, the peace the positive results that accrue to us when our environments and lives are in order, harmony and beauty?

Practical life impacts the children directly with its hands on experiences of order, grace, courtesy, thoroughness, and completion.

Consider the exercises of cubing bread, cutting carrots, making breadsticks and then serving others – isn't that what Jesus would do? Whether we acknowledge him or not his presence is in the classroom by the manifold things that we do to create order and beauty.

How to Contact us:

Edward & Barbara Fidellow

Phone 210-698-1922

E-Mail: Fidellow@swbell.net

Eggheads Classroom Project

From Jheri Lynn Smith, Temple, TX

This is the task card info for the student.

1. Wear an apron.
2. Make a stand for your egg head (6 in x 1.5 in strip of white cardstock). Tape ends together.
3. Use markers to draw a collar and neck on the stand.

4. Punch a large hole in the top of an uncooked egg. Empty, rinse and dry the egg.

5. Draw a face on the eggshell. Write your name on the bottom of the egg.

6. Place your egghead on your stand.

7. Carefully fill the eggshell with potting soil.

8. Sprinkle 1/8 teaspoon of rye grass seeds on the soil.

9. Carefully sprinkle 1 tablespoon of soil over the seeds.

10. Use the eyedropper to gently water the seeds.

11. Place egghead and stand on a shelf in the sun.

12. In about 1 week your egghead will have a full head of hair!

The Rye Caterpillar

From Mary Cook at Christian Center, Shreveport, LA.

Fill a knee high stocking with peat moss. Tie it off. Sprinkle rye grass seeds over the top of the peat moss. Glue eyes on the top of the toe end of the knee high stocking. Moisten and place in a lighted area. Grass will grow up through the stocking.

Survey

Personal

Name _____

Address _____

State, Zip _____

E-mail _____

Telephone _____

How long have you taught? _____

Age you teach (0-3,3-6,6-9,9-12,12-15,15-18) _____

Are you a:

____ Teacher

____ Administrator

____ Teacher/administrator

____ Assistant

Survey cont.

____ Aid
____ Parent
____ Owner.
Your church affiliation _____

School

Name of your school _____
Location _____
How large is your school? (Numbers of students and environments) _____
What kind of school are you teaching in?
____ Secular Montessori
____ Montessori School with Christian principles
____ Christian Montessori school

Is the school:
____ Non-profit
____ A proprietorship
____ Affiliated with a church?

Which Church? _____

Training

Who trained you? (AMI, AMS, NCME, MIA, IMS, St. Nicholas etc.) _____
What year did you take your training? _____
What was the best thing about your training? _____
What would you have liked to see strengthened in your training?

The Cobbler & CMF

What kind of articles and information would you like to see in the Cobbler?

What kind of seminars do you need to become a better Montessori teacher? _____

What's your interest in Christian Montessori?

____ To teach in a Christian Montessori school
____ To start a Christian Montessori school
____ To transform an existing school
____ Not sure at this time

Are you familiar with hands on Bible curriculums (Godly play, Catechesis of the Good Shepherd)? _____

Is there a need for training from a Christian viewpoint? _____

Comments: _____

Couldn't have said it better

Reflections on the conference

"I liked meeting all of the different people and hearing how their lives have been affected by their work in Montessori."

"I am so blessed by these seminars. I hate for them to end. I could take a whole week of being able to draw and share the blessings I have received these last two years."

"I liked being able to discuss our problems one with another."

"Continue with what you are doing."

"I appreciated the handouts. I can definitely incorporate the science shelf for 3-6 year olds in my classroom."

"I think it is very beneficial to have this time to gain knowledge and insight from others."

"The worship ladies were awesome. What a wonderful demonstration of real worship from the heart. I enjoyed the presence of God."

"It was great to fellowship with other Christian Montessori educators and have their support. One of the best workshops I've attended."

"Love the hugs."

"Sparked some ideas."

"Helped me to realize that parents need to be involved more."

"I appreciated the transparency."

Christian Montessori Fellowship

22630 East Range
San Antonio, TX 78255