

The Cobbler

Ephesians 6:15

The Newsletter of the Christian Montessori Fellowship
November 2007

National Conference 2008

July 31 – August 2nd

San Antonio, Texas

Plan Now to Attend

Life's Not Fair A Prayer of Thanksgiving

It seems that the first abstract concept a child learns (usually by age four) is “It’s not fair.” They experience love all around them and so that doesn’t yet seem to be an abstract concept but just the way things are. But fairness – that concept rears its head early and often. It is precipitated by siblings, television, school and life itself.

And the operative (and useless) antidote spoken by parents from when time began is “_____”. Do I even need to fill in the blank? I’ll do it anyway. “Life’s not fair.” Our difficulty with the whole process is that we think life should be fair. But “fairness” is not even in God’s playbook or on His agenda. God is far more concerned with faithfulness and eternity than fairness. And that’s not fair.

Each of us thinks, “If I were God life would be fair.” But we are not God and life still isn’t fair. And how do we define fairness? Everybody getting the exact same thing? That seems to be more socialism than fairness. I can’t resolve the question of why God does what He does in the way He does it. But I can

resolve to be thankful – especially when things are unfair.

Let me share with you my list of things that are unfair. First, my mother was a war bride. My dad met her in Europe during WWII. Had I been born in Europe it is unlikely that I would have heard the Gospel and committed my life to God. My mom and dad were not believers but I had the opportunity to hear the Gospel anyway. Many in Europe have not heard the Gospel. And that’s not fair.

On Sunday when I worship in church, I’m not told which church to go to, or to go to church at all or to fear going to church because of the consequences – harassment, imprisonment, torture or even death. Many of our fellow believers do not have the opportunity to worship openly. And that’s not fair.

I get to vote. And my vote counts. And when the count goes my way (or the other) the outcome is respected. Much of the world would like to have our “political problems”. But they face violence, corruption and death. It’s not fair.

My children and grandchildren ate today – several times in fact. While there are children all over the world who would be happy to eat broccoli or anything they could get. It’s not fair.

I went to the kitchen to get a glass of water. First, there was water. And it was pure and fresh. And I drank as much as I wanted. And all I had to do was turn a

faucet. There are people all over the world who have to haul their water sometimes for miles. And they are not assured that the water is pure and that drinking the water will not cause them to be ill or die. It's not fair.

Did I mention that I turned the light on to get the water? We may gripe about our electric bills but do you remember the last ice storm or hurricane when there was no electricity and how it disrupted the ease of our lives? Much of the world lacks electricity. It's not fair.

Our family has been well. They've not had to worry about malaria, cholera or severe communicable diseases. And when they are sick – there is a family doctor. And there are medicines and hospitals. The rest of the world should be so fortunate. It's not fair.

My grandchildren go to school. They get an education. How many children in the world would love to go to school but can't? It's not fair.

My grandchildren have parents. They've not been killed or raped or put in prison or sold into slavery. And at night when they all return to their safe home they don't worry about knocks on the door where death and destruction might be lurking just outside. Their concerns may be focused on what do we want to eat – Mexican, Italian, Chinese? It's not fair.

My children (and grandchildren) live in a land of opportunity. Their choices of employment are seemingly endless. (How many people in the world would just like A job?) It's not fair.

And most of all we have hope. Tomorrow has every promise of being better than today. And if it doesn't, I have the opportunity to make it better. I am able to take responsibility for my own goals and actions and make them

happen. I always have hope. Much of the world doesn't. And that's not fair.

But most of all I have a relationship with Jesus that helps me to understand that as wonderful as life is – eternal life is even better. And there are so many who don't have that hope. And that's not fair.

The next time you are having a bad day – the car won't start, the washer overflows, you didn't get the promotion or the house or the car – think about a world full of people who would trade places with you in a heartbeat. It's not fair that you have all these blessings but God isn't worried about fair. He's into grace and mercy and love and hope and faith. And because He is into these things we His children should be into these things too.

There is a world out there that needs to see our faith, to see our love and to share in our hope. We will never be able to make it “fair” but we will please our heavenly Father when our thanksgiving (and our actions) overflows to the least of these our brothers. Your mother was right, “Life's not fair.” But maybe she forgot to tell you that it's been more than fair to you and me. And it is great to share our thankfulness – that's only fair!

Christmas Gifts

We are offering all of our 100th anniversary items at 40% off. T-shirts, sweat shirts, banners, bears and mugs make great gifts and hold lasting memories of this great celebratory year. www.crossmountainpress.com

Christmas Gift

Join the fellowship and give a gift of encouragement to the children of the world. We need 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 _____

Membership Benefits

1. Discounts at conferences, seminars and forums.
2. Membership certificate
3. Free advertising in the Cobbler
4. Discounts from selected vendors
5. 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.
6. 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.
7. 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, American Express, or Discover.

Credit card number _____

Exp. Date _____

Signature _____

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