

The Cobbler

Ephesians 6:15

The Newsletter of the Christian Montessori Fellowship
July 2006

National Conference

July 27 -29

San Antonio, TX

The Icon of Faith

God gives us the child as an icon, a model of what faith is in its purest and most simple form.

In Luke 18:16-17, Jesus says, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of Heaven belongs to such as these. 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 like a child.

Jesus tells the parable in Matthew 18:22-35 about the unforgiving servant. The king had forgiven him a massive debt but he would not forgive a trivial debt from another servant. Children are quick to forgive, blotting out transgressions both large and small. They do not keep records of slights or hurts (thankfully for us). They practice 1 Corinthians 13. One of the greatest virtues, one of the greatest keys to the kingdom IS the ability to forgive. One of the hallmarks of us becoming like God is the ability to forgive – even when we have every "right" not to. When faced with the work of Christ on Calvary and

God's forgiveness of us – how can we do anything but practice forgiving?

I've often shared about the two great words of life – Grace and Courage but there is another pair of words that merit our attention – Forgiveness and Love. Children practice these two unconsciously – which is where they get their God-likeness from. We, as adults, are far more calculating in both dealing out love and forgiveness. We try to determine the worthiness of the recipient (good thing we are not God) before we dispense either. Children are much freer (just like God) with forgiveness and love.

Let us not be mistaken, children are self-centered (as are all the children of Adam). While children are self-centered, they are not egotists – having an exaggerated sense of self-importance. A cartoon the other day has a child asking, "Do all kittens have to grow up to be cats?" I wonder if God asks the same question about us?

One further thought about love and forgiveness. The whole world wants to make Love paramount. But it isn't. I know that is heresy in today's world but follow through to the end of the thought. Even though the scripture says that God is love, it doesn't say that love is God. God is defined by His holiness long before he is known for His love. And His love is defined by His forgiveness long before we are "worthy" of His love. And we are only worthy of His love because

of what Christ did on the cross. And it all comes about because of forgiveness. Children enter the kingdom of God because they have hearts like God – full of forgiveness and love.

There Is Still Time

To Come to the National Conference

What is so different about this conference from other Montessori gatherings? Both have wonderful speakers and sessions. Both have dedicated practitioners of the Montessori art. Both will leave you richer for the experience. But what makes this conference different (and special) is that your spirit and soul will be touched as well as your mind and heart.

The honored guest is always Jesus. And if that is significant in your life – then the conference is a must for your growth – intellectually and spiritually.

Conference Agenda

Thursday

- 10:00 A.M.** Contemporary Montessori History Group Introduction
- 12:00 P.M.** Lunch
- 1:00 P.M.** The Icon of Faith
Edward Fidellow
- 2:00 P.M.** Exercise and Nutrition
Patricia Wong
- 3:00 P.M.** Break
- 3:30 P.M.** Classroom Management
Betty Golightly
- 4:30 P.M.** Book Review - Secret of Childhood
Edward Fidellow
- 5:30 P.M.** Break
- 6:00 P.M.** Dutch Treat Dinner

Friday

- 8:30 A.M.** Cosmic Education
Betty Golightly
- 9:30 A.M.** Personalities of Children
Carolyn Ely
- 10:30 A.M.** Break
- 11:00 A.M.** Montessori Manners
Barbara Fidellow
- 12:00 P.M.** Lunch
- 1:00 P.M.** My Favorite Lessons
Panel
- 2:00 P.M.** Book Review - Secret of Childhood
Edward Fidellow
- 3:00 P.M.** Afternoon break for the day

Saturday

- 8:30 A.M.** Toddler Good Shepherd Lessons
Carolyn Ely
- 9:30 A.M.** Music
Liz West
- 10:30 A.M.** Break
- 11:00 A.M.** Hands on Bible
Barbara Fidellow
- 12:00 P.M.** Lunch
- 1:00 P.M.** Attention Getters and Keepers
Panel
- 2:00 P.M.** Stress
Debbie Thompson
- 3:00 P.M.** Break
- 3:30 P.M.** Book Review - Secret of Childhood
Edward Fidellow
- 4:30 P.M.** Lessons We've Learned
Panel
- 6:30 P.M.** Dinner

Schools Looking for Staff

Elementary

Hand in Hand – St. Paul, MN

Marlene Lee 651-582-3730

Pre-school

Cornerstone Christian Montessori

San Diego, CA
858-354-5683

Children's Cottage Montessori
789 N. Main St. Alpharetta GA 30004
770-667-3574

Oshkosh Christian School
3450 Vinland St
Oshkosh, WI 54901
todd.benson@oshkoshchristian.com
920-410-5467

Toddlers

St. Philomena, Hawaii
(808) 833-8080

Celebrating the Inspiration 1907-2007

January 6th will mark the 100th anniversary of the founding of the first Children's House. Not often do we get to celebrate such milestones. It is a good time to allow our daily celebration of the joy we find in Montessori to spread to our community.

Our children are already living celebrations (and advertisements) of the tremendous transformation that occurs daily in our schools. One way that we can further this celebration and awareness into our community is to take part in 100th anniversary T-shirt program. In conjunction with Cross Mountain Press (www.crossmountainpress.com) we have created a T-shirt to "Celebrate the Inspiration" of Montessori education.

Imagine the impact of hundreds of children (and adults) sharing the celebration as walking billboards for this tremendous way of learning.

Now, to tickle two birds with one feather (far more peaceful than the other version), we've turned this into a fundraising program for you to be able to provide funds for your school.

We always need money for staff training and this would be a wonderful way, not only to celebrate, but to provide funds to further enhance staff training.

Along with the T-shirt, we have produced a coffee mug so each morning we can toast the inspiration.

Next month, we will have a banner ready to celebrate the 100th anniversary. (More info to follow.)

The Mugs are \$7.50 each; T-shirts are \$16.95 for children's sizes and \$19.95 for adults. The school will receive 20% of the proceeds for the sale of 12 mugs or 12 T-shirts, 30% for the sale of 24 mugs or 24 T-shirts and 40% for the sale of 48 mugs or 48 T-shirts or more.

"Monty"

wants to help you celebrate

In conjunction with the Beary Thoughtful Co.

(www.bearythoughtful.com) we have created a Montessori bear to help celebrate the centennial of the first Children's House. Along with Monty, there are dozens of other bears to make this a tremendous fundraiser for your school. The school receives 50% of the proceeds. The bears sell for \$9.50-\$10.00.

ABC Christian Montessori School held a bear of a fundraiser this summer and with less than 40 students made almost \$1000. "And we are going to do it again", the director, Christine Jenschke reports.

Sign up Today!

Register your school and order a fundraising kit.

www.crossmountainpress.com