

The Cobbler

Ephesians 6:15

The Newsletter of the Christian Montessori Fellowship
September 2005

National Conference 2006

“The Icon of Faith”

July 27 – 29, 2006

San Antonio, Texas

Mark the dates on your calendar

Regional Conferences

Charlotte	September 17
Ann Arbor	September 24
Chicago	October 1
San Francisco	October 8
Green Bay	October 15
*Amarillo	October 22
Kansas City	October 29
Honolulu	January 7
Phoenix	January 21
Shreveport	January 28

* new conference

Announcing Cross Mountain Press

www.crossmountainpress.com

The Christian Montessori Fellowship is establishing a publishing arm to meet the needs of educators and parents. Cross Mountain Press will publish books for parent education. Our first offering will be “Getting Your Money’s Worth – Your investment in Christian Montessori”. The book is designed to help parents understand the benefits their child receives in the Montessori classroom. It is designed to help schools keep their children enrolled as long as

possible. An educated and informed parent is your best ally and your best guarantee to family longevity in your environment.

Our second offering will be “The Lakemont Montessori Toddler Curriculum”: A detailed curriculum for children from eighteen months to three years.

Our third offering will be a non-religious version of “Getting Your Money’s Worth” for all of those who run non-sectarian programs. All parents need to know the value of what their children are receiving.

Our fourth offering will be a “Character Reporting System” on CD that will allow you to share with parents the tremendous work of character building.

We are in the process of writing a manners handbook for parents and that will be our fifth offering.

Our sixth offering will be “Common Sense Parenting A to Z” which is a veritable encyclopedia of parenting with over 160 topics. What is different about this book is that it focuses on the “Why to” of parenting while it helps provide a “parenting plan.” Along with its workbook (and a good sense of humor), it will provide a format for schools and churches to offer parenting classes to help nurture parents so they can more effectively nurture their own children.

Our Seventh offering will be a year round Circle Time curriculum.

Our eighth offering will be a Christian apologetic for Montessori i.e.

what makes Montessori a “Christian” philosophy of education.

We are also looking at offering Montessori materials.

Cross Mountain Press looks to enhance parental and Montessori education by providing resources to educators and parents to better nurture their children.

New Membership Year

We are at the beginning of the new membership year for 2005 -2006. The work of the fellowship is dependent on your support. By joining the fellowship, attending regional conferences, having a member of each school attend the national conference and purchasing materials you assure that the work of the fellowship continues.

Your membership is the beginning step in encouraging other Christian Montessorians to continue the good work they have started. Your membership also encourages the work of the fellowship to introduce Montessori to Christian educators, to help start new Christian Montessori schools, to encourage existing Montessori schools to become Christian and to transform Christian schools into Christian Montessori schools.

Your membership will help the future work of the fellowship in creating a Christian Montessori accreditation program and a Christian Montessori training program.

We are happy to share the Good News about Jesus and Montessori with you monthly but we need each of you to take a small part of this ministry as your own. Every Christian Montessorian needs to join and every school needs to take part in the membership of the fellowship. Membership is a way to give

a little back in gratitude for the treasure we have received.

There are many creative ways to join the fellowship. Many parent groups do wonderful fundraisers to enhance the school. A school wide membership for all of the staff might well be a good budget line item. A further benefit of that would be that each staff member then would get a \$25 discount on all seminars and conferences.

Another creative idea is to find a parent in the classroom who wants to do something special for the environment and let them contribute a membership. What could be better to enhance the environment than a super encouraged guide?

For older children, this might become a class project. Saving newspapers, aluminum cans, doing a bake sale or performing services for others would be a good way to contribute to the fellowship.

The Cobbler goes to Europe, Africa, and Asia and is a blessing to many who do not have the kind of support that we have here.

Taking a membership is more than just writing a check. It is a thank you for what we have received and it is a gift to the future and children yet to be born who through Christian Montessori schools will hear the Gospel and whose lives will be transformed - spiritually, intellectually, physically and emotionally.

Opportunity

Jan Arnette of Edu*Care Montessori School in Pinehurst, NC is looking for a director. Call Jan at 910-295-3200

What Does Love Mean?

Out of the mouths of babes

“Love is when you tell a guy you like his shirt, then he wears it every day.” Noelle - age 7

“Love is like a little old woman and a little old man who are still friends even after they know each other so well.” Tommy - age 6

“I know my older sister loves me because she gives me all her old clothes and has to go out and buy new ones.” Lauren – age 4

The Secret of Childhood

Numbers in parenthesis are page numbers from Ballentine Books edition.

23. Deviations

“Since the earliest times a twofold nature has been recognized in man. The first was given to him at the time of his creation. The second came as a consequence of his first sin, a violation of God’s law. Because of the fall, man was deprived of the blessings of his earlier state and left to the mercy of his surroundings and the illusions of his own mind. This doctrine of original sin can help us understand what happens to a child.” (154)

“A creature can be led astray by something that is in itself quite small. It is something that creeps in unnoticed under the guise of love and assistance but which is actually due to the blindness of an adult whose unconscious egoism can have a truly diabolical influence upon a child.” (154)

“If a child’s return to his normal, natural state is connected with a single specific factor, that is, his concentration upon

some physical activity that puts him in contact with exterior reality, we may conclude that there is a single source for all his deviations – the child has not been able to actualize his primitive plan of development because of the hostile environment he encountered in his formative period when his potential energies should have evolved through a process of incarnation.” (155)

Fugues

“The concept of incarnation ...psychic energy must be incarnated in movement so that it can unify the personality.” (155)

“If this unity is not attained ...psychic energy and movement develop separately and “the man is divided”. (155)

“Such deviations generally occur when these energies lose their finality and wander aimlessly about. The mind which should be building itself up through voluntary, physical activities, then takes refuge in fantasies.” (155)

“Toys ... afford no real and productive contact with reality. Toys furnish a child with an environment that has no particular goal and, as a consequence, they cannot provide it with any real mental concentration but only illusions.” (156)

“Playing with toys is the only freedom that the world grants to a child, who should at this precious period be laying the foundations of a higher life.” (156)

“(In the environment) children immediately attach themselves to some task. Their excited fantasies and restless

movements disappear and they calmly face reality and begin to perfect themselves through their work. They become normal children. Their aimless actions become directed.” (156)

Barriers

“A diverted child cannot control his thoughts or develop his mental powers”. (157)

“A diverted mind cannot be forced and any such attempt to correct it in this way will provoke a psychological reaction.” (157)

“It is a psychic defense completely outside the control of the will which unconsciously impedes the reception and understanding of ideas brought in from the outside.” (157)

“A kind of veil descends upon a child’s mind ...’ I cannot build up my own world since I am too busy erecting a wall to keep you out.” (158)

Cures

The hands-on focus is what helps cure the deviation of fugues.

“Barriers ... are quite difficult to overcome.... An inner wall is built up which closes the spirit and conceals it as a defense against the world.” (160)

“Walls are not built to protect love.” (161)

Attachment

“Some children are of such a retiring nature that their psychic energies are too weak to resist the influence of an adult.

Instead, they attach themselves to an older person who tends to substitute his own activity for theirs and they thus become extremely dependent upon him. (161)

“They readily give up their own activities and obey the least bidding of an adult, who finds it easy to substitute his own will for that of a docile child.” (162)

“Indolence is in reality a spiritual sickness.” (162)

“Christianity recognizes sloth as one of the capital sins, as one of the evils that can bring death to the soul.” (162)

Possessiveness

“This longing (hunger) for something to satisfy a physical need is not the product of reasoning....A child has a comparable hunger for his environment. He seeks for things that can nourish his spirit, and he finds his nourishment in activity.” (163)

“This drive, this love for his environment is innate in man. It would not be right to say that a child is passionately in love with his environment, since passion is something that is impulsive and transitory. Rather it should be described as an impulse towards ‘a vital experience.’ The drive behind the child’s love for his environment urges him on to ceaseless activity... (the environment) contributes to his self-realization. If a child does not have such an environment his psychic life is not developed but remains weak, warped, and apart from the world.” (163)

“If a child finds no stimuli for the activities which would contribute to his development, he is attracted simply to ‘things’ and desires to possess them. To take something and keep it is easy and requires little knowledge and love. A child’s energies are thus diverted.” (163)

“Practically all moral deviations flow from this step that makes a decision between love and possession.” (163)

“Possessiveness has its origin in some inner evil and not in an external object.” (164)

Desire for Power

“One kind of power may be recognized in the instinct to dominate one’s environment and thus gain possession of the outer world through the love of this environment. But this power becomes diverted when, instead of being the natural outcome of psychic growth, it is reduced to mere covetousness.” (165)

A deviated child ...realizes that his own power will be great if he can act through an adult. He begins to exploit the adult so that he can obtain far more than he ever could through his own unaided efforts.” (165)

“Eventually the illusion that an adult was made to satisfy a child’s desires is dissolved into bitterness... a child’s whims become the scourge of an adult who suddenly realizes that he has been at fault and says ‘I have spoiled my child.’” (166)

“No, an adult did not spoil his child when he yielded to him, but when he

hindered his growth and caused his natural development to go astray.” (167)

The Inferiority Complex

“(The adult) esteems a glass as something of greater value than his child’s activity and seeks to prevent its being broken.” (167)

“A child, therefore, must notice with a continued sense of frustration that he is the only one thought to be unreliable and a source of harm. He thus comes to look upon himself as an inferior being, worth less than the objects he is forbidden to touch.” (168)

“If a child is to develop his interior life, he must not only be allowed to touch various objects and work with them but he must do this in a rational and consistent fashion.” (168)

“A child ... is never allowed to lay out a continuous course of action.” (168)

“An adult is constantly interrupting the child and breaking into his environment. This powerful being directs the child’s life without ever consulting the child himself. And this lack of consideration makes the child think that his own activities are of no value.” (168)

“A succession of acts dependent upon an interiorly preconceived plan is of utmost importance for a child’s development.” (169)

“A father who is grieved that he has not succeeded in arousing a sense of responsibility and self-control in his son is the very one who has destroyed the child’s sense of continuity in his actions and his regard for his own dignity. The

child bears within himself a secret conviction of inferiority and impotence. And yet, before anyone can assume responsibility, he must be convinced that he is the master of his own actions and have confidence in himself.” (169)

“The greatest source of discouragement is the conviction that one is unable to do something.” (169)

“This leads the child to believe that not only are his actions worthless but that he is personally helpless and inept. This conviction in turn is a source of discouragement and diffidence. ... When this happens, a child develops that inner obstacle known as an ‘inferiority complex’.” (170)

“On the other hand, one of the most remarkable characteristics of a ‘normal’ child is his self-confidence and sureness in action.” (170)

Fear

“(Fears) are found especially in children who are dependent upon adults. And an adult can take advantage of a child’s ignorance to frighten him with vague fears so that he will be obedient.” (171)

“Anything that enables a child to come in contact with reality and to experience and understand his environment will help free him from this disturbing state of fear.” (171)

“A ‘state of fear’ is different from that dread aroused by the instinct of self-preservation in the face of danger. This latter type of fear is less frequent in children than in adults, and not simply because children are less experienced than their elders in meeting dangers. It

might even be said that a child naturally confronts dangers and does so with greater readiness than adults.” (172)

“The question might be raised as to whether or not a child’s return to a normal state favors this heroic tendency.” (172)

“As a rule our children develop a kind of ‘prudence’ which enables them to avoid dangers and consequently to live with them... Our children have learned how to control their actions and to avoid rashness. This enables them to lead a nobler and more peaceful life. Normalization, therefore does not consist in hurling oneself into the midst of dangers, but in acquiring a prudence which permits one to recognize and dominate dangers and thus be in a position to live in the midst of them.” (173)

Lies

“A common mistake of educators is to consider these deviations as separate entities independent from each other.” (173)

“One of the most serious defects is lying. Deceit is a kind of garment that conceals the soul. It might even be compared to a whole wardrobe, so many are its guises.” (173)

Types of lies: self-defense, confusion, a desire to narrate something fantastic, laziness, subtle reasoning.

“Deceit is an intellectual phenomenon that appears in childhood, but becomes organized with maturity.” (175)

Lying is not a deviation that disappears miraculously. There is more need of reconstruction than conversion. Clear ideas, a contact with reality, freedom of spirit, and an active interest in what is good and noble provide the environment that can straighten out a child's soul." (175)

"Social life is so immersed in an atmosphere of false conventions that society would be thrown into turmoil if an attempt were made to correct them." (175)

"Camouflage, the concealing of one's true feelings, is the lie that a man builds up within himself so that he can live, or rather, survive in a world at odds with his natural sentiments. And since it is impossible to be engaged in a constant struggle, the soul adapts itself to its surroundings." (176)

"Conventions which camouflage a man's true feelings are a spiritual lie which help him adapt himself to the organized deviations of society but which gradually change love into hatred. This is the terrible lie lurking in the deepest recesses of the subconscious." (176)

The Icon of Faith

Icon: a representation

Most of us, when we think of icons tend to think of idols. An idol is an object of worship, while an icon is a representation. We tend to be afraid of falling into "idolatry" so we become wary of even icons. We tend to make our icons abstract rather than concrete for this same fear. No one worships his or her Mercedes but it is a representation of wealth. (In our society, we are borderline on worshipping wealth.)

So how do we put icons in their proper perspective? The great icon of Christianity is the cross. When we see the cross, it speaks to us of God's great love. But it is not the cross, not the wood, not the form that is our redemption. It is a representation of what God has done for us. Even if we had the relic of the actual cross, it would still be only a representation of what happened on the cross that makes the cross significant. It is the believing in the work of the cross that is our salvation demonstrating God's love for us.

However, God has given us another icon for our encouragement in the faith. As Montessori teachers, we are graced each day to be in the presence of this icon – the child.

As we take the time to observe the child, we can begin our own retransformation of faith. Children believe differently than adults. (Why do we ever change?) We are expected to mature in our thinking, responsibility, and actions. Ironically, God designed us to mature in every aspect from our childhood except in faith. The highest accolades of faith are directed at the simplicity of a child's faith. It seems that the most mature faith is the faith that "matures" the least. It is the faith that remains at a "childish" level – a level that believes purely and simply; a level that seems to accept God at face value. This kind of faith does not call us even to be wise ("be not wise in your own understanding") but to throw ourselves wholeheartedly on God. What are those characteristics that God commends in children which we are to emulate? In the coming months we will explore together this icon, this representation of faith. As you observe your children, will you share with me your insights? I find ten or twelve characteristics that intrigue

me, challenge me, and draw me up short. In Luke 18:16-17 Jesus says, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God 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 understand this faith we will have to understand what the kingdom of God is and how we enter into it. Jesus gave us many parables that start "The kingdom of heaven is like ..." What mysteries do they hold? Jesus' promise to us in Mark 4:11 says, "The mystery of the Kingdom of God has been given to you." and in Matthew 19:14 He says, "The kingdom of heaven belongs to the child." Let us explore this mystery of faith.

Charlotte September 17

Christian Montessori School
At Lake Norman
14101 Stumptown Rd
Huntersville, NC
704-400-8150
Sonya Curry

Ann Arbor September 24

Go Like the Wind Montessori
3540 Dixboro Lane
Ann Arbor, MI 48105
734-747-7422
Doug Collier

Chicago October 1

New Beginnings Christian Montessori
151 E. Briarcliff Rd
Bolingbrook, IL 60440-3070
(630) 783-9174

Patty Stephens

**San Francisco October 8
TBA**

Green Bay, October 15

Creekside Christian Montessori
133 S. Superior St.
De Pere, WI 54115
920-330-0148
Lisa Barrett

Amarillo, TX October 22

Southwest Montessori Preschool
4515 Cornell St.
Amarillo, TX 79109
806-359-9826
Betty Golightly

Lawrence, KS October 29

Sunshine Acres Montessori
2141 Maple Lane
Lawrence, KS 66046
785-842-2223
Susan Mozykowski

Head's of Schools Seminars

**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.

September 26-28

October 17-19

November 14-16

For more details, visit us at

www.crossmountainforum.com

Christian Montessori Fellowship

Membership Application

Address _____

Name _____

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

Seminar Fee **\$150**

Early Registration **\$125**

(Three weeks before Seminar)

Membership discount **\$25**

Name _____
Address _____

Phone _____
Email _____
School _____

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

Credit card Number _____
Exp. Date _____

Signature _____

Registration may be paid by check or
credit card.

Christian Montessori Fellowship
22630 East Range
San Antonio, TX 78255

Order Form

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