

## Archive for November, 2011

November 22nd, 2011

### **Early Registration for the National Conference**

Christian Montessori Fellowship  
National February 17 – 19th, 2012 Conference

Conference Theme  
Building on a Sure Foundation

“Whatever you have seen in me – put it into practice” Philippians 4:9

Our national conference has taken a departure from 29 years of summer conferences and we will be holding our 30th conference this winter. San Antonio is a great place to visit while it is cold and snowing in many other places.

The fellowship will be warm, the learning exciting and your spirit will be refreshed for this great adventure that God has called us to.

Conference starts Friday morning at 8:00 A.M. and finishes Sunday Morning at 11:30.

Conference cost:  
\$350 Regular registration  
\$325 Early Registration if paid by Dec. 19th  
\$300 Early Registration for CMF members  
Conference includes 2 Lunches and Saturday dinner.  
Conference Location:  
Crockett Hotel  
1-800-292-1050  
www.crocketthotel.com  
Lodging costs \$105.08 (tax included) per night  
Double or single  
Rates good if you register by January 17th  
If you have never attended a Christian Montessori Conference you will enjoy the true spiritual encouragement that comes from sharing Jesus with each other in the context of our educational lives.

November 21st, 2011

### **Needed: Imperfect Perfectionists**

Life holds many paradoxes – Jesus tells us to save our life we must give it away and to love our enemies. In Montessori we find the need for an imperfect perfectionist. Even though we all make the excuse, “Nobody’s perfect” we sure hope that our pilot, our surgeon and our lawyer sure come close. However, in our Montessori environment we need “imperfect” perfectionists. (An another paradox is how an environment can be ruined by a perfect perfectionist.)

Perfectionists impact (and enhance) every part of a Montessori environment. Perfectionists make sure that all the colors match, that all the corners are even, the environment is pristine, and all of the materials are just as they need to be – perfect and whole. But isn’t that what a Montessori teacher is supposed to do?

Yes, but the perfectionist lives and breathes and has a driving passion not only for the environment but for the program to be perfect. We are blessed by perfectionists – to a point. What is needed, however, are imperfect perfectionists; those who realize that others may not have this same driving perfectionism and are able to accept this both in the environment, in their co-workers and in the children.

Proverbs tells us that a clean barn brings no profit – and a pristine and a “perfect” environment may not bring any real learning or life. But just like a used barn is restored by cleaning so an environment is also brought back to its state of equilibrium between use and perfection.

In Montessori, the imperfect perfectionist allows life to happen and then allows life to deal with reality. Our challenge is maintaining the balance between starting off with a perfect environment and ending with a perfect environment because what happens in between is imperfect. (Perfectionist mothers don’t teach their children to cook because the child may make a mess.)

If perfectionism is our goal – whether in the environment, our co-workers, our children or their learning we will hinder the child’s development and growth. Life (and learning and becoming) all happen in imperfect fits and starts. Even though perfect environments, lessons and examples act as models for learning and life – they are not the goal. Mastery is the goal. Mastery of the environment; mastery of the learning, mastery of ourselves.

Some of us need to be more perfectionist and step up our game in the environment and with our children, while others of us need to be less perfectionist so our children can breathe and become who God is calling them to be. Life is always a balance.