

Featured Articles

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Recycle Gardening

BY MELODEE SIMMONS, CHILDCARE/PRESCHOOL REPRESENTATIVE

The trees have green leaves again, and flowers are blooming everywhere. It's time for gardening.

I always enjoy growing things with children and showing them how God planned for each plant to reproduce itself through the seeds it makes. The children get so excited when they see the seeds sprouting and getting bigger. It is a great time to increase their vocabulary by naming the different plants you are growing, talking about the tools you use – shovel, trowel, watering can, etc. You can talk about roots, stems, and leaves. You can tell the children how God planned for plants to use the water and the sun to grow. It's always a good time of year.

This year I'm trying something different. It is called "Recycle Gardening." We are growing plants from the part of veggies that we usually throw away. We started with the bottom portion of a stalk of celery, the piece you usually cut off and throw away. We placed it in a shallow dish of water and, within a week, we had a celery stalk two inches tall. Then we added three carrot tops. The green was already cut off, and we had about an inch of the top of the carrot. We put them in the shallow dish of water, and they started sprouting in a few days. The next step is to plant them in soil and watch what happens.

The possibilities are endless. Try growing the tops of beets or radishes or the potato "eyes," the spot where the root is starting to grow. You could also use the tops of strawberries or pineapple tops. Anything would be good to try. It's amazing how God planned for things to reproduce themselves!

Let the children help you dig in the dirt and plant what you are growing. Use the opportunity to talk with the children about God's wonderful creation. There is nothing better than hands-on lessons.

"The land produced vegetation, plants bearing seed according to their kinds and trees bearing fruit with seed in it, according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good" (Genesis 1:12, NIV).



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Democratic Republic of the Congo Pastor Perseveres in Building Church and School*

BY GAVIN FOTHERGILL FOR *Out of Africa*

I can hardly believe that it has taken nearly two years to be able to say this, but the school in Kafubu, DRC (Democratic Republic of the Congo in Central Africa), started by Rev. Aimé is now finished. **IT IS FINISHED!**

Throughout this building process, Rev. Aimé has suffered quite a bit because of his obedience. An angry mob destroyed the first church they built in the village, which doubled as a two-room school house for only three weeks before it was destroyed. Rev. Aimé (whose name means loved) was thrown into jail for more than a week before the church members were able to get him out. After much struggle, the village finally accepted him as a pastor and a servant of the Lord. Rev. Aimé built a second church only to have it destroyed after heavy rains.

If it were me, I would most likely have given up long ago. But I am thankful for servants and pastors like Rev. Aimé who remind me that once God gives a vision, He will see it through to the end. Eventually, a church was built and stands to this day. In the original location, they were able to start the school with the arrival of a Work & Witness team from Point Loma Nazarene University in July of 2014 and the Congo Jam event in the USA which helped to raise money. They struggled again with land disputes and getting official documents, but the Lord was faithful and the financing came in from various partners who were touched by God's vision for Kafubu. Today, the school is teaching the adults who never got a chance to go to school to learn how to read. In September, it will begin teaching children from grades 1 to 8 so they no longer have to take a 10-mile roundtrip walk to the next town for education.

[Editorial Note: Nazarene Educators Worldwide congratulates Rev. Aimé and the members of his congregation for building and organizing this school. Let's pray for this new school that God will bless the staff as they minister to the children in Kafubu, DRC.]

*This article originally appeared in Church of the Nazarene Africa Region and in the April 1 edition of NCN NEWS.



The Home Stretch

BY BECKY RAMSEY, CHRISTIAN SCHOOL REPRESENTATIVE

How does a good teacher face the home stretch, that last nine weeks of school? We need to prepare our students for standardized tests, AP tests, and end-of-the-year exams. Plus, if a teacher works in a middle school or high school, he or she must also juggle everyone else's last-minute field trips, play practices, choir concert practices, track meets, baseball double-headers due to rain outs, and the list goes on and on.

We want to give our very best to the end of the year. However, someone comes along and revises our plans that we worked so hard on last weekend during our own crises at home. Second Corinthians 4:1 (NIV) states, "Therefore, since through God's mercy we have this ministry, we do not lose heart."

Teaching can become hectic at the end of the year. Even though we know that God has given us this ministry to work with children, it might be easy to "lose heart." This is especially difficult when one is trying to give his or her best, and it seems to be stretched to the max or be taken away by someone else's last-minute planning. Second Corinthians 4:7-8 (NIV) says, "But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us. We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed."

No matter how hectic things become at school or at home--we **MUST** remember that we are not **ABANDONED!** Too often, we think we face our job or our situation by ourselves. That idea is just a lie from Satan himself. He wants us to feel isolated and alone.

Satan desires that we forget the ally that we have in our Lord. Elijah forgot this truth right after he defeated all the prophets of Baal, and he allowed one woman to strike fear into his heart. Pure exhaustion can cause us to forget our power source, another truth we should always remember. But God did not chide Elijah. Instead, God kindly fed him and gave him needed rest.

God will do the same for us---all the way---DOWN the HOME STRETCH!

Who Taught You to Teach?

SUBMITTED BY BEULA POSTLEWAIT

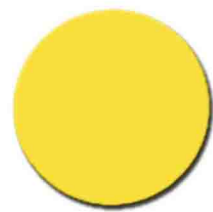
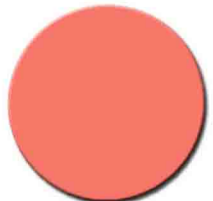
[The original article, "SNU School for Children" was found in the spring 2016 edition of "Directions," a publication of Southern Nazarene University.]

Southern Nazarene University School for Children

Just as one's personal philosophy of life dictates one's actions, so a Christian school's philosophy of operation dictates the management of the organization. In 1971, Dr. Joy Beaver, founder and director of the School for Children, knew that starting a university-supported Christian lab school on the campus of Southern Nazarene University would reap long-lasting benefits to its college students, campus faculty, the attending elementary students, and their families.

Forty-five years later, the Southern Nazarene University School for Children with its 133 pre-kindergarten through sixth-grade students, is impacting the university community in a tremendous way. The SNU School for Children, with its motto, "Every child a learner," now finds itself as the only fully accredited laboratory school in the state of Oklahoma. Its current director, Mrs. Julie Brant, (a SNU School of Education graduate) splits her time between the elementary school and a demanding professorship in the SNU School of Education. With 17 faculty and staff, the School for Children prides itself on creating a dynamic and innovative style of daily education by joining key grade levels in a fast-moving, creative environment. (Continued on page 4.)





Who Taught You to Teach?

SUBMITTED BY BEULA POSTLEWAIT

(Continued from page 3.)

Great schools have great leaders. Under the guidance of the university and its administration, Brant has proven to have the spiritual, organizational, financial, and educational strengths necessary to encourage her staff and develop the talents that God has given them. The School for Children's faculty has also shown that they understand the program, curriculum, and needs of their students while continuing to produce above-grade level performance. State testing shows that the entire school is above the 90th percentile in all subject matter.

The School for Children facility is used to its fullest capacity. The school has a large indoor gathering area for programs adjoining its full cafeteria kitchen, where the lunches are provided by SNU Dining, the SNU food service. Large outdoor playground equipment and sports field allow for plenty of physical activity and incorporates an underground tornado shelter large enough for the entire school in case of a weather emergency.

The School for Children has a vital partnership with the SNU teacher education faculty enabling a student to ultimately earn a valuable early childhood or elementary teaching degree. The university has viewed the laboratory school as a vital component of the teacher education experience. This is considered a distinctive that has attracted and provided preparation experience that other schools cannot provide. Such a partnership offers students the ability to experience a "live" classroom as a training ground for supervised, hands-on teaching techniques. With this experience, SNU teacher graduates know what works with a diverse population of students and will master the techniques in a lab setting before starting their state-required student teaching.

The SNU School of Education under its Chair, Dr. Tim Taylor, has developed an academic program that has sent numerous teacher graduates into the Oklahoma districts with excellent results. "We are very grateful that school districts also recognize the quality of our graduates by hiring so many of them for teaching positions in their schools. Our program is working, and we know for a fact that it is as a result of the combination of an excellent faculty and lab school that is part of our program."

The School for Children was originally located in the Jernigan Building on the SNU campus. Through a facilities partnership with Calvary Church of the Nazarene, the lab school is part of the church's facilities, just a mile from SNU. The School for Children ministers to Pre-K and Kindergarten and grades one through six.

Since its beginning, the SNU School for Children has created an environment that has impacted hundreds of children and their families. Early leadership organized this lab school so that all of its students receive solid academic training and godly character development. Dr. Joy Beaver, the founder, said, "I think the greatest legacy of the School for Children are the teachers who have attended. The children leave the lab school with a love for learning. They learn how to learn, and they learn about life. It has been a blessing to be part of the rich heritage of the School for Children. Its impact has not only been on elementary students, but on the many college students who are now out touching children's lives every day across the country in their own classrooms!"