

# THE NEW

no 10 - April 2014



To embrace, encourage, and empower through a network of Christian educators.

## Making the World Your Classroom By Tracy Gosnell - Homeschool Representative

As homeschool teachers and/or parents, it is very helpful to realize that we have the ability to be flexible and creative in our approach to teaching. This sounds challenging in the traditional sense. However, if we will take the time to plan small outdoor assignments or field trips as an alternative to seatwork, we can capitalize on the possibilities that surround us that are often a part of everyday life activities.

One advantage with homeschooling is that you are not limited to teaching within the confines of your home or a classroom setting. Outside the classroom, you have the freedom and ability to bring bookwork to life in real situations that provide examples and application. What better time of the year than springtime to do this. Spring fever is in the air, and the anticipation of summer entices children to play outside. Their minds will often drift, making bookwork a chore. So give the children what they want, and take them outside.

Before you form a mental picture or preconceived notion about what this means, let me explain. All children have a desire to use their natural curiosity to explore what interests them. The outdoors provides unlimited

opportunities to explore what appeals to each individual child. There are multiple ways to learn in this type of setting. Learning might involve research to determine their interests, and then exploring the outdoors for examples, or vice versa. Think about the possibility of a child in the outdoors finding a bug, rock, bird, or other wonder of God's creation that appeals to their sense of adventure, color, or design. The stage is set for a learning experience.

As educators or parents, we have observed many children becoming enamored with a particular object and spending large amounts of time thinking and talking about it. By taking advantage of this "natural phenomenon," a simple outdoors trip requiring minimal planning time can turn into an opportunity for a science lesson that involves research. While the children are excited about the subject, they are often more willing to write about it or draw a picture. Children who discover a bird that has their favorite color might be led to research to find out the name of the bird. Then you can guide the children to understand the anatomy of the bird and its habitat. Maybe the children will complete an art lesson by drawing a picture of the bird. Another option might be a writing lesson to describe the bird or to write a poem while the children are naturally excited about what they have discovered.

There are many opportunities to bring bookwork to life. Examples are: building a frame of wood and planting a garden (math and science) or observing the nighttime stars (science and literature). Each of us can probably think of a time when this type of learning took place in our own lives. When I was young, my father traveled overseas. When he came home, he brought items from the different places he visited. These new items caused me to want to learn more about the place where he obtained them and how they were used. That natural curiosity led me into the learning zone.

## Spring Ideas for a Preschool Classroom

By Melodee Simmons - Childcare  
Preschool Representative

"Flowers appear on the earth; the season of singing has come, the cooing of doves is heard in our land. The fig tree forms its early fruit; the blossoming vines spread their fragrance" (Song of Solomon 2:12-13a, NIV).

Spring is here--well, more or less depending on where you live. If it hasn't arrived yet, you know it is coming soon. Spring is a wonderful time for nature exploration. The trees are leafing out, flowers are starting to blossom, and the grass is getting green.

Take advantage of all that is happening around you, and share with the children the joys of spring and God's creation.

1. Take a nature walk around your school or neighborhood. Give the children bags to collect items they find. Bring them back to your class and explore the texture, smell, and color of the treasures. Look at their differences and similarities.

2. We have all probably grown dried beans and popcorn. Just put them in a zipper-style plastic storage bag with a damp paper towel. Tape them to a window, or place on a window sill and watch them sprout. It's a great way to show how God planned for the plants to get everything they need. You can explain how the roots drink the water with the nutrients they need and how the sun turns the nutrients into food for the plant. (Continued on page 4.)



CHURCH OF NAZARENE



## Monthly Prayer Guide for Teachers and Administrators\*

Prayer can make a world of difference in the lives of your students and their families. Many people who will become Christians will do so while they are under the age of 14. You want to make a difference in the life of your students and their families. Use this calendar to guide your prayers.

Day 1—Pray that the students will see the love of Christ through you.

Pray for parents to have the wisdom to know when to say yes and when to say no.

Day 2—Pray that the students will love what is good and grow through good and bad times.

Pray that the parents will be good role models.

Day 3—Pray for the students to have healthy friendships.

Pray that the parents will spend quality time with their children.

Day 4—Pray that the students are protected from harm and violence.

Pray that the parents will use money wisely to meet the family's needs.



Day 5—Pray for the students' futures.

Pray that the parents will know God and develop a strong, growing relationship with Him.

Day 6—Pray that the students will resist temptation and peer pressure to do wrong.

Pray that the parents will remain faithful to each other.

Day 7—Pray that life events will lead the students closer to the Lord.

Pray that the parents and families will be involved in a healthy church.

Day 8—Pray that the students will stay in school and develop the gifts God gave to them.

Pray that parents will truly listen to and understand their children.

Day 9—Pray that the students will not have to experience the bad results of sin committed by others close to them.

Pray that the parents will emotionally connect with their children.

Day 10—Pray that the students will have spiritual discernment (according to their age).

Pray that the parents will spend time praying for and with their children.

Day 11—Pray that the students will see the needs of the world and make a difference.

Pray that the parents will sustain an open-communication policy with the children.

Day 12—Pray that the students will set wise priorities.

Pray that the parents will teach their children to respect everyone, especially those in authority over them.

Day 13—Pray that the students will value life and all of God's creation.

Pray that the parents will seek help if they struggle with issues from their childhood.

Day 14—Pray for healing, communication, and reconciliation in the students' relationships.

Pray that parents will encourage their children to achieve their personal best.

Day 15—Pray that the students will be safe/relieved from all forms of abuse.

Pray that the parents will model forgiveness and reconciliation.

(Continued on page 4.)

## Congratulations to Hemet's Grace Academy

Congratulations to Hemet Church of the Nazarene in Hemet, California, for recognizing a need for Christian education in its community. They are opening Grace Academy this fall.

The need. After more than 25 years, Hemet's Community Christian School is shutting down. Although the campus is staying open until the end of the school year, the closure has left many parents and students scrambling to find another private, Christian school to fit their needs. The school had considered various options for staying open, but it decided that it was best for the church to close its school with over 100 students.

The need met. One option is Grace Academy, a new school opening this fall at Hemet Church of the Nazarene. Although the name may be different, many of the teachers and other staff members from Community Christian will be coming over to the new school. The new school, on the Nazarene church's 14-acre campus, includes up to six classrooms, a chapel, and space that will be constructed into a playground. The grounds also have a large grassy space that could be made into a sports park.

When the Hemet Church of the Nazarene moved to its current location near Florida Avenue and Soboba Street in 2008, it was built with a school in mind. "The intention was to start a school, but with the downturn in the economy, Christian

schools in the valley have faced some hard times," said the church's pastor, Jim Dorsey. "Christian education is almost a luxury for most families." He said the timing has worked out well for the church and the school. "We're very excited about it," he said. "We're looking for students, and they're looking for a school. It's kind of a win-win situation."

Dorsey said he hopes to start Grace Academy with 100 students for the first year. "I think that's a doable goal," he said. "That would keep the cost down on the students' tuition and would enable us to keep the school in operation."

Nazarene Educators Worldwide applauds this church for recognizing and meeting the need of Christian education for their community.

Nazarene Educators Worldwide is an official organization of the Church of the Nazarene that encourages all Nazarene educators involved in Christian schools, homeschools, public and private schools, preschools and childcare learning centers, and colleges and universities. To learn more about Nazarene Educators Worldwide, go to [www.naznew.org](http://www.naznew.org).

This article originally appeared in the NCN News for 4/11/14. To see the original article, go to [www.ncnnews.org](http://www.ncnnews.org).



## Waiting on the Lord

By Becky Ramsey - Christian School Representative

Waiting.....at a stop light, in a grocery line, in the doctor's office—each of these activities and more are not something we enjoy doing. If the truth were known, waiting is an activity that we try to avoid at all costs. Who does not analyze the line at the grocery store to try to determine which line will take the least amount of time? Then we find that it is impossible to pick the right line. We have to make an appointment to see the doctor only to spend more time in the waiting room than in the office.

Yet we are repeatedly told in scripture to wait on the Lord. Psalm 27:14 (NIV) commands, "Wait for the LORD; be strong and take heart and wait for the LORD." Why is a state that we try so hard to avoid something that God tells us to pursue? The only answer is to search His Word for the purpose.


Why should we wait on the Lord? Isaiah 40:31 (NKJV) gives one excellent reason. "But those who wait on the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint." In my jobs that I face in teaching, I always need more strength, need to avoid weariness, and want to finish the job at hand before fainting. Teaching is not for the weak if we are doing it the way it should be done. Too many give up before they see the reward of their students achieving the goal at hand.

Galatians 6:9 (NIV) instructs, "Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up." Teachers cannot give up on students. We must keep working until the proper time of learning comes for that struggling student.

Waiting is not an easy task. It is often one that consumes us, especially in the classroom. When I am tempted to give up and go on without seeing a student master a task, I reflect on Lamentations 3:22-24 (NIV), "Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail..." I must love my students enough to keep trying. "They are new every morning..." I must remember that a new day is another chance to try again. "...great is your faithfulness..." I must be a faithful teacher as He is faithful. "...I say to myself, 'The Lord is my portion; therefore I will wait for Him.'" I must realize that anything worthwhile will be accomplished in Him, not in my strength. His guidance is needed for He is my portion especially in the task of teaching.

How do we wait on the Lord, especially when waiting is not our chosen chore? Habakkuk 2:3-4 (NIV) speaks to this need. "For the revelation awaits an appointed time; it speaks of the end and will not prove false. Though it linger, wait for it; it will certainly come and will not delay."

We forget that God has an appointed time for everything. There is a purpose in His timing. Many times it is the process that refines us—not His answer. In the refining of any precious metal, the metal must be put in the fire. (Continued on page 5.)



*"But those who wait on the  
LORD shall renew their strength;  
they shall mount up with wings like eagles,  
they shall run and not be weary, they  
shall walk and not faint."*

Isaiah 40:31 (NKJV)



## Spring Ideas for a Preschool Classroom

By Melodee Simmons (Continued from page 1.)

3. Teach the children how to plant seeds in soil and watch for the sprouts to break through. Try growing something edible. Cherry tomatoes are fun or try some herbs. Mint, basil, chives or cilantro grow easily and are fun for the children to pick a piece and eat.

4. Give the children half of an egg shell, and let them spoon a little bit of soil into it. Then, sprinkle grass seed on the soil. The children can carefully draw a face on the shell or put a pair of googly eyes on the shell. Lightly water the soil. In no time at all, you will have a cute character with a head full of green hair. The child can give the new character friend a haircut with scissors or wait to see how high "the hair" will grow.

5. Another great growing project is to start some flowers to give to Mom for Mother's Day. The flowers can be grown in any container you have. Let the children decorate the container to make it a gift Mom will love.

6. Since there are so many things to grow, the possibilities are endless. If you want to extend the learning further, why not demonstrate how plants drink with a stalk of celery or a white carnation. Cut off the end of the celery stalk or flower. Place it in a container of water with food coloring mixed in it. You will see the colored water going up the veins of the celery stalk to the leaves. It will make a pretty colored carnation (also a nice Mother's Day gift).

Whatever you are planning this spring, be sure to add some nature exploration. The children will love it!

## Monthly Prayer Guide for Teachers and Administrators\* (Continued from page 2.)

Day 16—Pray that the students and their families will learn to forgive others.  
Pray that parents will discipline their children wisely.

Day 17—Pray that the students will model respect and acceptance for all students.  
Pray for mutual love and respect between parents and children.

Day 18—Pray that the students will choose the right friends and maintain self-esteem.  
Pray that the parents will model how to choose good friends.

Day 19—Pray that the students' minds will be open to the truth.  
Pray that the students' extended families will be good role models for them.

Day 20—Pray that the students will take care of their bodies.  
Pray that the parents will know how to talk about sex, drugs, and other difficult topics with their children.

Day 21—Pray that the students will show love and respect for others.  
Pray that the parents model unconditional love.

Day 22—Pray that the students will trust teachers and administrators and seek their help when it is needed.  
Pray for the parents to be patient, flexible, and wise in coping with life.

Day 23—Pray that the students grow mentally, physically, and spiritually.  
Pray that the parents will truly love their children.

Day 24—Pray that the students will learn from mistakes and handle criticism well.  
Pray that the parents will not over-indulge their children.

Day 25—Pray that the students' misconceptions about God will be corrected.  
Pray for peace, beauty, love, and joy in the home environment.

Day 26—Pray that the students will know how much God loves them.  
Pray that the parents will make any necessary sacrifices in order to be good parents.

Day 27—Pray that the students will practice self-control.  
Pray that parents will resolve conflicts constructively.

Day 28—Pray that the students will love without prejudice and stand alone if necessary in order to do what is right.  
Pray that the parents will model respect for authority.

Day 29—Pray that the students will treat those who are different with respect.  
Pray that the parents will know where to turn for help.

Day 30—Pray that the students will make wise decisions about their leisure activities.  
Pray that a thankful attitude becomes natural in the families.

Day 31—Pray that the students will be involved in a healthy faith community.  
Pray that the parents will commit their home and their family to the care and nurture of God.

\*Adapted from "One Minute Prayer Guide for Students" by Operation Intercession, [www.operationintercession.org](http://www.operationintercession.org).



## The Last Night

By Louise Jenkins

“Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will” (Matthew 26:39).

I walked in memory tonight with Jesus as He took His disciples into the Garden of Gethsemane to pray. His heart was heavy, the Cross was in view, and Judas had gone out into the night to betray Him.

I heard Him cry out to His disciples. “My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow . . . stay here and keep watch with me.” He had always been there for them—now He needed them. He went a little farther into the garden and prayed in agony. “Oh, my Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will” (Matthew 26:38,42).

When He arose, He was ready for the Cross.

The disciples had not prayed. They had slept. At the first sound of the mob approaching, they all fled, leaving Jesus alone.

The terrible events that followed: the beating, the jeers, the thorns, the spikes through His hands and feet, He bore all alone—for us. But His battle had been won in the garden. Victory was already His.

Sooner or later, we all have our Gethsemanes—overwhelming burdens, disappointments, pain, and sorrow. Our victory will depend on our praying through to full submission to the Father’s will. Only then can He come to minister to us. Trust Him—He will be there!

(This devotional appeared in *Life on the Line*, Volume 2, a book of devotionals produced by Kansas City First Church of the Nazarene. Louise Jenkins was the wife of General Superintendent Dr. Orville Jenkins, Sr. They are now in heaven celebrating with their risen Savior.)

## Waiting on the Lord

By Becky Ramsey - Christian School Representative (Continued from page 3.)

There is another important aspect to the how of waiting. We must wait eagerly. I know that no one readily awaits the fire or enthusiastically endures the flames, but we can fervently face the flames if He is there with us.

Romans 8:18 (NIV) gives us the reason for this willingness to endure the flames of refinement. “I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us.” We must realize that God will sacrifice our comfort for our becoming more like His Son.

I heard that the way the silversmith knows that the silver has been refined is when he can see his reflection in the vat of silver. God knows that when He can see himself in us, the refinement has done its job.

The greatest question to answer is what will happen when we choose to wait on the Lord. I have learned that we will be BLESSED—blessed with His direction, blessed with His strength, and blessed with His answers. Psalm 84:5-7 (NIV) promises, “Blessed are those whose strength is in you, who have set their hearts on pilgrimage...they go from strength to strength till each appears before God in Zion.”

Traveling with the Lord is much better than meandering off on our own journey, because we can rely on His unfailing strength.

If we journey with Him, even those paths that seem difficult or even impossible to cross are accomplished with purpose and victory. Psalm 84 ends with a tremendous promise, “For the Lord God is a sun and a shield, the Lord bestows favor and honor; no good thing does he withhold from those whose walk is blameless.” (Psalm 84:11, NIV)

I want God to be my light and my protector because that is where we find favor. He is a God who does not withhold what is best for us. Instead He will bring about what is for our good even in the difficult experiences we face.

When we wait on Him, He will help us up and carry us on His wings. As a mother eagle stirs up the nest and makes things uncomfortable to get her eaglet to the point of desiring to fly, she is also there ready to spread her wings and to carry her prized possession through the process. God will stir up our nest; He will often make us uncomfortable. He will even require us to wait.

When we wait on Him, we give Him the ability to create in us His beauty, His refinement, and His purpose. So as you wait for the end of this school year in whatever your circumstance—WAIT WITH HIM AND THEN EXPECT HIS BLESSINGS.

*Wait with Him and then expect His Blessings!*

