

THE NEW

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

A Message from the Chairman - Dr. James D. Upchurch, Chairman

1 John 3:18 "Dear Children, Let us not love with words or tongue, but with action and in truth."

I am delighted to serve as the chairman of the Nazarene Educators Worldwide (NEW) organization. I am joined with very gifted individuals who are serving in specific designated education strands and liaisons from Nazarene Compassionate Ministries and the International Board of Education. We stand ready to resource and encourage all Christian educators associated with the Church of the Nazarene and provide a network of partnerships that enrich the various ministries of all educators.

Nazarene Educators Worldwide is an official organization of the Church of the Nazarene and is sponsored by Sunday School and Discipleship Ministries International. At the February 2009 meeting of the General Board, the constitution for the Nazarene Educators Worldwide was approved. This replaces the Nazarene International Education Association (NIEA), an action approved by the votes of the NIEA Executive Council and the NIEA membership. The expanded focus will continue to help Christian educators at all levels of teaching. Nazarene educators in the Public Schools, Private Schools, Christian Schools, Homeschool, College/University, and International Schools number over 100,000 educators!

We as Christian educators have a vital role to play. The calling that God has placed in your heart is met with the day to day challenges that face all educators. I hope you sense the "oneness" that can only come from a collective group of educators praying for each other worldwide.

*Love...
with action
and in truth.*

Each of you brings a wealth of teaching experience and talents that I know are being used by God to further HIS Kingdom work! At the heart of the Nazarene Educators Worldwide organization is a movement of people united to a commitment of being a servant and seeking ways to grow professionally. Over the next four years, we welcome your input and encourage your active participation in joining NEW!

My prayer for you and myself is to follow the scripture passage found in Psalm 90:12 "TEACH us to number our days aright..." JOIN us and may God bless you as you TEACH to change lives!



Dr. Jim Upchurch is the Dean of the School of Education at Olivet Nazarene University.

Dr. Upchurch also serves as the Chairman of Nazarene Educators Worldwide.



CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE



Reclaiming Childhood

By Jan Wilton - Christian School Representative

Today's child is growing up and losing the innocence of childhood at an alarmingly younger and younger age. It is important not to "hide your head in the sand" and to pretend this is not an issue for children in our circle of responsibility. How can the Christian school and Christian school teachers make a difference? We need Christian school teachers and parents who are willing to face the reality that our children are not growing up in a godly, child-friendly world. We need teachers and parents who will take the risk and be a voice for the children.

Nancy Carlsson-Paige in her book, *Taking Back Childhood*, wrote from her observation and research how childhood culture has changed dramatically in just ONE generation. She believes this is directly a result of current "social trends — screen time, commercialism, sped-up daily life, violence and sexualization, and academic pressures." These factors are changing how children experience their childhood. In regard to commercialism Carlsson-Paige observes:

"When corporations pitch their wares to kids, it's not just products they're selling through the increasingly sophisticated campaigns their marketers devise. It's also a mindset — one that tells kids, 'You'll be happy if you have this toy, if you eat this food, if you look this way.' One result is that from an early age many children get the message that happiness comes from acquiring

things, which undermines their ability to find satisfaction and to meet their basic developmental needs through play and meaningful relationships with others. As we learn more about how commercialism is harming our children, we'll see that, despite its pervasiveness, there are many ways to counteract its destructive influence."

Christian school children and parents are as much at risk from current trends as children in non-Christian homes and schools. Therefore, everyone should take to heart Nancy Carlsson-Paige's following suggestions on how caring adults can keep their children from the harm caused by current social trends:

- "Keep it simple with toys. Remember that fewer is better, simpler is better.
 - Reduce television time, especially children's exposure to commercial TV.
 - Avoid substituting material things for emotional expression and connection.
 - Find regular times to be together as a family and encourage children to contribute to family life as a way of caring rather than a means of getting a material reward.
 - Help children to find peace and sanctuary through connecting to the natural world.
 - Help children to explore their own unique talents and interest and to show your interest in their activities by making descriptive rather than evaluative comments about what they do.
- (Continued on page 4)



Real Math

TED Talk Review

by Christina and Janine Wilkins (Janine serves as a Home School Representative)

Check out this bold exploration of the relationship between math in the real world and in education. Conrad Wolfram explains how math education is boring and difficult because it focuses on calculation, which is something that computers can do very well. He states that math is not equal to calculating, and by using automation, children could learn the concepts of math quicker and more enthusiastically. Does that sound intriguing to you? Are you totally against it? Watch this TED Talk to learn more.

http://www.ted.com/talks/conrad_wolfram_teaching_kids_real_math_with_computers.html

This is a fascinating TED talk. As a result of watching it, I'm allowing my 7th grader to use a calculator more than I ever allowed my older girls to use one. It is a new technological age we live in. My 20-year-long homeschooling experiment has turned out three brilliant young ladies. I'm willing to experiment on this last child!



A Challenge for 2014

By Becky Ramsey - Christian School Representative

You have arrived at a powerful point of promise--the beginning of a new year. You have made it to the end of the 2013 journey, half-way through a school year. Even if you have already made plans for this year, those plans may not materialize. I am sitting at home on my second snow day, and I will have to readjust my lesson plans that I made before I left for Christmas vacation.

Starting a new year in the middle of a school year is similar to a place in the life of the Israelites when they were getting ready to cross over into the Promised Land. They were at the end of one juncture of their journey, but they were just beginning a new part of this important wilderness trek.

Joshua gave some wise direction to God's people at that time. He told them to closely follow the Ark of the Covenant of the Lord.

Joshua 3:4 advises: "Then you will know which way to go, since you have never been this way before."

Whatever our plans, we have never been through 2014. As we go, we must remember to prepare for the battles we will face. The Promised Land was not conquered without facing conflicts. The Israelite tribes had to fight for their allotted area.

We have not finished our course. We are rounding the bend to our next adventure. Our school year is only half over, but we are crossing into a new year with renewed spirits. As Joshua advised the Israelites to stay close to the Ark of the Covenant, the very presence of their God, we must stay close to the Word. John 1:1 reminds us: "In the beginning was

God." We will never draw closer to the source of Truth if we do not commit to be daily in the truth of His Word.

When I thought of a challenge to pass on to teachers for this year, I thought of one that truly challenged me. It came when I was leading a mission trip. One of the missionaries asked me about the spiritual status of my group. I was able to say confidently, "This is a good group." They had worked hard to prepare; they were ready to serve. I was pleased with what our team had to offer.

I was not ready for the next comment. "Becky," said the missionary, "God did not call us to be good, but to be our best for Him." I have never been able to escape those words. I can't be just a "good" wife; I must do what is best for my husband. I cannot strive to be a "good" mother and grandmother; my love must be unsurpassed by any love other than my love for my Lord. I can no longer be satisfied to be a "good" teacher; I must find the methods that would allow me to serve supremely, because I serve my Savior not my school. I can never be just a "good" Christian because God had called me to be like Christ.

Philippians 2:5-7 says: "Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus who being in the very nature of God did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking on the very nature of a servant." Christ gave His all! This is the attitude to which Christ referred as he talked to the Rich Young Ruler about what was necessary to obtain eternal life. (Continued on page 5.)



The ABCs of Teaching By Aimee Stone

You have been called to work with children, either as a parent, teacher, administrator, or pastor. Or, you may serve in a combination of these roles. You have the awesome privilege of touching the lives of the children you encounter with God's love. God has given you this desire to work with children or you would likely be doing something else.

Working with children can be physically and mentally draining. However, working with kids can also be rewarding and fulfilling, for it builds and connects us with our future. Each time you see a spark of connection in the eyes of a child, your calling and purpose are fulfilled. Below are three basic concepts of teaching. These ABCs will help you make the most of every opportunity you have to love, interact with, and teach a child.

Availability

Children are perceptive creatures. They often can perceive the unseen and pick up on the not-yet-stated. Children will notice if you are not paying attention to them. They observe whether you are distracted when they are trying to engage you in conversation or an activity. (Continued on page 6.)



Prayer Flakes

By Debbie Hallman

Childcare/Preschool Rep.



In many parts of our country, the snow is coming down and not stopping. There are rain and floods in many places. God has a plan in the weather, but He does not always lay it all out for us. ❄️

The weather can be very cold, and it will rain. Then the rain turns into snow, and we see snowflakes ❄️ in all different sizes. Some are large, and some are small. Snowflakes remind me of God's blessings. These I call prayer flakes. Every time one flake drops, God is giving us another blessing. ❄️

Each snowflake is unique. That is how humans look in God's eyes. He has made each one of us unique in our own special way. Some blessings we can see right away; for other blessings, we must wait and see what will happen. ❄️

I tell this to the children, and they understand that God is always near to us. And, He knows everything about us. We should be grateful for all the many blessings we have received. So this year, instead of a New Year's resolution, thank God for all the many blessings you have received and the many more blessings to come. Remember always Ephesians 1:16: "I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers." ❄️

Ephesians 6:18: "And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep praying for all the saints." ❄️

Reclaiming Childhood

By Jan Wilton (Continued from page 2.)

- Point out ads, talk about why they exist, and ask open-ended questions that encourage children to think more about marketing, keeping children's ways of seeing the world in mind.
- Prepare kids ahead of time for visits to a store.
- Help children to learn how to handle the urge to buy without giving into it.
- As children get older, talk with them about our interconnections with the people and conditions that produce the items we consume."

In the Christian school, we have the privilege of bringing to the children and parents the Word of God for making decisions that impact a child's childhood.

Deuteronomy 6:5-9

"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates." (NIV)

In Mark 9:36-37, 42, Jesus is very specific about loving children and not causing them to sin:

"He (Jesus) took a little child and had him stand among them. Taking him in his arms, he said to them, 'Whoever welcomes one of these little children in my name welcomes me; and whoever welcomes me does not welcome me but the one who sent me.' And if anyone causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to be thrown into the sea with a large millstone tied around his neck."

Vaclav Havel once said, "Hope is a state of mind, not of the world.

Hope, in this deep and powerful sense, is not the same as joy that things are going well, or willingness to invest in enterprises that are obviously heading for success, but rather an ability to work for something because it is good." We have hope in God for the childhood of future generations of children as we value our children by protecting their childhood. Together we can reclaim childhood for the next generation.

Works Cited:

Carlsson-Paige, Nancy. Taking Back Childhood: Helping Your Kids Thrive in a Fast-paced, Media-saturated, Violence-filled World. New York: Hudson Street, 2008.

The Holy Bible: New International Version. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1984.



A Challenge for 2014

By Becky Ramsey (Continued from Page 3.)



The young man was looking for the least he could do and still receive the offered reward. When Christ told him to obey the Law, he breathed a sigh of relief. "Oh, I already do that—done it all my life—church, youth group, Christian school..." "Then Christ asked him to sell out...to become totally committed... to give his very best...his all... but he walked away sorrowfully. Being one's best for God is too steep a price for some, but God's Word demands it.

Listen to the verbs, the adjectives, the adverbs used in these verses to direct us to HOW we should live for God. (Yes, even God uses diction to direct us!):

Philippians 3:8 "I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord."

Luke 9:23 "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me."

Romans 12:1-2 "In view of God's mercy, offer your body as a living sacrifice ...Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be ye transformed by the renewing of you mind." Those verses are all in the imperative mood—an order not an option.

Romans 8:5 "Those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires."

I Peter 1:13 "Prepare your mind for action; be self-controlled; set your hope fully on the grace to be given you.

I Peter 1:22 continues that thought: "Now that you have purified yourself by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love... love deeply, from the heart."

I Corinthians 15:58 "Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord."

Colossians 3:17 "And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord."

We will follow different paths as we forge into a new year, but each path is to be a path of promise, God's promise. Each person must have the same purpose—to bring glory to His name.

These few verses only scratch the surface in what our attitude, actions, and love should be, but each one demands our best efforts. None of these verses acknowledge the mediocre, the convenience of chance, or the half-hearted effort that is often prevalent in the world. A life with this attitude is not easy. Christ promises, "In this world you will have tribulation, but be of good cheer, for I have overcome the world."

In our life, we must not fall into the same trap as the two men on the road to Emmaus, recorded in Luke 24. The two men did not recognize that Christ was right there walking with them because they were focused on the problems of the situation, the death of Christ. Even when they were directed back to the prophetic Word of the prophets that foretold both the death and resurrection, they did not recognize Jesus. The events that had just taken place did not fit into their own personal perspective of what should have happened, the way they wanted it to play out. It was not until they took the time to compel Him to come into their daily routine, their fellowship, their practice of the breaking of the bread, that they recognized the Messiah. Then they sensed the burning in their hearts from being in the very presence of their Lord.

It is like these words—NO WHERE. We may be in a circumstance in which we are all alone, struggling, and we look around for God. We do not see Him through the struggle of the situation. We cry out that God is NO WHERE to be found. That is not true. All we must do is move closer to the one who "knows" us better than we know ourselves, and we will suddenly realize that His Spirit is NOW HERE. Actually, He had been there all the time.

Everyone wants to claim Jeremiah 29:11 for the new year. "For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you a hope and a future." We want the hope, the hopeful future—that sounds good. We like to think of God's plans to prosper us, but we forget that God is speaking these words to His children when they are in captivity, a difficult time, a struggling time, a learning time—a time when they felt separated from God. And we miss the lesson only two verses later in verse 13. God says, "You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. To find His plan, His prospering, His hope, His future, we must seek Him with ALL our heart.

As we begin 2014, I challenge each individual to hold up each new day as a gift to the Lord who gave everything for us. Choose words and actions that give our best to Him—such a small sacrifice to bring a smile to the face of our Savior in 2014.



The ABCs of Teaching

By Aimee Stone (Continued from page 4.)

Therefore, one of the most important characteristics you can display is availability. Make yourself available to the children in your life. Focus on them. Listen to them. Pay attention to them. When you do this, you make an investment in the lives of the children and an investment in the future.

Balance

Adults struggle with the concept of balance. Adults must learn how to balance work and play and to balance responsibility and freedom. Those who work with children are more than individuals who bestow knowledge. They should model appropriate behavior to children. Children look to trusted adults for examples of who they might become and how they might live their lives. Adults must make an intentional effort to lead lives of balance, so that they can model appropriate and responsible behavior to the children. To be effective with children, leaders need to create and maintain balance in their lives.

Creativity

You have been given the task of molding and shaping the lives of children. This is a huge and rather daunting task. In today's world, it is common for children to be more sufficient at video games than at reading and at the digital world rather than the real world. As shapers of children, adults must compete, at some level, with the energy, excitement, and creativity of the child's world. Children themselves are creative, and you must find creative ways to reach, harness, and use their creativity to aid their learning. You must find new and creative ways to open up their minds to the subjects and lessons that will give them the best chance at a well-rounded, productive, and happy life.

What an awesome privilege and responsibility you have! Is it as simple as A-B-C? No, it takes something beyond the ABCs. It takes the Holy Spirit helping you each moment to be the kind of person God wants you to be. It is the Holy Spirit that gives you the awareness of the need for availability, balance, and creativity. It is the Holy Spirit that gives you wisdom, helps you say and do the right things, and helps you to be a good role model for the children you know.

"In everything set [the children] an example by doing what is good. In your teaching show integrity, seriousness and soundness of speech that cannot be condemned" (Titus 2:7).

(This article by Aimee Stone appeared originally in the CM Leadership E-Newsletter, February, 2005.)

Are you looking for a missions project for 2014? Consider the *Kids Reaching Kids Mission Offering Project* for 2014, **Listen, Learn & Let it Out!**



This project will be raising money for Bible story audio players to help kids reach other kids, their families, and whole communities with the Good News of Jesus Christ. In addition, some of the funds raised through **Listen, Learn & Let it Out!** will be used to fund orality ministries in the Church of the Nazarene. Orality ministries help spread the Good News of Jesus Christ through spoken, rather than written, word for communication. It is estimated that 70% of the world's population cannot or do not read. Reaching children among this population group with the Good News of Jesus through visual arts, radio, film, and storytelling is this Mission Offering Project's goal. To find out more, go to www.krknaz.com.



NAZARENE EDUCATORS WORLDWIDE - 17001 PRAIRIE STAR PKWY LENEXA, KS 66220
800-221-6317 - dharris@nazarene.org - jupchurc@olivet.edu