

SMALL CLOUD CHRISTIAN SCHOOL PRESENTS ... CANDLE LIGHTS

"With God all things are possible." Mark 10:27.

June - August 2003

Vol. 8, No. 4

P.O. Box 357, Wilton, CA 95693-0357

GRADUATION 2003

Graduation Day 2003! We were prepared for some very warm summer weather that June 4th evening, but a strong breeze actually began to blow and the evening turned a bit chilly. Five students wore caps and gowns for the graduation ceremonies: Shaylei Divoky, our kindergartner; Chassi Brooks, Valen Goni, and Stephanie Knezovich, our eighth graders; and Caroline Fleschutz, our high school graduate. Kellie Hunter and Paea Inukiha'angana, our sixth graders, received certificates of promotion.

As the first strains of "Pomp and Circumstance" began to play, Mrs. Nelson and Elder Larry Watts walked to the podium, followed by each of the



Mrs. Nelson and Elder Watts enter

above-mentioned students and Mrs. Seely. Mrs. Nelson welcomed everyone and an opening prayer was offered by Mr. Mike Alford.



Small Cloud Christian School Choir

"Watch the King" was the title of the commencement address given by Elder Larry Watts (see page 4). This was followed by a girls' quartet singing "I Worship You, Almighty God."

Special certificates were awarded for various exceptional achievements. The sixth graders received their certificates of promotion.



L to R: Caroline Fleschutz, Valen Goni, Chassi Brooks, Stephanie Knezovich, and Shaylei Divoky

The SCCS choir, accompanied by Mr. Shawn Seely on guitar, sang the song "God Is So Good."

Our primaries and middlers, under the direction of Mrs. Seely, then recited part of a lengthy poem they had spent several weeks memorizing. It is entitled "Little by Little" and is found on page 2.

Next, Caroline Fleschutz gave a very nice graduation speech (see "Sehr Geehrte Damen und Herren," page 3). She was awarded her diploma, and, as is traditionally done here at SCCS, she received a

framed graduation picture of herself to give to her parents. A collage of pictures reminiscent of her days at Small Cloud was presented to her as well.

At the completion of the graduation ceremonies, the red and white helium-



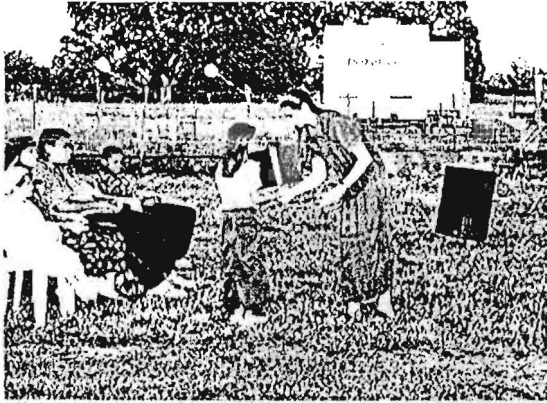
Prayer by Mr. Alford

filled balloons, which had been tied to each fence post around the school yard, were cut loose and ascended into the evening sky.

All were invited for food, drink, and graduation cake. ■



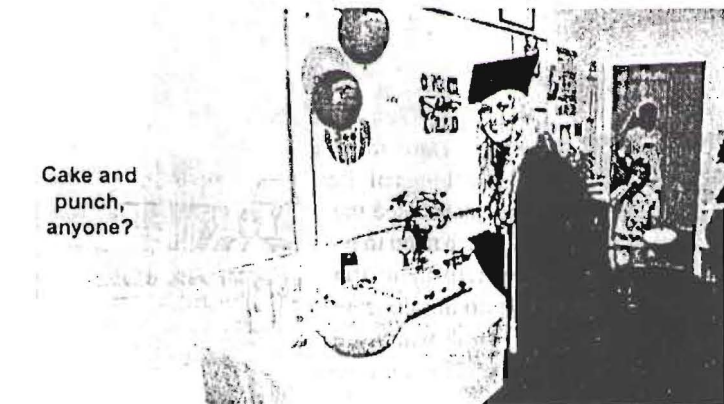
Promoted sixth graders Kellie Hunter and Paea Inukiha'angana



Andie Seely receiving certificate for significant character growth.



Presentation of the graduation picture to Caroline's sister, Jeannette, as Caroline's parents were unable to be present.



Cake and punch, anyone?

(Our thanks to Lavern Briley for taking most of these photographs.)

LITTLE BY LITTLE

Anonymous
(recited by the Primary and Middler classes)

"Little by little" an acorn said,
As it slowly sank in its mossy bed,
"I am improving every day,
Hidden deep in the earth away."

Little by little, each day it grew;
Little by little, it sipped the dew;
Downward it sent out a threadlike root;
Up in the air sprung a tiny shoot.

Day after day, and year after year,
Little by little the leaves appear;
And the slender branches spread far and wide,
Till the mighty oak is the forest's pride.

*Far down in the depths of the dark blue sea,
An insect train works ceaselessly,
Grain by grain, they are building well,
Each one alone in its little cell.

*Moment by moment, and day by day,
Never stopping to rest or to play,
Rocks upon rocks, they are reaching high,
Till the top looks out on the sunny sky.

*The gentle wind and the balmy air,
Little by little, bring verdure there;
Till the summer sunbeams gayly smile
On the buds and the flowers of the coral isle.

"Little by little," said a thoughtful boy,
"Moment by moment, I'll well employ,
Learning a little every day,
And not spending all my time in play,
And still this rule in my mind shall dwell,
Whatever I do, I will do it well.

"Little by little, I'll learn to know
The treasured wisdom of long ago;
And one of these days, perhaps, we'll see
That the world will be the better for me";
And do you not think that this simple plan
Made him a wise and useful man?

**These stanzas were not included in the recitation.*

Sehr geehrte Damen und Herren
[Very Honorable Ladies and Gentlemen]:

That's how I would start my speech in German. Even though I've been here almost a year now, I haven't lost my German. As you probably all know I'm not from California. I came to the US last year in September to finish my schooling over here. I never thought that my dream, to go to school in the US, would turn into reality. Some very special people in my life have made this dream possible for me.

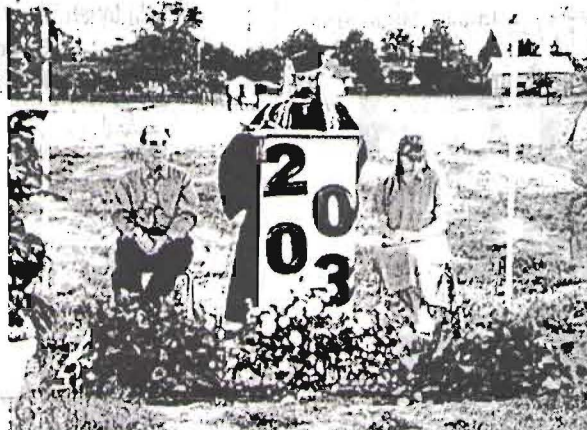
I would like to thank first of all my Father in Heaven who leads everything in such wonderful and perfect ways. My parents have supported me and let me come to this country that is so far away. I know that it wasn't really easy for them to let their youngest child leave. But through their love and unselfishness they allowed me to come here.

My friends here in California have made it possible for me to be here--the Schendel family, who let me stay at their home and made me feel like a part of their family; and the Moore Academy which cooperated with Small Cloud, so that I can actually graduate through them. The combination of all of these is the reason why I'm here now.

This school year made history in my life. It was a year full of experiments, happiness, laughter, tears, and sometimes

SEHR GEEHRTE DAMEN UND HERREN

by Caroline Fleschutz
Graduating Senior, age 19



worries. But the most important discovery that I made is that I got to know myself much better. My life changed so much, and I still can't believe how that all happened. It's so amazing how much you can find in your life if you just let God work on it. Each day was and is a challenge, and that is what makes the day interesting.

For me it was a joy to go to Small Cloud. My teachers, Sandy and Margie, and

also the kids made this school a place where I loved to be. Of course, there were also some days that I wished I could have stayed in my bed, but those days were rare.

My favorite subject in school was Bible. I learned so much. Of course, I also learned a lot in the other subjects. I'm very thankful that Sandy and Margie had so much patience with me. You must understand that everything was new to me and often they had to describe what this or that word meant. That was also something that I liked, to discover words that I didn't know. Sometimes it was kind of depressing when I tried to make a point, but couldn't say it right. I always thought that after a year in the US my English would change a lot. And still, after this school year, my English is not even half perfect. But, you know, I take it how it is... I won't give up! It's never too late to learn new things! I'll continue with my English studies in Germany so that my vocabulary will get bigger.

My plan for the future is to go to a nursing school in Germany. That was one of my childhood dreams. And I can't be happier than to make this dream come true. God will help me, and with Him everything is possible!

Thank you, my teachers and my classmates, for making this last year of high school very special for me. I have learned so much; I will never forget all the fun I had with you guys. I will miss you all! ■

NOW YOU CAN HELP US!

We are in the process of enlarging our very small playground and have found two fundraisers that we hope you will be able to help us with.

★ **The Raley's card:** The Scrip program now offers a Raleys/Bel Air/Nob Hill card that can be used each time you shop. Simply present the card at the register when you shop and a percentage of your bill will automatically be credited to the school's account. How much easier can it get!

Fifty cards have already been ordered. If you would like to use one, please let us know by calling (916) 687-8329. Leave us a phone number where you can be reached, as well as your name and complete address. The card will be mailed to you promptly. The only thing you will have to do is go online and register your card before using it.

★ **Gift wrap fundraiser:** The school has signed up with a company that produces wrapping paper for fundraising. Since this is something most of us use, perhaps you would like to order some of this quality paper. Free shipping is provided for all orders over \$65.00; other orders will be charged a flat shipping fee of \$5.95. All orders must be placed no later than **December 31, 2003**.

Ordering is very simple if you have a computer. The web address is: www.sallyfoster.com. When you enter the account number, you will see that the recipient of the profits is Pt. Loma School. **Do not be alarmed; this is correct.** Since Small Cloud is such a small school, our orders will be combined with those of a larger school. To make sure Small Cloud gets the credit, be sure to check the box that states: "I want to enter in a school account number or search for a school to give credit to." Please use the following information:

Account Number: 764544

Student Number: 65198

Please call us at (916) 687-8329 if you have any questions. Thank you for your support.

"Train up a child in the way he should go; and when he is old, he will not depart from it." Proverbs 22:6

PARENTS' CORNER . . .

"Parents, have you studied parental government that you may wisely train the will and impulse of your children? Teach the young tendrils to entwine about God for support. It is not enough that you say, Do this, or, Do that, and then become utterly regardless and forgetful of what you have required, and the children are not careful to do your commands. Prepare the way for your child to obey your commands cheerfully; teach the tendrils to cling to Jesus. . . . Teach them to ask the Lord to help them in the little things of life; to be wide awake to see the small duties which need to be done; to be helpful in the home. If you do not educate them there is one who will, for Satan is watching his opportunity to sow the seeds of tares in the heart." - *Child Guidance* by Ellen G. White, p. 31



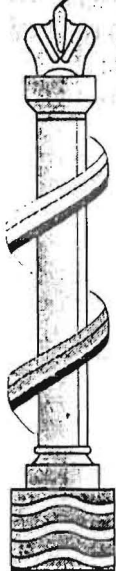


Commencement Address
 Small Cloud Christian School
 June 15, 2003

WATCH THE KING!

by Elder Larry Watts

Seventh-Day Adventist Church
 Reform Movement



Watch the King (behold the Lamb). Never, never separate from Christ. In your last breath of life, will you be able to say, "I lived the life God created me to live?"

What God wants most from us is that we keep our eyes on Him. What He really longs for most for us—more than anything else—is for us to be connected with Him. And what do you think that kind of relationship is? Is God going to be worried or fretting about the possibility of our failing Him? In this relationship, is He in a state of fear for our promised faithfulness and sincerity? No!

But a connection with God is not a bolt, a trailer hitch, or a plug into an outlet or a network. God doesn't set up life in such a way that we know the blueprint. While He gives us some ground rules, He doesn't say, "Here's what you're going to do; here's where you're going to go; here's where you're going to live and work; here's who you're going to meet; here's your wife/husband, your children, etc." (Matt. 6:33). God's primary concern is that we connect

with Him. And, while He never frets over what we might or might not do, we need to have a desperate, clinging sense—like Jacob—that He is our life and breath.



Yes! Watch the King (behold the Lamb). Never, never separate from Jesus, the Lamb of God. For those who are connected to Him, He is a Lamb. But for those who deny Him, He is (or will be) a Lion.

If we cling to Him, He will use us exactly as He equipped us to be used, and that is a life of discovery. Living the abundant life we were wired or designed to live is the only true happiness

and joy in this world and in the one to come. And the life God has in mind for us is far beyond what we can think or imagine or dream. Have dreams or endure boredom—that's the choice. God's way or your own way.

If we choose to follow Him, our life will not be a boring drudgery, but a life of one adventure after another, of one discovery after another. And He is going to put us in

situations where we never really understand what's happening because He tests us and proves us so that He might bless us and use us. We can run, but we can't hide. Situations teach us something we need to know to go on to a higher challenge. But for that to happen, we need to stay connected with the Man up there. He is the God of design. Every good and perfect gift comes down from the Father of lights in Whom is no variation or shifting or shadow of turning (see James 1:17).

And just what has God given us to work with? (See Exodus 4:2: "What is that in thine hand?") Talents, knowledge (life experiences), skills, passions (what do you really love?). If you watch the King,

1) with Him, life is going to be fun,
but

2) you're not going to know what is going to happen from one day of your life to the next. There is going to be an unfolding sense of creation going on in your life—always something to look forward to, something to be lived and not something to be feared. My greatest fear is that fear will keep me from living life—living a life of faith, and what is more important than faith? That is what connects us to HIM! He is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. Therefore,

- 1) Set boundaries.
- 2) Be transparent.
- 3) Shore yourself up (good friendships are give-and-take relationships).
- 4) Connect with a caring community; witness to the unconnected.
- 5) Find a mentor, a role model, a life-long wisdom figure; but never an idol. Watch the King!

Never, never separate from Christ. He knows what He made you for. If you want to measure your life, measure it by how you give it away.

**He tests us and proves us
 so that He might bless us
 and use us.**

Your education is to help you find who you are, and once you have found it, *own* it, take all of what you are and give it away and then forget you ever had it. But you will never forget or regret the experience. Watch the King! ■

Small Cloud Christian School is a nonprofit organization dedicated to leading children of every race, color, nationality, ethnicity, gender and creed to the knowledge of a living God.