

# SMALL CLOUD CHRISTIAN SCHOOL PRESENTS ... **SMALL CLOUD CHRONICLES**

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

Winter 2008-2009

Vol. 13, No. 2

P.O. Box 650, Wilton, CA 95693-0650

## STUDENT CHANGES, A SWEEET DESSERT, ETC.

**W**e wish all of you a very blessed and happy new year. Although times are definitely becoming more challenging, especially because of the economic crisis, we are very thankful that we have a blessed hope. As someone has said, "When the outlook is dark, the uplook is always bright."

However, we need to pray for those who are suffering right now. Many people have lost their jobs, including several people we know. Mike Alford is one of them; Shawn Seely is another. We appreciate your prayers for them.

Four of our students have left Small Cloud during this school year. Aaron Whiteside and Jantée Webster now attend a boarding school in Santa Rosa. Jonathan Garcia and Christian Renteria moved to Georgia with their family. We miss all of them.

We have been very blessed this quarter to have the services of Albert Becker, who prepares delicious food for students and staff. Not only does he prepare the food, but he shops and cleans up as well. This frees up Mrs. Nelson to be able to get to jobs she could not find time for before. For his wonderful services, we are ever so grateful to Mr. Becker.

On page 2 you will find a recipe for *Apfelkuchen*. This recipe, although not something on Small Cloud's usual menu, was a history assignment for Andrew Petrovich and Andriana Seely. They had been studying about the Reformation and more specifically about Martin Luther and the work he did in Germany. Since *Apfelkuchen* (apple cake) is a German dish, Andrew and Andriana each chose to make one to complement their studies.

A funny little incident occurred when Andriana made the recipe. With her permission, we will explain what happened. Being used to seeing fractions written with the numerator over the denominator, Andriana came to the part of the recipe that said "2/3 cup sugar." She pondered the meaning and decided that one should add 2 or 3 cups of sugar. Feeling confident she understood correctly, Andie did not ask any questions. Needless to say, she created one sweeeeeeeet dessert! Andriana now knows what 2/3 means, and we doubt she'll ever forget!

"Giving Week" this year included an assignment you can read about on page 4. The students also get to choose what they would like to have for lunch that week, so they took the opportunity to choose all their favorite menu items. During one worship time, students watched a DVD about Fanny Crosby, the well-known blind hymnwriter. This DVD showed the struggles that this brave lady faced and the influence they had upon the hymns she wrote. Everyone then sang one of her beautiful hymns.

During "Giving Week," students also watched a film about Amy Carnichael. As a missionary to India, Amy had a real burden for the children sold into slavery and doomed to live miserable lives. She did much to rescue children from these wicked situations and taught them skills to enable them to support themselves.

The day before vacation the students each brought something to share with the other students (a pencil, eraser, cookies, candy, etc.).

On January 31 we celebrated SCCS's thirteenth anniversary. The theme of the program that evening was "Little Things." The primary class began the program with a song entitled "Little Things." The older students gave speeches (see pages 3 and 4). One particularly touching vocal presentation was entitled "One Small Child." Five-year-old Alyssa sang the solo part in this song (see page 4). The program concluded as everyone joined in singing the beautiful hymn "Amazing Grace." Old SCCS video pictures and refreshments followed. We were especially delighted to have four former Small Cloud students attend the program.

Our honor roll students this quarter were Mariana Cardenas and Megan Petrovich. They joined the teachers for a celebration dinner at a local restaurant. ■

## MEET NATALIA SCHWINDT (a visitor/helper from Germany)

**H**i! My name is Natalia Schwindt, and I was born in Armavir, Russia. I have an older brother, Paul, and a younger sister, Olga. In 1995, my family and I (at the age of almost nine) moved to Germany, where I still live. My Dad, Alexander, is a Russia-born German. My Mom, Olga, is Russian. So my siblings and I grew up bilingual, speaking Russian and German.

By the time I was in the fifth grade, I had already discovered my love for learning languages: English, French, Latin, and even a little Greek.



(concluded on page 2)

I love sports and have played handball on a team for over eleven years. I'm also the president of our youth sports club, and my sister and I train a group of girls.

I have always liked working with children. Therefore, after graduating from high school, I decided to become a teacher. I started my studies in Mainz at the Johannes Gutenberg University. My studies there were English, history, and Russian. As you can imagine, my Russian is pretty good; but I had some problems with English. So I decided to follow the university's suggestion to spend some time abroad practicing with native speakers. I never thought I would come to California and spend more than five months here.

A friend, Verica Dering, found a family I could stay with (Adolf and Ernestine Schendel) and a school I could help at (Small Cloud Christian School). Helping at SCCS has been a wonderful new experience. The work at SCCS is very different from the work I did at German public schools. I find it to be quite a challenge to run a school with just two teachers, while offering a full variety of subjects.

I really adore Mrs. Seely and Mrs. Nelson. As a student, I was taught about Jesus and the Bible; so I was very surprised that children in the USA don't have this opportunity. At SCCS the students learn about Jesus, and that's great.

In addition to learning about the Bible, students learn other subjects as well. I try to help the students with these subjects. At first it was very hard to understand what the kids tried to tell me and to tell the kids what I wanted them to do. However, in the course of the days and weeks, communicating became easier and easier. So I try to help the children with their schoolwork, and they have helped me—and are still helping me—with my English. Each child at the school is unique, and I like each one. Working with children is not easy, but there are many interesting things you can do with them. Teaching never gets boring; it is challenging and can be very funny at times. Try it; you will love it!!!

When I return to Germany, I will remember not only the time I spent at SCCS, but also all the nice people I was very fortunate to meet here and be able to call "friends." Being welcomed so nicely and warmly is something you don't experience very often, but I did! I had the chance to see a lot of California because so many people have showed me different parts of it: San Francisco, Yosemite, Napa Valley, etc. I even went to Hawaii! I am very happy and thankful.

It's amazing how quickly your English improves when you start speaking, reading, and hearing nothing but English. At one point I realized I was even speaking English to Calvin, the cat. I guess that means my English has really improved, although I still have an accent. However, I hope this will not be the last time I visit California, but that I will have more chances to perfect my English. ■



## APFELKUCHEN

This is a German apple cake. "Apfel" is the German word for "apple." *Kuchen* is the German word for "cake."

### Ingredients:

- 1 cup flour
- $\frac{1}{2}$  tbsp. baking powder
- $\frac{1}{4}$  tsp. salt
- 2 tbsp. sugar
- $2\frac{1}{2}$  tbsp. softened margarine
- 2 eggs, beaten
- 2 tbsp. soy or nut milk
- 5 cups sliced apples
- $\frac{1}{2}$  cup raisins
- $\frac{2}{3}$  cup sugar
- 1 tsp. cinnamon
- 2 tbsp. grated orange rind
- Whipped topping

### Directions:

1. Preheat oven to 325° F.
2. Grease an 8-inch springform pan.
3. Sift flour, baking powder, salt, and 2 tablespoons sugar together in a mixing bowl.
4. Cut in margarine until mixture is crumbly.
5. Add eggs and mix well.
6. Slowly add milk, stirring constantly.
7. Spread dough on bottom and partly up the sides of the pan.
8. Place apples and raisins in saucepan with water to cover.
9. Simmer until apples are tender but not mushy; drain.
10. Combine  $\frac{2}{3}$  cup sugar, cinnamon, and orange rind.
11. Add to apples and raisins and stir thoroughly.
12. Spoon fruit mixture on top of pastry in pan.
13. Bake 50-60 minutes or until filling is firm and crust is golden brown.
14. Serve warm with whipped topping.



**SMALL CLOUD CHRISTIAN SCHOOL**—What is faith? The Bible says that "faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen" (Hebrews 11:1). I am going to tell you about this school and how it began. Small Cloud began as a barn for cows and a garage with clocks. It was started by two young girls and a great God. Margie was 25, and Sandy was 23 years old.



Andriana Seely

They went out to the barn, knelt down, and prayed. Then they rolled up their sleeves and got to work. They both worked with Grandpa to clean out the garage. They asked others to install a wood-burning stove so it would be warm. They also put in carpet and bought supplies. Many people donated stuff, and a few months later they had their first class in only a converted garage. But it was a start. What great faith did they practice? They did not see the school. They did not have the money. They just started with what they had and had faith God would bring them more.

Now here we are thirteen years later. We're still a school and still improving. We have two new additions: Mr. Albert Becker (he is our new chef) and Miss Natalia Schwindt (she is visiting). We help her with her English and she helps us with our schoolwork. We've lost four students so far this year. But we have faith God will send us more. This is one small example of what God can do. What can He do with *your* faith? ■

**“LITTLE THINGS”**  
(speeches given by students at SCCS's thirteenth anniversary)

**MOTHER THERESA**—Sometimes doing what God tells you to do can be hard, especially when others say that what you're doing is so small it seems pointless. That's why I will talk about Mother Theresa. Do you remember her?

Mother Theresa was sent to India in the 1940's to do missionary work. When she saw the need for both spiritual and physical help, she started a care center for the dying, the sick, and the hungry. While treating them, she read the Bible to them and taught them about Jesus. It all was really small and simple. But the difference she and some helpers made in those people's lives was tremendous.

Other people said her work was pointless; they tried to discourage her. But she still listened to God before any of them. She kept reminding herself that "little things can become big things through God."

Well, as the care center got bigger, more people were fed, made comfortable, and treated physically and spiritually. At last, people realized how many who would have just been left there on the street to die had been helped.

Today, people in India remember Mother Theresa and follow her example.

So, never give up on little things because you don't know just how far God can take them! ■



Gabriel Bendezu

**GEORGE MÜLLER**—You never know what God has planned for you. Often He starts us out on the road of faith by giving us small tasks to do for Him. If we are faithful, He will give us bigger things to do.

Look at George Müller, for instance. He was a pastor at a church in Bristol, England. When he began preaching, one of the first steps of faith he took was to quit charging the congregation a pew tax. The custom of that time was to charge the people for the pew they sat in. He told his congregation that he didn't want to take pay from the church. Instead, he wanted the people to pray. If and when God impressed them to give George money, then they could do so.



Kellie Hunter

Now this was small compared to what great things God would later have George do. As his faith grew, God gave him bigger and bigger tasks. One thing was to start an orphanage. God helped George to start one. When God saw George was faithful with that orphanage, He helped him to build several more.

George Müller was a great, God-fearing man. But we can't let it stop there. We, too, can make a difference. We just need to be faithful in those little things that we don't think really matter. They do matter! Remember, we don't know God's plan for our lives. But we do know that if we are faithful in little things, God can bless us with even greater things. ■

**MARY AND JOSEPH**—The birth of Jesus Christ is a wonderful story. It tells of His parents' dedication to him and to God. But things were not always easy.

Mary was chosen out of thousands of women to have Jesus. Mary didn't have to accept the offer, but out of faith, and because of her love for God, she agreed. We know that in those days a woman could be stoned for having a child before marriage. I believe the only reason she agreed to raise Jesus was her faith in the Lord.

Joseph didn't have to show care and compassion to a son that was not his. Because of the angel Gabriel, Joseph's faith was strengthened. Joseph could have left Mary, but he didn't; He stayed with her through thick and thin.

My point is that showing faith like Mary and Joseph had may be hard; but, like Matthew 17:20 says, "If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place: and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you."

So, being faithful in small things can lead us on to greater and more amazing things for Christ. ■



Chris Lamb

(speeches continue on page 4)

“LITTLE THINGS” (continued from page 3)

**DANIEL**—The prophet Daniel was a very important man. He was a valuable man to two governments and a prophet of God. He wrote the book of Daniel in the Bible.

When Daniel was a young man, he was captured by the Babylonian army. Nebuchadnezzar, the king of Babylon, saw that



Andrew Petrovich

Daniel and his three friends were from the royal family

and very intelligent. The king wanted them to be part of the Babylonian kingdom and sent them to school for three years.

The first test of Daniel's character was the test of food at the king's table. The food at the table was full of meat and wine offered to idols. Daniel knew that eating this food would not be a good example. Daniel wanted to be true to God no matter what the cost. Daniel asked for a ten-day test, where he and his friends would eat plain fruits and vegetables and drink water. At the end of the ten days, the king could examine them to see if the plain diet worked. When Daniel stood before the king, he and his friends were ten times better than all the other students.

Another test of Daniel's character was his obedience to God despite another king's command. This time King Darius made a decree that all men should worship him, instead of God, for thirty days. Daniel was used to praying to God three times a day. He continued praying to God even though he knew the punishment would be death. When the soldiers found Daniel praying to God, they took him to the lion's den. But the lions didn't eat Daniel. God kept their mouths shut.

God continued to give Daniel visions of the future. He told Daniel of four beasts that represented four kingdoms that would rule the world. He also showed Daniel the end of the world when Christ would return to the earth. Daniel was faithful to God all his life.

I think Daniel was a good example for us. He always did his best in everything. I think Daniel was a good prophet. Don't you? ■

**ERIC LIDDELL**—This man was one of the fastest runners in the world, but it didn't start out that way. He was born in China because his parents were missionaries there. His parents taught him to go to church, read his Bible, and always put God first.

When Eric was in school, his favorite thing to do was to run. He got so good at it that he won almost every race in school. Each time he got a little faster. Soon he would be able to enter the Olympics. Although he was a star, he still continued to honor God by keeping Sunday holy, which he believed was the holy day.

The days before the

Olympics flew by; and, before he knew it, he was at the



Mikey Petrovich

starting line preparing to run. With other athletes beside him, they waited for the gun to fire. CRACK! And the race began. Eric got off to a good start. As they ran down the track, the other athletes began to catch up to Eric. As you remember, Eric always honored God; and now God would honor Eric.

In a flash Eric threw his head back, his arms flinging. As he did so, he got faster and fast-e-r. Hurray! Eric had come in first.

The point is that by doing little things like reading his Bible and making God first, Eric was able to win race after race. If we are faithful in little things, God can take us and give us bigger things to do for Him. So, if you are always faithful with small things, God will make you faithful with big things, too! ■

## ONE SMALL CHILD

One small child in a land of a thousand.  
One small dream of a savior tonight.  
One small hand reaching out to the starlight.  
One small savior of life. Ooh.

One king bringing his gold and riches.  
One king ruling an army of might.  
One king kneeling with incense and candlelight.  
One king bringing us life. Ooh.

(Chorus)  
See Him lying, a cradle beneath Him.  
See Him smiling in the stall.  
See His mother praising the Father.  
See His tiny eyelids fall.  
See the shepherds kneeling before Him.  
See the kings on bended knee.  
See the mother praising the Father.  
See the blessed infant sleep.

One small child in a land of a thousand.  
One small dream of a savior tonight.  
One small hand reaching out to the starlight.  
One small savior of life.

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# “IT IS MORE BLESSED TO GIVE THAN TO RECEIVE”

**D**uring the last week of school each December we have “Giving Week.” During this week, students learn about people who have given sacrificially so that the lives of others would be better. Students also get the opportunity to do some giving themselves. This year they shopped for household supplies for various people who need a little extra help at this time. Afterwards, we asked the students to express their thoughts about the experience. Following are their responses:

*Q: What items did you give?*

A: “Deodorant, body wash, toothbrushes, toothpaste, paper towels, tissues, hand lotion, Kleenex, laundry detergent, razors.”

*Q: Why did you choose these particular items?*

A: “I chose these items because they are something I would want to have if I were struggling.”

“I didn’t. My aunt did the choosing.”

“Because I think other people need these things.”

“I chose these items because they were the easiest items to get my hands on, and everyone needs shiny teeth.”

“I chose these items because they are the basic necessities. I was also going to give tissue, but I couldn’t find any.”

“Because a toothbrush is something most people need.”

*Q: Who paid for these items?*

A: “I paid for the items I bought.”

“My brother did.”

“I paid for my two brothers and myself.”

“My mom got these items for free.”

“I paid for all of the items myself.”

*Q: How did you feel about “shopping” for someone you don’t know?*

A: “It was kind of weird and different, but it felt good giving to someone who is less fortunate.”

“It made me feel happy.”

“I couldn’t make it to the store, so my aunt had to buy all the stuff.”

“Well, I didn’t really go shopping. My mom just went and got the items.”

“First of all, it made me wonder who it was. I feel good, though, about helping someone in need.”

“Happy and curious.”

“Good. At least I’m helping someone.”

*Q: How would you feel if you were the one receiving a blessing bag?*

A: “I would feel so fortunate and grateful for it.”

“I would feel that someone cared for me.”

“I would feel like God answered my prayers, and I would feel good.”

“I would be happy to receive one, but I hope I won’t need one.”

“If I were the one to receive a ‘blessing bag,’ I would feel embarrassed and happy. I’d be happy to receive it, but embarrassed to be in that situation.”

“I would feel good.”

“I would feel really good, knowing that someone is taking their time for me.”

*Q: What changes would you make to this assignment?*

A: “This was a good assignment, and the only thing I would change would be the time we were assigned to do it. It would be a lot better if we would have done this around Thanksgiving when I don’t have to buy anyone else gifts.”

“I don’t think it needs any adjustments.”

“I wouldn’t make that many changes. I would just buy some hand soap.”

“The only thing I would change is that we would have more time to buy and think about the assignment.”

## THE PARENTING CORNER

**T**he chief requisite of language is that it be pure and kind and true—“the outward expression of an inward grace.” God says: “Whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.” Philippians 4:8. And if such are the thoughts, such will be the expression.

The best school for this language study is the home; but since the work of the home is so often neglected, it devolves on the teacher to aid his pupils in forming right habits of speech.

The teacher can do much to discourage that evil habit, the

curse of the community, the neighborhood, and the home—the habit of backbiting, gossip, ungenerous criticism. In this no pains should be spared. Impress upon the students the fact that this habit reveals a lack of culture and refinement and of true goodness of heart; it unfits one both for the society of the truly cultured and refined in this world and for association with the holy ones of heaven. . . .

Let the children, and the youth as well, learn what God says about these things:

“Death and life are in the power of the tongue.” Proverbs 18:21. - Ellen G. White, *Education* (Review and Herald Publishing Association), p. 235



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 the living God.