

# SMALL CLOUD CHRISTIAN SCHOOL PRESENTS . . .

## SMALL CLOUD CHRONICLES

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

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### INTRODUCTION

Life skills! How important are they to education? Here at Small Cloud we believe it is absolutely essential that children learn how to perform the tasks having to do with day-to-day living. Since the Lord has not provided a janitor for us, that work becomes the responsibility of the students and teachers.

So what types of jobs do the students do? They help out in food preparation, menu planning, and ordering supplies. The maintenance person sees that garbage cans are washed out and that supplies, equipment, and other things are properly organized. The academic helper sets up labs, runs copies, and is the teacher's helper. Then there are those who are responsible for cleaning the bathrooms and vacuuming the classrooms on a daily basis. Watering the plants is a job that even the younger students can learn to do well. Last year the students even had

the opportunity of learning to can tomatoes, thanks to the hard work of Mr.

Becker, who had planted and cared for a beautiful garden that produced *lots* of tomatoes. Yes, learning includes much more than just academics!

Each fall the students have individual photographs taken at a nearby public school. This year there was a problem with the camera, and our students had to wait almost an hour before getting their pictures taken. They were very patient, and we were very proud of their courteous behavior. The photographer was also impressed and stated that she would give one free 8" x 10" photograph to each student for good behavior in spite of the delay!

January 22 marked the fifteenth anniversary of Small Cloud. Everyone enjoyed socializing and reminiscing, as well as sharing a light supper. We were very happy to see a couple of our former students come to celebrate this milestone with us. Seeing our students grow up definitely makes us realize how quickly the years are passing and that, yes, we too are getting older.

"A Story to Tell" was the title of Margie Seely's speech for the anniversary program. You may read it in the next column. We do have a wonderful story to tell, a story of God's leading and blessings over the years. We solicit your continued prayers for Small Cloud. ♦

### A STORY TO TELL

by Margie Seely

In Joshua 4, a story is told. It is a story of remembrance—one that is worth retelling today. When God held back the waters of the mighty Jordan River and the Israelites crossed over on dry ground, God directed Joshua to ask one man from each of the twelve tribes to collect a stone from the dry river bottom where the priests had stood. The men were to carry these stones onto the shore and with them erect a monument of remembrance. God said, "When your children shall ask their fathers in time to come, saying, What mean these stones? Then ye shall let your children know, saying, Israel came over this Jordan on dry land. For the Lord your God dried up the waters of Jordan from before you, until ye were passed over, as the Lord your God did to the Red Sea, which he dried up from before us, until we were gone over:

That all the people of the earth might know the hand of the Lord, that it is mighty: that ye might fear the Lord your God for ever." Joshua 4:21-24.

Even though the crossing of the Jordan was indeed a miracle, God knew the hearts of His people. After the passing of time, they would forget. But God didn't want them to forget. He wanted the story of this miracle to be passed down from

father to son, from generation to generation, so that all would know that the "hand of God is mighty."

Today we, too, have a story to tell—a monument, if you will, to the mighty hand of God. It is the story of this school and what God has done with it over the past fifteen years.

In 1995, Sandy and I were impressed with the need to offer the opportunity for a Christian education to ALL children—regardless of race or socio-economic status. Not knowing where to begin or how to go about starting a school, we prayed for direction and guidance. And that's when the string of miracles began.

Over the years God has put us in touch with some wonderful people who have guided our steps in establishing Small Cloud: Don Nottoli, Sacramento County Commissioner (obtaining our use permit); Michelle Fisher, school bus instructor, Sacramento City Unified School District (answering our questions about bus licensing); Art Schendel, General Building Contractor (taking care

(concluded on page 3)

LIFE WITHOUT GOD IS LIKE AN  
UNSHARPENED PENCIL—  
IT HAS NO POINT!

## SPELLING STORIES

(Each story contains ten words from a weekly spelling list.)

by Andriana Seely, age 16

**L**ieutenant! We are losing ldiesel! We won't be able to make it back to shore!" I heard these shouts as I stared at the ceiling from my bunk. I was tired of being on a boat. I had been on it for two months already. I became livid at this new problem. My friend started to cry.



I went on deck to see if land was in view. I was relieved to see the shoreline. I seized my chance to talk with the lieutenant. He didn't have the stamina to continue this voyage. His niece took charge. She had sailed these waters for more than five years. She was able to fix the problem; and in about an hour or two, I was back in my bunk, safe and sound!

by Andrew Petrovich, age 16

**A**t Small Cloud, Mikey, Andriana, Davey and I habitually play a game called "croquet." You play this game by using your mallet to hit your ball to the "poison" stick before anyone else does. Once your ball hits the stick, your ball becomes "poison," and you can deliberately and leisurely hit the other balls to eliminate them. The last ball to survive in the field wins the game.

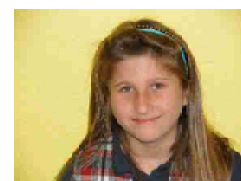


Sometimes while we're playing croquet, we accidentally hit the ball in the wrong direction, due to bumps or clumps in the grass. In our previous games I definitely tried to exclusively hit Davey's ball because of his efficient maneuvering skills. I could say that Davey is better than I or that I'm better than he, but I think we can compare ourselves as equals.

## SAMSON AND DELILAH

by Nikki Seely, age 9

**S**amson met Delilah. He loved her. One day the Philistines (Samson's enemies) told Delilah to get Samson to tell her why he was so strong. Finally he said, "It's my hair." Delilah got him to go to sleep. Then she told someone to cut his hair, and Samson was not strong anymore.



## THE MOON

by Mikey Petrovich, age 13

**H**ave you ever wondered where we got a moon from, why you only see one side of the moon, or why there are so many craters on the moon? To answer these questions I have written an essay about the moon. I will answer one question at a time so I don't miss any.

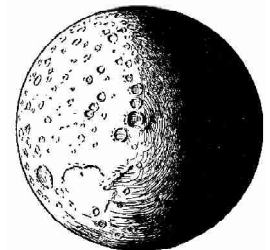


First, how did we get a moon? There are many different theories made by evolutionists to explain how earth got a moon. One of their theories is the accretion theory. This theory states that the earth and moon were formed together from a cloud of dust. If this were true, the moon and earth should have mostly the same composition. But rockets sent from earth show that the earth's and the moon's compositions are very different.

Another evolutionary theory is that another planet the size of Mars struck the earth at just the right speed and angle, sending fragments everywhere. The moon was then formed from some of these fragments. This would solve the problem of the composition differences. But space goes on forever, and the likelihood of another planet striking earth at the exact angle and speed so it wouldn't altogether blow apart is very small.

Now let's try a different theory, called creationism. It says that God created everything in a period of seven days. Genesis 1 says, "In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth."

Now for question two: Why do we always see only one side of the moon? The reason for this is that the moon's rotation and revolution around the earth take the same amount of time—about a month. To illustrate this, take a pencil or something lying around you. Now hold it in your hand and spin around. Notice how you always see only one side of the object. This is the same with the moon.



Now, what was that last question? Oh yes, why is the moon so heavily cratered? Why aren't there as many craters on earth? Earth has more gravity than the moon and should, therefore, attract more meteors than the moon. So why doesn't it? To stop meteors from pounding down on earth and destroying everything, God has given this planet a special shield called an atmosphere. Most of the time, a meteor is vaporized when it enters earth's atmosphere! The moon, on the other hand, has an atmosphere too small to stop meteorites. Therefore meteorites bombard it.

In all of this we can see God's handiwork. It's not by chance that all of this happened. He purposely made us. He gave us a moon to light our night sky, air to breathe, and an atmosphere to protect us. And He did all of this just because He loves us.

## A STORY TO TELL (con't from page 1)

of all our construction work; and many others. Over and over again, He has impressed people to donate their time, means, materials, and expertise so that this school can continue.

And there are other miracles as well. You may not realize it, but the window that you see behind me was built to the wrong dimensions. For many months it lay in a window shop, useless, and unsaleable. But God had a purpose for that window before we even knew we needed it. And on one sunny day, God caused that window to be donated here. Today it is a monument to us of how God answers our prayers—sometimes before we even ask Him about it.

As we constructed this school, God impressed several businesses to donate the carpeting, the flooring, the lumber, and most of the labor. But there were other items we did have to purchase—about \$50,000 worth. We did so with low-interest credit card loans. We worked very hard to pay these off a little at a time. We were quite pleased when we had paid off exactly half of our loans. But you can imagine our surprise when one stressful, rainy day, we received a check to pay off the other half of our loans. That memory is also a monument of God's care and provision.

But probably the greatest monument to God's power is the students themselves. They have come to us from all walks of life and from every background imaginable. Their educational needs have all been different. But their need to know Jesus Christ as their Savior and Friend is the same. Here I'd like to share one young man's story. We'll call him Joe.

Joe came from a good family but had gotten in with the wrong crowd and needed a change. Hoping Small Cloud would be the place to help facilitate that change, his parents sent him here. Joe was not the least bit happy about being "stuck" in such a small school with hardly anyone to get into trouble with. But his parents were insistent. This was where he would attend school. Period.

One day during Bible class, Joe asked a question. Then he asked another and another and another. Finally, Sandy, his Bible teacher, had to insist that he save his questions for Thursday's class period only so she could teach the regular Bible study to the rest of the class. He complied, but then he also began sitting behind Sandy on the school bus. All the way from his house to school and from school back home again, he asked question after question. Sandy faithfully answered each one as best she could. Finally, his parents moved him to another school; and we didn't hear anything from him for quite awhile.

And then one day a car pulled up in the school driveway. A young man got out and knocked on the school door. When no one answered, he went to the house. It was Joe! For nearly an hour, Joe and Sandy talked together. He told Sandy about his life before he had come to Small Cloud. He had been on drugs and his life was a wreck. When he started school here, he became curious about who God is and why we believe in Him. He began asking questions, which Sandy faithfully answered. He began reading his Bible. He gave up the drugs. And he began to believe that God just might love him too.

Joe was going to move far away. But before he did so, he said he had wanted to come back to the place that had helped him change so he could say "thank you." "Don't stop doing what you're doing;" he told Sandy. "There are more kids out

there who are just like me."

In our monument of students, not all are success stories like Joe. Some of them are still a little rougher around the edges than the others. But one thing we know for sure—we won't stop praying for any of them, because our God, who is mighty and powerful, is working with ALL of them.

Our prayer is that all of Small Cloud—from the window here in front, to the building, to the teachers, to the students—will reflect the power of God. May we stand as a monument of His power and glory so that when the world asks, "What has God done for you?" we will NOT forget, but have a ready answer. ♦

## THE ATMOSPHERE

by David Petrovich, age 11

**H**ave you ever wondered what the earth's atmosphere is like? The atmosphere surrounds the earth and is made up of different gases and dust particles. The atmosphere has several different layers that help to protect us from things in space.



There are the troposphere, stratosphere, mesosphere, thermosphere, and exosphere.

The troposphere is the closest layer to the earth and contains most of the weather. The stratosphere helps keep the earth at the right temperature. Third comes the mesosphere, which burns up meteors when they come too close to the earth. Fourth is the thermosphere, where most of the weather communication satellites are. Finally comes the exosphere. The exosphere is the atmosphere layer that is farthest from the earth. The exosphere gradually fades off into space.

God gave us the atmosphere to protect us from harmful things in space.

## THE PARENTING CORNER

**O**ne of the surest safeguards of the young is useful occupation. Children who are trained to industrious habits, so that all their hours are usefully and pleasantly employed, have no inclination to repine at their lot and no time for idle daydreaming. They are in little danger of forming vicious habits or associations.



There is untold value in industry. Let the children be taught to do something useful. - Ellen G. White, *Education* (Review and Herald Publishing Association), p. 122.



## IN MEMORIAM

**Ruth Esther Jennings**  
**July 5, 1926 - December 24, 2010**



"Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them." - Revelation 14:13

**R**uth Jennings, aunt of Sandy Nelson, was a faithful supporter of Small Cloud Christian School. The mother of six children, Ruth worked very hard to provide for her family. The death of her husband when the youngest child was not quite three years old made it necessary for Ruth to return to work full time, and for many years she worked for the Folsom-Cordova Unified School District.

Ruth loved children. Whenever there was a school event, you could be sure that Ruth would be here to support the school. Those of you who attended our annual Thanksgiving Dinner fund-raisers will remember the delicious yams Ruth always prepared. We will miss her cheerful, loving support as well as her lovely smile. But we look forward to seeing her again on the resurrection morning. *"For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first."* 1 Thessalonians 4:16



**T**he picture to the left was drawn by Stephen Nelson, age 5, who explained that this is a picture of man's space adventures. Note the American flag and how the astronauts are tethered to their spacecrafts.



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.