

SMALL CLOUD CHRISTIAN SCHOOL PRESENTS . . . SMALL CLOUD CHRONICLES

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

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CHALLENGES

Brr! This has been a cold winter indeed, as well as a challenging one for Mrs. Nelson. As you may or may not know, bus drivers are required to get ten hours of training per year. Every fifth year drivers are also required to take a written exam with the California Highway Patrol (CHP) and either take a first aid class or pass the first aid part of the written test. In addition, a school bus driver must drive under the direction of a CHP officer to demonstrate driving skills and knowledge of the school bus driving laws. Mrs. Nelson's birthday falls in January, so she had to have all these things accomplished by the middle of the month.

Our school bus has been out of service for some time now, as we have had a decrease in enrollment and have no students requiring bus transportation. So the bus has been parked at someone's home. But this year the Nelsons needed to use the bus for testing purposes. This meant the bus had to be put back into service. This required the purchase of insurance, the installation of a new battery, an inspection by a mechanic, and certification by the CHP. There were a lot of hurdles to jump, and many prayers were sent heavenward asking God to give us guidance as to whether this was truly the path to follow—especially since there are no students who currently need transportation. Mrs. Schendel substituted for Mrs. Nelson in the classroom; and, we are happy to report, the bus passed inspection, and Mrs. Nelson passed her written and driving tests.

Something the students enjoy a lot is preparing a simple lunch once a week. They have learned to prepare a couple of different types of pasta dishes, baked potatoes, frozen vegetables, and, of course, green salad and dressing. Mrs. Nelson has also instructed them in the preparation of Brussels sprouts, artichokes, and asparagus. Above you will see all the students (minus David Petrovich) gathered around the kitchen table preparing the salad.

The highlight of this quarter was our annual anniversary celebration. It is hard to believe that seventeen years have passed since Small Cloud opened. Many students have passed through our doors, and we were delighted that this year six



Preparing lunch (l to r): Megan Petrovich, Seth Kiefer, Jeremiah Nelson, Stephen Nelson, and Jonathan Nelson

former students joined us for the program, followed by refreshments and a time of reminiscing. They enjoyed looking through our old photo albums and seeing themselves in their younger days. The anniversary program is described in detail on the next page.

A FIELD TRIP

Following a lovely picnic lunch, the students, faculty, and some family members visited Moaning Caverns, which is one of several caves located within a couple of

hours from the school. This particular cave has a spiral staircase descending to the bottom of the cave (shown at right). When everyone has safely arrived below,

the tour guide shuts off all the lights, leaving the cave in pitch darkness, and making it impossible even to see a hand placed in front of one's face. The tour was a very interesting and enjoyable experience. ♦



OUR NEW STUDENT

Seth Kiefer began attending Small Cloud in January. His family lives only a short distance from the school. Seth has adapted quite nicely to the school environment and we are pleased to have him here. There is also a possibility that his siblings may attend Small Cloud in the future. ♦



SMALL CLOUD'S 17TH ANNIVERSARY!

Welcome to the 17th anniversary of Small Cloud Christian School. On January 22, 1996, school began for six students in this very place." With this introduction Mrs. Nelson opened the program for a very full house.

Everyone was invited to sing the beautiful hymn "Be Thou Exalted."

*Be Thou exalted forever and ever
God of eternity, the Ancient of Days!
Wondrous in wisdom, majestic in glory,
Perfect in holiness and worthy of praise.*

*Be Thou exalted, O Son of the highest,
Savior of sinful men, Redeemer and King!
One with the Father, coequal in glory.
Humbly we come to Thee our homage to bring.*

*Be Thou exalted, O Spirit of power,
Dwelling within our hearts to keep us from sin.
God of the ages and Lord of Salvation,
Ruler of heav'n and earth Thy praises we sing!*

Chorus:

*Be Thou exalted by seraphs and angels.
Be Thou exalted with harp and with song;
Saints in their anthems of rapture adore Thee.
Thine be the glory forever. Amen!*

The students then recited Proverbs 3:1-26.

Mrs. Nelson continued: "I'm sure you must be wondering if any of us ever worry—worry about things like: What if you enroll a bunch of students and you get sick? Or: What if you have students depending on the bus for transportation and you run out of money for fuel? Or: What will you do if one of your teachers moves to another state? Well, to be honest, it seems there is always a bucketful of worries to choose from. But over the years the staff here has experienced time and time again that worrying doesn't help anything. On the other hand, prayer is powerful. We serve the God of the universe! So why worry when you can pray?"

The students then sang "Why Worry When You Can Pray."

*Why worry when you can pray?
Trust Jesus; He'll be your stay.
Don't be a "doubting Thomas,"
Rest fully on His promise.
Why worry, worry, worry,
When you can pray.*

"So do we think we have God all figured out?" continued Mrs. Nelson. "No, not at all. We are puzzled by some of the things He has allowed to happen here and by other things that He hasn't allowed to happen here. Our job, however, is not to understand what God is doing or how He is doing it, but to obey Him. We

have seen God do seemingly impossible things. He has cared for us—for seventeen years and four days!"

The students then sang "The God of the Impossible."

*I don't know how God hangs the world on nothing,
Or how He keeps the planets each in place.
I cannot count the sands upon the seashore,
Nor can I count the stars that float in space.*

*I don't know all the meaning of "forever."
Or just how long it's been since time began.
I can't explain how Christ who is eternal
Could come to earth and die for sinful man.*

Chorus:

*But God can do what seems impossible;
God controls eternity.
My mind can never comprehend it,
But God in heaven cares for me.*

At this point Jonathan and Jeremiah, our preschoolers, recited a fingerplay and song they had learned. They also enjoyed demonstrating how well they had learned their letters by reading them from flash cards (i.e., "G is for goat!").

In honor of Albert Schendel (Mrs. Nelson's grandfather), who had allowed the school to open on his property, everyone joined in singing his favorite song, "Amazing Grace." Students and staff had always sung it for him on his birthday each year.

Accepting God's grace is the first step in salvation, but it doesn't stop there. We must share with others what God has done for us. And how should we share it? By being bold as lions and brave as bears! With the students holding up posters and the twins each holding a toy animal (a lion and a bear), the song "Bold as a Lion" closed our anniversary program.

*Soldiers of Christ, come join in the fight;
Look to the Savior, trust in His might,
Fear not the danger, dread not the foe;
Christ won the vict'ry long, long ago.*

*Lift up His banner, carry it high;
Soon we shall meet Him; look to the sky.
Death could not hold Him; He lives today.
His precious blood can wash sin away.*

*Tell how the Savior died on the tree,
Shedding His blood that man might be free.
Only the name of Jesus can save;
His mighty pow'r has conquered the grave.*

Chorus:

*Bold as a lion, brave as a bear.
Take the news of Jesus to people ev'rywhere.
Shout the gospel story; give God the glory.
Be bold as a lion, brave as a bear! ♦*