

Inspire Uplift Renew

June/July 2011

Final Exams – Better Study!

This is the time of year for final exams for all of our students – whether they are friends, children or grandchildren, they are all studying and putting their knowledge down on a test to determine how much they learned. Thankfully, God doesn't have a final exam that we need to pass when we study His Word! But the Psalmist gives us some help in how we can pass the "test".

Psalm 119:97-99 says: "Oh, how I love your law! I meditate on it all day long. Your commands are always with me and make me wiser than my enemies. I have more insight than all my teachers, for I meditate on your statutes. "

We learn that we need to meditate on God's Law and statutes ALL day long. The more we study it the more we become wise and even more insightful than our teachers! Learn from the Psalmist.

Keep on studying so you can become like our Teacher – the Lord Jesus Christ!

Cindy

Summer Service Project

By Helen Martin

Local rescued trafficking victims leave "the life" with their lives, and often with little else. Many are moms, and their kids—like ours—would love to get ready for next school year with some nice new supplies. Our summer service project is to put together a generous number of backpacks full of all they'll need!

When the sale flyers start arriving in July, stock up for your kiddos and these young ones, too! We plan to deliver the backpacks to Breaking Free in mid August. *(Continued on back page.)*



Bible Study Summer Days

By Cindy Schwerdtfeger

Before our next full study, we decided to change it up a bit but stay in touch with God's Word and our Bible

study friends. This summer we will meet ONE Monday each month (June 27th, July 25th, and August 22nd) from 6:30 to 8 p.m. We'll study the book of Habakkuk—one of the small minor prophets in the Old Testament. The



name Habakkuk has been translated as "embraced" or "embracer." Martin Luther explained this meaning this way, "Habakkuk bears the right name to his commission. For Habakkuk means, "to hug". He does so with his prophecy by hugging or embracing his people. He comforts them and takes them into his arms as one does with a crying child or adult." (Biblecentre.org) There will be no book cost for this study. Just bring yourself, your Bible, and your willingness to learn!

... and coming this fall

We'll resume our regular Women's Bible Study with "Living Beyond Yourself: Exploring the Fruit of the Spirit", a Beth Moore study. We will be starting Monday, September 12th from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Look for more details in the August/September issue.

Getting to Know You: Susan Carlson!

1. **Where were you born?** St Paul.

2. **Family members?** My dad is deceased. My mom has been living with us for the past four years. It's kind of ironic, or as my mom might say, poetic justice, because for a period of time after returning to Oakdale from OK, where we had been living for six years, we and our three children moved in with my mother. It probably changed her routine a bit! I also have a sister living in Maplewood. I had an older brother who died at the age of 32 as a result of being exposed to Agent Orange while in the service in Vietnam.



3. **What schools did you attend?** K-3rd grade I attended school at Gethsemane Lutheran, after which I went to public school. After high school I went to Lowthian College in Minneapolis for two years and got a degree in fashion merchandising, which included interior design.

4. **How did your relationship with Scott develop?** I first met Scott in Kindergarten, as he also attended Gethsemane Lutheran. We were both in our high school choir and toured Europe together in it. We were good friends. We started dating after high school and got married at the age of twenty one.

5. **How many children do you have?** Nine; three are married and seven are at home, including Annica, who is living here while her husband is in Iraq. Their ages range from nine to thirty, and I am most thankful for the fact that each of them has a relationship with Christ.

6. **Grandchildren?** We have six, with a seventh due in August.

7. **How much home schooling have you done?** At one time I home schooled five children at the same time. Six of my children have been home schooled from middle school on. Right now I'm home schooling three. I am thankful that God has allowed me to mostly be a stay at home mom so I can do this.

8. **Have you worked outside the home?** I worked at 3M for a couple years before marriage. Also before we had children I worked in the fashion industry. I did some modeling at Dayton's and also worked at Maplewood Mall, modeling clothes during lunch hour, with the intention that some of the clothes modeled would be purchased. When Scott's job took us to Oklahoma, my sister-in-law and I published a newspaper titled "Buylines," and we dealt with all facets of producing it.

9. **Can you tell me about your spiritual journey?** In Oklahoma City a year after we were married, we got a taste of a good Southern Baptist preacher. In Oklahoma, we realized what church was really supposed to be like. We prayed and were baptized by immersion there. When we moved back to Oakdale, Scott first went to Redeemer and I joined him the next Sunday. We have been here for twenty-five years.

10. **Answers to prayer?** Countless times, some personal and profound and others more subtle. However, God's timing and answers are always perfect.

11. **Favorite:** Color: Blue; Book: Bible; Food: Asian; Restaurant: Lake Elmo Inn; Vacation Spot: North Shore (Lake Superior); Place to relax: Deck in summer, or bedroom; Scripture verse: Psalm 27:1

June/July Birthdays and Anniversaries

June

- 5 Roxanne Harris
- 11 Sandra Daley
- 14 Mike & Wendy Albrecht
- 19 Darlene Derman-Auch
- 19 Joanna Lerud
- 26 Susan Carlson
- 28 Helen Martin
- 28 Val Ruiz
- 29 Michelle Paul



July

- 1 Doris Patet
- 9 John & LaVonne Forster
- 29 Vern & Carole Herum
- 15 Margaret Reck
- 24 Marge Jahn
- 28 Maria Chelberg

My Circle

By Helen Martin

...He made us accepted in the Beloved. (Ephesians 1:6b, NKJV)

That week they liked me. The four of us even signed up to do a dance for the school talent show and every day we practiced during recess. One afternoon back in class, the other three girls gathered at the desk in front of mine and began to talk about the music, the costumes, and the choreography, but they never included me or my name in the conversation. Then one of them picked up a pencil and drew a diagram on the corner of the desk showing where each dancer should stand on the stage. She drew three tiny circles—one for each of them—then slowly placed the pencil back in the little groove that ran along the top of the desk.

And that's how they told me I was out.

The rejection of some mean sixth grade girls was not the worst thing that had ever happened to me, but somehow that last straw weighed enough to break my heart. I fled to the girls' room and cried like someone died, but quickly my tears gave way to disgust for the girl in the mirror. Why was she such a nothing? What was so wrong with her that no one could ever like her for very long? I felt hopeless and wished I could disappear.

The music teacher got wind of what happened, and a day or so later she kept me inside after lunch and encouraged me to sing a song for the show. Actually, she insisted, and to my profound horror, she wanted me to audition for her right then and there. I had always loved performing, but auditioning was an entirely different matter. Mercifully she allowed me to hide in the cloakroom and sing over the partial wall that separated it from the rest of the classroom. And somehow my timid tryout got me a spot in the show.

When, on the day of the performance, it was my time to go on, I left my glasses and my fears in the wings and took my place. From the moment the curtain opened and the first notes of my song started playing, I owned the stage, the school, and the land it was built on. Suddenly it was so clear that my "circle" couldn't fit on the surface of any desk. I don't know if there actually was a standing ovation when I finished, but that's how I remember it. But better than that feeling was the bliss of being on that stage singing that song.

Of course God had so much more in store for me than kudos and temporary happiness. But that day, He gave me a taste of what it was like to matter, and I think it saved my life.

One day He would save my soul... and He would begin to put all my gifts into perspective and show me that my true worth exists nowhere but in His love. He would say, "You thought that stage was your circle? No stage in the world can contain the space you occupy. You will never be more loved, or matter more than you do to me." And He'd point to His palm and say, "This is your circle."

This originally appeared as a blog post at FaithRadioNet.Com on May 31, 2011, at <http://www.faithradionet.com/2011/my-circle/>

Facts about giving blood

By Cindy Schwerdtfeger

Last issue, Cindy wrote a great article about giving blood. Here are some interesting facts she'd like to share.

1 in every 3 people need blood at some point in their life.

1 hour = 1 pint = up to 3 lives saved

Whole blood can be donated every 56 days

Double red blood cells – every 112 days

You give 1 pint out of the 8-10 pints a body typically contains.

Within hours, fluid is replaced and red blood cells within weeks.

Ages 17 on up can donate – 16 year olds can with parent consent.

Donating is safe. The sterile needle is used once and then discarded.

Does it hurt? Only a split second pinch of the skin.

Blood is needed at any time, not just during disasters. The demand for blood is constant but the supply is not.

You can call 1-888-GIVE-BLD or go online to MBC.ORG.



Summer Service Project, continued

When committing to a backpack, you may choose to donate items appropriate to a “Boy,” “Girl,” or “Either” and choose the age/grade range you wish. Please stick with the brands suggestions whenever specified. (My un-politically motivated rule of thumb is, avoid “Made in China” for school supplies whenever possible.)

For everything (except for the paint shirt) please donate only new, store-bought items. Here is some of what we’ll need:

Sturdy Backpacks
Plastic school supply boxes
Scissors
Paint shirts (old men’s shirts)
Pens
Red pens, for correcting
Crayola crayons, 24 ct. box
Crayola Washable Markers
(8pk. Classic Colors)
Watercolor paint 8-color set
Highlighters
Low-odor dry erase marker
Colored pencils
No. 2 pencils
Erasers
(Pink Pearl if possible)
Elmer’s Glue sticks
Bottles of Elmer’s Glue
1 inch 3-ring binders
Pocket folders, variety of colors
Composition notebooks
200 ct. packages of loose leaf paper
(college-ruled)
Notebooks (college-ruled)
Spiral notebooks (wide-ruled)
3x3” Post-it Notes
1x1 Post-it Notes
Rulers w/metric markings
Water Bottles (“No BPA” –
avoid Made in China plastic)



Small pencil sharpeners
Target or Walmart Giftcards for
tennis shoes
Boxes of tissue (Kleenex or any
brand)
Boxes of ziptop sandwich bags
Boxes of ziptop gallon-size bags
Calculators

Cool Water Ministries' June/July Calendar

Self-check Dates



Thursday, June 2
Saturday, July 2

White Cross Dates

Friday, June 10
Friday, July 8
10 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Women’s Summer Bible Study

The fourth Monday of each
summer month 6:30 - 8 p.m.

Vacation Bible School (VBS)

Monday - Friday
July 18 - 22
9:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Breaking Free Backpack Deadline Sunday, August 21

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