School News

Margie Seely, Education Department Leader, Cedartown, GA

January was a busy month for both Small Cloud Christian School of Wilton, California, and Cedar Christian School of Cedartown, Georgia. Small Cloud celebrated its sixteen-year anniversary, while Cedar Christian School presented its second annual winter concert. Following are reports of both events:

Small Cloud Christian School Anniversary
Evelyn Holmstroem, Fiddletown, CA

On the night of Sabbath, January 21, students, parents and other family members, former students, and friends of SCCS gathered to remember how the Lord has graciously sustained the school for sixteen years! Teacher and students marched in playing “God Is So Good” on their recorders, then recited Psalm 19 in unison while the starry heavens were projected onto the ceiling. “The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth His handiwork…. Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in Thy sight, O Lord, my strength, and my redeemer.”

Principal/teacher Sandra Nelson explained the value of remembering. “We have nothing to fear for the future, except as we shall forget the way the Lord has led us in the past.” Then she and the students demonstrated one way of remembering, by reciting poems during the program. Sandy recited “Step by Step”; Mikey Petrovich, “The Things That Haven’t Been Done Before”; David Petrovich, “The World’s Bible”; Stephen Nelson, “My Kingdom”; and Megan Petrovich, “Leisure.”

“No, there was no chart for Small Cloud,” said Sandy. “Margie [Seely] and I didn’t follow a beaten path, and there were a lot of doubts expressed by those around us. But we had decided that we either serve a living God...
who could do what He said He could do, or we didn’t. And we might as well find out right then for ourselves. We haven’t been disappointed.”

Although the school teaches a variety of subjects that are taught in secular schools, “we also teach something even more important: character development.” Sandy then gave highlights of those sixteen years during which more than one hundred students have attended SCCS.

The six students who started on January 22, 1996, had dwindled to three the following year. “Money was very tight, but … we were determined to continue.”

During 1997-98 the neighbors objected to having a school in their neighborhood, but “amazingly, God kept our doors open.” But then, how could the school continue after Grandpa Albert Schendel, who had allowed the school to start in his workshop, died on June 8, 2000? Generous donations kept the school open, only to have Sandy’s mother, Gretchen Schendel (the new school bus driver), break her neck in a car accident. The Lord gave strength to others to carry on.

In 2003, a few years after her neck healed, Gretchen was diagnosed with cancer, but the school continued as God marvelously healed her again.

Then Sandy and Margie married the “two wonderful men,” Christian and Shawn, who’d come into their lives. These unions produced a fair share of new SCCS students—Stephen Nelson and then twins (and students-to-be) Jonathan and Jeremiah. The Seelys adopted Andie, then Quinn, followed by Nikki, Ally, and Maya all at once.

Sandy recalled the time she and Margie took a couple of students to dinner instead of punishing them—and the memorable time together that was never regretted. Sandy spoke of the odd-sized window that was donated just when it was needed. Then there was the freeway sign “that led to the purchase of a 16-passenger bona fide school bus” and the ensuing location of “exactly the right person to oversee our bus driving requirements.”

Money was needed to pay off a debt for remodeling “God did it with one check—for $25,000!” Extra hands were needed for all kinds of projects. So God sent “many helpers over the last sixteen years.”

Sandy concluded with the following thought: “God has no hands but our hands to do His work today. He has no feet but our feet to lead men in His way; He has no tongue but our tongue to tell men how He died; He has no help but our help to bring them to His side.” May we all be His hands, His feet, His tongue, and His help!

As always, the celebration ended with the singing of Grandpa Schendel’s favorite hymn, “Amazing Grace,” followed with prayer, a light supper, fellowship, and a chance to look over old picture albums and newsletters.

For more information about events happening at Small Cloud Christian School, visit their website at www.smallcloud.org.

Cedar Christian School Winter Concert

The night of Thursday, January 26, was cold and rainy. Weather reports warned of gusty winds, flash floods, and heavy thunderstorms all across northern Georgia. But at Cedar Christian School, the lights glowed warmly as students sang and played for the honor and glory of our Lord and Saviour.

One of the subjects taught at Cedar Christian School is music. Students are instructed in guitar, piano, flute, recorder, violin, voice, and
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composition. Throughout the concert, which was broadcast live on the Internet, the students presented group and solo pieces on all the instruments mentioned previously. The program began and ended with original pieces written by two of the students. The choir opened with “I Will Sing,” by Persia Suárez, age 12 (music by Jacqueline Rehcalssóm), and closed the program with “Lay Your Anchor.” The words and music of this song were written by Damaris Hunger, age 13.

If you were unable to view Cedar Christian School’s Winter Concert online, you may receive a DVD of the complete program by sending your donation of $10 or more to Cedar Christian School, P.O. Box G, Cedartown, GA 30125-0547.

Photo Credits: p.1 – Small Cloud students perform with their teacher, Sandy Nelson; photo by Mike Alford
p. 2 – Cedar Christian School students sing; photo by Leo Chiatto

Health Minute: The Truth About Coconut Oil
Margie Seely, Cedartown, GA

Coconut oil, long used by the people of many tropical countries, was once also popular here in America. With its long shelf life and high melting point (76°F), coconut oil was a favorite ingredient in many foods. Then came the “discovery” that coconut oil is bad for you because it is a saturated fat and raises cholesterol. Quickly, many food companies abandoned the use of coconut oil in their products in favor of hydrogenated oils. However, researchers have uncovered some surprising facts about this misunderstood oil.

One of the things they discovered is that not all saturated fats are bad. In fact, the cholesterol level that coconut oil does raise is the HDL, which is good. In 1988, Dr. Istfan of Harvard University Medical School’s Nutrition Coordinating Center, reported that coconut oil “does not increase the role of heart disease.” Instead, scientists have found that coconut oil actually reduces the risk of atherosclerosis and heart disease. But that’s not all. Because coconut oil contains lauric acid (found naturally only in breast milk and coconut), this oil is a natural antibiotic and helps prevent and fight bacterial, viral, and fungal infections, such as HIV, herpes, and candida. When used in cooking, coconut oil helps your body absorb vitamins, minerals, and amino acids. Rich in medium chain triglycerides (MCTs), coconut oil is a good source of energy and helps to efficiently metabolize fat, which helps with weight loss. These MCTs have also recently been discovered to help people suffering from Alzheimer’s, Type 1 and Type 2 diabetes, and even Parkinson’s disease, dementia, schizophrenia, and autism. Externally, coconut oil aids the healing of many skin ailments and promotes healthy hair.

You can find coconut oil in many health food stores or online health retailers. Just be sure you are purchasing pure coconut oil that it is non-hydrogenated. Organic coconut oil, although a bit pricier, is always best. For more information (there is much more to learn about the health benefits of coconut oil), visit the sites listed below or watch the video clip, also listed below, about how coconut oil can help reverse Alzheimer’s disease.

Sources:
http://www.coconutoil.com/beatrice_hunter.htm
http://www.coconutresearchcenter.org/

Video:
The World’s Bible
Annie Johnson Flint

Christ has no hands but our hands to do His work today;
He has no feet but our feet to lead men in His way;
He has no tongue but our tongue to tell men how He died;
He has no help but our help to bring them to His side.

We are the only Bible the careless world will read;
We are the sinner’s gospel, we are the scoffer’s creed;
We are the Lord’s last message, given in deed and word,
What if the type is crooked? What if the print is blurred?

What if our hands are busy with other work than His?
What if our feet are walking where sin’s allurement is?
What if our tongues are speaking of things His lips would spurn?
How can we hope to help Him, and hasten His return?

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2012 Calendar

- April 4-8: Youth Conference in Monte del Estado, Maricao, Puerto Rico – Contact George Williams for more information at gawr777@gmail.com or 787-565-5060
- April 10: Missionary Seminar Field Training begins
- July 11-15: General Conference Session, Johannesburg, South Africa (details coming soon)
- July 26-28: Missionary Seminar Graduation and Evangelistic Event

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