

# Sharing

## Community Bible Study

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### Finding The Answers To Life's Questions

*Growing up in Wauwatosa, Wisconsin, Barbara Gates Moore was told to find her own answers to the questions she had. And she did, searching beyond the encyclopedias and dictionaries stacked in the dining room to the jungles of the Philippines and the high desert of the Eastern Sierra. When she found the answers, she shared enthusiastically. (Milwaukee Journal).*

Barbara Moore was my mother, and as a child she was full of life and adventure, pursuing and excelling in just about every activity she put her mind to. She excelled in the arts, sciences, and sports, and eventually her interests took her to the University of Wisconsin where she graduated in 1947 with a degree in art. Shortly thereafter, she married my father and moved to the Philippines. While there she became an accomplished equestrian and enjoyed many pursuits, including tennis.

Mom and Dad divorced in 1957, but she continued to live in the Philippines until 1962. She became an avid scuba diver searching for sunken ships and an explorer combing through the Philippine jungles. As I said before, Mom was full of adventure.

After returning to the states she established her own business as a manufacturers' representative selling to the military. During this time she added skiing to her long list of active pursuits. In 1979 she retired and moved to Mammoth Lakes, California where she taught a local history class, "Settling the Eastern Sierra," at the community college and later with the recreation department. Her classes were always standing room only, and a number of people took the class repeatedly to partake of her knowledge and expertise of the area.

In 2000, suffering from a rare neurological disease, Mom moved to Gardnerville, Nevada to be near our family. In the last two years of her life she found the answer to the most significant question in life, which is the reason she was able to endure and overcome the things she faced with such courage and grace. I know she would have wanted to share this with the same enthusiasm that she shared all her discoveries.

Shortly after she moved to Gardnerville, Mom began attending the local Community Bible Study class in Carson Valley. She hadn't attended church since childhood, having been raised by a Jewish father and a gentile mother, both of whom were atheists, according to a family member. The only reason she came to class was because I was the Teaching Director and she had never before heard me lecture.



Barbara Gates Moore

Mom was overwhelmed by the many kindnesses shown to her by the ladies in the class. Many went beyond the call of duty in demonstrating the love of Jesus to her, and I am convinced it was this kindness and agape love that softened her heart enough to "hear and receive" the gospel message.

The class was studying the book of Revelation (just like my mom to begin at the end of the Bible). Not at all intimidated by her lack of knowledge, she jumped in to studying the Bible with the same intensity she always had for things that interested her.

About two months into the study of Revelation, around Chapters 6 and 7, the discussion during the weekly Core Group intensified. Like all CBS Core Groups, Mom's was made up of a diverse group of ladies from varied backgrounds and denominations. Everyone seemed to have a strong opinion concerning the meaning of the visions contained in Revelation. During one such "lively" discussion a number of ladies began to get carried away with some of the more controversial details in the text. The identity of the Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse, the 144,000 mentioned in Chapter 7, as well as the mixed multitude were discussed. Just as the conversation threatened to get out of hand, Mom interrupted by quietly raising her hand and asking the question: "Who is the Lamb?"



That question silenced the group and redirected the entire focus, not only for that particular Core Group, but for the entire class of 170 women as well. It became our motto that year. Whenever any of us found ourselves getting sidetracked, her question brought us back: *Who is the Lamb?* Mom found the answer to her question in the pages of her Bible. Jesus Christ is the sinless, spotless Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.

As her health continued to decline and she was faced with the realization that, short of a miracle, her condition was irreversible, she drew strength from knowing that whatever she faced, her Lord was with her and her future was secure in His hands.

She loved to hear Revelation 21 & 22 read to her, never tiring of it, and she peacefully entered into God's presence with Michael Card's musical rendition of Revelation 21 playing in the background.

*Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Now the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away."*

*He who was seated on the throne said, "I am making everything new!" Then he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true."*

*He said to me: "It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To him who is thirsty I will give to drink without cost from the spring of the water of life."*

*I did not see a temple in the city, for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. The city does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and the Lamb is its lamp. The nations will walk by its light...for there will be no night there...*

*Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, as clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb down the middle of the great street of the city...no longer will there be any curse. The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city, and his servants will serve him. They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. There will be no more night. They will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, for the Lord God will give them light. And they will reign forever and ever.*

*The angel said to me, "These words are trustworthy and true. The Lord, the God of the spirits of the prophets, sent his angel to show his servants what must soon take place."*


*"Behold I am coming soon! Blessed is He who keeps the words of the prophecy in this book." I, John, am the one who heard and saw these things. And when I had heard and seen them, I fell down to worship at the feet of the angel who had been showing them to me. But He said to me, "Do not do it!*

*I am a fellow servant with you and with your brothers the prophets and of all who keep the words of this book. Worship God!"*

*Then he told me, "Do not seal up the words of the prophecy of this book, because the time is near...Behold, I am coming soon! My reward is with me, and I will give to everyone according to what he has done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End."*

*Blessed are those who wash their robes, that they may have the right to the tree of life and may go through the gates into the city.... "I, Jesus have sent my angel to give you this testimony for the churches. I am the Root and the Offspring of David, and the bright Morning Star."*

*The Spirit and the Bride say, "Come!" And let him who hears say, "Come!" Whoever is thirsty, let him come; and whoever wishes, let him take the free gift of the water of life....He who testifies to these things says, "Yes, I am coming soon." Amen. Come, Lord Jesus. (from Revelation 21 and 22)*

Mom spent a lifetime digging for answers and doing things her way, but in the end she found God's way, the ultimate answer to every question. She found true peace in the Lamb of God, Jesus Christ. 

**Tracy Day**  
**Former Teaching Director**  
**Carson Valley, NV CBS**

## New CBS Classes to Start

- Austin/Greater Lake Travis, TX
- Castle Rock, CO
- Chula Vista, CA
- Columbia (W) Eve, SC
- Dacula/Lawrenceville, GA
- Destin Teen, FL
- Fallbrook, CA
- Fresno/Clovis, CA
- Lenawee County, MI
- Lower Merion, PA
- Maple Grove Eve, MN
- Medina Men, MN
- Mid Hudson Valley, NY
- Midland, MI
- Mission Viejo Men, CA
- Orlando, FL
- Raleigh Eve, NC
- Richmond North Men, VA
- San Diego/Rancho Bernardo Men, CA
- Victoria Eve, TX
- Wimberley Eve, TX

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Check our website: [www.communitybiblestudy.org](http://www.communitybiblestudy.org) or contact the National Service Center at 1-800-826-4181 or [info@communitybiblestudy.org](mailto:info@communitybiblestudy.org) for specific information.



## An Appointment With My King

My husband and I wanted to build a new house closer to his job, but we could not begin until the house we were living in was sold. On March 3, 2001 I began praying, “O God, sell our house in 60 days...*please*,” and by March 21, I was frustrated and fearful of not selling.

About that time I listened to a tape about prayer. The speaker quoted Andrew Murray: “*Prayerlessness in the life of a believer is sin.*” With that single statement God began to open my eyes about my prayer life, and I knew He wanted me to get serious about prayer. The first thing I realized was that He wanted me to make a commitment to spend time with Him in prayer—not just in His Word with my CBS study—but in prayer *every* day. I made a promise to “make an appointment with my King, and keep it” (Corrie ten Boom).

He also wanted me to understand what prayer is and what it is not, beginning with my plea to sell our house. I was praying in fear, not faith. I was praying my wishes, not God’s will, praying when an issue was important and it was convenient for me. My begging Him in fear was not His intention for my prayer life, nor was it to answer my “wish list.”

Though I didn’t understand why, I became convinced God would sell our house by a specific date. I felt like the Lord wanted me to ask Him to sell our house by April 2. This was my first step in believing prayer

The next morning began my new journey into a life of prayer, learning anew what prayer is, how to pray, how to cultivate life-changing prayer. For two weeks Jesus filled those few precious minutes of the early morning with His Word and His Spirit. I discovered how He jealously guarded our time together by waking me up early and keeping my two young children quiet longer.

The Lord changed my prayer from one of fear to one of faith. Yet even as I was waiting for Him to do something amazing, He was also giving me a deeper understanding of what prayer is. Prayer is not about *what He will do*; prayer is about *Who He is* and my fellowship with Him. So why ask for a specific date to sell our house? The Lord was laying foundation stones of believing prayer in my life. I began to realize the intent of my heart must be to focus on God Himself so He can have the freedom to work His will in my life.

As April 2 drew close, the real test of faith began. Nobody had called to see the house and my husband was, understandably, less than sure about this “date thing.” On March 31, I was asking him to please be patient for two more days when the phone rang. It was a realtor asking if she could bring someone by on Monday, April 2, to see the house! By Monday evening we had a contract. God had sold our house in a very God-sized way. He is an awesome God!

*If any man builds on this foundation using gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay, or straw, his work will be shown for what it is because the day will bring it to light. It will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test the quality of each man’s work* (1 Corinthians 3:12-14). God was doing a new

work in me. He was laying a foundation of knowing Him in prayer, answering God-sized prayers in God-sized ways, and I was thrilled. Waiting for God to move and answer my prayer may have seemed like enough of a fiery test, but more testing fires were to come.

Three days before we were to move, the buyer walked away! A second buyer offered a contract within days, but closing day came and their loan was still not approved. For a third time the sale sign went up. A third buyer was preparing a contract when the second buyer’s loan came through. We had “sold” our house three times. Had God really sold our house April 2? He is a mysterious God.




Mike, Nathaniel, Jennifer & Grace

*“The inner chamber is intended to bind man to God, to supply him with power from God, to enable him to live for God alone...to so unite us with God that we may have Him*

*always abiding with us.”* (*The Prayer Life*, Andrew Murray) I had always treasured my fellowship with God in His Word. I was now beginning to discover a binding, abiding prayer life.

In the weeks after the first sale fell through, there were many tears and many questions, but only one answer: Jesus is Lord, and He is my God. He is holy, sovereign, sometimes mysterious, but always loving. Before long the Lord allowed my new commitment to prayer to be put to a test. Two weeks before we were to move into our new house my husband lost his job.

The week before my husband’s job loss, we were studying Philippians 3 in CBS. “*But whatever was to my profit I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. What is more, I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord*” (Philippians 3:7-8). One question in the lesson asked, “What value do you place on *knowing Jesus Christ*?” My answer was: “Knowing the Person of Jesus Christ, really knowing Him, is so awesome that it does surpass all things—He is my life. Yet I do not value that relationship as deeply as Paul, though I want to. I like having a nice home and car. Would I give up these earthly comforts? My trust is that if He calls, I would.” The following week my answer to the Review Question about striving to know Christ was “What *do* we do when stripped of all the world esteems? In an intimate relationship with God, we more deeply appreciate the One thing that can never be stripped from us, and in that joy we press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of us.” Fiery circumstances revealed the precious gold of knowing *Jesus* in the intimacy of prayer. He is personal, faithful, and steadfast.

I am so thankful God convicted me of my prayerlessness. He showed me what it means to be bound to Him in the fellowship of prayer. I remain committed to keeping my daily appointment with Him. I hope you will join me in the quest of knowing Jesus in the intimacy of prayer. 

**Jennifer Neuman**  
**Austin North, TX CBS**



## The Call To Be A “Roof Breaker”

My parents were active participants in the southern California church Mom had attended since high school when my father walked away from God and our family after eight years of what Mom thought was a good marriage. She was devastated when he left. She reluctantly gave him a divorce following two years of praying that he would reconcile to God and his marriage.

Mom and I moved to Northern Virginia for a fresh start. She secured a job at Prison Fellowship, a worldwide ministry to prisoners, where she was embraced by the Christians who worked there. We became part of a new community of believers.

In early 1983 my mom, Adelissa, met a man named Juan at a Prison Fellowship conference. These conferences were held for inmates who had become Christians and who were strong leaders within their respective prisons. Juan, who had been a gang member, school dropout, and drug addict, had been in and out of the prison system most of his life, and at the time they met, he was serving out his time for an unarmed bank robbery. In the late '70s he was led to the Lord by another inmate, and had become a new creation, served God in prison, led Bible studies, and shared his testimony with others.

At first Mom's relationship with Juan was simply a Christian friendship, similar to others she had made with previous conference attendees. Before long, however, their friendship began to change. After a yearlong correspondence, and following his release from prison, Juan felt God was leading them toward a more substantial relationship and a future together. Mom really had to pray about a future with Juan and she sought godly counsel. After much prayer they were married in late 1984. Juan continued in his Christian walk, became very involved in our church, and obviously loved Mom.

Following my graduation from high school, we moved back to California, and I went to college. Mom and Juan became active in her home church. About four years into their marriage, Mom suddenly developed illnesses the doctors could not diagnose. Finally, after running tests over the course of a year with no conclusions, a doctor asked her if she could possibly be at risk for AIDS. She reluctantly agreed to be tested, certain it would be negative because it had been many years since Juan's drug use and his dramatic change of life. Mom and Juan both tested HIV positive and our lives were changed forever. She never blamed Juan for the illness because she realized that, even though our sins are forgiven after we give our lives to God, there may be natural consequences resulting from past sin. Gradually, they began to share their situation with family, friends, and their church. Mom later said that she would always be grateful that their church community and others chose to embrace and support them, rather than reject them.

For about five years both remained relatively healthy, but by 1995 Mom's health began to decline. Her immune system wasn't working as it should and within a year she was very weak and thin. Her church held a lifetime achievement

service for her, and family and friends flew in from across the country to attend. When asked to say a few words at the end of the service, she said, “I chose to work for God from the time I was a child. I am so thankful I didn't waste time because you never know how much time you will be given.”




Adelissa and Lisa

To our great shock, 1997 brought dramatic healing. Not only did she live, but she miraculously regained all of her lost weight and returned to a strong and robust state of health. She believed that God had provided this time because there was something left for her to do; there were lives God wanted to touch through her.

A year later the church held another service in her honor. This time it was a service of celebration for the unbelievable healing that had taken place over the course of the year. She spoke from Mark 2:1-12, about the healing of the paralytic. He was brought before Jesus by four friends who lowered him on a mat through the rooftop. She pointed out that just as the four friends lowered the paralytic before Christ for healing, she felt that she had four groups around her who brought her before God for healing: her family, her church family, friends, and Christians in the medical community. In the story of the paralytic Jesus saw the faith of his friends and healed him. Mom challenged everyone to be a “roof breaker” like the paralytic's friends. She urged them to do whatever they could to bring to the Lord those who need healing and forgiveness. Though physical healing can be dramatic, it is even more astounding that Jesus can forgive sins and give peace to the soul and spirit. Mom closed with, “I thank God for giving me a year I didn't expect to have, but the best thing He has done is to give me peace in my soul.”

Later that year the viruses started creeping up once again, and in a short time she again became very ill. When she passed away, she had lived with the disease for 14 years.

The CBS Commentary on Philippians (lesson 4, page 3) states, “Joy is much deeper than happiness. It is a steady foundation of security in Christ that holds fast and gives peace, hope, and comfort when circumstances are not happy. Joy is rooted in the certainty that Jesus Christ is Lord.” Even in the most dire times in her life, Mom could rejoice in the Lord, because her foundation of security in Christ held fast.

She believed in God's faithfulness and saw her temporary healing as nothing short of miraculous. She was grateful to God for allowing her more time to serve Him and others. Throughout her life, she shared Christ with those around her, and even now her testimony lives on. *“My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever”* (Psalm 73:26). 

**Lisa DeVinney  
Rochester, NY CBS**

*Note: Juan continues to live in Southern California, attends the same church, and maintains his Christian walk.*



## Profound Simplicity

A few years ago I was a Core Leader in the Seattle CBS class and a young mom I had never met was in my group. She listened as I explained class procedures, including the class member's responsibility of doing the lesson each week. She called during the week and explained that it sounded



too much for her, the homework and all that was involved. She explained that she had five young children, including a set of twins. Of course I understood and tried to

encourage her with the fact that one day in the future this kind of study would indeed work for her.

Two months passed. I learned through a friend that my one-day core member had suffered a painful betrayal by her husband and they now planned to divorce. My heart was so heavy for her. I had no clue what to do for her except to pray.

After our Leaders Council meeting one day, I prayed again for her as I was driving home. After lunch, I settled into my favorite armchair for a quick nap with the dog on my lap. As I was dozing off, I heard a voice say, "Do her laundry." This was odd. I sank back into my hazy nap and the words "Do her laundry," came again so loud that I flew out of the chair dumping the dog on the floor!

"Whoa, what was that? Was that God speaking to me?" I grabbed my keys and my CBS address list and in a matter of seconds was out the door. My heart raced as I drove, and I begged God to show me that it was indeed His command and not pending insanity. How can I go to the door of someone I barely know and offer to do her laundry? I wanted a sign. I prayed for a sign.

Just as I found the house and doubled back to park, the garage door opened and out she walked. That was good enough for me. I began with a casual, "Hi, I am so sorry to hear about what has happened." We talked for quite some time as I helped her get things down from the attic. I met all the children except one. She was very open with me as we talked, something I would never have imagined.

Then I took a deep breath and just blurted out, "Can I do your laundry? Maybe even change the bed sheets, clean, whatever?" She said that would be great.

We collected her laundry and a huge pile of sopping wet towels which were the result of a child-induced "disaster" the night before that had brought her to a very low point in her struggle. We loaded her mess into my trunk. She gave me a house key and said to come by any time. And I did.


Thereafter, as I folded little Spiderman underwear and superhero pajamas, and matched adorable little socks, I prayed endlessly for their young spirits and the road that lay ahead of those tiny feet. I baked cookies and made special

treats to take with me when I went over to switch the laundry. It was so simple, such ordinary tasks, but I was blessed in return with shy smiles and kneecap hugs.

They live elsewhere now, but when I last ran into the mom, I was pleased to hear how things were going. They had gone on, one day at a time.

Now, I know what happened here is not all about me, but I must say, this was the only time I have ever heard the voice of God. It's funny to think that when I finally heard God speak to me it wasn't anymore profound than "Do her laundry!" Yet, I think, it is profound in its simplicity and its love.

It came from our King who washed the feet of those He loved, those who were to come after Him, in an act startling in its simplicity and its love.

*When He had finished washing their feet, He put on his clothes and returned to His place. "Do you understand what I have done for you?" he asked them. "You call me 'Lord' and Teacher' and rightly so, for that is what I am. Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. I tell you the truth, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. Now that you know these things you will be blessed if you do them"* (John 13:12-17). 


**Kathy Lopus**  
*Mercer Island, WA CBS*

## Challenging Times

Have you noticed the increasing appeals for financial help by all manner of causes you support? It is not confined to Christian organizations. It seems a sign of the times.

Whether this is a phenomenon caused by the stock market's sag (which, by the way appears to be ending), terrorist threats, or job losses, no one can say. Perhaps it's a combination of all three. But it's real!

CBS has not been immune to these changing conditions either. While class registrations and the number of classes keep growing, the amount CBS has received as non-designated gifts has fallen below the level of the past several years.

By God's grace, CBS has been able to maintain limited reserve funds for times like these. However, please pray that we may continue to meet the increasing needs of this growing ministry. The Lord has blessed CBS and we place our trust in Him to lead us into a future full of promise. 

**Neal Creswell, Colorado**  
*CBS Board of Trustees*



## *The Cross is God's Reminder All Will Be Okay*

“Don’t forget the cross, Mom!”

Our eleven year old daughter, Lauren, heard my wife stressing over the mounting expenses that accompanied my unexpected loss of employment. How were we going to pay our oldest daughter’s college tuition? How were we going to stay current with the insurance premium my employer had



Kristin, Wendy, Lauren, Allison & Greg

been making on our behalf? When was I going to sell an article to cover the groceries?

My wife had reason to be concerned. My only regular source of income over the course of the summer was freelance writing assignments that editor

friends had thrown my way. A few weeks before Easter, the para-church ministry I’d been with for five years abruptly laid me off (along with nine others). Letting me go was a financially motivated decision for my employer. What resulted for our family was a financially motivated call to trust the Lord.

On Maundy Thursday I went out the front door to greet the evening sky and get some fresh air. As I turned to go inside, I noticed a little woven basket on the porch. Taking it inside I called Wendy and the girls to come and see.

The first thing that caught my eye was a little wooden cross tucked in the Easter grass. Then I saw five different colored plastic eggs. They were the kind we filled with jelly beans and hid for our three girls when they were younger. As I opened one I saw a ten dollar bill. My heart started to beat faster. Sure enough, each egg contained a ten dollar bill. Without hesitation, we circled as a family as my wife led us in a prayer of gratitude.

“Thank You, Lord Jesus, for this unexpected reminder that You know our needs and that You are capable of taking care of us,” Wendy prayed. “Forgive us when we start to worry and forget Your promises to provide.”

There was no note or any indication of whom it was from, but my wife immediately thought of the CBS leadership team of which she was a part. Talk about serendipity. In the stale and somewhat scary atmosphere of joblessness, it was the breath of fresh air my spirit needed. The fifty dollars were funneled toward the expenses of that week’s groceries since we had a family staying with us. The little wooden cross was hung on the wall in our hallway.


“Let’s keep it up all the time as a reminder,” Wendy said. “Every time we see it we can remember how the Lord surprised us with what we needed.”

On Good Friday, as we prepared to go to a communion

service, I couldn’t help but reflect on the unlikely means God chose to provide for my spiritual bankruptcy. And there on the wall was a little cross reminding me that God is capable of rectifying my other losses.

As weeks without fulltime income gave way to months, Wendy and I took to the mat against the twin wrestlers named Fear and Insecurity. Our tag team attempt to maintain a positive outlook proved sporadic. Fortunately on days when I felt like I was locked in a “half nelson,” she was up. On days she felt pinned to the mat, I found a praise song on my lips. For several weeks I had a seemingly endless string of articles that were purchased by magazine editors. With excitement we waited for the mail to come each day to see if there was an acceptance letter or a check. Little by little we were paying our bills. But then there was a dry stretch. Wendy, who was returning to the job force for the first time since we had children, began to stress out. Where would the money come from?

Hearing her mother’s plaintive cry, Lauren, with confidence in her voice, said, “Don’t forget the cross, Mom!” My wife wrapped her arms around our youngest daughter and thanked her for her timely reminder. There was no need to worry. The cross was all the proof we needed that a permanent job, as well as provision in the meantime, was just around the corner. A tangible object hanging on the wall became a stressbuster.

A simple reminder of God’s provision in the past can prompt a shift in perspective from panic to trust. A little wooden cross served that purpose for our family. What might that object be for you? A photograph? A family Bible? A china teacup from a praying grandmother? Take some time and identify an object that you can display. Then every time you glance at it, recall the faithfulness of God and release the stress and worry you’ve allowed to build up. 

*Greg Asimakoupoulos*

*“Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”*

*Philippians 4:6-7*



## ***Modern Day Loaves and Fish***

Imagine the surprise of the children in grades one through seven who attended Community Bible Study in Suffern, NY, when their CBS teacher gave them each a \$5.00 bill. The money was not to be spent on themselves. They were meant to “grow” the money and return any profits to class, which would then be given to CBS International (CBSI) for their ministry in Malawi.

The Suffern CBS class chose Malawi as their “Country Link,” a program that links a CBS class in the United States with a foreign country where CBSI has been established. The class is challenged to pray for the CBSI ministry within their country at least once a month. The Suffern children’s leadership team wanted to do something more by reaching out to the people of Malawi in a special way. Teri Daino, the Children’s Director, and fellow teacher, Suzanne Rizzo, formed the “Five Dollar Plan.”

The children began to increase the money, using a variety of innovative methods. One family sold hot chocolate in front of their house on a cold wintry day; some sold candy and homemade brownies; others painted clothespins to be used as clips for chip bags. The *Ten Commandments* were recited to an individual who offered \$10.00 for the memorization effort. Children were suddenly anxious to clean the house or take out the garbage. One girl even changed her little sister’s diapers. In addition to their individual projects, the children’s classes also handcrafted bookmarks to be sent to Malawi. These homemade bookmarks included a variety of Scripture verses as well as words of love and encouragement. When the final cup of hot chocolate was sold and the last gift tallied, the children had raised \$514.23 for CBSI in Malawi.

On May 2, three months after the venture began, CBSI’s Director of Operations, Stephen Hood, traveled to Suffern to receive a presentation for CBS International from this special CBS class. As Stephen listened to the children share how they raised the money for their gift, he was reminded of the passage of Scripture in Matthew where Jesus fed the 5,000. A meal that fed thousands began with the faith and willingness of a child, who offered his five loaves and two fish to Jesus.

Centuries later, 15 children in New York gave of their time, talents, and treasures for God to use in Malawi. We know that the Lord will bless and multiply the efforts of these children who gave out of love for others.

Stephen reported that these funds will help CBSI National Director, Rutherford Banda, provide course materials for the 96 CBSI classes in Malawi. Many of the participants are also in need of Bibles and other material.

It was truly a blessing to see how the Suffern class put their faith into action. When presenting their efforts to Stephen, Teri said, “We may never meet the people who will receive these items or know the full benefit from these gifts, but one day we will see them in heaven, where we will all be one in the body of Christ.”

***Community Bible Study International***

**Note:** CBS Teaching Directors, if you have not registered for the Country Link program, and would like to do so, please contact CBSI for information at [info@cbsinternational.org](mailto:info@cbsinternational.org) or call 1-800-317-8839.




## ***The Prayer Corner***

### ***Thankfulness***

Thankfulness is usually included in a list of the important elements of prayer. It should be, but it is usually just a part of our larger prayer pattern. If your prayer life is like mine, the greater portion of your prayer time is probably spent in intercession. Indeed there is much to pray for and time is needed. But take a moment with me to compare our Heavenly Father to an earthly father. What father would not be encouraged and blessed if, on occasion, time with him were devoted entirely to thankfulness and appreciation.

Despite acute awareness of my many flaws and failures as a parent, this past Father’s Day I received several cards expressing appreciation and thanks. The kindness of my children (though I felt undeserving) brought great joy to me. How much joy might we bring to our Heavenly Father’s heart if we were to devote time with Him exclusively to thanksgiving and praise.

Have you ever experienced a special blessing or answer to prayer only to remember to thank God as an afterthought? Sadly, there is scriptural precedent for it. Luke relates the account of ten men who were healed of leprosy: “*One of them, when he saw he was healed, came back, praising God in a loud voice. He threw himself at Jesus’ feet and thanked Him...Jesus asked, ‘Were not all ten cleansed? Where are the other nine?’*” (Luke 17:15-17).

Have you been like one of the other nine? I have. But I also know there is real blessing in thanksgiving that brings joy to the heart of our Lord. In addition, there is probably no better remedy for those down times, which we all have in our lives, than to remember the many reasons we have to be thankful. How about a time each week devoted to thanksgiving and praise alone? “*Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus*” (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18).

***John Woods***  
***Teaching Director***  
***Rochester Eve, MN CBS***





## *A Personal Word...*

### *Walk Worthy*


Paul, empowered by the Holy Spirit, wrote to the church at Ephesus the following words: *“I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to **walk** in a manner **worthy** of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace”* (Ephesians 4:1-3, English Standard Version). What a powerful exhortation, and one we should all heed!

On September 24, 2003 a dear friend of Community Bible Study went home to be with the Lord. The weekend before his home-going, Michael Henderson, (husband of Sue Henderson, National Director of Day Classes), spoke some of those very words to his son Chris (Evening Class Area Director). Removing his oxygen mask and mustering the breath and the energy to speak, Mike said **“walk worthy.”** Chris told us at his dad’s memorial service that those were the last words he heard his father speak. Sue has since told me **“walk worthy as we walk together”** was Mike’s choice for the inscription inside the wedding band she gave him on their last anniversary.

Mike was a wonderful friend and a great blessing to all of us as he has supported and encouraged Sue’s ministry with CBS since 1982. What a legacy and exhortation he left to his family. Sue has written the following message to all of you who have prayed and sent messages over the last five years during Mike’s illness: *“Words cannot adequately express our sincere appreciation for the outpouring of love you have showered on our family since Michael’s home-going on September 24. Prayers, words of encouragement, beautiful cards with notes, and other acts of kindness have blessed us as we adjust to this new challenge in our lives. God is always good and provides at just the right moment. This is a stretching and growing time, but your support helps tremendously. Thank you CBS family! With love, Sue.”*



Camilla Seabolt  
Executive Director

May we all heed and **“walk worthy as we walk together”** and follow our Lord Jesus Christ. 

*...from Camilla*

*If you would like information for yourself, a family member, or a friend about one of our classes please contact  
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