

Spring/Summer 2006

Community

Bible

Study

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Great and Mighty Things



Jane Anderson

The verse the Lord gave me when I first started praying about being a Teaching Director in CBS was Jeremiah 33:3, “*Call to Me and I will answer you, and I will tell you great and mighty things, which you do not know*” (NASB). At that time all I could imagine was getting a class started in Birmingham. The Lord was faithful and provided for all of our needs as we began with 150 people in 1979. Our class grew and we were blessed mightily by the Lord as we studied His Word, but we were still focused on our own community.

Lee Campbell, Founder and first Executive Director of Community Bible Study, came to visit our class several years later and challenged us to begin praying for the Lord to raise up classes all over Alabama. Once again we experienced the faithfulness of the Lord to do just that. We not only saw classes begin in other cities in our state in answer to prayer, but also in Georgia and Tennessee.

Twenty-seven years have come and gone, and all of us have been privileged to see God raise up classes all over this country. How exciting it is to know that there is Bible study for every age! For the past two years, all of us have been praying about a permanent home for CBS. An incredible monetary gift covering the cost of the land for a new National Service Center



The Future NTSC in Colorado Springs, CO (conceptual rendering)

(NSC) has been received. Temporary office space is leased for the twelve to fifteen months it will take to build the new facility—space obtained at a more reasonable rate than we could have found in Virginia. NSC is relocating to Colorado Springs—a miracle in answer to prayer!

Now we all have an opportunity through the *God Will Provide Fund* to perpetuate the legacy of CBS through our prayers and our giving. After

the Leadership Conference in Denver, I had the privilege to visit the future site of our new National Service Center in Colorado Springs with Camilla and several others. It was an awesome experience to stand on the property and see the beauty of the mountains in the distance. We read together from Psalm 121, “*I will lift up my eyes to the mountains; From where shall my help come? My help comes from the LORD Who made heaven and earth....The LORD will guard your going out and your coming in from this time forth and forever*” (NASB). Truly the Lord has done more than we could ever ask or think. He has shown us “*great and mighty things.*”

Jane Anderson
Teaching Director, Birmingham, AL
Board of Trustees

Lee Campbell
Founder, President Emeritus

We are and will be eternally grateful for Lee and Corky Campbell’s obedience to God in founding Community Bible Study. Their love of the Lord and their personal sacrifices in serving Him have greatly multiplied God’s Kingdom!



Lee Campbell

May God return to you, Lee, a hundred-fold the blessing you have been to countless numbers of CBSers! We love you.

Lee celebrated her 75th birthday in February, at which time she received many loving wishes. She would like to express her thanks.

To all my dear CBS Friends:

Thank you so much for your many warm greetings and reflections that you shared with me on my birthday. I will treasure your thoughts!

May God Bless each of you and enlarge your ministry to Him.

*Much love in Him,
Lee*

Publishing Department

“Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of Truth.”

2 Timothy 2:15



Luanne Flom, Director

Jeanne Osborne, Marg Weaver, Harriet Allen, Anne Altieri
Seated: Beth Miller, Jennifer Rutherford, Anne Vogel

CBS Became My Community

Shortly after the moving van pulled away from my new home in Northern Virginia, I called a friend who was active in CBS and asked her to help me find a Bible study. In the fall of 2002, I began attending the Dulles CBS class. Two weeks after the start of class, my son-in-law left for a tour of duty in Afghanistan. After spending a week with my daughter, I returned home and noticed that my husband was having difficulty speaking and seemed very confused. He had suffered a mild stroke. We were still so new to the area that we didn't know our neighbors, have a family physician, or a church home. My CBS Core Group became my "community" by supporting my family through prayer and practical help. They celebrated my son-in-law's safe return and showed care and concern throughout my husband's recovery. One of my Core Group members took my resume to the CBS Service Center, and in June 2003, I began working as an editor in the Publishing Department. I've been privileged to work in God's Word daily and to serve with people who are committed believers in Jesus Christ.

This year, my class has been studying *Servants of God*. When the decision was made to relocate the ministry, the lessons about God's faithful servants helped me through a time of searching and waiting for God's leading. My husband and I do not feel God is calling us to Colorado. I don't know what the Lord will lead me to do next, but I look forward to the future and am thankful for the privilege of being a part of Community Bible Study.

Marg Weaver
Editor

An Eternal Difference

When I graduated from college, I wasn't quite sure what kind of organization I wanted to work for, but I did know that I wanted to contribute to something that could make a difference in people's lives. God placed me in a company in the Washington, D.C. area where I met the person who would lead me to Christ about a year later. As my faith grew, so did a passion for those who didn't know the Lord and the abundant blessings that result from having a relationship with Him. Although my job was going well and I had just received a promotion, I felt God calling me to pursue full-time ministry work. I am not a huge fan of change and definitely not a risk-taker, but God worked on my heart and gave me the desire to pick up and move half-way around the world if that was what He wanted me to do.

I had recently seen a movie about Tuscany, Italy and had begun to fall in love with the idea of moving there. I wondered if that was where God was telling me to go, but as it turns out, He had something else in mind. He had prepared a place for me within a ministry called Community Bible Study in Northern Virginia. So I packed my belongings and moved about 30 miles—just over the Maryland/Virginia line. I had to laugh at God's incredible sense of humor when I arrived at CBS that first day and was shown to my desk. On the wall behind my work station was a beautiful mural of a Tuscan scene painted by two CBS employees. God put me smack dab in the middle of Tuscany, but in a much different way than I had anticipated!

I feel so blessed to have worked for CBS the past two years. God took my desire to make a difference and ran with it, giving me the wonderful opportunity to make not just an earthly difference but an eternal one. When I accepted an editing position with this ministry, I thought it would be my second and last career move. I wanted to work for CBS well beyond babies and gray hairs, but my husband and I do not feel called to move to Colorado. I know God is moving me into a new season, but I will be forever grateful for this time of service and the opportunity to build lasting relationships with fellow sisters in Christ.

Beth Miller
Editor

My Twenty Moms

When I was 17 years old, my life convulsed with change: my father died of cancer in late summer and a month later, I left home for the first time to attend a highly competitive university. To say I was a little shaken would be an understatement; to say I felt on the brink of a nervous breakdown would be more accurate. Mercifully, this was also the year I became a follower of Jesus Christ.

My new faith was fresh and exciting but very confusing. I could sense it changing the dynamics of my relationships at home. I didn't understand it at the time, but my faith in Christ set me apart to God (which I loved), yet it also set me apart from my family (which I didn't like at all). My loyalty to Jesus came at odds with my loyalty to my family. We all felt it; and it made us all uncomfortable. To encourage my young and shaky faith, God spoke to me through Jesus' words to His disciples: *"I tell you the truth...no one who has left home or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields for me and the gospel will fail to receive a hundred times as much in this present age and in the age to come, eternal life"* (Mark 10:29-30).

For almost two decades, my mother and two brothers had no interest in knowing God or His amazing love for them. While they were not antagonistic toward me, a chilly distance grew between us and this unspoken strain grieved me. During these years, the Lord upheld me by knitting my heart to my new family—the body of Christ.

When I came to work at the National Service Center in 2000, I was surrounded by a fellowship of warm, fun-loving, and especially, godly women. (The few men were vastly outnumbered!) Not long after I started working here, I remembered a TV show I used to watch as a kid called *My Three Sons*. I couldn't help but think, "Here I am, the star of my own TV show: *My Twenty Moms*." But I also realized God was fulfilling His promise to give me the family I felt I'd lost by putting Him first in my life.

In July 2001, my oldest brother, Jim, died unexpectedly of a massive heart attack, and a few months later, my mother died after a long illness. My mother's passing was especially difficult; she had always been, and will always be one of those dearest to my heart. Then in May 2004, my only remaining sibling, my brother Nick, was struck and killed by a car. My greatest consolation in these losses has been the knowledge that both my mother and Nick received Christ before they died.

Through their prayers, patience, and compassion, my twenty moms have supported me through the loss of my natural family. Just when I needed it, I would receive a note, a kind word, or a hug, and with every holiday, I have more invitations than I know what to do with.

Although the Lord has not called me to serve Him at CBS in Colorado, I will always be grateful to Him for this remarkable season in my life, and for all those He has used at the National Service Center to comfort and transform my life.

Anne Altieri
Editor

Opportunities for Service

My grandpa lived to the age of 86 and died in 1985 after a deathbed conversion. What makes it even more memorable to me is that on his birthday in 1990, I came to Christ in Phyllis Cooper's kitchen. Phyllis is the Teaching Director of the Bethesda, MD CBS class, and she became my "new-life-in-Christ mother." I was spiritually reborn and immediately joined her class. Then the Lord chose to re-birth my job life with Christian arts-related ministry positions, both paid and voluntary. When one job came to an end, another gently loomed and I was able to begin afresh. The Lord has given me assorted opportunities to serve. Three-and-a-half years ago I heard about and accepted a publishing position at NSC, through which I have grown in knowledge of editing and graphics. It has been a joy to work with such dedicated Christians and to be a part of the anointed prayer that takes place each day. I don't think I'll ever be able to "work secular" again! But now that the NSC office is relocating, I will be watching for where the Lord leads me next. In the meantime, I will bide my time using the gifts and talents the Lord has given me, to His glory.

Jennifer Rutherford
Graphics/Editing

A Legacy of Excellence

As a long-time Teaching Director (19 years), curriculum writer (10 years), as well as Director of Publishing or Director of Curriculum for the past three years, I have been privileged to be in a position to evaluate one of the most critical parts of CBS, our materials.

Since the beginning of CBS, excellence has been our goal in every course conceived, every lesson written. Why does it take so long to produce a new course? Because you cannot hurry excellence. Our CBS process of writing and re-writing, editing, testing materials in editing classes and then editing again before final publication, with prayer at every step, assures the God-glorifying excellence we desire. Moving will not change our goal, although God will be raising up others to get the job done.

In conversations with Glenna Wilger, CBS question writer, and Dotty Larson, who has invested herself in our materials longer than any of the rest of us, we have agreed that participating in producing CBS materials is a legacy that we pray will impact class members' spiritual growth for many years to come. What a privilege! What a blessing! What a joy! Thanks be to God!



Phyllis Cooper

Phyllis Cooper
Teaching Director
Bethesda, MD
Director of Curriculum

An Altar on My Heart

During my prayer time not long ago, the Lord graciously reminded me of all the times He has brought my



Jen & Turner Miles
Samantha, Maggie, Luke

husband and me through difficult situations. No matter what our circumstances, He is always there, guiding, protecting, and teaching. One thing I felt impressed to do as the Lord reminded me of His faithfulness, was to use these past experiences to build an “altar” on my heart as a memorial to the Lord and a testimony to myself. I must never forget.

Several years ago my husband, Turner, left his job of six years to work for a Christian-based website, which reduced our income. After 9/11, he was laid off and without work for a couple months. We experienced many ups and downs emotionally, as well as spiritual highs and lows. There were times my faith was strong and at times I found myself questioning the Lord.

Turner returned to his former trade, working for a different company; however, his paycheck was contingent upon the company getting paid by his clients. If they didn't pay, the company didn't pay him. There were times when he would call on payday to tell me he didn't get a paycheck that day (and he only got paid once a month!). The mortgage and utilities would be due and groceries needed. But through God's grace we kept our house, never missed a meal, and never had our utilities shut off. I'd like to say my faith got us through, but it was God's faithfulness and provision. Some friends were moving across country and had an entire pantry and freezer full of food they gave to us because they couldn't take it with them. On two separate occasions, a check arrived out of the blue from someone saying it was a “gift” from the Lord. One time I was cleaning out my wallet and I found an old federal tax refund check for \$400 that was never cashed! I'll never forget our reaction when I discovered the check and showed it to my husband. We were literally jumping up and down hugging, while crying tears of joy mixed with laughter. We were completely humbled and amazed at God's mercy and grace for us!!!

During one of the darkest moments with no money coming in the door any time soon and bills due, I was doing my CBS study for the week, asking the Lord, “How are you possibly going to get us out of this one?” I was essentially questioning God's ability and His faithfulness. I knew I was supposed to believe He could do it, but at that moment I was really struggling. Just then my study led me to Mark 9 where a man asks Jesus to heal his demon-possessed son. Jesus asks the father, “How long has he been like this?” The father answers, “from childhood” (9:21),

and went on to say “If you can do anything, take pity on us and help us” (v. 22). Jesus' reply jumped off the page and into my heart. “If you can? Everything is possible for him who believes” (v. 23). Then the man declared, “I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief!” (v. 24). It was then I realized that God might not fix our problems the way we expected, but He absolutely could and would. Faithfulness is part of His character.

There are too many amazing things the Lord did to share them all here, but I give Him all the glory. I am also so thankful to Him for gracing me with a complete reverence for His goodness in any and all situations. He didn't have to speak to me amidst my “disbelief,” but He was merciful enough to meet me where I was that day and give me Scripture that drew me back to Himself. It wasn't immediately afterward that our situation was resolved, but it was a process over time, learning from Him every step of the way.

It is such a comfort to know that this memorial on my heart of the Lord's faithfulness has carried me (us) through hard circumstances and it will carry us through any tough times that lie ahead of us. Thank you, Lord.

Jen Miles
Core Leader
Western Loudoun, VA

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*Note: It has been said that one of the greatest blessings is to know that your children walk in the truth. Surely that is so in my case. Of all the blessings I have received from the Lord, one of the greatest is to know that my children know and love the Lord. My daughter Jennifer is a CBS Core Leader and she recently shared the above testimony in a class opening. I wanted to submit this as my praise to the Lord.*

Linda Wright,  
Sharing Editor



Faith Lee  
Membership Services

*Faith will be moving to Colorado Springs to continue her service to the Lord at the new National Service Center there.*

Jay Eglin  
Assistant National Treasurer

*Jay will not be moving to Colorado, but he will continue to serve the Lord and CBS in his role as Assistant Treasurer*



## Prayer Corner

### A Disciplined Prayer Life

One of the most frequently asked questions regarding prayer is “How can I develop a disciplined prayer life? I’ve tried time and time again, only to fall short.” Does the evidence show whether such a prayer life is what the committed Christian is called to? The supreme example is Jesus Himself, who prayed frequently as recorded in Scripture. “*Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed*” (Luke 5:16). In addition, there are many admonitions to pray throughout Scripture, such as “*Pray continually*” (1Thessalonians 5:17). When we read about great men and women of God, we find they were all people of prayer.

From personal experience, I found decades ago that I simply could not survive as a committed Christian without a disciplined prayer life. There is no one formula to fit everyone in this area, but there are certain keys that should make it possible for every Christian to have a consistent prayer life.

Ask yourself, “Do I really want a disciplined prayer life?” Be honest. If the answer is “Not really, but I know I should,” the starting point is to ask our Lord to give you such a desire. Speaking to others about this, there seems to be a consensus that the day should begin with prayer. If you can possibly make your scheduled time for prayer in the morning it is a wonderful way to start the day. The means of accomplishing this is perhaps through praying each evening before retiring that His Spirit would give us the desire to get up earlier than usual, and then setting our alarms accordingly. But, if it is just not possible to schedule your disciplined prayer time for morning, simply pray, committing yourself and the day to the Lord and schedule a time for prayer that works best for you. *The most important thing is that we do it...not when we do it.* It takes about three weeks to develop a habit.

Our prayers should include confession, praise and adoration, thanksgiving and listening, followed by intercession. Prayer requires time, the bulk of which is occupied with intercession. A prayer list kept over the years, with answers recorded, will be a tool for spiritual growth.

Many simply don’t know how to pray and so turn to the great Intercessor, our Lord Jesus, who intercedes for us. We can entrust the right intercession to be made by Him. When possible, let people know that you are praying for them. This seems to please most people, even non-believers. The best gift we can give someone is to pray for them. Persistence is all important. There are people for whose salvation our CBS class has persistently prayed for 20 years.

I would say the most important thing I do each day is pray. To face a day without preparatory prayer would make me feel as exposed as appearing on the street unclothed. Faithful prayer is hard work and a challenge, but it is also a great blessing. There is more that could be said, but *the most important thing is to get started.* If you feel that your prayer life is lacking, pray that God will inspire you to make it the great blessing it should be. This kind of prayer by God’s people would almost certainly result in a great moving of God’s Spirit.

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



## He is Behind Me

How grateful I am to have developed a personal relationship with the Lord through studying His Word at Community Bible Study. There are many things of which I’m not certain, but I am certain that the Lord loves me, guides me, and is always with me. I was recently reminded that He sometimes leads out in front of me, and sometimes from behind. It is comforting to know that when I can’t see Him before me I can rest in the knowledge that He is behind me, encouraging me to trust Him.

My road to serving at NSC was interesting. I had interviewed with Camilla a year earlier for a position in our Publishing Department, but instead accepted a job with a plastic surgeon, who would diagnose a malignant melanoma on my shoulder. I worked there for only six months, but I clearly see God’s hand in that decision.

Upon leaving that office, I committed to working for the senior pastor of a nearby church. Before beginning, I had surgery on both shoulders, and the recovery period was longer than anticipated. About that time, I ran into Camilla, who said she wanted me to serve as her Executive Assistant at NSC! I then learned that during my recovery the job at the church had been filled.

I could never have imagined the blessing the Lord had in store for me by placing me at NSC. I love my “job,” my “boss,” and every aspect of serving Him here. When we learned that NSC was to be relocated to Colorado, imagine my joy when my husband announced he was willing to give up his business here in the DC area and move. All he needed was a job, which I was certain the Lord would provide, given our attitude and desire.

I thought my heart would break when I had to tell Camilla it just didn’t happen, and that we weren’t going to relocate. How could I ever hope to have another work environment where we take not a daily coffee break, but a prayer break; where attending a Bible study is not only encouraged, but required; where laughter, joy, forgiveness, encouragement, support, and daily hugs are the norm; where my “boss” isn’t demanding and critical, but loving and encouraging?

I don’t know what tomorrow holds, and I can’t see God in front of me right now, but I know He is leading from behind. All I need to do is pray, listen, watch, and trust. Thankfully I feel His presence, I trust His love, and I doubt not the plans He has for me, whatever they might be.

I am grateful I was blessed to serve Him at NSC. He grew me, blessed me with wonderful new friends, and increased my knowledge of Him. I don’t understand why He didn’t move us to Colorado, but I can’t wait to praise Him as I look back one day and rejoice in His perfect plan!



Kristy Whitsitt

**Kristy Whitsitt**  
Executive Assistant

**“Not by might nor by the power, but by my Spirit,” says the Lord Almighty.”**

Zechariah 4:6

## ***An Amazing Journey***

In the spring of 1975, I was invited to attend Visitor’s Day for a Bible study at Fourth Presbyterian Church in Bethesda, MD. Lee Campbell was the teacher. Her message that day was wonderful, so I registered for the class in the fall. During the summer, a letter came stating that a new Bible study was starting and we could choose to attend the one moving to another location or the one remaining at Fourth Presbyterian Church with Lee teaching. Though at the time I had no idea of its importance, this choice was going to have a great impact on my life. Because Lee’s lecture had touched me, I chose to attend what was the first Community Bible Study class. After serving in various roles in that class, in 1984 Lee, some other VA leaders, and I started the McLean class where I was Lee’s associate for two years and then Teaching Director for three when Lee stepped down to become the full-time Executive Director of Community Bible Study.

Then the unexpected happened! My husband was unemployed for nearly a year, and I was forced to retire from teaching and go to work. After prayer and many tears, I placed CBS “on the altar” and prayed if it was His will I would sacrifice my involvement in the ministry. I struggled. How could that possibly be His will? CBS had meant so much to me—my relationship with the Lord had deepened and my knowledge of Scripture had greatly increased over the previous nine years.

Accepting it was the Lord’s will that I give up CBS, I immersed myself in a new job and a very different routine. Then one day Lee appeared at my front door and said, “Pat, I was driving down the road and the Lord said, ‘Lee, hire Pat to work at the National Service Center,’ so here I am to ask you to pray about being my Administrative Assistant.” After a few days of prayer, I excitedly accepted, praising the Lord for returning to me what I had so tearfully placed on the altar some months earlier.

This April marked 15 years of working at the National Service Center, first with Lee and now with Camilla. It has been an amazing journey of joy and blessing! It is an incredible privilege to be part of a ministry that undergirds everything with prayer; seeks to be His instrument in carrying out His purpose through Bible study; and where every task, no matter how small, is a part of bringing people into His kingdom and His Word!

I have been extremely blessed in my personal life as a result of working at NSC and being a part of this ministry. I have witnessed the Lord’s faithfulness through difficult times and seen His purpose revealed when I had no idea what was taking place. When my mother died two weeks before the Teaching Directors Conference I was oversee-



Pat Robertson, Laura Seidl, Bette Sullivan, Nancy Sanderhoff  
Linda Wright, Carol Stock, Ruth Riggins

ing. He enabled me to plan her funeral, take care of her affairs, and see a God-touched conference unfold. My daughter is an employee at NSC, and my husband’s life has been transformed through studying God’s Word in CBS. I could fill this *Sharing* with stories of His faithfulness and provision in my life.

The same is true with the ministry itself. I have clearly seen the Lord’s hand of favor on CBS as we have grown from a small staff in a town house in Falls Church, moving NSC to Reston, Herndon, and now to Colorado. The greatest changes have occurred as the Lord has led us into utilizing new technology and new ways of doing His kingdom work. Staff now have skills to accomplish work in a fraction of the time it used to take. New computer and Internet capabilities expand the dissemination of information and the potential for reaching people for His kingdom as well as conducting business. It is a privilege to be where the Lord’s faithfulness and working in our midst is so evident, to experience miracle after miracle as He guides and uses this ministry for His purposes. What a joy to be a part of yet another adventure and revelation of His working in our midst as He “brings [us] into a good land” (Deuteronomy 8:7).

To quote from Exodus 15, “Who among the gods is like you, O LORD? Who is like you—majestic in holiness, awesome in glory, working wonders?...In your unfailing love you will lead the people you have redeemed. In your strength you will guide them to your holy dwelling...You will bring them in and plant them on the mountain of your inheritance—the place, O LORD, you made for your dwelling, the sanctuary, O LORD, your hands established.” I have experienced many blessings in the more than 30 years I have been in Community Bible Study, and I am filled with gratitude and appreciation!

**Patricia Robertson**  
**Associate Executive Director**  
**Director of TD Conferences**

## *God Met Me at My Point of Need*

As I prepare to move with NSC to Colorado, I can't help but reflect on how God can use anyone, regardless of their past and their transgressions, to serve Him and His purposes. The year before I came to CBS, if you had suggested that I might ever work at a Christian organization, much less work in the same office as my mother, let's just say that my response would not have been printable. I resented CBS, and I resented my mother. As a matter of fact, I regularly called NSC to let her know exactly what I thought about her wonderful CBS and about her sharing my life with strangers in something called "prayer time." I was not happy about it. At the time I was addicted to cocaine and living my life in darkness, which is a story in itself. My life was focused on drugs and alcohol, and the relationship with my family was incredibly strained.

I successfully completed the program at an abuse treatment facility, and after being clean for about five months, I needed to earn some money. Out of options, I asked Mother to see if I might help with the packing of boxes at CBS for a week or two. The first day was very difficult for me. I walked in feeling very exposed, and I just knew I was surrounded by "perfect" Christians who had never strayed off of the paths they were supposed to be on. I "knew" I was different and felt that I didn't fit in, but I was desperate.

Gladys Calhoun, the office manager at the time, was instrumental to my growth as both a worker and as a person. At the end of the two weeks she said she could really use my help during the summer and asked if I would please consider staying until the fall. I had no idea where I wanted to look for a job or how I would handle my drug-free lifestyle in a secular setting, so I decided to help out the ministry!

After agreeing to stay a bit longer, Gladys asked me if I would consider sitting in on the prayer time each morning. I was terrified at the thought of being put on the spot to pray out loud or to share my feelings with the group. She assured me that all I had to do was be there and listen, but if I ever wanted to pray aloud I could. That seemed fair, and not too threatening, so I agreed to sit there in my discomfort and listen. I prayed silently, cried a lot, and eventually when the struggles of adjusting to my new way of life became too much for me to bear, I began to pray aloud. I learned that many of the so-called "perfect" Christians had family or friends with similar issues to mine, or equally challenging ones, and I didn't feel quite so different.

As summer came to a close, Gladys asked if I had found the type of work I wanted to do. I had some thoughts but nothing solid at that point. She asked if I would consider staying at CBS until I found the job I wanted, and I agreed. It was at that point Gladys mentioned that everyone working at CBS went to one of the local classes. I am sure a look of horror crossed my face. Prayer time was one thing but a class! She then added that there was a person in our office who was unable to go to a local class and would I mind

doing a study at the office with her? So for the first time I did a CBS condensed study on the *Gospel of Luke*. It was a time that I will always cherish and to this day it is one of my fondest memories.

God worked through Gladys to meet me at my point of need and I will always be grateful for her guidance during those years. In the years since I have been asked to serve in various roles at CBS. I started packing summer supply boxes, did various operational jobs, worked with the Children's Program, and then was called to work with Teen (now Student ) CBS. Around that same time God also called me to work as TD Conference assistant to my mother, Pat Robertson. Those two roles are where I currently serve this ministry today. There have been many times over the years when I have prayed and asked God if he wants me to continue at CBS or move on to something else. Each time doors have very clearly opened within the ministry showing me that God wants me to stay where I am.

As I grew in my responsibilities at NSC, I also grew in my faith, and God continued to bless my life abundantly. He has healed, rebuilt, and expanded my family relationships beyond my expectations; and He has given me a wonderful husband and son with whom to share my life. Thirteen years have passed, and I am still here at NSC. God continues to show me this is where He wants me to be. When the time came to pray about whether we would be going to Colorado, my husband was the first to acknowledge that if God was calling me there, we would go.

My life has been full of good times and bad, but with His help I have been able to trust His wisdom and plan for my life and my family's. My life verse is found in Jeremiah: "*For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, 'plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future'*" (29:11). Several years ago I continued reading and the following verses are true in my life as well: "*Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. I will be found by you, declares the LORD, 'and will bring you back from captivity'*" (29:12-14).

God loves me in spite of my faults, and He changed the misguided aspects of my life into areas that He could use to serve Him. He turned my defects into His assets. I am excited to see where He will take me, my family, and this ministry, as we walk by faith on this new journey.

*Bette Sullivan*  
*Student CBS Service Coordinator*  
*Assistant Conference Director*

## How Can I Not?

Ten years ago, in the eighth grade, my son, Ben, was given a Social Studies assignment to choose a country and write a report. Ben chose Germany, and became fascinated with its culture, history, and people. He determined to become fluent in the language, and studied German in the school system for five years. Little did we realize a homework assignment would be used so mightily by our Lord!

In high school, Ben was introduced to the concept of teen missions. Before we knew it he accepted a position with *Teen Missions International*, joining a team headed to Austria, a German-speaking country, for two months in the summer of 1999. It was there that the Lord set us on a course that was to deepen our faith, strengthen our walk, and solidify our love for Him and each other.

Raising support for a mission trip is never easy, but over time the Lord provided. Ben turned 18 while in Austria, which was hard for us, and a war was being fought in nearby Bosnia-Herzegovina. Friends and family asked how I could let my son go. My answer was, "How can I not?"

Ben returned safe and sound, but different. He knew the Lord was calling him to preach His Word to a land that saw no need for God, much less salvation.

Upon graduating from high school, he left for college to further his study of the German language and culture, as well as the religions of the world so that he could "understand where they are coming from. How else can I expect them to listen to me tell them about Jesus?"

Once the Holy Spirit had ignited this fire in Ben's heart for the German people, he was determined to return as soon as possible. He couldn't wait for his junior year of college when he could study in Berlin. Ben's traveling overseas for two months was one thing, but a year? It would be expensive, he would be living with strangers, and we would not be able to visit him. All our available resources would be used to support him, and once again we would miss a landmark birthday—he would turn 21 while in Germany.

God provided for our son and our family once again as we stepped out in faith. Ben endured many trials in Germany, and our family struggled with his absence. There were times I would cry because I missed him so much. The terrorist attacks of 9/11 had occurred the previous year, and anti-American sentiment was strong in Berlin. At times Ben would call home and sound so sad, but soon another call would come and he couldn't contain his joy, telling us of his adventures.

While there, he became involved with a new ministry called *Reset Berlin*, which is run out of a coffee house. Its aim is to introduce 18 to 30 year olds to the Lord. One might describe *Reset* as Starbucks meets Jesus! Ben fell more in love with the people and culture of Germany, and the Lord continued to confirm he was to be a missionary there.

He met a lovely German girl and knew she was destined to be his wife, which made it very difficult for him to return home. While he wanted very much to see his family

and Virginia friends, his heart remained in Germany. It would be two years before he was able to return to Berlin.

After graduating from college in May 2004, Ben sought out a missionary organization that would help him serve in Germany. He found *New Missions Systems* and once he had completed several months of training it was again time to start raising support. Excited about his calling, he just knew he would be back in Berlin by Christmas 2004. He did everything he could to ask people to join him in this ministry. Funds began to trickle in but never as quickly or as abundantly as he had expected.

Christmas came and went with him still in Virginia. At times, he became depressed. Seeing him go through the pain of waiting and questioning his calling tore at our hearts. My husband and I cried out to God to provide. Ben's hopes were lifted over and over, a new departure date set, only to be disappointed and the date pushed further and further back. But he never gave up. Our Lord went through a desert experience before He began his ministry, and so did Ben.

Before long, Memorial Day weekend was upon us. Ben received bad news from a church that seemed to be his last option. He was close to his goal, but he needed a minimum of \$200 more in monthly support. He decided to take the long weekend to pray about just going ahead to Berlin without the needed funds. His mission's director agreed it was time for Ben to go and trust God to provide for him.

Because it was a holiday weekend, our church congregation was slim. One member of the congregation who was there said she had been meaning to help support Ben, but hadn't "gotten around to it." She asked if he still needed support, to which I calmly—NOT—answered "yes." She asked how much he needed, and I told her he could get by on \$200 a month. She smiled and said, "Fine."

Ben was preparing to play with the praise band that morning, but I caught his eye and motioned for him to come over. I explained that our friend wanted to help with his financial needs. She asked him "exactly" what his remaining need was. Ben smiled and said that \$200 a month was a necessity, but that \$500 a month would make life more comfortable. She smiled and said, "We want you comfortable. Since I dislike paperwork, may I just write you a check for \$6,000 to cover a year's support?" The next minute I was holding a check for \$6,000! There was no burning bush, no earthquake, no drum roll. But there it was. God's provision—in His way, in His time.

Ben is now in Berlin where he was married to Jasmine on September 7, 2005. The road to Germany seemed to be a lifetime in the making, and we miss him terribly. But we are thrilled that he is serving the Lord while receiving the desires of his heart. "*Delight yourself in the LORD and he will give you the desires of your heart*" (Psalm 37:4).

**Laura Seidl**  
**Leadership Conference Coordinator**  
**New Director of Operations in Colorado Springs**

## *I Called Upon the Lord*

In 1985, a friend who attended my church invited me to Community Bible Study. I went to class for a few months but stopped when I went to work for a computer conversion company, which later did computer conversion work for CBS.

My intent was to work for a few months, but my husband was diagnosed with Leukemia about that time, and it was necessary for me to continue to work. Five years later my husband died, and shortly after my job was terminated because the company went out of business. I was devastated. What was I going to do with my life? I remembered the Scripture, “*I lift up my eyes to the hills—where does my help come from? My help comes from the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth*” (Psalm 121:1-2).

I called upon the Lord, and a few days later, my friend Laury Bender told me about a job at CBS. The Lord answered my prayer by giving me a ministry as well as work to do. My love for the Lord has increased as I have studied His Word. I have been so blessed by my CBS family these 14 ½ years.

*Ruth Riggins*  
*Assistant Training Coordinator*

## *It's Been a Privilege*

It has been an honor and privilege to serve for almost five years as Children's Program Coordinator at the National Service Center. The approximately 400 Children's Directors are my friends all across the country. I have so much enjoyed working with them by phone and email. The National Children's Team is the best! Their dedication to serve God through the Children's Program is something I will remember always.

Many thanks to our National Children's Team and Children's Directors for the wonderful treasure box filled with notes and cards. I will cherish each note, card and picture and will think of all of you as I read and reread them in the days, weeks, and months to come.

*Nancy Sanderhoff*  
*Children's Program Coordinator*

## *A Pastor's Praise for CBS*

A community of students  
with the Bible as your text,  
you've discovered how the Scriptures  
can bring comfort when we're vexed.

You've attested to the power  
that is found when two or three  
gather in the name of Jesus  
poised to learn expectantly.

You're committed to your core groups.  
You make time to come prepared.  
I can sense that in your cadres  
there is healing when you've shared.

Simply said, our church is grateful  
for your presence here each week.  
We are pleased to ride your coattails.  
What you do is what we seek.

To expand by growing smaller.  
To be focused on God's Word.  
To apply the truths we read there  
so our faith is fanned and stirred.

*Rev. Greg Asimakoupoulos*  
*Mercer Island Covenant Church*  
*Mercer Island, Washington*

## *A Word of Thanks*

*Greg is one of so many pastors and church staff who make it possible for our Community Bible Study classes to flourish. As a representative of the National Servants Team and the Board of Trustees, I wish to thank all of you who have a part in the hospitality we receive from your churches. We pray the abundant blessings of the Lord will be upon you and your membership.*

*Camilla*

## *Operations Department*

***“Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.”***

Colossians 3:23-24



Jeanne Monk, Maureen Farran, Marilyn Thompson, Francine Eglin  
Laury Bender, Rosemarie Calabrese, Sandy Davidson

### *He Placed Me With a “Family”*

Since my divorce and relocation to Virginia, I have experienced many changes, including having to work a full-time job. During this time, I *tried* to attend an evening CBS class, but did not have the discipline required to work all day and attend a class at night with a completed lesson! My *desire* was to attend a Tuesday morning class because to me it represented a normal family day, one I remembered with such comfort. But how could I do that and work 40 hours a week?

God is so faithful, and He has a sense of humor. He led me to work at the CBS National Service Center. It was a 36-hour per week job and I was *required* to attend a class! Of course, I chose a class that meets on Tuesday morning. All along the Lord knew my heart and was leading me.

I am really going to miss my NSC family, but I am so grateful that I was placed here for such a time as this. “*‘For I know the plans I have for you,’ declares the Lord, ‘plans to prosper you, and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. I will be found by you,’ declares the Lord*” (Jeremiah 29:11-14).

***Maureen Farran***  
***Coordinator of Class Services***

### *A Time of Mixed Emotions*

My son, Jeff, began working at CBS as a teenager. He worked for six summers packing the summer supply boxes along with other young people. I began my service at the Service Center the fall after his second summer. I was known as “Jeff’s Mom!” It is now ten years later, and he is getting married July 1<sup>st</sup>—the day after our Virginia office closes! As one might imagine, it is a time of mixed emotions for me.

It has been a wonderful blessing to be part of the NSC staff for almost 10 years and to have served and worked with so many wonderful people. I will treasure the years that I have been privileged to be here, and I am so grateful for this ministry. I love CBS and will miss working with everyone. I know the Lord will provide the staff needed in Colorado, and I also know they will be as richly blessed as I have been.

***Sandy Davidson***  
***Operations Assistant***

## *Let Me Count the Ways*

Working at the National Service Center since 1996 has been a blessing in so many ways. As the poet said, “*Let me count the ways*”:

1. I joined a CBS class. Many of you reading this know about this blessing. I have gotten to know and love the Bible as never before. The fellowship that grows each year is so special. While my job is ending, my class goes on, praise the Lord.
2. Daily prayer time at the office was another blessing I encountered. How many people get to work in a place where you come together mid-morning, have a devotional, share prayer needs, and then pray? Never in my 27-year career had I heard of such a thing. Prayer in the office. Wow!
3. I joined the 20<sup>th</sup> century in 1996, yes I did! Never had I been near a computer and never expected to be. But the Lord had different ideas. He said, “Go forth and boot,” and though I didn’t know why boots were necessary, I booted! For some 10 years I have been putting information into the computer three days a week. Now there’s a computer on my desk at home, and while I’m still barely computer literate, I love it.
4. Then, there are the people I work with. What a blessing every one of them is. They have diverse interests, talents, and personalities. But they have one characteristic in common. They love the Lord Almighty and it shows. They are hardworking and dedicated, but fun, too. I can’t tell you how much I’ll miss them.
5. Counting my blessings has to include the fact that, without this job, I would not now be under Social Security, having worked in the Federal Government for many years. I thank the Lord and CBS profusely.
6. The last blessing I’ll share is the most important of all. It is very personal and so special to me. While I still have such a long way to go, the whole CBS experience has done so much for my spiritual life that I feel as if a different person has emerged from my decade with the ministry. I’m still too much of a curmudgeon, and I thank all who have put up with me. But I know the Lord so differently now. I talk with Him freely, and I’m so aware of the things, big and small, He’s done in my life. Thank you CBS, and thank you Lord.

**Jeanne Monk**  
*Operations/Financial*

## *Saying Goodbye is a Challenge*

Saying goodbye to my NSC family will be one of the greatest challenges God has laid before me. It has been such an honor and privilege to be a part of the NSC family for almost 15 years. What a blessing to be surrounded by His servants and know that there was always a loving and caring CBS sister within arms length. It has been like having a very special security blanket next to me that consisted of love and compassion in all circumstances. Yes, saying goodbye will be a bittersweet challenge, but I can also rejoice knowing that there will be a new NSC family ready to receive His special blessings by serving Him in this wonderful ministry. My sincere prayers and good wishes are with all the NSC family members.

**Francine Eglin**  
*Operations/Finance*

## *I Would Have Missed a Blessing*

Moving on is hard, especially when a time and place is satisfying. I’m sad for myself, thrilled for CBS, and ready to move on all at the same time. I have loved working in the Operations Department at NSC. It was actually my husband’s idea for me to apply here. I’m so glad I listened to him because if I hadn’t, I would have missed an amazing blessing. Our company “product” is the best in the world. I am thankful that God let me be a small part of this ministry which points people to Christ.

**Marilyn Thompson**  
*Operations Assistant*

## *Memories and Thanksgiving*

Having had the privilege of working over 20 years at NSC, I have seen many changes and witnessed the steady growth from about 60 classes, served by four employees, working out of four small rooms in 1984, to over 600 classes, 30 employees, in 10,000 square feet of office space, and still growing! God has richly blessed CBS with dedicated volunteers around the country, teaching the Word with integrity, and acting out the blessed “tie that binds.” Retirement will be filled with happy memories and much thanksgiving.

**Laury Bender**  
*Director of Operations*

## Friends Are Friends Forever!

Michael W. Smith wrote a song early in his anointed career that always blesses me. It is as fresh today as it was in 1982 when I first heard it. My husband's company had relocated us from Bristol, Tennessee to Birmingham, Alabama. I was driving alone in Birmingham and I remember exactly where I was at the time *Friends* came on the radio. I cried and cried as I listened to the words "*Friends are friends forever if the Lord's the lord of them.*" Verse 1 includes the segment "*a chapter in your life is through.*" We had moved that year, leaving our daughter, firstborn grandson, and many friends in Bristol. How could I possibly survive the pain of missing them? Little did I know how the Lord would use our time in Birmingham to immerse me still more and more in His Word through Community Bible Study. Our Bristol friends are still "friends forever." I have a much clearer perspective now about the amazing sovereignty of God.

At this stage in the life of Community Bible Study, especially for all who have served together at the National Service Center, the words of this song are especially poignant. It is hard to say good-bye to the delightful routines we have become accustomed to: prayer time each morning as we join our hearts to praise Him and to lift the needs of classes and individuals to the Lord, the daily devotionals that convict, encourage, and challenge. Some of the friendships span over twenty years, and we have memories of watching the Lord grow CBS—His ministry—into a mighty tool for His purposes of "*making disciples of Jesus Christ in our communities through caring, in-depth Bible study, available to all.*"

Those of us moving on to Colorado Springs will continue to establish new routines in a new location and more daily prayer times with old and new friends. Other dear ones we leave behind, but not without grateful hearts for how He has used each one in our lives and in the lives of others. We will never be the same because of our relationships in Community Bible Study, especially among the NSC staff. I reflect back on the quotation of our friend, Dr. Charles Wesley Hodge, "*When you are walking with the Lord, change is always in your favor.*" We know all we are experiencing will only be used by our Lord to conform each of us more into His image. We all pray, "Have your way, Lord!" We know it is very normal to both grieve over our losses and yet be joyfully expectant about the future He has planned for us at the same time! We thank the Lord for the wonderful Virginia National Service Center staff, and those of you remaining in Virginia will be greatly missed! However, "*Friends are friends forever if the Lord's the lord of them.*"

A Personal Word ...



...from Camilla

Camilla Seabolt  
Executive Director



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