



THE SIGNAL

Spring 2006

Nazarene International Education Association

www.niea-online.org

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All red type indicates a link.

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Annual NIEA Conference - Toronto, Canada

Stepping Up to the World – Matthew 5:14

The 2006 NIEA Conference will be held at Wesley Christian Academy in Toronto, Canada, June 22-24. Our theme will be "Stepping Up to the World." Matthew 5:14-16 states, "You are the light of the world....Let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven."

Featured Speakers



We are excited to have General Superintendent **Dr. J. K. Warrick** as our featured speaker for our banquet on Friday evening. Following nearly 38 years of pastoral ministry, J. K. Warrick was elected to the Board of General Superintendents by the 26th General Assembly held in Indianapolis, Indiana, in 2005. He served as pastor of churches in Oklahoma, Texas, Florida, Ohio, Indiana, and Kansas. When elected general superintendent,

he had served for nearly 12 years as pastor of College Church of the Nazarene in Olathe, Kansas.

Dr. Warrick is a pastor at heart and considers his role as general superintendent an opportunity to shepherd the global church. He has a heart for church planting, evangelism, world missions, discipleship, and compassionate ministries. Central to his ministry is the encouragement of the people of God to find their places of service and ministry in the church and community. Training and equipping pastors and leaders with a passion for Christ is a matter of mission for him as a leader in the church.

Dr. Warrick also has a heart for Christian education. While serving as pastor at Indianapolis West Side Church of the Nazarene, the church sponsored and housed Westside Christian School. While pastoring Olathe College Church, he challenged the church to begin the College Church Learning Center.

Dr. Warrick attended Bethany Nazarene College (now Southern Nazarene University), later graduating with a Th.B. from Trinity College. At the time of his election, he was pursuing a master's degree from Wesley Biblical Seminary. In 1994, his alma mater, Southern Nazarene University, honored him with a doctor of divinity degree in recognition of his service to Christ and the Church of the Nazarene. He has served on the Board of Trustees at Mount Vernon Nazarene University and at Mid America Nazarene University as well as on numbers of other boards and committees in the church.

Speaking at Friday's plenary session will be the Eastern Canada Regional Director for the Association of Christian Schools International, **Mark Kennedy**. Mark has been involved in Christian school education for over 25 years. He was a principal for 24 years, founding Brampton Christian School, Queensway Christian College, Oakville Christian School, and St. Paul's Evangelical Christian School.

Mark was educated at Upper Canada College, York University, Toronto Teacher's College, and Grace Theological Seminary and also completed studies with the Canadian Securities Commission. He was a contributing author of the *Handbook for Christian Living* and has given seminars throughout North America on topics related to Christian school education. The insight he has gained from his mission trips to Russia and Haiti have proved very useful for application to the climate of the Christian schools in North America.

Mark is also well known for his guiding and outfitting wilderness canoe and fishing trips in northern Ontario. Many regional directors can share about their "wilderness experiences" with Mark.

His wife, Virginia, has taught in Christian schools for 13 years and was co-author of the book, *Preschool and Kindergarten Discipline*. They are very proud of their daughters. Yvonne, graduated from Redeemer University College in May 2003. She married Andrew on May 31, 2003. Yvonne has followed in her parents' footsteps and has commenced her teaching career in a Christian school. Ellie is a senior at St. Paul's Evangelical Christian School, located just outside of Barrie, Ontario.

Workshops

The conference will afford you the opportunity to network with Nazarene educators across the U.S and Canada. With six hours of plenary sessions and workshops, this conference can be used for **continuing education credit**.

Workshop topics (subject to change):

Session 1:

- A. Preschool and Kindergarten Discipline – Virginia Kennedy
- B. Internet Safety
- C. Strengthening the Ministry of Your School in the Church – Dave Benson

Session 2:

- A. Bible Curriculum for Christian Schools
- B. Teaching to Various Learning Styles/ Brain Development in Young Children
- C. Fellowship and Outreach in the Public School – Laurel Dodham

Session 3:

- A. Life Threatening Allergies: Identifying & Responding – Dr. Jung
- B. Catching the Vision & How Prayer Fits In – Deb Hughes
- C. Accessing the New NIEA Discussion Room – Janyne McConnaughey

Session 4:

- A. Branding: Projecting the Image & Character You Want – Brian Rowllins of GenEvang Co.
- B. How to Lead a Child to Christ
- C. Home School Networking – Lance Howard

Conference Schedule

The conference schedule will be as follows:

Thursday, June 22

- 2:00p — 4:00p Registration
- 7:00p — 9:00p Dessert Social

Friday, June 23

- 7:00a — 8:00a Continental Breakfast
- 8:15a — 9:25a Plenary Session 1
- 9:30a — 10:25a Workshop Session 1
- 10:30a — 10:45a Break
- 10:45a — 11:40a Workshop Session 2
- 11:45a — 12:30p Lunch
- 12:30p — 4:30p Visit the Sites of Toronto
- 6:30p Banquet

Saturday, June 24

- 7:00a — 8:00a Continental Breakfast
- 8:15a — 9:25a Plenary Session 2
- 9:30a — 10:25a Workshop Session 3
- 10:30a — 10:45a Break
- 10:45a — 11:40a Workshop Session 4
- 11:45a — 12:00p Closing Session
- 12:00p — 1:00p Lunch

1:00p

Tour to Niagara Falls

Cost (USD)

The cost includes all sessions, the Thursday evening social, Friday and Saturday continental breakfast, the banquet on Friday, and lunch on Friday and Saturday. There will be an additional charge for transportation and the optional tours around Toronto Friday afternoon and to Niagara Falls Saturday afternoon. For those traveling with others not attending the conference, additional meals may be purchased. Please E-mail [Anya Motley](mailto:Anya.Motley) to make these arrangements.

Before May 23:

Members - \$160

Non-Members - \$190

After May 23:

Members - \$185

Non-Members - \$215

Accommodations

Our conference hotel is the Toronto/Markham Conference Centre & Spa. **Each conference participant is responsible for his or her own hotel reservations.** Reservations need to be made by **Tuesday, May 23, 2006**. Mention NIEA when making reservations to receive the reduced rate.

Contact information and room rates:

Hilton Suites Toronto/Markham conference Centre & Spa

8500 Warden Ave.

Markham, ON L6G 1A5

Phone: 905-415-7603

E-mail: owais.rafique@markhamsuites.com

- Room Rate: \$120.00 (Canadian) for single/double occupancy, per suite, per night
- Bath, Bar/fridge, Sitting room, Couch (convertible queen size bed)
- Parking: \$8 (Canadian) per day
- Amenities: Spa services, fitness area, pool

An **informational flyer** and a **conference registration form** are attached to this E-mail.

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Membership and Registration

If you have not already sent in your membership information and dues, please do so now. A new **membership form** is attached to this E-mail. Members receive a discount to attend the annual NIEA conference.

Also included in the membership packet are the following:

- Welcome letters from Mark Taylor, NIEA chair, and Lynda Boardman, Director of Children’s Ministries
- An NIEA Directory that lists our Nazarene schools by educational regions, as well as a list of individual members (public school and home school teachers and associate members)
- “Connecting a New Generation” DVD and bookmark to remind you of the importance of children
- *Mission Possible*—a DVD with video clips to help children learn more about Nazarene missions
- *Katrina: Friends, Family, and Faith*—a book by Fletcher Tink and Oliver R. Phillips. It has human interest stories about this devastating storm and the follow-up efforts
- *7 Emotional Skills Every Child Needs*—a book by Pam Galbraith and Rachel C. Hoyer. It is written to parents, but it is applicable for teachers who also deal with teaching children emotional skills.
- NIEA Membership Card and Membership Certificate
- NIEA pen

The Christian Schools Office has also sent registration forms to day cares/preschools and schools. A new **registration form** is attached to this E-mail. We have facilities that have not completed and returned that form to the Christian Schools Office. **This information is required for all facilities.** We would appreciate your prompt attention to this matter, so we can complete our records. We appreciate every church that ministers to children on a weekday basis through our Nazarene schools and centers.

Contributed by [Beula Postlewait](#)

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From the Executive Council Members



Chairman - *Mark Taylor*

I Am Glad to Be a Part of NIEA

I have been a part of Nazarene International Education Association now for seventeen years. When I moved to St. Louis in 1989 to take the position of Administrator at North County Christian School, I was not familiar with NIEA, though I had previously been a part of a Nazarene school in Indiana. My pastor in St. Louis at the time, Pastor Fred Farraez, was serving as the Mid-America Regional Chairperson, and he introduced me to NIEA. A year later, when he left to serve as a pastor in Germany, I was elected to serve as the Regional Chairperson for the Mid-America Region. I have come to love and appreciate my association with NIEA.

Since I began my involvement in NIEA, I have been blessed to attend NIEA conferences at General Assemblies in San Antonio and Indianapolis. I have also attended NIEA conferences at Point Loma Nazarene University in San Diego, Mount Vernon Nazarene University in Mount

Vernon, Ohio, Eastern Nazarene University in Quincy, Massachusetts, Trevecca Nazarene University in Nashville, Northwest Nazarene University in Nampa, Idaho, and Nazarene Bible College in Colorado Springs. I have also attended an outreach conference where we were able to assist with service projects in Hawaii. At each event, I have been blessed to meet Nazarene educators from almost every state in the United States and Canada as well as educators from around the world. I have received information, encouragement, and fellowship at every NIEA event.

The next NIEA conference is in Toronto this June. Southern Nazarene University will host the conference in Oklahoma City, June 2007, followed by an outreach conference in Belize, June 2008, and General Assembly in Orlando in 2009. I encourage you to budget and plan to attend each conference.

We have surveyed members of NIEA at conferences concerning what they appreciate about our association and conferences. The number one response is networking. We encourage you to network with other Nazarene educators. Start by taking advantage of our annual conference June 22-24, 2006, in Toronto, Canada. Get involved with our new discussion room, which is coming in the very near future. Check out our website, www.niea-online.org, and utilize the resources there. Get to know your regional chairperson or vice chairs, and exchange ideas and support. Visit with other Nazarene educators in your area.

God has used NIEA to bless my life. I cannot encourage you enough to get involved and enjoy the many blessings I have received. As you consider the degree of your involvement in NIEA, I encourage you to think on Hebrews 10:24-25: "Let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching." As we come together, we can continue the mission of NIEA, "to promote, resource, and support Nazarene Christian Schools and educators worldwide."

Contributed by Mark Taylor

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Early Childhood Chair - Midge Simpson

A Lesson in Love

A group of professionals posed the question, "What does love mean?" to a group of kids four to six years old. The answers the group received were broader and deeper than anyone could have imagined.

- "Love is when a girl puts on perfume and a boy puts on shaving cologne and they go out and smell each other." Karl - age 5
- "I know my older sister loves me because she gives me all her old clothes and has to go out and buy new ones." Lauren - age 4
- "My mommy loves me more than anybody. You don't see anyone else kissing me to sleep at night." Clare - age 6
- "Love is when you go out to eat and give somebody most of your french fries without making them give you any of theirs." Chrissy - age 6
- "When someone loves you, the way they say your name is different. You just know that your name is safe in their mouth." Billy - age 4

- "Love is what makes you smile when you're tired." Terri - age 4
- "Love is like a little old woman and a little old man who are still friends even after they know each other so well." Tommy - age 6
- "Love is when Mommy gives Daddy the best piece of chicken." Elaine - age 5
- "Love is when your puppy licks your face even after you left him alone all day." Mary Ann - age 4
- "If you want to learn to love better, you should start with a friend who you hate." Nikka - age 6

Children have an amazing capacity to love. Author and lecturer Leo Buscaglia once told about a contest he was asked to judge. The purpose of the contest was to find the most caring child. The winner was a four-year-old child whose next door neighbor was an elderly gentleman who had recently lost his wife. Upon seeing the man cry, the little boy went into the elderly gentleman's yard, climbed onto his lap, and just sat there. When his mother asked what he had said to the neighbor, the little boy said, "Nothing, I just helped him cry."

We could all use a lesson in love from these children. It is for this very reason Jesus said, "I tell you the truth, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven" (Matthew 18:3). Use today as another wonderful opportunity to share your french fries, smile when you're tired, and love the friend you hate.

Contributed by Midge Simpson

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Elementary Education Chair - Steven Butcher

A man never stands as tall as when he kneels to help a child.
-Anonymous

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Secondary Education Chair - Lance Howard

If a child is to keep his inborn sense of wonder, he needs the companionship of at least one adult who can share it, rediscovering with him the joy, excitement and mystery of the world we live in.
-Rachel Carson

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From the Regional Representatives



CNUC - Ron Gray

Toronto Attractions

Canada welcomes NIEA to Toronto this June. Ron Gray and Marjorie Serio are excited to be the hosts of the 2006 NIEA Conference. They look forward to seeing you and will help you in any way they can.

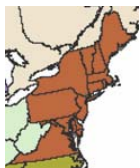
Toronto offers these vacation ideas for you and your family:

- Visit scenic Niagara Falls from the Canadian side, only 1.5 hours from Toronto.
- Relish the view and the food from atop the CN Tower.
- Enjoy the Skydome, home of the Blue Jays, with its retractable roof.
- Plan family fun at Canada's Wonderland, just north of Toronto.
- Shop numerous malls through the Toronto area.

Contributed by Ron Gray

NOTE: Ron Gray's E-mail address has changed to rgraye@vaxxine.com.

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ENC - Jackie Salotti

Americans with Disabilities Act Considerations

I was recently asked how the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) affects child care facilities. Almost all child care centers must comply with Title III regulations. The exception to this rule is a child care center run by a religious entity. Private child care centers operating on the premises of religious organizations, however, are generally not exempt. More information regarding the specifications of the ADA can be found at <http://www.ada.gov/childq%26a.htm>.

At Fairview Christian Academy, we are privileged to serve a number of children with special needs, including speech impediments, broad spectrum autistic disorders, mild cerebral palsy, Down Syndrome, and Epidermolysis Bullosa (EB), a rare, genetic skin disorder which causes severe blistering both inside and outside the body. Some of these children need more care than

we can provide alone. The little boy with EB comes three afternoons a week with a personal aide and lots of support from the therapists working with him.

When a prospective family with a child with special needs calls about our program, we encourage them to visit our facility with any of the support persons already serving the child. In doing so, the family can use the professional opinion of someone already familiar with the child's needs to determine the suitability of our program for their child. We also are able to talk about the kind of outside support our staff can expect while that child is in our care.

The benefit to the other children in our school and their families has been wonderful. By looking beyond the outward appearance and behaviors of the children with special needs, the other children and their families have formed relationships with them. Families have come to understand they all have the same hopes and dreams, and they have learned to support each other in the daily challenges that arise. This understanding extends to the other children and adults with disabilities these families encounter in daily life.

You may be considering whether your program is able to adequately teach children with special needs. I encourage each administrator not to miss the blessing of being involved with children with special needs and their families.

Contributed by Jackie Salotti

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MNU - Pat Mason

Twenty Five Years of Love

This is our twenty-fifth year for First Impressions Preschool and Parent's Day Out at Kansas City First Church of the Nazarene. It doesn't seem possible that we have graduates of our preschool who now have preschoolers of their own. For one quarter of a century we have been teaching young children Jesus loves them and wants them to love one another.

It is important for children to learn early to love others. Christmas provided our children with a wonderful opportunity to practice this love. In December, we collected new toys for needy children, helped make wishes come true for an adopted child at the Don Bosco Community Center, and rang bells in the hallway for donations to the Salvation Army. We also encouraged the children to show love to each other. When we observed a child being kind to someone else, he or she was allowed to place a piece of straw in the manger for baby Jesus. The more the children showed love and kindness to one another, the softer baby Jesus' bed became.

Christmas is not the only time to show love to one another. As you go throughout your daily routine, I encourage you to live with a spirit of love. Offer kind words to those around you. Smile at strangers you pass. Help those who need assistance. It is only when we show love to each other that we can change the world. I hope we can continue to teach these important lessons to children for another twenty five years.

Contributed by Pat Mason

NOTE: Pat Mason's E-mail address was printed incorrectly in the last edition of *The Signal*. Her correct address is pdm@kcfc.org.

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MVNU - Wendell Kizzee

Transitions: From Child Care to a School

As a facility that provides child care beginning at six weeks of age, it has been difficult to overcome the tendency to refer to ourselves only as a child care facility. We have had to change our mindset from providing child care to providing early education.

It has also been difficult to change parents' perception of our facilities and to encourage them to consider us for their preschool needs. We needed to adjust our teachers' mindset to create a more structured learning environment with Christian curriculum. In part, this has been accomplished by employing teachers with college experience, education degrees, and/or continuing education in the early childhood field. These changes have not been easy, but they were necessary in order to change the focus of our facility.

Here are some things we have been doing for the past two and a half years to accomplish our goals.

- ◆ Involving ourselves in professional associations like NIEA
- ◆ Developing or purchasing Christian curriculum
- ◆ Employing teachers with a love for teaching
- ◆ Purchasing new equipment
- ◆ Hosting book fairs
- ◆ Involving the church in fundraisers
- ◆ Decorating classrooms to make learning fun

Since a preschool is a ministry of your church, you may need to change the mindset of your congregation. Allow your school to become a ministry arm of the church. The church can tend to put too much responsibility on the school for the financial needs of the church. While both church and school can contribute to an effective partnership, be sure to give your school the freedom to expand into the community you are trying to reach.

Encourage your people to become a part of the ministry of the school. We have a Christmas program and graduation program each year. The people of the church provide the food and attend the program to add their support. This has resulted in a bonding between the congregation and the families of the school. We have invited the school children to our Vacation Bible School and provided dinner for them as well. These programs have been an avenue to reach out to our school families.

In the past year, three families from our school and one teacher (11 people) became a part of our church family. We have developed relationships that last even when the children no longer attend our school. Some families have come back to worship with us. Others have remarked that they are looking for a church home and are considering us because their children feel comfortable here.

The changes we have made have begun to bear fruit. I pray the coming years will allow our school to reach out to the children and families in our community by providing excellent early childhood education.

Contributed by Rev. Carol H. Hobson, Agapeland Daycare & Preschool, Eastlake, Ohio

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NNU - Janyne McConnaughey

John Wesley's Example

The Church of the Nazarene, following John Wesley's example, has always placed great emphasis on education and the spiritual guidance of children. The following is an excerpt from Wesley Tracy.

"In 1766 John Wesley outlined the preacher's responsibility for the religious education of children.

1. Where there are ten children in a society, meet them at least an hour every week.
2. Talk with them every time you see any at home.
3. Pray in earnest for them.
4. Diligently instruct and vehemently exhort all parents at their houses.
5. Preach expressly on education.

"...Of course, the preachers [alone could not educate] the young. Parents were strongly urged to carry on family education. Repeatedly Wesley said to his people that the Methodist revival would dissipate in one generation without a vigorous program of Christian Education in the home.

"...Wesley told parents they must restrain their yet-unconverted children through advice, persuasion, and correction. Correction included corporal punishment [but] Wesley reminded them that this should be done only after all else fails- 'and even then you should take the utmost care to avoid the very appearance of passion. Whatever is done should be done with mildness; nay indeed with kindness too.' He declared that those who tried to thrash the children [into] heaven and out of hell should not think it strange 'if religion stunk in the nostrils of those that were so educated. They will naturally look upon it as an austere, melancholy thing.'

"To advice, persuasion and correction, the Christian parent was to [add] instruction. This instruction was to be done early, plainly, frequently, and patiently since 'the corruption of nature is earlier than our instruction can be. [We] should take all pains to counteract this corruption as early as possible.'"

Plainly, John Wesley was ahead of his time in understanding the importance of the first few years of the child's life. Recent research has been able to document the amazing brain growth and abilities of very young children. This understanding presents both a challenge and opportunity for those who work with young children. In his book, *The Importance of Early Brain Development*, Bruce A. Epstein, MD, states:

"Researchers now confirm that the way parents interact with their young children (first three years) and the experiences they provide them have a big impact on their youngster's emotional development, learning skills, and how they function later in life."

Our ministries allow us to partner with parents during these crucial years of their children's lives. What a privilege and opportunity it is!

Tracy, W. (1999). Christian education in the Wesleyan mode. Retrieved 3/24/05, 2005, from http://wesley.nnu.edu/wesleyan_theology/theojrnl/16-20/17-04.htm

Contributed by Janyne McConnaughey

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ONU - Deb Hughes

The Cutting Edge of Early Childhood

Four years ago, a flyer for an Association of Christian Schools International Early Education Directors Conference came across my desk. My first reaction when I looked at it was to throw it away. I was in the process of moving to a new house, and the move coincided with the conference dates. After a few weeks passed, I could not escape the Holy Spirit, who was nudging me to attend this conference. I finally stopped arguing with God and went to the conference. While I was there, the Lord told me over and over, "Be in search of excellence for the children." I was not sure what that meant. But as I look back on the last four years, I believe God wanted me to honor the children by being on the cutting edge of what is appropriate for young children.

Because of medical technology and the ability for MRIs to map the brain, researchers now know much more about how the brain develops. This is rapidly changing the field of early education. We now understand how critical a child's first five years are. For instance, we know listening to classical music develops the math part of the brain, practicing fine motor skills develops the language section, and learning gross motor skills develops the critical thinking area of the brain. We also have learned these years have a window of opportunity. If we do not expose children to certain developmental skills at the appropriate time, this window of opportunity will close. An excellent Christian book that discusses this topic is *Through The Learning Glass* by Cheri Fuller.

This insight has caused me to look at my own church child care and ask some tough questions. We have made a lot of changes over the last four years. At times it did seem a little overwhelming, but I always felt God encouraging me. He reminded me these changes are for the children. Matthew 19:14 often came to mind, "Jesus said, 'Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.'"

Contributed by Deb Hughes

NOTE: Deb Hughes' email address was printed incorrectly in the last edition of *The Signal*. Her correct address is kpschool@gpnaz.org.

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No Photo
Available

PLNU - Caralyn Blatt

Give me the children until they are seven and anyone may have them afterward.
-St. Francis Xavier

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SNU - David Benson

Jesus, the Master Teacher

“Be doers of the Word and not hearers only!” James 1:22

Jesus was the Master Teacher. Some of His most effective teaching was done by letting the disciples discover the truth on their own. Jesus, in some sense, took His disciples on many field trips, gave them lab assignments, and set up many of their learning experiences. He spoke to them and taught them, even though they were slow to learn and seemingly deaf and blind at times. By waiting and allowing the disciples to learn at their pace, Jesus’ teachings changed their lives.

Christian teachers must employ some of Christ’s most effective techniques. This can be done by creating a learning environment through maintaining good classroom discipline and using creativity when planning hands-on learning experiences for students. These experiences must be well-planned, explained thoroughly, and shared enthusiastically.

Learning is essentially a personal experience, even in a group or class. Therefore, the teacher will be successful only if he or she approaches the subjects in a way that interests the students. The activities must be practical and possible for the students’ current ability level. Teachers must be the cheerleaders to encourage and praise students in their learning experiences. They must also be there to help students when they have difficulties.

Learning is identified and measured by changed behavior. New actions, thoughts, or attitudes are a result of learning activities and experiences. Jesus used many different activities and experiences to teach His lessons. As we learn to be like Jesus in our lives, we can also learn to teach like Jesus, the Master Teacher.

Contributed by David Benson

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TNU - Cindy Stone

What sculpture is to a block of marble, education is to a human soul.
-Joseph Addison

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The Signal is a quarterly electronic newsletter with information and insights for teachers, parents, and pastors. *The Signal* is prepared each quarter by the Church of the Nazarene Children's Ministries. You may reprint the preceding information for local school or church use. To contact us, please select a link below:

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My [E-mail address](#) has changed.

I have a [question or comment](#) regarding this E-newsletter.

You may also contact:

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