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Fresh Glimpses of the Embrace of God

~ *God's Embraces: Let Me Count the Ways* ~

Battle Creek Tabernacle

February 3, 2007

WELCOME to this time and place where we can experience the joy of worshiping our wonderful Heavenly Father! Please pray that you will have a deep sense of His presence in your mind and heart. Remember that it is by beholding Him that we are changed. So let's keep our focus on Him!

PARTICIPANTS

- **Grades one and two choir** is from Battle Creek Academy. If you see or hear any buttons popping off while they are singing, it's probably from the parents or grandparents! Their teacher is Phyllis Essex who loves teaching them about Jesus.
- **Karin and Johanna Erickson**, along with their parents, Laurie and Steve, will be leaving very soon to be pioneer missionaries in the country of Papua New Guinea.
- **Luke and Jonathan Penrod** enjoy playing their brass instruments to praise Heavenly Father. Luke is in seventh grade and loves motocross, fishing, and being with his family. Jonathan is in sixth grade and enjoys motocross, basketball, and origami.
- **Lost in Confusion?** is a band composed of Camden Bowman, Derrick Gillett, Kyle McKelvey, Logan Steely, and Morgan Steely. They have been playing together for two years and greatly enjoy their music ministry—especially to other young people.
- **Sarah McDermott** is a sophomore graphic design major at Andrews University. She has been studying cello for eight years.
- **Lynne VanderWaal** is a senior at Battle Creek Academy. She is very social and outgoing and loves using her voice for God.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

As a courtesy to everyone (including Heavenly Father), please turn off all cell phones and pagers. If it is an absolute necessity (such as a possible medical emergency), please turn it to vibrate. Thank you very much.

All presentations are being recorded and are available in the foyer for a small donation. Cassette tapes, CDs (audio), and DVDs (video) for the last two weeks are now available. If you would like the entire series you may sign up for it there.

AWARD BOOK—Tonight, as usual, we will be giving *The Messiah* to someone. PLEASE NOTE that several editions of this book are now available at the book table. *The Messiah* is a contemporary adaptation of the beloved classic on Jesus' life, *The Desire of Ages*.

After the program please remember to take advantage of the opportunity for prayer in the **prayer room**. You can pray alone, ask questions of someone, or pray with a person who is there for you. This "afterglow" has the potential of being a very special time for you.

(over, please)

NEXT WEEK' S PROGRAM

“The Father Who Never Abandons” is the theme for next week’s presentation. Almost all of us have been, or have felt, abandoned at some point in our lives. So this is another vitally important topic—another session you just can’t miss! **Please note that the program begins earlier next week. At 4:45 pm** a 40 piece brass band, under the direction of Nancy Steely, will perform. At 5 pm our usual mini-concert will begin. This week the concert is by well-known musician and vocalist, Dr. Buddy Houghtaling. Buddy travels all over the country with his music ministry and has recorded many CDs, which will be available after the program.

THOUGHTS FROM TONIGHT’S PRESENTATION —“GOD’S EMBRACES: LET ME COUNT THE WAYS”

- 1) Heavenly Father gives us “practical hugs.” Genesis 2:7, Psalm 41:1-3, I Timothy 6:6-8, Deuteronomy 6:4-7
- 2) “Aesthetic hugs” Matthew 8:20, Matthew 10:29-31, Luke 12:27-28, I Corinthians 2:9, Psalm 42:1-2
- 3) “Relational hugs” Luke 15:11-29. One reason Heavenly Father gives so many relational hugs is that so many hurts have come through harmful relationships.
- 4) “Dramatic hugs.” We usually call them miracles. Remember Jonah, Daniel, Peter, Joshua? But miracles don’t always happen. We will explore this subject in the topic, “If Heavenly Father Is So Good, Why Am I in So Much Pain?”
- 5) “Spiritual hugs” Psalm 51:10, John 3:16

NOTES

PLEASE NOTE: If you should ever wonder if a program is being cancelled due to “wintry” conditions, call 269-962-1132 or check our website: www.embraceministries.com/battlecreek. Unless the message says otherwise, the program will proceed as scheduled.