



[www.embraceministries.com/battlecreek](http://www.embraceministries.com/battlecreek)

---

## *Fresh Glimpses of the Embrace of God*

*~ Our Urgent Need for Fresh Glimpses of God ~*

**Battle Creek Tabernacle**

**January 20, 2007**

**WELCOME!** The Embrace of God team is delighted that you have come to worship God with us. We have been praying that you would be here! Please join us in prayer that during this special time focusing on Heavenly Father, we will all grow to see Him more clearly, love Him more deeply, and respond to Him more completely.

### **PARTICIPANTS**

- **Jeremy Hall** is campus chaplain at Great Lakes Adventist Academy in Edmore, MI. His wife, Donna, is a harpist and mother of their two beautiful daughters, Olivia (5), and Sofia (2). Jeremy has an MA in Community Counseling. During his internship he received clinical supervision from Dr. Erickson.
- **Karen Penrod** is a nurse and along with husband, Mark, is parenting Luke, Jonathan, Emily, and Erin. They live in the country where Karen has a huge vegetable garden and home schools their youngest children. Karen is an outstanding pianist and trombonist.
- **Mike Bowman** and wife, Kristy, have a son and daughter. Kirby attends Andrews University and Camden is a junior at Battle Creek Academy. They are a very musical family but Mike prefers communicating the gospel through his words and actions (not by singing!).
- **M. Lloyd Erickson** is a psychologist with a background in youth ministry. He lives and works in Battle Creek with his wife, Charlotte. They have two adult children and are very pleased to have their first grandchild. Lloyd enjoys outdoor activities such as boating, camping, and fishing.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Quiet bags are available to keep small children occupied. You may get one from Dottie Weese in the back of the auditorium on the north side. Please return the quiet bag at the end of the program.

At the conclusion of this program there are still more good things to come. There is a **fellowship time** with hot drinks and goodies in the downstairs lobby. There also is a **prayer room** just off the downstairs hallway for those who would like to pray or have someone pray with them.

**AWARD BOOK**—Next week we will be giving a beautiful award book to the person who brings the most new people to the service. These should be people who wouldn't have been here if you hadn't invited them to come with you. The book is *The Messiah*, a contemporary version of the much beloved classic on the life of Jesus, *The Desire of Ages*.

### **NEXT WEEK'S PROGRAM**

Next week's presentation, "Glimpses of a God Who Hugs," is the heart of this series. You just can't miss this one. We will be exploring how Heavenly Father is not emotionally withdrawn—He loves us permanently and passionately. The mini-concert will be given by Sofia and Lily May Tsatalbasidis, an absolutely outstanding mother-daughter team. You will be amazed at the incredible voice God has given eleven-year-old Sofia. This is a highlight of the series.

## Thoughts from tonight's presentation—"Our Urgent Need for Fresh Glimpses of God"

- 1) We ALL have limited and distorted perceptions of God because we were born on this sinful earth. So whether or not we are aware of these distortions and limitations, we have a problem.
- 2) We may have been Christians for years and know the Bible from Genesis to Revelation but we still probably have misperceptions of Heavenly Father. (Remember my story about the pastor.)
- 3) These limitations and distortions greatly affect our relationship with God.
- 4) If we'd like to develop a more accurate picture of God these are some steps in the process:
  - a. Become aware that we have a problem.
  - b. Be willing to re-examine our perceptions and responses to Heavenly Father ("internal honesty").
  - c. Invite the Holy Spirit to lead us in this process. "But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth . . . . (John 16:13 NIV)
  - d. The "truth" about the kind of Person God is, must penetrate not only our minds, but also our hearts.
  - e. Remember that this process of getting to know Him better and love Him more is a life-long (probably eternal) journey.
- 5) Jesus said, "But I'm not keeping it to myself; I'm ready to go over it line by line with anyone willing to listen." (Matthew 11:25-30 Message) Are you willing?
- 6) Even Jesus' parents got preoccupied. He knows what it's like to have parents who are too busy. (see Luke 2:48)
- 7) "He will listen to the prayer of destitute, for he is never too busy to heed their requests." (Psalm 102:17 TLB)
- 8) "[ *Insert your name* ], I am with you always, *even* unto the end of the world. Amen." (Matthew 28:20 KJV)

## 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](http://www.embraceministries.com/battlecreek). Unless the message says otherwise, the program will proceed as scheduled.