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## *Fresh Glimpses of the Embrace of God*

*~ Glimpses of the God Who Hugs ~*

**Battle Creek Tabernacle**

**January 27, 2007**

**WELCOME!** The Embrace of God team is so happy that you have come to join in worshipping God! Please pray with us that tonight's program will be especially blessed by Him. As we learned last week, it is vital that we learn to see Him more clearly. That process can be delightful, it can be painful, and it can be hard work. But what great joy we will experience in the end. When we are able to see Him closer to how He truly is, He is an absolutely beautiful Person. Someone we truly will want to spend time with—now—and throughout eternity!

### **PARTICIPANTS**

- **Sofia Tsatalbasidis** recently turned eleven years old. But she's already an old pro at gospel singing. She first sang a solo in church before age three and started singing for 3ABN television Kids Time before she turned four. She still regularly sings for that program. This evening Sofia is accompanied by her mother, **Lily May**, who is a classically trained musician and pianist. She is also a registered nurse. Sofia has an eight year old brother, Dino, who plays the violin. Her father, Karl, pastors in Buchanan, Michigan, and is pursuing doctoral studies at the seminary at Andrews University.
- **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**

**AWARD BOOK**—today we are giving a beautiful award book (a \$20 value) to the person who brought the most new people to the program. The book is *The Messiah*, a contemporary adaptation of the beloved classic on Jesus' life, *The Desire of Ages*.

We will be awarding another copy of *The Messiah* next week. But we won't tell you until then how it will be awarded.

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.

All presentations are being audio-taped and video-taped and will be available the next week at a table in the foyer. If you missed last week's presentation you really should get a copy and listen to the background for the series—you will get much more out of future presentations. Cassette tapes, CDs (audio), and DVDs (video) are available for a minimal charge.

## NEXT WEEK' S PROGRAM

“God’s Embraces: Let Me Count the Ways” is the conclusion of tonight’s presentation. This topic is the heart of the series. You just can’t afford to miss next week. The mini-concert will be given by children, youth, and a surprise guest vocalist. There will be a children’s choir, vocal and brass duets, a cellist, a band, and a gifted young vocalist. You will be greatly blessed by how these young people use Heavenly Father’s gifts for His glory.

## THOUGHTS FROM TONIGHT’S PRESENTATION —“GLIMPSES OF THE GOD WHO HUGS”

- 1) Luke 11:11-29 “The story of the father who hugs.”
- 2) “God is love.” I John 4:8. He loves us permanently (an “everlasting” love) and passionately (with deep feelings).
- 3) “He is like a father to us, tender and sympathetic to those who reverence him.” Psalm 103:13 TLB  
“The Lord is like a father to his children, tender and compassionate [Hebrew—“to love deeply”] to those who fear [“revere”] Him.” Psalm 103:13 NLT  
“As parents feel for their children, God feels for those who fear him. He knows us inside and out, keeps in mind that we’re made of mud.” Psalm 103:13 Message
- 4) “He is a God who is passionate about his relationship with you.” Exodus 34:14 NLT
- 5) “God, your God, is above all a compassionate God . . . .” Deuteronomy 4:31 Message
- 6) “He tends his flock like a shepherd: He gathers the lambs in his arms and carries them close to his heart . . . .” Isaiah 40:11 NIV
- 7) “. . . You [Heavenly Father] have collected all my tears and preserved them in your bottle! You have recorded every one in your book.” Psalm 56:8 TLB
- 8) “Jerusalem! Jerusalem! . . . How often I’ve ached to embrace your children, the way a hen gathers her chicks under her wings.” Matthew 23:37 Message
- 9) “[ *insert your name* ]! How often I’ve ached to embrace you, the way a hen gathers her chicks under her wings.” “Erickson” version
- 10) A) Pray for Heavenly Father’s hugs  
B) Watch for His hugs  
C) Pray for someone to embrace for Him  
D) Deliver His embraces

## 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.