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Fresh Glimpses of the Embrace of God

~The Father Who Loves Without Strings~

Battle Creek Tabernacle

March 3, 2007

WELCOME to the seventh and last program in the Embrace series. The Embrace team has greatly appreciated your support through your presence, prayers, and encouragement. It has been such a joy to focus on and worship Heavenly Father, learning to know Him better and love Him more. Let's all just keep focusing on Him. By beholding Him we are changed to be more like Him!

PARTICIPANTS

- **Linda Sears** sang her first solo at the age of five and began singing for church at age ten. She's sung in choirs, the Eternity Singers, and co-directed The Generation for Christ Singers. She's been singing with Buddy Houghtaling and friends for eleven years. Linda says that her musical abilities are a gift from God and she wants to thank Him above all. She'd also like to thank her Dad for "nagging" her to practice and to "OPEN YOUR MOUTH WHEN YOU SING, LINDA." She thanks her Mom for the rich inheritance of musical ability, her voice teachers, her husband, John, and Buddy. Tonight Linda will be assisted by her husband, **John**, her sister, **Kathy Morse**, her brother, **Rich Rowbotham**, and her friends, **Buddy Houghtaling, Dan Greutz, and Ramon Weber**.
- A special thank you is in order for all the team leaders who prayed and worked for so long to make this series possible. **Pam and Jim Bishop**, prayer team; **Charlotte Erickson**, marketing team; **Phil and Phyllis Essex**, hospitality team; **George and Kathy Kuzma**, fundraising team; **Lloyd Erickson**, program team; **Jim Lewellen**, audio-visual team, and Jim's assistants **Nector Santos** (audio), and **Mo Ledoux** (visual). And another big thank you to all the team members who assisted so willingly and capably. But the biggest thanks goes to Heavenly Father for being the team leader's Leader!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

If you didn't sign up for a small group last week, we'd like to encourage you to do so tonight. Please study the following group descriptions and decide which one interests you most. Then mark the appropriate box on the card you were given. You will be telephoned by the group facilitator in the next couple weeks to establish the best time and place for your group to meet. Here are the groups:

1) The Bible's Picture of God—This small group will focus on the picture of God presented throughout the scriptures. Many Christians see the God of the Old Testament as having very different traits from the God of the New Testament. This Bible study will explore the harmony of all scripture. This fascinating study will be lead by a Bible student and Bible teacher, Ken Wilson.

2) Experiencing God: Knowing and Doing The Will of God is an inspiring workbook that was written by Henry Blackaby and Claude King. This study has been widely used and has deepened thousands of Christians' relationships with God. This scripture-based study will encourage you, strengthen your faith, and help you know the will of God.

3) The Embrace of God: Fresh Glimpses of Our Nurturing Heavenly Father is the book, written by Dr. Erickson, that is the basis of his nightly presentations. The book contains a study guide that will give this group a starting point for more in-depth discussions of each chapter. This small group will explore many other aspects of Heavenly Father's beautiful character that we weren't able to cover in this series.

Be sure that you have one of the beautiful mementos of *Fresh Glimpses of The Embrace of God*. It can be used as a bookmark or framed for your desk or table. The information on the back will remind you of Heavenly Father's permanent and passionate love for you.

Linda Sears' CD will be available after the program at the CD table.

The Embrace of God, *Daily Embraces*, and *The Messiah* are still available at the book table. This is a great opportunity to share with family members and friends how Heavenly Father has been blessing you.

Fellowship and prayer: please take advantage of these opportunities after tonight's program concludes. The **fellowship area** is in the downstairs lobby. The **prayer room**, just off the downstairs hallway, provides a time for a special "afterglow" of prayer and discussion.

NEXT WEEK' S PROGRAM

Of course, there is no meeting scheduled! But don't let that stop you from continuing to focus on Heavenly Father and His son, Jesus. Let's not look at ourselves, other people, or the church. Let's look at Him! As we continue to focus on Him, our perceptions of Him will become clearer and more accurate. So spend lots of time with Him—in prayer, in His word, with your family, at church, in nature, in ministry (delivering His embraces) . . .

THOUGHTS FROM TONIGHT'S PRESENTATION—"THE FATHER WHO LOVES WITHOUT STRINGS"

1. "How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!" 1 John 3:1 NIV
2. Jesus "turned and looked straight at Peter." Luke 22:61 NIV
3. "The goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance." Romans 2:4 KJV
"God's kindness leads you toward repentance." Romans 2:4 NIV
4. "We love Him because He first loved us." 1 John 4:19 KJV
5. "If we turn against Him, He'll still love us because that's the kind of Person He is. His attitude toward us is not dependent upon our attitude toward Him. He will always love us because we're part of His body, and He can't disown Himself." 2 Timothy 2:13 Clear Word
6. "If you love me, you will obey what I command." John 14:15 NIV
7. "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength." Mark 12:30 NIV
8. "In the same way, we can see and understand only a little about God now, as if we were peering at His reflection in a poor mirror; but someday we are going to see Him in His completeness, face to face. Now all that I know is hazy and blurred, but then I will see everything clearly, just as clearly as God sees into my heart right now." 1 Corinthians 13:12 TLB

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