



INSPIRATION FOR THE *UP* RELATIONSHIP

*Lift*

I WILL *LIFT* UP THE CUP OF SALVATION  
AND CALL ON THE NAME OF THE LORD.

PSALM 116

In this “Back to School” issue of Lift we are lifting up all the students and teachers who are preparing to begin a new school year. You will meet several teachers and a few students and will get some fresh insights into their perspectives at this time of year. We invite you to join us in prayer as this school year begins. Pray for the important relationships that will be formed between students and teachers. Pray that every teacher will be an example of godliness, and that every student will be dedicated to growing and learning.

As we kick off this school year, I want you to get to know the Brubakers. Jason is a middle school teacher and football coach, and Emily is an elementary school teacher. In their testimony you will discover how this young Christian couple approaches the school year, and how they keep their focus on God.

*The new school year brings a time of excitement and anticipation. Every Fall, we make a return to the routines of school days, practices, and Friday night ballgames.*

*The things we love most about our jobs are the challenges of teaching and loving a classroom full of children. Students come to us with different backgrounds, skills and needs. The truly exciting part of teaching is discovering how to help each student grow both academically and spiritually.*

*As teachers, we pray that our students will listen and then do their part to become successful. We want them to be happy, but at the same time we realize that providing loving discipline and allowing them to learn from their own mistakes will serve them best in the long run. We feel joy when our students are successful and frustration when they don't live up to their potential.*

*Serving as teachers reminds us of God's role in our lives. He gave His Son as a perfect*



Jason and Emily with daughter, Caroline

*example. God invested in us by sending His only Son to die for our sins. God gives us the Holy Spirit who “...will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.” (John 14:25-26) We do our best to teach by example, invest time and energy in our students, and impart knowledge through lessons and activities. But as imperfect teachers, we know we fall short of what we need to be for our students every day. We keep looking to God, the perfect teacher, reminding ourselves that we are His students. ☺*

Jason and Emily Brubaker

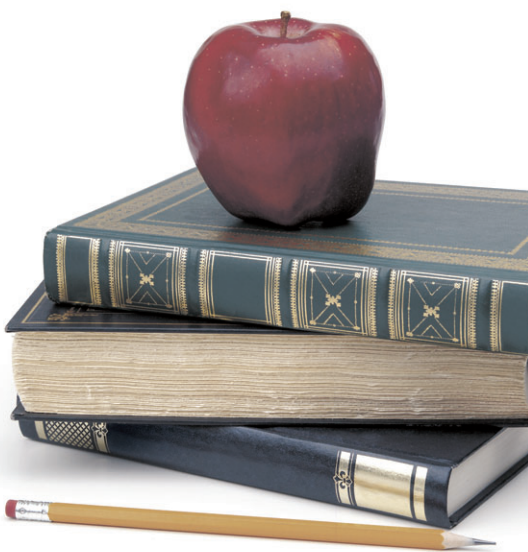
# Get Ready, Get Set

A NO-SWEAT BACK-TO-SCHOOL GUIDE BY SHEREE HILL

Back to school time? I can remember the feelings of panic and frenzy that phrase could bring on. Here are some things families can put into practice to make the back-to-school transition go more smoothly:

## SET GOALS

- Sitting down together, have each family member talk about (or write down) three goals they would like to accomplish during the coming school year.
- Together, narrow that list to three family goals to work toward.
- These goals may include things like:
  - *Regular family devotional time*
  - *Sit-down, family dinner 3 (more?) times per week*
  - *Regular, fixed time for homework*
- Make a list that everyone can read and post it on the fridge door
  - *Evaluate it — as a family — once a month*
  - *Celebrate the achievement of goals*
  - *Brainstorm ways to help each other reach goals that haven't been met*



## SET LIMITS

- Before the school year starts, determine how many extra-curricular activities your family can handle.
  - *Talk about all the options and prioritize*
  - *Select activities that capitalize on each person's time and talents*
- Leave some family time.

(continued on back cover)

## Sheree Yasko Hill

Sheree has two sons, Jeremy and Adam, and a daughter-in-law, Kelly. She has a doctorate degree in religious education and has been a school teacher and principal in



both public and private education. She has extensive experience in the development of children and adult education programs.

Currently, Sheree serves as the Education Minister (Children's Ministry, Adult Education and Discover Groups) with the North Atlanta Church of Christ.



# FROM THE LIPS OF CHILDREN

Matt. 21:16

WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT GOING BACK TO SCHOOL?



"Fun. I get to see all my friends,  
my new teacher and I get to  
make new friends."

*Scott Boyle, age 9*

"I don't like school. It takes  
up most of my day. If I  
didn't have to go to school  
I'd sit around at home all  
day and play soccer."

*Steven Cravotta, age 9*



WHAT DO YOU THINK  
GOD LOOKS LIKE?

"I think he looks like a  
spirit. He looks very big."

*Victoria Garner, age 8*

WHAT SHOULD PEOPLE DO  
TO BE MORE LIKE GOD?



"I think people  
should bring money  
to poor people and  
bring them bibles  
every time."

*Berkley Boglin, age 8*



"Help people that don't  
have food or homes and  
children that don't have  
parents."

*Jenny Childs, age 9*

# REFLECTION

JOURNAL

## *on your* “UP” RELATIONSHIP

Do you remember what the world looked like as a child? Reflect on the statements of these five third graders. Think about how you would answer some of the same questions, and whether or not you agree with the way they see the world. \_\_\_\_\_

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Scott is clearly excited about learning, whether it's at church or school. Are you as excited by learning? Why, as a follower of Christ, is it important to love learning and love people? \_\_\_\_\_

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Steven says that if he didn't have school he would spend all day playing soccer. What would you do if you didn't have responsibilities like work or school? How do you glorify God when you are "off the clock?" \_\_\_\_\_

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Look at how Victoria views God. Is your God big or small? Describe how you view God, and reflect on why your view of him is important. \_\_\_\_\_

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Look at how Berkley and Jenny think we can be like God. What do you think of their ideas? What would it mean for you to be more like God? \_\_\_\_\_

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# Little Things

by Sandra Mackey

When Jesus wanted to describe the greatest in the kingdom, *“he called a little child and had him stand among them. And he said... whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.... And if anyone gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones because he is my disciple, I tell you the truth, he will certainly not lose his reward.”* (Matt. 18:1-5, 10; Matt. 10: 42).

It seems that when God wants to demonstrate His magnificent creation with exceptional beauty, He makes little things – little pearls, little flowers, little diamonds, little birds and little children. And, yes, we can certainly learn a lot about greatness from little children.

I love the story of the little boy learning to ice skate. He kept falling down and his frequent mishaps aroused the sympathy of one tender hearted spectator. She said, “Honey, you are getting all bumped up. Why don’t you come off the ice and just watch the others?” With the tears from his last fall still running down his cheeks, the little boy answered, “Thank you ma’am, but I didn’t get some new skates to give up with; I got them to learn how with.”

We often get impatient and give up, not because tasks are too difficult, but because they are too mundane. When faced with the simple tasks of every day life, we opt for finishing in a slipshod way, or not at all. We seem to be ambitious to get ahead in life, but we fail to realize that by doing the little tasks with pride and enthusiasm we are preparing for greater responsibility. When we take care to complete common tasks uncommonly well, we take

the drudgery out of them, and we show that we are ready for bigger things. It is not the striving for great things that is most effective; it is doing the little things – like giving a cup of cold water – that defines greatness. How can anyone expect to do the great things well when we half do the little things? The little things are the stepping-stones to the great things.

The best way to begin to do great things is to improve the doing of the little things. Many people have dignified a very humble and lowly calling by bringing to it a master spirit. Many great men have dug in the dirt and many great woman have mopped the floor of a hospital. Many ordinary students have taken a little problem and conquered it with a great life changing solution. It is the person who dignifies the calling. Nothing that is necessary to be done is little when a great soul does it. ☺



# STORIES OF FAITH

Imagine if you could visit lands you've only dreamed of, or live in a different culture, or even live a different life. Well, I have done all. That's the fascinating aspect of teaching literature: going places and broadening students' horizons in ways they have not thought possible.

Because I have always been an ardent reader, my decision to become an English teacher seemed logical. Little did I know at the time that not all people shared that love, and teaching itself would be one of my biggest challenges in life. It is not a job to be taken lightly.

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YET, O LORD,

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YOU ARE OUR FATHER.

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WE ARE THE CLAY,

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YOU ARE THE POTTER;

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WE ARE ALL THE

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WORK OF YOUR HAND.

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ISAIAH 65:8

Watching the growth of students is one of my biggest rewards in teaching. Seeing them experience an epiphany after comprehending metaphors, and other figurative language motivates me to continue. Their shared viewpoints enhance discussion and bring about further insights.



David and Deborah Wells

Each lesson taught has a purpose and an essential goal to be accomplished by the lesson's end. God also has a purpose and a goal for all of us and He provides instruction through His written word, the Holy Spirit, and our teaching ministries.

Coming together in groups for Bible study allows us to share our understanding of His word. Just like I expect my students to follow my instructions if they plan to achieve the goals set forth for them, God expects us to do the same.

We are all students. Our willingness to study, learn, and practice the word will enable us to fulfill God's purpose and goal.

*Deborah Wells*

## Get Ready, Get Set *(continued from page 3)*

- Post a calendar that shows upcoming family activities, events & appointments.
  - *Using different colors for different categories provides visual cues*
  - *Or, use a different color for each person's activities*
- Have a weekly family meeting (Sunday evening is a great time) to review activities, events and appointments for the coming week.

“NEVER UNDERESTIMATE  
GOD’S POTENTIAL  
TO USE YOU TO MAKE A  
DIFFERENCE IN THE LIVES  
OF OTHERS! MAKE THIS THE  
BEST SCHOOL YEAR EVER!!”  
BRIAN OFFUTT, YOUTH MINISTER

## GET SET

- Prepare in advance! Waiting until the last minute to start getting ready for a new routine is a sure way to bring on the frenzy!
  - *All children (but especially younger ones) feel more comfortable if they know what to expect. Talk about how daily routines will change.*
  - *Talk about how this year may be different from the previous year.*

- Get enough sleep.
  - *Start getting up earlier a few days before the new routine starts.*
  - *Go to bed at the same time each night.*
  - *Develop a calming bedtime routine.*
  - *Limit your nighttime caffeine.*
- Eat a healthy breakfast.
  - *Eggs, cheese toast or bagel*
  - *French toast, waffles, pancakes (try wheat and whole-grain)*
  - *Cereal and milk*
  - *Yogurt with fruit or nuts; fruit smoothies*
- Creative, but yummy, choices may include:
  - *Banana dog (peanut butter, a banana, and raisins in a long whole-grain bun)*
  - *Breakfast taco (shredded cheese on a tortilla, folded in half and microwaved; topped with salsa)*
  - *Sandwich (grilled cheese, PB&J, or other favorite)*
  - *Leftovers (who says they're just for dinner?)*
- Keep your sense of humor! ☺



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EACH EDITION OF LIFT IS CREATED TO INSPIRE  
OUR READERS TO GIVE THEMSELVES FULLY TO GOD.

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