



**Bless the Child, Gift the Family
Every Night in Every Home**

October
2006

Faith Formation at FLC

Blessings in the Midst of Deep Sorrow

By Amy Kippen

I lost my mom, Viola Carlson on Labor Day. She had been in Fargo for the weekend to visit. We had lunch that day. She left from my brother's house at about 2:00 to head home to Bottineau. She had to work the next day. She was 71 and still hadn't retired. She had taught school for just over 50 years and was currently teaching 5th grade at the Dunseith Indian Day School. She made it as far as Rugby and stopped in at the Hub. She suffered a massive heart attack, and was taken to the Minot hospital. My brother Lenny and I were on our way to Minot when she passed.

Viola was my second Mom. My first Mom died when I was 6 and Viola became a part of our family when I was in third grade. Lenny is her son and is the same age as me. Viola was a strong Christian woman and a prayer warrior. She was my friend, my encourager, my raving fan and my home. So I'm left with this strange but real life of opposite realities.

On one hand, I treasure the fact that I had her in my life. I am so thankful that I spent her last days with her. I love all the wonderful things she left me. I'm clad with diamonds and have new furniture. I own a \$700 treadmill and get to wear her favorite sweater. I know she's up in Heaven in the presence of Jesus. She's with my dad who passed ten years ago. She finally got to meet my first Mom, who's grave she cared for faithfully. Lenny and I didn't have to face decisions about nursing homes or life support. She set up a financial future for us, and left notes directing us what to do. Perhaps the best thing of all is that I inherited the Bunn coffee maker. I've wanted a Bunn my whole life, but there were always more important things to spend \$100 on. All these blessings are true and real and provide something to grab onto for the 20 seconds that they bring comfort.

My other reality is that I'm just so mad, so sad, and so frozen that sometimes I think I can't move. I feel like a 6 year old most of the time. I want to throw myself on the floor, kicking and screaming. It's not fair. I'm too young for this. Where is my home now? Who am I gonna call when I need advice? I'll never get to go home again. I'll never be at home with my 7 siblings. Viola won't be at Nicole's confirmation, graduation, or wedding. How do I go on? Who am I without her?

Then I come to the same place each and every time. I am a child of God, who's cradled in grace, held up in love and gifted for serving. I'm a part of a family who loves and gives and prays and shares and aches with me. I do have a home, an eternal home. A great big wonderful place where I'll feel the arms of my parents around me again.

Home is where your Mom is.....

Major League

By Rich Melheim, CCO Faith Inkubators



"It's the Bible. You get credit for trying."
-Wooden Eyed Pirate in Pirates of the Caribbean

I like to encourage kids to try. Maybe it comes from seeing too many kids knocked down by life, other kids, an inner voice or their own parents' negativity. Maybe it comes from having a mom who always encouraged me. Maybe it comes from the realization that batting .333 is pretty dang good.

Golf is unforgiving. You can make great shots 90% of the time, then mess up big time 10% and leave a loser.

Baseball is much more forgiving. You can strike out two times in a row, then get a single single the third time at bat, end the game batting .333 and be scouted by the majors.

Don't be a golf parent. Be a baseball parent. Give your kids some grace. Give your kids some encouragement. Then, when they do that surprizingly wonderful thing on the third try, give them some applause and tell them:

"Hey kid, you're major league in my book!"

The power of rituals

By Amy Kippen

Yesterday, I had the privilege of hearing Dr. Tony Campolo speak. Tony is a nationally renowned speaker, who happened to be at Concordia for the day. Lunch was at the Ramada with youth workers and church staff from around the area. Then in the evening he spoke to about 3000 youth and adults at the Memorial Auditorium at Concordia. He was one of the most powerful speakers I've ever heard and I'm left feeling challenged to be more, stand for more, and do more.

At lunch he spoke about giving the kids of your church both roots and wings. Because of my ministry to strengthen families, I was especially interested in what he had to say about rituals.

Rituals serve four purposes.:

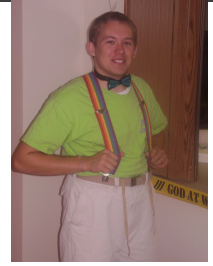
1. Create solidarity and oneness
2. They serve to teach
3. They renew loyalty
4. They create a sense of peace

Every family has rituals. Some are good and some are not. When families have healthy rituals, the family stays strong. Children find their identity there, instead of from the world. Family rituals can be used to teach. Praying every night teaches kids what is important to you. Worshipping as a family teaches that worshipping is an important part of Christian life. Serving others less fortunate teaches compassion.

I left the lunch knowing that we are on the right path here at Faith. Every night in Every Home, a healthy family ritual that holds us close to each other and close to God.

Zac's Update

A picture is worth a thousand words!



The beginning of the education year at Faith is such an exciting time. From meeting with confirmation guides to seeing families on the first night of GIFT, I keep feeling like all of my old friends are coming back for another year. What a great feeling that is!

After a successful summer with confirmation class trips and Bible Camp, we've made it a priority to offer better opportunities for our high school youth. That's why I'm so excited to announce our newest opportunity for senior high youth. Starting on Oct. 8, we'll begin the Faith Breakfast Club for grades 9-12. This group will meet every Sunday morning at 10 a.m. The Breakfast Club will be an opportunity to talk about important issues in the world and in our faith. Each week, we'll share in fellowship, laughter, and devotion. It is my dream that members of this group will challenge each other to explore the hard questions, grow in faith and become active in the church and broader community. If you have any questions about this or want more information, give me a call at 361-6671 or email at zista@growinfaith.org.

I can't wait to see all of you at GIFT, H2H, and Breakfast Club. Have a blessed month!

Senior High Breakfast Club Grades 9-12

Come for friendship, and real life discussions about our faith and our world. No question is out of the question. Let's explore God's word and God's plan....



**Every Sunday at 10am
Youth Room/Downstairs TLC**



OCTOBER HAPPENINGS

Wednesday G.I.F.T.

October 4	GIFT	5:45	Worship Center
October 11	GIFT	5:45	Worship Center
October 18	NO GIFT	Teacher's	Convention
October 25	GIFT	5:45	Worship Center
October 29	Kids sing	11am worship	Meet at 10:40/ Library

Sunday G.I.F.T.

October 1	GIFT	9:30	TLC
October 8	GIFT	9:30	TLC
October 15	GIFT	9:30	TLC
October 22	NO GIFT	Teacher's	Convention
October 29	Kids sing	8:30 am worship	Meet at 8:10/Fellowship Hall
October 29	GIFT	9:30	TLC

H2H Confirmation

October 4	Theme Event	7:30	Worship Center
October 11	Theme Event	7:30	Worship Center
October 18	NO H2H	Teacher's	Convention
October 25	Theme Event	7:30	Worship Center

REMINDER- SOME EVENTS ARE HELD IN THE TLC WHICH IS NOT HANDICAP ACCESSIBLE