

PATHWAYS

"SHOW ME YOUR WAYS, LORD, TEACH ME YOUR PATHS." PSALM 25:4

HCA's vision is to inspire students to love learning and live lives worthy of the calling of Christ.

UPCOMING CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

- May 28 - **Renaissance Faire**
SIGN UP to help, please!
- May 31 - **No school** (Memorial Day)
- June 8 - **Ice Cream Truck** (bring \$3 cash to pay the ice cream man)
- June 9 - **Team D Six Flags Trip**
- June 10 - **Preschool Graduation, Teddy Bear Picnic** (9-10:30am)
- June 10 - **8th Grade Graduation** (7pm)
- June 11 - **Last Day of School** (1/2 day, 11:30am dismissal);
Thankfulness Chapel (parents welcome in the balcony) 8:45am
- June 16 - **Term 4 Report Cards** (Gr. 1-8) will be sent via email (PK and K will go home on the last day of school in backpacks)

We need your feedback!

This month, we would like current parents to fill out our Student Academic Development Survey.

Please click HERE for the survey.



PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

Well, to use a racing metaphor, we are rounding the bend and entering the homestretch! At each milestone of the school year, each term ending, vacation, and holiday, we celebrated that we were still meeting together at school every day instead of schooling remotely. We continued to pray that we would not have any in-school transmission of Covid cases. We also continually thanked God for all of you, the most cooperative group of parents and families we could have hoped for. You were diligent in watching your children for symptoms and keeping them home to be tested for every sore throat, runny nose, or other symptom. You were also great at informing us when a student or family member was a close contact, even though it meant staying home for a given number of days. We are thankful for the way God used *you* to keep our school community safe.

It is so like God to give us more than we could ever ask for or imagine though! (Ephesians 3:20-21) When the school year started, our goal was simple - to have school in person.



Principal's Book of Excellence Recipients:

Mr. Cammuso - loving HCA students and staff & setting an example of servanthood by shoveling during a surprise April snowstorm

Aiden - being a servant-worker: separating new sidewalk chalk and bagging it up for other students to play with

Micah, Alexi, Arden, & Grace - being helpful by cleaning up the classroom

Ella & Eva - being servant-workers: helping Mrs. Hayward move supplies

Eva - being a servant-worker: for taking care of Mrs. Hayward's dog

Andrew - his gift of encouragement toward an older student

Selah - being willing to sacrifice recess to help a friend

Emma - demonstrating perseverance and a good attitude toward her schoolwork after a painful injury

Isaac - reflecting God's image as a community-builder through good sportsmanship and encouraging teammates

Krista & Jackson - being so helpful and cleaning the 4th grade class after scrapbooking

Kylie - recognizing we are all different but important to God

We were blessed with so much more, though. He brought us the joys and trials that helped us grow closer as a community and we were blessed with a wonderful school year with lots of activity and togetherness. Not only did we expand our skills in reading, writing, math, and problem solving of all kinds, but we experienced deeper learning through a re-enactment of the Greek Olympics and a mock archaeological dig, we made good use of our outdoor learning spaces, re-created the adventures of Paul's journeys, learned a myriad of skills through the science fair, and were blessed to have art class, music class, chapel, new classmates, terrific teachers, Medieval challenges like the siege and castle contest, weekly Team A time, FFL challenges, a successful re-accreditation, and so much more!

We had an in-person visit from ACSI, our accrediting agency, just last week. We were blessed to have Carol Aversa, the head of re-accreditation for our region, come to view our school. Here are a few of her comments regarding our school and students:

- Our students are happy!
- They are excited to share what they are learning
- The students function comfortably within the structure of their classrooms, moving about as needed for their purposes
- The school is very student-centered
- There is so much active learning taking place!
- The Biblical Worldview Window in every classroom is an amazing reference
- Our mission statement is evident in our school - Honoring God through creative learning and strong academics in a caring, fun-filled school.

We are clearly blessed with a special community of families and educators, with God at the center. As our students continue to grow and develop their skills through the end of the school year, may it also be a time of celebration for all that God has done with a year that began with so much uncertainty.

Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.

Ephesians 3:20-21

Blessings to you all!
~Mrs. Nikki Cleveland, Interim Principal

Susan's Musings

Notes from our Founding Principal

Dear Friends,

We are now entering the 'warp speed' time of year! Hold on to your hats...summer is right around the corner. What a year this has been!!! A year ago, we were not sure of anything. We had so many questions and so few answers. The only thing we sensed from God was to keep going! Now, we've experienced and truly lived out the reality of Psalm 32:8 *For the Lord says, "I will guide you along the best pathway for your life. I will advise you and watch over you."* He is so faithful; let us rejoice in Him together!!

As you may remember, I have had a plan for my retirement that included handing more and more responsibility and time on campus to the next principal. Naturally, I had no inkling that Mrs. Cleveland's first year as interim principal would include dealing with COVID!! I am so glad to have been here to support her through this transition, and all the duties she has handled so well. Apparently, God knew all about it and planned for extra support just when it was needed- just like Psalm 32 above.

Next year, I will be here two days a week as a consultant/friend. I love HCA, the synergy, buzz, and sounds of happy kids learning about God's world from teachers who love God and them! I can feel the tug of the Spirit to our next adventure which includes much playing with our own 11 grandkids, three of whom are due to be born in early summer!!

As you are aware, we recently had the final visit for our re-accreditation through ACSI, the Association of Christian Schools International. Most educators who visit HCA quickly notice the Worldview Window in every classroom. Mrs. Aversa was so excited about it that she plans to feature our Worldview Window concept in her newsletter. She asked for some background on it, which I share with you below. This simple tool will prove especially helpful next year as we study Cultures around the world.

This Worldview Window was created by the leadership at Holden Christian Academy many years ago in order to meet the felt need for a visual representation of the difficult concept of "worldview".

In order to simplify it for children, the leaders surveyed a large variety of people. They asked them the following question, "What do you think are the big questions of life that all people, everywhere, in all times, try to answer before they die?"



The responses were surprising. Despite differing demographics of the responders, the answers fell into the same general categories of questions such as:

- Where did the world come from?*
- Who is in charge?*
- What's my purpose?*
- What's wrong with the world/people?*
- Can it/they be fixed?*
- What happens when I die?*

Why the same questions? Where did they come from? Why not others? It seemed clear that God placed these questions on the hearts of his people. When we strive to answer them honestly, we will be drawn to the living God.

An actual six-paned window is on display in every classroom with one question in each pane. The answers are provided for younger kids and annually researched by the older ones. This tool has been very effective for the entire school, K-8. It has provided a simple way to consider the very complex ideas of belief systems around the world by providing a starting point for comparing them. Each time the comparisons are made, the Biblical worldview is reinforced. It will hopefully provide a springboard for engaging others in conversations about faith for the rest of the students' lives.

Have a fabulous, safe, and fun summer!

In Him who is able,
Susan Hayward

Honoring God through
Creative learning and
strong
Academics in a caring, fun-
filled school!



HCA staff with Mrs. Aversa from ACSI



GOT A LAWN SIGN?



Do you have an HCA Lawn Sign, or do you want one?

If you have one already we would appreciate you planting it in your yard, or around town. If you would like one (or more!), we will plant some near the student entrance for you to grab. Thank you for helping us get the word out about this special school. We hear often from families who have applied after seeing a lawn sign, so never doubt the significance of such a "simple" act!

Looking for next year's school calendar? Click [HERE](#).



Preschool News!

Important Dates to know for PK:

May 18-20th: Bring your scooter/bike to school

May 25-27th: Sand and Waterplay Week

June 1-3rd: Splash Week

June 8th: Bug Dress up Day & Ice Cream Truck (bring \$3 cash to pay the ice cream man)

June 10th: Preschool Graduation Celebration and Teddy Bear Picnic

9--10:30AM. All preschool families are invited and encouraged to attend. We can safely socially distance in the sanctuary and on the field. HCA will provide the teddy bears and the field games. *More details to follow*

June 11th: Last day of School (½ day)

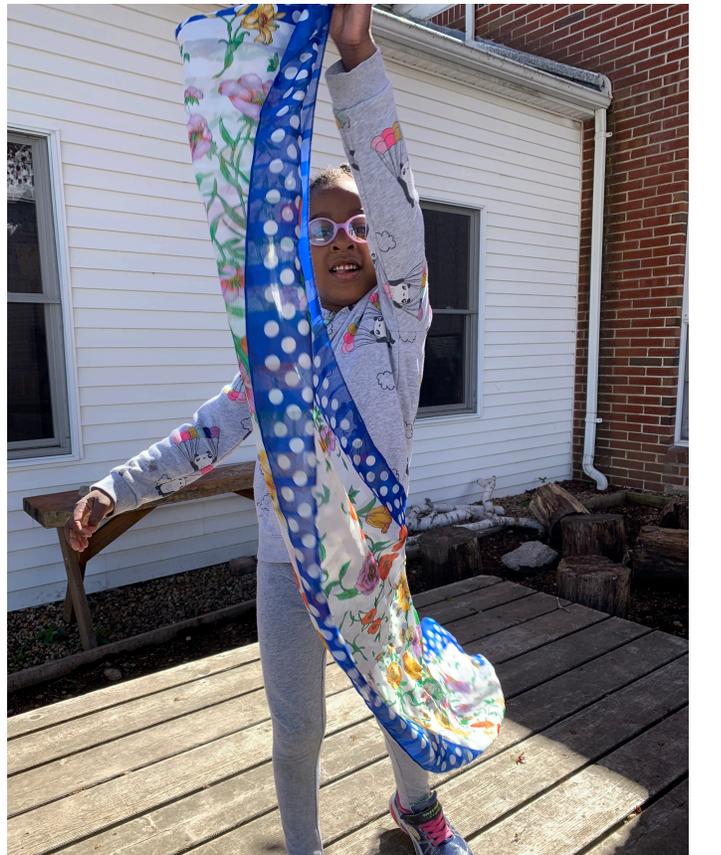
It's May, and do you know what that means? It means your beautiful, resilient kids have made it through almost an entire school year during a pandemic! What a faithful God we have to carry us through, and what a joy it is to see how your preschoolers have changed and grown!

We wrapped up April with life on the farm. Our sweet little lambs and noisy goats enjoyed learning about the difference between hard boiled and fresh eggs, learned silly songs like "I Know a Chicken", and were reminded often of how much God cares for them because He even cares for the animals He has created!

May and June will be filled with lots of sunny fun and special days! We will be learning all about bugs and flowers, and how God has created each as uniquely as He has created us! We will be spending as much time outside learning as possible, as this age group learns best through play and interaction with peers. We have been doing lots of gardening, digging in the dirt, dancing with scarves, getting up close views of God's creation with magnifying glasses, and our usual singing, dancing and playing. Water play is always a huge hit with preschoolers, as they love dumping and pouring and making mud! We will have many days ahead that include this exciting experience!

Love, The Preschool Team
Mrs. Cunsolo
Mrs. McKean
Mrs. Queen
Miss Rose
Miss Joelle





Team A News!

Help Needed & Announcements:

We are always in need of recess monitor helpers on a daily basis. **Recess for Team A is 11:30am-12:00pm** Monday through Friday. You may sign up to be on the recess monitor schedule [HERE](#).

The **Ice Cream Man is coming! June 8th** is the day to bring \$3 cash per student for ice cream. This truck will be here to help us celebrate the end-of-the-year.

Kindergarten is looking for bristle blocks. If you have some, please email Mrs. Coombs.

We will be spending as much time as possible outside, even in rain and cooler spring temperatures. Please send your child(ren) with rainboots, and apply bug spray and sunscreen before arriving at school. We'll be learning how to identify ticks and how to locate them on our bodies. Please do regular tick checks at home during the spring season.

Kindergarten Update:

We have been together now for almost a year, and the end is near. Let's give a shout out to God, for making this possible! I think back to the beginning of the year when all their sweet little faces were coming through my Kindergarten door. My heart felt for them, as so many were scared, nervous, shy and apprehensive. Now as I look at their sweet faces, I see joy, happiness and an eagerness to learn. I am so proud of them and the struggles that they had to overcome being in school during a pandemic.

Just as the caterpillars in our classroom are ending their journey to become butterflies, about ready to emerge from their chrysalis, my students are about to emerge from Kindergarten ready to be successful 1st Graders (see photos on page 10). The students have grown, developed, made mistakes and ultimately succeeded in their journey as full-time students. I am so thankful to have had the opportunity to watch your children be themselves this year.

As we finish up the school year, we will be planting in our garden. As a class we discussed planting some herbs, a few veggies and some plants to help attract butterflies. We will hopefully be releasing the butterflies that hatched in the classroom. We will finish up our study of the human body. We will continue reading through the Beatitudes and discussing these special gifts from God.

Lastly, we will be preparing for the Renaissance Faire. This exciting event is Friday, May 28th. This is going to be a great event as we near the end of the school year. As a reminder, an email went out a few weeks ago with a link to the Sign-up Genius for opportunities to volunteer - Kindergarten is covered but several other classes still need help. Please make sure to take a look and see if there are any opportunities for you to [sign up](#).

I pray that everyone has a wonderful summer and I pray that I will see all your sweet faces returning to HCA next year!

~Mrs. Coombs



First Grade Update:

As I write this final Pathways submission, I am praising God for His provision over the past school year. We have been blessed to be in-person in such a special place full of people who love God and who love to learn. As we approach a busy summer, I am reminded of Joshua 3. The Israelites were continually reminded that the Living God was with them and went before them. As we finish up the school year, let us be reminded that God is with us and goes before us in all things.

HCA's end-of-year activities are going to be so fun, and will give the students the opportunities to hone the skills they learned this past school year. One of these activities is our Renaissance Faire, taking place May 28th. HCA has a tradition of "big days" as a culmination of the term. They are not possible without help from our parents. I'm asking for 3 volunteers to accompany the 1st Grade class around the Faire. Please consider helping your child have a wonderful final memory of First Grade by sharing your time with the class on May 28th. The link to sign-up is [here](#).

Thank you so much for your support throughout this year. My students have come such a far way since September. Much of their progress is due to your parent/family support and involvement. I am so proud of how much they have grown and I am so humbled to have been a part of their academic journey. Thank you again for walking with me on this journey to help your children become lifelong learners. Have a wonderful summer!

~Mrs. Velarde

Second Grade Update:

We are almost at the end of the school year. It is a miracle to end this school year in person...only God could do it! We are all so thankful we have shared this school year together!

When I look back on our year of learning and growing, I am in awe of the growth my students have made. Of course, there have been academic achievements, but there has been so much character growth as well! I love how God has our days planned in advance for us because it's in God's timing that we're ending the year learning about the character traits that God's Kingdom-citizens display! As a class, we've been able to speak truth to one another about these traits, and in turn, build one another up to see our own roles in God's Kingdom.

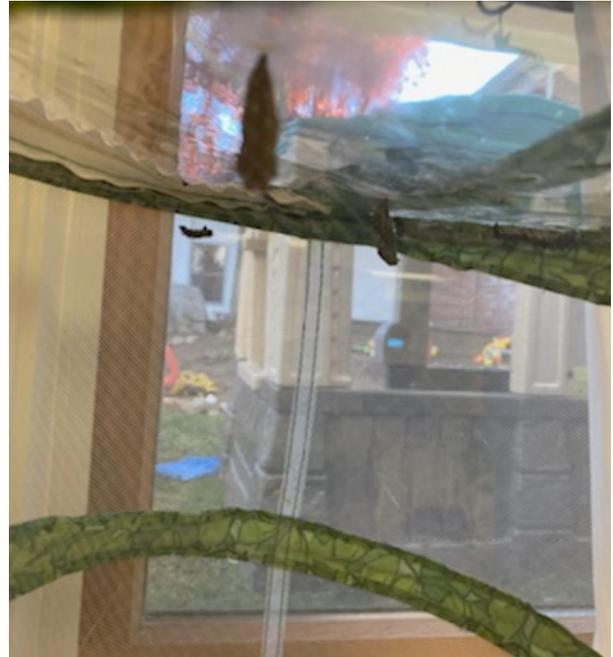
Our 2nd Grade garden will be planted to remind us of who God has created us to be, and remind us of how we can hope to grow as the citizens God desires for His Kingdom. We will be planting columbine flowers to remind us to be humble citizens. Columbine flowers look as if they are bending down; reminding us to bend down in prayer and humility before our Good King. We are planting morning glories to remind us that God's mercies are new every day, even when we end a day sad or disappointed. Daisies will be planted to remind us that by being kind and gentle with God's strength, goodness will overtake evil each and every day. Just as daisies are bright and spread quickly, because that's how they were created, so we can also be bright spots for God in this dark world. We will be planting succulents; reminding us we need God's Word (Bible) daily to thrive, not the things of this world. Another flower we will be planting are poppies. Poppies are delicate flowers, just as we are delicate and need God's strength and care to grow. Sunflowers will also have a home in our garden because they are flowers that not only grow near each other, and because of each other, but thrive when they are in groups. Just as citizens in God's Kingdom, we thrive when we walk alongside each other. Our garden's Lilies will remind us that we have new life in Christ. The last flower we don't have to plant because of its strength and resilience is the dandelion. Dandelions are despised even though they have great medicinal and food value. We can be reminded that even though we may be despised in this world because of our faith in Jesus, we have value in God's Kingdom and will continue to grow and be strong because of God's eternal plan for us and His Kingdom.

~Mrs. Penza





Kindergarten Caterpillars!



This caterpillar is busy making a chrysalis while eager Kindergarteners watch.



Caterpillar habitat ...ready for these little fellows to make a chrysalis and turn into beautiful butterflies!



Team B News!

Class Announcements:

We are looking for a parent volunteer to come with an air compressor to refill our recess balls. If you can help in this way, please email Ms. Rennie or Mrs. Heenan. :-)

June 8th - The 'Ice Cream Man' is coming! Students should bring \$3 cash for an ice cream treat.

Help Needed:

We are always in need of recess monitor helpers on a daily basis. **Recess for Team B is 12:00-12:30pm** Monday through Friday. This is a role for HCA parents to fill. Please make sure you've submitted your CORI check forms (found on our website) as well as a copy of your license before you volunteer. You may sign up to be on the recess monitor schedule HERE.

From Ms. Rennie's Desk:

Well, it's true...this is the last Pathways of the year. ☺ We are in the last chapters of our math books, third grade (decimals) and fourth grade (multi-digit/divisors -multiplication/division). We will have quite a few end-of-the-year cumulative tests; both grades are always able to use their books during testing, so NO stress. I am so proud of all of their learning.

We are continuing to study the human body and learning lots about God's amazing design of how everything works together.

Last week, on the back of the Weekly Peek, we noted a number of important details about:

- preparing for the Renaissance Faire on Friday, May 28th: both grades need to bring in food items for this day
- both grades need to bring \$3 cash for the end of the school year special treat of an ice cream truck
- both grades need to bring in a plain white t-shirts to tie-dye
- donation of caffeine-free teabags for Mrs. Heenan's classroom would be so appreciated

All of these are listed on the back of this week's Weekly Peek for May 11-14. Please make sure you read it if you haven't, because we don't want anyone to miss out all the fun stuff!

Thank you, to everyone for being so supportive and helping make my job the best. I am going to miss you and your children very much over the summer!!!

~Ms. Rennie



From Mrs. Heenan's Desk:

The last few weeks, in grades 3 & 4, we have been working on a Cathedral unit in History. All the students have been challenged on this project, however, they got to work in pairs. By the end of this unit, the students will explain the steps taken to build an ancient cathedral and what occupations all the builders and laborers had. There were so many! The students will also tell you about some cathedrals that exist today, as well as what occupation they would have preferred had they been an ancient cathedral builder or laborer. With no electricity, it indeed would have been an astronomical task!

In LA, we have been learning about a variety of topics regarding the Renaissance and Reformation, including the Magna Carta, Black Plague, Feudalism, and Christopher Columbus. Next week they will be comparing and contrasting Christopher Columbus and Marco Polo. Some of the students have completed and mastered the grammar text! They have moved on to spelling for the remainder of the year. We are also writing our final essay of the year. The students were allowed to pick their topic. We have some very talented writers in both 3rd and 4th grades!

Bible this term has a focus on the Epistles, in which Ms. Rennie and I are integrating the Image Bearer qualities each week. The students love this theme and regularly call out their friends as Image Bearers. Ask your child which Image Bearer they think most represents them and why. They could even label all their family members, I bet!

If you did not see the pink Weekly Peek this week, please ask your child to show you. There is some essential information on the back regarding the end of the year.

Blessings,

Mrs. Heenan



Middle School News!

Middle School Announcements:

- 1) Don't forget
ULTIMATE FRISBEE is after school on Fridays for Grade 5-8 students. All Middle Schoolers are welcome. We play rain or shine! Pickup is at 4:15pm for those who stay.
- 2) Please bring \$3 for a special treat on June 8th. An Ice Cream Truck will be at HCA to help us celebrate the end-of-year!
- 3) **BE PREPARED!** The middle school students must come to school prepared to go outside everyday in almost any weather. We will continue to take advantage of active learning opportunities in Food For Life, Outdoor Education, and sometimes Science.

What's New in Mrs. Gordon's Science Class(es)?

This has been a wonderful and wild first year of teaching here at HCA for me. Thank you for all the various ways many of you have supported me and my family!

- The Science Fair proved challenging for students, parents, and teachers alike, but most of us discovered some pretty neat stuff through that process! The kids did a great job of exercising their perseverance muscles.
- Our final Scientist Spotlight with Jared Rennie, Ms. Rennie's nephew and a research meteorologist out of Asheville, NC, was wonderful. We learned about how he uses the scientific method to create images which show weather pattern changes. We are so thankful to all of the scientists who allowed us to interview them, and we look forward to continuing this next year.
- 7th and 8th grade will finish the year studying creation, evolution, intelligent design, and evolutionary creation. My hope and prayer is that God uses the time to amaze us and increase our faith (as many of the scientists we interviewed this year shared: the more they learn about the world, the more God and His creation astonish them).
- 5th and 6th grade will study plant and animal classification which will enrich our learning in the garden and about our biome in outdoor education.
- The Ultimate Frisbee Club kicked off and every Friday the field has become a place of physical activity and teamwork. All 5th through 8th grade students welcome!

May we all finish this school year with excellence and enjoy a lot of time outside!
~Mrs. Gordon



What's New in L.A. with Mr. Shea?!

Hello Middle School Parents!

This will be our last Pathways communication for the year. As the school year wraps up we are looking forward to some exciting events. On May 28th we will be holding our school wide Renaissance Faire. The Middle School students are working on character studies, focusing on historical Renaissance figures like Donatello (not the Ninja Turtle), Shakespeare, and Joan of Arc. Each student is researching and studying their own historical figure in order to impersonate them at the Faire. If you are planning to volunteer at the Renaissance Faire, I encourage you to ask the Middle Schoolers about "their" lives and accomplishments! Speaking of the Faire, many classes need support so their students may explore the displays and activities that students have prepared for the event. Check out the [Sign Up List](#) to volunteer.

In class, students will also be reading through "A Midsummer Night's Dream" by William Shakespeare. The text has been revised by a former HCA staff member to be accessible to the Middle School students. While we won't be performing it this time, we will be using the text as a way to study non-traditional literature by adapting the play to different formats.

As always, I hope your weeks are treating you and your students well! I'm looking forward to a fun and exciting conclusion to our school year!

In Christ,
Jeremiah Shea

A WORD from Mr. HayWARD

As someone has said (or written? or sung?), "*Just because it's a cliché doesn't mean it isn't true.*" So here's my true cliché: every school year seems to go faster than the last one. How we are less than a month away from the end of Year Three, Cycle Seven, is bewildering to me. But here we are.

In History, we conclude with several biographical sketches of the most significant Protestant Reformers. From approximately 1300 - 1550, a number of Catholic priests began clamoring for change from within the Roman Catholic Church. The central conviction for each of these men was that the common people should be provided versions of the Bible in their own languages to read for themselves. At the time, only Latin was read and allowed in churches, and only clergy and scholars understood it. But these men defied the hierarchy, forged ahead, and published their own translations, anyway. They all paid a steep price for doing so, some with their lives. In more or less chronological order, they are John Wycliffe (England), Jon Hus (Czechoslovakia), Martin Luther (Germany), John Calvin and Ulrich Zwingli (Geneva and Zurich Switzerland, respectively), and William Tyndale (England). None of these men ever intended to grow a new branch of Christianity (which came to be called "Protestant"), but that is what happened. We are in their debt.

In 7/8 Bible we continue our survey of some of the more important passages in the New Testament letters (Romans through Revelation), highlighting just what it means to be a citizen of God's Kingdom in this world.

Thanks to staff, parents, and kids for a great year, Covid notwithstanding!

Your servant for Christ's sake,
Gary H