

¶¶ for Parents

9 May 2005

Evidences of True Community

*"Behold, how good and how pleasant it is, when brethren dwell together in unity."
Psalms 133:1*

As some of you know, I sing in the Catalina Foothills Church Chorale. Last Thursday evening, after rehearsal, a member of the choir came up to me and said, "I have a story to tell you.

"This morning I was shopping and got in the check-out line behind a lady with a large stack of identical bowls. I couldn't help asking out of curiosity what she was going to do with all those unusual bowls.

"She answered that her son attends a small private school here in Tucson and she is involved in supporting the 'Teacher Appreciation Week' the parents are providing for the teachers. She told me in detail the schedule for the whole week: Monday, fresh flowers; Tuesday, snack baskets; Wednesday, apples for the teachers; Thursday, Greek salads luncheon; and Friday, gift certificates for a meal and a movie. I was so impressed with her earnestness that these great teachers deserved to be blessed. When she said the phrase 'Covenant Parent Fellowship,' I finally realized she was talking about Cornerstone and I identified myself as a member of Catalina Foothills Church. I just want to commend you and Cornerstone Christian Academy for the great show of loyalty you have from your parents."

And I agree. Even on Thursday, when the teachers and I were enjoying those very Greek salads that Jami Amidon had arranged in the beautiful bowls Mike Heath had seen her purchase, one of the teachers exclaimed, "We are so spoiled!" Thank you, parents, for spoiling us so well this year. I think it was the best Teacher Appreciation Week ever, and they have all been good!

And thank you also for the many responses to last week's column. I participated myself in several reconciliation events and have received several reports of others doing so as well.

Thank you for sincerity and generosity. These are great hallmarks of a covenant community. This week in my Sunday School class I taught the last chapter of Nancy Pearcey's *Total Truth* (which I strongly recommend for summer reading, if you have not read it already). In the last chapter, Pearcey criticizes the twenty-first century church for not being a community which truly reflects the revelation of God's truth, and she's right. But this week I witnessed Teacher Appreciation Week, positive responses to the column I wrote, a powerful and moving funeral, the inspiring wedding of our youth pastor, and the miraculous provision of more great teacher candidates for next year. This is a place where God works! Thank God for Catalina Foothills Church and Cornerstone Christian Academy!