

The McCormack Messenger

September 2010

Math teaching and Christian education

Black Forest Academy is a Christian school. As such, a Christian worldview should be foundational to all that is taught. One might say, however, that math is math, whether taught in a secular school or a Christian school. As a math teacher, does David somehow need to MAKE mathematics sacred? No, the answer is that math, as created by God, IS sacred in its own right. Man merely discovers the mathematics that God created. Psalm 19:1 says "The heavens declare the glory of God." The pattern and simplicity of mathematical formulas which describe planetary motion and which measure the stars are a marvelous witness to God. Verse 3 continues "There is no speech or language where their (the heavens) voice is not heard." Indeed mathematics is a universal language which describes God's creation in all the earth. Math is sacred and teaching math is a sacred calling. Thank you for your part in sending David to that call.

Special services and Christian education

What about the special services that Helen offers to children with learning difficulties? How is that part of a Christian education? Obviously to us, since God even knows the number of hairs on each person's head, each member of His creation is important. As Helen helps a student learn to read, write, think and reason, she is helping that student discover the person that God made him/her to be. Thank you for your part in sending Helen to the sacred calling in educational therapy for students whose learning is more difficult than average. It can be a challenge to help them learn how they best learn.

How long?

One question which several of you have asked is "How many years will you stay in Germany?" Maybe others of you are wondering the same thing. The short answer is, "We don't know." A longer answer is "As long as God provides the necessary health and finances." The most complete answer we have at this time is "Perhaps three more years." The reason for saying "three" is that Helen just completed another level of training which is good for three years. After that we must decide whether she is to seek the next level of training. Pray that God would give us wisdom. We also welcome your thoughts and questions on this matter.

Funding?

Another question that several of you have asked is "How is your financial support?" Thank you for asking. The answer is that God has provided for all our needs. We will have some necessary increases for the next year, most notably medical insurance (up \$88/mo). Although a few partners have been unable to continue their financial partnership, God has provided some new gifts so that the average monthly support has increased by \$65/mo compared to that of 12 months ago. We can provide more specific information if requested.

Our 40th wedding anniversary celebration

We were particularly blessed to be able to celebrate 40 years of happy marriage this summer. As part of that celebration we were able to take a 10 day trip to northern Germany. Please join us in praying that we will use well each remaining year of life that God gives us.

PRAYER



Please thank God for:

- A productive yet relaxing summer
- His continual provisions
- The many who support and encourage us

Please pray for:

- Continued health
- Our students, that they would grow in commitment to Christ.
- Teachers and students beginning the year well.

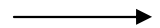
To read our previous newsletters, see

www.trinitychurchminot.org/mccormacks.htm



David and Helen at the old city wall overlooking Nuremberg, Germany.

More pictures on the reverse side.



Personal Contact Information: "I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel." Philippians 1:3-5a We would love to hear from you.

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A peek at our lives in Germany



A church in Madrid, Spain



Helen's June class (educational therapy Level II training in Madrid, Spain) with Cathy, Sonja and Terri Lynn



Helen was able to visit her mother Ruth (age 95) for a week this summer.



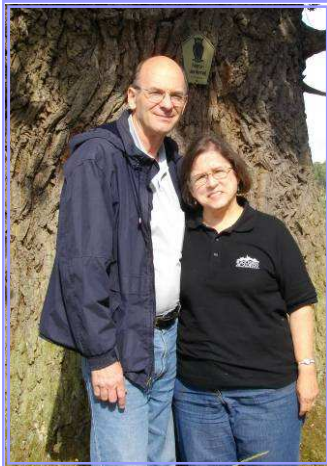
A church in Fulda, Germany which dates back to the 1700s. The original buildings here date back to 1200!



At a renaissance festival in northern Germany. For two weeks, people simulate life as it was lived in Europe during the middle ages.



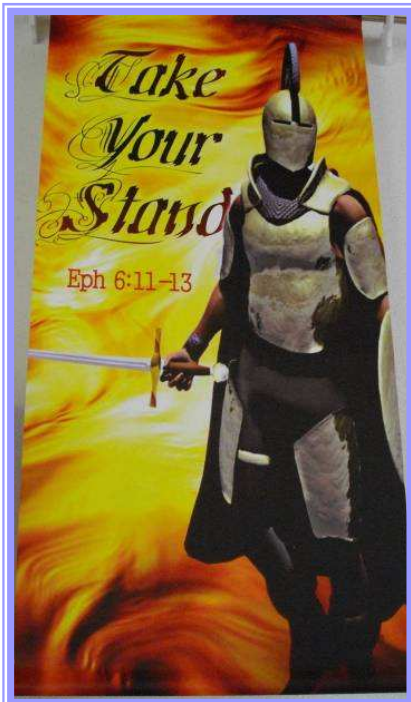
Will your wishes really come true if you think hard enough while you reach to turn the gold ring on this gate? That is the legend!



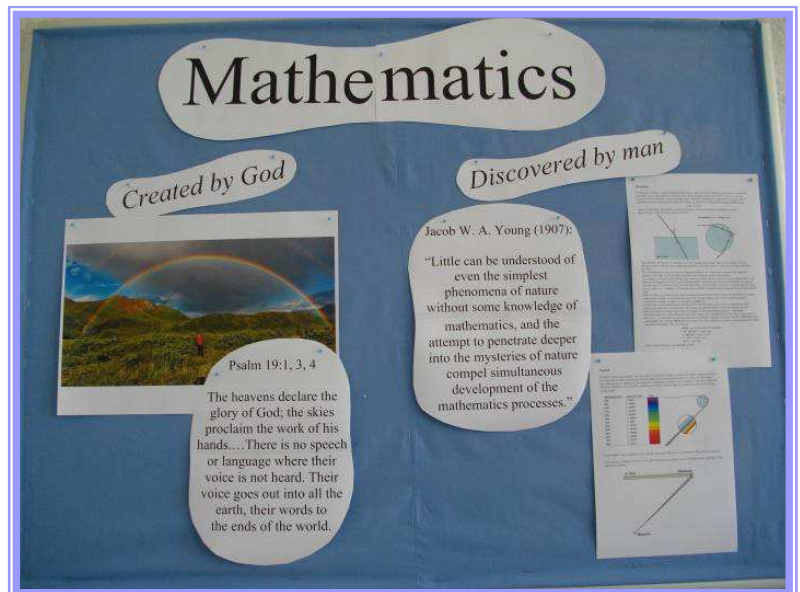
We're standing by a LARGE oak tree in northern Germany. The tree is thought to be 1,000 years old.



An occasional treat is fun while on vacation.



The 2010-2011 theme for Black Forest Academy. This banner hangs in the auditorium as a constant reminder of our spiritual challenge.



The bulletin board in David's classroom with his theme for the year: Mathematics: created by God; discovered by man.