



Let my teaching fall like rain and my words descend like dew, like showers on new grass, like abundant rain on tender plants. I will proclaim the name of the LORD. Oh, praise the greatness of our God! He is the Rock, his works are perfect, and all his ways are just. A faithful God who does no wrong, upright and just is He.

Deuteronomy 32:2-4

Dear SHIELD families,

Every year that passes brings us all one year closer to when our children are ready to fly. This year has been a bitter-sweet year because our youngest daughter will be a rising senior. Those of you who have already graduated a child(ren) have learned to really, really savor each moment of your child's life. When our oldest daughter was a senior, it was such a whirlwind of new experiences and preparations for her future. During her last year under our roof, I fervently prayed that she would not only hear and recognize God's voice, but that she would obey Him. After all, hadn't we just spent the past 18 years of her life getting her ready for her big "launch day," and it all hinged on her being obedient and choosing to live a sacrificial life for her King. This was one lesson she couldn't miss!

Graduation is the ending of one book and the beginning of another. It is such a time of celebration, yet brings so many parents angst as they wait to see if their child chooses to follow God's plan for their life. As a parent, there comes a time when we have poured all that we can into them. There also comes a time when we have to let go. We have to trust God completely with His destiny for their lives. Of course, this is something we should be doing from the start, but we tend to have more input into their decisions as they are little. As they grow, our job is to teach them to make decisions based upon what they hear God telling them to do and to give them the freedom to do so.

We never stop being their parents, but our role does change a little. Being their prayer warrior is probably the most important job we can have once they've graduated and are testing their wings.

Their ability to soar comes from recognizing God's voice AND obeying what He is telling them. This ability doesn't happen overnight and is cultivated through practice and through simply working on their/our personal relationship with their/our Father. There will be mistakes along the way, but that is part of the learning process. As a youth pastor at our church, I am always encouraging our youth to spend time with Abba, not just a quick morning or evening prayer, but to talk with Him to listen to Him throughout the day----just like with a close friend. Some get it and some don't.

As my family prepares for our youngest daughter's final year at home, I know that this is "our year." One more year to teach her truths, not just with my mouth but with my actions. One more year to share her life in this intimate home setting. One more year to . . . oh, so many "last things."

Of course, I know as her parent, God has given her dad and me a special place in her life. This will never change! What will change is that her choices will be between her and God. Such an awesome thing for a young person to "know that they know that they know" that they have someone even better than their parents to rely upon for everything! We have experienced this with our oldest daughter and are hopeful that our youngest will recognize the same! (Yes, I know this should already be instilled in them, but things become more "real" when they're not at home anymore.)

So, why did I share all of this with you? I guess I really hoped to get you to think now about treasuring every moment with your children, to look for those teachable times that the hecticness of life can steal, to be deliberate in pursuing Christ in front of your children---not in a religious way but in a way that points them to the Cross, and to never let a day go by when you don't intercede for your children's destinies and future spouses. (Yes, do not forget to pray for the one that God has handpicked for them . . . very important.) One day very soon you will all be where the Barney household will be this coming year . . . facing an empty nest as our youngest child is preparing to go where God sends her. My husband and I will also be getting ready for our next big assignment... looks like our knees are going to need to padding or callouses! God's got plans for us too! Time for some different wings.

May you have a wonderful time of looking back on all the incredible things you've experienced with your children! May you look ahead to see the path to which God is leading you! May you be blessed beyond measure!

His Peace is for us all!

Debbie Dixon Barney
SHIELD Team Leader



Calendar of Events

- May 4 (Tues)** **Field Trip to Sesquicentennial Park, “Guided Nature Hike”, 1:30-3:00 p.m.**
- May 11 (Tues)** **THRILL Meeting, Harvest Church, 2:00-3:00 p.m.**
- May 14 (Fri)** **Achievement Night, Riverbend Church, 6:30-8:30 p.m.**
- May 18 (Tues)** **Mom’s Night Out, Thai Wasabi in Lexington, 7:00 p.m.**
- May 19 (Wed)** **Field Trip to Eudora Farms, 10:00 am**
- June 12 (Sat)** **H.E.R.S. (Home Educators Resource Sale), 9:00-12:00, Columbia International University Fitness Center**
- June 18 & 19** **SC Annual Home School Convention, USC Sumter**

See below for details on many of these events

Thank you to our SHIELD Coordinators and Volunteers:

Thank you to the many Coordinators and Volunteers who sacrificed this year to make SHIELD an amazing support group! Thank you for dedicating your valuable time and energy. For those who will be changing to a different area of service, we thank you for what you did this year and look forward to how you will be used during 2010-11.

Join the Field Trip Team!

Do you have a few good field trip ideas?

Would you be willing to organize a few field trips for SHIELD members during the 2010-2011 school year?

SHIELD is looking to add a few new members to the Field Trip Team! We are hoping to gather a team of 4-5 volunteers who are willing to organize several field trips each in the upcoming school year. A team-planning meeting will be held in July to share ideas, plan a variety of trips, coordinate them on the calendar, etc. Then each volunteer will plan a few field trips each to have a GREAT year of field trips!!

Will you join the team?

Email Karen Collins at jk-kids@sc.rr.com.

Field Trip to Sesquicentennial State Park

9564 Two Notch Rd
Columbia, SC 29223
www.stateparks.com/sesquicentennial.html

Tuesday, May 4, 2010
1:30-3:00 p.m.

Cost: \$2.00/child

“Guided Nature Walk”

Sesquicentennial Park Ranger, Stacy, will be our guide as we explore the park’s sand hill and aquatic ecosystems. We will learn the importance of urban green space and conservation of our natural resources as we are guided through the park’s various habitats.

A few spaces are still available but limited to 25 children for this field trip. Please contact Karen Collins at jk-kids@sc.rr.com **today** if you are interested.

Registration Deadline is May 7th!

Friday, May 14, 6:30-8:30
Early Yearbook Pick-up & Signing Begins at 6:00!

SHIELD Achievement Night!

Riverbend Community Church
1015 Corley Mill Rd, Lexington, SC

Come together to celebrate all God has done in our home schools this year!

This year our Achievement Night will have the following elements:

- Celebrating Kindergarten & High School Graduates
- Celebrating Academic Achievement by Class & Class Pictures
- Presentation of Governor's Reading Awards
- Presentation of Governor's Citizenship Award
- Yearbook Distribution & Cake!

Please RSVP now to Darby Reeves at preeves1@sc.rr.com.

We need the following information: Student Name and Grade for certificates (*Note that certificates will not have grade listed but the grade information will be used in calling students to receive their certificate by grade so that class pictures can be taken. **Certificates will only be filled out for those who have sent an RSVP.** If you cannot attend Achievement Night, we will still be happy to provide your student with a certificate, but it will be your responsibility to collect the it at a later time.)

DEADLINE TO RSVP: FRIDAY, MAY 7th

Governor's Reading Honor Roll

***** Last Call *****

The Governor's Reading Honor Roll is a way for SHIELD members to participate in a reading program sponsored by the Governor of SC. Any SHIELD family that chooses to participate logs 20 books for their 1-6 graders and then notifies SHIELD when completed. The Governor's Office requests that we keep a book log for each student. They do not ask us to turn in the logs to their office. So, please keep the log for your own records.

If your student would like to participate in the Governor's Reading Honor Roll, please contact Leslie Buzzell at jlbuzzell@gmail.com with your child's name and number of books read. Your student would need to read a minimum of twenty (20) books by **April 30, 2010**. You may include any books read this school year (since August). You may have your student set a higher personal goal if desired.

**Certificates will be presented to the children on
Achievement Night!!**



Field Trip to Eudora Farm

www.eudorafarms.com

Date: Wednesday, May 19, 2010

Time: 10:00 am

Cost: \$6.00/person (includes all parents & children except babies)

Ages: All ages

Deadline to sign up: May 7, 2010

Eudora Farm, located on the outskirts of Aiken County, is filled with 40 acres of exotic animals. Take a trip to the country where the buffalo roam and the deer and antelope play. Come see the beauty of animals from around the world in a natural, peaceful setting. Pack a picnic and come enjoy a day down on the farm.

Interactive Tour Include:

~Horse drawn wagon tour of animal farm (Approx 45 minutes.)

~Knowledgeable tour guide to give facts about the animals and answer your questions.

~A stop at the animal nursery/petting barn.

~Access to the picnic area.

Directions from Columbia/Lexington:

1. Take **I20** to **exit 55** (hwy 6)
2. Go **left** (towards **Red Bank**) and follow for about **10 miles**.
3. **Hwy 6** and **hwy 302** merge to the **right**. (Smiley's Flea Market on right)
4. Follow **hwy 302** into the town of **Pelion**.
5. Go **thru** the traffic light and continue straight on **302** for **5 miles**.
6. You will cross a **bridge** into **Aiken County**. After the bridge take the **first road** to the **left** (Clinton Church rd.)
7. Follow **2.4 miles** and take a **left** on **Sim Williamson Rd**.
8. Follow this **narrow dirt road** to the **top** of the **hill** and go **left** at the **fork** in the **road**.
9. Our **road** will be the **fourth road** to the **left** - **Salem Lane**
Eudora Farms is at the end of the road.

To sign up, please contact Karen Collins at jk-kids@sc.rr.com

To secure your spot, payment can be sent to
330 Poindexter Lane, Lexington, SC 29072.

THRILL News:

(Teen Homeschoolers Radically Impacting
Lexington County Lives)

May Meeting Time:

Tuesday, May 11, 2:00-3:00 at the Harvest Church



If you have any questions, you can contact:
Michelle Steyne, mlsteyne@aol.com, 796-9090
Elizabeth Collins, aikosmom@sc.rr.com, 356-5858
Angela Norman, angelanorman@bellsouth.net, 955-9185

Yearbook News:

Yearbooks will be distributed at Achievement Night!
We have had a good year and we hope you enjoy the book!

The Yearbook Advisory Panel is in the process of selecting Student Leaders for next year's staff. Any staff member who is interested should contact Linda Barnhill immediately. We still have several positions open.

If any parent is interested in joining the Yearbook Advisory Panel for next year, we would love your help as well. Please contact Linda Barnhill to discuss how you can be part of a great team!

There will be no more general staff meetings this year. Thanks to all of those who put the time and effort into making it a great year! However, we will be meeting with potential student leaders soon, so watch your email! If you have any questions or comments, contact Linda Barnhill elbeemee@bellsouth.net 772-3184.

***** Mom's Night Out *****

Please make plans to join us:

Tuesday, May 18th

7:00 p.m.

Thai Wasabi in Lexington (near Publix)

SHIELD'S Lending Library & Used Curriculum

As you finish up your school year, remember that donations are being accepted for our Lending Library! The Lending Library is available to all SHIELD members. Contact Jenny Stallings at jen9874@msn.com or 803-808-5365 for more information.

Jenny Stallings will be at the HERS book sale in June to collect donations.

If you have used curriculum to sell, please contact Jenny Stallings at jen9874@msn.com or 803-808-5365 to list it on the SHIELD website.



Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA)

FCA / Fellowship of Christian Athletes will be meeting on May 14th, at Westside Baptist Church located at 2100 Platt Springs Road. The time is 2:00pm - 4:00pm. This FCA is open to all homeschoolers in the Columbia and surrounding area. It does not matter if you are involved in sports or not. Also, the FCA is looking for individuals interested in being in a FCA worship band. We need pianist, bass, drums, electric guitar etc. If interested, please email Tehron Harless "Tehron Harless"
Tharless173@gmail.com

**COME OUT FOR A TIME OF
FUN, FELLOWSHIP, AND THE
WORD OF GOD!!!**

BE THERE!!

H.E.R.S. 2010 Home Educators Resources Sale

Saturday, June 12th, 2010
9 am to Noon
at Columbia International University
Fitness Center

Directions to CIU:

I-20 to exit 68 Monticello Road
Turn North for 2 miles
Turn LEFT at 7435 Monticello Road
Follow "HERS" signs to Fitness Center

Seller information:

Early Registration fee is \$10 registration fee per table.
Deadline: postmarked by May 28th. Confirmation of payment and application will be sent via email.

Commercial Vendor Registration fee is \$25 per table. Deadline: postmarked by May 21st Confirmation of payment and application will be sent via email.

Late Registration fee is \$20 per space (you must provide your own table). Contact Kathy Butler to confirm availability. Payment due at check-in.

Checks should be made out to "REACH," and mailed to the address on the registration form. Confirmation of application and payment will be sent via email.

Fill out and return the registration form at www.reachgroup.org.
For more information, contact Kathy Butler (803) 740-6687 or reach@reachgroup.org.

20th Annual Statewide Convention

**Nuturing Our Children:
The Heart of Parenting**

Key Note Speaker: Paul Tripp

June 18-19, 2010

Go to

www.schomeeducatorsassociation.org/convention.php

for details on the schedule, workshops, vendors, children's program, college fair, teen conference, location, hotel information, other opportunities and more!

SHIELD Membership 2010-2011

Time to renew! SHIELD memberships run from June 1 to May 31. That means it's time to renew your membership for the 2010-2011 year. Applications will be available at Achievement Night on May 14th so you will have a convenient way to sign up for next year (checks or correct change will be accepted). An updated application can also be found at our website at shieldonline.org.

Please note that there will be a \$10 late fee charged for all renewing members who renew after August 31, 2010.

If you have any questions, please contact our Membership Coordinator, Beth Martin, at bethsmartin@hotmail.com or 957-6005.

Members' Services

Do you or someone in your family have a service to offer other homeschoolers? Send the information to Karen Collins at jk-kids@sc.rr.com.

Babysitters:

Elizabeth Barney, 312-4100 (cell)

Ashlynn Janzen, 957-0432

Kayla Collins, 358-0378

Lawn Service:

Jonathan Liva, Landscaping Services, 359-3415, jliva360@gmail.com

Music Lessons:

Chris Gaylord, guitar lessons in Lexington, 957-3458

Anne Meester, violin lessons, 422-3215

Other:

Joel Weeks, Licensed Builder, Home Repairs and Additions, 606-4759

Mike Kollmansberger, Computer Repair, 246-5616

Richard Barney, Roofing, 351-6078

Tommy & Linda Barnhill, Honda Specialist, 772-5144

Crystal Clamp, Senior Consultant for The Pampered Chef®
crystalclamp@sc.rr.com, 803-260-1538. Shop our catalog & OUTLET
24/7 at www.pamperedchef.biz/crystalclamp.

Katherine Shealy, Votre Vu Skin Care Consultant,
www.votrevu.com/duette, katshealy@pbtcomm.net

Tammy Hendrix, Mary Kay Consultant, TammyHendrix@marykay.com,
www.marykay.com/TammyHendrix

SHIELD 2009-2010 Leadership Team

Team Leader	Debbie Barney	deborahbarney880@aol.com	312-3433 (cell) 794-4757
Financial/Membership Leader	Beth Martin	bethsmartin@hotmail.com	957-6005
Communications Leader	Karen Collins	jk-kids@sc.rr.com	358-0378
Website Coordinator	Dean Jacobs	shieldonline.org	
Student Club Coordinator	Mandy Dufries	sixdufries@gmail.com	996-1379
Mom's Night Out Coordinator	Rebecca Smith	unlisted	unlisted
Library Coordinator	Jenny Stallings	Jen9874@msn.com	808-5365
Field Day Coordinators	Ellen Nagelvoort Kristine Fairchild	adamandellen@windstream.net allbygrace@sc.rr.com	356-1360 359-4299
Field Trip Coordinators	Tracy Taylor Rhonda Hutchinson April Roebuck Karen Collins	ttaylor24@sc.rr.com rwhsmiles@aol.com roebucks_5@windstream.net jk-kids@sc.r.com	834-0316 730-8510 356-1310 358-0378
Academic Presentation Day Coordinators	Jennifer Aurednik (fall) Karen Collins (spring)	mitchandjen@windstream.net jk-kids@sc.rr.com	808-0667 358-0378
THRILL Advisory Panel	Michelle Steyne Elizabeth Collins Angela Norman	mlsteyne@aol.com aikosmom@sc.rr.com angelanorman@bellsouth.net	796-9090 356-5858 955-9185
Yearbook Advisory Panel	Linda Barnhill Robin Williamson Donya Jacobs Susan Liva Sue Faulk	elbeemee@bellsouth.net roknrobn31464@hotmail.com dddjacobs@msn.com srliva@juno.com smfaulk@juno.com	772-3184 568-4747 732-4627 359-3415 808-2873
High School Social Coordinators	Tami O'Brien Tina Hewitt Robin Knechtel	tamiobrien@sc.rr.com tinarhewitt@gmail.com robin.knechtel@gmail.com	356-6074 446-4635 863-899-3853
Standardized Testing Coordinator	Beth Martin	bethsmartin@hotmail.com	957-6005
Talent Showcase Coordinators	Linda Barnhill Valerie Harris	elbeemee@bellsouth.net valerieharris@yahoo.com	772-3184 957-5388
Mid-year Meeting Coordinators	Darby Reeves Leslie Buzzell	preeves1@sc.rr.com jlbuzzell@gmail.com	951-8489 359-1934
Achievement Night Coordinators	Darby Reeves Leslie Buzzell	preeves1@sc.rr.com jlbuzzell@gmail.com	951-8489 359-1934

About Our Newsletter...

Newsletter submissions must be received by July 25 for inclusion in the August newsletter.

The SHIELD Encourager Newsletter is published monthly and e-mailed to our members at the beginning of every month (except June & July). If you have an item you would like to submit, contact Karen Collins at jk-kids@sc.rr.com.