



# Inspirational Corner... *Gwen Smith*



On the far side of a desert, high upon the mountain of God, a voice called out to Moses from within a curious, fiery bush. He had been tending the sheep of his father-in-law's flock, minding his own business, going about his normal day-in-day-out tasks when God spoke to him from the flames. On the day that God called Moses to a fresh and fiery mission. A mission of deliverance. Once a noble prince of Egypt with the world at his feet, Moses had become a lowly shepherd with dust on his sandals. His crown had been traded in for a staff. The palace days were far behind Moses now. He fled them because of what he had done. Glancing to his left and his right to be sure that no one would see what he was about to do, Moses took a horrible situation into his own hands and killed a man. He had murdered an Egyptian and covered the body with sand. Fear and shame bombarded his heart so he fled—away from his dream-filled, royal future to a desert place of humble hiding. The door to his yesterdays was closed. Moses had moved on to a new place. His past was his past and he had no intention of returning to it. His life was different now. Normal, not noble. Then God interrupted Moses's new normal. He made it undeniably clear that His plans for Moses were different. Bigger. God's intentions were for freedom—the freedom of His people, the Israelites, who were captives, *slaves* to Egypt. God called Moses to face the pains of his past so that the Israelites could face a future of freedom. His plans of emancipation required that Moses obey Him, listen to His voice, follow His instructions, and trust Him.

Moses quivered and doubted. He made excuses about why he couldn't do it. He felt completely unfit and unqualified for such a task. It was risky. But God met Moses at his doubts. He called him to courage and went on to use Moses as an instrument of deliverance, truth, power, and freedom. Yes, Moses made mistakes along the way, but God was powerful in, through, and in spite of each one. Through it all, God led as only God can. He led with power. He led with purpose. He led with love. And through Moses, God led His people to a new place of promise and freedom. On the far side of Charlotte, North Carolina, high upon a mountain in a retreat center, a voice called out to me from within a curious and fiery story. I had been tending to my husband and children, to the laundry and the dishes, writing songs and leading worship at women's events, minding my own business, and going about my normal day-in-day-out tasks on the day that God spoke to my heart through the testimony of another woman. On the day that God called me to a fresh and fiery mission. A mission of deliverance. Once a sold-out, dream-filled God-girl, I had become a grace-embracing yet *disqualified-for-anything-big-because-of-what-I-had-done* God-girl. My *use-me-in-a-big-way-Lord* prayers had been traded in for average *can't-have-a-dream-anymore* faith-living. My God-dream days were far behind me. I had fled them because of what I had done in my junior year of college. Glancing to my left and right to be sure that no one would know what I was about to do, I took a horrible situation—an unplanned pregnancy—into my own hands and killed a baby. I robbed life from my own child when I had an abortion, and I covered over the death of my precious child with sands of compartmentalization and reason.

Fear and shame bombarded my heart, so I fled—away from God, away from my dream-filled, royal future to a desert place of heart-hiding. After a season of brokenness, God brought me to a place of beauty, forgiveness, and healing. I was restored and redeemed by scandalous, merciful grace. The door to my yesterdays was closed. I moved on to a new place in Christ. My past was my past and I had no intentions of returning to it—or to the God-dreams that swelled my heart when I was a young, sold-out Jesus lover. My life was different now. Normal, not dream-worthy. Then God interrupted my new normal. He made it undeniably clear that His plans for me were different. Bigger. God's intentions were for freedom—the freedom of His people, the women who were captives, *slaves* to their life-wounds. God called me to face the pains of my past so that my Girlfriends in God might face a future of freedom when they hear my testimony. His plans of emancipation required that I obey Him, listen to His voice, follow His instructions, and trust Him. I quivered and doubted. I made excuses about why I couldn't do it. I felt completely unfit and unqualified for such a task. It was risky. But God met me at my doubts. He called me to courage and is using my broken-into-beautiful story as an instrument of deliverance, truth, power, and freedom. Yes, I make mistakes along the way, but God is powerful in, through, and in spite of each one. Through each surrendered day, God is leading as only He can. With power, with purpose, with love. And I pray right now that this story—my story—will bring you to a new place of promise and freedom through the grace of Jesus Christ.

What fresh and fiery mission is God calling you to trust Him with, friend? Let me encourage you to stop with the excuses. I'm living proof that God will free anyone from her shame and can use anyone for His purpose. Step up to the burning bush—into God's presence. Listen to His voice. Obey. Follow. Take courage. Trust Him with your past and with your tomorrows. Allow His grace and love to decide what your mission should look like.

*But I have raised you up for this very purpose, that I might show you my power and that my name might be proclaimed in all the earth.*

(Exodus 9:16)

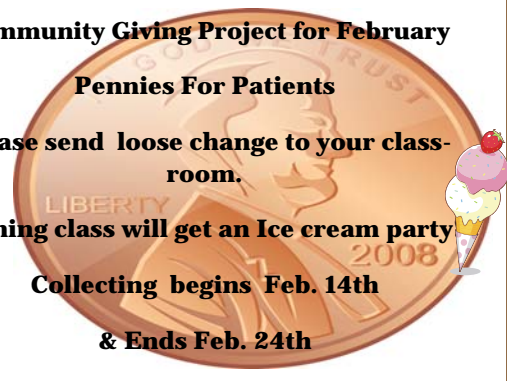


**A Big Thank You from the S.P.C.A...**


**All of your donations will be put to good use!!!**



**Community Giving Project for February**  
**Pennies For Patients**  
 Please send loose change to your classroom.  
 Winning class will get an Ice cream party  
 Collecting begins Feb. 14th  
 & Ends Feb. 24th





**CCS Chapel**  
 Friday, February 10th  
 In the Multipurpose Room  
 @ 8:45 A.M.



**NEED PRAYER?**  
 Please fill out a prayer request & put it in the blue box on the counter in the office—and we will pray!



**CCS Wish list**  
 Kleenex  
 Candy for Carnival  
 Small prizes for Carnival

# NEWS

# COUNTRY CHRISTIAN

CCS Web Address: [www .cc-school .net](http://www.cc-school.net)



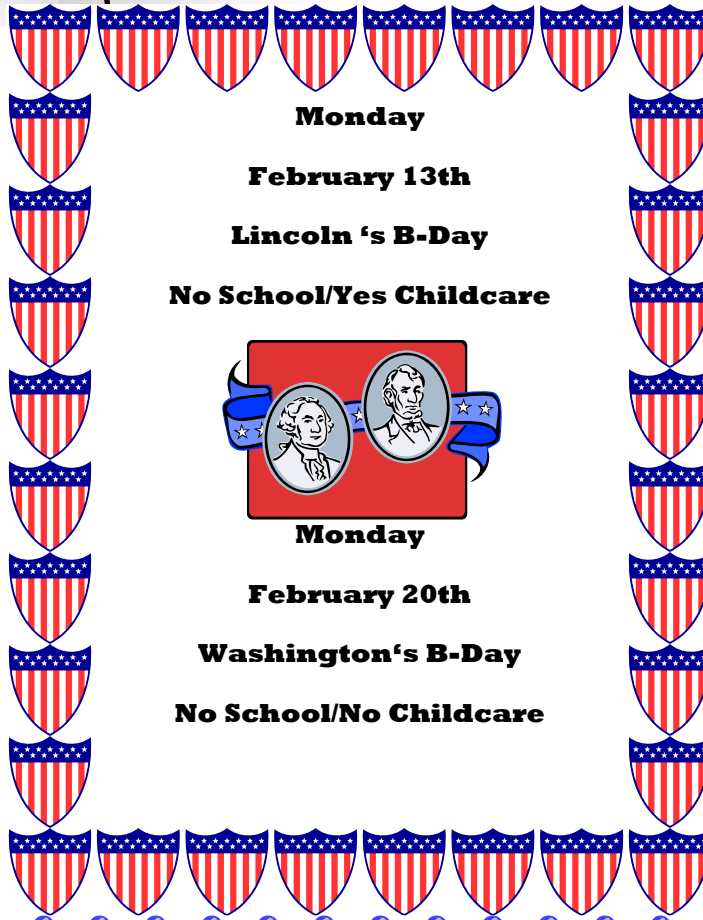
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## Birthdays



- Elijah Blackwell
- Emma Fabbri
- BrookLynn Hobbs
- Mason Luna
- Ethan Saiki
- Brayden Scoggins
- Caleb Vallejo



**Monday**

**February 13th**

**Lincoln 's B-Day**

**No School/Yes Childcare**



**Monday**

**February 20th**

**Washington's B-Day**

**No School/No Childcare**

## The "Great Commission"

The parable of the talents.

It is our desire at Country Christian School for the children to acknowledge the Bible and through its scriptures. . . . . practice and apply it to today.

In our same tradition for Mission's Day each child is to bring a dollar to school so that they can purchase and make things to sell on Mission's Day Friday, Feb 3rd.

The purpose of this project is two fold; first it is to show the children how their money can multiply, as in the parable Luke 19:12-24, and second the money that is earned is given away to a mission based organization, which in Matthew 28:18-20 Jesus commands us to fulfill. Please bring your **\$1.00 on Thursday, January 26th.** so that the classes can start their projects on Friday, February 3rd the classes will sell their wares.

Matthew 28: 18-20

Luke 19:12-24

## February Dates:

**February 3rd**  
Missions Day

**February 10th**  
Chapel  
8:45 @ CCS in multi-purpose room

**February 13th.**  
Lincoln's Day  
No School/yes Childcare

**February 20th**  
Washington's Day  
No School/ No Childcare

