

Dear friends,

I just finished giving a tour to a prospective family. Tours are fun because you get to go into every room and observe a little slice of everyone's day. I love to hear the reflections from the visitors afterwards. Today, our guest commented on how friendly and welcoming she found HCA. Her son knew one of the kindergarteners and upon our arrival I asked Tommy if he would like to welcome his friend. Without any hesitation Tommy jumped up from his chair, flung open his arms and said in a clear, slow voice, "Welcome to Holden Christian Academy!". Our guest commented on how family-like and connected everyone seemed to be and that everyone seemed to want to be here.

Very little blesses me more than happy, engaged, enthusiastic people who want to be here and appreciate the gift of being able to attend. Thank you Lord! We love to please our children and make tremendous sacrifices at times to do so. God loves to please His children as well. Jesus said, ***11 If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him!*** Matthew 7:11

Let me tell you about a gift I never received. When I was little, my neighbors had a virtual kid heaven in their basement. They even had a wooden kitchen set like they have in kindergartens! I loved to play in that kitchen and dreamed of having my own set. There was just one problem. For some reason I never asked for one. I think I may have thought it was so cool my parents couldn't afford one, or perhaps I was embarrassed to ask for such a huge gift. A few years ago I told my mom about my desire for a kitchen set as a child. She was amazed and said, "Why on earth didn't you ask for one? Your grandfather would have bought you one in a heartbeat." I missed out as a child because I didn't ask.

This morning I was reading John 14. Jesus tells us to **ask** four times between John 14:13 and John 15:16. Why does he repeat himself so often in one discussion? I believe it's the same reason my grandfather would have bought me the kitchen set. HE LOVES TO GIVE GOOD THINGS TO HIS CHILDREN! He wants to delight us because He loves us! As long as we pray according to His will, He will answer.

My prayer this morning was for God to show me what He wants to give me, my family, HCA, and my church so that I may **ask** boldly in faith. I don't want to miss the blessing because I never asked again! This Christmas as paper is flying off gifts and hearts are delighted, let's all remember how much MORE God loves us and wants to delight us. Let's receive all that our loving father wants to pour out on us, for us and through us this year. He has already given the greatest gift of all, Jesus Christ, God with us! I pray you all have a delightful Christmas and receive all that God is giving you this season!

I Him who loves to delight His children,

Susan Hayward, Principal

