

Mistaken Identity

By Merold Stern

How vividly I recall being roused out of the deepest possible sleep as a young father by a piercing shriek coming from our daughter's bedroom. Scarcely aware of where I was I "swam" through the darkness, fighting off the tenacious tentacles of Morpheus to reach her bedside.

Suddenly I was wide awake, for she was not there! Thoroughly alarmed I groped among the bedclothes. Nothing! A sound of scrabbling off to my right grabbed my attention. Our daughter's box of toys stood there and I moved over to it and found her in the box, still asleep, frantically searching through her toys.

In a tone of amazement, not without relief, I exclaimed, "Honey, what in the world are you looking for?" "I want Daddy," she replied. "Well, I'm HERE," I said, and scooped her up in my arms. Or tried to! Still asleep she fought me off, imagining me to be some fearsome obstacle to the fulfillment of her quest. It was a minute or two before she became sufficiently oriented to realize that I WAS the object of her search and not her enemy.

I carried her back to our bed and she was quickly off to sleep again in the crook of my arm. But I lay awake for a long time, thinking. How often had I searched desperately for my Heavenly Father, but in the wrong places? How many "toys" had I rummaged through in search of Him? And when I had called out to Him in desperation and He had approached me, how often had I re-

sisted Him, imagining Him to be an unwelcome obstacle in my quest? How often had I been the stubborn enemy of my own peace?

Jesus, grieving over the beloved City sat on the grassy slopes above it and mused, "How often would I have gathered your children as a hen gathers her chickens, and you would not!"

Thoughts followed thickly as I pondered the remark of a friend who as a young child in a foreign country had been in a boarding school separated by a great distance from her parents. Years later her mother asked her whether in those early years she had missed her. The daughter replied, "I used to wander around the playground, wanting something. I know, now, that it was you I was wanting."

Exactly! I was grateful that God had said to His ancient people, "You will seek for Me and find Me when you seek for Me with all your heart." He IS our Home.

- Pastor Merold Stern



Merold Stern

Rev. Merold Stern is pastor of Christ Chapel on Graham Road in the Village of Lansing.

CU Egyptian Grad Student Teaches Secrets of the Pyramids to Lansing Sixth Graders

By Cathy Moseley

Students in Mr. Denison's sixth grade advanced math class teamed up with Mohamed Ali, a member of the Cornell Graduate Outreach Project. Mohamed's mini-course, "Be A Pharaoh, Build A Pyramid" was awarded to Lansing after enrichment teacher Cathy Moseley applied for mini-courses offered through the Cornell Graduate Outreach Project.

Mohamed's home of Cairo, Egypt and his background seemed to naturally tie with the sixth grade social studies curriculum of ancient civilizations. His degree and graduate study in Civil Engineering introduced these young students to how they will use math in their world.

Mohamed prepared topics including the essentials of Egypt and engineering, friction, earthquakes, fracture, stress and energy. The students are anxiously awaiting their field trip to Cornell's Winter lab. They'll build a multi-level structure and determine which story will be 'soft' (collapse) when placed on a shake table which stimulates earthquakes. Students will also visit Mohamed's research area at Hollister Hall, the small scale lab, the Theory Center and the Johnson Museum of Art.

Students responded to Mohamed's topics with views of their own:

Nathan Creed-Delaney: Mohamed had us look up fractals on the Web. We discovered that fractals are irregular patterns which

can get smaller and smaller without there ever being an end. Fractals are the closest thing we have related to life, because they are so irregularly shaped.

Eric Henne: We learned about pyramids and how we think they were made. Though some people believe aliens built them, scientists have evidence that individual pyramids took about 20 years to construct. There was a sphinx in one pyramid and at noon on the day of the summer solstice the sun would shine through a hole in the pyramid and the light was exactly where the sphinx's eye normally would be.

Brett Hotchkiss: Dynamics? Mohamed showed us that with dynamics you must have a structure that is balanced in mass to make it continue to stand. He talked of the seven Wonders of the World and introduced us to the Lighthouse of Alexandria that had a practical use. He also taught us that if you build mass up in one place at the top, the building is more likely to wobble and fall.

Nick LiVigne: Mohamed showed us a movie on the construction of the St. Louis Arch. How did they build it? First they made the sides of stainless steel in separate parts. they then put them together with very strong cables. They built up on the two sides and met in the middle in 1964.

Luke Johnson: Mohamed taught us about the effects of earthquakes on structures. Do you know what a soft story is? A soft story is where one story collapses and the floor above it comes down on top of it. Mohamed showed us a video from Japanese television on the effects of the earthquake in Kobe, Japan.

Owen Hunter: We learned about many kinds of engineers and what their jobs entail. Mohamed taught us about architects, who instruct how to lay out buildings and decide where buildings should be placed. Computer engineers set up the flow of information in computers. Others, such as structural, civil, environmental and electrical engineers focus on making sure the building will stand and is environmentally safe.

What a fabulous partnership Cornell offers to the academic community. Thanks, Mohamed, for your inspiration.

Socially Responsible Investing Seminar

A free financial planning seminar addressing the special needs of those who want to apply socially responsible criteria to their investment choices will be held on Thursday, June 5 at 7:00pm at the Triphammer Lodge and Conference Center on Sheraton Drive in the Village of Lansing.

The seminar will be presented by Smith Barner. Pre-registration is requested. Call Julie or Claire at 273-1190/

Drive Alive at 55

A "55 Alive" defensive driving course will be offered on Wednesday June 4 and Thursday June 5 from 10am-2:30pm at All Saints Church.

Sponsored by the Lansing Older Adults Program (LOAP), the program will be instructed by Norm Wheeler. Upon completion of the course, an insurance policy deduction may be available.

Drivers aged 50 or older may register by calling All Saints Church at 533-7344.

Groton Alumni Change Meeting To June 12

The Groton School Alumni Association meeting has been changed to June 12. It will take place at the Groton Central High School library at 7:00 pm.

All interested Alumni are invited to attend. For more information or suggestions, Please call Meredith Wells at 753-9290.

HELP WANTED

Please help us find pleasant accommodations for visiting grandparents for about 2 weeks beginning about mid-July. It should be within about 8-10 minutes of South Lansing.

We'll be pleased to pat a reasonable rent. Ideas? Leads? Proposals?

533-7963

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