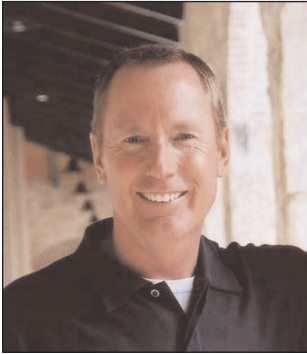

Heart Thoughts

DECEMBER 2011

VOL. 17, NO. 4

“Mary’s Prayer” by Max Lucado



GOD. O infant-God. Heaven’s fairest child. Conceived by the union of divine grace with our disgrace. Sleep well. Sleep well. Bask in the coolness of this night bright with diamonds. Sleep well, for the heat of anger simmers nearby. Enjoy the silence of the crib, for the noise of confusion rumbles in your future. Savor the sweet safety of my arms, for a day is soon coming when I cannot protect you.

Rest well, tiny hands. For though you belong to a king, you will touch no satin, own no gold. You will grasp no pen, guide no brush. No, your tiny hands are reserved for works more precious: to touch a leper’s open wound, to wipe a widow’s weary tear, to claw the ground of Gethsemane. Your hands, so tiny—clutched tonight in an infant’s fist. They aren’t destined to hold a scepter nor wave from a palace balcony. They are reserved instead for a Roman spike that will staple them to a Roman cross.

Sleep deeply, tiny eyes. Sleep while you can. For soon the blurriness will clear and you will see the mess we have made of your world. You will see our nakedness, for we cannot hide. You will see our selfishness, for we cannot give. You will see our pain, for we cannot heal. O eyes that will see hell’s darkest pit and witness her ugly prince...sleep, please sleep; sleep while you can.

Lie still, tiny mouth. Lie still, mouth from which eternity will speak. Tiny tongue that will soon summon the dead, that will define grace, that will silence our foolishness. Rosebud lips—upon which ride a starborn kiss of forgiveness to those who believe you, and of death to those who deny you—lie still.

And tiny feet cupped in the palm of my hand, rest. For many difficult steps lie ahead for you. Do you taste the dust of the trails you will travel? Do you feel the cold seawater upon which you will walk? Do you wrench at the invasion of the nail you will bear? Do you fear the steep descent down the spiral staircase into Satan’s domain? Rest, tiny feet. Rest today so that tomorrow you might walk with power. Rest. For millions will follow in your steps.

And little heart...holy heart...pumping the blood of life through the universe: How many times will we break you? You’ll be torn by the thorns of our accusations. You’ll be ravaged by the cancer of our sin. You’ll be crushed under the weight of your own sorrow. And you’ll be pierced by the spear of our rejection. Yet in that piercing, in that ultimate ripping of muscle and membrane, in that final rush of blood and water, you will find rest. Your hands will be freed, your eyes will see justice, your lips will smile, and your feet will carry you home. And there you’ll rest again this time in the embrace of your Father.

With the crazy schedules and many “to-do” lists during this month, AFTH wants to take a moment and tell each of you how much we appreciate you and your children. We know there are many dance studios from which you could choose, but we are grateful that each of you are part of our great AFTH family and allow us to be part of your weekly routine.

From all of us at AFTH, we wish you a wonderful Holiday Season and Blessed New Year!
*Miss Jennifer, Mr. Nick, Miss Noelle, Miss Alexandra, Miss Bonnie, Miss Tabatha,
Miss Amanda, Miss Nicole, Mr. Sammy & Mr. Angel*



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Isabela Daszewska-Smith, Tayden Jacks, Catherine Glasgow
Natalie Childers, Madeline Ballinger, Mackenzie Tacey
Ashley Badman, Tamara Ellison, Caroline Hanes
Morgan Evans, Lilly Ann BrooksHope Badman
Jamison Pavlik

DO WE HAVE YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS?

AFTH strives to provide you with as much information and advance notice as possible. AFTH is known for its attention to detail and our communication with our families.

The great majority of our communication will be via email and through our web site, so please be sure that we have your current email address. When you register, we place your email address in our "email blast" list so you will automatically receive newsletters, reminders and updates.

TUITION REMINDER

Your dance season has been divided into equal monthly payments as an affordable option for paying your dance tuition. As such, your monthly tuition is due in full in order to fulfill your financial obligation to AFTH. Tuition is based on a full dance term and is divided into equal monthly payments for your convenience. This includes the months of December and May. ALL TUITION IS PAYABLE IN ADVANCE AND IS DUE BY THE FIRST CLASS OF EACH MONTH. If paying by auto credit card or PayPal, your tuition will automatically be processed on approximately the 24th of the preceding month. **If a tuition payment is not received by the first class of the month, a \$15 LATE FEE IS INCURRED.** All unpaid late fees will be added to your costume balance at the end of the season. There are no refunds for registration fees, missed lessons, costume payments, recital tickets and some retail cannot be returned.

AFTH accepts checks and all major credit cards. Credit card charge forms can be found in the studio lobby. Online payments are also available via our web site at www.afth-dance.com.

Recital Costume Balance Statements On The Way!

Recital Costume Balance STATEMENTS have been mailed to all of you. Recital costume balances are not due until January 2, 2012; HOWEVER, in order to secure some great pricing, special deals and ensure we have the costumes in time for Picture Week & Recital, AFTH has already paid our manufacturers in full for your child's costume(s).

We would greatly appreciate any of you who could pay your recital costume balance upon receipt of your statement. This payment will assist us with our budgeting as we approach the end of the year. We have a variety of payment options:

- Pay by check! Please mail your payment to: AFTH, 5200 Fieldview Court, Orlando, FL 32819 or drop it in the tuition box in the main studio lobby.
- Pay online via PayPal. Go to our website at www.afth-dance.com, click on the payment button on the main page and make a one-time payment. Please reference it as Recital Costume Balances.
- Pay via credit card. Complete the credit card form (*mailed with your statement*) and mail to our office at AFTH, 5200 Fieldview Court, Orlando, FL 32819, or fax it to 321-251-5334. If you are on auto pay by credit card and you authorized Recital Costume to be auto-charged, your card will be charged in January 2012. **However, if possible, please sign your statement when you receive it authorizing AFTH to bill your credit card upon receipt for Recital Costume Balances.** If you are on auto pay with paypal, be reminded that is for tuition only. You will need to make a separate paypal payment for the amount shown on your statement. Go to our website at www.afthdance.com and click on the Payment button on the main page and make a one-time payment. Please reference it as Recital Costume Balances.

LATE FEES!

Tuition is due on the first class of every month and a \$15 late fee will be applied to all unpaid accounts. Late fees will be incurred on the 10th of each month. Please be sure to contact the office before the 10th if you have not made your payment or a late fee will be applied.

Important Information!

Christmas Performances

Please be sure to review the detailed Christmas Performance Info (posted in the studio lobby, mailed to you in November and online on our website). Mark any applicable dates on your calendar. All of our classes have worked very hard in preparation for their Christmas Performances.

We appreciate your making it a priority in your busy schedule. Just a few things to highlight:

1. Remember, the times and dates have been scheduled to accommodate the facility and their residents. Thank you in advance for your flexibility and willingness to alter your regular routine.
2. Advise your child's teacher immediately if you cannot be part of the scheduled Christmas Performance so they can re-block the dance.
3. Take notice of any special parking instructions and what to bring (1 to 2 homemade cards, gift, etc.).
4. Remember, Christmas Performances are done to provide an opportunity for our students to use their talents to minister to people at a time when many of them feel lost, forgotten or lonely.

Christmas Giving Opportunity!

Each year Art from the Heart holds two very special Christmas performance events. One at Edgewood Children's Ranch and the other at Grandma's House in Orlando.

As part of the Edgewood Children's Ranch outreach, we provide \$10 gift cards from Wal-Mart or Target for each child who lives there. In addition, we give \$50 gift cards to the house leaders. We are asking for everyone's help (even if you are not performing at Edgewood) with these donations. You can drop your donated gift card or check designated for this project in the Tuition Box in the main studio lobby or mail it to our office at: 5200 Fieldview Court, Orlando, FL 32819.

As part of the Grandma's House outreach, we provide new, unopened toys for the special needs residents of this facility. Even if you are not scheduled to perform here, please consider providing a non gender specific toy that is appropriate for a 5- to 10-year-old age range that provides sensory stimulation. Light up toys, toys that make sound or play music, or a toy that provides tactical stimulation are all good choices. Please place your present in a gift bag, rather than wrapped. **PLEASE, NO STUFFED ANIMALS!** You can drop off your toy donation in a designated bin in the main studio lobby.

These are very important events to AFTH and we hope that everyone will be able to participate! Without each of you, we will not be able to bless these young people at a time when they are forgotten the most. Please prayerfully consider how the Lord would have you help make the holidays a little more special for these children.

Christmas Break

AFTH Studio & Office Closed

The AFTH Studio & Office will be closed
December 10, 2010 through January 2, 2012

Regular Class Schedule & Office hours
will resume beginning
Monday, January 2, 2012

*Please Be Sure to Bring
Your Account Current
Prior to
Christmas Break*

We would appreciate everyone taking a moment to be sure that their account is current and paid through December 2011 prior to the Christmas Break. AFTH has financial obligations to its staff, and vendors, etc. We cannot meet our financial obligations to others if you do not fulfill your financial obligation to AFTH. We count on your ON-TIME payment which has been factored into our monthly budget. If you are unsure of your account status, please call us at 407-612-6554 or email us at afth@cfl.rr.com. THANK YOU!

Enjoy The Holy Land Experience!

Our very own Nick Kroger is one of the talented cast members at The Holy Land Experience.

You can enjoy him, along with some of the most talented singers and actors performing in the Central Florida area!

Also, AFTH is pleased to announce, that Jennifer Kroger was contracted by TBN / The Holy Land Experience to choreograph several of the Holiday shows for the 2011 Holiday Season. AFTH's Company Forte will be the featured dancers at several of the shows throughout the park, so make plans to spend a day at The Holy Land Experience.

www.holylandexperience.com

* A LOOK AHEAD *

DECEMBER 2011

- Various Christmas performances
December 1st-18th, 2011

Christmas Performance Schedule now online!

- Studio closed for Christmas & New Year's
December 10, 2011 - January 2, 2012

JANUARY 2012

- Studio re-opens Monday, January 2, 2012
- Recital costume balances due January 2, 2012
(*Statements mailed December 2011*)
- Student Evaluation Week January 23-27, 2012

FEBRUARY 2012

- Begin recital dances

MARCH 2012

- AFTH picture week (Date TBD)

APRIL 2012

- \$10 per student recital fee due April 1st
- Studio closed April 6th-7th, 2012 for
Good Friday / Easter

MAY 2012

- Last day of regular studio classes - May 10th
- Recital Dress Rehearsal - May 11th or 12th
(*Tentatively / Location: TBD*)
Call times will be mailed to you in April 2012
 - AFTH Recital - May 12th or 13th
(*Tentatively / Location: TBD*)
1pm & 5pm performances
The Cast List of which show you are in
(*or if you are in both shows*),
call times and details
will be mailed to you in April 2012

****Dates & Information are subject to change.
If such changes occur, we will do our best
to inform you of those changes.***

MAKE-UP LESSONS!

Make-up lessons are available and must be taken within 2 weeks of absence or are forfeited. A student may make up a class in a level equal to or 1 level higher than their normal class. No make-up classes are available after the beginning of March 2010 due to recital rehearsals / classes. No payment adjustments for missed classes.

WITHDRAWING FROM CLASS

AFTH must be given a written notice 30 days prior to a student withdrawing from a class. Tuition must be paid in full until the 30-day notice is completed and fulfilled.

AFTH STAFF:

Jennifer Kroger, Noelle Romanacce,
Alexandra Kroger, Bonnie Bryant,
Tabatha Britton, Amanda Gracey,
Nicole Finley, Sammy Andrade &
Angel Jaime

AFTH OFFICE HOURS:

Monday-Friday: 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Phone: 407-612-6565
Fax: 321-251-5334
Email: afth@cfl.rr.com
Website: www.afthdance.com

As we are in and out of the office all day,
we recommend you either email us or leave a
voice message if you are unable to reach us.
This will allow us to return your call more quickly!