
Heart Thoughts

OCTOBER 2011

VOL. 16, NO. 2

From Miss Jennifer...



It seems as if everywhere we turn these days we are bombarded with messages, images and stories that point out the negative and the flaws in one another's lives. The news continually draws our attention to the fact that this world is full of sin. Even election campaigns do their best to highlight the faults, failures and negative aspects of the other party. The best of us falls victim to a critical spirit or jumping to conclusions. With all of this comes the risk of hurt feelings, insecurities, and even resentment.

I believe that we, as Christians, need to be continually aware of what we say, what we do, and how we come across. We are supposed to be reflections of Jesus. Don't get me wrong, we will mess up. But even in our messing up, we have the opportunity to be a reflection of Jesus in how we determine to handle that action and the effect it might have on those we love. Forgiveness is a complicated, yet essential part of how God created us. We must be able to forgive, as well as receive forgiveness.

I recently read the following article by Sheila Walsh. I hope it blesses you and causes you to think.

— Miss Jennifer

“PRAYER CHANGES THINGS”

by Sheila Walsh



If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you (John 15:7).

“Prayer changes things.” That was the badge I wore on my jacket as a sixteen-year-old. I then viewed prayer as some type of external influence; we could align our hearts with God's heart, and pray toward a change in a circumstance or person. **But over the last few years I have discovered that what is most changed by prayer is the one who is praying.** I see that prayer changes me. I can't stay the same when I pray. If I feel anger or resentment toward someone, I can't pray for that person and still hold on to the intensity of my emotion. Presenting a person or situation to God changes how I view it. I start with one stance, but as I spend time with God looking at the situation, I find that the world shifts a little. I'm given new perspective on what I see.

For two years I have had a hard time forgiving a friend who walked away from me when I really needed him. I couldn't understand why he was so distant and cold. I found it hard to pray for him; every time I tried to pray my feelings got in the way; I wanted him to know how much he had hurt me. I wanted him to hurt as he had hurt me. Yet I knew this was wrong, and my unforgiving spirit was affecting my life. And I kept thinking of the verse, “Anyone who claims to be in the light but hates his brother is still in the darkness” (1 John 2:9).

I felt stuck. My friend had no desire to be reconciled to me or to talk to me about the distance between us. I couldn't seem to throw off this “stone” that was dragging me down. So I began to seriously pray for him. I forgave him, not because I felt any forgiveness, but because Christ has forgiven me. I prayed that God would bless him and bring him closer to Christ every day. I prayed this for months. At times I would think I was making real progress, and then his name would be mentioned, maybe someone telling me that he had said something negative about me, and all the old feelings would come rushing back. But I would stop, grab hold of my heart, and pray for him again.

Over time I realized that God was changing my heart. I began to see this person as more than just the cause of hurt. I could remember his gifts and good qualities. He became a whole person in my mind again rather than just the perpetrator of one act. I still don't know if and when I will be reconciled with my friend, but I know that I am not the same person who began to pray for him two years ago.

Without the call to discipline, I would have given up a long time ago. I would have seen our estrangement as his problem and attempted to move on in my life. But how can I remain in Christ and hate my brother? How can I expect God to hear and answer my prayers if I hold on to such a cold place in my heart? When I started to pray for him, my motive was that God would change him. That was my whole intent. As I continued in prayer with discipline as a dear and trusted friend, I saw that it is God's heart to change me.

If you feel stuck bring your whole self to Christ, not just the problem, but you. Ask God to change your heart. Commit yourself to pray to that end. It's God's heart to give good gifts to his children.



OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

Natalie Werba / Kelli Dodson
Hope McKinney / Laura Fernandez

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. If you’ve not been receiving these, take a moment to ensure that we have your current email address.

BELLA’S BOUTIQUE

AFTH prefers that all retail orders be placed via our online store, **BELLA’S BOUTIQUE**. Here, you can create an account that will make ordering easy and convenient. You are even notified when your order is on its way to you. The link to **BELLA’S BOUTIQUE** is found on our website (www.afth-dance.com).

All retail orders are shipped to you once the AFTH office has received your order and payment. We typically place orders once a week. Once ordered, retail is generally shipped to AFTH and on its way to you in about 7 to 10 days.

Students must purchase the required dance uniform items from BELLA’S BOUTIQUE to ensure consistency and uniformity of dress during class, and for special performances. Be sure to place your order now to insure receipt in time for the Christmas performances!

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.

LATE FEES!

Tuition is due on the first class of every month and beginning in October a \$15 late fee will be applied to all unpaid accounts. Late fees will be incurred on the 7th of each month. Please be sure to contact the office before the 7th if you have not made your payment or a late fee will be applied.

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.

CLASS SIZE POLICY

AFTH requires a minimum of 6 students in a class for it to remain on the schedule. Classes are evaluated at the end of September and classes lacking students will be given alternative options for a new class. You will be contacted either by your teacher or the AFTH office should there be a need to adjust your class. AFTH works hard to make sure that no classes will be cancelled, and try to fill classes with low on enrollment!

Important Information!

Recital Costume Deposit(s) Past Due!

A \$40 per student / per class Recital costume deposit was due September 1, 2011. AFTH requires this deposit as we have already begun ordering costumes to ensure they are created, processed and shipped to us in time for our March Picture Week & May Recital. In addition, early orders allow us to obtain great prices which everyone appreciates when they get their Recital Costume Balance statement in November!

There are only 5 or 6 major costume companies, and all of the thousands of dance studios across the country are making their orders with this handful of dance costume companies. This is the reason orders need to be placed early. AFTH includes all classes in the annual recital. This is important to our curriculum and to our students!

A \$15 late fee (per student, per month that their deposit is late) will be applied to any unpaid costume deposits. In addition, you run the risk of being left off of our order and the distinct possibility of not being able to participate in Recital.

Switching Classes

As of October 2011 we began ordering costumes for our recital in May! Because of this, we ask that there be no further class switching unless specifically advised by the AFTH office or your teacher. We appreciate your cooperation!



Christmas is Coming!

Beginning in October, all AFTH classes will begin working on Christmas dances! During December, each class will have at least one performance at a nursing, or children's home to share the love of Jesus during the holiday season.

Please make it a priority to be at all of your classes on time! Everyone will be working hard to be ready for their performance(s).

A schedule will be sent out next month with the dates and times of each performance!

Students must purchase the required dance uniform items from BELLA'S BOUTIQUE to ensure consistency and uniformity of dress for these special performances. Be sure to place your order now to insure timely receipt!

Retail Exchanges

If you have retail or uniform items that need to be exchanged please do the following:

1. Bring unworn retail items in their packaging to the AFTH studio main lobby. There you will find a Retail Exchange Bin. Place the item(s) to be exchanged in the bin, along with a short note indicating why they are being exchanged and what you need ordered to replace them.
2. AFTH collects these items on a daily basis and brings them to our office for processing.
3. Once the new retail items are in, you will receive an email notification advising you of this.
4. Your retail items can then be picked up in the white cabinet located in the main studio lobby. Each package will have a name on it so that you are sure to receive your specific items.
5. Please be advised the exchange process takes between 7-14 days.

Book An AFTH Company!

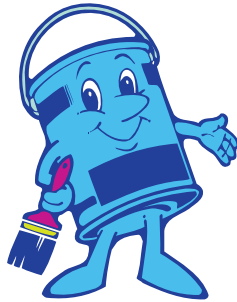
AFTH is currently confirming Performance bookings for their student companies. If your school, or church would be interested in bringing the AFTH Performing Companies to their event, please contact the AFTH Office at 407-612-6565, or email afth@cfl.rr.com.



Christmas Performance Venues

Each year AFTH takes the opportunity to bring our dancers to local children's / nursing homes to help spread the message of the season to people who are many times forgotten. This is a wonderful outreach opportunity for our dancers to utilize their gifts.

Through the years AFTH has developed a wonderful relationship with many of the area nursing homes and children's homes. However, we are always open to new places / opportunities. If you know of a wonderful facility that might be blessed by our visit at Christmastime, please call our office at: 407-612-6565, or email us at afth@cfl.rr.com, with the information. We will try to include them.



HELP KEEP THE STUDIO CLEAN

As you can see, AFTH took the time and money to spruce up the AFTH Studio(s). We ask that each of you do your part to help us keep the studio clean and running efficiently. As such, do your part by:

- Picking up any trash
- Keeping young children from driving trucks and cars into the wall and base boards
- Picking up after yourselves
- Putting chairs back when finished
- Treating the studio like a friend's home

AFTH has some wonderful people who will clean on a regular basis, but we need each of you to do your part to keep the studio(s) looking great!

— AFTH STAFF—

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

—AFTH OFFICE HOURS —

Monday-Friday: 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.
Phone: 407-612-6565 / Fax: 321-251-5334
Email: afth@cfl.rr.com / Web site: 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!

* A LOOK AHEAD *

OCTOBER 2011

- Recital Costume Deposits are past due
- Begin working on Christmas Dances
- Christmas Performance details out to everyone by the end of the month

NOVEMBER 2011

- Studio closed November 24th-25th for Thanksgiving Holiday

DECEMBER 2011

- Various Christmas performances December 1st-18th
Look for a schedule coming soon!
- 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 will be mailed in December 2011.)
- Student Evaluation Week January 23-27, 2012

FEBRUARY 2012

- Begin Recital dances

MARCH 2012

- AFTH picture week (Date TBD)

APRIL 2012

- Recital fee due Thursday, April 1st \$10 per student
- Studio closed April 6-7, 2012 for Good Friday and Easter

MAY 2012

- Last day of regular classes - May 10, 2012
- Recital Dress Rehearsal tentatively May 11th, 2012 (Location - TBD)
Call times will be mailed to you in April 2012
- AFTH Recital tentatively May 12th, 2012 (Location - TBD)
1:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. performance cast lists (which show you are in—or 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.*