



Faith  
Mission  
Home

HIGHLIGHTS NEWSLETTER | MARCH-APRIL 2025



*Milon Johannes*

## MEET OUR STUDENTS

Milon won't be the first of our ten cottage girls to enthusiastically welcome you to the bakeshop, but she's never far behind. As a reserved people person, she loves making connections and conversation, but she is very careful not to do anything that would be considered "scandalous" or immature.

It doesn't take long to learn that Milon doesn't take the world at face value. Every subject, every story, every idea contains a well, and she will dig far below surface level to find that well. Coupled with her love of well-digging is her tendency to think in pictures. Giving Milon a mental picture always makes her smile and usually helps a concept click.

I once asked Milon when she thought God created people of her color. She thought for several minutes, characteristically scratching her forehead, and then said, "They came from Moses because he married an Ethiopian woman." And during a difficult time when one of her church friends was on their deathbed, and Milon was frustrated why her friend didn't just die, she was finally satisfied when she uncovered the answer. "God's still getting her mansion ready," she explained to me with a smirk.

Milon's deep, introspective nature intimidated me when I first came to Faith Mission Home. To help Milon is to mentor, and I wasn't sure if I was qualified for the challenge. But walking with Milon through something that is bothering her has become one of the most rewarding aspects of my term.

The future often scares Milon. Sometimes, I find her in her room trying to figure things out, attempting to coordinate details by assumption, or worrying about the logistics of an upcoming event. I used to get frustrated. But I can't anymore. Countless times, I have found myself in MY room trying to help God plan out my future instead of simply trusting it in His hands. I'm learning that the level of trust we desperately want the students to put in us with the details and logistics of their lives is only a fraction of the trust that God, in turn, deeply wants us to put in Him.

Milon and I like to picture a bookshelf in the throne room of God; an immense one stretching from wall to wall, top to bottom. The titles of each book are names; names of all of His children. God Himself is the Author, and He is writing all the stories.

If I choose to let the Creator of the entire universe write my story, can it be anything less than beautiful?

Sonya Hobbs | Cottage Teacher | Mt. Crawford, VA

# EVENTS



**SEVEN LAWS OF THE TEACHER  
INSPIRATIONAL SERIES**  
Jan 13-16



**STAFF TRAINING**  
Jan 30-31



**FORMER STAFF WEEKEND**  
Feb 7-9



**STAFF APPRECIATION SUPPER**  
Feb 21



**WOOD GRILL BUFFET DAY**  
Feb 27



**FAREWELLS**  
Jan 24 | Lelan Ehst, Melisa Yeager  
Feb 14 | Tirza Kurtz  
Feb 28 | Vesta Overholt, Hannah Wengerd

## GROUP SPOTLIGHT



**E-BOYS WITH KYLEN FUNK**

**WILLIAM PIERCE. RAYLAN KEMPF. CHRISTOPHER SARAHAN**

## FAREWELL THOUGHTS



What does service look like to you? A sacrifice? A joy? It rather felt like a sacrifice to me, when it meant laying aside my agenda to come to Faith Mission Home. But I made a valuable discovery, and that is this: when motivated from a heart of love and compassion, service becomes a joy. I've found this to be so valid. So true. It wasn't revealed to me instantly but was acquired slowly over a course of time, through a series of experiences. As God worked through a variety of challenging circumstances to strip away pride and selfishness, I could clearly see what is essential to godly service. "God is more interested in who we are than what we do."

My time here has been extremely instrumental in stretching, shaping, and influencing me in incredible ways. I'll be forever grateful for this provided opportunity which has stimulated growth and development in my heart, and my life as a result.

I count it an honor and a privilege to have had a share in the work that God is accomplishing at Faith Mission Home.

*Jenna Landis | Healthcare Supervisor | Shinnston, WV*

"IN THE BEGINNING,  
GOD CREATED FRENCH TOAST."  
-TOM ABRAMS

## STUDENT QUOTE



# CLASSROOM B

Welcome to Classroom B, or B-School as it is better known. A little happy place in the basement of Faith Mission Home, B-School is one of our five one-on-one classrooms. I have 12 students that come to me throughout the day for 30 minute classes. My classes all start out with a cheerful, "Good morning," after which we sing at least one song and pray.

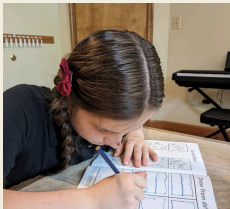
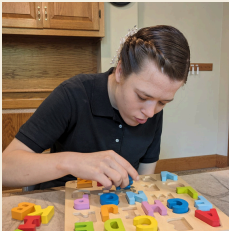
I wish so much you could pop into my class and watch Lialana nearly shake with excitement when I sing "You are My Sunshine." I wish you could talk to Christopher about food and watch him get all fired up about nachos and cookies, or sing "Well Done" to George and watch him light up.

What are some of the purposes of B-School? Like all of our one-on-one classrooms, B-School is made for just that, giving the students good quality one-on-one time. Although our childcare workers give the students excellent care, these one-on-one classrooms are special places where the students can get the full attention of the staff for half an hour before stepping back into their busy schedules. Another purpose of B-School is to help develop the academic, motor, and social skills that help them feel accomplished. That looks different for each of my students. Tina knows her math facts and loves science and history. Janae is learning to tie a square knot and play simple songs on the piano. Jolan is always memorizing Bible passages, although he can already quote many verses. Sophia works hard at speaking clearly or on letter flashcards. Belinda often reads numbers written on beanbags and throws them into a basket. Jeffrey is just starting to string together sounds and I have confidence that some day we will be able to hold a conversation.

In my 11 months in the B-School classroom, I have learned so, so much. I have learned how to better communicate and even hold a conversation with someone who can't use words to express what they're thinking. I've learned about showing love, patience, and kindness, even when I don't feel like it. I think one of the biggest things I've learned is how weak I am. I couldn't help in the amazing work of Faith Mission Home on my own strength. B-School has taught me so much about looking to God for my inspiration, courage, strength, and love to pour out on my students.

As I come to the end of my time in B-School and look back over my term, I feel incredibly grateful to be a part of this work in the hills of Virginia. Continue to pray for the work of Faith Mission Home.

Britney Plett | Classroom B | Richland, PA



# WOODGRILL BUFFET DAY



VISIT OUR  
ETSY STORE



# FAITH MISSION HOME

3540 Mission Home Lane, Free Union, VA 22940

Electronic Service Requested

NONPROFIT  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
CHARLOTTESVILLE,  
VA  
PERMIT NO. 386

## NEW STAFF PROFILES



*Brooklyn Seibel*  
CAMBRIDGE SPRINGS, PA  
05.08.03  
DARVIN & JOANNA



*Steven Kurtz*  
ADAMS, NY  
04.27.00  
(ENOS) & LUCY



*Naomi Moore*  
QUAKER CITY, OH  
03.09.98  
GEORGE & LAURA



*Maria Sensenig*  
SHIPPENSBURG, PA  
02.15.01  
LAMAR & CAROL



*Ethan Miller*  
OSWEGO, KS  
07.09.04  
RONALD & BRENDA

Summer vacation is planned for June 21st-July 5th, 2025. This is a time when many, but not all, of our students get to go home to see their families. If you would like to host one or several students in your home for part or all of summer vacation, we'd love to hear from you. Thank you for considering this opportunity!

-Training Office (for Home Students):  
(434)-985-2294

-Conrad Hege (for Cottage Boys):  
(434)-985-3986

-Emily Beiler (for Cottage Girls):  
(434)-985-7177