



**From My Heart to Yours...** Kathy Tweeten, Administrator

“Renew a steadfast spirit within me...” ~ Psalm 51:10

Aahh..... summer vacation is here. Webster's Dictionary defines *vacation* as “a period of rest and freedom from work, study, etc.; a time of recreation.”

To rest and rejuvenate oneself is not only a good idea, but also Scriptural. There are many times in the Word that men and women are told by the Lord to renew their spirits and refresh their souls. That is my prayer for you and your family this summer.

However, I would challenge you that there are a couple of things from which you should not take a break.

*Your Walk with God.* Summer is a wonderful time to challenge your walk in new and creative ways. Go on a mission's trip, keep attending church ~ no matter where you are, get involved in a summer ministry like Vacation Bible School or volunteer at a local area ministry ~ perhaps one that CHA supported during the school year. And plan to keep an extended quiet time with a special time set aside to seek the Lord for yourself and your family. Evelyn Christenson in her book, What Happens When God Answers Prayer, talks about seeking the Lord for specific guidance and direction through her annual “birthday prayer”. “I always wait on the Lord for His specific birthday prayer for me for the coming year...” (pg. 59). If you have not yet begun a practice like this, why not start this summer seeking the Lord for His specific “summer prayer” for you and your family?

*Learning.* In the summer, learning may look different than in a classroom ~ but it still should be taking place. Traveling is a wonderful way to expand one's horizons. Summer jobs teach responsibility and good work habits. Reading develops your vocabulary and imagination. Playing outside makes for healthy bodies and an appreciation of God's grand and intricate design in nature. Taking a class in something you have never tried may just reveal a hidden talent. Reviewing school skills in newly learned or not-quite mastered skills can make the difference in your child's future success. All skills get rusty if you don't use them, and just 10 minutes a day spent reviewing *will* make a difference. And reviewing can be fun when done together in a game format or as a flashcard challenge. It can also be done while traveling using easy to take along educational games like Wrap-Ups or Math Shark.