

# Grace to You

## Holy Day Holidays

By Wes Clemmer

Hallelujah! The “good ole summertime” days are upon us. Good because of things like strawberries, picnics, swimming, no heating bills, and most of all — vacations.

Everyone is certainly entitled to a break from the daily grind. “All work and no play make Jack a dull boy.” We typically cram our summer escapes with the right mix of travel, basking in the sun, visits with friends, and theme park marathons. Our culture labels these yearly blurbs of refreshment as vacations. Europeans refer to them as a holiday.

Long before the need for time off from our twenty-first century rat race, ancient world God-followers enjoyed holidays — special days set apart for enjoyable festivity, feasting and fellowship. God appointed them as holy days. These breaks in the action were prescribed to refresh weary souls and redirect wandering affections back to the true focus and fulfillment of Life.

God’s restoration purpose for prescribed holy day observances is seen most clearly in His Sabbath command. In it, we are instructed to intentionally set ourselves apart from our business and busyness to refocus on God’s person and purposes. In this act of refocusing, His gifts of rest and peace are most naturally restored within our spirit. It is in true spiritual renewal that we are also thoroughly set free to be revived physically and emotionally.

Years ago, while our children were still at home, I called a family council to discuss our summer vacation plans. A bit apprehensively, I shared my somewhat radical inspiration. “Instead of doing our usual vacation of mileage marathons, tourist-trap hopping or entertainment attractions, here’s my proposal. Let’s find a secluded cabin in the mountains a few hours away and truly ‘vacate’ ourselves.” I knew my wife might go for my idea of stepping away from the ongoing whirlwind of society-based activity, but what about the kids?

Well, we did it. We made our exodus to a friend’s cabin accompanied with books, games, food, swimming and hiking gear...minus a schedule, phone, traffic, TV, computer, and the buzz of society noise. We spotted lots of deer, hiked, went swimming in a mountain lake, read to our hearts content, played games, loved on one another, talked with God, savored His creation beauty, and nurtured our souls.

It was exhilarating! Truly rested, I was “chaffing at the bit” to get back to work. Years later, when we as a family were recalling and voting on our favorite summer holiday, the winner was unanimous — the one at the cabin when we truly vacationed.

In planning our 2008 vacations, are we merely aiming to experience an escape that will relieve boredom and tensions? Or will we give purposeful consideration to planning a holiday that includes Holy day activities with the potential to genuinely revitalize both outer and inner man? Rabbi Sidney Greenburg in his book *Adding Life To Our Years* pro

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## Some thoughts about my heritage . . .

By Patti Hutton

There are several families in this area that have a special relationship with my husband and I; we have gone through the stages of life at the same time. We moved here a few weeks after we were married. We had our children in diapers together, teenagers on wheels, the tearful college separation, our 25<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversaries, and now the stage of dealing with aging parents. The year spanning 2006-2007 brought the death of three of our four parents. I remember times we were all wishing the other stages away and now we wonder what the next one will bring.

One of the advantages of age is the ability to look back and analyze, conceptualize, and appreciate what has passed behind you. The hope is not to have a memory full of regrets, which I feel blessed, for that is not the case. However, I watched my parents deal with a past they could not seem to escape. The fact is that their past is also mine to a certain degree. They had no idea how to separate their present lives from their memories of the past, or they felt it was too painful to do so. Before we were married, both of my parents accepted the Lord and were sure of that commitment until the day they died, but what does one do when your past still haunts you . . .

It is possible to face your past and receive healing. If someone has a relationship with God they should be aware that they have a resource that is not available to those who are not believers. The concept that my parents did not understand was the fact that God's desire is for us to accept all he has given us through his Spirit. The Spirit's role as healer and comforter has been put within us when we accept the Lord. In the Old Testament we see the promise of the coming healer. In the New Testament we find the indwelling of that promised Spirit.

Peter, a man whose personality did not easily accept concepts, came to realize this wealth of resources. God planted the attributes of his Spirit in us from the very beginning of our walk with him. II Peter 1:3-4 states, *"His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence, by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire."* (ESV) God's Spirit within us gives us all the resources that we need for *"life and godliness"* and is immediately available. We must daily practice the presence of the Holy Spirit (*partakers of the divine nature*) which is where those inner resources are tapped.

The scripture says we are made in His image (Genesis 1:27). I believe we realize that is not His physical image since He is Spirit. However, we are made like Him in many other ways; including our emotional make-up. We are His relational and emotional reflection, among other attributes. If this is a part of His character which we inherited by His Spirit, then His desire is that we achieve healing (*called to His glory and excellence*). We may receive the healing that comes through His Spirit within us. If this is true, then what stops us from receiving healing?

The barricade that stops the healing of our emotional well-being is usually of our own making, skillfully crafted by a sneaky serpent. Our inner dilemma tells us opening up the past will be too painful. No one would deny that pain is a part of the healing process. Those who have let God heal their past will tell you it is not the way of barricades, but of pure freedom. We often know in our mind that the way God has prepared for us is healthy and full of blessing. I had a godly uncle whose prayers are also a part of my heritage. I believe much of what I am today is the product of his many, and loving, prayers. The enemy persuades us to keep those barricades in place. Where do you desire to stay? Do you want to be behind the barricade or in front of the blessing? Don't forget, your history will also be your children's heritage.

**"Then the time came when the risk it took to remain tight in a bud was more painful than the risk it took to blossom." (Anais Nin)**

In loving memory of my parents who are spending this Mother's and Father's Day in heaven. Thank you Uncle Dee for following God's call, you helped changed our heritage through your prayers.

(continued from page 1)

**Holy Day Holidays (continued)**

vides helpful perspective in describing the typical differences between holidays and holy days. I invite you to consider his insights as you plan your vacation this summer.

**On holidays we run away from duties**

**On holy days we face up to them**

**On holidays we let ourselves go**

**On holy days we bring ourselves under control**

**On holidays we try to empty our minds**

**On holy days we attempt to replenish our spirits**

**On holidays we reach out for things we want**

**On holy days we reach up for things we need**

**One brings change of scene**

**The other brings change of heart**

**One pampers our selves**

**The other nourishes and challenges our souls**

**The Many Names of Christ**

To the ARTIST, He is the One Altogether Lovely.

To the ARCHITECT, He is the Chief Corner Stone.

To the BAKER, He is the Living Bread.

To the BANKER, He is the Hidden Treasure.

To the BIOLOGIST, He is the Life.

To the BUILDER, He is the Sure Foundation.

To the CARPENTER, He is the Door.

To the DOCTOR, He is the Great Physician.

To the EDUCATOR, He is the Great Teacher.

To the ENGINEER, He is the New and Living Way.

To the FLORIST, He is the Rose of Sharon and the Lily of the Valley.

To the GEOLOGIST, He is the Rock of Ages.

To the HORTICULTURIST, He is the True Vine.

To the JUDGE, He is the Righteous Judge, Judge of All Men.

To the JEWELER, He is the Pearl of Great Price.

To the LAWYER, He is the Counselor, the Lawgiver, the Advocate.

To the NEWSPAPER, He is the Good Tidings of Great Joy.

To the OCULIST, He is the Light of the Eyes.

To the PHILANTHROPIST, He is the Unspeakable Gift.

To the PHILOSOPHER, He is the Wisdom of God.

To the PREACHER, He is the Word of God.

To the SCULPTOR, He is the Living Stone.

To the SERVANT, He is the Good Master.

To the STATESMAN, He is the Desire of All Nations.

To the STUDENT, He is the Incarnate Truth.

To the THEOLOGIAN, He is the Author and Finisher of our Faith.

To the TOILER, He is the Giver of Rest.

To the SINNER, He is the Lamb of God that taketh away the sins of the World.

To the CHRISTIAN, He is the Son of the Living God, the Savior, the Redeemer and the Lord.

To me...He is all of this and more, He is my everything, my all in all.

What is He to you?

-- Author Unknown

# "I AM Loved by God"

By Barbara Mannino

I want everyone to repeat after me, I am loved by God. Please say it again but louder this time. I AM LOVED BY GOD! If we can get this deep in our "knower" there is nothing that we cannot accomplish for God. We will literally become super Christians. We will shatter the forces of darkness with this mighty battle cry, "I am loved by God!" The legendary super hero, Superman, was reputed to have been faster and more powerful than a bullet and a locomotive. He was said to be able to leap tall buildings with a single bound. It was also said that he had x-ray vision. Listen to me carefully my beloved readers. He had absolutely nothing on us as super Christians. Read what the Word of God says about us in 11 Samuel 22: 29&30; "For you are my lamp, O Lord; The Lord shall enlighten my darkness. For by You I can run against a troop; By my God I can leap over a wall." Pretty powerful words, aren't they? They will have power in our lives when we can believe with all of our hearts that we are loved by God.

God made each and everyone of us different. We have different looks, different personalities, and different ways of expressing ourselves. There is one way we are not different. He gave each and everyone of us the ability to believe. First of all, the ability to believe that He alone is the One, True God. He is Creator of all. Secondly, He gave us the ability to believe in ourselves. We are one of the wonders of His Hands. He fashioned us out of His great love. To love and to be loved. We have all heard it said that God doesn't make mistakes so, let's not make the mistake of not believing who we are in Christ. We are the accepted in the Beloved. He is the Lover of our souls and He wants us loving Him, loving ourselves and loving each other. At the risk of sounding like the character, "Repeat Smith," I am going to repeat myself over and over. Here goes. I am loved by God. I am loved by God. I am loved by God. Now, say it louder, "I am Loved by God!"

We have all come up against things in our lives that have

hurt us deeply. For over a year now, someone I used to call friend, has spoken things that are exaggerated, have been taken out of context, or have been outright lies. I have tried to keep it before the Lord in prayer. I have had times of success, but, I have also had times when I have failed in doing this. Those have been dangerous times. The enemy wants to be the winner. I cannot afford to let him be successful. He's the thief and I must choose to keep him from stealing. He's anti-love. I must keep remembering that I am loved by God. This stops the thief dead in his tracks. I speak the truth of God's love with greater force nowadays. I will not be stopped because I am loved by God and my God has a plan for me. He has a divine plan that He laid out for me before He ever gave me breath. I have been crying out for what I call my "apportioned portion." Love will stop the thief. God will have His divine way. I am committed body, soul, and spirit. Lock, stock and barrel. I am loved by God and I "know" this. That's how I can say to all of you that no one will ever love you the way God loves you. I can say it because I believe it. We must trust God and believe in this great love.

I will finish with scripture and a song. Let's go back to 11 Samuel verse 31 and read as follows; *"As for God, His way is perfect; the Word of God is proven; He is a shield to all who trust in Him."* Let's believe in God's love and stop the thief by really believing that we are loved by God. The more we repeat it the deeper it will penetrate into our "knower" and, then, become so firmly entrenched, it will be impossible for the thief to steal it. And now the song: "The love of God is greater far than tongue or pen could ever tell. It goes beyond the highest star and reaches to the lowest hell. Could we with ink the oceans fill or were the skies of parchment made. Were every stalk on earth a quill and every man a scribe by trade. To write the love of God above would drain the oceans dry. Nor could the scroll contain the whole, though stretched from sky to sky. O, love of God, how rich, how pure, how measureless and strong. It shall forever more endure the saints and angels song."

Remember, nobody loves you the way God loves you, and I love you, too!

## June Nursery Schedule

**Sundays:**

**Lewistown**

**June 1** — Glee & Alexei Pavlova & Kelsey Johnson  
**June 8** — Leisle Kauffman, Candace Rager  
**June 15** — Nikki Scyoc, Jenny Hartzler  
**June 22** — Maralee Seeley, Christen Amspacker, Nakita Rager  
**June 29**— Julie Smith, Mary Ann Fultz, Jenny Smith

**Wednesdays:**

**June 4** — Melody Bratton, Jackie Alters  
**June 11** — Genia Mathews, George Camp  
**June 18**— Anneliese Smith, Jen Neavling  
**June 25** — Cyndi Neff & Carrie Baumgardner  
*Contact Angie Kerstetter to serve in the nursery: 717-667-6864*

**Sundays:**

**Mount Union**

**June 1** — Patti Hutton & Krissy White  
**June 8** — Jennifer Walker & Beth Drake  
**June 15**— Pat Gilsbaugh & Helper  
**June 22** — Autumn Woodward & Helper  
**June 29**—Autumn Woodward & Helper

**Wednesdays:**

**June 4** — Patti Hutton & Danielle Neff  
**June 11** — Jean Speck  
**June 18** — Lisa Harris & Carol Henry  
**June 25** — Sue May & Diane McCallister  
*Contact Jane Neff to serve in the nursery: 814-542-2488*

# AT HOME

By Denise Sheffield

I travel to State College to work every day and often listen to the contemporary Christian radio station. There is a song about the prodigal son by John Waller called **Still Calls Me Son**. I have a great imagination and can literally visualize the story unfolding as I listen to the words. I can picture the father standing on the hill over looking the valley in anticipation of seeing his son walking down the road. In thinking about the story I have come to realize that the father did not know when the son would come home. That means that, daily, the father would have to leave his home, walk to the entrance of his property, and wait until the prodigal son decided to come home. Did the father not have responsibilities at home to take care of? Who was minding the store? You know the story. The Father greets the prodigal son with grace and love. He gives him a fine robe and throws a huge party to celebrate the return of his son. The son at home becomes angered and even a little jealous at the fact that he was never given a party and the father gives him this word, "Son you are always with me, and everything I have is yours." It has dawned on me, that the father

trusted the son "at home" so much that he left his possessions under this sons care. Church are you feeling a little overwhelmed with the task the father has given you? I know I do. As I look ahead at what needs done in the "kingdom" or "the Father's place," I sometimes get a little jealous at the fact that I'm working really hard but would just like to party with Dad every now and again. But doesn't the father not only invite, but plead with the one at home to come join in on the celebration. It was the at home son's choice not to participate. The Father trusts you enough to leave the Kingdom Work in your hands. His faith in your ability is so great that He has provided all the resources necessary to do every task. He loves you enough to plead with you to take a break and join in on the celebration of your siblings returning home. The choice I guess is ours. Do we sit outside on the veranda miffed at the fact that our task is great, and we are just too tired? Or do we take the Father up on His offer, and join Him for a little R and R? I want to take Dad up on His offer. I am in awe, thinking that He trusts me enough to allow me to keep things running while He's gone. I am encouraged in know-

ing that I can rely on the Father to provide all the best tools available so the farm runs smoothly and the crop is abundant. But in thinking about it, I should also be at peace in knowing that the farm work is not mine alone, for the church is full of "at home sons". So let's join the Father in the celebration so the work just gets sweeter and sweeter.

There are those of you who may have a prodigal, and like our heavenly Father, daily wait in anticipation for them to come back home to Christ. I want to encourage you to continue your prayers and pleadings to Him. The word is full of promises and one of the spiritual mothers of our church here in Mt. Union gave me this. Ezekiel 34: 12 and 16A. *As the shepherd looks after his scattered flock when he is with them, so will I look after my sheep. I will rescue them from all places where they were scattered on a day of clouds and darkness. I will search for the lost and bring back the strays...* So press on with your task of prayer for soon you will be joining in on the celebration of their return home.

## June Calendar

- **Saturdays:** Prayer, 8-9:30 am (LE & MU)
- **Sundays: Morning Worship,** 10:00 (LE & MU)
- **Wednesdays:** 7:00 Bible Study/Youth Group (LE&MU)
- **Monday, June 2nd & 16th** Men's Group Meeting (MU)
- **Saturday, June 14th** Hand of Grace Full Distrib(LE)
- **Monday, June 9th & 23rd** Women's Meeting (MU)
- **Saturday, June 21st** Hand of Grace (MU)
- **Saturday, June 28th** Hand of Grace, Produce Only (LE)



## The Storms of Life

By Ellen Amspacker

It seems as though all we have been seeing lately these past months are storms, wind storms and rain storms. Huge storms like tornadoes ect., all around us everywhere. It seems like it's never going to stop. But amazingly enough it does, the clouds part, the winds calm, and the sun begins to shine. Thank You JESUS!

It seems to be the same all around us in the spiritual just as in the natural. Some times you think the storm is never going to stop. Maybe it's a personal issue or a family issue or whatever storms are passing through your life. HOLD ON the scripture tells us in Hebrews 10:23. Let us hold firmly to the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who has promised is faithful! AMEN! He always keeps His word. Hold on and don't let go of what you know that He has promised you in His Word and for your situation. God is not a man that He should lie, nor the son of man that He should repent. Has He said and will He not do it? Or has He spoken and not made it good?

Trust Him in your situation. Let not your heart be troubled! Pray His promises for your life and remind God of His

promises to you. Pray them into your situation. Keep a firm grip on the promises that keep us going!

When the storm seems to rage, don't try to walk through the storm alone but reach out for help. You can never make it on your own strength. We need each other and the body of Christ! To bring love, encouragement, kindness, compassion or maybe just a hug! We need to share our faith with one another to strengthen each other in the Lord, as we draw closer to the day when Christ will return. When we don't reach out, we fall, sometimes very hard. Complete devastation may cause us to just give up. That may cause us to fall away from God. Hebrews 3:12-14". See to it brothers, that none of you has a sinful, unbelieving heart that turns away from the living God. But ENCOURAGE one another daily, as long as it is called today, so that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness. We have come to share in Christ if we hold firmly till the end in the confidence we had at first."

Think about the story of Peter walking on water in Matthew 14:28-32. He gets out of the boat, he starts to walk toward Jesus, but when he saw

the wind and the waves, he was afraid and began to sink. He was not focused on Jesus! He was looking at what was happening around him. Can you relate to his situation, in your own storm or circumstance? I can. It can look so big and we can become fearful just like Peter, so that we focus on the problem and not the answer! Imagine if Peter would not have taken his eyes away from Jesus? What if we were to keep our eyes & ears focused on Jesus in the midst of the storm? The waves and storms would seem so small. Believe not in what you see around you, but believe in what you know to be truth, no matter how bad it may look. You may think it can't get any worse but have the perseverance to ride out the storm. Romans 5:3 says, "We know that suffering produces perseverance, perseverance character, and character hope. Hope does not disappoint us because God has poured out His love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit."

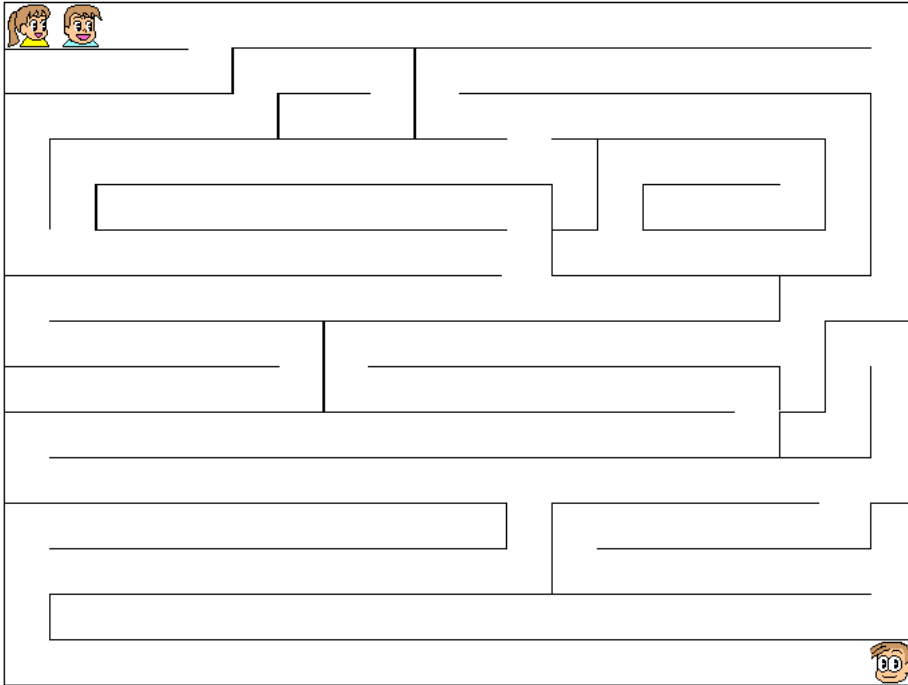
Have faith, trust Him, and keep your eyes on Jesus. The one who calls you is faithful, and He will bring it to pass.

Your Enough: What is your "enough" when it comes to planning for retirement? A booklet from MMA, provided at no cost, can help you determine what is enough for your retirement years. Visit [www.YourEnough.com](http://www.YourEnough.com) to order. While there, view two new videos of Anabaptists facing retirement.

# Kid's Corner

## Summer Fun

Help the kids find their dad and give him a Father's Day hug



H M R M O W C Z M M J G L Z Y H  
 F W L M V I T M H L H C N U A Q  
 R A R I I X M C L D E S I P W R  
 U D P W U H B O A T I N G M H C  
 S E E S A W A T E R S K I A W X  
 W M K R S E S N O R K E L C C K  
 I H V O L L E Y B A L L Y A Q K  
 N C C L I M B G D Y O Y N N V R  
 G T P L D V A C A T I O N O F M  
 Y O M E E R L Q D M G G T E P U  
 C C E R O L L E R B L A D E I H  
 D S K S K A T E B O A R D B C S  
 W P I K D L X B W I M D I S N I  
 D O B A R B E C U E S E V I I F  
 D H C T A W D R I B G N E R C U  
 H I K E P O R P M U J T Y F T T

- |           |             |            |
|-----------|-------------|------------|
| BARBECUE  | FRISBEE     | SLIDE      |
| BASEBALL  | GARDEN      | SNORKEL    |
| BIKE      | HIKE        | SURF       |
| BIRDWATCH | HOPSCOTCH   | SWIM       |
| BOATING   | JUMPROPE    | SWING      |
| CAMP      | PICNIC      | VACATION   |
| CANOE     | ROLLERBLADE | VOLLEYBALL |
| CLIMB     | ROLLERSKATE | WADE       |
| DIVE      | SEESAW      | WATERSKI   |
| FISH      | SKATEBOARD  |            |

## Soccer Crossword

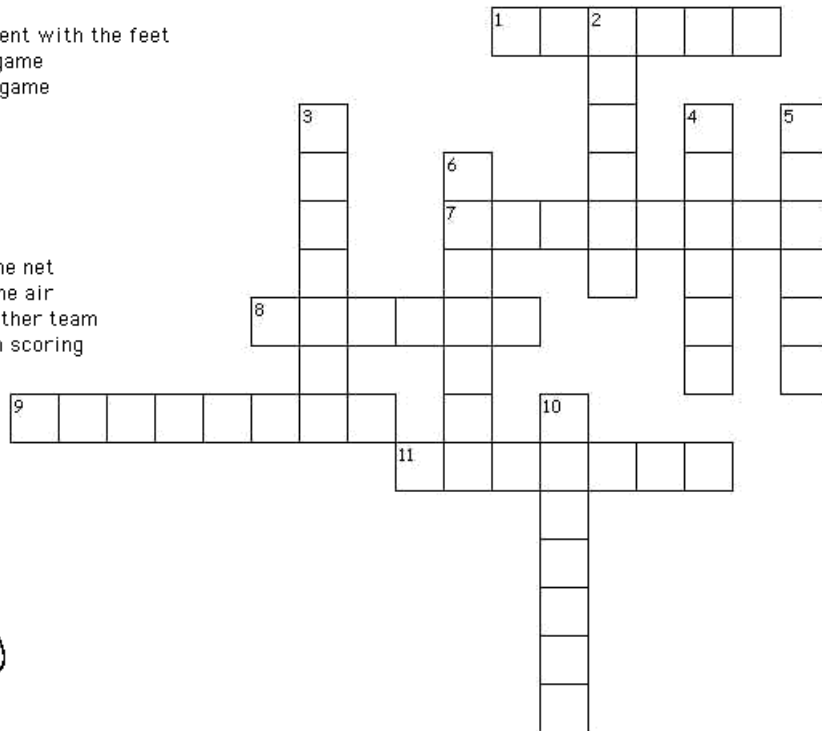
4

Across

1. grab the ball from an opponent with the feet
7. the European name for the game
8. the American name for the game
9. middle of the game
11. calls fouls

Down

2. these dig into the turf
3. wear this for the big game
4. keeps the ball away from the net
5. kick the ball while it's in the air
6. tries to score against the other team
10. keeps the other team from scoring



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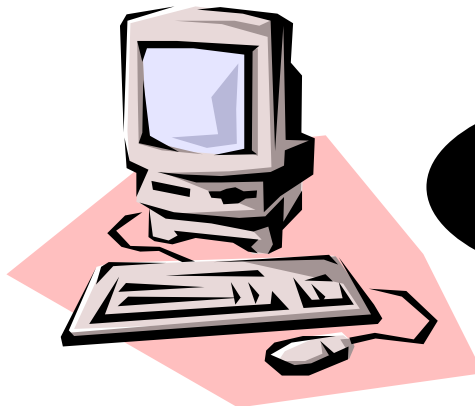
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