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Gladness

Quoting from the book, "The Light We Carry" by Michelle Obama.

"Gladness is nourishing. It is a gift. When someone is happy to see us, we get a little steadier on our feet.....and we carry the feeling forward.

Children show us how instinctive the need for gladness is, all the time."

I was a kindergarten teacher for many years. I remember one particular 5-yr. old girl, she had such a good time - all those wonderful toys, all those other playmates, singing, story time. Wonderful!!

When it was time to go home and they were lined up to go out the door, I was saying goodbye. When it was that little girl's turn she asked me to bend down. As I did she hugged me and planted a kiss on my cheek, the others in line wanted a hug also and those who had already passed ran around to the back of the line to get their hug.

This became a routine for that class as we said goodbye.

One day the vice-principal showed up as we were saying goodbye and watched our routine.

"Do you do this every day?" he asked. "Yes, they started it" I replied. That little girl instinctively knew how to express her "gladness," and she opened the way for all the rest of us.

"Rejoice and be exceeding glad" Matt.5:1

Express your "gladness," trust me it is reciprocal!

Anne Wilton

Editor's note: We thank Anne for this submission and encourage others to submit their thoughts, memories or favorite stories for publication as a Letter of Hope. You can do so by sending these to us at Hyatt.le.rc@gmail.com. Thank you. R&L

*"Our relationship with God and each other strengthens us, and helps make the world a better place.
We welcome and include **everyone** into congregational life."*

