



Monticello Christian Academy


Note From the Principal's Office
~ February 2010 ~

But For the Grace of God, Go I

If you've been following the disaster in Haiti, it is hard to watch the human suffering and carnage and not be moved to action. I even tried to figure out how I could go there for a few weeks and do.....something. Watching the heart-ache and despair I was moved to at least begin a campaign here at school to collect money to send to God's Littlest Angels, a Haitian orphanage with Monticello roots. Amid the pain I feel for our brothers and sisters in Haiti, I was reminded anew of the many blessings I have in my own life, and more specifically, how I owe ALL of that to God.

Have you had any near-death experiences? When I think of all of the times I had "close calls" and came out unscathed, I can't help but recall that many of these occurred between the ages of 12 and 16. God has been good. There's another type of near-death experiences, and those include losing close family and friends. At the risk of having you not come too close to me, here's what's happened since Christmas break. Our family experienced the sudden loss of my brother-in-law Brian's father to brain cancer. Brian's mom had been diagnosed with stage 4 cervical cancer within a month of Brian's dad's diagnosis. On December 21st my Aunt Bonnie was struck and killed in a car accident. December 31st marked the 9th anniversary of my first wife's passing; this includes an annual time of mourning, visiting her grave, and remembering Sheryl's life with her parents. I was grateful that Eli was able to understand a little bit more this year about the significance of her life. This week my brother called to let me know that our dad has prostate cancer. And finally, one of our former MCA students instantly lost his young father to a sudden stroke. It's easy to begin wondering when it will end.

Life is hard. God is good! Where trouble abounds, God's grace abounds all the more. Where problems persist, love conquers. Seeing the pictures and videos coming out of Haiti the past week or so, I find myself really counting my blessings. In times of great loss, we as Christians are called to greater giving, to meet tragedy with compassion, and after we have counted the losses, to also count the blessings. If life is hard for you right now, let me ask a few questions. Do you currently live in a house? Is that house heated? Is there a bed in the house? Does the bed have a blanket on it? Is there a pillow for your head? Is the floor dirt, or covered with soft carpet? Have you eaten this week? Have you eaten today? Do you have enough food to meet your needs? Do you anticipate that you will still be eating something next week? Do you have adequate clothing to stay warm outside? Do you have a means of transportation to get you where you need to go? Do you have just what you need, or more? Are your children safe? Do you have salvation? Do you know the great Comforter? Has your savior promised that he will never leave you?

Life is hard. God is good. All the time. But for the grace of God, go I.

Mr. H