

# Paving The WAY



Vaison-la-Romaine Bridge in France

Bridges built centuries ago by the ancient Romans are still found throughout Europe today. The Vaison-la-Romaine Bridge in France, the Alcántara Bridge in Spain, and the Römerbrücke Bridge in Trier, Germany, are among the many wonderful examples of Roman architecture and engineering that can be studied today. In fact, many of the ancient bridges are still used for vehicular and foot traffic now, in modern times.

BY MR. STEPHEN NOVOTNY, HEAD OF SCHOOL



Remembering the words  
the Lord Jesus himself  
said: "It is more blessed  
to give than to receive."  
Acts 20:35 (NIV)

Those men who built these structures, in a time when chariots were the most advanced and fastest means of transportation, could not have imagined a VW Bug or a Mercedes sedan motoring across their bridge of stone. Even so, I cannot help but think that many of these builders knew that they were building something of great usefulness for years to follow. They knew that their work would outlast their natural life. They knew that they were laboring for something far greater than merely the means to serve their own immediate interests and needs. Indeed, by the quality of work that has stood the test of time, they had to have known they were paving the way for generations to come.

Today, when I see children playing on the elementary playground, students receiving instruction in a classroom, and young athletes competing on our track and field, I am reminded that all of these wonderful facilities were built by those who have come before. Indeed, those of us at Cypress Christian School today are the happy beneficiaries of the work, investment, and sacrifice of families that came before us. For over three decades, people with great vision and generous hearts built the Cypress Christian School campus into what it is today. By doing so, they literally paved the way for others to benefit from a comprehensive academic program, and a full range of competitive sports, in a school environment centered on biblical values. Those of us who are on campus today deeply appreciate those who came before us and built this school.

While it is a wonderful thing to receive and enjoy a gift, to walk upon a path paved by others who came before, Jesus affirmed the truth that there is something even better. Greater blessings are reserved for those who are able to give a gift and provide for the benefit of others. (See Acts 20:35) In life, all of us will have opportunities to invest in others, in the future, and in things that serve a purpose far greater than meeting our own immediate needs. Such opportunities will be different for each person, just as each person has been given different talents, and might take the form of investing one's time, financial resources, professional work, or personal efforts. (See Matt. 25:14-30) Accordingly, it is quite a foolish thing, if not altogether a wicked thing, to presumptively tell another person what we think they should give, overly influence how they invest their life, or even wonder what God might direct for the stewardship of their life. (See John 21:22) Just as each stone set in a bridge works to support the entire structure that benefits generations of travelers, it is encouraging to know that the smallest gift or investment that we give to help others can be used to pave the way for countless others that come after us.