

SERVANTS OF JESUS CHRIST

“See You at the Pole” Continues Despite Hurricane Ike

Although school was cancelled on September 24, CCS students, parents, faculty, and staff members gathered in front of the school’s flagpole to pray, read Bible verses, and sing during “See You at the Pole.”

Hurricane Ike knocked out power at the school for 13 days—from September 12 through September 24—causing the administration to cancel classes. Students, however, decided that they would meet at the school and pray anyway. “The senior student council members met during the hurricane. One of our topics was ‘See You at the Pole.’ We thought we should do it (meet) ourselves, even though we didn’t have a sponsor,” said senior Catherine Kaliszewski. Students sent chain text messages to others in order to spread the word.

“See You at the Pole” (SYATP) is a student-initiated and student-led movement that began in Texas in 1990 with a single church youth group. Today, more than three million people participate in SYATP. The purpose of SYATP is for students to connect with God, to connect with other believers, and to connect with others on their campuses in the name of Christ.



CCS students, parents, faculty, and staff gather to pray at “See You at the Pole” on September 24.

Investing for Eternity



At the time I am writing this, the presidential election is just a few days away. It is still not clear what the outcome may be. One thing is certain in all the uncertainty; it will be a historic vote that will define the direction of our country for years to come. Ironically, as you are reading this, you now know the outcome of that vote and the shift in direction the country will be taking. I am wondering how I will feel about the outcome. I hope I do not feel any different after the vote than I did prior to the vote – at peace.

That is one of the great gifts we receive as believers in Jesus Christ. It is not a peace as defined by the world (John 14:27), but peace flowing from a belief in a living sovereign God Who was, Who is, and Who will be in control of all things here on Earth. It is not dependent upon who is in elected office, my financial circumstances, or even my physical health, for like Paul, I have learned to find contentment in all my circumstances through Christ who strengthens me (Phil. 4:13).

In the days and months to come, we will have a better sense of the effects of the economic interventions that were implemented by Congress to steady the financial markets. Once again, no matter what those effects might be, we can rest knowing that God remains on His throne.

While it might not be a good time to invest in the stock market, this is an ideal time to invest aggressively in the lives of the people around you. A listening ear, an encouraging word, and a little wise counsel can literally turn a child’s life around or save a family relationship that is on the brink of falling apart.

You do not need to give into fear. You will not be a help to others if you are bound by fear yourself. So where are you placing your trust? How can you demonstrate God’s work in your life in the midst of the turmoil? God promises repeatedly to meet all of your needs (e.g., Matt. 6:25-34; Phil. 4:19). Think often about these promises yourself and share them with others, so that together you can say, “When I am afraid, I will trust in you. In God, whose word I praise, in God I trust; I will not be afraid” (Psalm 56:3-4).

You can be salt and light by intentionally reaching out to those around you. I am certain that you are surrounded by hurting people who are crying out for answers, though they may not be quick to admit it. Notice worried looks and gloomy words. Don’t be brushed aside by a statement like, “Oh, I’m fine.” Imitate Jesus. Gently press in, ask personal questions, listen patiently, buy lunch, show you care. As people open up, draw them out slowly, avoid simplistic answers, share honestly and openly of your own struggles, search together for wise choices and changes, and pray for those in need.

So no matter what the economy does in the days ahead, your investment in the relationships around you can change others’ lives forever. There is no stock on Wall Street that can deliver such a generous, secure, and eternally compounding return.

Luke 2:14 states: “Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace, goodwill toward men!”

“Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord.” **Psalm 33:12**