

THE Path OF LIFE

Mr. Robert White
Elementary School Principal



By Mr. Robert White

IN THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST LIES MT. RAINIER NATIONAL PARK. WITHIN THIS NATIONAL PARK, VISITORS ENJOY SOME OF THE MOST BEAUTIFUL SCENERY IN THE WORLD! The park is filled with spectacular waterfalls, old growth fir trees, and vistas that allow one to see for miles. I grew up in the Pacific Northwest, and I have hiked and backpacked for miles on its beautiful trails. A particular favorite of mine is the Wonderland Trail which allows the hiker to completely circle the mountain. When the hiker stays on the trail he arrives at beautiful destinations. However, if he wanders from the trail, he can quickly get into much trouble. There are thousands of hikers like me that appreciate those great explorers who, in years past, fought the elements in order to carve the path, allowing us to enjoy the treasures of that paradise.

As we consider education, we realize that elementary children are at a crucial stage of development in their lives. They are in need of direction as they begin their walk down the path of life. A series of steps down the wrong path can lead to severe consequences. We want to provide a clear path to help ensure their success during their formative years.

Young people today are bombarded with a myriad of messages urging them to travel down a destructive path. Jesus said that "broad is the way that leads to destruction." We note that the road most traveled is not necessarily the one that is most beneficial. The young person who attempts to navigate his way through life depending solely upon his own intellect apart from God's truth will find himself on a path filled with harmful stinging nettles.

Thank God He has given us hope that leads to eternal life! Because the human race is born with a nature that is fallen and corrupted by sin, it is imperative that we receive a new nature transformed by our Creator. At Cypress Christian School, we pave the way for our students to begin their journey on the path of eternal life by presenting to them the wonderful message of salvation through Jesus Christ. It is a delight to hear our teachers in elementary school introducing the students to the path of Christianity, paving the way for a lifelong relationship with God! Statistics demonstrate that a large percentage of those who embrace Christianity do so by their teenage years, and we realize our students' hearts are extremely receptive to the truth of God during elementary school.

Not only do we present our students with the path of salvation, but we also pave the way for them to walk in the way of righteousness. God's Word challenges us to "train up a child in the way that he should go, and when he is old, he will not depart from it." Therefore, we instruct students in the way that is good and right in the sight of God. While this path is not necessarily the easiest or most popular, it leads to true joy and happiness. Jesus has promised to His children the abundant life. I am forever grateful to my parents and others who, during my childhood years, introduced me to the Christian way of living. I have avoided a great deal of heartache and trouble due to those who diligently blazed a trail for me to walk in the ways of God.

It is in this great work that we are engaged on a daily basis. I was so blessed by a recent chapel speaker who challenged our students to view themselves as specially designed by God, and for the students to understand that each gift and talent should be used for His glory both now and for the rest of their lives. Our elementary hallways were



filled with student work displaying heartfelt prayers to our God. We teach our students that it is imperative to turn to God on a daily basis for wisdom and direction.

It is interesting to note that the movement that we call Christianity was first called "the Way" in the book of Acts. I believe this was the first name given to Christianity because it was evident to all those observing them that Christians lived in a manner that was distinctive, and they were following a path, a road, that was guided by God's Word.

Thank you for joining us in paving the way for our young people. There is great satisfaction in knowing our efforts are counting for eternity. Your prayer and support allows us to make an impact not only in the lives of our current CCS students, but also upon the lives of CCS students for years to come.

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