

When Training Takes Over

by Mr. Stephen J. Novotny, J.D., Head of School

The Christian influence in our culture has always promoted the idea that there is great virtue in diligently training, in doing one's job, and in fulfilling one's duty even in difficult circumstances. The Bible clearly instructs us in Colossians 3:23, "Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men."

Recently, our nation has embraced Captain Chesley "Sully" Sullenberger, the captain of U.S. Airways Flight 1549 that crash landed in the Hudson River on January 15, 2009, as a national hero. Captain Sullenberger's rise to national acclaim and prominence is encouraging to observe, and it brings into focus the importance of Cypress Christian School's mission and the training of our young people.

Captain Sullenberger is not being celebrated as a result of things that are outside the average person's experience. His notoriety is not the result of media hype generated by a slick publicist, above average looks, phenomenal wealth, or even popularity with an influential segment of the voting population. Quite to the contrary. This man has gained respect in an area of life to which everyone can relate. He did his job. Period.

In many different media interviews, Captain Sullenberger seems to feel a bit surprised by the extraordinary attention that has been given to him and his crew. He has repeatedly pointed to the fact that he and his crew simply relied on the training they had received and the lessons they had learned from flight safety instruction, and then they did what they were trained to do.

This U.S. Airways pilot took the idea of duty seriously, and he was the kind of man that did his best to perform his duties to the best of his ability. In itself, that doesn't sound exciting. It doesn't sound like the sort of thing that would make national headlines. However, on January 15, 2009, the fulfillment of Captain Sullenberger's ordinary duties was placed against a backdrop of extraordinary circumstances. This "Miracle on the Hudson" allowed the world to see the virtuous nature of a man simply doing his work well. This is clearly highlighting God's design. Before sin ever entered the world, God gave men and women work to do, and this was good. This is the way God made His universe.

At Cypress Christian School, we are committed to providing an education in mathematics, science, language, arts, history, and social sciences. This is the training our students need for the work they will be called to do in their lives. Even more than this, however, we are committed to teaching the Bible to students. It is in God's Word that we find the basis for true virtue, character, and an eternal relationship with God that makes all things meaningful – even the seemingly ordinary things like going to work in the morning.

Welcome to
New Head of School,
Mr. Stephen J. Novotny, J.D.



Mr. Novotny brings a wealth of experience and knowledge and impeccable credentials to his new position at Cypress Christian School. He and his wife Rachel (in parade photo) have two sons who attend the school and believe CCS has a key role in training the next generation of Christian leaders. Mr. Novotny received his Bachelor's of Science from Liberty University and his Juris Doctorate from Baylor University School of Law. He is a former officer of the United States Army. He is a member of both the Texas and Washington State Bars and is admitted and qualified to practice before the United States Supreme Court. Most recently, Mr. Novotny served as Pastor of Discipleship at Houston Northwest Church.



The CONNECTION (Issue 13, 2009-2010) is published bi-annually and designed as a means of communication to the school families and friends of Cypress Christian School.

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