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Life Under CONSTRUCTION

The early CHRISTIAN CHURCH. The AMERICAN REVOLUTION. The CYPRESS CHRISTIAN SCHOOL CAMPUS.

While seemingly unrelated, each has a story to tell about life under construction. Let me explain...

The apostle Paul was undeniably one of the greatest missionaries of all time. However, after his conversion experience on the road to Damascus, the community of Christ-followers still distrusted, disliked and feared him. Fortunately, a respected leader in the Christian community, Barnabas, became Paul's friend – vouching for him, helping him to become established, and working and traveling with Paul as a partner in the gospel. Sadly, Barnabas and Paul later parted ways after a bitter argument created an irreconcilable difference between them (see Acts 15:39). In the midst of the primary expansion of Christendom, there was disillusionment, discord and dispersion among its leaders.

Victory and independence became a reality for the 13 colonies in North America following the American Revolutionary War. Free from England's rule, continental leaders created and ratified the Articles of Confederation in 1781, a constitutional document providing the legal structure on governing the new American colonies. The Articles were designed to provide unity and coordination over the affairs of the people yet also respected the boundaries, sovereignty and independent power of each of the 13 states. While the intention behind the Articles of Confederation was laudatory, the actual outcome was pathetic. It has been said that Alexander Hamilton himself lamented that the Articles were fit for neither war nor peace. In short, the government of the young republic was in a state of disrepair almost immediately after its founding.

Fast forward to present day. The scene outside my office window used to reflect a neatly kept expanse of green grass surrounding a well-kept softball infield that was bordered by straight, neat rows of parking spaces. That scene of beauty and order is now gone. Instead, the view from my

window is that of torn-up fields, mud pits, piles of construction debris, and tire tracks and tractor ruts that crisscross a scarred landscape that is in disarray.

When I reflect on all these things, I see a common pattern. The division and dispersion of the leaders of the early Christian church facilitated the spread of the gospel message throughout the world. The disaster of the Articles of Confederation gave rise to the remarkably effective United States Constitution that is still the supreme law of the land today. And the demolition of a certain area of our campus is indeed necessary to lay the proper foundation for a new building that is under construction.

Our lives, as well, are under construction. Painful setbacks, disasters, defeats and discouragement will most likely, in hindsight, be recognized as the building blocks of our unique capabilities and character. The apostle Paul put it this way: "... suffering produces endurance, endurance produces character, and character produces hope..." (Romans 5:3-4). Construction is a process, and it often requires unsightly circumstances before the final product is revealed. At Cypress Christian School, our mission continues to be part of the process of building young lives who will model endurance, display strong character and represent the hope of Christ to the world.

