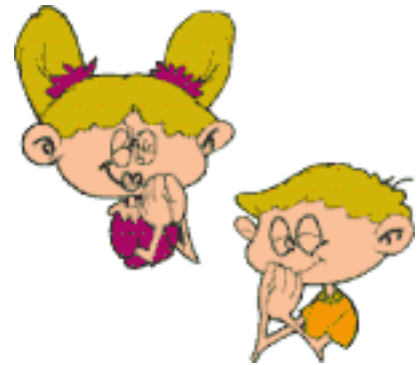


Not Hiding in Our School

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I took a final look at my new classroom. The desks were all in rows with books neatly stacked on each one. The schedule and four classroom rules were neatly on a bulletin board. The sun was shining in the window and it was shaping up to be a wonderful new school year. Here I now sat waiting for the arrival of the last and most important items that were needed to make this year a success. My students. This was my first year at the school here in Saskatoon.



Then I heard it. The rumble of trucks and machinery. I quickly got up and went to my window. There was the city's maintenance crew getting ready to dig up the street in front of our school. The supervisor arrived and informed me of what to expect over the next couple weeks. In addition to the heavy machinery we would be without water and sewer for a few days. I went back to the classroom and sat behind my desk. It was still early and I was able to listen to the early morning news. The biggest news story was the fact that some parents wanted the Lord's Prayer to be taken out of the public school system. It struck me as odd that after all these years they would want to remove the Lord's Prayer. I turned off the radio and then went into my office for another prayer session. I wanted the Lord to be with this school and my students. I prayed also for the issue of the Lord's Prayer that was bringing disagreement within the public education system.

As I was rising from my knees my students began to arrive. As I stood before them at the beginning of this first day of school I got a thought. I had my worship talk for this morning and then took prayer requests which I wrote down on our Prayer Request Bulletin Board. I then ushered my students outside to our flag pole. I had the students stand around the flag pole and join hands. I instructed them that this would be happening every Monday morning during the school year. We then bowed our heads, closed our eyes and gave thanks to our Father for his love, care and for providing a school here in Saskatoon. I had to pray rather loudly to be heard above the noise of the machines. Then we headed into the classroom to begin our work.

The following Monday we were out around the flag pole and the men were still working in the hole in front of our school. We had our prayer and then headed into the classroom. At the end of that day, when I was heading home, one of the crew stopped me. He informed me that he thought I had a lot of strength to do something that was being looked down upon. I didn't have a clue what he was talking about and told him so. He said it was one thing to have the Lord's Prayer repeated in the classroom but it took real commitment to the Lord to bring the entire student body outside in front of the school and have prayer. He continued on by saying that he was glad to see that I was setting an example to my students that they should stand up for what they believe in. He asked me about our school, the program and who could attend. We spoke for over twenty minutes. He thanked me and returned to work.

As I walked away I thanked God that he had given me the idea to do this every Monday rather than just at the beginning of the year. As I rode the bus home that evening, I made notes on the way that I could

encourage my students to share with others about our school and about the love of Jesus. I had to remember that not only was I there to teach the students in their academic classes but also to guide them in being true, faithful Christians who are worthy citizens of this country.

Throughout last year and into this year we have continued our flag pole prayer. We have invited members of the two churches here in Saskatoon to join us when they have a chance. We have made it a matter of prayer for God to show us how we can be of service to Him in Saskatoon.

This year we are planning Random Acts of Kindness Week happening the first week in June. Some ideas we have are to rake yards, pull weeds, deliver cookies, sing at a nursing home (one that is not ours), pick up garbage along some streets in the downtown area, sweep sidewalks and give soup and bread to some of the homeless.

We have chosen not to hide. How about you?