



CENTER PLACE RESTORATION

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School

February 2015



CPRS - A COOPERATIVE EFFORT

When I first began working at CPRS in the fall of 2000, my intention was to give no more than four years to the school before moving into a more lucrative position at another school. I kept to myself that first year and spent nearly sixteen hours a day—like most first-year teachers—holed up in the classroom.

By the time I reached the end of my fourth year of teaching, I knew that leaving CPRS would not be easy. I had come to appreciate the school as a cooperative effort for God's Kingdom. Certainly the church has seen many cooperative efforts come and go over the years—the San, Saints Hall, Liberty Hall, Resthaven—and a few remain to this day in the care of the Community of Christ such as the Auditorium and Graceland University. The Restoration also shares several opportunities to work together in the form of conferences, camping programs, and Storehouse Ministries to name a few.

CPRS, however, is a visible cooperative effort that makes a difference in the lives of the saints on a daily basis. I have witnessed the benefits of this

cooperative effort in four specific ways:

1. *The Word Made Flesh*

Jesus is called the Word Made Flesh because we can “read” the word of God in his actions and interactions with others. Our calling is to live God's word and to also make the word flesh. At CPRS, the ministry of reconciliation is visible in the way students learn to maintain their relationships with each other. Students learn how to be wise stewards with their gifts of intelligence and their unique talents—whether they are in the arts, athletics, or specific areas of study. I stayed beyond my fourth year because I could see the gospel at work on a daily basis.

2. *Teaching the Gospel Conceptually and Experientially*

Alma describes faith as an experiment with God's word (16:151). He describes a process that involves more than simply a conceptual understanding of the gospel—he describes the experience that faith requires in our lives if we are to prove God's promises by action. Growing from grace to grace is marked by more than the oft-referenced testimonies of healing,

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angelic visitations, or other event-based miracles. Growing in grace involves gradual maturation, an enduring trust in God's sovereignty, and an increasing awareness of the Spirit's voice in our heart.

3. *Perpetuating the Gospel Generationally*

This year has been a special one for me personally, in part because of my new responsibilities as School Administrator. More than that, I had to turn over my classroom of fourteen years to a former student of mine from my first year of teaching, our new middle school English teacher, Ms. Jenna Davis. While Ms. Davis is not the first CPRS graduate to work

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February 10th, I went job shadowing with my friend for our 8th grade career class. We job shadowed multiple teachers between 8:25 and 3:15. Then, during our last class, my friend and I had the chance to teach in Miss Davis's classroom. Since my subject was literature, I decided to use music to express the idea that "you are what you listen to"—which I thought was a pretty good topic for 6th graders who are very tired at the end of the day.

As my friend and I entered the classroom, nervousness filled me. I was no good at talking in front of people, so as I entered I was praying, "God, help me to know what to say. Give me peace and the wisdom to help these kids." When I started teaching, immediately I felt calm, relaxed, and very peaceful. I was really thankful to God.

As I was showing a lyric video for the song "Greater" by Mercy Me, I felt led to talk about our worth and purpose in this world. I kept praying, "God, do you really want to do this? If so, help me to show these kids how much you mean to them." After the song, I started sharing with them the personal trials I have been going through. I even started crying—which isn't really like me. Some of the students, I could tell, were crying, which helped me knowing I wasn't crazy for changing the subject and that God wanted me to share my experience.

After I was done sharing, I started telling the students, "You are you. Don't let anyone determine who you are. The only person who will ever have the right to judge is someone who is perfect—and trust me, I

have yet to find someone perfect!" I felt the students were really inspired when I said, "Don't let mistakes determine who you are." After said that, my eyes were opened. Yes, people make mistakes, but they learn from those and push forward to become a stronger and better person. I ended my class with, "God loves you." I felt God by me the whole time.

*Emma Fountain
8th Grade Student*



LED TO CPRS

In May 2014 my husband and I were faced with deciding to place our children in school. I had been homeschooling the children for four years, but my husband needed my help with his consulting business. Homeschooling is not easy and the time requirements are tremendous. Being organized is a must. It is a total sacrifice for the parent who chooses to homeschool. I was struggling with the demands of homeschooling and my husband's growing business. I found I could not do both.

I had been praying for a solution for I was adamantly opposed to public schools. In passing a friend told me about a private school—Center Place Restoration School. I wondered if this was the answer to my prayers. My husband and I met with the administrator to visit the school. The spirit of peace was so strong and I was so thankful, for the Lord may have answered my prayers.

I asked my husband in his capacity as the priesthood holder in our home if he could give me a blessing of comfort, for I felt so bad that I could not continue homeschooling my children. I received such a wonderful blessing of comfort from the Lord, and what stood out for me is that He had "ordained this school for learning." We had decided then and there that we would do our best to get the children in school. Financially, we were not able to do this in September and homeschooling took a backseat to the business. The children suffered terribly and we prayed for help from the Lord that the business would come through.

We made plans that in January no matter what happens the children would go to school at CPRS. In our faith the Lord blessed us with contracts we did not seek out and the business is flourishing. I know that when we trust in the Lord and take our concerns to him that he comes through for us. He has led us to CPRS and we are so thankful.

*Maxine Maloney
Parent*

... he who loveth God love his brother also... | John 4:21

A SCHOOL IN THE LAND OF ZION

My father was in the military during my elementary years. Because I wore very thick “army” glasses and was small and not a fighter, I found myself picked on quite often. Dad had promised Mom that when he retired we would make our home in Independence, MO. As often happens obstacles like finances interfered, but nothing trumps the prayers of a faithful mother. A year later we found ourselves heading from Colorado Springs to Independence with no money and only a garage to live in for the first three months. But I was okay with that because I had this great hope thinking the church would surely have a school like the Catholics did, and that I would be safe from mean classmates. I had high hopes of moving to the Center Place, where surely Zion was under-way.

Well, you can imagine my disappointment when I found out there was no church school and that mean kids live in cities outside of Colorado Springs. The year was 1963, and private schools were not plentiful in Independence at the time. Thankfully, by 9th grade the school bully had become my friend and I no longer was picked on. I focused on my education, forgot about the idea of a church school, and eventually attended Rolla to earn a degree in engineering.

During my masters program, I realized I loved teaching while I served as an instructor for introductory engineering mechanic classes.

Because my students were so successful, the university allowed me to take a teaching-related class as one of my electives for my masters. After graduation, I spent the next twenty years working for the Army Corps of Engineers—and thought very little about teaching.

About my 14th year of working my wife decided to go back to night school and get her masters degree. My thoughts then turned back to teaching, and I also started taking night classes. After six years of night school at Avila and UMKC, I had a teaching certificate in High School Mathematics and was only one course short of teaching physics. Our two boys were now were in 7th and 10th grades and my wife was ready to go back to work on a more full-time basis in nursing—and I was anxious to teach. I quit work and was given a farewell dinner, but I did not have a job. Then Center Place Restoration School announced that they were opening and they would be in need of a math teacher. We discussed the finances, and since Sue was ready to go full time, I applied at CPRS.

I was so excited to have a chance to teach at a restoration school and to give students the opportunity that I was not able to have; that is, to attend school with like-minded people. As it turned out they hired someone who could teach math and coach Basketball. I would wait two and a half years before my dream would come

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CPRS News

The spring semester is a busy time at CPRS! We recently held our annual Geography Bee and will send our winner to the next level of competition. February was Elementary Reading Month, with special activities planned to help our students learn to love reading. On the middle school level, the 8th graders have completed their job shadowing assignment, which offers them the opportunity for a direct look at potential future careers. Both middle schoolers and high school lower classmen are schedule to participate in abstinence-based relationship classes. Students in 1st through 8th grades have just completed this year's ITBS testing, which shows student progress compared to the national averages.

Coming up soon at CPRS are the following activities:

- Pancake Breakfast
Saturday, March 7
8:00-11:00 AM @ Hill Cumorah
Sponsored by the junior class
- Chili Supper
Saturday, March 14
4:30-7:00 PM @ South Crysler
Sponsored by the H/S choir
- Spring Play
Friday & Saturday, April 3 & 4
7:00 PM @ CPRS
- Kindergarten testing 2015-16
April 21 & 22
By appointment only

For more information on these and other upcoming events at CPRS, visit our school website.

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Visit us at
www.cprsgoldeneagles.com



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at her alma mater, her employment represents the perpetuation of the gospel heritage made possible at the school. An increasing number of elementary students are the children of CPRS graduates, further demonstrating the power of the school to perpetuate the message of the cross from one generation to the next.

4. A Crossroads of Latter Day Saints

Finally, CPRS is a unique opportunity for saints from different corners of the church to work together. CPRS facilitates the development of inter-branch relationships while achieving practical and measurable goals for education. While camps, reunions, and conferences allow the saints to meet together for a week at a time,

the school year offers the chance for students and staff to live in a Christian environment that must endure the trials of daily rigor and routine.

My hope is that as the future unfolds, we will see more cooperative efforts in the church, more opportunities for the saints to work together daily in practical and productive ways, and more relationships touched by the grace that accompanies the gospel. May we grow in that grace as we respond collectively to the Call of the Kingdom.

*John D. Larson
School Administrator*

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true—two and a half years that I spent finishing our house. During that time, CPRS saw four math teachers come and go, and in the fall of 1994 I was offered a position in the high school. In the spring semester of 1995, I began my teaching career at CPRS.

The Lord's timing is awesome! I could never have built our house while teaching—the two and half years was exactly what I needed to get far enough on our home to move in. I have had some challenging years, but as time grows so does my joy and fond memories of my experiences at Center Place Restoration School.

*Archie Gatrost
High School Faculty*