



# CENTER PLACE RESTORATION

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# School

November 2014



## NEW LIFE IN JESUS

This year, Center Place Restoration School has twelve new faculty and staff members, and four returning members have taken new stations in the school. Only fifteen—less than half—of the employees are returning to their previous assignments. Two new pastors have joined the pastoral program, and a host of new volunteers are giving their time and talents to our program. As the first new school administrator in sixteen years, I spent the summer anticipating the inevitable changes and the growing pains that would accompany such a pronounced turnover in personnel. 2014-2015 is undeniably a year of rebirth, a year of new beginnings and reinvention, and a year of renewing our vision for CPRS's role in the latter day work.

For some, the vast number of changes creates anxiety while in others it produces a marked sense of excitement. Mixed reactions to the school's overhaul reminded me—as I prayed about the annual theme for this year—that the best new start we could see at CPRS would be a new life in Christ. Of all the changes in procedure, personnel, or policy, not one of them will achieve the high purpose reflected in CPRS's mission statement unless we recognize that true rebirth comes from our Savior. As the Apostle Paul states, "[I]f any man live in Christ, he is a new creature; old things are passed away; behold, all things become new" (2 Corinthians 5:17).

When our high school student council president, Liz Smith, first heard the theme for this year, she dismissed it as an insignificant

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detail with little pertinence for the next year. As she prepared for the Student Council-sponsored kick-off that is always scheduled for the first two days of school, the Spirit of the Lord brought the theme back to her mind again; she felt like the Lord was telling her that there was a very specific reason for the theme this year—as opposed to last year or ten years ago. She felt that He wants us

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# CENTER PLACE RESTORATION SCHOOL

## MY PATH TO A NEW LIFE IN CHRIST

The theme for this school year, "New Life in Christ," has special meaning to me. Just ten years ago, I was baptized into the Restoration church. My path to a new life in Christ has not been an easy one.

I was raised Lutheran and actually attended Messiah Lutheran School as a child. As a teenager, I began questioning some of the doctrines of my church. I went to several churches in my search for God's true church. My fiancé joined me on my search. Then, after he was killed by

a drunk driver in June of 2000, my world was turned upside down.

Several months later, I began dating Pete Bauman. He introduced me to the Restoration church. I had always been taught that the Book of Mormon was bad. After many months in Dayn Cederstrom's Sunday school class, however, my heart began to change. Dayn patiently taught me about the Book of Mormon through my King James Version of the Bible that I insisted he use.

Four years later, after reading all

three books of scripture for myself, I was baptized. I realized that God had led me to His church. I had a peace that I had not felt before.

I had a stronger desire than ever to tell others about God. As a public school teacher, there were so many times when I wanted to tell my students the "good news." Even though I wasn't allowed to tell others about God, I did my best to be a light to the children.

Now that I am at CPRS, I can be more than just a light. I can tell my students where that light comes from and how

*My Path cont'd on page 4*

MY EXPERIENCE AT CPRS



In addition to a few years in early elementary school, I have been attending CPRS since my 7<sup>th</sup> grade year. In middle school I knew I was blessed to be able to attend CPRS, but it didn't occur to me until high school how truly blessed I was. After my freshman year, a lot of my close friends left the school for various plausible reasons. Although I understood

their reasons, I felt alone and saddened. I was left wondering why I was at CPRS and what I loved about it. Was it my friends? Was it the whole experience? Was it a combination of these? Truth is, even though I saw the blessings of attending CPRS, I took it for granted. In this process of reevaluating why I wanted to go to CPRS, I felt as if the Lord pulled the veil from

my eyes, and I saw the school through His eyes, not my own. It didn't come to me as a miraculous vision; it was an ongoing process of seeing all the details He loved about the school, and every person He loved there, too. I saw many opportunities I had been blind to. I saw the teachers and their dedication. I saw the spiritual food provided to us every day. I even saw the potential of where the school could go in the future. But most of all, I developed a love towards the school that was intensely deep. It was, and is, as if a piece of God's heart has been shared with me, and I've never looked at the school in the same way. He didn't show me that the school was perfect, be-

*Experience cont'd on page 3*

*Train up a child in the way he should go... Proverb 22: 6*

*Experience cont'd from page 2*

cause with men this is impossible. What He showed me was that good already existed, and that more good can come through Him. It is my hope that moving forward we can have new life in Christ that rids us of the old flesh and brings us to perfection.

Now I am a senior, and I can honestly say that the thought of leaving this beautiful place saddens me. Although I'm ex-

tremely excited to see what God does in my future, right now in these last moments at CPRS, I am thoroughly enjoying my experience here. I am, and will forever be, thankful for my days at CPRS. They have shaped my life in an unforgettable way.

*Elizabeth Smith  
Class of 2014*

## A BLESSING TO OUR FAMILY

CPRS has been a blessing to our family for the past 15 years. We have one son who entered CPRS as a kindergarten student and graduated in 2012. We have another son who is a current middle school student at CPRS.

I have also had the privilege to work at the school, as part of the parent volunteer program, for 12 years. The last 9 of those years have been spent working in the school's main office. Interacting with the students is a true joy to me. I am grateful to have had the opportunity to meet so many wonderful Restoration families whom I may not have met outside of the school.

If asked what the most valuable aspect of attending CPRS is, I would have to say it is the friend-

ships that are formed there. The small class sizes help to promote a feeling of closeness between the students. They learn, play, laugh, study, and pray together on a daily basis. My boys often comment that their classmates are like their brothers and sisters.

Those friendships grow even deeper as the students participate in extracurricular activities together. Cheering at school sporting events, supporting each other during school plays, helping with group service projects, and providing vocal ministry at local congregations are just a few of the opportunities for fellowship.

There is also camaraderie among many of the parents at CPRS. Several of my dearest friends are moms from the school. We strive to

## PARENTS IN PRAYER

I would like to introduce you to a parent's program we have at CPRS called Parents in Prayer, or PIP's for short. Our goal is to unite the school through prayer for specific needs and to offer thanks for the continued blessings that CPRS receives.

We started meeting in the fall of 2010 as Moms in Prayer and have expanded to include all CPRS families. As moms we saw the need to come together in prayer for the kids, teachers, and other school staff. We all know the power of prayer and the lives it has changed.

All CPRS family members and alumni are encouraged to come and pray. We meet in the teachers lounge on the first Friday of every month from 8:30 - 9:30 AM when school is in session. Please remember to sign in at the office before heading to the teachers' lounge.

*Anndell McGuire  
Parent & Alumna*

help each other when needed. Often we share laughs (children can just be so comical!), pray for one another, and offer hugs through the difficult times.

I am grateful to the teachers, staff, volunteers, board members, and financial supporters of CPRS that have invested themselves in the lives of our students. This ministry is truly a joint effort between many people.

My prayer is that our children will continue to learn of our Lord and His great love for each of them.

*Cherrie Nelson  
Parent*



to ask Him how to improve our experience here, both as students and as faculty, instead of assuming that our idea of improvement is enough. “He is calling us to higher ground,” she says. For Liz, the theme does not simply offer guidance for our thoughts throughout the year, but a vision of how the Lord wants to create in us a new heart.

The monthly themes this year—including forgiveness, faith, worship, and listening to the voice of the Good Shepherd—offer CPRS students and faculty an opportunity to live this new life in Jesus in some very practical ways on a daily basis. While an annual

theme—much like the changes in the school—is broad and sweeping, real and sustainable change occurs in the more ordinary details of our lives. Brother Nephi, in reference to the Liahona, concludes that “by small means, the Lord can bring about great things” (1 Nephi 5:36). I invite the saints to join us at CPRS in considering the new life we have in Christ and how the Lord wishes to author our lives daily.

*John D. Larson  
School Administrator*

they can find it for themselves! We don't just talk about God in Religion class. We have beautiful conversations about Him throughout the day.

I am also blessed to be surrounded by staff members who love the Lord and who are determined to help their students understand God's love for them. If I have a problem, I can go to them for a Christian perspective. The peaceful environment here at CPRS is like nothing I have ever experienced.

I am so thankful for the new life in Christ that God has given me. The path to get here has been rough, but I am grateful to be part of this school. God bless you this school year as you walk in the newness of life.

*Catherine Bauman  
5th Grade Teacher*

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