

to **RESTORE**: re-store (*verb*) [ri-stawr, -stohr] to bring back to a state of **health**, soundness, or **vigor**.

A Newsletter for Restoration Academy in Fairfield, Alabama

Annual Report 2011

prayer...the greater work

Prayer does not fit us
for the greater work.

Prayer is the greater work.

Oswald Chambers

Two years ago we finished the school year with the collective thought--"We got our butts kicked spiritually because of a lack of prayer." Faculty fatigue and discipline issues were extreme. We decided to not let that happen again. We pray as a faculty four times a week, but we needed outside support.

Our first approach was to ask our board to form a prayer committee. One of our newer board members caught the idea immediately and ran with it. She led a prayer team for years concerning her children, so this was a natural fit. We provided prayer request, and they met once a week to pray. We also started a monthly prayer walk. Some of our supporting churches committed to increase their prayers.

A year into the process, I am asking myself did I notice a difference? I do believe that much of our Heavenly Father's protection and provision go unnoticed. I have however experienced an increased awareness of His intervention when I am consistently praying. I believe faculty moral was better. We had as many issues as always with our student, but more breakthroughs. When difficult discipline situations surfaced, the evidence and consequences were clear. Stuff done



Three RA seniors received scholarships to play collegiate athletics. Rakeem Knight will play football at Bethune Cookman University, John Walker will play football at Huntingdon College and Jeremi Sardin will play basketball at Huntingdon College.

in the darkness seemed to surface quickly and there seemed to be more gratitude vocalized by students than I can remember.

I know that we are used to hearing that this is a Spiritual War and that our most important weapon is prayer. It is just so easy to not practice this truth. I am so grateful to the body of Christ who is praying for us. The following articles contain tangible answers to prayer that we have witnessed this year. Rejoice with us in the good things God has done!

By Carl Lynn

prayers that impact the world



Restoration students and staff atop the Andes Mountains.

Our mission trip started with our flight having to return to the airport because of a problem with the plane. The Lord used this as an attention getter for our group. There we were with the captain announcing that our flight had to return to Miami because of a problem with the plane. All of this was in Spanish which added to the trepidation.

We sat with the other passengers and watched in growing concern as the flight attendants began looking out the windows at the emergency exits and the wings, even breaking out flashlights at one point. Before we landed the copilot got in on the wing vigil. Needless to say, by the time we landed most people on board were praying to spare their lives. As we touched down we had two students who had never flown before vowing to never fly on a plane again.

I have to admit, that fear almost won out in the chaperons too. Then the Lord took control and a curtain was pulled back so we could see the reality of what was going on. Since this trip was through the school and not a church, it had been more difficult than usual to get these six teenagers to realize that this was a mission trip for Christ and not just a vacation to a foreign country. With all our fears on the table it became apparent that the Enemy had played his hand.

We now were able to remind the students that Satan was attempting to dissuade us by playing on our fears. With confidence we were able to tell the

students that God had played His hand as well and, by His mercy, had visibly held us up in a time of desperate need. After being more frightened than I have ever been in my life, the Lord took control of our mission trip and none of us would ever be the same.

We arrived in Cochabamba in the wee hours of the morning on Tuesday. By mid-morning we were with the orphans. It was absolutely amazing to watch our kids interacting with these Bolivian teens and pre-teens. RA students who had shown a continual knack for butchering the Spanish language in Spanish class began trying their best to communicate with these young people. The South American kids viewed them with awe. I had the pleasure of witnessing a dance party!

By the end of the day we realized that for all our plans of coming to help these people, God was helping us.

Wednesday we were taken to the Aramasi village in the Andes Mountains. It is a small, traditional village of 150 people. We went on a hike through the breath-taking Andes where God continually reminded us how small we are. Before leaving we went to the village market. We all felt compelled to use every Boliviano we had exchanged our money into. Before I realized it, the RA students were purchasing gifts for our bus driver as well as the lady that cooked for us. Instead of haggling prices lower, they began to overpay for items! All of this was done without any prompting. Our students were convicted and, more importantly, they acted on that conviction.

We did more work around La Villa and were able to play with the children. The students began to wonder how people with so little could be so warm, generous and welcoming. We ended each evening with a time of group sharing. Students broke into open weeping and related how they had always complained about how little they had and/or how much others had. By the grace of God we were shown how much we have and we began to have a disdain for it. Our students made a commitment to be a light to others and hold their resources with open hands.

By Clint Cvacho

prayers of warfare

“I’m praying for you.”

Sometimes when I hear someone say that to me I smile because that phrase has in many ways become as ubiquitous and shallow as “what’s up?” and “hang in there.” More often than not it rings hollow. But this past year God raised up some prayer warriors that I know were genuinely praying for me, my colleagues and our ministry.

The 2009 - 2010 school year was one of the most difficult times that I’ve experienced in my ten years at Restoration. The spiritual warfare was intense. Disciplinary problems were at an all time high. Fatigue was unparalleled. Struggles outside the school were tremendous.

At the end of that year I felt discouraged, deflated, and on the verge of overall defeat. Yet, God in His divine timing raised up several praying saints to uphold me and my brothers and sisters here at the school.

During this past school year I walked into prayer meetings and heard people praying for me by name. A brother in Christ came up to me once and said I woke up this morning and was burdened to pray for you. He was taking time out of their busy day to pray for me, my team and our school. It was an overwhelming joy to know that my name was being mentioned in heavenly places by intercessors around the city of Birmingham. I can say with all assurance that I noticed a difference.

The warfare this year was equally intense, but there were more victories than defeats. Fatigue crept in as usual but I felt a new and refreshing

strength that gave me what I needed to carry on.

There were breakthroughs in the hearts and lives of kids who were struggling academically and behaviorally. We saw a new calm in the streets around the school. Our staff united in new ways.

These prayers were being used as spiritual weapons to sustain God’s troops in Fairfield and to put our enemy to flight. I praise God for how these prayers and prayer teams have been such a gift to Restoration.

I would urge anyone who desires to know how they can help the school to consider praying the words of Colossians 1:9-14 for us daily. May God continue to raise up praying saints for this amazing ministry!

By Ben Sciacca



Reach Records recording artists Le’Crae and Pro traveled to Restoration Academy for a private concert for our high school students. Students heard the Gospel through hip hop. Praise God for redeeming this important artform to our community.

prayers of provision

I came from a school that is a forerunner in equipping teachers with the newest, most effective technology to increase student learning. There were Smartboards in every classroom. Every teacher had their own laptop. There was a computer lab for each section of the school.

Restoration Academy had none of these things two years ago. In the midst of the worst recession in a long time, I desired for my students at Restoration Academy to have the best technology for their education. I desired to show them God's creation and equip them to learn the computer programs and skills they need to function in our technologically-advanced world. So we prayed that God would provide more technology for our school. This year a donor gave money to build a new computer lab with 24 brand new laptops and the biggest Smartboard and projector I have ever seen. From this gift, our teachers also got to have their own laptops! God didn't stop there. Another school in Georgia found out that we desired to upgrade our technology, so they gave us 5 Smartboards and 40 projectors! A



Restoration was blessed with smart boards and projectors for every classroom.

month later, a large Christian school called and said they were going to give us 10 Smartboards! A missionary from Zimbabwe did a presentation in our new computer lab, and he said, "You will not have a computer lab like this in the best universities in Zimbabwe." God provided world-class technology for our school!

By Brian Goessling

prayers of a father

Last year, my wife and I were confronted with a major crossroads. As homeschooling parents, we were pleased with the development of character in our children; academics were starting to slip. This led to numerous frustrations in the Mayo household.

After fervent prayer, counsel and confirmation through executive staff and others we decided to enroll all six of our precious children (our "arrows" from Psalm 127:3-5) into Restoration Academy.

It almost goes without saying that we suffered immediate growing pains. Our children had to adjust to a predominantly African American culture and adapt to a classroom environment, peers and participation in a "foreign" atmosphere.

The fourth quarter of 2010 (our first quarter in the school) was emotionally disastrous. Having to attend summer school compounded the situation. Even more stressful was the reality of some having to repeat their grades.

Through the efforts of godly teachers, my wife, staff, tutors, volunteers, etc., our children came from a declining emotional and academic standard to making straight A's and B's! I was especially pleased to see success from our children specifically held back a grade.

I was assured and reassured that placing children back a grade could be the best thing for their future education. Needless to say, I believe now.

As for those who did well from the beginning, one was not only promoted from 8th to 9th grade in one quarter, she went on to receive the Dean's Academic Award. They have learned that if you set high standards for yourself, you will continue to set records year after year.

I continue to fervently pray and thank God for Restoration Academy. May many others come to share this amazing experience.

By Robert Mayo