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*Education Built on Relationships*

March 27, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians,

On behalf of Administration, the faculty and staff, I thank you for the many words of affirmation and prayers we have received during this very difficult time. I am deeply grateful for these.

Like so many of you, I too express gratitude to the entire staff at Linden Christian School who continue to work long hours to facilitate the delivery of education online and through supported learning. Thank you for partnering with us during this time.

I want you to know that we are daily praying for all our families - praying for your health and safety and praying that God is providing you with much peace.

Let me encourage you, as I was encouraged, with excerpts from a recent podcast titled ***The Illusion of Control*** by Christian author Skye Jethani. It provides an important perspective on this complex situation we find ourselves in.

So much of our growth happens through pain, and that pain comes in two forms. Pain we choose is called a discipline, while pain we do not choose is called a trial. Neither kind should be wasted. Clearly, the COVID-19 pandemic is a trial of global proportions, and wisdom calls us to not waste this moment.

But what are we to learn from it?

Ask enough people about their life with God and you will begin to notice a common theme. Many of us come to faith in a season of crisis; when our illusion of control is shattered. Most people—and especially those with education, resources, and living in functional societies—assume they can determine the outcomes of their lives. This myth is only revealed when unexpected forces interfere with, or completely destroy our plan.

In Luke 12, Jesus told a parable about the illusion of control. He said the land of a very wealthy man had produced abundant crops. The man built huge barns to store his grain. Believing he had security well into the future, the man told himself to “relax, eat, drink, and be merry.” But God called the man a “Fool!” because he did not know that very night death was coming for him and his illusion of control would be shattered.

The story illustrates a powerful truth from the Old Testament quoted by Jesus himself, *“Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God”* (Deuteronomy 8:3; Matthew 4:4). We do not possess the power to sustain our lives and trusting in our own strength and resources is foolish. Instead, we ought to surrender control to God who has both the ability (strength) and desire (love) to sustain us.

Recognizing the illusion of control and surrendering ourselves to God is the beginning of faith. Being endlessly self-delusional, however, we often need a crisis to see and admit our attempts at control are foolish. Many addicts begin recovery precisely this way. They admit they need help (they don't have control), and they submit to a higher power (surrender to God). The process of getting to the point, however, is often full of pain.

We are a society of addicts. We aren't merely addicted to substances, but to power, wealth, comfort, and above all to the arrogant belief that we—both individually and collectively, both inside the church and outside—can control the world. We have trusted in our strength rather than the Lord's. We need to be awakened from this foolishness.

Some may view this pandemic as God's judgment, but I think we ought to see it as God's grace. It may be our Lord's way of opening our eyes, revealing our pride, and discovering the truth that we do not have control. We never did and we never will. It may be God's way of softening our hardened hearts so that we will turn to him and act with kindness toward one another. Discovering God's grace this way may be painful but love powerful enough to transform us always is.

Remember God is with us and my prayer is that each of us walks with our loving Heavenly father in the days ahead. We will get through this with God as our refuge.

As is the norm, we are not assigning any schoolwork during the Spring Break (March 30 to April 3) or on Good Friday (April 10) and Easter Monday (April 13). Online and supported learning will commence Monday, April 6. Based on today's announcement from the Chief Public Health Officer, it is not realistic to expect that on-site learning will resume on April 14. We continue to take our direction from the Government on this and will advise as soon as the information is officially confirmed.

Following Spring break, Administration will revisit our online and supported learning plan with a view to developing a longer-term plan. Rest assured our commitment to maintaining excellence in programming remains.

We have been receiving feedback from students and staff during this past week. Your feedback in this process is also important--please share it directly with the Vice Principal responsible for your child(ren)'s division of the school.

Again, thank you for your ongoing support.

In His Service,



Robert Charach  
Principal and CEO