

This morning at 7:00 am, I attended the annual “See You at the Pole” prayer service at the Saratoga Springs High School. This years theme for Saratoga HS was taken from 2 Kings and entitled, “Engage: Go and Pray...”

“When the king heard what was written in the book, God's Revelation, he ripped his robes in dismay. And then he called for the priest, the royal secretary, and his personal aide. He ordered them all: ‘Go and pray to God for me and for this people—for all Judah! Find out what we must do in response to what is written in this book that has just been found! God's anger must be burning furiously against us—our ancestors haven't obeyed a thing written in this book, followed none of the instructions directed to us’.” (2 Kings 22:11-13, Msg.)

While I was there, we gathered around the flag pole in front of the School – About 20 teens and 8-10 adults (teachers, administrators) Now I attended for two reasons, both I feel are as equally important and vital as a follower of Jesus Christ...

- 1) A proud parent** – Both Kaila and Kristen participate in the Bible Club and this morning, Kristen led some of the worship time – It was awesome seeing how God is working in the lives of our children, so as a proud parent I was there to support my girls!
- 2) A fellow-servant** – Just being with Christ-minded individuals who have a desire to see God uplifted in the public school system is something I can really get into – Sometimes, a very dark place that needs a lot of light shining into it. It was so encouraging to see young adults, freshmen through seniors gathering to pray for their Classmates, Teachers, Administrators, National leaders, World leaders, and for those around the world who do not have the freedom to meet in such a manner as to pray in public. It was pretty uplifting and encouraging to be a part of that this morning!

I would encourage all of us to keep our children, their schools, teachers, administrators and alike in prayer this school year – It’s not easy being a teacher, especially in the public school system or a student for that matter... But tack onto that trying to live out your faith in Christ in a way that has impact upon those whom you are around, and that can be an overwhelming proposition. Yet, we are called to be light and salt wherever we find ourselves – So join me in praying for our children and their teachers and administrators...

“I am not ashamed of the gospel [good news], because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile. For in the gospel a righteousness from God is revealed, a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: ‘The righteous will live by faith’.” (Romans 1:16-17)

“For this reason I kneel before the Father, from whom his whole family[a] in heaven and on earth derives its name. I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.” (Ephesians 3:14-19)

Be Strong, Be Courageous, Be Fearless – and remember...

Christ IS All!
Pastor Mark