

A Blessing Almost Missed

A couple of months ago on a busy Thursday afternoon I was asked to be a surrogate grandparent the next afternoon for a nine year old boy. Chris, who had been attending services at Villa Marie, and who was having “Grandparents Day” at his school. Chris is a pleasant, sincere, and studious young man who has suffered in the most dreadful way a boy can suffer at the hands of his now estranged father. I initially declined due to short notice and busy Friday schedule, but could not get him off my mind even waking up several times during the night. To make a long story shorter, I arrived at his school about 5 minutes late to a room full of already seated Grandparents with kids lined up all across the front. When Chris saw me he came all the way to the back of the room and proudly led me by the hand to the only seat left on the front row directly in front of where he was standing. The sincere love and appreciation in his eyes was about more than I could stand. He presented me with a poster he had made for his mom, because he didn’t think I would really come. I managed to keep the tears back during the children’s presentation and the milk and cookies that followed. Afterwards he introduced me to his teacher and showed me all of his week’s work. I thought how desperately he needed the approval of a healthy father figure. He was trying so hard. I will never forget the longing look in his eyes as he said goodbye, and I wondered what the lady thought about the man weeping in the vehicle next to her as he slowly drove out of the parking lot. I was thinking about how close I came to missing one of the rare blessings of my life. You see, I believe that I was benefited far more than he, by this “interruption” in my “busy” schedule...”Pure religion and undefiled is to visit the widows and orphans in their affliction and to keep oneself unspotted from the world.” (James 1:27).

As usual there are victories, challenges, and wonderful ministries all taking place at the same time as we press forward in the kingdom work. What a joy to see the evidence of his presence as we go.

In His Work,

Winston & Sue