

May your school be blessed
Being blessed so you can be a blessing

“Then Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, his mother: “This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be spoken against, so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul too.”

Luke 2:34,35
NIV

May your school be blessed so it can be a blessing to your community.

Today, as the Fourth of July, it is not unusual to hear, "God Bless America." In fact, that was the title of Pastor Dan Wysong's sermon at Chico last Sabbath. His main point: God's blessing is not a pleasant and comfortable life but rather the opportunity to share God's goodness with others. One of his primary examples: the life of Christ which was clearly blessed by God, often filled with heartache and disappointment, and ended in suffering and pain. And yet, ultimately the most rewarding life ever lived.

This message spoke to me at a couple of levels. The level Dan addressed related to the blessings we have as Americans living in a prosperous nation, and our obligation and privilege to be a blessing to the rest of the world.

But I also thought of the prayer that starts my work days: "Oh, that You would bless [our schools] indeed, and enlarge [their] territory, that Your hand would be with [them], and that You would keep [them] from evil, that [they] may not cause pain!"

You may recognize this as the prayer of Jabez from 1 Chronicles. And while I have been praying this for each of your schools for a while now, I have also sometimes pondered what exactly I am asking for when I ask for your school to be blessed. (In contrast, I have no doubts about what I mean when I ask for your territories to be enlarged, or for God's hand to be with you, or for evil to be kept far from you, your students and their families.)

Sabbath's sermon reminded me again of that primary purpose. **We ask for blessing so that we may be a conduit of that blessing to those around us.**

So today, there is not a task, it is a holiday after all. Instead,
God bless you and your staff, whether paid or volunteer.
God bless your students and their families.
God bless your school.

Binder tab: July
School size: All

