

Commissioning Service for Back to School For Students, Staff, and Teachers

Thesis: Today, we are commissioning students, staff, and teachers as they head back to school: public school, private school, and home school. We also have the chance to hear from Ms. Michelle Lee, Hairgrove Elementary Principal. Then, we will focus on how to pray as our students, teachers, and staff return to school.

Text: Acts 10:38; Jeremiah 29:7; Matthew 25:31-46; Isaiah 61:4; Malachi 4:6

Vision: May the Lord capture our hearts with the importance of partnering with public schools to touch our children.

Here is the history of how we got involved with Hairgrove Elementary.

1. Together, we are:

a. Working for the common good.

- i. *...how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, and how he went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil, because God was with him (Acts 10:38).*
- ii. *Also, seek the peace [shalom] and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the LORD for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper* (Jeremiah 29:7).

b. Serving the poor, the marginalized, and those in need.

- i. Matthew 25:31-46, The Parable of the Sheep and Goats.
- ii. *"Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? 38 When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? 39 When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?' 40 "The King will reply, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me'" (Matthew 15:37-40).*

c. Restoring individuals, social systems, communities, and nations to God's intended design.

- i. *Isaiah 61:4 They will rebuild the ancient ruins and restore the places long devastated; they will renew the ruined cities that have been devastated for generations.*

- ii. We partner with Jesus who makes all things new in our spheres of influence.
 - d. **Touching the generations.**
 - i. We want to turn our hearts to the children so that the generations can be reunited and work together.
 - ii. *He will turn the hearts of the fathers to their children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers... (Malachi 4:6).*
- 2. **Vision, mission, and history of our Hairgrove Partnership.**
 - a. Calvary started serving at a local school in 2006.
 - b. Copperfield began serving at Hairgrove in 2008.
 - c. Calvary joined the Hairgrove partnership in 2009.
- 3. **Our partnership is a response to the Whole and Healthy Children Initiative across Greater Houston.**
 - a. This effort started back around 2005 with Mission Houston. **"What if Houston were as famous for whole and healthy children as we are for NASA?"**
 - b. The city-wide effort continues through the ministry of [Loving Houston](#), which is helping to raise up church-school partnerships throughout Greater Houston. Calvary is privileged to support and partner with **Marilyn Lee** and [Loving Houston](#).
 - c. In CFISD, **Dawn Tryon, Director of Community Engagement**, reports that we now have **74 out of 95 school partnerships** in our district. And, several new partnerships are in the making. Praise the Lord!
- 4. **Caring adults can make a difference** in the lives of staff and students in the public arena through mentoring, volunteering, praying, and giving. We long to see transformation in our community. Changing the lives of children, equipping mentors to become change-agents, supporting teachers, staff, and administration, and doing acts of Christ-centered goodness (Acts 10:38) will help us toward our goal of personal and community transformation.
- 5. **Our vision** is to demonstrate the love of Jesus to students, staff, and families of Hairgrove Elementary through service, support, encouragement, and prayer in order to restore our community to God's design and to impact the lives of children positively for the future.
- 6. **Changing the trajectory of children is a high leverage activity:** (1) overcoming poverty through education, (2) keeping kids in school (vs. dropping out), (3) raising up future leaders, and (4) raising up employable adults for businesses in Greater Houston and beyond.
- 7. **The impact of caring adults** in the lives of children is amazing. Children are making the decision in the second grade to stay in or drop out of school.
- 8. We ask you **to prayerfully consider volunteering** at a Hairgrove or at a school near you, **or to advocate with area businesses** and in your spheres of influence (families, neighbors, friends) for the sake of children.

Here is what we have been praying this summer for children, youth, and young adults as they participated in Vacation Bible Schools, summer activities, camps, ministries, and mission trips.

1. That the Lord will **mark** children, youth, and young adults for life.
 - a. Many of us were changed for life at camp, on a mission trip, in a VBS.
2. That the Lord will **move** upon their lives with transformational anointing and power.
 - a. As we set aside time to be with the Lord, he is faithful to meet us.
3. That the Lord will **mold** our children, youth, and young adults into agents of blessing everywhere they God.
 - a. May our children, youth, and young adults become **conformed to the image of Christ**, rather than being pressed into the mold of this culture.

Here is how we are praying for children, youth, and young adults as they head back to school this month.

1. Pray for teachers, staff, children, and parents in this back-to-school season, and for all the activities for children, youth, and mission trips from this summer to **bear much fruit to the Father's glory.**
2. May our children, teens, and young adults **be influencers**, rather than being influenced (Matthew 5:13-16).
3. May our children, teens, and young adults **carry the fiery passion of Jesus in the anointing of the Holy Spirit** back to their campuses (Matthew 3:11).
4. *Jeremiah 29:7 (NIV84): "Also, seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the Lord for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper."*
5. *1 Timothy 2:1-2 (NIV84): I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone— 2 for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness.*
6. **Pray for** teachers, staff, children, and parents all across Greater Houston to be blessed.
7. **Pray for** teachers, staff, administrators, and students as they begin a new year: anointing, protection, favor, safety, abundance, human flourishing, etc.
8. **Pray for** the Lord to lead our school board to the **next superintendent of CFISD**. Dr. Henry retires in December.

Resource: **Our Kids Were Created for Such a Time as This 8'1'21**

Facebook

[Carry The Light](#)

[August 1 at 6:50 PM](#) ·

Don't feel sorry for or fear for your kids because the world they are going to grow up in is not what it used to be.

God created them and called them for the exact moment in time that they are in. Their life wasn't a coincidence or an accident.

Raise them up to know the power they walk in as children of God.

Train them up in the authority of His Word.

Teach them to walk in faith knowing that God is in control.

Empower them to know they can change the world.

Don't teach them to be fearful and disheartened by the state of the world but hopeful that they can do something about it.

Every person in all of history has been placed in the time that they were in because of God's sovereign plan.

He knew Daniel could handle the lion's den.

He knew David could handle Goliath.

He knew Esther could handle Haman.

He knew Peter could handle persecution.

He knows that your child can handle whatever challenge they face in their life. He created them specifically for it!

Don't be scared for your children, but be honored that God chose YOU to parent the generation that is facing the biggest challenges of our lifetime.

Rise up to the challenge.

Raise Daniels, Davids, Esthers and Peters!

God isn't scratching His head wondering what He's going to do with this mess of a world.

He has an army He's raising up to drive back the darkness and make Him known all over the earth.

Don't let your fear steal the greatness God placed in them. I know it's hard to imagine them as anything besides our sweet little babies, and we just want to protect them from anything that could ever be hard on them, but they were born for such a time as this.

~Alex Cravens

[#CarryTheLight](#)