

*modeling Christ,
creating Success.*



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TRUSTING THROUGH TRIALS



**MCCS Elementary teacher, Mrs. Tammy Sapp,
with her son, Russell.**

Many of the students and families at our school have learned to persevere through difficult times. Here is the story of one of them:

If you walked past Mrs. Tammy's elementary classroom during the month of February, you may have heard her leading her class in memorizing their monthly scripture - Psalm 121.

"...The Lord will keep you from all harm - He will watch over your life; the Lord will watch over your coming and going both now and forevermore."

Mrs. Tammy and her son, Russell, a high school student at Mount Clare, are living testimonies of God's protection through danger.

At Russell's birth, in June of 1993, the doctors told Tammy that her son wouldn't live 72 hours. He weighed 1 lb. 15 ounces and had been born four months premature. Tammy refused to believe the doctor's report and prayed continuously for God's miracle for her baby. Russell survived his first week. The

doctors then predicted that he would never walk, that he would be retarded, and that he would have a shunt in his head. Tammy continued to pray with others for his healing. Tammy's grandmother prophesied at this time that one day Russell would grow up to be a pastor of a church - like T.D. Jakes.

Though every day was up and down, Russell held on to life. After two months his mother was permitted to hold him. At two and a half months he was sent home with a monitor. As time passed, Russell grew strong, began to walk and accomplished all the things the doctors predicted that he would be unable to do. "I've always called him my miracle child," Mrs. Tammy says.

Recent years have brought more challenges for the Sapp family. In February of 2007, Mrs. Tammy's husband was diagnosed with stage three lymphoma. He was expected to die. The emotional and financial strain on the family was great. Again, Mrs. Tammy held on to the Lord, speaking verses like Psalm 118:17 and Job 11:18 for her husband: "I shall not die, but live, and declare the works of the LORD." "Thou shalt take thy rest in safety." Mr. Sapp had a bone marrow transplant in May of 2009 and has been free of cancer since then.

In the summer of 2007, Russell was stabbed in the neck while he was working at a summer youth program. Though his life was again in danger, Russell fully recovered and has displayed forgiveness instead of retaliation.

This past December held another major trial for the Sapp family. After an ultrasound of his heart, doctors discovered that a hole in Russell's heart had widened and was the size of a golf ball. Surgery was immediately scheduled for December 4. The high school class at Mount Clare gathered around their friend to pray for this serious surgery.

While the heart surgery was successful, the bypass machine that pumped blood through Russell's body malfunctioned and failed to pump blood into Russell's left leg. When this was discovered, Russell was rushed back into surgery to relieve the pressure and to remove dead muscle tissue.

Russell is currently walking with a brace and is not able to run or play the sports that he loves. The tendon specialist hopes to move a muscle from his leg into his foot so that Russell is able to move more fully.

Though the past several years have been full of challenges for the Sapp family, Mrs. Tammy daily responds with faith in the Lord, who she trusts to "keep them from harm and watch over their coming and going both now and forevermore." Please pray along with Mrs. Tammy and the rest of Mount Clare Christian School for Russell's full restoration and healing.

Winter Fun!

Though two back-to-back snow blizzards kept us out of school for a week, life at MCCS is now back in full swing. Resource electives have begun! Students have the option of Weightlifting, Art, International Cooking, or a special Science class. Students got creative during Spirit Week in February, which kicked off with Pajama Day, then Career Day and Mismatch Day, and concluded with a Summer Party.



Hannah displays her artwork.

Aaron lifts weights at the Faith Center next door.



Mrs. Sadie's Kindergarten class enjoys wearing their pajamas during Spirit Week.

Many Thanks To...

- All those who gave so generously to our school at the end of the year. This helped us pay our teachers for the first couple months of the year.
- James and Faith Wenger who shared with us about life in Japan and taught our students to make sushi!
- Danny Ray and Joey Johnson, alumni of MCCS, who have been helping teach the Weightlifting resource class.
- Ms. McQuaide, a supplemental teacher who works with our students in the areas of reading and math.



"The thing I really like about this school is that I can call and talk directly to the principal or the teacher. I like that, it feels like a family."



- Parent of a Middle School student

Important Note:

Our Teachers' Fund, which we use to pay our teachers, currently has a very low balance.

While our teachers work with the understanding that they will not be paid if money does not come in, we want to be able to pay them regularly so they can meet their financial obligations. If you wish to make a tax-deductible donation, checks may be made payable to Mount Clare Christian School. Please designate for the Teachers' Fund. Automated Funds Transfers or Paypal gifts through our website www.mountclarechristian.org are also possible.