

Looking Forward to the Next Challenge

By John Fedele

As the newest member to the MACSA Board, allow me to introduce myself. My name is John Fedele and I am honored and excited to be a part of furthering the kingdom of God through Christian education and Christian schools. Having been in the Christian School movement for over 27 years as a teacher, Director of Development and Administrator I have many wonderful memories and recollections. Being retired and like many of you, at times confined and not able to “get out” as easily as I would like because of the pandemic, I have found myself having more time lately to reflect on those years.

I’m not one to dwell on the past and have always looked forward to the next challenge or opportunity. Scripture admonishes us to “forget what is behind and press forward to what is ahead.” but lately I have enjoyed reflecting on what God has done over those 27-plus years not only in my life, but in the lives of so many of the students I have interacted with. I still have frequent contact with former students, colleagues and parents and it makes my heart glad to see and hear how God’s will is being carried out in the lives of so many of these young people.

It’s easy I think in our present culture to forget God’s faithfulness and His working in our lives because we fret and are so consumed with wanting Him to not only answer our daily prayers, but fix everything that needs fixing right now!

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One of my favorite verses is Psalm 84:11, “For the Lord God is a sun and shield; the Lord bestows favor and honor; no good thing does he withhold from those whose walk is blameless.” He promises to be with me, He is for me and because He doesn’t change, He will work all things for my good. His faithfulness in the past is a strong anchor for me in the present.

In his book *Everyday Prayers*, author Scotty Smith talks about times when we could create a long prayer list and methodically go through it but it would be more ritual than reality – more about me than the people or situations I’d bring before the Lord. I’m grateful His delight in me is not contingent upon my delight in Him.

No one knows our hearts better than our heavenly Father. He searches our hearts to save us, not to shame us, to deliver us, not to demean us, to change us, not to chide us. This is one of the key truths that a Christian education gives to a young person, God is faithful no matter what. We must remember that God is at work for my good in all things including during this present season. He will complete his purpose in me, in you and in each of His children. I think that deserves a hearty AMEN!

John Fedele joined the MACSA Board of Directors in 2021. He lives in Washington Crossing, Pennsylvania with his wife.