



December 2023

Once there was a poor village that was plagued by an unrelenting drought. The crops were dying, children were starving, and desperate families had nowhere to turn. At this time, a missionary visited the village and told the people of an almighty and good God who heard and answered prayers. They immediately planned a prayer meeting, curiously eager to see the power of this new God. As they gathered that evening, they became aware that, although they all hoped for a miracle, *only one man had brought an umbrella.*

In her welcome at the beginning of the Teachers' Workshop in August, Mrs. Hagstrom rhetorically asked, "Who knew that after only 20 years God would give us a building--not only a building, but over 80 beautiful acres on which to build? Who knew?!" And in my head I answered, *You did.* During the past 18 years, I have lost count of the times she has said she *knew* God would give us a building or land--or both! While we faithfully prayed and hoped and waited, Rebekah brought an umbrella. And it has poured! God's lavish blessings have rained down on Liberty in ways I never imagined.

Now, I'm not a fundraiser. I don't know the lingo or have the statistics, charts, or graphs, but I do know a thing or two about the classroom. Having been a teacher for nearly four decades, I've seen countless trends, philosophies, and curricula come and go. I've seen people put all their faith in the latest technology, theories, and programs only to discard them in a year or two to make way for new and improved versions. But not at Liberty. Here I've witnessed the classical approach proven time and again to meet students where they are, to build their critical thinking skills, to instill in them a desire to dig deeper, and to foster their love of learning and sense of wonder. I've seen my upper schoolers wrestle with ideas and be awed by the glimmers of God's magnificent glory as they join the timeless Great Conversation. When the foundation is solid, we may polish it and care for it, but there is no need to replace it.

I admit it. At times I catch myself thinking that this is normal, that it's "just a school" like everywhere else. Then I talk with prospective families or other visitors and watch the bewilderment, then the curiosity, then the realization cross their faces as they come to grasp what really happens here. I hear the discussions of my students as they grapple with ideas many people will never even consider. I see teachers praying with their students and investing in their lives. I get to have conversations with my students about faith, hope, heartache, and Truth. And I am reminded this is *not* an ordinary place.

You and I have been drawn to Liberty for such a time as this. God is on the move. Our school is growing at an astonishing rate as more and more families thirst for this type of education in such a dry land. This is His school, His work, and He emboldens and empowers us to join Him in this Great Adventure. When we support Liberty we help this remarkable school to flourish, to provide an unmatched education, and to raise up godly men and women.

As you give, remember to pray for Liberty... And don't forget your umbrella.

Sincerely,

Nancie Struck
Mother and grandmother of Liberty Lions
Upper School English Teacher and English Department Head



Nancie Struck and two of her grandkiddos