



Please Tell Me Something Good

By Becky Ramsey, Public School Representative

Talk to any teacher who taught during the 2021-22 school year, and he or she could make an extensive list of challenges that made the job of educating students last year exceedingly difficult. But Paul, in Philippians 4:8, challenges us as believers to search for the things that are true, noble, pure, admirable, excellent, and praiseworthy and to focus on those positive things. Even in a school year that was demanding, teachers, administration, students, and parents – all had to find new ways to do what we have always done to have a successful year of education. Yes, despite the challenging years we have faced since COVID-19 disrupted education and about every other part of our existence, we can still find something good to dwell upon.

For me, the end of the 2022 school year completed my 48 years of teaching career. I have taught every grade from kindergarten to seniors—except for first grade—at some time in my career. Yet I have taught first graders my last five years as a gifted specialist but not a whole classroom of first graders. When people ask which grade level I enjoyed the most, I can honestly say there are aspects of all grades that make them enjoyable. Yes, they all have aspects that are difficult, but I can say that God truly chose the perfect career for me when He called me to be a teacher.

Someone might say, “If you are picking something good about last year, is it that last year was your LAST YEAR?” The answer is a resounding, “No!” People ask me what retirement is like, and I must answer that I am not in retirement yet... It is just summer vacation. I still walk into stores, see the school supplies out and catch my breath. I must remind myself that I do not have to panic that the beginning of school is here. I am thankful that my niece will be starting her first year of teaching, and I will be able to

help her prepare and get her classroom ready. While I am happy to look forward to new and different adventures that God has planned for my husband and me (he is a teacher), I think this fall will bring some feelings of missing all that I have looked forward to for 48 years.

A Special Surprise

When I think of something that was special from last year, it was what a co-worker and officemate did for me for my surprise retirement celebration. She interviewed each of my thirty-four gifted students and allowed them to tell me a special goodbye and then put all those individual messages into a video that I could keep and replay as many times as I wanted. It is such a special memory. I have also had so many messages from past students who have encouraged me by saying I have helped them and made a difference in their lives.

Future Plans

So how will I use this experience going forward? It is a reminder that my responsibility now is to pray for those that continue working with students or are just starting. I can volunteer to help those going back to school to set up their classrooms. I have already worked with my replacement and will be helping her set up this year's schedule and have passed on games and curriculum that my students enjoyed. I can take in treats to the teachers and students alike and have already agreed to do some substitute teaching where I hope to see some of my students again. When I think back to my years of teaching, it will not be to the challenges I faced that I remember but to the many blessings I enjoyed each of those 48 years. One blessing that I experienced recently was when walking with a friend from one store to another a few stores away in a strip mall. A car drove by, and a window went down. A hand came out to wave, and I heard, "Hey, Mrs. Ramsey—Hi!" Do I know the owner of that wave and greeting? No, but I know that it was one of my precious students that I will definitely miss.

Becky Ramsey lives in Reynoldsburg, Ohio. She has taught in public and Christian schools. She served this last year as a reading and math intervention specialist at a local charter school. Becky retired at the end of the 2021-22 school year.

To our readers:

Becky wrote a complete article, with her good news about retirement. We are glad to hear that she will still be involved in the school.

We would like for other educators to share SOMETHING GOOD that happened to them. It can be a few sentences, a few paragraphs, or a page—whatever space it takes for you to express something that pleased or invigorated you while teaching or working in administration. Include your name, school, location, and contact information. Take an opportunity to praise God for giving you SOMETHING GOOD. We are eager to hear from you. Email bpostlewait@kc.rr.com.