



Happy Teacher or Grumpy Teacher

By Beula Postlewait, Communications Representative

What kind of situations will you face as you begin the 2023-2024 school year? Are you happy, excited, anxious, or worried? Will there be many changes since last year? Will you face new administrators, students, position, school, expectations?

My daughter, Janet, has taught for 25 years as an elementary librarian. The last 12 years have been in an urban school district. She enjoys working with her current principal and co-workers. She has a good library aide. The students are mainly Hispanic in a predominantly low-income neighborhood. Like all schools, there are some students with behavioral or emotional problems.

This year, she faces a different situation. Her school has a declining enrollment. There are other schools in the district that do not have an MLS (master's in Library Science) librarian to serve the students. The director of the district libraries has asked Janet if she would be willing to split her time between two schools.

What should she do? What challenges will she face if she agrees to teach at both schools? A different principal, staff, students, parents, organizational structure—many changes in a brief time. Since the librarian sees every student each week, she must quickly learn the faces and personalities of every student in a second school.

Janet has agreed to do this. What should be her attitude toward all these changes? Will she envision this as an opportunity to stretch professionally and socially? Will she see this as an opportunity to be a Christlike example to a new and different group of educators and students? My prayer for her is that God

will give her the strength, energy, courage, and adaptability to overcome any problems or difficulties that might occur.

What situations will you face at your school?

Will you have a new administrator, co-workers, classroom changes, schedule changes, difficult students, or other situations that might tempt you to be anxious about the school year? God knows your situation, and He can meet all your needs. In this edition of the newsletter, Mark Taylor has provided a list of Bible verses to encourage and inspire educators. If you need a prayer partner, contact our NEW chairperson, Marilyn Dominick, at mjdominick77@gmail.com and she will pray with you and connect you to members of our group who will pray specifically for you.

Periodically, Nazarene Educators Worldwide offers a prayer Zoom and encourages teachers to share prayer requests and prayer for educators. Go to our [website](#) to find the schedule for our next prayer Zoom.

In a new school year, many new opportunities await you. Are you ready for the challenges? May God bless you and give you the courage, strength, energy, and adaptability as you begin this school year.

Beula Postlewait lives in Leawood, Kansas. She has been an elementary public school teacher and is a retired employee of children's ministries at the Global Ministry Center. You may contact her at bpostlewait@kc.rr.com.