



Celebrating 55 years of education-based ministry

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Dear RCS Alumni,

December 2018

In preparing for Advent, I stumbled across an account from Henri Nouwen, a Dutch theologian, (1932-1996). His disruptive experience carries an application for today. May you find it equally helpful.

While working with the poor in Bolivia, Henri took a night off during Advent to see a movie. The movie was filled with images of greed, lust, manipulation and exploitation, and fearful and painful sensations that filled all the empty spaces that could have been blessed by the spirit of Advent. He asked himself, "How often do I let that happen?"

Henri inspired me to create extra space for God's peace. Seriously, while watching the Seattle Seahawks play, fearful and painful sensations arise within me. So, instead of watching the entire game, I tuned into the last few minutes. The extra time opened up space to settle my soul and align with Jesus' promise in John 14:27. "*Peace I leave with you, my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, do not be afraid.*"

Advent is a rich season but gets squeezed from all sides with extra demands, diminished daylight, and high stress—the absence of peace. Consider searching for space during Advent to allow the Prince of Peace to bless you and your family.

Last month, my letter introduced a new feature, the president's prayer list. Prayer can do what God can do, and Eph. 6:18 encourages us to "*Pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests.*"

November requests and updates—

- Grow RCS ministry to 440 students this year—*continue to pray for 16 additional students.*
- A letter of support from the city of Auburn for the Multipurpose Event Center, MEC. [*Answered: Received a verbal commitment from city of Auburn officials to provide a letter of support with the Mayor's signature.*](#)
- A community grant partner to supplement our Norcliffe Foundation grant application—*continue to pray.*

December requests—

- Invitation to submit a full grant application to the Murdoch Charitable Trust. A letter of inquiry submitted on November 30 requested \$470,000 for the MEC's site preparation costs.
- Receive cost-reduction ideas by December 10 to respond to Bassetti Architects draft feasibility report—The design direction is shown on the next page.

"Educating and Developing the Whole Person for the Glory of God"

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Thank you for praying faithfully on behalf of RCS.



As we approach the end of year, a financial contribution to RCS would be deeply appreciated. Our operation costs for the end of 2018 exceeded revenue by \$27,000. A gift of any amount helps us meet all obligations. Thank you for considering a gift to RCS.

In closing, December 2 heralds the first day of Advent. The countdown to Christmas begins. On the Christian calendar, the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, trumpets a high note for celebration and worship. May God's greatest gift, Jesus Christ, and His favor richly bless you and your family during the entire Advent season.

My best,

A handwritten signature in cursive that reads "Bruce Kelly".

Bruce Kelly
President, Rainier Christian Schools

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