



## God's Faithfulness

By Mandy Portillo, ACS Board Member



I love the change in seasons, because I am reminded of God's faithfulness. Genesis 8:22 says, As long as the earth remains, there will be springtime and harvest, cold and heat, winter and summer, day and night. As the days and nights grow cooler, I am excited to pull out my sweaters and boots. It is a special time of year that we celebrate with harvest festivals and pumpkin patches.

Harvest festivals began long ago to celebrate the abundant harvests' of crops, but to me they are about sharing in the abundance the LORD has given us, and recognizing that God is not willing that one perish, but wants everyone to come to the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ.

Jesus said that He came that we might have an abundant life, that we should be moved with compassion for the lost and those who are less fortunate than we are. He said the harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few.

As we celebrate fall, let us be reminded that there is a world of hurting people who need to hear the good news that Jesus loves them and has made a way for them to be forgiven and redeemed.

## Analyzing Modern

By Hardeman Boutwell, ACS Junior

We often describe things (books, art, music, etc.) as "modern." But what does this mean? What makes a modern book "modern?"

Modern literature should be defined as written during or after the Enlightenment period. The Enlightenment resulted in many people believing that reason and logic could unlock the secrets of the universe. After a series of major scientific discoveries during the Industrial Revolution, the

invention of the airplane, and a variety of other technologies that opened travel, scientists and philosophers began to trust in their gods of innovation and progress. Many works, varying from Darwin's theory of evolution, to Nietzsche's Beyond Good and Evil, pandered and gave rise to these beliefs. The 20th century brought a variety of these philosophical ideas into life, such as syndicalism, communism, and Social Darwinism, resulting in the death of millions and the slow decay of Christianity in the western mind. Modern works are the result of the post-Christian mindset and the worship of science by mainstream culture.

## Starry Knight

By Debbie Skelton, ACS Board Member



Mark your calendars for our Annual Fund Event, Starry Knight, on February 11, 2023. Tickets will go on sale in November and this is usually a SOLD OUT event. **We are actively looking for Event Sponsors** if you are interested in advertising your business and/or purchasing a VIP table. Please contact me, Debbie Skelton, at 432-386-3592. We look forward to seeing you in February!

We have also started our Gun Raffle that will be held at Starry Knight in February. Raffle tickets are only \$5 each and proceeds go toward student programs. Two winners will be drawn during the evening of Starry Knight and will have the choice of two guns: **Henry Long Ranger .308 or Glock 43x mos pistol.** If you would like to purchase raffle tickets for a chance to win, contact ACS at 837-5757.

## Are We Creatures of Love?

By Megan Luna, ACS Sophomore

People today often make decisions based on what they want or how they feel. These feelings are driven

by our desires and our constant want of love. "Thou lovest without subjection to passion, Thou art jealous but not with fear, Thou canst know repentance but not sorrow, be angry yet unperturbed by anger" (Conf. 1.4.1). God can feel all of our emotions, but He does not let His emotions control his decisions. We are not only driven by our desires, but also by our want for love, many people are consistently searching for a significant other to fill that want of love from a relationship. Our desire for love outside of our family tends to take over the list of more important priorities such as God, school, church, etc. "Then the Lord God said, 'It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make a helper fit for him' (Genesis 2:18)." Even from the beginning, man has always had a void that can only be filled by their significant other that they bond with and protect for the rest of their life. "Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh (Genesis 2:24)." When one gets married they vow to hold and care for that special person for the rest of their life.

## Octanefest

By Debbie Skelton, Board Member



Alpine Christian School board members and high school students participated in the Octanefest this past weekend at The Stable in Alpine. It was a huge success with dozens of beautiful classic and sport cars. The Gage and Brick Vault generously provided the delicious brisket and sides for the dinner on Sunday and ACS helped serve and clean. We appreciate Dave Durant, his team, and all participants for supporting ACS once again!

## Executive Director's Corner

By Bobby Duncan, Executive Director

Malcom Gladwell wrote in *The New Yorker*, June 24, 2013, an article about Albert O. Hirschman and the power of failure. The article titled, "The Gift of Doubt", provides a thoughtful reflection on the power of adversity, challenge, and failure and how they serve as unexpected and correlating prerequisites to creativity and progress. While the best laid plans can and do go awry, Mr. Gladwell cites Albert Hirschman's analysis that, "People don't seek out challenges....they are apt to take on and plunge into new tasks because of the erroneously presumed absence of a challenge---because the task looks easier and more manageable than it will turn out to be." Hirschman continues, "We have ended up here with an economic argument strikingly paralleling Christianity's oft expressed preference for the repentant sinner over the righteous man who never strays from the path." Gladwell sums it up astutely, "So is ignorance an impediment to progress or a precondition for it?"

Mr. Gladwell points out that Albert Hirschman, an economist, became convinced that his profession had it (planning) backwards. "Hirschman became fascinated with the functional uses of negative emotions: frustration, aggression, and particular, anxiety. Obstacles led to frustration, and frustration to anxiety. No one wanted to be anxious. But wasn't anxiety the most powerful motivator---the emotion capable of driving even the most reluctant party toward some kind of solution?"

According to Hirschman, it is paradoxical that when one tries to "remove obstacles to development, to reduce economic anxiety and uncertainty", the opposite seems to result. While Hirschman was speaking in terms of economic development relating to underdeveloped countries, consider how our society has changed and has been working to remove the challenges and rewards related to parenting, child rearing, education, employment, the beautiful differences among our fellow man, etc. We do no favors for anyone in trying to obviate the difficulties of life and do things for people they could otherwise do for themselves. Long-term, civilization regresses and atrophies until ultimately acted on by a greater force. That, in this great Country, The United States of

America, is happening before our very eyes. Evil forces have been subtly undermining and eroding the fabric of our very being and our youth for decades. This is why we do what we do here at Alpine Christian School.

Consider a follow-up essay by Hirschman to "The Strategy of Economic Development" as pointed out in Gladwell's article:

"Law and order and the absence of civil strife seem to be obvious preconditions for the gradual and patient accumulation of skills, capital and investors' confidence that must be the foundation for economic progress. We are now told, however, that the presence of war-like Indians in North America and the permanent conflict between them and the Anglo-Saxon settlers was a great advantage, because it made necessary methodical, well-planned, and gradual advances toward the interior which always remained in close logistic and cultural contact with the established communities to the East. In Brazil, on the contrary, the backlands were open and virtually uncontested, the result was that once an excessively vast area had been occupied in an incredibly brief time span the pioneers became isolated and regressed economically and culturally."



To build a muscle requires enduring stress. To build a moral character requires enduring stress, persevering, doing the right thing, and following God's laws, especially when evil forces and secular society tempts you with popsicles, candy canes and hot chocolate or their more sinister cousins, which I will not dignify in this article. As I have written before and quote again, M. Scott Peck, M.D. from his book, *The Road Less Traveled*, "Life is difficult."

God has ordained us as His people. Christ endured and persevered for our souls and our salvation. If you think things are tough (and I'm not saying life is not tough), just pause for a moment...and think of what Christ endured so we wouldn't have to when we meet God Face to face.

## Upcoming Events:

- Parent/Teacher Conferences – October 14<sup>th</sup>
- Veteran's Day Program 11/11/22
- Starry Knight Feb 11, 2023

## Around Campus:



Mrs. Busey's After School Program



Zoe Wood Reading to Kindergarten



ACS Garden Scarecrow



Students Painting with Mrs. Woods in After School Art Program



Fun on the Playground