



“...that they might
be called trees of
righteousness”

TO: Houghton Academy Parents and Students
Houghton Academy Faculty/Staff

March 26, 2020

Dear Houghton Academy Community:

Much has happened in the last week-and-a-half. I appreciate the engagement and commitment of the Academy's employees across the spectrum of teaching, student care, and stewardship of both facilities and people. I value the extra effort many have taken in several matters, including the following.

- **TEACHING:** Learning continues under the leadership of Mr. Retz, guiding the faculty through the initial stages of online learning and the varied challenges involved in ensuring connectivity, the pace of learning, and maintenance of rigor with the necessary flexibility.
- **RESIDENCE LIFE:** Student care continues with Mrs. Smithley's residence life leadership, with the major increase in on-duty time of the head residents and RA's in each dormitory's.

As always, it's important to be grateful. Three come to mind:

- For the parent group(s) who have taken a special interest in the 27 students remaining in our care in the dormitories and with homestay families. On behalf of those students, thanks for the treats in the "care packages" last week!
- For the head residents and RA's who are well beyond the call of duty, time-wise, in the respective dormitories.
- For the efforts of faculty and staff who live next to the campus and help with supervision of the dormitories.

Here are a few items to mention as we look forward.

- We hope to know well in advance of the potential return to classes after mid-April. As previously mentioned, the Academy will take its scheduled Easter Break (3 PM April 3 through April 13).
- The April newsletter will be delayed until we are aware of a scheduled return to classes.

Please pray for the Academy in these areas:

- The well-being of all students, families, and Academy faculty-staff.
- The financial impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the Academy. We are grateful for special gifts as well as the potential of assistance via the CARES Act alongside other fund-raising activities.

Finally, I share something (page 2) that I pray from a book entitled Scriptural Prayers for the Praying Man (used by permission, Lighthouse Books, The Philippines) from the section "When You Face A Crisis."

John Nelson
Head of School



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*Scriptural Prayers for the Praying Man
“When You Face A Crisis.”*

Lord, help me to realize that crisis is normal in life. I desire to not become fearful, anxious, or overwhelmed when I find myself in a crisis situation. Help me not to react in confusion, worry, or desperation.

You said that in this world we would have tribulation but to be of good cheer because You have overcome the world. Help me to keep a good attitude and a cheerful heart no matter what I am facing.

You said that the afflictions of the righteous are many but that You deliver us out of them all. Deliver me out of this crisis; reveal to me Your plan of resolution. Help me to keep my mind fixed on you in the power of your Word. Give me wisdom and insight concerning any decisions I need to make or actions I need to take to do my part in resolving this crisis.

I count it all joy when I am faced with trials and testing, knowing that the trying of my faith builds my patience and godly character. You have promised to deliver me, and I know You will. Give me courage, strength, and fortitude to not give up or give in but to patiently keep trusting You until my deliverance comes.

Thank you, Father, that I am free from this crisis in Jesus' name. Amen.

Scriptures

These things I have spoken unto you, that in me you might have peace. In the world you shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world (John 16:33).

Many are the afflictions of the righteous; but the Lord delivers him out of them all (Psalm 34:19).

My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing (James 1:2-4).