

THE McADAMS MEMO

giving kids hope and a second chance

Looking back over the past year, we are so grateful that God has kept the doors of McAdams Academy open so that we can continue to provide a safe place for the vulnerable youth in our community.

From A Student

"My name is Marquez and I'm happy to say that if McAdams was not around, I wouldn't be graduating this year. So I'd like to thank the volunteers for helping us young adults and kids on our work. Our cooks for helping with lunch. Also our donation people who help McAdams with food, games, etc. You guys are amazing and we are so grateful for your love and support."



From A Parent

"This last year has been very much a roller coaster for us. One constant for us has been McAdams. I wanted to say thank you for believing in my son and supporting us along this bumpy road. It is going to be hard to put into words about the blessing you all have been in our lives this past year, but I will try. I have been sitting in church listening to the messages and making connections to my own personal life and comparing how God has worked and how He is working now. I have always been a believer of God but never fully committed myself to Him and His will. During this struggle this past year, I have learned to trust His will and know that while it is out of my control, He is working. I truly believe God is working on us, and my son will come to realize that God places people in our life to help us grow. The staff at McAdams has challenged him but stayed firm with him and loved him unconditionally. This is a new feeling for him. A lot of people who he should have been able to trust and love have not always been there for him. I know his walls are high and thick. I know he will look back on this time with you all and soon be able to see what I see - a community of people who love him. Where I was going with this... A few weeks ago, the message was about shining the light of Jesus by embracing the uncomfortable and by changing your attitude. The scripture attached to this message was Mark 5:1-20. This scripture was about a man who was possessed with demons. Those demons had taken control of his life and he was locked up in chains because the townspeople were scared of him. Those with Jesus did not want to cross the lake, but Jesus pushed them to go with Him. Jesus freed the man of those evil spirits, and he was able to go spread the word of Jesus and the amazing things Jesus can do in your life if you let him. How I related was this... We all have demons in our life and it is our choice whether or not we allow them to take over. My son has allowed those demons in his life to control him and I believe God has placed you all in his life to show him that if he surrenders, there is a light at the end of this tunnel. A lot of people don't want to deal with troubled kids. They cannot see past their actions and see that there is good in them. I related my son to the man chained and struggling with those demons, and McAdams staff as those who Jesus challenged to cross the lake to see. You all are shining Jesus' light even to those who are blind to it at times. I appreciate you all so very much and I know deep down my son does too! I will forever be grateful for the staff at McAdams. My truly believe my son will become a success story!"

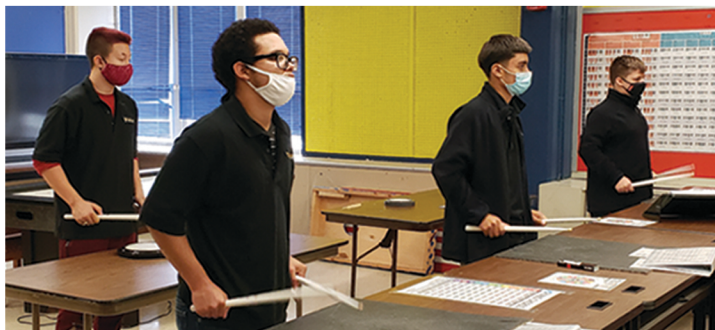


Planted Seeds Sprouting

Mario* was a student of mine during the summer of 2019. He was an interesting kid who was always coming to school under the influence of marijuana, pills, and alcohol. He would come to school angry, he would want to break school property, assault staff, and fight other students. Back in November, Mario reached out to me about getting his life together. He said that a former instructor and myself "were right". He told us that he originally did not believe us because every other adult in his life would manipulate and lie to him. He remembered the times we would coach him and pray with him. Attempting to bring peace to his life through the gospel, he said he would like to start going to church and get into a sobriety house. He has been clean for a couple of weeks now, and we are still working with him.

- Tim Hester

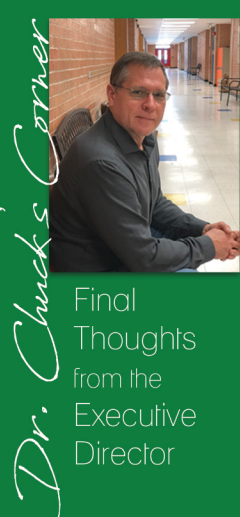
*name changed for privacy



Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from all of us here at McAdams!

Chuck, Adena, Bev, Deacon, Ginny, Greg, JC, Kathy, Liz, Rebekah, Sila's, Tim

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Final Thoughts from the Executive Director

My children have heard me say a million times, "The only thing in life that never changes is that things always change." Heraclitus, a pre-Socrates philosopher, summed life up with this phrase Panta Rhei ("life is flux"). When we feel that life is out of kilter, we expend a lot of energy trying to put life back in order, at least in the order that makes us feel safe again. The central theme in the Bible is we all need change. When change is painful, we assume that it is not good. Another "Chuckism," if you will, is "The problem is never the problem, it is what we think about the problem that is the problem." How you feel and act about current events is based directly on your belief system. If emotions are controlling your life and if you are experiencing fear and dread more than confidence and peace of mind, then maybe it is time to re-evaluate your belief system.

We all have faith in something. In reality, our faith's benefits are limited by the abilities of the object of our faith. If we believe that we can fly like a bird, can we? Of course not because the object of our faith (us) limits us. This Holiday season may be an excellent time to revisit the object of your faith. For those who claim to have faith in the Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace, are you at peace amid all the chaos? Perhaps we need to revisit the promises that His faith offers instead of being at odds with others sharing our same faith. Those who have never experienced a faith outside of themselves now may be an excellent time to begin that search.

In the Hebrew Bible in the book of Zephaniah, we are encouraged that, "The LORD your God in your midst, the Mighty One, will save; He will rejoice over you with gladness, He will quiet you with His love, He will rejoice over you with singing." (Zephaniah 3:17)

A Christmas Story

As a former school teacher in the public schools, I came to McAdams Academy after retirement. The philosophy between the two could not be more different. I will explain this soon. For now I must be a witness to the incredible staff and the miracles that occur on a daily basis. The dedicated staff under the leadership of Dr. Knowles is top notch. They care more for a child's heart and spirit than for a weekly paycheck. They give hope where hope was lost. McAdams enrolls students that are labeled "throw aways" by society, much like the Island of Misfit Toys. They have been forgotten by the public schools who take them off their records due to suspension and/or expulsion. McAdams welcomes them as they are. McAdams believes in forgiveness, grace, and tender mercy. Many of the students come from broken families and never experience forgiveness, grace, and

and tender mercy. Many of the students come from broken families and never learned how to fit in with our society. Is it the child's fault for their behavior? I think not. Without support and proper guidance, any one of us would succumb to the same fate. But, with McAdams teachers, office staff, and volunteers, anything is possible. My walk in faith had been no less than remarkable. After being at McAdams for a short while I began to understand more about selfless acts. I started reading the Bible. I started watching online church. My spiritual being has blossomed like a lily in the desert. Prior to all this, I was among the stiff necked with a hardened heart and only a spark of soul left. Praise God for the transformation, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior.

- Randy Hopson

Would you pray with us specifically for a new building? The need for a school like McAdams is great and resources and finances are limited. But we serve a Great God who is able to do more than we can ask or imagine (Eph. 3:20). Will you ASK with us?



Our programs help expelled youths, as well as children in the foster care system from falling behind academically and address behavioral problems that often ruin their ability to complete their education. Every day we have opportunities to make life-changing interactions with our students. You can help us invest in their lives in the following ways:

Pray!

Please pray for individual students in the program, their families, staff, and material needs for the ministry. We also now have a prayer ministry! If you would like to receive our e-mailed prayer list, please contact us by e-mail (see column at far right).

Volunteer

Tutoring, Mentoring, Cooking, Games, whatever you enjoy doing we have a place for you! Please give us a call or come visit us and see where you can help!

Donate

Online: <https://ictbar.com> -or- <https://mcadamsacademy.org>
Mail a Check payable to CBAR or McAdams Academy (address far right)
Dillons.com: Log into your rewards account, click the "Community Rewards" tab, and search MCADAMS ACADEMY or LS056.
smile.Amazon.com: log into your account, and search Center for Behavioral and Academic Research. A percentage of your eligible purchases will be donated.

Practical needs can be found on our Amazon Wish List:
www.tinyurl.com/yprxkxb

Items can be purchased and shipped directly to the school.

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McAdams Academy

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