

October 2011

Dear Parents:

Equipping children to become Christ's Ambassadors of Redemption is our Mission and Vision for each student who attends Mitchell Road Christian Academy. This is accomplished through the Biblical Worldview education offered at MRCA. Through our annual SERVE-A-Thon, which begins the week of October 17th through 21st, we strive to accomplish our Mission.

Our annual SERVE-A-Thon serves two purposes for MRCA. First, we desire to give students the opportunity to be Christ's Ambassadors as they serve others in our community and make a difference in the organizations and lives of those they assist and serve, thereby providing examples to our students of being Christ's Ambassadors. Secondly, SERVE-A-Thon serves as MRCA's annual fund raiser. This is the only fund raiser we do for the entire school year.

This past year our faculty and staff studied the *Gospel in Life* series by Timothy Keller. In the beginning of the series, Pastor Keller lays out three directives given to the Jewish captives in Babylon. First, the Babylonians wanted God's people to move into the city and lose their spiritual identity. They wanted God's people to become just like the Babylonians. Secondly, in Jeremiah 29:4-14, we are told that the false prophets were telling God's people to not move into the city and thus keep their spiritual identity. The false prophets were saying stay away from the Babylonians. But God's instruction, the third directive, says in Jeremiah 29:7, "Move in and serve in the city out of your spiritual distinction." God was saying to go live with their neighbors and make a difference in the city of Babylon. These three different approaches apply to serving in our world today as Christ's Ambassadors. We want our students to serve their neighbors and love their city of residence rather than resemble it or remove themselves from it. We want to teach them to serve others without losing their spiritual identity.

The SERVE-A-Thon theme this year is "**Being a Good Neighbor.**" As Christ's Ambassadors, we are told to love our neighbors as ourselves (Matthew 22:39) but just who are our neighbors? Jesus basically says through the parable of the Good Samaritan, Luke 10: 25-37, that our neighbor is anyone who is in need, anyone who lacks basic resources – we are to meet those needs. In response to this teaching and through our SERVE-A-Thon efforts, MRCA partners with local organizations throughout the year to meet the needs of our 'neighbors.'

In meeting these needs, each child is given four (4) hours of service either on or off campus. This translates into approximately 1,600 hours of service to our neighbors. What a difference our students and staff are able to make in the lives of other children, the elderly, the poor, the homeless, the fatherless, the sick, and the hungry. SERVE-A-Thon is one way of training our

students to be Christ's Ambassadors of Redemption to a world that God so loved that He gave His own Son.

Each student and staff member is then challenged to raise a minimum of \$30.00 for each hour of service – a total of \$120.00 per student for their four (4) hours of service. If everyone participates and reaches their goal, MRCA will raise \$50,000.00. In previous years, your support and generosity has been overwhelmingly abundant and has enabled MRCA to purchase needed equipment for the classroom and facilities without the need to raise tuition costs. This year our desire is to use the money raised for two new laminators in the teachers' workrooms, equipment for the athletic fields, replacement transportation for the older buses, and technology tools to be used with the SmartBoards in the classroom.

If we reach our \$50,000.00 goal, we will celebrate God's blessing and your generosity by taking Wednesday, November 23rd as a day off from school, giving thanks for God's provision through our SERVE-A-Thon. I would ask that you pray, promote, and participate in our SERVE-A-Thon this year.

Partner with us as we serve our neighbors and teach our students how to be Christ's Ambassadors of Redemption.

Sincerely,

Robert C. Schmidt
Head of School