

## A WORD FROM OUR PRINCIPAL

### THAT DIFFICULT CONVERSATION

By: Rod Jackson

Have you ever dreaded a conversation you knew you were going to have with someone? Maybe it was with a friend, or your boss, or a family member. You know the topic is delicate or involves conflict and you know it's probably not going to go well. You'd really like to avoid the conversation but know you can't – that other person will probably seek you out even if you avoid them. In my line of work that kind of conversation is not uncommon and like you I never look forward to having that type of meeting – even when I know it's necessary. I always dread that talk in part because I know I'm usually the only one who can do it – there's only one Principal after all. I've been thinking about those types of conversations in the context of our theme for this school year at Grace. The theme is "You Are Not Alone" based on John 16:32b-33: "Yet I am not alone, for the Father is with me. I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world." If you're like me sometimes those dreaded conversations can

make you feel a little lonely because you realize you're all on your own and it's all up to you to deal with the situation. That's why when I find myself in a situation like that I focus on Deuteronomy 31:8: "It is the Lord who goes before you. He will be with you; he will not leave you or forsake you. Do not fear or be dismayed." I love that truth that it is the Lord who goes before you. When faced with a difficult conversation I pray and ask God to go ahead of me and prepare my heart and mind, as well as that of the other person, for our talk. That helps me realize that it's really not about me or my need to "solve the problem" or "fix the issue". Instead I put it all in the Lord's hands and seek only to follow where He has gone before me. And I know that I have nothing to fear or be anxious about because God will be with me during that difficult conversation – or any other trial I may face. I would encourage you to do the same and keep that verse in your heart when faced with that talk with someone that you're just dreading – particularly if it's with me :)

### WORDS TO LIVE BY

"Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all the day long."

Psalms 25:5



## MEET OUR PRINCIPAL

Mr. Rodney Jackson

I have been blessed to serve as the Principal here at Grace for over a decade. Both of my children attend our school and it's been wonderful to watch them grow in so many ways during their years here. My wife Karen is a professor at Jacksonville University and tremendous supporter of the Grace ministry. Grace Lutheran School has strengthened me spiritually, deepened my knowledge of the world around me, and allowed me to develop lifelong friendships that I will always treasure.