

A WORD FROM OUR PRINCIPAL

RUNNING ON EMPTY

By: Rod Jackson

You probably know by now that our boys' varsity basketball team won the Central Florida Lutheran Athletic Association championship here at Grace in mid-February. This was a first for our school and an outcome that I think exceeded the expectations of coaches and parents. Mr. Popp himself said, "I didn't think this team had what it takes since it does not have the raw athleticism or height we had with last year's team and that team came up short." But this team worked hard and persevered and brought home the trophy. I've been thinking about this idea of teamwork and success in the context of our theme for this school year at Grace. The theme is "One Voice...in Harmony" based on Romans 15:5-6. What makes any team

successful, particularly when the team exceeds expectations and becomes more than the sum of its parts? And by team I don't just mean a sports team – it could be a band, a choir, a theater troupe, or even your family. I think the key is a Biblical truth I like to call "running on empty". Philippians 2:6 -7 says about Jesus "though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant." For any team to be successful each individual member has to "empty" themselves of their own selfish desires for points or shots or a solo or lead role. Instead each team member seeks only what is best for their peers and the group as a whole. That's how harmony is achieved, which is always a necessary precursor to success. I see that every day with my own staff here at Grace – each member of the ministry team empties themselves of their own wants and needs and instead focuses on how to help and support others. Join me in asking yourself this question: how can I "empty myself" today and serve the needs of my team?

WORDS TO LIVE BY

"Neither height nor depth nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord" Romans 8:39



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.