



Faith Lived Out Daily

Dear TC Family,

I want to share something with you that I received from Ernie Rodriguez, a man who is not just a volunteer, but a true part of the heartbeat of Turlock Christian.

Ernie wrote:

"I came to Turlock Christian 10 years ago when we enrolled our daughter in the kindergarten program. I began to volunteer that year with the weekly hot lunch program. Serving at Turlock Christian has been a true blessing to me. Throughout the years, I have been a volunteer at Turlock Christian, where I continue to help with hot lunch, and I love to be the 'tip of the spear.' I have the joy of being the first person to greet the students as they are being dropped off at school.

The children at school have been a constant source of encouragement to me. The children are always straightforward and honest. I have saved every card, drawing, and note that I have received over the last 10 years. I once saw a young student who drew a beard and mustache on her face, wanting to look like me!

These daily interactions fill my life with love and joy. I love to return the joy by telling fun jokes and making the students laugh. The staff and parents have also been a huge support for me. One parent invited me to her church after I had been out of church for a while. This invitation literally saved me and brought me back to God. God's love is reflected every day by this community.

There is never a 'no' in my vocabulary for Turlock Christian. My love for this school is unconditional, and I am willing to do anything they ask me to do. Turlock Christian is more than a school to me. It is where God restored my faith, filled my life with joy, and gave me a community I am forever grateful to serve."

What you just read is more than a volunteer testimony. It is a living picture of who we are.

Ernie shows up faithfully, joyfully, and sacrificially. He gives of himself for the betterment of others, and in doing so reflects the heart of Christ.

"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms."

1 Peter 4:10

That is Ernie.

For ten years he has stood at our gates, greeting children by name, offering a smile, a joke, a steady presence. And here is what I love most - at TC, our children are seen, loved, valued, and heard. By our teachers. By our staff. By our volunteers. By those who give of their time and resources. Ernie embodies that. He doesn't just wave at children; he notices them. He listens to them. He treasures their drawings. He remembers their stories. He makes them feel known.

And yet, this story is not only about how Ernie has served TC. It is also about how TC has served Ernie.

Through a simple invitation.

Through a faithful community.

Through daily obedience lived out in small, ordinary moments.

God restored his faith here.

God brought him back to church here.

God filled his life with joy here.

This is Faith. This is Family. This is Future.

Faith restored through invitation.

Family lived out in laughter at morning drop-off and unconditional service.

Future shaped in children who grow up knowing they are welcomed, valued, and deeply loved.

We are not just a school. We are not just a community. We are a covenant family where God is at work - restoring hearts, strengthening homes, and preparing the next generation.

What a privilege it is to belong to something like this!

Ernie, on behalf of all of us - thank you. We are better because you stand at our gate each morning. And we praise God for the way He has used you... and for the way He has loved you right back.

With gratitude,

Johanna Fischer

TC Chair of the Board

