

Maplewood Today

A PUBLICATION KEEPING YOU INFORMED ABOUT MAPLEWOOD ACADEMY FALL 2022



ALUMNI ISSUE

BUILDING
MY FUTURE
PAGE 6

From the Principal

Dear Maplewood Academy Family,

Fall colors have pretty much left us, but we were extremely blessed, because the beauty of this year's autumn's natural masterpiece was amazing. Even with the flurry of activities this fall, it was incredible to get out and see the beauty that surrounds us. This season draws us closer to God in gratitude through the many answers to prayer, demonstrating His continued direction in the education of His children at Maplewood Academy. I feel especially blessed to be allowed to participate in His work of redemption here in Minnesota. Only by His grace and the amazing support of the faculty and staff is it possible to allow Maplewood Academy to play its small part in the Great Controversy in all that we can to allow His presence to be felt in everything we do. It has been a true blessing to see an increase of students requesting Bible studies from our faculty, not to mention the increase of self-organized Bible studies from peer-to-peer. Please continue to pray for us that no barriers can be raised to inhibit the work of the Holy Spirit on the hearts of the MWA Family.

I am excited to introduce our new faculty members for 2022–2023. Justin Bacon has been a great addition to our science, math, and technology instruction, and I have appreciated his Bible-based approach to content-area instruction that ever increases the students' understanding of God's world. Jesse Tasche is also a great addition to the campus. Jesse serves as the assistant girls' dean, teaches U.S. History, and has brought the drama class back to MWA. I am excited to see how God calls his people to serve Him at Maplewood Academy. 1 Corinthians 12: 18-19 comes to mind: "But now God has set the members, each one of them, in the body just as He pleased. And if they were all one member, where would the body be?" Indeed, where would we be



without His presence, the commitment of our faculty and staff, and the faithful support of you, the constituents? Please pray for the entire Maplewood Academy team as we embark on this school year to reach lives for Christ.

You can support the work of our faculty members in many ways. One way is by giving to the Worthy Student Fund. As budgets tighten across our country, the families of MWA are not exempt. In working with families to get students to MWA, the cost of the tuition is a serious matter. I implore all those with a heart for Adventist education to look for ways to support our young people who desire a Christ-centered education. Giving in this manner impacts for eternity. Another way you can support them is through Amazon wishlist items that teachers may need for their classrooms or office space. We recently received a donation for the Amazon wishlist that allowed the purchase of sheet music for solo performances, cooking pans for the FACS Class, and some subscriptions for high-interest educational magazines to increase engagement in our library. The Amazon wishlist not only provides MWA staff with much needed tools that often go overlooked on a tight budget but also gives opportunities for those who also live on a tight budget. Whichever method you choose to give, know that your support is greatly appreciated and will go a long way in helping our students and faculty members continue to fulfill our divine mission here at Maplewood Academy! Thank you, and we wish you a blessed holiday season.

God Bless!
Jeremy Everhart
Principal of Maplewood Academy



ALUMNI

In all the years I've been returning to Maplewood for alumni weekend, it was always during a class honor year. Because of that I'd always been involved with my own class, rather than spending a great deal of time with others.

This year, four members from the class of 1970 attended and, while it was fun catching up with them, I also really enjoyed seeing and talking to people from other classes. There were some individuals I hadn't seen in fifty-plus years! That made me recall my mother's story of her fortieth reunion in 1985, when someone thanked her for "staying recognizable," something I can now appreciate!

What a hoot, comparing notes with the class of 2023's seniors on Thursday night! While we snacked on delicious goodies provided by the school, we swapped stories, and the seniors couldn't get over the fact that our only phone was a pay phone on the first floor hallway of the dorm. They were shocked that we couldn't wear jeans outside of the dorm (most of them were in jeans) and asked, "What did you wear to class then?"

Mr. Everhart had to call time on the socializing, because there were more questions than there was time!

On Friday I was able to visit classrooms and attend chapel with the students, and the afternoon was reserved for a historical tour of Hutchinson.

Back for supper, I enjoyed eating cinnamon rolls and meeting cousins—there are a lot of them when your mother was a Kaldahl.

Kathy Parke called the Alumni Business Meeting to order and we discussed how to spend funds that have accrued from the payment of alumni dues. When that concluded, it was off to the church for an inspirational vespers organized by the class of 1972.

Sabbath worship service blessed us with good music by MWA and the alumni, and an inspirational sermon by Loren Olson from the class of 1982. Following the

service, participants could enjoy haystacks on the lawn, and, while the cool wind felt nice to this now-Florida resident, some chose to take their meal inside to eat in the cafeteria.

Since choir music has a special place in my heart, that afternoon's Chorale reunion concert was not to be missed. In addition, Sabbath vespers, featuring a production by Kathy Parke, took everyone on a trip back to Maplewood one hundred years ago! Beth LaMont's diary, music and pictures provided the details for the journey back in time.

Saturday night's entertainment included the traditional basketball game, and, though Sunday morning's activities included a fundraising breakfast, 5K run, golf tournament and a motorcycle ride, I was unable to participate. I'd been keeping an eye on the weather forecast all weekend and decided to leave early Sunday morning in an attempt to beat Hurricane Ian home. It turned out to be a good idea, as the rain arrived only a few hours behind me.

Next year's Alumni Weekend is scheduled to take place September 21-24, and the honor years will end in three and eight. I recommend making plans to attend now, even if your class isn't one of the honored years, as coming back to Maplewood is always like coming home.

Alumni Association Officers 2022–2023

Niki Blanchard Philcox '70 President
Sandy Horst Wood '66 President Elect
Bailey Dehning '13 Secretary
Adrian Donovan '94
Chad Bowers '96
Linda Larson Carr '63
Kelly Schebo Hoffer '91
Assistant Alumni/Development Director
Jeremy Everhart Principal of Maplewood

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WHAT'S INSIDE

p 3
Alumni

p 4
Kind Neighbor

p 5
Honor Classes

p 7
Worthy Student

p 8
Build My Future

p 10
The Forever
Changing Seasons!

p 12
Alumnus of the Year

p 14
Timeline

p Back Cover
Alan Memories



LAURA CUMMINGS HONORED AS HUTCHINSON'S 'KIND NEIGHBOR'



Laura Cummings is the latest honoree of Hutchinson Connect's Kind Neighbor Spotlight, a recognition that allows local residents to nominate "unsung" volunteers.

Cummings, a Bemidji native, moved to Hutchinson to attend Maplewood Academy about 20 years ago. She was nominated by Evie and Evan Swanson.

"Evan and I have known her since she was a student in the early 2000s when she was especially timid and quiet, but have only continued to have more respect for her character as we have seen her develop into an extremely helpful and giving member of the community," Evie Swanson wrote. "She is always the first to volunteer wherever she finds a need."

Cummings' list of volunteer involvements is long. At Maplewood Academy, she's headed up the Adopt a Highway student cleanup effort along State Highway 22. She's organized students to go into the community to collect food donations for the McLeod Emergency Food Shelf. For the school's Community Service Day, she's recruited students to help residents needing help with yardwork such as raking leaves. An ardent canoeist, she belongs to Friends of the Boundary Waters and has taken Maplewood students to the Boundary Waters Canoe Area. She leads the community's Operation Christmas Child, and has helped with local efforts for Feed My Starving Children.

Through Common Cup Ministry, she helps with coat collections and fills children's backpacks with food.

During the height of the pandemic, she went beyond her official duties as Maplewood Academy's registrar. For example, she was known for stopping at students' homes to deliver treats, bring yearbooks and offer words of encouragement.

Swanson wrote that Cummings "always goes above and beyond what is expected of her. I've never seen her without a smile on her face, as well as a cheery kind greeting for everyone."

Kay Johnson is a writer for the Hutchinson Leader. Reprinted with permission from the Hutchinson Leader.

HOMECOMING '22

1952



Barbara Roland Groth, Arlene Larson Rushold

1967



3rd Row—Dennis Lund, Lyndon Juhl, Gary Lund, Larry Johnson, Wesley Nelson

2nd Row—Patricia Ferguson Everson, Elizabeth Stofer Liebelt, Karleen Lund Peterson, Marlene Waller Sutherland, Amy Lane Chapman, Don Krassin, Michael Liepke, Rebecca Jones Brooks, Bruce Naustdal

1st Row—Linn Samuelson, Kathy Howard McDonald, Bruce Nelson, Ramona Burghart, Nelson, Connie Neher Buchholz, Nancy Amundson Pederson, Connie Wall McCormick, Joyce Christensen Cochran, Nancy Beisker Wood

1957



Karen Opstad Adams, Robert Dahl, Sandra Julius Chilson

1972



3rd Row—Larry Johnson Budd, Bruce Haugen, Bruce Bray, Mike Fogg, Bill Brugman, Kelvin Rudolph

2nd Row—Robert Clarin, Mike Haefner, Kathy Ellstrom Miller, Diane Johnson Sorensen, Gwen, Ewer Myre, Merry Peterson Moody, Rayleen Juhl Heinbaugh

1st Row—Carol Goff Penrosa, Katie Jo Herber Schwinn, Nancy Prosser Penington, Nancy Zummach Kruger, Sue Popplewell Farnsworth, Yvonne Haefner, Nancy Burnett Joseph, Sylvia Sutton Reese

1962



3rd Row—Chuck Peck, Beverly Burghart Peck, Graydon Schlisner, Ron Christensen, David Reed

2nd Row—Warren Anderson, Karen Kaldahl Fandrich, Beth Christensen Bernotas, Donna Westerman Lambert

1st Row—Peter Hubin, Hubert Hubin, Lorna Ytredal Thompson, Bonnie Clark

HOMECOMING '22

1982



2nd Row—Tony Peterson, Norvin Johnson, Wayne Pervis, Loren Olson, Jeff Griffin

1st Row— Kristin Camp, Jeanine Jarnes, Carolyn Jean Jarnes, Michelle Chollett Schleeter, Sue Crane Heairet, Pamela Gilbert DeCamp

1987



2nd Row—Mark Trana, Troy Wood, Michelle Tretter

1st Row—Whitney Schauer, Lisa Johnson, David Peterson



1992



2nd Row—Joshua Skelley, Brent Lane, Marc Hubin, Jodie Anderson, Bradley Schauer

1st Row - Paul Welch, Lori Austin Anderson, Scott Nelson, Jodi Madden Anderson, Matthew Juhl

1997



Blair McDowell

2012



2nd Row—LaVeta Ketchum (Class Sponsor), Logan Sykora, Jacob Guptill, Hannah Israel

1st Row—Zachary Morrison, Matthew Froemming, Lindsey Parsons Obregon, Consuela Abotsi-Kowu, Kim Wooster (Class Sponsor)

Maplewood's Worthy Student Fund is integral to our mission. Many of our students would not be here without your help. Please prayerfully consider contributing to this fund. We would love to make Maplewood's education available to any student who desires this faith-building experience.

Allow us to share just a few testimonials of current students regarding their experience as part of the MWA family.

There's a verse in the Bible found in Proverbs that says, "Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it." As a daughter and the oldest of 3 sisters, I know that this is not something that is easy to do. There are so many influences in the world that want to take our attention, so many distractions that lead us away from where we should be going. My parents, I'd say, are doing a pretty good job of sticking to this verse even though the road has been difficult. And I believe something that has been a big part in my growing-up experience is Adventist education.

Adventist education is special. It's a place set apart to learn and grow, but not just in knowledge about science or math. It also serves as a place to deepen a student's relationship with God. Maplewood Academy is such a place. As a student of this school, I have several other Adventist kids around me. All the time, I see Jesus shining through my friends. Maplewood is a sort of school that nurtures the light that God puts in each of us. Each day, I grow in a deeper relationship with Him, along with all of my classmates and friends.

Being at an Adventist boarding school, however, is not an inexpensive thing. I mean, you have to take into account

the meals, the boarding, the books, the teachers' salaries, the appliances that need fixing, road trips to Ohio for RingFest, or the journey to play soccer and volleyball at Union College. All this costs a great deal of money. And, in all honesty, a lot of us students just don't have the money that it takes to cover all of these expenses. That is where you come in.

Your offerings and donations to funds such as the Worthy Student Fund help us students financially make it through all four years of high school. Maplewood would not be possible if it wasn't for those of you who are able to give. So I want to thank you. Thank you on behalf of all the people here at MWA. We really appreciate how much you value us. So please, as this season of thanksgiving is surrounding us, help us keep the light of Jesus shining to every corner of the earth by allowing students the chance of an education centered around God. Thank you and Happy Holidays!

Sami Hoffer '24

Continued on page 14





Build My Future

The "Build My Future" event changed how I viewed work in construction and trades. One main thing that stuck with me was the amount of representation that I saw. I expected the place to be full of men, but there were plenty of women, as well, and it was very comforting to see them there as I experienced the different areas and learned from the women. When I saw the different ways that construction or electrical work was done, I noticed that various jobs had many benefits and that the tasks looked very fun. For the people that go into that area of work, it's nice that they get hands-on experience from the beginning of their career. That aspect would be the thing that pulled me in. This experience really opened my eyes to new areas of engagement and I would encourage others to visit and see this side of the world in careers.

BY LALISE DIMA '23



The Forever Changing Seasons!

All across Maplewood's campus interesting changes are taking place. Yes, there are new students, new programs, new staff and new initiatives. But these are not the changes I am referring to. I am thinking about the changes taking place in the natural environment that envelops our campus. The temperature is cooling down as we leave summer in our rearview mirror. The foliage is exploding in radiant hues of reds, oranges and yellows. The falling leaves alert us that winter will soon arrive. Nature's dynamic transformation serves to remind us that change is inevitable. Our lives are measured through the ups and downs of ever changing seasons.

The wise man tells us, in Ecclesiastes 3:1 (NKJV) "To everything there is a season, a time for every purpose under heaven." I believe the best attribute about seasons is their temporary status. No season lasts forever. Life would be rather discouraging and boring if nothing ever changed. Worse yet, what if you were caught in an unpleasant situation that could never change?

The Bible assures us that there are constant changes and cycles that affect our lives. We read in Genesis 8:22 "While the earth remains, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, winter and summer, and day and night shall not cease" (NKJV). Whatever difficult season we find ourselves in we find assurance in the fact

that it is simply a temporary problem. Soon a new season will emerge and the cycles of life will continue.

People who lose this perspective risk making permanent decisions in response to temporary situations. Recently I heard from grieving parents whose son took his own life in reaction to a passing problem. His solution to a temporary problem has left permanent scars in the lives of so many who loved him. His own potential is squelched because he failed to realize another and possibly better season was sure to follow.

When seasons change they bring hope of something new. After one of the dark seasons in his life David proclaimed, "You turned my wailing into dancing; you removed my sackcloth and clothed me with joy, that my heart may sing your praises and not be silent. Lord my God, I will praise you forever" Psalms 30:11-12 (NKJV). Whatever you may be going through at this moment you can rest assured that a new season is on its way. You just have to wait for it.

In a few weeks, when Maplewood's trees finish shedding their leaves, we will witness the sprinkling of beautiful snowflakes confirming winter's arrival. A few months later, budding trees and flowering plants will announce that it is now spring's turn to reign. And so will continue endless cycles of seasonal changes.

Some have compared human life to the four seasons of nature. If we accept this analogy, youth is the spring representing life in its prime, a time when youthful vigor and exuberance manifest themselves. It is also the time to prepare for the inevitability succeeding seasons of life. Biblical counsel exhorts us to always prepare for the coming seasons, to make wise use of our present opportunities before the challenges of the next season arrive. We read in Proverbs 20:4, (NRSV) "The lazy person does not plow in season; harvest comes, and there is nothing to be found."

The decisions you make now, in the spring of life, will affect your next seasons in life. May you overcome whatever temporary challenges discourage you and take full advantage of the opportunities Maplewood Academy offers you. Even when circumstances are less than ideal we must always prepare for what comes next. The Good News Translation of Ecclesiastes 11:4 puts it this way, "If you wait until the wind and the weather are just right, you will never plant anything and never harvest anything." It is my hope and prayer that Maplewood students will have a productive and successful academic year as you make the most of your present season while preparing for your future ones.



ALUMNUS *of the Year*

Everyone waited expectantly as Clinton ('76) and Leah Anderson stepped to the podium to present the 2022 Alumnus of the Year Award. Once again, the name was a closely guarded secret, which only heightened anticipation!

The Andersons stated that this alumnus was the third generation in her family to attend Maplewood and was noted for being kind and caring, serving actively in the community, and always helping with a smile. The individual's grade school teachers also remembered her as being kind to all students and being very creative.

A story was shared about how a love for animals caused this person to buy the family cat from a brother at the family's own garage sale ... because the brother didn't want to do the chores to care for the cat! That story was the tip off! It dawned on Laura Cummings ('03) that she was the 2022 Alumnus of the Year! And, as her accomplishments were recounted by the Andersons, it soon became clear to the rest of the audience, too!

As Laura and her family arrived on stage, the alumni president, Kathy Parker Parke ('73), shared that Laura's family and the Anderson family had attended the same Adventist schools for several generations starting in Denmark and continuing for three generations at Maplewood – thus demonstrating the commitment many families have made to Maplewood throughout its history.

Recently, Kathy interviewed Laura about her experience at Maplewood:

Kathy: For those who may not know you, tell us a little bit about yourself.

Laura: I was born and raised in Bemidji, MN and I love my Minnesotan roots. I'm auntie to 5 of the most wonderful kiddos in the world. I'm happiest when I get to be in the woods, in a canoe, or by a fireplace with a book. I attended the Bemidji Church School where Clinton and Leah Anderson taught. I am a third generation Maplewood graduate (grandmother, Arlene Larson Frishman, '50; mother, Marilyn Frishman Cummings, '76; and I graduated in 2003), and I graduated from Union College in 2007.

Kathy: What does it mean to you to be this year's Alumnus of the Year?

Laura: It was humbling to hear my name called for the Alumnus of the Year. A long line of amazing people have received this award and it feels really special to be a part of it.

Kathy: What are some of your favorite memories from when you attended Maplewood?

Laura: I have so many great memories! The friends I made are definitely the highlight; many are still a big part of my life today. I loved the staff. I recall catching bugs in the Northwoods for Biology class with Swanee, moving a couch to the center campus lawn where we had physics class with Mr. Kaldahl, and tough love from Mrs. Siepman, who turned me into a much better writer. I loved junk scramble, bowling, ice skating, faculty families--so many of the activities that I now get to help plan for current students.

Kathy: What has Maplewood meant to you and how has it impacted your life?

Laura: I was incredibly shy when I first attended Maplewood. Maplewood helped build my confidence and my independence. I believe my experience better prepared me for college life. Maplewood is where I more deeply developed my relationship with God and my personal beliefs. As a staff member, I see many of those same changes in our current students and it deepens my appreciation for how God continues to work in this place.

Kathy: When did you join the faculty of Maplewood and what inspired you to do so?

Laura: I joined the Maplewood team as the Development Director on my birthday in May 2008. While a student at Union, I had done internships at the United Way in both Bemidji, MN and in Lincoln, NE. Those experiences piqued my interest in nonprofit work. I wanted to focus on helping people. When the Development Director position at Maplewood opened up, it wasn't exactly what I had been envisioning for myself, but I felt there was a reason God was opening that door. Fourteen years later and I am still here! Although, now I am working as the registrar, which has been a really great fit.

Kathy: As a faculty member, what projects have you participated in at Maplewood?

Laura: My absolute favorite projects at Maplewood have been finding ways for the kids to volunteer in the community. Operation Christmas Child, Feed My Starving Children, Adopt-a-Highway, and Salvation Army bell ringing are some of my favorites. Through a local ministry in town, we've helped with community coat drives, packed weekend meals for kids, delivered boxes of food to people's homes and engaged in many other activities. Students in the National Honor Society create ideas of how they can make a difference in the community or on campus

known a more devoted, hard-working group of people. Last year, on registration day, I found out I had Cholangiocarcinoma (Bile Duct Cancer) with a stage 4 tumor in my liver. When facing something as scary as that, you need an army of support, and Maplewood became that for me. The staff jumped in and covered everything for me. Kids, staff and alumni all showed up at my door, showering me with love and support. My family took turns moving in with me while I faced chemo. The love and support from everyone meant the world to me. At Maplewood you feel like you are a part of a big, close-knit family. That is my favorite part of working at Maplewood.



and, as NHS advisor, I get to help turn those ideas into reality. It meant a lot for me as a teenager to be able to put my beliefs into action--to be God's hands and feet. I hope that some of these activities help our students realize how easy it is to make an impact. Another thing I've enjoyed is leading trips into the Boundary Waters through Outdoor Education Class. It's fun

introducing students to my favorite place in the world and watching them fall in love with it, just like I did.

Kathy: What have you enjoyed most about being part of Maplewood faculty?

Laura: I really like getting to know our great group of students and I feel blessed to be a small part of their lives. I also love my coworkers – I've never

Kathy: What advice do you have for current Maplewood students?

Laura: Spend time getting to know Jesus. Build that relationship now. Don't wait 'til you're older, or less busy. It's so easy to get caught up in all of the little things that keep us busy and distracted from time with God. Keep a tight grip on Him and He'll get you through the toughest blows this world can throw at you.

Kathy: What is your hope for Maplewood's future?

Laura: My prayer for Maplewood is that we continue to be a place where students fall in love with Jesus.

Laura is one of several Maplewood graduates who have returned to serve the school. In fact, in 1985, the first named Alumnus of the Year, Dr. Adrian Lauritzen ('25), returned as a music professor in the early 1940s. For a complete Alumnus of the Year list, see the details at this link: mnsdahistory.org/schools/mwa/alumnus/

Maplewood's Worthy Student Fund

Shared testimonials of current students regarding their experience as part of the MWA family.



My name is Asana. I was born in Nairobi, Kenya, in 2005. I moved to America in 2013 when I was eight years old. I lived in Buffalo, New York, for two years before moving to Minnesota. I think my family likes the cold because, in all our nine years of living in the U.S., we've only lived in cold states. In the U.S., I started my fifth-grade year, and now I'm in twelfth grade attending Maplewood Academy. Ever since transferring schools, I have made a family out of friends and memories I couldn't make anywhere else. I love Maplewood because the environment helps people build relationships that will last a lifetime,

and the most important relationship is with God. I feel at home at MWA, and I thank the staff and students for making my time here the best experience I have had in school so far. I also want to thank the alumni for their support that allowed me to attend Maplewood Academy for my second and last year, because this wouldn't be possible without their support.

Asana Obse '23



Hello, my name is Ruthie Nyaberi. I joined Maplewood Academy in the middle of the COVID-19 Pandemic. It was so stressful since there was very limited physical schooling, and I wondered how I could get in-person schooling and be around people my age. God opened the way, and I found myself physically at Maplewood Academy. At first, I wasn't very comfortable being so far from home, but, as time went by, it felt like I had found another home here. Thank you very much to the alumni who have contributed to my tuition and for the other support you have all given to me. I thank God for making a way to complete my diploma. I pray that you

continue providing other students and me the support that you give us, and may God bless you so much. One thing I like about Maplewood is the spiritual nourishment that has strengthened me. I wasn't firm in faith, but after coming to MWA, I have been getting stronger each day. I appreciate all the support I have received here.

Ruthie Nyaberi '23

Timeline

Events happening 1st semester at Maplewood

August

Registration



September

Week of Prayer,
Spiritual Retreat
School Picnic
Alumni Weekend
Soccer/Volleyball



October

Bubble Soccer
Build My Future *Article*
Senior Preview Days
Junk Scramble
Soccer/Volleyball
Tournament
RingFest



November

Operation Christmas Child



December

Senior Benefit
Christmas Music Concert
Basketball Games
Bell, Choralies & Choir
Throughout the semester





MAPLEWOOD
ACADEMY

700 MAIN STREET NORTH
HUTCHINSON, MN 55350

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Farewell

ANNIKA SWANSON-LANE '24

Alan Garcia was born on September 3rd, 1992, and was baptized into the Adventist church on June 29, 2013. The beginning of his connection to Maplewood was in 2018 when he was a student teacher for Mrs. Vigil in the first semester of the 2018-2019 school year. He returned to Maplewood in 2021 as an administrative assistant, and he continued to work here as the assistant cook in the cafeteria in the beginning of 2022. Mr. Garcia also helped substitute teach English classes consistently during the 2021-2022 school year. He was always willing to help when he could and had a strong love for Maplewood Academy. He told us students many times how important it was to him that he was able to be here; he felt God's calling in his life for him to be at Maplewood—wherever he was needed. At the beginning of this school year he told me that, in addition to feeling God's calling, he had to be back because he promised us students that he would be. He cared about us so much. He prayed for us, showed interest in both our spiritual and simple day-to-day lives, and was always there to listen and to give advice. I'll miss seeing his smiling face in the office, joking back and forth in the cafeteria, and having spiritual conversations with him. I'm grateful for the many memories we have of Mr. Garcia, and I can't wait to see him in heaven one day. What a joyous reunion it will be!



Matthew 5:4

Blessed are those
who mourn, For they
shall be comforted.