

February 2017; *light*

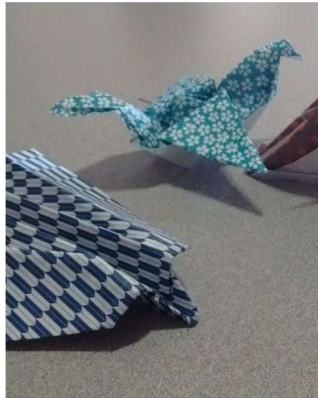
Last Friday I went for a walk down the bike path, and as I was stomping through the icy snow and slush, I was blown away by the power the sun had even this early in the year. Despite all the snow that was still on the ground, a lot had already melted in only a few short days of warm temperatures.

I took some time to really pray, to share my heart with Jesus and hear His in the process, and the longer I walked and prayed the more the sun came out, even birds started to sing. By the end of the walk I was carrying my jacket, sweating. It was a beautiful reminder of what light and prayer are capable of. It's a corny story, sure, but there is a fundamental truth in it, and grace. Light means life, naturally and spiritually – the Bible talks about it all the time. It is also one of the things I find myself sharing regularly with the kids in my class: Darkness and Light cannot exist together, when you turn on the light switch, the darkness has to go. When spirits torture you with bad dreams and visions at night and you command them in the name of Jesus to leave, on the grounds of His sacrifice and authority, they have to obey.



I want to ask you to specifically pray for courage and grace when the kids pray; courage on the kids' part to actually pray the verses we have been talking about, and grace on Jesus' part to answer their prayers and to give the kids eyes to see that He is Lord.

In the classroom, so far this month has been all about story writing ...and Origami! In story writing, we are taking a step by step approach, creating elements like main characters, a setting, a problem or conflict the characters face and a solution for that problem. As we are approaching a first rough draft, the stories are getting more colorful and creative every week. Learning about Japan has been a little bit less of a rigorous approach research, tasting Japanese candy that of Origami, and practicing different mini lesson in Origami paper folding to so far. Our lessons have consisted of doing independent a friend from Denver sent us, finding out about the origins patterns ourselves – we even got a chance at teaching a the preschoolers!



The kids love hands on, creative lessons – something I wish I was more talented to incorporate more with all the subjects and lessons I teach. Our Ski Field Trip to Terry Peak at the beginning of the month gave the kids a chance to do just that. Learning and teaching each other practically, nobody wasted much time on indoor breaks. The trip home was a bit adventurous as we were driving through drifting snow but Jesus protected us and the kids had a lot of fun.

Our Valentine's Day Party held a special surprise for me reading what my students had written down about moments in their life when they have felt especially loved (I am so humbled by the level of trust those little essays revealed). Also, it was a good opportunity to talk about God's love for them personally.

Finally, a small victory: After months of struggling to teach one of our 3rd graders persistence despite failure, I was completely taken off guard as he applied the strategy I tried to convince him of successfully, then turned around to tell me: "It worked what you told me!" Both of us were surprised and happy - the best possible outcome, and maybe a true teaching moment.

Thank You to all who decided to support me financially on a regular basis (I am currently at \$400/month), and **Thank You** for your faithful support in prayer! It truly moves mountains (and clouds ☺)!

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Putting Wings on Weary Hearts

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