

Update: Students Keep Me Motivated!  
by Shane Varga, 5/20/09

Over the course of the past few days, I have received several amazing messages from former students and parents from my teaching days. I cannot tell you how uplifted I am from this! This morning was literally one of my worst days physically I have had during this whole thing. I still go to work through my treatments and today I just drove in with hopes I would make it to work. I thought about turning around several times, but I kept pushing on because of some inspirational messages from former students.

**To be inspired through the spirit of GOD from teenagers and some just barely over, is an amazing highlight for me in my life.** To know that I did reach many of them on the level I intended is beyond words to me.

I taught PE for many years while I worked on my Masters Degree for Counseling. While I didn't exactly love teaching PE, I did love teaching and being around children. I taught at a Catholic School, Corpus Christi and it was Pre-School – 8th grade. My favorite part of teaching was connecting with the students. I wanted to be more than just a teacher who had his students for a number of years and was done with them. I wanted to know each one of them because they were more than students to me, they were people. Not just regular people either, more special than regular people. It was like this to me because the bottom line is that they are kids. Some had major problems to deal with, some had families that were already broken, self-esteem problems because we know how tough being a kid is, or pretty much any issue that caused pain.

I hated to see that, it truly killed me inside because as a kid you sometimes have no protection or even love. That is what my focus was when I taught. To relieve pain, build relationships, love, and hopefully be a positive role model. This was far more important than any curriculum. Many days were “free time” (which the kids loved and administration did not) days in my class, but it was in order to deal with real issues with real little people with big people problems. I was not always the role model I wanted to be and for that I regret the times when I lost my patience. However, when I get the numerous messages I have gotten over the past two days, it makes me cry tears of joy. **It gives me a strength that cannot be overcome by any disease.** So, for those of you who have written to me, you have blessed me to an unknown degree. Those of you who have not written but who I know are praying, thank you so much because that is all I could ever want from you.

I said in my last update that I was glad to go through this because of the changes that were happening in the people around me. I now have a new reason. *To feel the love of all my past students and families, to have the connection I wanted to build come full circle is an inspiration that motivates me to do even greater things.* You don't always get to see the fruits of your labor come to blossom, but this is a truly and amazing time in my life. The good we do is beyond measure sometimes. When you do something for someone else you can never imagine the impact it might have on them. One small word of kindness can be life altering. I am not talking about me anymore, I am talking about all of you! To everyone, you can never imagine the impact all of your support has blessed me. I sit here and almost feel guilty as to how special I feel right now. **THANK YOU! And GOD BLESS!**