

THE GOSPEL *and* Public Schools.

July 19, 2015 - Principal Chris Thorpe

- **Introduction**

Principal Thorpe shared his journey of how God brought him to his current role as the Principal of Indian Land Middle School.

- o What life-changing event happened in his life?
- o What did God teach him through this event? (HINT: Driving the bus example)
- o What life-changing event have you experienced and what did you learn from it?

- **Education and Character**

Principal Thorpe made the following two statements in a recent interview:

“At Middle School, you’re going to have the opportunity to mold an individual through both their education and their character development, which is just as important as the education part.”

“It’s important to have the grades and the content, but it’s even more important that they walk out good people.”

- o He quoted a friend who said, *“Talent will get you in the door, but character will keep you there”.*
- o Discuss how Principal Thorpe applied this to his role as a principal and how you can apply it to your current role.

- *“If our community doesn’t get better because we’re here, we shouldn’t be here...”*

Principal Thorpe resonated with this statement and shared how this has been true in his life as an individual and as part of the Indian Land Middle School team.

- o Principal Thorpe sees his role as a “change agent” to see the community change.
- o How does he go about being a catalyst of change in the lives of his staff, students, and parents?
- o How can you be a change agent (personally and as part of TC) to see our schools and our community get better because you’re here?

- **Mission-shaped**

To be mission-shaped means to be on mission with God—sharing His upward, inward, outward love wherever you are—to be His heart, hands, and feet.

- o How did Principal Thorpe challenge us to be on mission in our schools?
- o Principal Thorpe said, *“The school doesn’t exist to give me a job, it exist for me to serve.”*
- o How do these things apply to you being on mission in every other area of your life?

- **Partnership with our schools**

- o How are we partnering with our schools? (HINT: pray, back pack meals, school supplies for both students and teachers, school staff appreciation, ilead)
- o What can you do to partner with our schools?
- o What other ways can you live out the Gospel with our schools in a tangible way?

- **One of our values at TC is Servant Community.**

We are committed, by the Spirit’s enabling power, to develop a biblical, servant-hearted community, in which we serve each other through our grace-gifts as we serve in our spheres of influence by being the heart, hands, and feet of Jesus. We believe it’s important for each of us to be servant leaders to one another.

- o Principal Thorpe shared how that plays out on a day-to-day basis as a principal.
- o He challenged us to be servant leaders, to be on mission, to be God’s heart, hands and feet wherever we are, whatever our role.
- o He also challenged us that wherever we are, Jesus is there because He lives in and through us. How does this change our perspective when someone says, *“Jesus isn’t in the (public schools, government, business, etc)?*
- o Discuss how you can be a servant leader where you are.

- **Close in prayer.**

- o Pray for Principal Thorpe and our Indian Land Schools.
- o Pray for our students and families.
- o Pray for the students and teachers who will be served by our school supplies drive.
- o Pray for transformed lives as we continue to serve with our public schools in our community.