

# Principal's Message

## An Observation One (Drizzly) Morning

It was 7.25am on a grey, drizzly morning. Assembly had been cancelled. Earlier, the school prefects had announced for all students and teachers to report directly to class for pledge taking. I was standing at the school concourse looking out at the near empty assembly area, waiting for the usual wet weather morning routines to start.

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***"Whether our gifts become blessings that serve others is a decision we each have to make daily."***

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From where I stood, I noticed a young student walking in the drizzle across the assembly area towards the nearest sheltered part of the old block. He was loaded down by his school bag and a haversack which appeared stuffed with his sports training gear. Several steps behind him, walking in the same direction, was a senior with an umbrella.

What happened next moved me.

The senior quickened his pace, caught up with the young student and the two then walked together under the shelter of the umbrella. It did not appear that any words were shared. The senior saw a need, realised that his umbrella could be a blessing to someone else beside himself and moved almost instinctively to share it.

To me, this incident embodies the spirit of the 2013 theme verse of ACS (Independent) which is from 1 Peter 4: 10:

***"Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms."***

There are two truths in this verse that I hope as a school family and community, we will hold fast to. The first is the recognition that each of us has been blessed with different, God-given gifts – a natural strength or ability, a disposition, skills and influence, insight or assets. The second is that the purpose of these gifts is to serve others. Our gifts may be humble or grand, but they have the capacity to touch and bless others and make a positive difference in their lives.

Whether our gifts become blessings that serve others is a decision we each have to make daily. We can lock up our gifts to benefit ourselves and our chosen few. To do so is to withhold God's blessings to others. Or we can recognise that we are channels of God's goodness to others in our school family and community at ACS (Independent) and beyond – and use our gifts, even if it is just an umbrella on a drizzly morning, to serve someone else.

**Winston Hodge**  
**Principal**  
**ACS (Independent)**

