



National School Chaplain Association representatives receive a victory at Texas State Capitol, in Austin, TX.

With a historic year drawing to a close, I can't help but think about how much we've accomplished in such a short time. With the "Texas Chaplain Act", we've successfully started a national movement placing God back in public education! This wasn't an easy fight; we're thankful we had just what we needed.

What we needed...

"And He said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you: for my strength is made perfect in weakness."

Before I go into the story of this last year, before I mention all the trials, the highs, the lows, and the uncertainties, I want to make sure and give God all the glory for what He has done. If I've learned one thing in all my years of ministry, it's that if I'm going to accomplish what He's called me to do, I had better learn how to tap into His grace. When I find myself in weakness, that's my opening to lean into God's power and depend on Him even more.

What's essential to the work

Our story of triumph has a fundamental foundation of prayer. One of my mentors, Pastor Dave Roberson, often shared a parable of how he imagined things would probably be in heaven when God handed out the rewards. He said, as we stand there on the Day of Reward, we might be surprised who was getting the greatest rewards, the intercessors! He could imagine a well-known worldwide evangelist protesting and saying, "I got 5 million saved in a single crusade." Then God would say, "You were just the vessel I used to deliver the bread that was prayed down for decades by one of my faithful intercessors."

Ouch! There's something about that story that, deep down, rings true!

In light of this truth, I want to make sure and remember our prayer partners. Thank you for all your prayers, covering us with the favor and blessings of God. We could not have done this without you!

Financial Supporters

Thanks to our financial supporters, we've been able to spearhead the "Texas Chaplain Bill." I can't say this enough, but this is truly landmark legislation that will allow God back into U.S. Public Education and the collective conscience of future generations. This is a journey that many said couldn't happen. We've proved the naysayers wrong and accomplished the first step in our mission - cultural change back to the Judeo-Christian values that established America.





Expert Chaplain Witnesses Testify before the Texas Senate in Austin, TX April 5th, 2023. Kathy Burden (International Fellowship of Chaplains), Melissa Martin (Innovative Teachers of Texas), and Rocky Malloy (National School Chaplain Association)

Testifying before the senate

I never could have imagined that I would be testifying in front of the Texas State Senate, but here I was. The secretary of the senate filed our bill (SB763) on February 7th, 2023; the verdict wouldn't come until four months later.

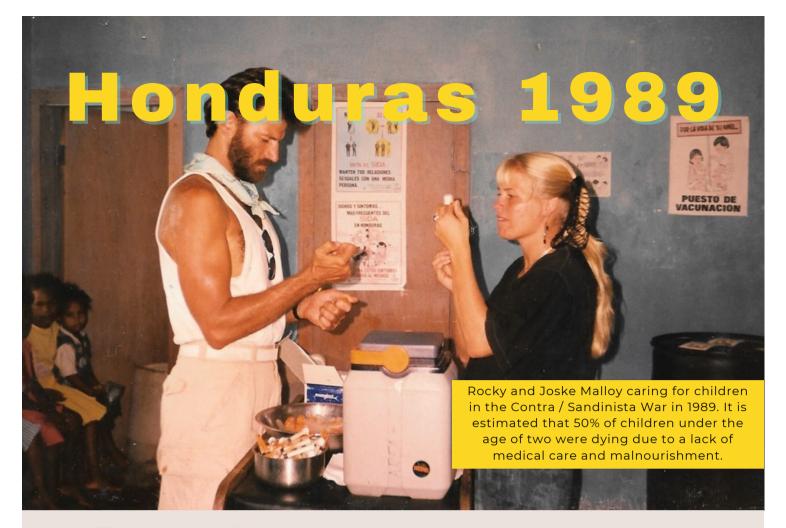
Altogether, we were called upon to testify in front of the State Senate and the House of Representatives a total of four times. Many people don't know that there were originally two bills filed. One was filed by the Texas State Senate and the other by the Texas House of Representatives. The strategy behind this decision was if one of these bills was struck down the surviving bill could still pass.

At this moment it felt as though my life's journey had come to a precipice, the culmination of years in ministry measured in a single moment of time that seemed to stand still. As the pressure mounted, suddenly a calm rested upon me. I could feel the presence of God and I started to remember things, from long ago that shaped who I had become.

Trials are part of what we must go through, and setbacks are opportunities to trust God even more.



I WENT BACK TO THE BEGINNING...





Rocky being lowered into a ship on the Caribbean, during his role as a Sea Captain.

Remember your first love

I still find myself amazed when I think about how much the Lord has accomplished in over 30 years of ministry. It's easy to forget, that everything I had done wasn't really me, but God working through me. In times of pressure and uncertainty, it's easy to shift our focus on our abilities and forget God's power does the work. If this is true, then it's His responsibility to deliver the miraculous. My responsibility is to become the yielded vessel prepared for the task.

NSCA's School Chaplaincy program in 23 South American Countries









Resolution by the grace of God

I know the facts; I've witnesses the results. School Chaplaincy saves lives and guides children to their Creator. Suddenly, the voices of doubt that said, "This is impossible and won't ever happen", faded away as I remembered what had brought me here.

June 18th, 2023

THE VERDICT



NSCA Representatives and fellow Chaplain Bill Supporters pray at the Texas State Capitol.

The House Bill was rejected

As we feared, House Bill HB3614 did not pass. Now, all we had was the Senate Bill SB763. This was the moment of truth for our cause. We didn't know if it would meet the same fate as our other bill or see the light of day.

ON FATHER'S DAY!

VICTORY

happens at

midnight

On June 18th, at approximately 11:55pm, Governor Greg Abbott signed the "Texas Chaplain Act" (SB763) into law! Our prayers and labors had finally been realized.



For SB763 to pass, it had to survive June 18th without getting vetoed. Not only did Governor Abbott not veto the bill, he signed it.

What's next?

As you're reading this letter ISDs are in the process of voting to have chaplains on campus. We estimate Texas public schools could need up to 1,300 NSCA-certified school chaplains in 2024. With this short timeline we urgently need to train school chaplain candidates so that students, teachers, and staff can reap the benefits of having a representative of God on campus. God has given us an opportunity to extend His grace and goodness to a Godless generation. Will you help us represent God on public school campuses?

Our Appeal to you

Texas was our first "Battle Ground State", but there's still much work to be done. Many other states are interested in school chaplaincy and need our help. The NSCA's expertise and data-driven results played a huge role in creating the "Texas Chaplain Act", now we're needed in other states to start the process all over again. We have two primary financial needs, to advocate for school chaplaincy in other states and to provide trained and certified school chaplains in Texas. Will you help us rescue a nation on the brink?