



## *Faith Amid the Storms*

*Who is like you, Lord God Almighty? You, Lord are mighty, and your faithfulness surrounds you. You rule over the surging sea; when its waves mount up, you still them.*

*Psalm 89:8-9*

With January having come and gone, we wanted to share a little about the start of the year. You might say we have taken the year by storm. Our school year begins in January in the middle of the southern hemisphere's summer and its cyclone season!

Seventeen new teachers and learning assistants joined us for our Orientation Day. Their enthusiasm was evident, and they have all been a blessing to our learning community. Starting the year with all our teaching positions filled has really lifted the entire staff after many days of substituting during this past year. We praise the Lord for this answered prayer for teachers.

The returning staff returned for in-service to prepare for the beginning of the school year. Our opening emphasized grounding all we do coherently in Christ through spiritual formation and the Biblical worldview. Our secondary well-being team has led the way with reformatting our homeroom schedule to include three chapels each week.

While we were busy preparing for the first day, Cyclone Belal was approaching Mauritius. Instead of welcoming our students, we were canceling school as a sudden storm shift by this category 2 hurricane brought it closer than expected causing torrential rain and flash flooding in many parts of the island and costing one life. Once again, we praised God for protecting our campus from damage and our staff safe. After two days of postponement, we celebrated the arrival of our students with our all-school assembly. [Enjoy this video of our first day](#) Additionally, Lighthouse Primary and Secondary School partnered with The Good Shop, a Christian Thrift Store, to provide relief for victims of

cyclone damage with volunteers cleaning up and collecting/distributing food, clothing and furniture.

Yet more storms were also approaching! Another praise that God turned Tropical Storm Candice away from Mauritius without any damage other than three days of school cancellations. As January ended, we had only enjoyed 5 of 10 days of scheduled classes on campus. Students and teachers were all happy to get back face to face on January 31<sup>st</sup>.

Storms are a natural part of living on the island. While you can prepare for them, you cannot prevent them. In our lives in general, we too are subject to storms, yet like the experiences of our cyclones, God's faithfulness surrounds Christians and brings us through the difficulties to appreciate His mercy more fully.

Blessings to you all,

*Paul and Lucy Beatty*