



It was the first day of school. Three new schools in a brand-new community. This year I was packing masks along with the lunch boxes. At 6:00 am one child was singing, “Sunshine in my Pocket,” one was still snoozing, and one was organizing supplies in a backpack. I was second guessing every decision that had been made about school this year. Thoughts were racing through my mind such as, “Should I have homeschooled this year? Would it have been better to choose virtual school? What if they don’t make any friends?”

I had been praying and begging The Lord to please, “Do it again!”

Do. It. Again. Three powerful words.

When Tyler was in first grade and Natalie was in the 5th grade we started at a new school in a brand-new community. God opened the door for me to work at that particular school as an elementary school counselor. My experience had always been with high school students, so I knew it was a God ordained door that I was to walk through. On the second day of school that year, I stood in the atrium with the related arts team to greet students as they entered the building. The beloved chorus teacher turned to me and asked, “How is your family doing with the move and with all of the change?” I burst into tears and scurried to my office. She probably thought we need to get this new counselor into some counseling herself. 😊 Yet God saw through all of my uncertainty and seamlessly paved the way for all of us. He provided a chance for Natalie to audition for the school’s musical and drama that year, place her in a class with some sweet girls who became fast friends, gave Tyler a first-grade teacher who understood ministry, and provided Ruthie a daycare that loved on her like she was their own.

As I reflected back on that move in 2014, that is when I began to pray and beg the Lord to “DO IT AGAIN!” Stephen recently preached a sermon out of Joshua Chapter 4 and had stones for people to take as a reminder of God’s goodness and grace. I am still finding rocks from that sermon. I think Ruthie needed at least seven reminders. The verse that stood out to me that day was verse 23.

*“For the Lord Your God dried up the Jordan before you until you had crossed over. The Lord your God did to the Jordan **just as He had done** to the Red Sea when He dried it up before us until we had crossed over.” (Joshua 4:23)*

He dried the waters. He can still dry today for whatever we are facing. The Lord gently reminded me that His Hand is powerful. “Dry ground” indicates a place where tears can be transformed into the realization of a modern-day miracle. A place where The Lord goes before us. A place that is representative of His sovereignty, holiness, and grace. **It is a place where only He can do what He can do.**

Our God is the ONLY ONE who can turn a raging river into dry ground. Our God is the ONLY ONE with the power to navigate changing schools and communities with a 15, 11, and 6-year-old during the midst of a nation-wide pandemic. The ONLY one who can breathe life back into a body, shut the mouths of lions, and rescue a man from the belly of a whale.

God said to me on that morning, *“Julie- I have already done it again. Just look around you.”*

- Natalie has been provided with a wonderful tennis team full of girls who are loving on and encouraging her. They have taken her in.
- Natalie has a school counselor who went beyond the extra mile to make sure she knew her way around the school by offering a weekend tour of the building.
- Tyler has been blessed with a friend in your neighborhood who is riding to school with him.
- A staff member, whom I have never met, sent me a picture of Tyler’s first day in one of his classes.
- A sweet lady, whom I also have never met, checked on Ruthie her first day and assured me she was doing just fine.
- Your first grader already knows she is dearly loved by her teacher after one day in class.
- The Lord also sent some folks my way as sweet assurances that mom and dad are cheering for us in Heaven. Folks I had not seen since my dad’s funeral came to worship with us at Millbrook. They both told me the same thing after the service, *“Your parents would be so proud of Stephen and so happy that you are both serving The Lord so faithfully.”*

He had already done it again and in the midst of the moving, I had failed to notice.

God’s promises stand all around us. All that He requires is that we take the first step and allow Him to do the rest.