



# REDWOOD

## COVENANT CHURCH

**06.24.10**

Dear RCC family,

I sat there scanning the 700+ high school seniors trying to find my son on the football field. He was the one wearing the blue gown and the funny looking square cap with a long floor rug tassel hanging off the side. Good, that narrows it down to the 700+ graduating seniors-- separate from the 5000 maniacal family & friends packed into Orange Coast College's football stadium for the Tesoro High School graduating class of 2010.

It was a moment I've seen dozens of times over the years serving in ministry to high school students and families. But from this side of the bleachers, this was my 3rd and final parental moment to yell like a World Cup soccer fan when they called my child's name. If you've never been there before except as a student, just wait. If you've been there/done that as a parent and paid for the expensive Grad Night event t-shirt to prove it, you know what I mean. You're thinking, "How'd we get here so fast?"

I doubt that thought ever crossed my son's mind. He was batting beach balls while awaiting the customary teacher hand shake and the uncommon but meaningful hug from Dr. Birch, the school Principal who hugged all 700+ graduates. My son was celebrating with good friends and acquaintances he spent the last four years in what some call "the best years of your life." For many High School seniors today, they beg to differ. Fortunately for my son and our family, his high school career was a great run. I was honored when his name echoed over the stadium loud speaker. I'm glad to say he's my son. I love the kid and who he's become as a young man. Although imperfect, I'm proud of the decisions he has made since he first walked on campus as a lost freshman.

My buttons were busting with pride much to the fear of the family bleached in front of me. I held it together as a man should...until the school singers started singing "One Hundred Years" by Five for Fighting, the same song my daughter sang four years prior at her graduation when she was in the Madrigals. You've probably heard it. The main line from the chorus is, "When you only got 100 years to live." The song starts with, "I'm 15 for a moment caught in between 10 and 20..." and then the progress of life carries through the song. For me it's not just an engaging melody with powerful lyrics, it's sitting in the bleachers all mushy to hear another Webster name declared complete as a child. I truly believe this is one of the top three most powerful moments in our American

culture, whether you are 18 or 50, to stop, look around, take in the scene and ask, "How'd I do?" Then quickly you find yourself wondering, "Now what?"

I turned 50 a few months ago. I'm not old unless you ask my kids. The last 24 years of family life, including three sappy but happy high school graduations, was not always a song, but a beautiful melody. Along the way the Lord has taught me principles to live by. If you still have kids in your home, put these into practice. Your kid is only 15 for a moment, then 22 before you know it. If you're beyond those years, you know more than others how precious each day is. I offer a few of my discoveries to you in a Five for Fighting format – 5 ways to battle for a blessed life against anything stealing your joy:

Love Deeply – John 13:34

Forgive Quickly – Matthew 18:22

Gather Frequently – Hebrews 10:25

Praise Liberally – Hebrews 10:24

Cry Easily – John 11:35, Luke 19:41

I invite you to join the Redwood Covenant Church family again this Sunday at 9:30 or 11:11 AM. We're "Going Glocal – Global View with Local Action" as we live out the adventurous call of Jesus. If you haven't had the chance to say hi to me yet, I'll be the guy up front with the button busted shirt and the teary red eyes working on the second half of my "Only 100 years to live". Know that when you attend, belong, connect and serve with our church family, you'll never walk alone. We'll burst out and tear up with you.

If you have four minutes and tissues nearby, go online and listen to 100 Years at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fJN9YIOI1xE> and check out [www.redwoodcovenant.org](http://www.redwoodcovenant.org) to find out what's going on in our church.

See you Sunday,

Pastor Doug