

May 17, 2004

Dear students and families,

It is with great sadness that I write this newsletter update. Yesterday (Sunday), the Strain family (many of you know Joel and Jed from piano lessons and recitals, etc.) was in a car accident. Mrs. Strain and Jed were killed. Mr. Strain and Joel were taken to the KU Medical Center in Kansas City and have undergone surgeries. Mr. Strain is recovering from a broken hand and punctured lung. Joel is recovering from intestinal bleeding and still has a severe back injury. As of now, his lower body is paralyzed. Please pray for Joel and Mr. Strain and their other family members – Jacob and his wife, Nicole, Andrew, and Jonathan.

Though this has hit many people very hard, including myself, I know that God has a purpose for all things. He has allowed this for a reason. Mrs. Strain and Jed both knew Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior and so I know that I will one day see them again in Heaven. Their lives have impacted many people and I know that their death was not in vain. I pray that each of you will examine your own life and if you have not already, that you may come to know Jesus as your Lord and Savior – the Son of God who lived a perfect life and died, taking upon Himself the penalty for our sins and conquering death through His resurrection. Because of this, we have the promise that if we believe in Him, we too may live eternally with Him in Heaven.

Jesus said, “Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death into life.” John 5:24

Love,

Here are two of my favorite pictures of Jed:

