

A sobering Tuesday



On Tuesday I was on my way to a job and had to choose a route to take. One of the routes, the one I didn't pick, was blocked with police tape and vehicles, which I found out when I passed it taking the other route. Like accidents and such I pass from time to time, I wondered if I would see it in the paper tomorrow whatever it was. I found out much more quickly than that. When I arrived at the school, I signed in and took note of an article someone had laid out, printed from the local paper's website. A fire had claimed the lives of a mother and a fifth-grade boy that very morning. The dad, who is said to have set the fire due to financial problems, would die in the hospital a day later. Being closer to the school I was at than any other school in the district I figured I would be dealing with more than teaching today because guess what- I was subbing for fifth grade. As it turned out, while this school was closer the main road was a dividing line so in fact he went to a different school. I guess they didn't want kids to have to cross the busy road. For me that meant not having kids who needed to be consoled, but now the ones at the other school would be the ones involved in the crisis counseling. The fire wasn't even mentioned where I was, but I can bet today this school had some counselors on hand since after all, the family lived only about a half-mile away. There were two surviving children. I pray that they get the help they need to be able to move forward. I am not sure if I ever subbed in the fifth-grader's class. His name isn't familiar, but I think I may recognize him, but maybe not- I have been with hundreds of different kids after all. One thing is for sure though, I will never be subbing in his class again.

May God comfort those two kids who are now parentless and minus one sibling. Peace to them. Typically I don't identify the districts I sub in, but this news deserves a couple of

links:

[Officials look to cause of fire that killed members of 'perfect family'](#)

[Police: Kevin Finnerty left suicide note, started fire](#)