

The Advocate

Dawn Adams Harden was a beloved educator. She lovingly connected with her students and made a huge impact on their lives. She was adored by her students. Her passion for teaching inspired all three of her children – Lori, Joey, and Julie – to follow her example in being educators.

Lori recalls some advice her mother gave her during her first year of teaching “that building relationships first with students would make everything else easier and fall into place.”

Her son, Joey, described her as an advocate for her students. “She was in her students’ corner, and they were fully aware of it, and that’s why she was so beloved.”

Joey shared an example of his mother’s advocacy: There was a little boy that she taught in 2nd grade at Mount Dora (FL) Christian Academy. Because of his behavior, he was quite challenging as a student, but Mrs. Adams loved him and was able to connect with him. After the school year was over, the boy and his family moved away from Mount Dora. At the beginning of the following school year, the school secretary came to Mrs. Adams’ classroom. She said, “I am going to watch your class because you have a very important phone call.” Mrs. Adams went to the office to answer the phone call. It was the principal at the school where the little boy was now attending. The principal told Mrs. Adams that he was having a difficult time, and he was in her office because his teacher could not console him. The principal had also been unable to get him to calm down. The little boy had said to the principal: “I only want to talk to Mrs. Adams.” The principal asked, “Who is Mrs. Adams?” He replied, “She was my teacher at my old school, and she is the only one who understands.” The principal handed the phone to the little boy so that Mrs. Adams could speak with him. She talked to him for a few minutes, encouraging him. He calmed down and felt much better. The principal then took the phone to speak to Mrs. Adams again. “May he call you again if he needs you?” Mrs. Adams responded, “Yes, of course.” Then the principal said, “I don’t know you, Mrs. Adams, but you must be one of the greatest teachers in the world.”

The Apostle John revealed that Christians have an Advocate: “My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous” (1 John 2:1). The Greek word translated “Advocate” literally means “called to one’s side” or “one who is called alongside.” An advocate is one who pleads another’s cause, an intercessor.

Jesus died on the cross so that He could become our Advocate. He paid the price for our redemption from sin (1 Peter 1:18-19). For those who accept His offer of salvation and eternal life, He will continue to advocate for them.

God will save, give eternal life, and provide an Advocate for those who will place their faith and trust in Jesus (Acts 16:30-31), turn from their sins in repentance (Acts 17:30-31), confess Jesus before men (Romans 10:9-10), and are baptized (immersed) into Christ for the forgiveness of sins (Acts 2:38). Jesus will continue to advocate for those who seek to walk in the light of His Word yet stumble along the way (1 John 1:7 – 2:1).

We all desperately need the Advocate. Jesus will “come alongside” us, save us from sin, and continue to intercede on our behalf. He died to become our Savior; He lives to be our Advocate.

-- David A. Sargent

* In loving memory of Dawn Adams Harden (July 9, 1942 – August 25, 2026), a wonderful advocate who pointed us to the Advocate. Until we meet again.