



A Testimony of God's Grace

By Bill Lloyd ('79)

The Bible is full of word pictures. One of the most poignant is in Matthew 2, "Then was fulfilled that which was spoken by Jeremiah the prophet, saying, 'In Ramah was there a voice heard, lamentation, and weeping and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children, and would not be comforted . . .'" Etched in my mind forever is the lament of my mother the day that the police came and took my two brothers and me away. She was accused of abuse and neglect, and we were to never live with her again.

This was the start of an incredible journey that God orchestrated to write my name in the Book of Life. From the age of nine until I turned 18, I lived in four foster homes and three group homes. Midway through that time, a faithful houseparent shared the gospel with me, and I gave my heart to Christ.

A few years later, I found myself in South Hutchinson in my fourth foster home. I was new to the area, and I had no friends. My new foster parents offered me the option of completing high school at Central Christian. This was my third high school, and I tended to be an outcast who my peers took advantage of or just didn't want to be around. Hoping that Christian kids would be friendlier than public school students had been, I accepted.

I found myself in the midst of godly teachers and students who were committed to the Lord and His gospel. This was the beginning of a dramatic turning point in my walk with God and in learning how to be a normal kid. I began to learn that being a Christian was more than having a religion to believe in, it is a way of life! I learned that there is such a thing as a Christian worldview and that there is true truth.

I also learned something about the kindness of Christian brothers and sisters. One way was being invited to be part of the football team. Not too far into the season, I was "speared" in my right knee which required surgery and time in the hospital. I remember well the Central Christian visitors who expressed genuine care and concern for me.

It was also a time of God's discipline. Hebrews 12:6 says, "For the Lord disciplines the one He loves, and He chastises every son He receives." I still had a lot to learn about being a friend and a Christian brother. But despite my shortcomings, I remember teachers and friends who refused to give up on me. Isn't that the story of God's grace, that He loves us even while we are sinners?

I'm very thankful for Central Christian being there for an outcast like me. Even now, I am still invited back to class reunions, and I was invited to share my story at the school's 2021 Stewardship Dinner. I least of all deserve such grace.

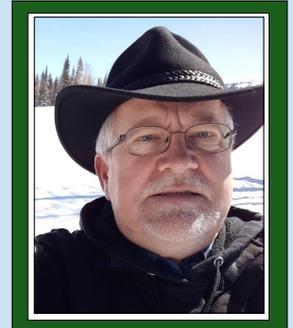
Being torn away from my mother was painful and hard. Living in multiple homes with many different parents is a tough row to hoe. Here are some statistics to consider:

- More than 23,000 kids age out of the foster care system each year
- 20% of them become homeless by the age of 24
- Less than 3% will ever earn a college degree
- 60% of young men have been convicted of a crime

<https://nfyi.org/51-useful-aging-out-of-foster-care-statistics-social-race-media/>

Needless to say, once I left CCS, the deck was stacked against me. For sure in the years since I graduated, there have been numerous trials, tribulations, and growing pains. But more importantly, I am a living testimony of God's grace!

- By His grace, I am an alumnus of Central Christian High School.
- By His grace, I graduated from Covenant College.



- By His grace, I married my beautiful wife, Tracy.
- By His grace, I have nine children, two sons-in-law, and three daughters-in-law, all who love the Lord.
- By His grace, I have four grandchildren and three more on the way.
- By His grace, I've been an IT professional for over 30 years, 15 of which were in Christian service.
- By His grace, I beat the odds.

I owe a debt of gratitude to Central Christian and all of you, who despite my outcast status, welcomed me and were used by Him to launch me on an amazing path. God knew exactly what He was doing when He brought me out of a family tree destined for disaster and made me the head of a new family with a trajectory of service to Him. Praise the Lord!

We are all aware of the darkness that hangs heavy over our land, of which only the light of Christ can overcome. Our investment in Christian education is a key to kindling that light in the hearts of the children in our care.

Finally, I want to end with the chorus of a contemporary Christian song by Ray Boltz.

*Thank you for giving to the Lord,
I am a life that was changed.
Thank you for giving to the Lord,
I am so glad you gave.*

Thank you for letting me share my story with you! May all at CCS keep up the good work, and I pray that God will bless the ministry of Central Christian for many more years to come.



On Saturday, November 27, CCS alumni returned to the gym for the annual alumni basketball games against the current high school girls and boys teams. It's always a pleasure to have our alumni come back to Central Christian for a fun time of basketball.



Dr. John Walker, CCS Superintendent



On April 29th, Central Christian School held a special event to publicly launch our \$3.2 million capital campaign. The night featured a celebration of the Lord's kindness and goodness in the successful completion of Phase 1 of the FORWARD Campaign. Under Phase I, the school's debt was entirely paid off—a debt that has hindered progress for many years. Join me in praising the Lord for His provision!

We are now ready to begin fundraising for Phases 2 and 3 of the FORWARD Campaign. Phase 2 features capital improvement plans. CCS started a building expansion in the late 1990s, more than twenty years ago. Unfortunately, because of an ongoing lack of funds to complete that building addition, four classrooms are still only partially finished, and an unfinished hallway cannot be used. Our engineering consultants have nearly completed the required plans for those spaces, including electrical, HVAC, insulation, a firewall, and other necessary components to finish that construction project. Now is the time to complete those classrooms and fill them with students, staff, and sound teaching from a biblical worldview.



Phase 2 also features a concrete parking lot. Central Christian School is one of the very few nonresidential properties on Hutchinson's 30th Avenue without a paved parking lot. A concrete parking lot will provide 111 parking spaces with six ADA-compliant parking spots. As we move forward in excellence, we believe that now is the time to pave our parking lot.

Phase 3 features the Central Fund. The Central Fund will seek to meet four important needs: student scholarships, faculty development, facility maintenance, and enhancing our curriculum. Financial support for these areas will help to ensure a bright future for students and families who desire a biblical worldview education. Now is the time to build up the Central Fund to meet these needs.

Please join us by prayerfully considering how you might support the ministry of Central Christian School through the FORWARD Campaign.

(For a larger rendering of the map shown below, email Jim Doerksen at jdoerksen@cougarsccs.com.)

CENTRAL CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

PARKING IMPROVEMENTS & 'STEM' WING COMPLETION

Legend	
EXISTING BUILDING - NO WORK	PROPOSED PARKING LOT PAVING
NEW SCIENCE LAB	EXISTING GRAVEL PARKING/DRIVE
NEW TECHNOLOGY CLASSROOM	NEW LANDSCAPE BED
NEW MATH CLASSROOM	NEW SIDEWALK
NEW FLEX SPACE	EXISTING SIDEWALK
FINISH CORRIDOR UPGRADES	ADA PARKING STALL

Additional Project Information

www.cougarsccs.com

"For we walk by faith, not by sight." 2 Corinthians 5:7

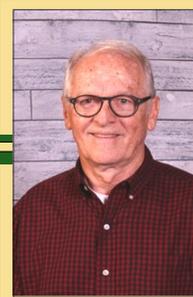
NORTH
GRAPHIC SITE PLAN
1" = 25'-0"

EAST 30TH AVENUE

In regard to the FORWARD Campaign . . . Lord, give us faith to believe.

Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen. (Ephesians 3:20-21 NKJV)

THE DIRECTOR'S CORNER



Jim Doerksen ('67)
Alumni Director

CENTRAL CHRISTIAN SCHOOL'S 71ST ANNUAL COMMENCEMENT is scheduled for Saturday, May 7. There are 12 seniors in the graduating Class of 2022.

ALUMNI AND REUNION WEEKEND – This year's Alumni and Reunion Weekend will be held on September 16 and 17. Put this on your schedule now. If you have not joined us for this celebration, make this the year! Locals, I'm calling you out. Come for a fun evening of dinner and a football game with many other alumni. We look forward to hosting a number of our classes whose year ended in a two. The school's first graduating class was 1952, and the Class of 1962 will be celebrating their 60th class reunion! Most of the other classes with special anniversary years will be with us too. This could also include classes whose graduation year ends in a seven, and we would especially like to see the Class of 1997 for their 25th anniversary.

ESTATE PLANNING – Repetition is the key to mastery, and I think this bears repeating. As you consider your estate planning, please remember Central Christian School as a worthy recipient of what the Lord has given to you.

ALUMNI ON THE SCHOOL'S WEBSITE – Five years ago, when my Class of 1967 began planning our 50th class reunion, we called the school for a list of our class members and their contact information. We were disappointed to see that there was current contact information on only a few of our former classmates. That led us to a process of research to find every one of them. It was a time consuming and tedious task to find graduates who have not been in contact with the school for many years. We were finally able to locate everyone in our class.

Keeping current information on all of our graduates is an ongoing project. Beginning with the first graduating Class of 1952 through the Class of 2021, there's been a total of 1,322 graduates from Central Christian School. We send this newsletter to more than 1,000 alumni, which leaves nearly 300 graduates who are not being reached.

We need your help. If you are wondering if we have all of your current contact information, or that of your classmates, you can go to Central Christian School's website (www.cougarsccs.com) to find out. On the website's home page, you'll see three horizontal bars in the upper right-hand corner. Click on those bars, and a page comes up with **Alumni** on the top line as an option. Clicking on **Alumni** leads you to an alumni page which lists all of the classes by graduation year. On class rosters, asterisks indicate missing information, the letter D stands for deceased, and presidents and vice presidents are listed as primary contacts for their class. Please contact me for their information if you need it.

My desire is to have current contact information for ALL our alumni. We have been gathering these three items: current postal service addresses, email addresses, and phone numbers. An efficient and effective way to get these items is to talk, if possible, with parents or siblings of alumni. Think of your relatives who attended Central and see if their information is complete. I recently spoke with parents who generously gave me current information on all four of their children who had graduated from CCS. It saved much time and research. Reach out to me if you can help with any information or provide updates for alumni. **PLEASE EMAIL ME at jdoerksen@cougarsccs.com with this much-needed information!**

Central Christian School has alumni memorabilia for sale.

Alumni caps – \$20
Yearbooks (various years) – \$10

If you would like to make a purchase,
please call the school office at
620-663-2174 or email info@cougarsccs.com.



Family News

Please keep us updated on you and your family's marriages, births, and deaths.

Email Jim Doerksen at jdoerksen@cougarsccs.com.

Congratulations

Catherine Evenson ('14) and Mick Piszcek were married on October 31, 2021.
Nathaniel Heneha ('18) and Julia Stubbs were married on August 28, 2021.
Mason Rich ('17) and Perla Rodriguez were married on January 1, 2022.
Joshua Ruhlmann ('14) and Ashlyn Wiens were married on January 8, 2022 .

Welcome

Kyle ('18) and Kaylin (Tobias '18) Krehbiel welcomed their baby girl Kynlee Marie on January 9, 2022.
Brad ('05) and Amie Evenson welcomed their baby girl Callie Hope on February 12, 2022.
Julianne (Duree '17) and Jonny Orpin welcomed their baby girl Claire Sparrow on April 15, 2022.

Deaths

Priscilla (Unrau '62) Wieneke of Bakersfield, California, died on October 18, 2021.
Paul Lawson ('68) of Hutchinson, Kansas, died on December 11, 2021.
Priscilla Nies (former staff member) of Hutchinson, Kansas, died on December 13, 2021.
Dr. Kenneth Stone (former administrator) of Springdale, Arkansas, died on December 24, 2021.
Melvin Barnett (former staff member) of Hutchinson, Kansas, died on January 19, 2022.
Wes Bontrager ('59 and former board member) of Buhler, Kansas, died on February 7, 2022.

CCS Alumni Association
6547 N. Academy Blvd #462
Colorado Springs, CO 80918

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Hutchinson, KS 67502

**ADDRESS SERVICE
REQUESTED**

Please contact

CCS Alumni Association at
jdoerksen@cougarsccs.com
if you have a change of email or
mailing address. We want to keep in
touch with our alumni and friends.



We encourage you to get in touch with your former classmates.

Email jdoerksen@cougarsccs.com for their contact information if you need it.

Rejoicing in Times of Suffering

by Philip Pinto



Philip and Melissa

I attended Central Christian through high school, graduating in 1994. After completing a bachelor's in business administration at Tabor College, I moved to Arkansas to develop a Christian family camp ministry, which morphed into youth ministry, especially after I married Melissa Hayes (CCS '95). We now have four children who are ages 11, 12, 15, and 16. They have grown up ministering with us at the camp and as I have pastored Village Bible Church in Cherokee Village, Arkansas, for the past 11 years.

The book of Habakkuk is a record of the prophet's lament to God over the wickedness of His nation, *God's* people. Habakkuk complains to God about the evil in the world and asks God why He doesn't do something. God responds by telling Habakkuk that, in fact, He has *not* overlooked evil and will be sending the nation of Babylon to punish His people. "Now wait a minute, God," Habakkuk retorts, "they are more wicked than Judah! Why would you do that?" God then reveals to Habakkuk that He uses even wicked nations to correct immorality, injustice, and oppression that inevitably arises as men's wickedness grows and overtakes a nation. It's a cycle we see repeated throughout human history even into modern times.

In the meantime, God's people often suffer under the heavy hand of wicked people and nations. Habakkuk was no exception. His song of response to his own suffering that ends the book is exemplary. May this be the prayer of discouraged, oppressed, and struggling Christians today!

Though the fig tree should not blossom, nor fruit be on the vines, the produce of the olive fail and the fields yield no food, the flock be cut off from the fold and there be no herd in the stalls, yet I will rejoice in the LORD; I will take joy in the God of my salvation. GOD, the Lord, is my strength; He makes my feet like the deer's; He makes me tread on my high places. To the choirmaster: with stringed instruments. (Habakkuk 3:17-19, ESV)