



CENTRAL
CHRISTIAN
SCHOOL

ALUMNI TIMES

November 2019

Volume 2

Issue 1



YOUR ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

As a 1967 graduate of Central Christian High School, and after many conversations with the Administration and the Board of Trustees of Central, I have been tasked with the leadership for our new Alumni Association. This is a three-year commitment, and in taking this on, I believe the Lord can show His mighty hand to support and bless our school. An active, meaningful alumni association is a dynamic entity. We are a large and widespread group of people. Maintaining contact with each other is a moving target! Nevertheless, for a successful alumni association, a couple of factors are necessary.



The first is an accurate database of alumni contacts. This is An ongoing effort. Alumni records of the first 17 years of the school's existence are nearly complete. If you graduated between 1952 and 1969, please keep your Alumni Association in the loop with any changes in your contact information, including you email address and phone number. If you're aware of another alum who isn't receiving these alumni mailings, please let us know.

This is where we need your help. For the classes who graduated after 1989, contact information is very sketchy. If you have relatives or friends who are alums and are not receiving these mailings, please let them know to contact the Alumni

Association so we can include them. We are looking for the presidents and vice presidents of each class, or those who coordi-

nated reunions, to chase down the contact data for their classes. This process is taking a long time and a lot of work, but we will persist until we can have a significant percentage of all graduates. In time we hope to have a button on the school website for a list of each of the graduates per class.

The second is communication - with the group, and with each other. We'll attempt to send a newsletter at least twice a year to the entire association. At this time our mailing is going out to nearly 600 names out of the 1,360 that are in our current database.



One of the very important things that each of us as alumni can do

for the school is pray. Please pray for the **Central Board of Trustees** as they labor with decisions that affect the current and future ministry of the school. Pray for the **administration and teachers** as they daily give guidance to the students of Central. Pray for the **students** who are hearing truth in every class they attend that they might be changed into the image of Christ. Pray also that the Spirit of God would hover over the school and carry His blessing to the school each day. I Peter 3:12, "For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and His ears are open to their prayers."

We are filled with excitement and anticipation for what God is doing at Central, and we are looking forward to seeing His continued blessing.

Jim Doerksen

President, CCS Alumni Association



Reunions for 1969 and 1979



The heart of education is the education of the heart.

ALUMNI – RISE UP!

Dear Fellow Alumni,

Do you remember your high school days at Central?

We were taught how to live our lives as Christ-followers. The principles of prayer, marriage and family, faithful stewardship, and many other Scriptural principles were ingrained into every aspect of our experience there. An ethos was built into our lives that can be summed up in the graduation motto for the class of 1967, which is a quote from Jim Elliott: “Giving what we cannot keep - o gain what we cannot lose.”

I am writing this letter to let you know of a need at Central that I believe we as the alumni can meet. As expressed in my note on the front page, I have the full support and commendation of the Board of Trustees in making this need known.

A building project was started in 1998 - more than twenty years ago, which is still unfinished today. There are classrooms that are only partially finished, and a hallway blocked off that cannot be used because of an outstanding debt and a lack of funds to finish the construction. The school that has shepherded so many young people into vibrant Christian lives is in desperate need of upgrading and expansion. But that cannot be accomplished until the outstanding debt is paid. The first step is to get the debt paid

and then the next step will be to fund the completion of the entire project.

I have met with many concerned individuals and spoken to a number of classes at their reunions to

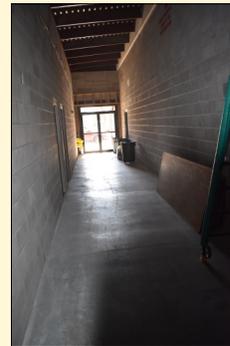


consider how we can help CCS. The school currently carries a debt of \$340,000. The Board of Trustees has prayerfully determined to not take on any further debt to finish the classrooms. I believe that



we as the alumni of Central can take care of this debt. Consider Matt 18:19, “Again I say to you that if two of you agree on earth concerning anything they ask, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven.” We want to think large and ask large. We serve a big God, and we are **looking to Him** to provide a great sense of urgency and generosity to the alumni of Central Christian.

Many of us have come to a point in our lives where we can give out of the abundance of what the Lord has given us. How have you been blessed by the generous hand of our Heavenly Father? An excellent job, a great investment, an inheritance, or an abundant harvest? What a blessing it would be to give back to



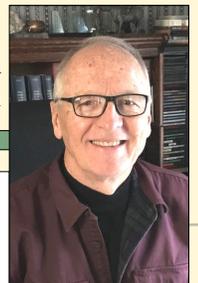
the school that helped launch you on your way - helping provide the means for other young learners to have the same experience.

I’ve had the opportunity to speak with many of you in the past couple of years chasing down contact information. I’ve listened to you express how much you want to support our school. If you

haven’t thought about it in the past, **now is the time.** Any funds received in excess of the \$340,000 needed to retire the debt will be used to finish those silent, unfinished classrooms. Let’s get this debt paid. Make your check out to CCS, with “Alumni Association” in the memo line. Use the enclosed envelope included with this mailing. Your gifts to the school qualify as charitable contributions.

Our school needs your help. Out of your abundance, please consider giving what you cannot keep, to gain what you cannot lose. Let’s do this for the Lord and for our alma mater.

Sincerely,
Jim Doerksen
President, Alumni Association



“FOR THE EYES OF THE LORD RUN TO AND FRO THROUGH OUT THE WHOLE EARTH, TO SHOW HIMSELF STRONG ON BEHALF OF THOSE WHOSE HEART IS LOYAL TO HIM.”
2 CHRON 16:9 NKJV

TRIVIA

1952 Car	\$1,700
1960 House	11,900
1965 Yearly salary	6,900
1970 Stamps	.06
1975 Bread	.14
1980 Gas	1.19
1985 Milk	1.57
1990 Car	9,437
1995 House	111,000
2000 Yearly salary	57,200
2005 Stamps	.37
2010 Bread	1.50
2019 Gas	2.69

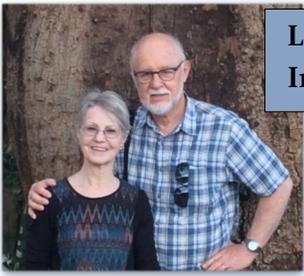
Averages

Family News....

Please keep us updated on you and your families: Marriages, Births, and

Homegoings

Alvin Dale Schrag ('56) 8/11/2019
Dave Landis (teacher) 8/18/2019
Eldene Schroeder ('58) 10/22/2019



LaDonna and Reg Reimer Introduction by Jim Doerksen

IN her younger years she was influenced by and came to know the Lord through the ministry of Orchard Park Chapel in Hutchinson. In high school some of you remember Donna Goodwin ('59) as a young lady with a strong Christian testimony. It was at Central that she began to spread her wings, became a wonderful athlete, and also found out that she could sing and was in several singing groups.

She met her husband, Reg Reimer, at Grace Bible Institute in Omaha, NE. It was at Grace that they both heard the call of the Lord to be missionaries. After GBI, both Donna and Reg did further studies at missionary colleges and language schools. Together they formed a duo that was a powerful influence for the gospel in many countries of Southeast Asia. They first went to Vietnam in 1966, to Thailand from 1976 through 1984, and then back to Toronto from 1984 through 1996 to build World Relief Canada. Affiliation with this organization led them to much service on the continent of Africa. They have continued many missionary endeavors from their home base in Fraser Valley, BC. Their missionary career has been varied and in so many parts of the world. They have gone through both the highs and the lows of missionary work. They have experienced the devastation and tragedy of war, physical and emotional trauma, seen the darkest places in the world, undertaken exhausting and often times monotonous work, faced danger and discouragement, experienced man made and natural disasters, encountered deep human suffering with the face of evil, became tireless advocates of the poor and also tireless advocates of persecuted Christians...yet they thank the Lord for allowing them to communicate His Good News to the people "on the cruel edges of the world". After and even while going through some of these things they also experienced the exhilaration of knowing and doing God's will and direction for their lives. Together they had a concern for "the little, the lost, the last and the least", and considered all this as service for their Master!

We would desire that our younger alumni reading this story will find inspiration and aspiration to follow in the footsteps of those who had a burning desire to follow God's will wherever it led.

Reg has written a fascinating summary of their missionary work that many would do well to read. You can look it up under the title of "My Sojourn in Mission", in the Canadian Missiological Resources, by Reg Reimer. Donna has written her life story here without bringing much attention to herself - **but she and her husband's lives have been used by God in many extraordinary ways!**



LaDonna Reimer (nee Goodwin 1959) Life Story

My earliest memory is one of being left in a day nursery so my mother could go to work. Her having to work didn't change with the divorce from my dad and marriage to my stepdad when I was 4. In the ensuing years 3 more children were added to my original 5. With Mom leaving for work at 5:00 a.m. and returning at 6:00 p.m. my job as the oldest girl was left to care for my younger siblings. Being responsible was an early life lesson. My 2 older brothers, at 10 and 12, went to live with my father when our parents were divorced. When I was in grade 3 I was introduced to Bible stories when two women, both named Elizabeth Thiessen, would alternately pick us up from home to attend an after-school Bible class. I would attend every camp, conference, or rally these two women would invite me to. I loved the kind attention, the excitement and the music! When I was 12 1/2 I attended an evangelistic rally at Central where the elder Miss Thiessen led me in a prayer to accept Christ. Thereafter, both Miss Thiessens made sure I regularly attended church at Orchard Park Chapel where I learned I could sing well. They also ensured I went to Busy Bee Bible Camp where I memorized some of the shorter books of the Bible and earned a New Testament of my own.

The folks at Orchard Park Chapel approached me when I was ready for high school informing me that if I could get to Central Christian High School they would pay my full tuition. This was a miracle to me! I worked throughout high school as a waitress, a house cleaner and typist for the Chemistry teacher to pay for books and clothes.

At Central, aside from schoolwork, I excelled at basketball, track and field and in music. I had 3 important mentors on staff...the 2 Ediger brothers and Mr. Walter. Having no positive male influence at home I was guided and influenced by their love of God and His Word. I learned early that God was my father and He be trusted totally in all ways. It was because of these influences at Central that I was guided into Christian service. I've spent a major part of my life as a missionary, first in Vietnam from 1966-1975, then in Thailand with Indochina refugees from 1976-1984. We then moved to Toronto, Ontario, Canada from Thailand where my husband, Reg, served as president of World Relief Canada until 1996. While in Toronto I returned to university and graduated with a BSW (honours) in Family Studies from York University, then on to the University of Toronto graduating with a Master's degree in Social Work. I worked as a social worker for 15 years in British Columbia, Canada. Our two children have followed our footsteps: our son Jay has worked in Ethiopia, Malawi, So. Korea and Malaysia. Our daughter, Jill, a relief and development specialist in a dozen African countries as well as Turkey, Bangladesh, No. Korea, Sri Lanka, and for nearly 20 years, in Cambodia. **All of this because Christian people cared and saw something worthwhile in me that could be used of God, and did something about it.** At Central I chose Matthew 6:33 as my life verse and I have certainly experienced it to be the Lord's Truth!

"But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you".
Matthew 6:33 NJKV

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Colorado Springs, CO 67501

Please contact
The Alumni Association at
jdoerksen@cougarsccs.com
if you have a change of email or
mailing address. We want to keep in

**ADDRESS SERVICE
REQUESTED**



We encourage you to begin contacting former classmates now for next year's
CCS Alumni & Reunion Weekend, scheduled for September 11-12, 2020.

For lists of class members and their contact information, please email jdoerksen@cougarsccs.com

Stewardship by Bob Shelton (Class of 1955)

It was March 1953. I was 16 years old. I was a sophomore in a small high school in a small town. We were moving to a large town where the high school had 2,000 students. I rebelled! I was happy where I was at and told my parents that I wasn't going to go to school and they couldn't make me!

God had a different idea! That summer, I met a young man who told me about Jesus and His wonderful love. This was completely new to me. I had never been in a church for any reason. My parents just didn't go. I had never been told about love because my parents never expressed themselves that way.

One evening after dinner, there was a knock on our door, and I went to see who it was. It was the young man who had told me about God's love and that Jesus died for me. He had his youth pastor with him and 3 young people from the youth department. They invited me to church. I started going to church, and I saw a difference in these people. They had dedicated their life, their talents, and their resources to God. They put their efforts together and seemed to operate like a well oiled machine. They called it being good stewards. I Corinthians 4:2 says, "It is required of stewards that a person be found faithful." To make a long story short, I soon prayed to receive Christ as my Savior. My parents started coming to church and they liked it but, they would not commit.



Bob and Carolyn Shelton

One last thought.....my Dad was a shade tree mechanic. He enjoyed working on cars. I came home one day and he had removed an engine to work on and was trying to put it back in and was having trouble. I stood and watched him and then I became aware that he was talking to someone. Finally they got it installed, and the fellow underneath came out. When he stood up, I was really surprised to see that he was the pastor from the church. He stood there brushing off his clothes and with an old rag he tried to clean the the grease off his hands. They stood there and talked for awhile and then the pastor left. My Dad looked at me and said, "there goes a real man." My parents were soon saved and served the Lord all the rest of their lives as well as my brothers and their families. **This all happened because a group of people banded together and dedicated their resources, gifts, time, and talents to God. THEY WERE FAITHFUL!**