

Camden Christian Academy
November 2007
State of the School

It has been eight months since we issued our last “*State of the School Address*”, and we are now at the end of the first quarter of the new school year. In our last address we proclaimed our motto for this year as, ***WE WILL CARRY ON AND MOVE ONLY FORWARD, as we trust in the LORD for the needed answers.***

In keeping with that motto we want to invite you to join us in doing three things: **PRAISING GOD** for what He has done, **PARTICIPATING** in meeting the current needs, and **PLANNING** for the future.

PRAISING GOD for what he has done:

Here is a partial list of what God has done and is doing through and for CCA that we need to give Him the **praise** for.

- Since spring 2002 erased a \$78,000 deficit.
- Finished last school year \$1,500 in the black.
- Providing the students, parents, and teachers that have created a Christ-centered, family-like atmosphere.
- Building improvements
- Many more daily blessings that you should ask your child’s teacher to share with you

PARTICIPATING in meeting the current needs:

At the beginning of August, before starting this school year, we had an estimated deficit for this year of about \$40,000. The main reason for that size of deficit was that we only had 45 students pre-enrolled, a decrease of twenty students from where we started the previous school year.

Now, in October that \$40,000 estimated deficit has already been decreased to \$14,298.03. You ask, how could the estimated deficit have already been reduced by over \$25,000? Here are some things that the administration, faculty, staff, and others have been able to do:

- \$5,400 – Mrs. Knight asking to go to part time and other teachers picking up the other ½ day (3 periods)
- \$1,800 – Mrs. Opelt and Mrs. Griffin asking to leave ½ hour early each day
- \$4,600 – Mrs. Hammack, a full time teacher, leaving for another job opportunity and other teachers picking up the afternoon classes
- Increased number of students from 45 to 50. We are now back down to 49 after one student moved.
- \$1,400 – October 2007 Gym sale
- \$2,600 – Not hiring a janitor because teachers and families have stepped forward and committed to cleaning the school weekly
- \$3,469 – Lowered estimated expenses based upon last year’s expenses compared to this year’s current expenses
 - Curriculum- \$2,000
 - Student Insurance - \$69
 - Facility - \$1,400

The current estimated deficit of \$14,298.03 means that our average monthly expenses are \$1,429 more than our average monthly income based upon ten months.

In holding to our motto, **WE WILL CARRY ON AND MOVE ONLY FORWARD, as we trust in the LORD for the needed answers**, what can we do to generate the additional funds needed to eliminate the estimated deficit?

- Personnel Expenses: There are no additional changes in the faculty that can be made. There are only two paid non-faculty positions remaining, the administrator and the school secretary, and eliminating either of these positions would present its' own unique set of challenges.
- Facility Expenses: Our utilities could possibly be lowered by replacing the heating/cooling units with newer more efficient units but the initial cost would far out weigh the savings experienced this year.
- Curriculum Expenses: Over the last few years we have increased the number of books that we reuse which has reduced the cost per student for curriculum.
- Transportation Expenses: The bus has been put up for sale for several reasons including problems with finding drivers and the cost of insurance which the church has bore.
- We have not been able to identify any other areas in which to cut costs.

So, what can we do to raise the funds that are needed this year? In 2002 when we had a projected deficit of about \$78,000 we started a program that we call **"Friends of CCA"**. In the next three years, from April 2002 to August 2005, an average of \$2,050 a month was raised for a total of \$82,000 and that deficit was eliminated. Now with the decrease in enrollment we are again faced with what, to any one of us individually, would be an insurmountable obstacle. However, with God's help we can band together and again eliminate this deficit. After the initial success of **"Friends of CCA"** we became complacent and did not continue to promote the program with the same zest as at first and although donations continued to come in they did so at a decreased level. From September 2005 to September 2007 an average of \$965 a month was raised for a total of \$24,145. There is one family that has continued to donate \$25 each month since 2002 for a total of \$1,500. However, many have ceased to donate as their children have graduated or they have moved on for one reason or another.

Let's put this in simple terms. If 100 people would give **\$6 each week** between now and the end of the school year that would amount to **over \$19,000** and would eliminate the deficit for this year. Think what \$6 represents; 2 large Sonic drinks, 2 six-inch Subway subs, 1 McDonalds super sized meal deal, 1 box of shotgun shells, green fees for 18 holes, or 2 gallons of gas. Would it be worth it to you to forgo one of these or something else that costs \$6 a week in order to help enable CCA to continue providing a Christian education to your family and others in the Camden area?

We are asking you to **participate with us in meeting the current needs** by becoming a part of **"Friends of CCA"** and contributing regularly to this ministry. No Christian school like CCA can operate solely upon the money received from tuition. So we are not only asking you to be part of **"Friends of CCA"**, but for you to encourage other parents, grandparents, friends, businessmen, etc. to become part of this. All funds raised through **"Friends of CCA"** go directly to the school.

God used a variety of people to raise over \$90,000 before, and He can raise the funds needed now if people will follow His leading. Pray about what God would have you do.

We want to express our thanks to those who have contributed in the past and look forward to your continued prayer and support.

PLANNING for the future:

Above and beyond the everyday expenses for salaries, utilities, cleaning supplies, etc. are the costs to maintain and improve our facilities. The school building is over fifteen years old now and we know there will be repairs required in the near future. Even with air conditioning it gets very warm in the building during months like August and September. We do not want to find out what it was like 100 years ago in Arkansas when schools did not have any air conditioning, so that is going to require that we replace the existing units in the future.

The same donations of **\$6 per week** that would raise over \$19,000 by the end of the school year would raise over **\$31,000** during the next year.

100 people, \$6/week, 52 weeks, \$31,200

- Eliminates this year's debt
- Starts next year with a positive balance
- Begins to make needed repairs

We hope that you can tell from this letter that this has already been a busy year with many people working hard to help establish financial stability. Much remains to be done though, and time is short. The school board, while praying for God to supply 100 people to join Friends of CCA, is also considering cuts in the non-faculty personnel expenses to bring expenses in line with the income.

Be assured that the school board has not discussed and is not making plans to close the school. This year's faculty is in place and additional cuts if necessary will be made in non-faculty areas and will not affect the quality of education our students receive. Funds raised above what is required for this year will go towards next year and then for repairs. Additional cuts made this year would also reduce expenses for next year.

You may contact any member of the school board, the pastor, or the administrator for answers to questions. You may also attend a school board meeting. The next regularly scheduled meeting is Sunday, December 2, 2007 at 7:30 pm.

School Board members

Tom Burger
Jerry Davis
Kim McCord
Mike Opelt
Kathy Wells

Al Green, Pastor

Bob Taynor, Administrator