

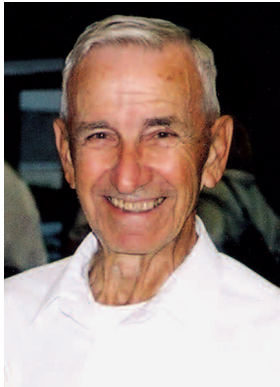
SERVANTS OF JESUS CHRIST

30th Memorial and Salute to Mr. Joe Tamasy for His Service to CCS

On February 2, 2008, CCS friends and family members attended the memorial service for a very special person in the history of our school—Mr. Joe Tamasy.

Joe was a first generation American, the youngest son of Samuel and Emma Tamasy from Hungary. He moved to Texas in 1942 to attend Rice University on a Naval R.O.T.C. scholarship. During this time Joe met Barbara, whom he married in 1948. He graduated with a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering, and he served in the U.S. Navy. Joe went on to earn his law degree at Southern Methodist University.

In 1978, Mr. Tamasy used his knowledge of the law to draw up the incorporation papers for "Cypress Community Christian School Society, Inc.," thus making our school an official non-profit organization and setting the foundation for a great Christian school in the Cypress area. We are thankful for Mr. Tamasy's service to our school!



I recently pulled out an old textbook of mine from 1992 by Robert L. Larson, entitled "Changing Schools from the Inside Out." In it Larson asks the question, "How can already good schools (such as CCS) become even better by building on their success?" Larson looks at a variety of organizational research about small-scale change in schools. At the time, and even now, the bulk of the literature on school change focused on planned, system-wide innovation. "What educators need more of," he says, "are resources that can help them to appreciate, understand, and implement smaller scale innovations that can be equally important routes to improving schools." Several themes provide a conceptual framework for the book:

- Organizations are always changing, but usually in a routine, fairly unnoticed way, rather than in a dramatic, heroic manner.
- Change is usually effected by ordinary people doing ordinary things in a competent way.
- Routine organizational processes are often key levers for improvement.
- Change occurs in an often unpredictable and not well-understood fashion.
- Organizational adaptation is an interplay of rationality and foolishness, of cognition and emotion.
- Small wins can set in motion a process of continued small victories – a process that strengthens organizational capacity and ability to solve larger-scale problems.

Larson concludes that "schools can and do change, but oftentimes the ways in which they improve, as is the case for all organizations that are effective, are relatively imperceptible, and are far from headline-grabbing. These subtle changes, however, are instrumental in making schools better."

I believe that if you are not searching for ways to get better, you are delegating your organization to mediocrity. As a Christian ministry, I believe God calls CCS to excellence through Him and His son, Jesus Christ. So it is especially important that CCS is constantly and consistently striving for excellence, making changes when needed. After all, schools are in the business of change. I hope our students are different at the end of the school year than they were at the start. More importantly, as a Christian ministry, we labor under the grace and mercy of the greatest change agent in history, Jesus Christ, so we should not fear it.

Cypress Christian has changed dramatically since its inception 30 years ago. It is bigger, it has its own campus, it is fully accredited, and it has a comprehensive high school and a broad and varied curriculum with assorted extracurricular activities. The list goes on. These changes, for the most part, have been small and incremental and for the most part have raised the level of excellence at CCS. Changes will continue to take place at CCS, but I pray we never lose sight of our mission and purpose. At CCS, I hope education will always be where faith and learning intersect and where our students learn and comprehend the nature of God, His creation, and who He wants us to be in Christ.

Board of Directors

On behalf of everyone at Cypress Christian School, thank you to our 2007-2008 Board of Directors for their service to CCS. I am professionally and personally grateful for each member of our Board and their leadership. We have developed a relationship that is professional, collegial and supportive. We work with a sense of trust and transparency, with open and frank discussions on a variety of issues all dealing with accomplishing the mission of the school. I am grateful to them for sharing their talents, wisdom and resources for the benefit of God's ministry here at CCS. In photo (l-r)-Front row: Shannon Moore, President; Steve Novotny; Mike Wilhite; Jim Boyd, Vice President. Second row: David Teague; Clyde Echols; Bobby Grimes, Secretary; Tom Beaty

