

CYPRESS CHRISTIAN

CONNECTION

Academic Excellence | Biblical Values | Cultural Impact

ISSUE 20 / 2013



www.CypressChristian.org • 281.469.8829
K-12 Admissions • 281.469.7745



Celebrating 35 Years



Academic Excellence • Biblical Values • Cultural Impact

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11123 Cypress N. Houston Rd. • Houston, TX 77065



In honor of CCS' 35th Birthday, over 730 students, faculty, staff, and administrators gathered in the grandstands to pose for a school-wide picture. Thanks to Jack Potts Photography for capturing this historic event.

CCS is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Tax deductible donations support the mission of the school. The *CONNECTION* is published bi-annually and designed as a means of communication to the families and friends of Cypress Christian School. Correspondence may be directed to Communications@CypressChristian.org.





FROM THE
Executive Director STEPHEN NOVOTNY



Here We **STAND**

"Unless I am convinced by the testimony of the Scriptures or by clear reason (for I do not trust either in the pope or in councils alone, since it is well known that they have often erred and contradicted themselves), I am bound by the Scriptures I have quoted and my conscience is captive to the Word of God. I cannot and will not recant anything, since it is neither safe nor right to go against conscience. May God help me. Amen."

~ Martin Luther
Imperial Assembly of Worms
Germany, 1521

The issues were clear in the year 1521. Preeminent was whether Martin Luther would hold fast to his conviction that forgiveness from sin came as a free gift from God through faith in Jesus Christ alone, or whether he would renounce his views and capitulate to certain corrupt church authorities who were teaching that forgiveness could be purchased with money.

The stakes were high. The church and state authorities made it clear that severe punishment, death, or perhaps being burned alive at the stake, were Martin Luther's fate if he did not recant.

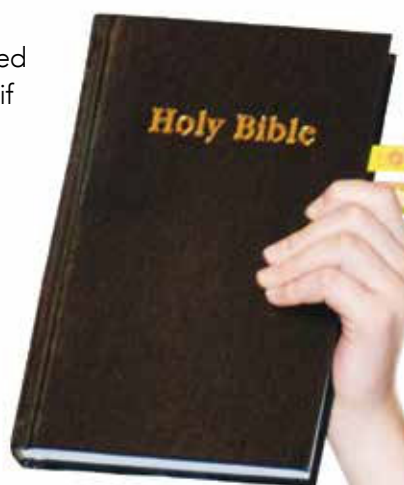
The response of Luther was strong.
"I cannot and will not recant anything . . . "

I make the point to say Martin Luther's response was strong, yet not to attribute to Luther some inordinate strength unique to him above other men. Indeed, Luther himself often would complain of his many physical and spiritual weaknesses and ended this most famous statement of strength with the fervent plea *"May God help me."*

As a Christian school, we say things and teach things that are in direct opposition to some who hold positions of influence and power in our own day. We hold to the position that protecting the life of babies before they are born is what is morally right. We hold that God's irrevocable design for marriage is between a man and a woman. We hold that man was created by God for His glory and therefore accountable to follow God's commandments as revealed in the Holy Scriptures.

As a Christian school, this is where we stand, we can do no other.

May God help us to always have the strength to do so.



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Record Breaking Enrollment Again This Year

For the second year in a row, CCS has experienced all-time enrollment records. Executive Director Stephen Novotny said, "As we celebrate 35 years of Christian education, more than ever, we are committed to equipping students to be powerful and effective in their world. This means not only having knowledge and skill, but having the values and moral compass needed to use those skills appropriately. Therefore, with our enrollment increasing, so we increase our commitment to our mission to honor the Lord Jesus Christ by providing students an education based upon academic excellence and biblical values."



CCS Earns Additional Accreditation

Cypress Christian School has long held accreditation from the nationally recognized Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI). CCS is pleased to announce that it recently earned additional accreditation from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Council on Accreditation and School Improvement (SACS CASI), an accreditation division of AdvancED.

SACS CASI provides nationally-recognized accreditation, the purpose of which is continuous school improvement focused on increasing student performance. To earn accreditation, schools must meet SACS CASI's high standards, be evaluated by a team of professionals



from outside the school, and implement a continuous process of school improvement. To read the complete article on the additional accreditation earned: www.CypressChristian.org/News/CCS-Earns-Additional-Accreditation.cfm. Parents and interested community members can learn more about the SACS CASI accreditation at www.Advanc-ED.org.

Admissions Information and Videos

Prospective parents and students are invited to visit the CCS website to gain valuable knowledge about CCS and view admissions videos which include special testimonies from parents, students, faculty, and administrators. Information and videos can be viewed via this link:

www.CypressChristian.org/Admissions.



Important Admissions Date to Remember

November 7, 2013

• K-12 Fall Preview • 2014-2015 Applications Accepted

To tour our campus,
please contact our Admissions Office at
281.469.7745 or Admissions@CypressChristian.org

Be In The CCS Know

Stay informed about
all that is happening at
Cypress Christian School...

Visit our Website

The CCS website is a great place to read "the latest and greatest" CCS news. Be sure to visit CypressChristian.org



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Join our Mailing List

To join our mailing list and receive printed and online publications, visit:
CypressChristian.org/Support/Mailing-List.cfm



Upcoming Event Dates 2013-2014

CCS 101 for New Families

August 8

Open House

August 13

First Day of School

August 14

Blue and White Night

August 16

HS Football Home Opener

September 13

Annual Banquet

October 4

Homecoming

October 11

Christmas Concert

December 5

Board of Directors

We are grateful for the time and service given to CCS by our 2012-2013 Board of Directors. Shown left to right: Greg Petru (Secretary), Chad Braun (President), Jason Floyd, Stephen Novotny (Executive Director), Daniel Storey, Buster Swanton (Vice President), Mike Slabic, Arthur Schubert.



Student Ambassador Council

Thanks to the 50+ Ambassador Council members for their help in supporting the Admissions Department during the 2012-2013 school year. Students performed administrative duties and volunteered at various events throughout the year including Open Houses, Visitor Days, Grandparents' and Special Friends' Day, and other special CCS events. "Their service was invaluable to our school and I was honored to serve alongside this group of students," said Admissions Director Angie Ramirez. The group chose 1 Timothy 4:12 as their verse for the year: "Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, and in purity."



Volunteers in Partnership

Volunteers help shape our school with the special talents that God has placed in them, and we are very grateful. Thanks to each and every person who offered their time and services toward fulfilling the mission of CCS.



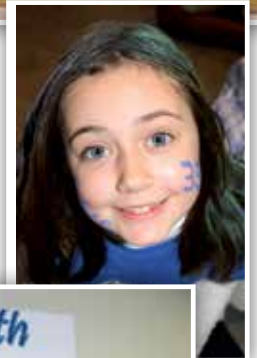
Happy Birthday, Cypress Christian!



On April 10, 2013, CCS turned 35 years old! In looking at the history of CCS, it is evident the founders of our school were motivated by a high calling. We honor those men and women who had the vision to start CCS and those who continue to invest in this school to ensure that a distinctly Christian education remains available in our community. We thank God for Cypress Christian School, and commit ourselves to continuing the tradition of investing in young lives, positively impacting culture, and advancing God's Kingdom.

K-12 students, teachers, families, and friends enjoyed celebrating God's faithfulness and our CCS heritage during "birthday week" at CCS.





FROM THE
Elementary School Principal MR. ROBERT WHITE



Standing
FIRM
on God's
TRUTH

One of our elementary students recently experienced the death of his grandfather. His mother shared that her nine-year-old son spoke at the memorial service, telling the crowd of over 250 people that his grandfather taught him the importance of living life grounded in a relationship with Jesus Christ. This mother expressed that Cypress Christian School has made an impact in not only her son's life, but also in the life of her entire family.

Wow! How encouraging to hear these words from one of our parents. I am so thankful for the opportunity to impart truth to this student on a daily basis in our elementary school. The truth of God has provided a solid foundation upon which this student is building his life and thus impacting his world.



This approach is not always appreciated by our society. There are many propagating the following ideas:

- There is no such thing as absolute, objective truth.
- Truth is created, not discovered.
- Truth is relative to each individual.
- Two people can define truth in conflicting ways and both are correct.

To begin with, how can someone say, "There is no such thing as absolute, objective truth?" How can we be so sure that this is true when the very statement itself claims that knowing truth is impossible?

The implications of this worldview are frightening! If truth is relative to each individual, then how is a society able to effectively maintain order and administer justice? How does one define the word "justice" if such value statements are determined by each individual? Are justice and rules of conduct determined by the greatest number of people who agree upon a particular behavioral code? What if the majority of society concludes that murder is an acceptable, even desirable behavior under the proper circumstances?

It is absurd to believe that two opposing truth claims can both be correct. The traffic signal cannot be both green and red at the same time. While it may sound good in theory, a relativist will undoubtedly find his view rewarded with a ticket if he runs a red light.

The Christian believes that God is the Creator. As the Creator, God possesses ownership and authority over His creation. He has the right to determine truth. In addition, He is the standard of truth because truth emanates from God.

I am so thankful that I do not need to serve as the arbitrator of truth. God has revealed to us objective, absolute truth in the Bible. It is both our responsibility and our delight to teach truth to our students eight hours a day, five days a week. Our students are taught the Ten Commandments and know that God says that we are to honor our parents and we are not to steal, kill, or covet. Our students are taught that Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life, and that there is no other way to heaven except through Him. Our rigorous academic education is submerged in biblical values.

CCS students are taught that Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life. Our rigorous academic education is submerged in biblical values.

It is thrilling to have a firm foundation upon which to place our feet. What a joy for me to serve in an organization that has been grounded in God's truth for the past 35 years! As we continue to teach God's truth to our students, I have no doubt they will continue to shine as a wonderful testimony to those in their circle of influence, impacting culture for generations to come.



Record-Breaking Run-4-Fun

Elementary students in grades K-5 (270 in all) took to the track for a great race. They were joined by Principal White, teachers, parents, siblings, grandparents, and friends to encourage them as they ran. In total, students ran more than 590 miles to raise money for the elementary school. Awards were given out for the fastest students and most money raised. Ms. Holt's fourth grade class raised the most money at \$9,698. Grand Total Raised: \$55,421.30! For additional awards and honors, please visit:

www.CypressChristian.org/support/Run-4-Fun.cfm

Grandparents' and Special Friends' Day

Elementary students enjoyed a very blessed and fun day with their loved ones. CCS welcomed over 450 grandparents and special friends to take part in classroom and chapel activities. It was an honor to have these very special people on our campus. Grandparents and Special Friends are encouraged to stay connected with CCS by attending a Warrior Welcome each year and to join our mailing list to receive the Warrior Monthly and the *CONNECTION* Magazine.



Second Semester Activities and Honors

Area Math Olympics top winners were Jenny Dang – 1st place; Caiden Mangum – 4th place; Brandon Newell – 4th place; Joshua Yough – 1st place.

Aubri Garrett's artwork won "Best of Show" in the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo **Art Competition** and "Finalist" in the 2013 Reliant Power of Art "People's Choice" Voting Contest.

Young artists brought home medals from the **ACSI Art Festival** with four artists earning perfect scores: Carson Spenn, Kimberly Chapman, Moriah Brown, Griffin Fisk.

Spelling Bee top winners were Blake Stoyall and Josh Yough – 1st place; Michelle Luong – 2nd place; Griffin Fisk – 3rd place.

Speech Meet: Gold Medals: Sophia Swanton, Brittany Patterson, Emily Ann Ivey, Anna Kharisma Fontenot; Silver Medals: Coleman Mabry, Sydney Wax; Bronze Medals: Alex Slabic, Joshua John, Avery Smith

Renaissance and Reformation Festival: Students introduced their guests to historical characters and leaders of the Reformation who invested their lives to ensure that all have access to truth and knowledge.

Fun surprises at **Elementary Skate Night!**

Abe Lincoln (alias Mr. White) enjoyed **Bedtime Stories with Cookies and Milk** with CCS kindergarteners.

Throughout the day at **Tribal Competition**, the comment "I love my buddy" was heard over and over from both the secondary students who helped at the event and their little buddies – the elementary students.

Kindergarten Graduation: Four classes of kindergarteners enjoyed their graduation ceremony and are headed to first grade in the fall!

Visit the CCS website for a complete list of winners, more information, and pictures.



Math Olympics



Spelling Bee



Rodeo Art "Best of Show"



Renaissance Festival



Speech Meet



Bedtime Stories



ACSI Art Festival



Tribal Competition



Tribal Competition



Skate Night



Kindergarten Graduation



FROM THE

Middle School Principal MRS. IVA NELL RHEA



2013 Eighth Grade Trip to Washington, D.C.

The WATCHMEN on our WALL

In ancient times, those who lived in walled cities were considered blessed individuals. Living inside a city with walls provided citizens with two important forms of protection. One was the wall itself. It stood as a barrier between that which was acceptable and that which was not. A second form of protection those in walled cities possessed was the watchman. The watchman stood upon the wall and kept watch over the surrounding countryside. When invading armies or other dangers came into his view, he sounded the warning and those inside the wall knew to prepare. Both the watchman and the wall were essential to the survival of the city itself. Without the watchman, those inside the wall were blind and without the wall, the watchman would have been unnecessary.



Capital Photo, Inc

In 1978, a small group of Christian families joined together to create a school that would provide an excellent education grounded in the reality of God as the Creator of life and the Bible as the authoritative standard of truth. Interestingly, the first students at Cypress Christian School were middle schoolers! Those founders understood that young teens need an environment that challenges them to take ownership of their relationship with Jesus and then discover what God desires of them as they live out a life fully yielded to Christ. Those Christians in 1978 valued the importance of providing a solid wall around the sacred trust of their children. This wall was built not to shield from life, but to provide a holy place to live a life that honored God and equipped children to become warriors for the Kingdom. So today, we continue to uphold the foundational blocks of the wall that was begun thirty-five years ago. For middle school aged children, we must make sure they understand why we do what we do; they need to value the worn blocks that build the wall of CCS.



MRS. IVA NELL RHEA

Who are the watchmen on the wall? Our teachers, as the living curriculum, have been entrusted to communicate daily the truth of God's Word, the facts of the subject matter that they teach, and the importance of living out a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. These watchmen are called to be vigilant as they look out for those ideas, those philosophies, and those pressures that insidiously pull young teens away from a life that glorifies God. Teachers in the middle school at CCS understand that they must raise their voice when danger is present. Daily, as I walk through halls, visit classrooms, and interact with teachers, I am awed by the watchmen that God has placed on our wall at CCS. It is clear that they love the students in their care and are willing to create a loving, positive learning environment where each child can grow in self-discipline according to God's Word.

Daily, as I walk through halls, visit classrooms, and interact with teachers, I am awed by the watchmen that God has placed on our wall at CCS.

Isaiah 62:6 reminds us of the task of the watchmen: "On your walls, O Jerusalem, I have set watchmen; all the day and all the night they shall never be silent. You, who put the Lord in remembrance, take no rest." For over three decades, the walls of Cypress Christian School have provided a place of challenge and preparation for children of Christian families. The watchmen have been faithful to their call to "never be silent." It is my prayer that on subsequent birthdays in years to come, the family of CCS will look back to us and say that we protected the wall and were vigilant to the task given to us. We, who put the Lord in remembrance, have "taken no rest" during our time on the wall.



8th Grade Washington, D.C. Trip

Washington, D.C.

Eighth graders experienced US history first-hand.

Living Wax Museum

Each student read a biography about a "Hero of the Faith" or a "Hero of History." They dressed as the subject of their biography and delivered a short monologue describing his/her life.

NJHS Book Drive

Students in the National Junior Honor Society worked tirelessly to collect books for a K-8th grade school in the slums of Nairobi, Kenya.

Young Inventors

American History students played the roles of "Inventors of the Industrial Revolution." They argued their case for why their invention was worthy of the "Inventors Hall of Fame." If selected they received a candy trophy to enjoy!

Space Project

Sixth graders researched topics ranging from Galileo to the Hubble Telescope to Saturn's rings.



Living Wax Museum



Book Drive



Young Inventors



Space Project

Awards

Science Fair

Life Science: Lindsay Webster – 1st Place; Aaron Clark – 2nd Place; Audrey Floyd – 3rd Place; Physical Science: Davis Carver – 1st Place; Austin Muehlenbrock – 2nd Place; Heather Murrill – 3rd Place

Speech Meet

Amanda Boyd and Grace Womack – Gold Medals; Sophia Slabic and Sarah Hawkins – Bronze Medals; Lauren Storey, Nicholas Pelham, Tanner Shanks – Ribbons.

You Be the Chemist®

Matthew Hawkins – 1st Place, Nick Hebert – 2nd Place, and Trey Nammany – 3rd Place

Stock Market Game Top Producers

Austin Muehlenbrock and Jack Walsh

History Fair

John Ethan Baldwin – 1st Place; Noah Lee – 2nd Place; Scott Steinhauser – 3rd Place

Area Math Olympics

6th Grade: Lauren Storey – 2nd Place; Sophia Slabic – 3rd Place; 7th Grade: John Ethan Baldwin – 4th Place; 8th Grade: Davis Carver – 1st Place, Jack Walsh – 4th Place

Academic Excellence Award

6th Grade – Lauren Storey
7th Grade – John Ethan Baldwin
8th Grade – Hannah Hurst

Christian Character Award

6th Grade – Grace Womack
7th Grade – Madelynn Beckman

Duke University Talent Identification Program State Recognition Recipients

John Ethan Baldwin, Avery Gwyn,
Julia Williams

DAR Good Citizenship Award

Olivia Crozier

Visit the CCS website
for additional information
and pictures.



Science Fair



Speech Meet



You Be the Chemist®



Stock Market Game



History Fair



Area Math Olympics



Lauren Storey



John Ethan Baldwin



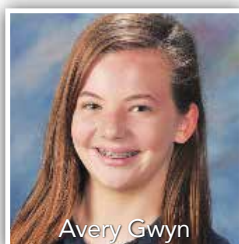
Hannah Hurst



Grace Womack



Madelynn Beckman



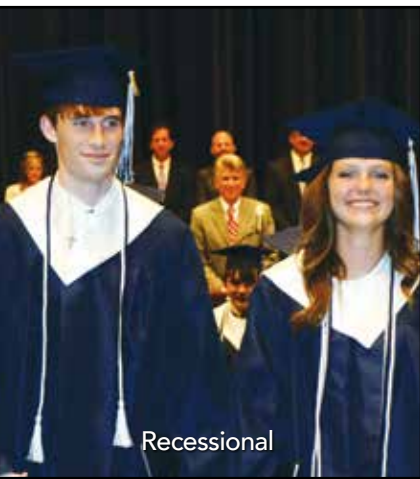
Avery Gwyn



Julia Williams



FROM THE
High School Principal DR. GLENN HOLZMAN



Recessional



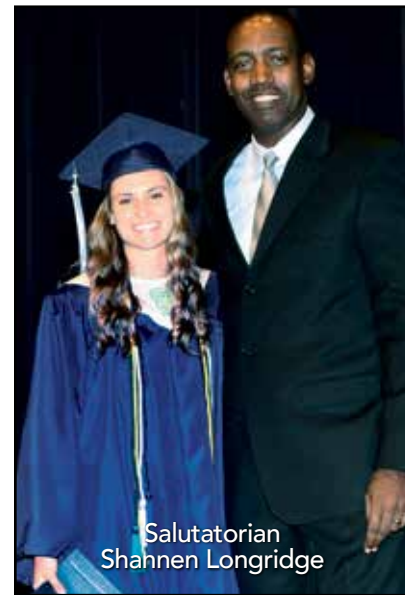
Graduates Who Attended CCS Since Kindergarten



Valedictorian, Alyssa Beach



Traditional Hat Toss



Salutatorian
Shannen Longridge

ROOTED
strong in the
WORD
of God

This past winter, I read the biography of Dietrich Bonhoeffer, a Lutheran pastor in Nazi Germany, who was a leader in the underground resistance movement to assassinate Adolf Hitler. He knew as a Christian he could not turn his back to the atrocities of the Third Reich's slaughter of millions of innocent men, women, and children. In the midst of the evil of Nazi Germany, there were many Germans, like Bonhoeffer, who stood up against the evil knowing full well it could cost them their very lives. In Bonhoeffer's case, it did, along with thousands of other Germans in the resistance movement.



In the Old Testament, there is the well-known story of four Jewish teenagers who were chosen by the Hitler of their day, Nebuchadnezzar, to be trained in the ways of the Chaldeans to serve him in his court. These young men had already been trained in the values and beliefs of the Israelites and displayed great intelligence, wisdom, and discernment. They had established the foundation of their relationship with God, so when faced with the choice of worshipping

God or the king, they did

not hesitate in their choice for God. Even when facing the enraged king and his fiery furnace, they stood in confidence as witnesses for their God professing for all to hear, "...our God whom we serve is able to deliver us... but even if He does not, let it be known, we are not going to serve your gods..." (Daniel 3:17-18, NASB)

Our students will not face life and death choices like Bonhoeffer or the four young Israelites, but choices between good and evil, as well as between society's idols and the one real God, will

always be before them.

On what basis will our students choose? Will

it be based on what they watch coming out of Hollywood, the music they listen to, the liberal press and media, or other

influences of the secular culture? It is our hope and prayer that it will be based on their relationship with Jesus Christ and the biblical values they have learned at home, church, and Cypress Christian. It is this powerful partnership that will permit them to discern the truth from the lies in addition to having the courage to stand on the side of truth.

In the storms of life...
the roots that Cypress
Christian School students
have put down will allow
them to bend but not be
blown over.

Their faith will be tested in the storms and trials that are part of life. With the nurture provided through academic excellence with biblical values at CCS, the roots that they have put down will allow them to bend but not be blown over. "When the whirlwind passes, the wicked is no more, but the righteous has an everlasting foundation." (Proverbs 10:25. NASB)





TAPPS Academic and Speech Team Earns Impressive Finish at State

The CCS Academic and Speech Team earned an impressive fifth place finish (out of 32 schools) at the TAPPS State Academic Meet. State qualifiers from across Texas competed in twelve academic events and seven speaking events, and our Warriors represented Cypress Christian well, bringing home four medals and two ribbons. Congratulations to: Bailey Comeaux – 2nd Place (Silver Medal), Poetry Interpretation and State Finalist, Duet Acting; John McCary – 3rd Place (Bronze Medal), Current Events; Joel Solar – 3rd Place (Bronze Medal), Poetry Interpretation and State Finalist, Prose Interpretation; Allison White – 3rd Place (Bronze Medal), Original Oratory and State Finalist, Duet Acting; Jordan Hayley – 4th Place, Original Oratory; Travis Chaffin – 4th Place, Spanish and State Finalist, Calculator Applications; Tijani Mohammed – State Finalist, Spanish; Amanda Swanton – State Finalist, Current Events; Jonathan Rangel – State Finalist, Current Events; Rachel Vance – State Finalist, Social

Studies; Ben Holman – State Semi-Finalist, Prose Interpretation; Katie Moore – State Semi-Finalist, Solo Acting; Jolie Carr – State Semi-Finalist, Duet Acting; Amber Dingman – State Semi-Finalist, Duet Acting. Photo: Taking “bluebonnet” photos is a long-standing CCS tradition on the trip to the State Meet. The team proudly shows off their “state qualifier” t-shirts.

ACSI Distinguished High School Student Awards

This program identifies and honors outstanding juniors and seniors in high schools worldwide in the areas of Academics, Leadership, Fine Arts, Athletics, and Christian Service. Congratulations to this year's recipients: Juniors: Michael Boyd, Madison Farquhar, Josh Gamble, Blake Hoffman, Katherine Moore, Amanda Swanton, Travis Chaffin, Rachel Vance, Hunter Vick; Seniors: Meredith Ackterkirch, Alyssa Beach, Dan Crozier, John Dingman, Lauren Echols, Shannen Longridge, Bobby Miller, Paul Odeyomi, Travis Wilhite.



Junior Award Winners



Senior Award Winners

CCS Memories

To celebrate CCS turning "35," teachers were asked to incorporate the number "35" into a lesson or activity. Mrs. Lambert's high school English class was challenged to create a 35-line free verse poem describing their years and memories at CCS. Below is a sample of the precious work submitted by her students.

CCS Where I Belong

I started school at CCS
My first time away from Mom and Dad.
Met with kind and loving faces
I never once felt sad.

It was in my kindergarten year
When terrorist attacked on 9/11.
The school and teachers made us feel secure
While so many that day went to Heaven.

The elementary school, a square of halls and rooms,
Always felt so cozy inside.
Protected in each classroom, happy children learned
where I never had to hide.

Next came the decision for middle school
Should I stay or move along?
The choice was very easy
CCS is where I belong.

To teach Biblical values
and strong academics, too.
Is a basis for success
In whatever the Lord leads me to do.

There are very few schools
that teach what is true.
When you are taught from God's Word
You will always know the right thing to do.

By the time I went to High School
CCS was now like home.
Going to public High School
No I would never roam.

I haven't always been perfect
for no one can be.
But every time I fall down
There is always someone there for me.

In a city so large
There can be lots of strife.
But for CCS I will be grateful the rest of my life.

CCS Junior





Commencement

On May 24, 2013, seniors crossed the stage to accept their diplomas at the sixteenth annual High School Commencement Ceremony held at Cypress Bible Church where CCS classes began 35 years ago.

SAT

CCS is proud of its 2013 seniors. As a class, they achieved an average of 1700 on the SAT college entrance exam with the top half of the class averaging 1840.

Scholarships

Seniors accepted local, state, and national scholarships as well as CCS sponsored awards. Some are listed below:

Alyssa Beach earned the distinguished honor of the Class of 2013 **Valedictorian** which is the Texas Education Association's Highest Ranking Graduate Award. Along with this recognition, she receives a one year tuition-paid scholarship to the Texas public university of her choice. Alyssa plans to attend Texas A&M University. In addition, Alyssa was awarded the **Faculty Scholarship for Academic Excellence** which was founded to give the faculty of CCS the opportunity to recognize a graduating senior who has demonstrated outstanding effort to achieve overall academic excellence.

Shannen Longridge earned the title of **Salutatorian** and was also awarded the **CCS Christian Character Scholarship**

for demonstrating Christ-like qualities throughout her high school career by being humble in spirit, outspoken in faith, a strong witness in the community, a model of integrity, and a good friend to all.

In memory of former student William David Rhodes, each year two seniors are awarded the **Will Rhodes Scholarship**. This year's recipients, **Blessing Ajibero** and **Dan Crozier**, were chosen for their strong walk with Christ – making public profession of their faith in Jesus, demonstrating Christ-like behavior to fellow students and athletes, and being godly witnesses to others as they lead their teams and follow their coaches.

Paul Odeyomi received the **Spirit of Paul Scholarship**. The award was established to encourage students to develop and display the driving spirit and perseverance of the Apostle Paul, who accomplished much for the early church. Paul has exhibited that same drive and perseverance.

Travis Wilhite received the **Dornbusch Science Scholarship** which was established to recognize a graduating senior who plans to pursue an education in the field of science.

Cypress Christian School has a rich heritage of producing students who excel in the areas of music, art, and drama. The **Fine Arts Scholarship** reflects an overall excellence in the arts. **Hayley Landry** received this year's award.



College

All 36 seniors received college acceptances and are planning to attend the following colleges and universities: Abilene Christian, Baylor University, Blinn College, Faith Baptist Bible College, Lone Star College, Louisiana State University, Mississippi College, Oral Roberts University, Sam Houston State University, Texas A&M University, Texas Tech University, Trinity Christian College, Tulsa University, University of Houston, University of Mary Hardin-Baylor, University of Texas-San Antonio, University of Tennessee at Martin, William Woods University.



Photo by G. Michael Photography

Congratulations CCS Class of 2013!

Row 1

Sarah Coffman
Hayley Landry
Jacob Borkovich
Gustavo Valero
Tony Salario
Morgan Wright

Row 2

Joseph Ramsey
Josiah Dalton
Alyssa Beach,
Valedictorian
Lauren Echols
Shannen Longridge,
Salutatorian
Jonathan Rangel
Meredith Ackterkirch

Row 3

Sarah Kooiman
Grayson Dansby
Jordan Briggs
Cody Chaffin
Thomas Glazier
Timothy Starbuck

Row 4

Blessing Ajibero
Kaitlyn Miracle
Douglas Smith-Barry III
Juliana York
Kameron Flory
Dan Crozier
Paul Odeyomi

Row 5

Dillon Barbisch
Bobby Miller
Matthew Bancroft
John Dingman
Travis Wilhite
Nathan Schubert
Aaron Isaac
Bradley Barrow

Not pictured above:



Caitlyn Epperson



Kristen Walker



Warriors for Christ – All for Him



HS Boys 110m Hurdles-State
Champion Matt Bancroft



HS Girls Triple Jump
State Champion
Dai'ja Coleman



Varsity Boys Soccer – State Runner-Up



HS Girls Track & Field
3rd at TAPPS State Meet



Varsity Softball – State Final Four



Varsity Girls Soccer – State Final Four



Varsity Golf – Advanced to Regional Tournament



Varsity Baseball – Tournament Winners



MS Girls Soccer Action



MS Girls Basketball B Team
2nd in Tournament



Victory Celebration



MS Boys Basketball B Team
2nd in Tournament



Varsity Girls Basketball Team - Elite Eight



Sweet Victory over Rosehill



Varsity Boys Basketball Team Advanced to Bi-District Playoffs



BB Pep Rally Old vs Young!



MS Boys Basketball A Team



Varsity Cheer - Go Warriors!



MS Girls Basketball A Team



Pre-game Prayer



MS Cheer - Go Warriors!



MS Boys Soccer Team - Undefeated



MS Baseball A Team - 1st in Division and 2nd in District Tournament



MS Softball Action



MS Boys Baseball B Team



Elementary Spring Sports



Junior Pep Squad



High School Valiant Warriors
Shannen Longridge and
Matt Bancroft

CCS Athletes Honored

Each year, middle school and high school athletes are recognized and honored for exemplifying excellence in athletics, leadership, determination, sportsmanship, Christian character, academic achievement, and integrity. Recipients exemplified every part of this award in their sports, the classroom, and in their spiritual walk. This is the highest athletic award given at CCS. The students are selected by the teachers, principals, and the coaching staff.

We are proud to recognize the High School Valiant Warrior honorees Shannen Longridge and Matt Bancroft; and the Middle School Sword and Shield recipients Kory Cyr and Austin Muehlenbrock.



Sword and Shield
Recipients Kory Cyr and
Austin Muehlenbrock



Jordan Briggs Signs with
Mississippi College

Jordan Briggs Signs with Mississippi College

CCS senior Jordan Briggs has committed to play basketball for Mississippi College in Clinton, MS. The Choctaws are an NCAA Division II team.

During his senior year at CCS, Jordan scored 574 points while averaging 19.1 points per game. He compiled a total of 972 points in only two years of playing basketball for CCS. Additionally, he averaged 3.9 assists, 2.7 steals, and 4.0 rebounds. Jordan's outstanding play in 2012-2013 earned him First Team All-District recognition in TAPPS District 7-3A, as well as Second Team All-State honors. CCS team awards for Jordan included Co-MVP and Offensive Player of the Year.



Cody Chaffin Signs with
Faith Baptist Bible College

Cody Chaffin Signs with Faith Baptist Bible College

CCS senior Cody Chaffin has committed to play basketball for Faith Baptist Bible College in Ankeny, Iowa. According to Eagles Head Coach Brian Fincham, Cody is expected to make an immediate impact for the NCCAA Division II team in the upcoming season.

In his first and only season playing basketball for CCS, Cody scored a total of 640 points while averaging 20 points per game. He averaged 3.5 assists, 2.8 steals, and 5.0 rebounds. Cody's outstanding play earned him 1st Team All-District recognition in TAPPS District 7-3A as well as 2nd Team All-State honors. CCS team awards for Cody included being named Co-MVP and Defensive Player of the Year.



Caitlyn Epperson to Ride
for the University of
Tennessee at Martin

Caitlyn Epperson Receives Equestrian Scholarship

CCS senior Caitlyn Epperson signed a National Letter of Intent to ride for the University of Tennessee at Martin. UTM offers an NCAA Division I Equestrian program.

Caitlyn began her riding career at the age of eight. It did not take long to see that God had given her both a passion and talent for the sport. During high school, Caitlyn has shown in over 70 nationally-rated shows where she finished in the top six in over 300 classes. In 2012, Caitlyn was ranked seventh in the western half of the United States for the prestigious WIHS Equitation medal. Also, Caitlyn won the Texas Junior Medal Finals which is the highest honor for equitation riders under the age of eighteen in the state of Texas.



17



Travis
CHAFFIN



CCS Warrior Travis Chaffin passed away on Saturday, May 4. Travis, age 17, was a junior, a great friend to his classmates, an excellent student, a standout member of the baseball team, and a godly role model for his friends and family members.

Travis was always thinking about others and how he could serve them. His personal goal was to always honor the Lord in his actions. Travis wrote these words not long before his passing... "I want to be a role model for others. I want my actions in school, on the baseball field, and elsewhere to display Christ in my life."

In his time at CCS, Travis touched many lives with the love of Christ. He placed his trust and hope in Jesus Christ, and while we grieve his loss, we are comforted in knowing he is now safely home with his Lord.

On Sunday, May 5, the CCS gym was filled with over 500 people as CCS students and families came together with the Chaffin family to meet, to grieve, to

pray, and to comfort each other. On Monday morning, the school day began with a special assembly for secondary students in remembrance of Travis. Students were reminded that through Jesus Christ, while we grieve, we do not grieve as those who have no hope. Instead, we can find the strength to continue, even while we process the loss of such a treasured friend.

Travis is survived by his parents Kenneth and Suzanne Chaffin; brothers Greg and Jordan; grandparents James and Eleanor Chaffin, and Gordon and Stacey Foxley.

Prayers for the Chaffin family and Travis' friends are very much appreciated. Condolence messages to his family and friends may be posted on the CCS Facebook page.





Choir Earns Top Awards and Makes CCS History

The CCS Concert Chorale competed in the Worldstrides Heritage Festival against schools from all over the country. The choir received a gold rating and was awarded third place overall. Accompanist Dan Pham (CCS freshman) was awarded the Maestro Award. The group also competed in the TAPPS Regional and State Music Competitions earning the top award in sight-reading at both events which are CCS Choir firsts! Four soloists received a Superior rating at state: Dana Mickey, Andrew Rincon, Miranda McAdams, and Dan Pham.



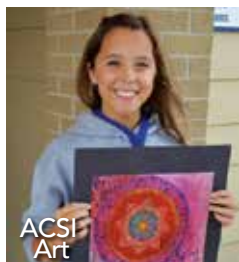
Art

Rodeo Art Contest

Congratulations to this year's secondary Rodeo Art winners including Elizabeth Huddleston (shown at left) and fellow artists: Nathaniel Lira, Katie Hadfield, Christian Vasquez, McKayla Lira, Britney Bailey, and Evie Underwood.

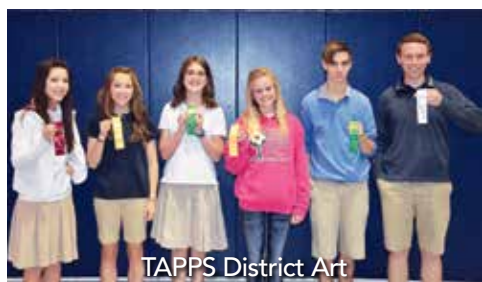
Perfect Score at ACSI Art Festival

Secondary art student Abby Martinez earned a Superior/Gold Medal award (with a perfect score) at the ACSI Art Festival for her artwork entitled "Proverbs 31:30." For a list of students who placed at this competition, please visit the Fine Arts section of the CCS website.



TAPPS District Art Meet

CCS had the privilege of co-hosting the TAPPS District Art Meet with over 331 entries in 15 main categories with two on-site events offered. Congratulations to art students who placed at the event: John Steinhauser: Third Place in Communication Design; Elizabeth Huddleston: Fourth Place in Drawing-Color; Jade Harper: Fifth Place in Communication Design; Abby Martinez: Fifth Place in Mixed Media 3D; Joseph Ramsey: Sixth Place in Design; Alicia Holman: Sixth Place in On-site Drawing. Elizabeth Huddleston's and John Steinhauser's art work qualified for TAPPS State competition. Additional award information is available in the Fine Arts section of CCS website.



Drama

Acting Accolades at TAPPS Regional Competition

When these high school drama students took the *The Great Pandemonium* on the road to compete in the TAPPS Regional One Act Play Contest, the team earned an impressive third place finish. In addition to the accolades for the show, the cast and crew won an extraordinary number of individual awards. Jordan Wandix was named Best Actor. Bailey Comeaux was named to the All-Star Cast. Marya Gray, Ben Holman, and Kaitlyn Miracle were named to the Honorable Mention Cast. Chris Ramirez and Abby Rangel were named to the All-Star Crew.



TAPPS Regional Competition



"Best Actor"

Middle School Musical Theatre

Drama students finished each performance of the musical *Once Upon a Grapevine* by Thomas Hischak by sharing a biblical lesson about gossip. They read Proverbs 18:6-8 and Ephesians 4:29 and encouraged everyone to "THINK" before they speak, using this helpful acronym:

T	Is it True?
H	Is it Helpful?
I	Is it Inspiring?
N	Is it Nice?
K	Is it Kind?



Once Upon A Grapevine

Sixth Grade Musical Theatre Presentations

Audiences were thrilled by the appearance of the nine foot Goliath in *The Rock Slinger and His Greatest Hit*, a musical rendition of the story of David and Goliath, by Tom Long and Allen Pote. The cast had fun sharing the message of the greatness of our God through music and drama. The Lord is bigger than any enemy His children face!

Performing the musical *In a Galilee Far, Far Away* by Steve Moore, Rob Howard, and David Guthrie, sixth graders gained confidence and built their acting skills.

Pictures and videos of performances can be viewed under the Fine Arts section of the CCS website.



In a Galilee Far, Far Away

The Rock Slinger and His Greatest Hit

Cypress Christian School
The NEXT Step
 FUNDRAISING BREAKFAST



Over 200 CCS friends, families, current and past board members, school founders, former teachers, staff, and volunteers attended the 2013 Next Step Fundraising Breakfast. They were inspired by music from the CCS Concert Choir, testimonials from students and parents, and a new Cypress Christian "We Are Warriors" video. Guests were given the opportunity to make a donation to the school and to make a long-term commitment to CCS by joining the Heritage Circle. Shown in photo at top right: CCS Board President Chad Braun, CCS Founders Gerald and Edith Van Beek, and Founders Jim and Carolyn West.

The event was a blessing to our students and families as God provided over \$120,000 to be used now, as well as over \$700,000 in five-year pledges to ensure that CCS has the ability to continue to fulfill its mission. Such support allows the school to move forward in a number of important areas and gives CCS the ability to grow in the capacity to continue to provide excellence in Christian education to the community.

"I am thankful to God for His work through our supporters," said Executive Director Stephen Novotny. "The generosity of our donors is allowing us to continue to expand our programs and our facilities to serve our students more effectively."



**INSPIRATIONAL
 Tour**

You're invited to be inspired! Join us for a Warrior Welcome Mission Tour to hear how CCS is training Christian Warriors for today and the future. Tour dates and information available at www.CypressChristian.org/Support/Warrior-Welcome.cfm.



**HERITAGE
 Circle**

The Heritage Circle partnership was created to build a stronger foundation for expanding school programs and to provide a stable future for Cypress Christian. Your contributions will go toward the unrestricted operational funds of Cypress Christian School. For more information about joining the Heritage Circle, please contact our Development Coordinator at Lisa.Beckmeier@CypressChristian.org or at 281-469-8829.



**CCS
 News**

Stay informed about all that is happening at Cypress Christian School. Join our mailing list by visiting the following page on our school website: www.CypressChristian.org/Support/Mailing-List.cfm.

2012-2013 Annual Fund



Thank You!

Thanks to each and every donor who contributed to the 2012-2013 Annual Fund. We are very thankful to report that we raised over \$480,000 as a result of the overwhelming generosity of our supporters!

Donate!

Additional advancement projects are in the works to meet the needs of our growing student body. Your contributions are greatly appreciated!

Mail: CCS, 11123 Cypress N. Houston Rd, Houston, TX 77065
 Online: CypressChristian.org/Support/Donate.cfm

Advancement Projects

Completed

- School-wide classroom technology
- Covered walkways

In Progress

- Weight Room under Grandstands
- Remodel downstairs of White House to include reception area and Spirit Store
- Additional building for secondary classrooms and offices
- Mobile computer labs for elementary and secondary classrooms
- Relocate art room to main campus area
- Parking with added security lighting
- Remodel/Upgrade locker rooms in the Field House to include a girls locker room, middle school locker room, additional restrooms, and a training room
- Purchase of a mini-bus for smaller groups
- Geotechnical, topographical, and site studies for master planning
- Addition of AP and Honors Classes
- Professional Development for Staff and Faculty
- Student Benevolence Fund





Forever Friends

Members of the Class of '08 enjoyed a recent gathering to catch up and just "be together again." In photo are: Rachel Wrobleke and fiancé Grant Hall, Ryan Vento and girlfriend, Krystal Lutz, Michelle Van Rieg Stanton and husband Brett, Ben Thomas, Josh Rhodes, Samantha Ridder, Christian Johnson, Allie Borkovich and boyfriend Dillon Bloodworth, Nick Yalamanchili, Lindsay Adam Santos and husband Ricardo.

BEN THOMAS ('08): Pictured at left - Ben is working toward a degree in Exercise Physiology. He just completed classes at Lone Star College and is headed to Baylor University to finish up by spring 2015. As the Lord leads, he will seek a career as a Strength and Conditioning Coach or continue his education to become a nurse.

1. **AUBREY HILL ALLISON ('08):** Aubrey married Nick Allison in May 2013. Congratulations!

2. **SAMANTHA RIDDER ('08):** Samantha is attending graduate school at Friends University in Wichita, KS working towards her masters in Marriage and Family Therapy. She will graduate in June 2014. Photo by Shauna Maness Photography

3. **JOSH RHODES ('08):** Josh graduated from Texas A&M University earning a Bachelor of Arts in International Studies. Whoop! Josh will intern full-time with a college campus ministry called Epic Movement. It is a part of Cru (formerly called Campus Crusade for Christ). Their main focus is reaching out to Asian-Americans with the love of Jesus and building up believers to follow after Christ for the rest of their lives. Josh will be evangelizing on campus, leading Bible studies, discipling students, and helping to coordinate retreats and conferences. He will live in Austin and serve on college campuses locally as well as in San Antonio, Dallas, College Station, and beyond. Josh appreciates your prayer and support as God leads. For more information, please contact him at Joshua.Rhodes@CRU.org.

4. **ALLIE BORKOVICH ('08):** Allie just returned from Cordoba, Argentina. As a medical student, she partnered with Child Family Health International (CFHI) to aide young patients in that area. She rotated in their local pediatric hospital, spending time on the inpatient floor, in kinesiology, and in surgery. Allie says, "It was a challenging and rewarding experience, and I gained clinical knowledge and practiced lots of Spanish...while loving and adapting to the Argentinian culture." In July, she returns to UTMB in Galveston to start year two!

5. **LINDSAY ADAM SANTOS ('08):** Lindsay graduated with a BS in Nursing from the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor and participated in the Nurse Pinning Ceremony which is a symbolic welcoming of newly graduated nurses into the nursing profession. She is currently a Nurse Intern on the cardiac floor at Memorial Hermann Northwest Hospital in Houston, TX.

6. **MICHELLE VAN RIEG STANTON ('08)** Michelle and Brett Stanton were married in December. The wedding party included Maid of Honor **JESSICA VAN RIEG ('06)**, Bridesmaids **ALLIE BORKOVICH ('08)**, **AUBREY HILL ('08)**, **SAMANTHA RIDDER ('08)**, and **RACHEL WROBLESKE ('08)**; House Party members included **ANGELA WYNANS ('08)** and **LINDSAY ADAM SANTOS**

('08); and Ushers **CHRISTIAN JOHNSON ('08)**, **JOSHUA RHODES ('08)**, **RYAN VENTO ('08)**, and **NICK YALAMANCHILI ('08)**. Michelle is the daughter of CCS Facilities and Transportation Coordinator and long-time Volleyball Coach John Van Rieg and the granddaughter of founding members of CCS, Jerry and Edith Van Beek. Brett and Michelle are living in Waco. Brett graduated from Discipleship Training Program and is working at a bank and Michelle is working at Simply Delicious Bakery.

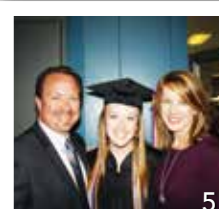
7. **RYAN VENTO ('08):** Ryan is a manager at the Chick-fil-A in the Houston Medical Center area.

8. **ANGELA WYNANS ('08):** Angela moved to East Asia as a missionary to work with an unreached people group. "Unreached" means they have never had and will not, without our intervention, ever have an opportunity to hear about Jesus Christ. She is studying to learn Mandarin. She would greatly appreciate your prayers. If you want to know more about how to pray for her, email AngelaWynans@gmail.com.

9. **CATRINA BEATY HULL ('09):** Catrina married Jeff Hull on May 18 in Cypress, TX. Alumni in their wedding were **KATE BENNETT ('09)**, **NATALIE MOORE ('11)** and **HANNAH MOFFITT ('09)**. Catrina will graduate from Houston Baptist in August with an undergraduate degree in history and minor in practical theology. She and Jeff are living in Cypress and working at the family shop, "The Prickly Pair." Jeff works on furniture restoration and Catrina researches antiques.

10. **BRAEDEN BORKOVICH ('05):** On May 18, 2013, Braeden and his wife, Lauren, introduced Cason Grey Borkovich to the world. He was born at 4:30am weighing 7lbs 5oz and 21" long. Braeden says, "We are so in love and thank God for a smooth delivery and beautiful baby boy!" "You are beautiful, my love; there is no flaw in you." - Song of Solomon 4:7

11. **MICHELLE BURCHFIELD WEST ('06):** Michelle graduated from Texas School of Business in February with a 4.0 GPA and accepted a position in the Medical Billing Department at HSE Medical Associates in Cypress. She is married to Justin. Their son, Asher, is one year old.



12. RANDY DEPUTY ('06): Randy will graduate next year from University of Miami School of Law earning a JD/LLM Law degree. This summer, he is living in Houston, attending summer school, and working for Allseas USA which is a global leader in offshore pipeline installation and subsea construction. Randy is the assistant to the head of the human resources department and helps their attorneys whenever needed. Randy recently commented about his CCS days by saying, "Sending me to CCS was the best decision my parents ever made. The best thing about CCS is the friendships I made. I know several people who I met when I was six years old and we are friends to this day. That's a very rare thing in life to have close friends from such a young age and have those friendships last for so long."

13. WHITNEY GREEN ('07): Whitney graduated from LoneStar Cy-Fair's Nursing Program in December and passed the HESI exam! She is a nurse at Memorial Hermann Northwest Hospital. Whitney says, "One thing I can say for sure is that I absolutely could not have done it without God. He is the One who carried me while studying to complete the program!" Whitney's future plans include marrying her fiancé, Adam Marquardt, on September 7, 2013. Adam owns his own graphic design company in Houston (Alpha Media House). Whitney says, "He is absolutely amazing and a true man after God's heart! We challenge each other everyday to become a better Christian."

14. JACOB HICKS ('12): Jacob is majoring in chemistry at Louisiana State University. He enjoyed participating in Nano particle research with the hope of creating more efficient energy or finding a cure for cancer. Please read Jacob's story about how he decided to study science and how he "hopes God will help him change the world for the good." – "A Spy and a Scientist" written by fellow CCS alumnus and LSU Tiger **LIZ HILTON ('12)**. The link to the story can be found in the December Online Alumni Newsletter on the CCS website.

15. KRISTIN HINN ('07): The following is taken from a Baylor University Alumni article: "When the Financial Accounting Standards Board (www.FASB.org) speaks, the nation's financial sector takes notice. The FASB sets the standards that govern the practices of all private accounting organizations in the country. And now, they count a Baylor Bear as one of their own. Recent Baylor alum Kristan Hinn, BBA '12, MA '12, has become the first Baylor accounting student to receive one of the FASB's prestigious, highly-competitive positions. Hinn will serve as a post-graduate technical assistant, working in-depth on the standards-setting process that impacts anyone who works in the accounting field. She will assist on both short and long-term projects that will shape the future and can help her continue her growth into a true leader in the field." She plans to return to KPMG-Houston after her one-year post-graduate work is complete.

16. BECKA JASPER MCCAW ('06): Becka and her husband, Cody, welcomed baby Madison in March. Another Longhorn is born!

17. MEGAN JASPER MATTISON ('04): Megan married Kevin Mattison in November. They live and work in the Houston area and attend church at Bayou City Fellowship where they are active in ministry. Bridesmaids included fellow alumni and sisters **RACHEL JASPER HELLER ('02)** and **BECKA JASPER MCCAW ('06)**. Photo by LukeandCat.com

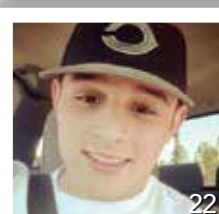
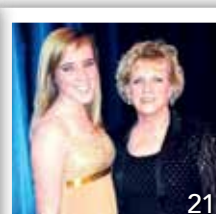
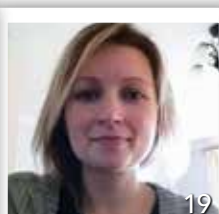
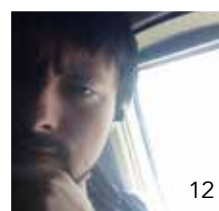
18. MELISSA JURNEY SZYMANOWSKI ('07): Melissa married Titus Szymanowski in December. Melissa graduated from Texas A&M in December 2010, and Titus is a graduate of Gonzaga University in Washington. They live in Cypress, and are both teachers at Covenant Academy. They attend Bayou City Fellowship, where they are both active in the Children's Department. The wedding party included **AMY AMBROSE ('07)**, **KARA SCHROEDER WALKER ('06)**, **ASHLEY FRIEDRICH PENNEY ('06)**, **TIFFANY FRIEDRICH SEIDEL ('05)**, and Melissa's brother, Ben, and sister, Laura, who also attended CCS.

19. BETH LALONDE LAWLOR ('99): Beth and husband, Brian, are pleased to announce the birth of their son, Maxwell (Max) James Lawlor, born in Dublin, Ireland.

20. PAYTON LAMBERT ('08): Payton Lambert graduated with a BS in Fashion and Retail Management. She is currently working in management with Zumiez.

21. MARTHA MILLER ('11): Martha and her mom, Sharon Miller (CCS teacher), attended the National Charity League, Inc. (NCL) Yellow Rose Chapter's Senior Presentation where Mrs. Miller had the honor of serving as the Mistress of Ceremonies. NCL is a mother-daughter organization whose mission is "to foster mother-daughter relationships in a philanthropic organization committed to community service, leadership development, and cultural experiences." Martha is attending Texas A&M University majoring in Industrial Distribution. She is active in Aggie Sisters for Christ, has served as a counselor for Fish Camp, is a member of the Aggie Fish Club, and is a member of the Professional Association of Industrial Distribution. She attends Central Baptist Church and is active in their college ministry.

22. JACK MITCHELL ('11): Jack was in the right place at the right time to help a group of students take down a suspect at Lone Star College in Cypress, TX. Read more at www.CypressChristian.org/News/Action.cfm.



23. BYRON MOORE ('99): Byron recently accepted the position of Business Administrator for Metropolitan Baptist Church. Byron's mom and former CCS Admissions Director remarked, "It is so much fun to look back through the years and see how richly God prepared Byron for life through CCS!"

24. LAUREN MOORE ('09): Lauren graduated with honors from the University of Texas earning undergraduate degrees in Philosophy and Spanish and a minor in Arabic.

25. ELENA RAY ('12): Elena was selected to become a member of Texas Tech's Engineers Without Borders. The group is designing a way to give clean drinking water to small villages in Panama. In December 2013, the group will travel to Panama to help build the waterways based on their designs.

26. MELINDA REYNOLDS IVE ('03): Melinda has been attending the Art Institute of California in San Diego to earn a BS in Interior Design. She recently presented her thesis which included converting a building in San Diego into a recovery center for the treatment of PTSD where active duty, severely injured military personnel would live, and go through a unique process of therapy-focused healing. Her focus was dignity through design, using universal design. For more information on her project, visit the CCS Alumni Facebook page.

27. KELSEY SALMON MOORE ('07): Kelsey married Kent Moore in December 2012 in Arlington, Texas. Alumni in attendance: Bridesmaid **HALLIE SALMON ('10)**, **CAROLINE CARTHEY ('07)**, **KATHERINE BARNETT ('07)**, Maid of Honor **KEELEY LAMBERT ('07)**, **KRISTIN HINN ('07)**, and **KATE BENNETT ('09)**. Kelsey graduated from Dallas Baptist University in 2011 with a degree in Biblical Studies. She is currently employed as an administrative assistant in the Sales and Use Tax Department of United Paramount Group in Arlington. Kent graduated from The University of Texas, Arlington, in 2009 with a degree in Journalism and a minor in Business. Kent is a Deputy Clerk with the Second Court of Appeals in Fort Worth. Kent serves as a worship band member at Fielder Road Baptist Church in Arlington, where they both attend.

28. HALLIE SALMON ('10): Hallie is working at Deer Creek Adventure Camp as a summer counselor. In the fall, Hallie will intern in Cuzco, Peru at an orphanage for girls. This amazing experience fulfills a requirement toward her degree in International Studies at Texas A&M, which she will complete in May 2014.

29. RYAN SOULE ('09): Ryan graduated from Dallas Baptist University in December, where he earned a BBA in Business Management. He is currently living in Dallas where he is employed by Cobalt Capital Partners as a real estate analyst.

30. MATTHEW SMITHWICK ('01): Matt and wife, Tiffany, welcomed son, Matthew Timothy, in December.

31. HASHEEM THABEET ('06): Hasheem is a member of the Oklahoma City Thunder Basketball Team and joined his coach and fellow teammates to visit with tornado victims in Moore, OK. "Just maybe this was the reason they had a short playoff run this season, when they were needed more in Moore." CC

32. LEXUS VAN PELT ('11): Lexus helped host a Miracle League Sports Day for handicapped kids and a soccer clinic at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock where she attends college. Lexus is interning this summer with the federal marshal for her Criminal Justice degree.

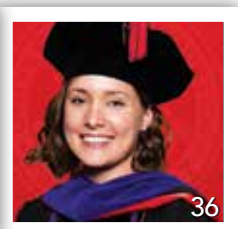
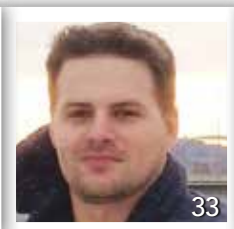
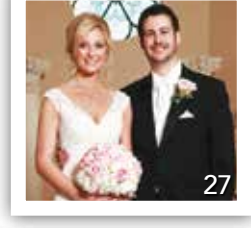
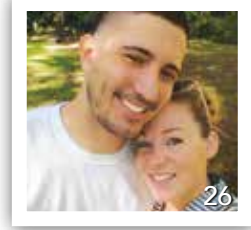
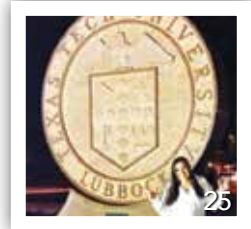
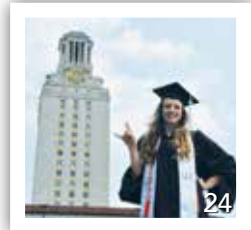
33. MAX VAN PELT ('05): Max Van Pelt works for Boots & Coots (Haliburton). He traveled to Poland to train others on fire safety procedures.

34. NIKKI VANCE ('12): Nikki traveled to Uganda with a team from Antioch Community Church to work alongside a church plant in the city of Lira. Nikki said, "God used us to give hope to the people of Lira. We got to share about who Christ is. He is so much more than a Bible story: He sees the pain we go through and desperately wants to heal us. Our God is a God of redemption! We got to see Him invade people's lives, bringing new hope and real life. He has shown me a whole new aspect of what it means to live for Him. Several of my teammates and I were baptized and some of our Ugandan friends joined us!"

35. CHELSEA VINCENT ('11): Chelsea was elected president of Phi Theta Kappa at Lone Star College and is a member of the Honors Program.

36. KATHY WITTY MEDFORD ('06): Kathy married Nichols Medford in October 2012. Most recently, she graduated Magna Cum Laude from the University of Houston Law Center. She has accepted a position in the Business and Regulatory section at the Houston office of the law firm of Bracewell & Giuliani LLP.

For additional Alumni News:
www.CypressChristian.org/About-CCS/Alumni.cfm



Homecoming 2013

Welcome
Home
Alumni

OCTOBER 11

Game at 7pm
Prizes / Free food for graduates
Alumni picture at half-time
After-party in the gym

Thank You, Photographers!

Thanks to the following photographers for the "awesome" pictures in this issue of the CONNECTION Magazine:

- CCS Alumni and Alumni Parents
- CCS Staff and Faculty
- CCS Students and Parents
- CCS Yearbook/Photography
Teacher Rachael Lechman
- Aimee Fuller Photography
- Capital Photo, Inc
- Daniel Chee Photography
- G. Michael Photography
- Jack Potts Photography
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- Shauna Maness Photography



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CCS Alumnus Hunter Floyd in Full-Time Ministry in Las Vegas



CCS Alumnus Hunter Floyd graduated from Cypress Christian School in 2007 and expressed his thankfulness for God placing him at CCS: "As a direct result of the school and the relationships I

made at CCS, I became

a son of God my junior year. Since then, God has worked in my life and shown me the greatness of His Kingdom daily." May

of this year marked a full year since Hunter and his

wife, Carissa, moved from

Lynchburg, Virginia to Las Vegas, Nevada to be obedient to God's calling as church planters. They have successfully helped plant "Grace City Vegas" in just a few months! Hunter says, "The goal of Grace City is to do tough things, in tough places, so that God gets all the glory."

WHY VEGAS? – IT IS A STRONGHOLD OF THE ENEMY TO BE CONFRONTED

Hunter recently explained why he and the team he serves with chose Las Vegas as a place to plant a church: "The closed country of China has an evangelical Christian community that consists of roughly six percent of its population, whereas Las Vegas has a Christian population of four percent. While temptations and sin exist in every country and city, Las Vegas is a particular stronghold to those who

are seeking to find identity and fill the God-shaped void in their lives. Whether it is addictions, fantasies, or emptiness, many come and stay in this neon city to hopefully find what it is they are searching for. Our mission is to help those lost and broken people experience their true identity, and the freedom that comes with it, as sons and daughters of God."

REPORTS FROM THE FRONT LINE

SUCCESS WITH COLLEGE STUDENTS

Hunter and the team he works with are very involved in the college campus of University of Nevada Las Vegas. Currently, Hunter holds three Bible studies during the week that are all growing with an average of 80 attendees. Students love having a place to meet with each other, to talk openly about their struggles, and to be encouraged by truth. "This is a college where Christian activity is minimal, so through prayer and hard work, we want to see this campus given to the Kingdom of God!"

SUCCESS WITH MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS

Hunter and the team he works with have seen God's favor in the public middle school that they meet in for church services. The school has allowed them to partner with their campus, letting them come into

school for lunch and just talk with kids, serve the teachers, get to know the student leadership, and even announce their Bible studies over the P.A. for the whole school to hear! Through the awesome favor of God at Schofield Middle School, the youth group has grown from 5 to 30 kids over the last year.

SUCCESS AND PROVIDENCE FOR HUNTER AND TEAM

God has granted Hunter and his teammates favor and continues to open door after door as they have continued to seek Him, His presence, and His will. As a team, they do ministry full time. Hunter says, "For the first time in my life I can say that I am spending my days with God.

While not always easy, it's amazing to depend on God

for literally every need and see Him provide.

Ministry is what we do, disciple makers is who we are."

PRAY FOR GRACE CITY AND LAS VEGAS

- Grace City is seeking to baptize 100 new believers this year. (Grace City has baptized 30 thus far.)
- Grace City's vision is for revival in Las Vegas, seeking to see 100,000 new believers over the next two years.
- Pray for protection of Grace City staff, as well as all pastors in the Las Vegas area.
- Pray for unity among the churches of Las Vegas.

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son that whosoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life." John 3:16

"For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith – and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast." Ephesians 2:8-9



If you would like more information about the work Hunter and Carissa are involved in, or want to know how you can be a partner with them in their exciting work, please go to www.GraceCityVegas.com. If you would like to receive updates about their ministry or would like to know how to pray for Hunter and Carissa, you can contact Hunter at Hunter@GraceCityVegas.com or by mail at Grace City Church, P.O. Box 97815, Las Vegas, NV, 89193.

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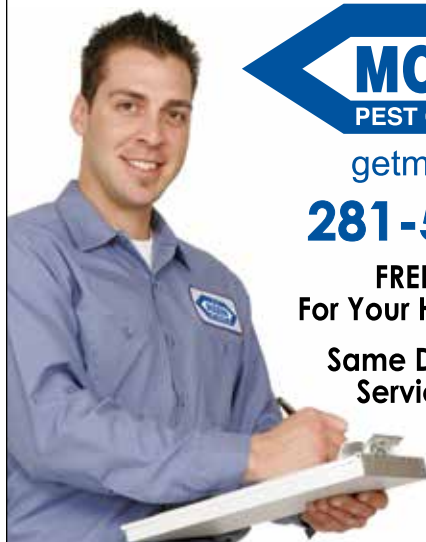


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