

# The Heritage of Calvary Baptist Day School

By Jon M. Corts; February 20, 2009

Have you ever wondered how any great and lasting institution was built?

Have you ever wondered how Calvary Baptist Day School was built? When? By whom? For what purpose?

Over the past few days I have ventured to answer these questions. And I have discovered some amazing things!

Some humored me. Some humbled me. Some saddened me. All *inspired* me. They have inspired me to greater sacrifice and service. Let me share them with you, as we have much work to do.

- Did you know, that in reviewing the hand written notes of a faithful Deacon Chairman, I discovered that on April 7, 1968, a few good men stepped out on faith and voted to begin a five year old kindergarten? Their charter stated, and I quote, We *“believe that children need to develop spiritually, socially, mentally, and physically in a Christ-centered, relaxed, well-disciplined atmosphere in preparation for the first grade.”* (As a parent of five children, I REALLY liked the “relaxed” and “well disciplined” part)! Sacrifice. Service.
- Did you know that the first tuition charged was \$22.50 per month? (As a parent of five children, I REALLY liked that “tuition” part!). The church invested \$750 that first year to supplement the meager tuition charged. Sacrifice. Service.
- Did you know that Mrs. Ruth Brown served as the first teacher at CBDS at a salary of \$250 per month? Sacrifice. Service.
- Did you know, after speaking at length with Nan Grimes - who became the first, 1<sup>st</sup> grade teacher here in the fall of 1971, I discovered that the school had no extra funds so she willingly made curtains for her first class room and her husband painted that room? Nan told me that my dad, who was pastor of Calvary for 39 years, had been thinking about the public school system here, and how it had changed, and felt a deep burden to start a Christian school. (I wonder if my dad ever imagined, back in 1971, that in 2009 five of his grandchildren would be attending this school). Nan also told me that parents willingly planted shrubs outside that first classroom and built a fence around the first playground. Sacrifice. Service.

- Did you know, when asked why the school grew so quickly and eventually parents camped out to enroll their students here, Nan told me that – in spite of leading a growing church and having a family of four children of his own – my dad led chapel every week and knew the names and needs of every student and their families? Sacrifice. Service. (BTW, my dad was also the first principal and gave me a paddling for placing a whoopy cushion under my teacher’s seat. MY sacrifice; HIS service!).
- Did you know that the reason the church members financially supported my dad’s vision for a Christian school was because they believed, and I quote “that homes would be richer, the family stronger, and God would be more fully honored” by having a vibrant Christian school? Sacrifice. Service.
- Did you know that “No Child Left Behind” started right here, at CBDS, in 1968? If any student had a heart to attend here, but not the funds to do so, they were admitted anyway. And God always made a way for the school. Sacrifice. Service.

Today, this school is in need of a fresh vision. A fresh commitment to excellence. A driving passion to become an extraordinary Christian school. I believe that one of the ways we will accomplish this is by looking back to the Day School’s past, her “DNA”, and in doing so we will *realize* that we’re standing on the shoulders of those who have come before us, and we must return to an attitude of sacrifice and service.

In *that* spirit of sacrifice and service, and in light of today’s difficult economic times, my wife and I want to extend a challenge to 29 other families. In the early days, as I have said, No Child Was Left Behind. So, our family is going to “adopt” a student who currently attends CBDS but whose family simply cannot afford to send him or her to school here next year, due to a temporary change in circumstances. We’re going to sacrifice and serve – by paying not 5 tuition bills for our 5 children, but 6 tuition bills – for one whose family cannot afford to pay tuition this coming year. As I prayed through this, the number 30 kept coming to me – there will likely be at least 30 lives, 30 students whose parents will choose not to re-enroll them this coming year solely for financial reasons. Not on our watch. Not in our time. Not in this place. We need 29 other families to join with us and restore this school to a place where every ready, willing, and able student can learn to grow in wisdom, stature, and in favor with God and man! Will you please join us? Go to the contact page on the [cbdsvision.com](http://cbdsvision.com) website and just put “Adopt” in

the subject line-and I'll contact you. And some of you who I know have the means, I'm gonna contact you anyway! God will provide, and in doing so, we will be on the road to the extraordinary – a place our community sees and says, “What in the world is going on there?” and we can readily answer – “It is not us, but God, in sacrifice and service to Him.”