

Congratulations Class of 2008



photo courtesy of Coleman's Studios



Jerry Williams,
School
Administrator

Know Thy Enemy – Part III
By Jerry Williams

One of my favorite movies of all time is Braveheart, in which Mel Gibson plays the part of William Wallace of Scotland, leader of a band of Scottish brothers in a revolt against the tyranny of England. My wife, like many other females I know, despises this movie because of the realism of the battle scenes; but I love it for several reasons, which I'll not go into at this time. There's one scene,

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Christian Storytelling Festival / Family Fun Festival Nets \$23,000 for Providence Annual Scholarship Fund



**Thanks to the
many who made it
happen!**



see more photos on page 3

Providence Purchases 14.8 Acres

Dr. Bill Boswell, Board Chair at Providence, recently shared that Providence had completed the purchase of 14.8 acres adjacent to the current campus (see picture below). Dr. Boswell said “we are excited to be able to acquire this property for the future growth of Providence Academy.” Dr. Boswell added, “Growth is not a current priority. Yet, we felt it was prudent to take this opportunity to expand our campus footprint, via some very favorable terms. Our current priorities are to eliminate debt and improve teacher pay. As we reach these goals, we will then be in a position to begin raising funds for a second building that will allow us to provide a Christ-centered and classical education to more students through the eventual addition of a third tier of students from K-12.”

FEATURES

- Pg 2** Bledsoe Mural
- Pg 3** Pictures from 2nd Annual Christian Storytelling Festival
- Pg 4** Annual Scholarship Fund

Looking to the Future - Providence New Land Purchase



Bill Bledsoe Mural

“The Stream of ‘Consciousness’ of a Classical Mind in Christ (In Christo)”



Mr. Bill Bledsoe, secondary Art teacher, recently completed an incredible mural for the school which is being displayed in the cafeteria, covering one entire wall. As Mr. Bledsoe explained during our recent associational meeting, the image reflects the many aspects of a Christian / Classical education in a visual sense. The interlocking of diverse subject matter is exhibited with harmony, energy, and balance. The repetition of the symbol of Christ (Crucifix) defines the structure of the entire composition. Among the many symbolic elements of the painting, the image of Michelangelo's David (which is the 5th section, not shown here) is intended to emulate the fierce determination of a Godly individual conquering what would be overwhelming odds with strength and purpose given by God, the purpose being that we should not simply endure this life, but prevail in the love of Christ (In Amore Christi).

School Administrator, Jerry Williams, said, “The mural painted by our very own Mr. Bledsoe is incredible! It incorporates many aspects of a classical and Christian curriculum while sprinkling in a bit of PA flavor. Be sure to stop by the lunchroom to see the mural the next time you visit Providence. You will be impressed!”

on Christian Education

“As you consider the road ahead think first of the final destination: an academically rigorous, morally excellent, and biblically integrated education for your children. Many paths lead to this objective, but you must begin by deciding where to end.” - Bradley Heath

*from Millstones & Stumbling Blocks:
Understanding Education in Post-Christian America*

A Christ-centered and Classical Education

By Mark Koscak, Director of Development



We are....on The WAY!

As I have enjoyed the beauty and the depth of Bill Bledsoe's mural that depicts a Christ-centered and classical education, our school administrator, Jerry Williams, and the board have been working on a draft of “core values” for the school. One of those core values is a classical education. A classical education sounds good, but what is it? Here is a peek at a draft of the upcoming core value document that explains a classical education:

- Emphasizes the methodology of the Trivium - grammar, logic, and rhetoric - in all subjects (Grammar - the fundamental rules of each subject; Logic - the ordered relationship of particulars in each subject; Rhetoric - how the grammar and logic of each subject may be clearly expressed)
- Promotes the term “classical education” in the context of the classical search for wisdom and virtue through the pursuit of truth, goodness, and

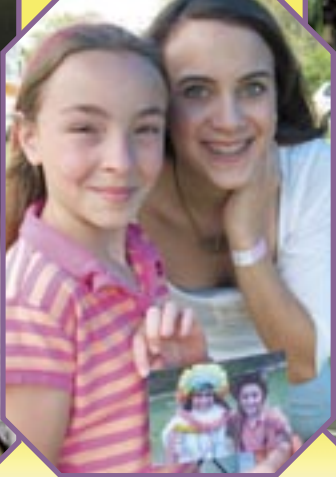
beauty.

- Emphasizes and seeks to preserve and pass to successive generations the richness of our Western cultural heritage.
- Encourages all students to develop a love for learning and to live up to their academic potential
- Provides an orderly atmosphere conducive to the attainment of the above goals

If you are like me, many times I say, “Ok, I have a grasp of the classical Christian education, but how is it different from the education that everyone else receives (that isn't Christ-centered and classical)?” I recently read an article by E.D. Hirsch, Jr., that helped me to better understand some differences and to understand that there are major worldview differences in educational pedagogy (pedagogy: the art, science, or profession of teaching). Here are a few differences that will help you understand the differences in worldview:

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2nd annual Christian Storytelling Festival A Wonderful Success!



NEED BASED SCHOLARSHIP AT PROVIDENCE

2008-09 Goal



THANKS FOR YOUR HELP!

2007-08 SUMMARY


- Raised \$140,000
- Will help 83 students in 2008-09

Please pray that God would continue to help us find more friends that would support the scholarship fund with a regular monthly gift or via a five year pledge. If you are interested in becoming a monthly supporter or making a five year pledge to the scholarship program, please contact Mark Koscak at (423) 854-9819 or at mkoscak@providenceacademy.com.

"I certainly will give \$20 per month to Providence for the Annual Scholarship Fund. I do appreciate Providence Academy. I appreciate the type of education, and the biblically-based atmosphere that my grandchildren have been able to benefit from, and I am thankful that my grandchildren are at Providence." Judy Duncan

THANKS to our Multi-Year Scholarship Partners

Johnson City Internal Medicine Associates, PC
219 Princeton Road, Suite 200
Johnson City, TN 37601
423-282-4911


2105 East Center St., Suite B
Kingsport, TN 37664
423.378.5044



Host Engineering, Inc
593 AA Deakins Road
Jonesborough, TN 37659



NN Inc. - Corporate Office
2000 Waters Edge Drive, Suite 12
Johnson City, TN 37604
PH:423-743-9151



EASTman

(Eastman Annual Scholarship Team)
"Eastman employees committed to providing need-based scholarships"



Alumni Parents

Committed to providing need-based scholarships

To make a pledge to the Annual Scholarship Fund, please detach and complete the pledge card and EFT info (if you prefer) on next page and return to the school.
For questions, please contact Mark Koscak at 423-854-9819 ext. 3013.

ENEMY *continued*

however, that leaves me disturbed every time I see it (which, of course, is every time that it comes on late-night TV because if it's showing then it MUST be watched, right?). This is the scene when the Scottish crusaders are entrenched in a battle with the English and William Wallace witnesses those that had committed to fight with him flee the battleground to leave him for dead. Then, as if that isn't enough, a moment later Wallace is shocked to find out that the one individual who is the rightful heir to the throne of Scotland has actually betrayed his country and is fighting for the enemy, the English. At this moment Wallace drops his head in despair. Why? Because how can he properly engage and defeat the enemy if he doesn't know who the true enemy is and, "Why has my brother chosen to fight against me?"

As we think through this topic of fighting the battle for the cause of Christian education, we will go back to Nehemiah 5. The picture painted is of a nation committed to rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem. The enemy is real and clearly identified (v.7), yet the people of Judah are united and fully committed to rebuilding the walls despite the certainty of opposition. Verse 14 says, "Fight for your brothers, your sons and your daughters, your wives and

your homes." If this unity were somehow breached amongst the Judeans then defeat would surely follow. But it did not, because they were united in their cause. Did the Judeans sometimes feel like fighting with each other? Probably. Did they all agree with one another at all times? Probably not. Were there moments of fatigue that caused them to want to lash out at one another? I would think so.

I remember a situation at Providence Academy several years ago when a family brought charges against an employee of the school that caused division amongst the families and amongst a few of the board members as well. As we began investigating the particulars associated with this family's complaints, it became increasingly clear to everyone that their complaint was a matter of preference (the parents "preferred" that the teacher teach a certain way, use a certain text, etc.), but that the employee had really done nothing wrong. The family eventually realized this and tried to make amends; but, unfortunately, by the time the ordeal was ended, the pain had been inflicted and the blood had been shed (figuratively speaking, of course). Soon thereafter, we lost that employee.

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Annual Scholarship Fund PLEDGE CARD

**mail to: Providence Academy
Development Office
2788 Carroll Creek Rd.
Johnson City, TN 37615**

Name _____ I/We pledge \$ _____.

Payments to be made periodically as follows:

Mailing Address _____ Monthly Quarterly Semi-annually Annually

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Installments of \$ _____ for a period of _____, beginning _____.

Home Phone _____ Business Phone _____ I/We enclose our initial scholarship gift of \$ _____
Gift matched by _____

Email Address _____ Signature _____ Date _____

Optional Electronic Fund Transfer

I/We authorize SunTrust Bank to initiate a debit of \$ _____ from my (our) account indicated below on a monthly basis (15th business day) to Providence Academy for the Annual Scholarship Fund.

Please transfer my monthly payment from:

Name(s) on Account: _____

Name of Bank: _____

Account Number: _____ (You must include a voided check with this request.)

Signature: _____ Date: _____

This debit will remain in effect until Providence Academy has received written notification from you to terminate this debit. It will take at least 2 business days prior to debit transaction processing to terminate action on the account.

Thank you! Your first Electronic Fund Transfer will occur within 45 days.

A Christ-Centered & Classical Approach *continued*

What it is:

What it isn't:

- A belief that education means to intentionally bring up or instruct a child.
- A belief that the order of training compliments God's design for children by age and is very deliberate, i.e.
 - Grammar-Get the facts (K-6)
 - Logic-Teach cause and effect (7-9)
 - Rhetoric-Think about what we can say about a topic (written or verbal: 10-12)
- A belief that the fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge.
- A belief that Jesus is the way, the life, and the truth, and that the truth exists outside students.
- A belief that morals and goodness can and should be taught.
- A belief that each child is a sinner.
- A belief that each grade should have objective tests and uniform standards.
- A belief that parents are responsible for the education of a child.
- A belief that teachers are wise, and wisdom and truth should be shared.
- A focus on the providential view of history (His-story) with special focus on Western Civilization and the impact on the world of Greek, Roman, and European influences.
- A focus on Latin as a second language for a variety of reasons including:
 - it teaches children how to think.
 - it teaches students how to study and learn other languages.
- A long term focus of teaching children:
 - how to think and act in a way that honors God
 - to become lifelong learners
 - in a traditional liberal arts curriculum with the intent of preparing them for life.

- A belief that education:
 - like the name kindergarten (child garden) is based on thinking that nature drives the growing process, and that learning should be implicit, or inductive.
 - is an unfolding or leading out of natural abilities (like a seed naturally growing into a plant).
 - should be based on growth that come from a child's instincts and natural interests.
- A belief that truth is relative.
- A belief that morality comes naturally.
- A belief that good is inherent in all of us.
- A belief that multi-age schemes and a desire to let each child grow at his/her own pace honors individuality and diversity.
- A belief that the state is responsible for the education of a child.
- A belief that teachers are coaches and watchful guides that help the process unfold rather than sages.
- A man-centered historical focus with emphasis on tolerance, class struggle, the ism's (i.e. feminism, multi-culturalism etc.).
- A focus on teaching language to support a vocation.
- A long term focus on preparing a child for a specific vocation.

Note: I found an article by E.D. Hirsch, Jr. on "The Religious Roots of Child-centered Education" to be very helpful. The content of the article was originally given in a speech at Harvard University in 1999.

You could logically look at each subject and continue to find clear and significant differences, but too much of this makes my head swim! Have a great summer!



Recycle used printer cartridges

Thanks to your used cartridges, we have received **\$2,397** since March 2005 towards the Annual Scholarship Fund from Cartridge World. Please show them our support by giving them your business.

HIGHLY RECOMMENDED MOVIE:

*******Ben Stein's - Expelled:
No Intelligence Allowed**

PA FUNDRAISING OPPORTUNITIES

USE PA GIFT CARDS DURING THE SUMMER!

Hotels	Summer Clothes
Gas	Sandals
Groceries	Books
Restaurants	Home Projects
Toys	Lawn Care

Gift cards will be available for sale during Summer office hours in the Development Office. Call the office at 854-9819 for summer hours of operation.

Shop Online &
Help Providence!



WWW.SCHOOLPOP.COM

Part of the proceeds from your online purchases will be donated to Providence if you start your shopping session by first going to www.schoolpop.com. Many vendors participate and will donate between 1% and 10% of your purchase price to Providence.

ENEMY *continued*

Know thy enemy. This is a lesson we must keep before us. How many of you have been involved in a church split? It's painful, isn't it? Good Christian folks--united for the cause of Christianity--yet for a season...and for what probably seems like a valid reason...they decide to take arms up with one another. In the end there is division, and the church becomes temporarily ineffective in advancing the Kingdom of God.

Before we continue, I need to ask a clarifying question: "Are there causes in which we should take up arms with one another, even with our brothers and sisters in Christ?" Yes, of course. Ecclesiastes 3 reminds us that there is a time for everything, including "a time to tear down and a time to build" and "a time for war and a time for peace." We are instructed to "Make every effort to keep the unity of the spirit through the bond of peace" (Ephesians 4:3), but that doesn't mean that we should overlook sin or foolishness for sake of keeping unity. Rather, we keep unity by addressing these situations and individuals head on, which is what the Matthew 18 principle is all about.

"Our struggle is always with the true enemy, and he hates us, hates our God, and hates our cause (furthering the Kingdom of God through Christian education)."

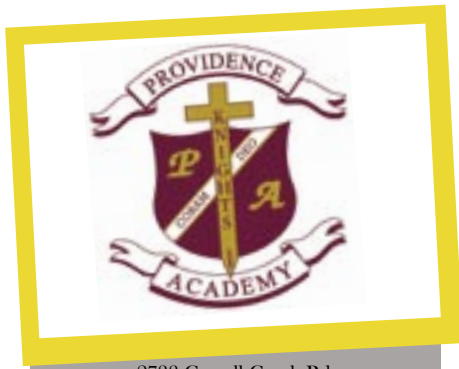
Nevertheless, I will state that in my twelve years as the school administrator of Providence Academy, including this year, I have seen occasion after occasion where individuals have truly forgotten that we, Christians, do have a real enemy, and it's not each other. There have been occasions where one particular issue, textbook, teacher, decision, etc., has caused such frustration...and even sometimes anger...that individuals reached for their swords

and war ensued, from parent to teacher, parent to administration/Board, teacher to teacher, etc. In many of these occasions the fight was actually not necessary. The point is--there is a true enemy, and we...you and I...are not the enemy. The real enemy is antithetical to the Kingdom of God, and he roams around as a roaring lion seeking whom he can devour. This is why that we are instructed to "Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes" because "our struggle is not against flesh and blood." (Ephesians 6:11)

Did you get that last part? Our struggle is not with "flesh and blood," which is a reference to people. The true struggle is not with your pastor. It's not with your wife. It's definitely not with your husband! It's not with your neighbor. It's not with a teacher. It's not with a school official. It's not with a board member. Our struggle is always with the true enemy, and he hates us, hates our God, and hates our cause (furthering the Kingdom of God through Christian education). And we are to unite to fight this enemy, our only true enemy, with a vengeance.

In a time of war, friendly-fire can, and often does, take many, many lives...unnecessarily. When we are at war our emotions run high, we are on edge, and sometimes what we take aim at ends up being our own brother or sister. So, as we close out this series on fighting the war for the sake of Christian education, let us remind ourselves that a major tactic of the enemy is to cause confusion and divisions amongst God's people. As we move forward toward the fifteenth year of Providence Academy's existence, let us each commit to fight for the hearts and minds of our children as never before; and let us begin, first and foremost, by agreeing to...know thy enemy--and not take aim at anyone who is not the enemy.





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Shop and dine to earn points for Providence Academy. Bring receipts from any Mall at Johnson City store or restaurant dated:

August 1 through September 14 to the Guest Services Center. **Providence can earn up to \$10,000!** Last year we placed 2nd and received \$7,000.

HOW CAN I HELP?

A GREAT WAY TO HELP!--THE TAX REBATE

This is a great way to help the Providence Academy scholarship fund!
Give 10% of your rebate to help students receive a Christ-centered and classical education.

Mail your gift to:
Providence Academy
Development Office
2788 Carroll Creek Rd.
Johnson City, TN 37615

***** Recommended Reading
Millstones & Stumbling Blocks:
Understanding Education
in Post-Christian America
by Bradley Heath

“The man who doesn’t read good books has no advantage over the man who can’t read them.”
- Mark Twain

If you would like a complimentary copy of this book, please contact Mark Koscak at 854-9819.