



VISION 2020

Expanding in Faith. Growing to Serve.



CAPITAL CAMPAIGN *for*
Great Lakes Christian High School

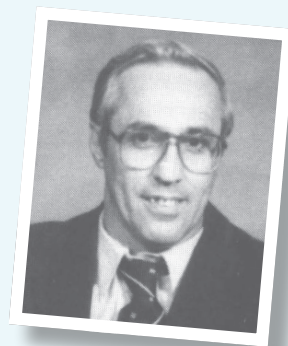
Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly
as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom
through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing
to God with gratitude in your hearts. And whatever you do,
whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus,
giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Colossians 3:16-17

“

*My life as an office clerk brought me in touch with
hundreds of beautiful young people. The staff members
were always very kind and considerate. A price cannot
be put on the value of Christian education.*”

Alvin Cramp, Bookkeeper 1976-1992



After a farming accident in 1969 left Alvin confined to a wheelchair, he went back to school and completed a bookkeeping course at Georgian College. In January 1976, Alvin came to work in the business office of Great Lakes Christian College, where he would serve for sixteen years. Marie, his wife, was dormitory custodian for three years. Their three children, Kevin, Shawn, and Heather all attended GLCHS. Sadly, Marie passed away in December 2018 and less than two weeks later, on January 01, 2019, Alvin followed her. We are grateful to have known and been blessed by these beautiful servants and we are dedicating the elevator project of Vision 2020 to their memory.



VISION 2020

When Great Lakes Christian College offered its first high school classes in the fall of 1952, it was not the beginning of the journey. Years earlier, prompted by cultural movements that threatened their deep-held beliefs, men and women of faith envisioned a school that was dedicated to the development of the body, soul, and spirit of youth (which was, not coincidentally, the school motto in 1952). Martin Luther King Jr. once said: “The difference between a dreamer and a visionary is that a dreamer has his eyes closed and a visionary has his eyes open.” Praise God, sixty-seven years later, we stand on the shoulders of visionaries who took a dream and through unwavering faith and commitment made that dream a reality. The school they established continues to execute its original

mission all these decades later by God’s grace and providence manifested in hundreds of sacrificial givers, employees, volunteers, and servant-leaders. Today we stand rooted in a rich heritage with forward-looking eyes, envisioning how we can best serve for decades to come.

We expand on the faith of those who have come before us by looking forward with a clear vision for 2020 that will position us to grow and serve better for the years that follow. Prompted by four key concerns—accessibility, safety, space, and design—we hope you, too, will catch our vision of how the first significant renovation of Ellis Hall, which turns fifty-five in 2020, will bless every person we have opportunity to serve.



Photograph of Ellis Hall today.



Architect's drawing of the design for the new façade, entry, and central hall.

Achieving Our Vision

Inherent in the construction of Merritt Hall, our boys' residence, in 2002, there was an effort to tie it architecturally and aesthetically to the historical buildings (Perry, McPhee, and Hotchkiss Halls) on our campus. Our desire is to connect Ellis Hall to the others with similar design elements that provide a unified aesthetic while addressing the other issues of concern outlined in this brochure. In this effort, the façade, entry, and central hall that provides access to the cafeteria and gym will all be significantly renovated. At the centre of this project is the installation of an elevator that would permit access to all three levels of Ellis Hall. In addition to expanding one of the upstairs classrooms, an outdoor patio will be created between the Boden-Merritt Library and Tallman Gymnatorium.



The Vision 2020 Campaign is Phase I of what we hope will be two Phases over the next decade. Phase I lays the groundwork for additional office and classroom space and a dedicated chapel.

VISION #1

Accessibility - All are welcome!

While Great Lakes Christian High School is fundamentally a warm and welcoming environment, our facilities don't always give that impression. If you are elderly, the parents of young children, or a person with a disability, you will be challenged to enter through our front doors, and you may not be able to go upstairs to the administration offices and classrooms or walk downstairs to the Tallman Gymnasium. *Accessibility benefits so many more than our students and staff; it affords easy access for scores of people who visit our school annually for plays, banquets, youth rally, ceremonies, fundraising events, local community events and so much more.* We want our campus to reflect physically what we believe philosophically: you are welcome here.



This corner will be where our elevator, dedicated to the memory of Alvin and Marie Cramp, will be installed.

VISION #2

Safety - You are safe here



The safety of the students entrusted to our care, and any person who steps onto our campus is a paramount concern. Part of creating a safe environment is ensuring that if a fire ever started it will be detected early and people will have sufficient warning to get out of harm's way. In connection with accessibility, upgrades will enable us to open up our school, literally. If you walk into Ellis Hall today, all the doors exiting the foyer are closed and, by fire regulation, must remain closed at all times. *An upgrade that either includes magnetic release doors or includes a sprinkler system will open all these doorways, improve safety and make these spaces more functional, accessible, and aesthetically pleasing.* We want every person who enters our school to feel that this is a safe place.

VISION #3

Space - Study, collaborate, and chill



For the last five years our average enrolment has been one hundred thirty students, praise God! Even more exciting is that indicators point toward the stability of that number for the next few years. With elevated enrolment, space is something coveted. Although this proposed plan expands a classroom, the real value added is space for study and collaboration (a much more significant component of today's curriculum). When gathering, studying, or collaborating outside the classroom, the library and cafeteria have been the only options for students. *In 2018, we added small, interim spaces outside the guidance office and gym that have been received well and put into constant use. This project will expand those spaces and add an outdoor patio between the gym and the library, a space long viewed as unsightly and wasted.*

VISION #4

Upgrade - Fresh, modern, and connected

There is just no way around the fact that Ellis Hall is an aging facility. It has served well for fifty-five years, but the time to brighten, update, and open up these spaces and bring them into the twenty-first century is overdo. If a facility looks tired and worn, it is difficult not to be impacted psychologically by it. Moreover, tying Ellis Hall stylistically and architecturally to our residences gives a sense of wholeness and belonging. Beginning with the façade and entry, we want to carry these concepts all the way through to the gym and cafeteria, the most travelled corridor of our school. *Welcoming, modern, open, safe, and functional spaces are what we hope to achieve with Vision 2020.*



The Perry Hall kitchen renovation is a great example of creating a warm, contemporary, and functional space for students.

ACHIEVING *Our Vision*



GLCHS FACTS:
In June 2020, more than 1,985 students will have graduated from Great Lakes Christian High School.

“

Over my four years at GL, of sitting in classes and chapel, laughing with friends, singing in chorus, hanging up streamers for banquets, and so much more, I was able to grow and develop into the person I am today – a person who is prepared to take the world head on.

”

SAM DEVRIES, Class of 2013

Phase I Forecast: \$1,500,000

Although the Vision 2020 forecasted budget is \$1,500,000, our fundraising goals are more modest. We plan to raise \$500,000 by the end of June 2021, and \$600,000 by the end of December 2021. In our current financial model, we can budget \$250,000 internally and will seek to borrow the remainder. Through fundraising, budgeted capital spending, and reasonable borrowing we believe we are establishing realistic goals and exercising good stewardship.

We are pleased to share that as of October 2020 we have received \$200,000 in donations and have pledges of \$60,000 for a total of \$260,000. We are excited to be at 52% of our June 2021 goal and 43% of our December 2021 goal, praise God!

Donor Recognition

We would very much like to recognize those who choose to give to Vision 2020. If willing, every donor who gives in any amount toward this project will be acknowledged in our semi-annual newsletter, Laker Connection. Donors who give \$1,000 or more may elect to be acknowledged or honour someone with a “leaf” on our Vision 2020 Giving Tree to be placed in the new central hub created by this project. We feel that some visual representation of all who give will remind any person who passes through our building that our ability to serve God in this ministry is not possible without a community of faithful, visionary believers who share and support our mission.

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*We couldn't have asked for a better school.
The teachers are great and exhibit kindness and
grace while maintaining high standards.*

PAUL GOODFELLOW, parent of Martin Goodfellow, Class of 2015

*Being a part of the Great Lakes family makes me
feel warm, protected, and, most importantly, loved.*

LOONEY MO, Class of 2016



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