

Development Report and follow-up

Welcome to the Fall of 2024!

This is my fourth year at Calvary and my 40th year in Christian Education. I cannot believe it is possible that I am this old and have done this kind of work for so long! But I am richly blessed! It is easy for me to tell you that I am finishing my career (give me 10 more years!!) with my dream job, my favorite yet!

I bring with me a history, good and bad. A lot of work, a lot of study, and many errors. These all play a part in my role at Calvary (for such a time as these, right), and set me up for what I get to do now.

The school has the same background of good, bad, and ugly – You have heard “it is what it is”? We have tried to write this up in other places on our website, blogs, and you have heard Ryan, or I talk about it. The Quick version here before I talk about the last four years:

Calvary started in 1979 as a ministry of the Church. There was always a question about the school's survival and whether the Church could continue to foot so much of the bill. There were times when the end of the school seemed imminent. There was a lot of talk and discussion about starting high school. It had been primarily an elementary school but jumped up to Middle School, and then in 2012, they started high school and had their first graduation in 2016.

As I was recounting some of the many miracles we have seen these last four years, a long-time supporter and friend of the school reminded me of the many miracles he had seen in the last twenty years. Any of those miracles do not happen and the school is done! All the good I am about to share does not have even a chance to start!! So thankful for the leaders and school champions that saw through many of these days in our past so that we could steward the ministry to where it is now! This reminds me of the passage in Hebrews 11 where heroes of the faith fought for victories they were never going to see.

But the mission of the school and the strategy of Christian education has been a compelling force. I am thankful for our leader, Head of School Ryan Hyde, who has orchestrated our program and the many moving parts to educate the heart, soul, spirit, strength, and mind (think Deuteronomy 6:4) of



our students, supporting our families and coming along side our teachers and staff to provide and excellent education that includes the academics, athletics, fine arts, leadership training, relationship building and other school elements centered around God's Word! Who would not want to be in a program where the adults are loving on and mentoring kids in discipleship relationships!

And yet, when you lack resources and programs, even run out of space, and never have a gym...It can be a challenge. But what we have found is that

when these ideas advance and grow, and many get behind them to champion the cause and watch problems get solved, and momentum starts building and God uses the Body of Christ to do magnificent work!

I am seeing kids celebrated for accepting Jesus into their heart and/or get baptized. Teachers are reading the Bible, praying, and diving into spiritual formation with students every day. Student leaders are leading in the 911 reflection morning or praying around the flagpole to show their allegiance to Jesus Christ. Our athletic teams ask the opposing team to join them in prayer after the contest and share words of positive encouragement. To think that every course and every interaction is an outflow of our commitment to the Lord and our belief in the Creator of the Universe. This is a school, though not perfect, that works hard to include Jesus and the Biblical Worldview into everything!



Let me tell you something that you all know **there are a lot of problems in our culture today.** Not sure if it is true or not, but they are growing. Calvary Christian is following a mission that connects to our vision to solve problems!

Now let me focus on the last couple of years. I have a chart of the numbers included below. It tells an interesting, and important story. You will see that we are growing in significant ways in regard to some particularly important data. A school is such a people work, but sometimes hard/dry numbers can give us insight.

Year	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Enrollment	230	250	336	407	450	482
Budget	\$800,000	\$900,000	\$1.4 million	\$2.4 million	\$3.3 million	\$4.0 million
Teachers/Staff	28	30	35	40	48	65
Overall Compensation				4% increase	43% increase	27% increase
Future Growth/ Enrollment Trend	<i>2025</i> 525	<i>2026</i> 575	<i>2027</i> 605	<i>2028</i> 624	<i>2029</i> 650	<i>2030</i> 655
Assets	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1.5 million	\$4.5 million	\$11 million
Project completion:	\$11.5M					



As I was thinking about how to communicate the many miracles and big events, I found it best to just write them down in chronological order. Probably not the best way, sounds boring, and I fear few will read. But I saw this more as a newspaper reporter or historian, in that I did not want to lose any of the important pieces. I also realize there are many remarkable stories and points that may be missing. I apologize now! I invite your thoughts, and I will continue to add to this blog!

1. As noted above – real people, challenges were a part of this history. Briefly: School starts in 1979 – 25 students – Larry McFadden takes the school to 87 students over the next 9 years. Larry Czerniak leads for the next 20 years – 1988 to 2008 goes from low of 52 to a high of 170. John Taylor is interim for two years before Paul Green comes on Board to start the High school and brings the school up to 275 students. The Hyde years start in 2017 as the 29-year-old takes over with 230 students, leads the third graduating class of nine.
2. The year 2019-2020 was significant. The enrollment was only 250, but the COVID 19 year showed the value of a Calvary education. The school became State of Ohio Accredited.
3. Accreditation brought transportation, Ed Choice scholarships, and 330 students in the 2021-22 school year. Dr. Dan Bragg was hired as the Assistant to the Head of School. This is the first time that the Head of School has had administrative help beside the secretarial assistant.
4. Summer 2021 - Running out of room looking for places to lease – behind Donato's' Pizza, schools, churches, Union Station – each problematic.
5. School Independence discussion with Pastor Jeff Willetts – 10-22-21. This will take some time, but all for mutual benefit. A board transition from Committee of the Church Deacon Board to its own 501 © 3 organization. Reno Stapleton, Angel King, Dimi Mathys, Ruth Jensen, Patrick James, Daniel Keys (Kyle Ganz, Janice Bowdon and Emerson Brown have since stepped off).
6. Looking into Modular units – lease and put on church land – rejected in ESC mtg. April 1st, 2022.
7. COVID 19 response - EANS money awarded (2nd time) – More than \$1 million, but how can we spend it? – 2021-2022 (Government help without strings!)
8. Jon Peterson begins in 2022-23 – service to Intervention and IEP program.
9. OHSAATHletic program – competing in State tournaments – 2022-2023, playing more local schools.
10. Jan 22, 2022 – First big idea of how to use the property drawn up by engineer Cale Jacobs
11. March 13, 2022 – Congregational vote – Independence + \$400,000 for infrastructure and 40 acres of land on the north side – CR-9. Calvary Baptist Church sets up the launch!
12. March 26, 2022 – Earth moving equipment parked on Church property – Phase 1 coming.
13. June 13th, 2022 – excavating for Phase 1 – wet summer.
14. Sept. 29th – buy playground from Riverside, bleachers near Cleveland, let the used buying begin!
15. Board mtg. -10/22/2022 – Full steam ahead! Guests involved in the launch – Will Zell, Paige Duff, Jessica Rolfes, Steve Reid – Big idea to put an administrative summary document and proforma together, show a business plan that works – (and it will!) and go get the money (giving and mortgage) we need to build the school we want!!
16. Administrative Summary Document with help of Will Zell. Off to show we are worthy of a \$6 million dollar loan.
17. 2022 school year and up to this year – Admin team continues to grow and serve: Tony Carter – Upper Principal, Ben Moore – Admissions and Marketing, Joe Kyner Technology/Building and Grounds, Marissa Smith – Lower School Principal, and Kelsey Carter – Athletic Director.

18. Building on the Rock Dinner/Program – the campaign begins – 250 people Dec. 14, 2022
19. December 2022 - \$600,000 two-year commitment made by one donor!!
20. Dec. 2022 – We own land (deed) from the Church
21. Dec. 2022 through Jan 2023 – turned down (with reluctance, but the “books” just do not make sense) by 7 financial organizations

Jan 9, 2023 – We move into the new building – 1st to 3rd (2 sections and multi room)



22. January – phase 2 project grows – plan to move everyone over – 50,000 square foot plus expand Phase 1. Project goes from \$5.5 million to \$9 million.
23. January 2023 – start using our new bus
24. March 9, 2023 - Middlefield bank approves a construction loan - Ron Zimmerly and David Wiloby – help us to close on May 22nd, 2023
25. March 30, 2023 – In a meeting with Admissions guru Rick Newberry, he introduces us to Zach Clark and Herzog. Dan goes to first meeting in May and now Ryan and team members have been 7 times! A very helpful partner.
26. Summer of 2023 – remodel the Phase 1 to include offices and the multi-room becomes 2 classrooms. Bragg and Moore move there. July 23rd – decorate offices with wood slats and used conference table.
27. August 4th, 2023 – groundbreaking ceremony for phase 2.
28. Sept. 26th, 2023 – steel building arrives – a lot of groundwork and concrete already done.
29. First Bank draw – October 2023. Calvary has paid more than \$1.7 million in construction costs as we continue to draw on our \$6 million mortgage.
30. Oct. 16, 2023 – pay off Link for Phase 1 - \$150,000. This is the point we can make a case we own \$2.5 million in assets. Remember – none of this happens without the many – YOU!!
31. 501 © 3 – 1.5 year process approved Nov. 27th, 2023 – back dated to May 16th, 2022.
32. December 2023 – Red Steel going up.
33. Future thinking for Phase 3 and the campus takes the HS building to the North side – much work to do in this area. Working with Colin and Grace Link.
34. March 11th – concrete poured for gym floor – it looked small at first!
35. June 2024 - \$250,000 received by State of Ohio OSCIF grant for capital improvements. Turns out the State had a lot of COVID money they had to get rid of! Thankful to our Conservative State legislature led by our own State Senator Matt Huffman. Ohio is a leader for School choice and the funding of the Ohio voucher program.
36. August 5, 2024 – Asphalt the Parking lot! No more dust and potholes, but at a cost of \$650,000!
37. Sept 20, 2024 - Gym floor being sanded and painted, month-long process – coming together amazingly!
38. October – oh my goodness – it is coming together – reach out let me show you the place!
39. December 2024 – First activities coming in the new building!
40. January 2025 – the whole school will be at County Road 9 campus!

And so – where do we stand?

Overruns have been minimal. When you think about a \$9 million-dollar project we are looking at around \$200,000 added to our bid price. This project would not/could not happen without Link Construction!

In relation to the inside of the building, we knew all these things would be on us. We had budgeted \$1 million. We have found many ways to save, find used, or have been given gifts in kind.

Think about what is needed on the inside:



Gym floor, bleachers, gym technology, scoreboards, sound system, stage lights, lockers, student desks, teacher desks, classroom technology, countertops and cabinetry, kitchen and concession stand equipment, cafeteria tables and chairs. Also, our landscaping and signage was at a "spartan level" and more funding will be needed in these areas.

We have watched so many miracles happen in the last four years! And of course they include you. We have seen God orchestrate so many elements, so it is not about just the funding and the dollars, but providing the right people, with the right heart and the right training and skill and at just the right time for our school to execute top quality Christian education.

This is not just a report, but a time of Praise and Thanksgiving!!

Thank you!!

Think about this in a big broad type of statement: There are assets worth more than \$11.5 million. We have raised over \$5 million dollars (are you kidding me!!)!! We have a \$6 million dollar mortgage (Thanks for Middlefield Bank believing in us!), and **we now only lack about \$500,000** to finish what we started and get into this beautiful, brand-new facility by December (kids move over in January).

Many of you will give what you gave last year, and some of you may want to give more! I am praying you see a story of vision, stewardship, and faithfulness coming together. I pray you see a story of a board, an admin team, teachers, and staff working hard together to deliver on the promise of Christian education and what can happen when the body of Christ comes together to make a difference in our community.

Now please consider this:

I have a huge desire and goal to honor all those who have contributed to the project over the last few years. This will be a big board in the foyer of our gym that proclaims a thankfulness to God and quotes scripture in a way that demonstrates to anyone who comes to our building that this is a place where God works, and we are a people who follow His Biblical principles.

I am thinking about putting names of people who have given at certain levels, you have seen something like it: diamond level, pearl level, platinum level, gold level, and silver Level. Not to get bogged down on what level you reached – of course to thank you! And if you want you can give to reach the next level. But more than that, to show the community and anyone who steps into this building what good regular people like you and I did with God's help as He brought us together to achieve the mission/vision. This is a powerful testimony!

I want you to be on the board! I want you to participate! I want us to rally at “such a time as this” to get across the finish line and launch this new building into decades of service that impact thousands of kids for eternity!

Can you see the value of this?

Join the many who have!

Many of you – give what you gave last year!

Some of you – give more than you did last year.

Many who have given some – give to the level to reach the Honor Board - \$2,000 (accumulation of \$2,000 over the last three years)



And another many of you – give for the first time! Give the \$2,000 to reach the Honor Board, or just give because you believe in the mission of Calvary Christian at whatever level you can.

You ever heard there is no free lunch? Well, same with Christian education, it is not free. But with your help, quality Christian education is more available than it has ever been before and at a time where it has never been more important and more needed!!

There have been so many of you who have participated since 1979! Thank you! You held the mission/vision together so that another group, with another set of circumstances, could steward the next opportunity! God has been faithful through it all.

Note – this is not a complete history, there are way too many holes!



In the end, is this a work worth doing? Are people/kids being reached? Is the vision to grow and reach others with Christian Education compelling enough to continue the prayer and strategy as to what is next? Can the Body of Christ continued to be relied on to fund the projects and organizations that God will use? Are there enough of us with this mission in mind that we can not only hold back the power of secular culture and worldly thinking, but

even assert energy and Holy Spirit power to a coming revival!?

I like the Edmund Burke quote, “*All that is need for evil to triumph is for good people to do nothing.*”

Heaven forbid that the Calvary Christian School family does NOTHING!

Join me as a donor, student, family, alumni, prayer partner, community supporter, Body of Christ member, church member, lover of all things JESUS!

In His Grip,

Dr. Bragg

Just look at this staff list of those who serve, lead, and problem-solve here at Calvary Christian School. And this doesn't even include the many different coaches, subs and volunteers that keep Calvary running smoothly! We have come a long way from our humble beginnings!!

Joey Adams	Tracy Daum	Katy Jarvis	Melissa Printz
Allie Blackwell	Ben Davis	Valorie Joliff	Rebekah Rodgers
Marjorie Boy	Ashley Dillon	Mary Juanzemis	Abby Roell
Dan Bragg	Kaitlyn Easton	Trish Kratz	Hayley Rogers
Tammy Brewer	Scott Eckard	Joe Kyner	Bev Rorrer
Jeff Brotherton	Stephan Erickson	Jodie Labelle	Madison Slifer
Deb Brunner	Bethany Fitzgerald	Amy LeCrone	Marissa Smith
Alicia Brunswick	Kristy Gantz	Jen Ledley	Becky Surls
Melissa Carl	Kyle Gantz	Bethany Lightle	April White
Catherine Carter	Kelley Garrett	Dan McCarty	Kate Willetts
Kelsey Carter	Ariel Harris	Scott Miller	Sara Wilson
Tony Carter	Taylor Hatfield	Ben Moore	Macey Wilt
Victoria Chapman	Jolyn Hermiller	Emily Mullins	Leah Woodruff
Joanne Childers	Adelynn Hoffman	Erin Niederkohr	Crystal Wolf
Jana Core	Cari Hyde	Katie Palmer	Jenny Wren
Anna Cronkleton	Ryan Hyde	Chloe Prall	Jennifer Wylie
Steve Daum	Chasity Inman	Courtney Prall	

