



Disdained, Dangerous, and Detestable! Oh my!



by Tim Hekrdle, Superintendent

As I look around at the state of our nation, it is easy to blame one side or the other for the circumstances and to disdain those on the opposite side, considering them dangerous and even detestable. This is not an American phenomenon—sinful man has always been conflicted with how to love the unlovable. In the book of Jonah, it is evident that this is an age-old issue that many of God's chosen people have had. In fact, Jonah had such a distaste for Assyrian Ninevite people that he became angry with God for having compassion on them (Jonah 4:2). Perhaps this was understandable. The Assyrians had attacked Jonah and his allies time and time again, cutting off fingers, limbs, and extremities. They cut off noses and stabbed out eyeballs. Corpses were hung on posts, while separated heads were often found hanging on trees for all to see.

While there is a good chance that Jonah may have been afraid to witness to the Ninevites, the reason cited in Jonah 4:2 had much more to do with being afraid that he would be effective than being afraid for his own physical health. He goes as far as to say "this is why I was so quick to flee to Tarshish" (the opposite direction of Nineveh). "I knew that you are a gracious and compassionate God, slow to anger and abounding in love..." Jonah hated the Ninevites and wanted no part of any redemption story for them.

It is my belief that we all have a little Jonah in us. Can you see yourself somewhere in this story? Do we really want our very worst of enemies to be redeemed by our gracious Lord? Are we willing to witness to the detestable, the dangerous, and the disdained? Thankfully, we serve a very able God. Jonah eventually was vomited right into the big city of Nineveh to deliver his eight word sermon: "Forty more days and Nineveh will be overturned." Despite what was a seemingly minimal effort, the Lord carried out his directive. Like the pagan sailors that Jonah jumped on the boat with, one of the most evil kings and all of his evil Ninevites repented and turned from their ways. A fast was declared from the greatest man to the lowliest beast. Once you understand the context, you realize that being swallowed by a fish and spit up in your respective mission field actually pales in comparison to this greater miracle: a repentant 120,000 people in the evil city of Nineveh from Jonah's minimalist and lackluster prophecy.

Please pray for the school that we would:

- Be willing to love and serve the detestable, dangerous, disdained
- Comprehend the sovereignty of the Lord in what the world sees as an uncertain time (God will do what he does regardless of our obedience and ability.)
- Be faithful to the vision and mission of the school

In this second semester, our stu-



Faith Springer, Dave Wamberg, Justin Maberry, and Vincent Nguyen show off some of the cradles made by the construction class while helping set up for Toys for Tots.

Construction Class Brings Christmas Cheer

At Nebraska Christian, one of our core values is being service minded. Part of that is "finding tangible ways to love and serve one another, as well as our neighbors." Industrial technology teacher Dave Wamberg and his students found a tangible way to serve others this Christmas by building cradles for Toys for Tots / The United Way.

Wamberg's construction class built 30 cradles, and on December 17, he took several of his students to

Fonner Park in Grand Island to deliver the cradles and help set up for the Toys for Tots event. The 2020 event was expected to serve 2,600 children.

While Wamberg has been involved with this project since 1999, this is the first year he's been able to take his students to help set up for Toys for Tots, which he feels is important because it shows them "what really goes on with the United Way."

dent body will be digesting Jonah in expository fashion. They will dive more deeply into the truths found in this four chapter historical book. They are learning about the context, the setting, the theme of the book. Together we are learning why God has given us this peculiar happening. Equipping students to stand on Truth is the ultimate goal of every chapel, every class lesson, every activity, every bus ride, ev-

ery recess, every lunch, and the list goes on and on. I consider this my greatest responsibility and a great joy. This is why we exist as a school. To fulfill our vision and accomplish our mission, we must partner with parents, with the church, and with folks like you who support us. It is this support that allows us to advance the gospel here at Nebraska Christian Schools and beyond. Thank you.

nc advance

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Editorial Submissions: All news or information from NC Alumni, students and teachers is welcome. Letters may be edited for length or clarity.

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Mission:

The mission of Nebraska Christian Schools is to assist the family and church by providing a Christ-centered education and encouraging a love relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ.

Nebraska Christian Benefit Auction March 26th & 27th, 2021



NC students serve hors d'oeuvres to a guest at a previous auction.

You are invited to take part in this very important benefit auction! By God's grace, this event has raised over \$2.6 million during the past 18 years and has afforded NC the ability to supplement teacher salaries and provide scholarships for those students who may not otherwise have been able to attend Nebraska Christian. Our 2020 Dinner and Benefit Auction was adjusted to an online event due to the pandemic; however, the results of the event were a wonderful blessing as supporters gave generously and the event was a success! As we are preparing for our 19th auction, we can see adjustments will still be needed, and we know that God's hand will be all over this event. As of the writing of this article, we are planning to have two open house events with all bidding taking place online. On Friday, March 26, we are planning a casual open house style preview evening with an opportunity to view the items and place your bids. Saturday, March 27, we are planning a more social open house style evening with student performances, hors d'oeuvres, and online bidding. It will be an event for everyone and a time to fellowship with all those who have come to support Nebraska Christian during this crucial fundraising event.

Here are the much needed ways you can show your support of the 2021 Nebraska Christian Benefit Auction:

- **Providing items, gift certificates, and/or services**
We will be accepting items for our Silent and Live Auctions until February 22. Feel free to call with your creative ideas. We may be able to network some items to create a total package, or you may be able to give us a lead to something we haven't thought of. Unique experiences have brought thousands of dollars to this fundraiser.
- **Becoming a Corporate Sponsor**
Advertisement during our online event.
 - Gold Level:*
\$5,000 and up
 - Silver Level:*
\$2,500 - \$4,999
 - Bronze Level:*
\$1,000 - \$2,499
- **Donating cash to underwrite the expenses of the event**
The more of our expenses that are underwritten by your donations, the greater the profit the school realizes from the sale of tickets and items.

Calendar of Events

MARCH

5 Elementary Musical, 7 p.m.
Performing Arts Center, Central City

26-27 Benefit Auction
see article on left for details

APRIL

2-5 Easter Break

9 Digging Deeper
for elementary students

26 Grandparents' Day
details to follow

29 Spring Concert, 7 p.m.
Performing Arts Center, Central City

MAY

11 Academic Achievement Assembly, 8 a.m.

Senior Night, 7 p.m.

15 Graduation, 10:30 a.m.

All events are subject to change.
Please visit nebraskachristian.org/calendar for the most up-to-date information.

- **Donating money to go directly to the scholarship fund**
We have found our donors to be very enthusiastic about giving to scholarship, thus making a Christian education available to students who might otherwise not be able to attend NC.

Donations can be made by stopping by the Special Events Office, calling the office at 308-946-3836, calling Kristy's cell at 402-209-3282, or emailing klangemeier@nebraskachristian.org



Auction guests enjoy a bidding war during the live auction.

Keep up with NC

Website:
www.nebraskachristian.org

Facebook:
facebook.com/nebraskachristian

Calendar:
nebraskachristian.org/calendar

YouTube:
youtube.com/user/NebraskaChristian

Twitter:
[@nebr_christian](https://twitter.com/nebr_christian), #NCEagles

Instagram:
[@ne_christian](https://instagram.com/ne_christian)



Focusing on the Positives

by Jody Heuermann, Foundation Director

Did you wake up on January 1st, 2021, and secretly hope the world would be back to “normal?” I’m here to say you weren’t alone. Suppose you turn on your TV or peruse your favorite news source. In that case, it’s nearly impossible to avoid hearing some form of discouraging news, whether it’s the virus mutating, turmoil in our nation’s capital, or we may run out of toilet paper—again. I hear rumors that 2020 may go down as the worst year in recent history, and is the end in sight? However, it would be a great disservice not to reflect on the positives. Perhaps this year has helped you gain clarity, allowed you to spend additional time with your family, or grew and stretched your faith in a new way.

Despite the challenges of this past year and the uncertainty that still lies ahead, I resolve to and urge the Nebraska Christian Schools Foundation and its supporters to focus on the positives, including God’s continued providence, project progress, and the prodigious generosity of our donors. The positives are so glaring it would be a shame not to revisit a few. The gymnasium renovation reached completion with new lighting, sound, bleachers, ceiling tiles, and air-conditioning.

Simultaneously, the Administration Building’s exterior is now secure thanks to a new roof and windows, along with extensive tuckpointing. Beyond buildings, the Foundation was able to match 2.5 to 1 with generous donations to accumulate the funds which purchased a much-needed new bus. Thank you to everyone who gave of their time, resources, and prayers to bring these projects to completion, as well as the blessing of a reliable, new bus.

Reflecting upon the positives instills a deep sense of gratitude while producing a sense of confidence that through God’s blessing and the faithfulness of his people Nebraska Christian will attain even more positive infrastructural changes around campus. The next focus areas include renovating our locker rooms, rallying around capital campaign 2A, and continuing internal renovations of the Administration Building.

This winter/spring, we will equip our girls’, boys’, and visitors’ locker rooms with new sinks, flooring, paint, toilets and stalls, ventilation, and lighting. What an encouragement these improvements will be to our student-athletes and guest athletes.

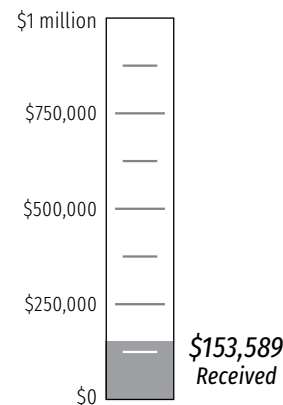
As mentioned in previous articles, capital campaign 2A is of the utmost importance, as it includes building a new kitchen and dining facility. Donations continue to pour in, but I urge you to consider what your contribution may be. As soon as funds reach an equitable level, groundbreaking will be underway.

With the exterior secured, we look inward for the continuation of the Administration Building Preservation Project. In the coming year, plans are in place to continue the renovations of several additional office spaces. Also, we are reaching out to the physically-able to consider volunteering to help with the gutting process. Please feel free to contact the Foundation or main office if you are interested in helping.

Focusing on the positives is not merely an arbitrary mindset, but we derive it through prayer and supplication from a peace that surpasses all understanding. At the Nebraska Christian Foundation, we are committed to not only recounting the positives in humility and gratitude but looking ahead with great peace, knowing that God will continue to provide. Through God’s grace, may we all choose to focus in thankfulness on the positives each day in the year ahead.

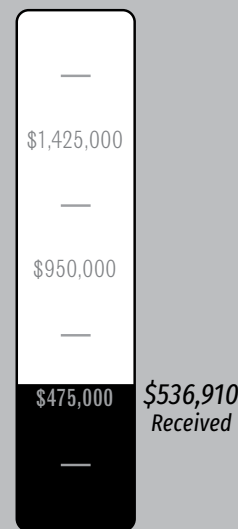
Ad Building Preservation Project

\$1 million



Phase 2A

\$1.9 million



Dollars & Sense by Tom Dockweiler ('79), Business Manager

We are a little past the midpoint of our 2020-2021 fiscal year. Not surprisingly, God continues to prove Himself faithful, even in the midst of this pandemic.

The impact of the pandemic is very real. We have lost people close to the school. Others are suffering long term effects of COVID and other illnesses. We are all ready to get back to “normal.” We pray and need prayer every day.

While the effects of the pandem-

ic have been difficult, its impact on our day-to-day operations has been minimal. Some of our international students have had difficulty traveling home. A couple have not been able to get back to the United States. It has been difficult recruiting overseas as well. Crowds at extra-curricular activities continue to be limited. Despite all that, with the exception of a week in early October, we have been able to hold classes in person and on site.

Financially, we continue to see

God’s provision. At the halfway point of our 2020-2021 fiscal year, we are doing about the same or even a little better than we were at the same time last year. We are slightly behind on our budgeted income, which was also true at the midpoint of the last fiscal year. However, we have also spent slightly less than we budgeted, so our bottom line is about where we projected it to be.

Donor response has been good. The most recent highlight is the response to the request in our an-

nual end of year mailing for people to consider giving a little bit extra towards a bus to replace our 23-year-old coach bus. We received enough gifts to meet the match put up by the Nebraska Christian Schools Foundation, and our new (to us) bus is sitting in front of the Administration Building as I type.

Please continue to pray for us. We know there are tough times ahead, but our God is faithful. Pray that we will be faithful to fulfill our mission. Until next time, may God bless you and yours.

Micah ('07) & Jessica Unruh

Jessica Zarate and Micah Unruh were united in marriage on Saturday, June 27, 2020, in Crystal Lake, Illinois. The ceremony was officiated by Pastor Mike Gates.

Parents of the couple are Paul and Claudia Zarate of McHenry, Illinois, and Lester and Twyla Unruh of Central City. Matron of honor was Cassie Reilly, and Bill Griepenstroh ('07) was best man. Flower girls were the bride's twin daughters Rachel and Blair and the matron of honor's daughters Harper and Brielle. Ring bearers were the groom's nephew Hadley Hoffman and the bride's nephew Sawyer Patti.

Following a wedding trip to Jefferson, Wisconsin, the couple resides in Lincoln.

Jessica is a 2005 graduate of Wauconda High School in Illinois, and



she earned a degree in Fashion Merchandising and Marketing from Harper College in Illinois. She is self employed as a personal stylist.

Micah is a 2007 graduate of Nebraska Christian Schools, and he attended Central Community College in Grand Island. He is a manager at Matheson Tri Gas Company in Waverly.

NC Almanac

10 years ago (Winter '10-'11)

- The 6th Annual Festival of Lessons & Carols features a choir of 205, the largest in the event's history.
- Isaac Elge ('12) becomes the second wrestler in NC history to win a state title.

20 years ago (Winter '00-'01)

- After a wonderful season that saw the Eagle football team advancing to the second round of the state playoffs, eight players are named to the All-District team: Weston Cooper ('01), Clint Cunningham ('01), Mickey Kinney ('01), Nate Krug ('01), Scotty McPeak ('01), Greg Prusa ('01), Tyson Smith ('04), Andrew Russell ('01).

30 years ago (Winter '90-'91)

- A new building is erected on the east side of campus. First used as a "bus barn," it later housed high school classrooms, and eventually it was converted into elementary classrooms, a weight room, and a wrestling room.
- \$14,100 is raised at the Harvest Festival.

40 years ago (Winter '80-'81)

- NC purchases a used GMC coach bus for \$11,000

50 years ago (Winter '70-'71)

- Planning begins for the 1st annual Christian Education Advance Banquet.

60 years ago (Winter '60-'61)

- The Board moves ahead with plans to build a new girls' dormitory.

Memorial Gifts

For: Norma Andersen
 From: Harold & Dorothy Cook
 Elsie Dockweiler
 Lawrence & Angeline Klein
 Robert & Susan Ritta
 Ken & Judy Taylor
 Tonya VanPelt, Tammy Brookman, Teather Campbell & families
 For: Paul Blase
 From: Richard & Carla Mundt
 For: Trudy Creutzberg
 From: Steve & Dawn Blodgett
 Harold & Dorothy Cook
 Arden & Lynn Garwood
 Vance & Julie Hardisty
 Alvin & Nancy Van Maaron
 For: Eldon Elsberry
 From: Dorothy Glad
 Stephen & Elma Nelson
 Alan & Martha Wibbels
 For: Thomas Francl
 From: Becky Deichmann
 For: Jeff Hower
 From: Steen & Rogene Stone
 For: Kande Lindburg
 From: Richard & Karla Mundt

Linda Peterson
 For: Anna Marie Moore
 From: Mr. & Mrs. Jon Moore
 For: Wilda Paustian
 From: Donald & Kayleen Riley
 For: Glenice Porter
 From: Rick & Joyce Wolfenden
 For: Dorothy Ritta
 From: Gregory & Valerie Baumgardner
 Glenford & Linda Claassen
 Larry & Virginia Cooper
 David & Ruth Ferris
 Dorothy Glad
 Gil Larsen
 Martin & Priscilla Milby
 Karen Miotke
 Eric & Jennifer Prusa
 Becky Ritta
 Mike & Susan Royle
 Denise Schreiber
 Leona & Rebecca Sharman
 Ken & Judy Taylor
 Scott & Patty Welk
 Richard & Elaine Wischmeier
 Daniel & Kimmarie Woods
 For: Larry Schreiber
 From: Clark & Lavon Abrahamson

Ronald & L. Marie Adams
 Leonard & Deone Anderson
 Dan & Amy Bailey
 Jerry & Linda Beck
 Clint & Christina Boersen
 Dave & Kathy Chase
 Harold & Dorothy Cook
 Curt & Joyce Cooper
 Larry & Virginia Cooper
 Dora Cunningham
 Becky Deichmann
 Gordon & Jewell Deichmann
 Elsie Dockweiler
 Mark & Joyce Dunham
 David & Ruth Ferris
 Rebecca Freelend
 Rondell & Jeanette Friesen
 David & Deanna Gee
 Marlin & Cindy Hadenfeldt
 Larry & Barb Hoff
 Steven & Sherry Jacobsen
 Richard Jacques
 Steven & Donna Janssen
 Lawrence & Angeline Klein
 Norman & Sue Krug
 Doug & Kristi Langemeier
 Jaeram Lee
 John & Mary McHargue

Tim, Jo & Braden Moody
 Beverly Muller
 Carl & Tonya Ostrand
 Linda Peterson
 Eric & Jennifer Prusa
 Becky Ritta
 Bob & Susan Ritta
 Nate & Abbie Ritta
 Kim & Diana Ross
 Mike & Susan Royle
 Roy & Vonda Schnell
 John & Mary Smith
 Steen & Rogene Stone
 Daniel & Sharon Strecker
 John & Sarah Swanson
 Brant & Susanne Taylor
 Ken & Judy Taylor
 Scott & Patty Welk
 Richard & Elaine Wischmeier
 Daniel & Kimmarie Woods
 Anonymous
 For: Tom Urban
 From: Harold & Dorothy Cook
 Dennis & Sandra Garwood
 In Honor of: Dave & Ruth Ferris
 From: Bruce & Lei Williams
 In honor of: All Veterans
 From: Donald & Kayleen Riley

THIS IS THE LAST NC ADVANCE

we're going digital with the new Advance Newsletter

To better communicate with you, our readers, the NC Advance is transitioning to a digital format. The new Advance Newsletter will arrive in your email once a month! It will still be full of updates, articles and all the current happenings at NC.

Going digital has a few benefits for all of us:

1. You'll never lose it or misplace it, because the Advance Newsletter will always be available for you to access, read, and reference in your email on your favorite device!
2. You will get more timely news. The NC Advance has recently been a quarterly newsletter. Now, you will receive the Advance Newsletter once a month, which means we can do a better job of keeping you up to date on all the latest news at NC.
3. We will save on publishing, printing, and postage. Even though we'll communicate more often, the Advance Newsletter's digital format allows for assembly in-house and free distribution (to most of you) via email. And for those who request a printed copy (which we are happy to mail as before!), we will print and mail your copies in-house, a significant cost savings over our previous process.

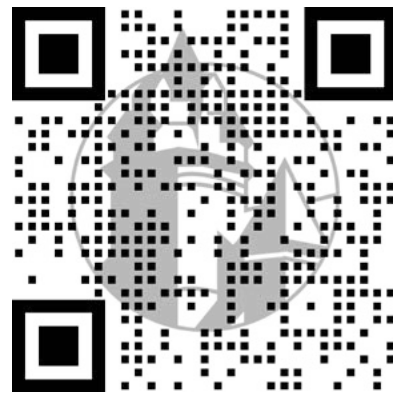
Communicating with you, our supporters, has always been and will always be a necessary part of what we do here at NC—it's one small way that we can show how much we appreciate that you are part of the NC family! We are excited about continuing the tradition and conversation of the Advance Newsletter through the medium of email.

To receive the digital *Advance Newsletter*, send us your email address using the options below.

To receive a printed copy, provide your mailing address using the same options.

1. **Scan this QR code**

(use the camera or QR code reader on your smartphone or tablet)



2. **Visit nebraskachristian.org/advance**

3. **Email nc@nebraskachristian.org**

subject: Advance Newsletter

(include your email or mailing address with your request)

4. **Drop a note in the mail**

Nebraska Christian Schools

Attn: Advance Newsletter

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Central City, NE 68826

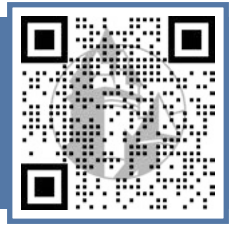
(include your email or mailing address with your request)

5. **Call 308-946-3836**

ACT NOW to receive the Advance Newsletter!

Attention: This is the final issue of the NC Advance.

Act now to receive the digital Advance Newsletter.
For information, see page 5 or scan this QR code with your phone or tablet.



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Christian**

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NC Flashback



Throughout its history, Nebraska Christian has had many traditions that students, staff, and families have enjoyed. Here are two pictures of traditions that some of our current staff have loved: the elementary pancake feed and the potato dig. To enter this flashback drawing, simply let us know an NC tradition that you fondly remember. There's no right or wrong answer—we just want to hear from you! Send your memories to advance@nebraskachristian.org.



From the last issue:
Congratulations to former NC staff member Larry Rowe! His name was drawn from those who correctly identified the room pictured as Room 11, the classroom right across the hall from the office. This room has now been converted into the superintendent's office.

