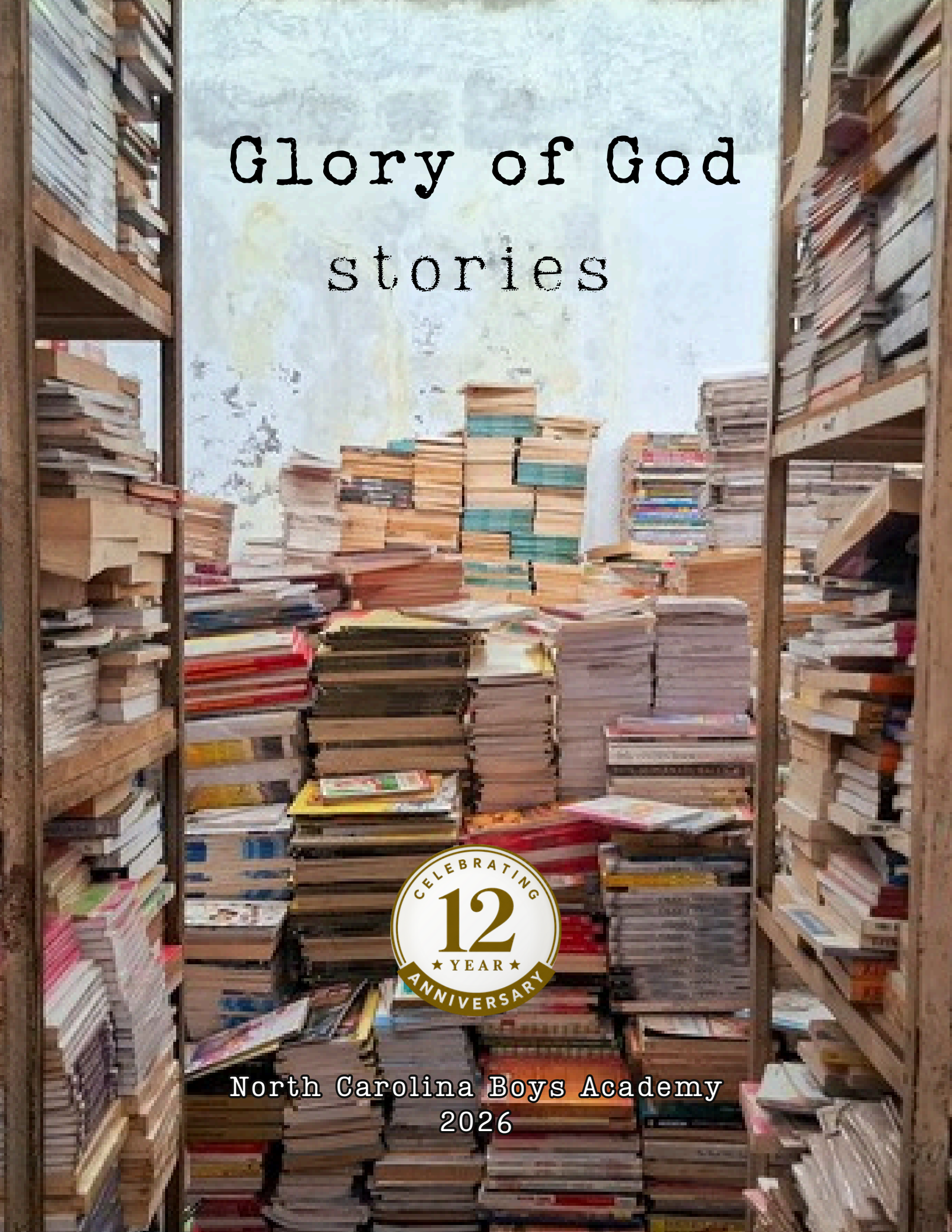
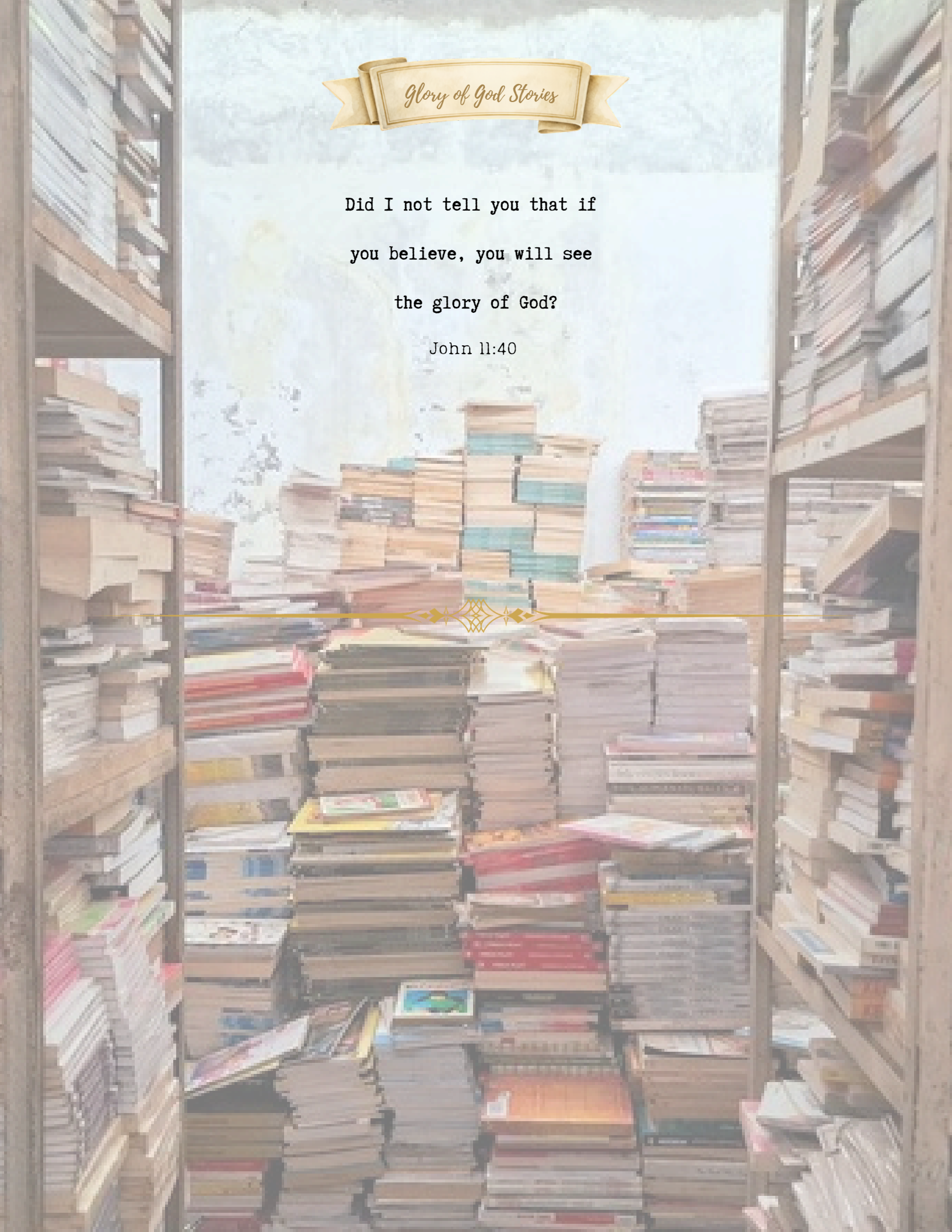


North Carolina Boys Academy

2026



Did I not tell you that if

you believe, you will see

the glory of God?

John 11:40



Dear NCBA Family, Friends and Partners,

We are celebrating twelve years of ministry in helping young men and their families experience life transformation! Our hearts are full of gratitude. This year's theme is "Glory of God Stories" taken from John II:40.

Jesus spoke these words to Martha as she grieved the death of her brother, Lazarus: "Did I not tell you that if you believe, you will see the glory of God?" Martha and Mary told Jesus that if He had been there, their brother would not have died. In that moment, they could not see what He was about to do. Jesus called Lazarus from the tomb, revealing His power to bring life out of death.

We have seen God's glory in the transformed lives of our students. Jesus still meets people in their pain, brings new life and writes stories we could not have imagined. This journal shares these stories. They are from families who have seen God at work in their sons' lives. They remind us of the hope we have in Christ; though we were dead in our sins, God has made us alive in Him. We are deeply grateful for people like you who have walked alongside of us. Many have given sacrificially, prayed faithfully, and believed mightily. Thank you for being a part this story.

As we look toward 2027, we are excited about the launch of North Carolina Girls Academy. Pastor Sue Gunderson has joined our staff to lead this program. The NCGA website has been established, tea parties have been scheduled and a property has been located.

Phase One of our 2026 year-end goal is to raise $4i5,000 to purchase this property in Lenoir, NC. Phase Two will be the renovation of the parsonage for student living. In the years to come, we hope to redesign the sanctuary for additional ministry opportunities. For now, our focus is securing the property so that we can begin serving young ladies and their families. We are praying for the "Glory of God Stories" that will be told as these young ladies experience life transformation.

We hope you enjoy this journal and the stories that capture God's goodness and faithfulness. We give thanks for all He has done and we trust Him for all that lies ahead.

To God be the Glory,

John Steigerwald

Pastor John & Deralyn Steigerwald
Executive Director
North Carolina Boys Academy

All Is For Your Glory

Jeremy Riddle

There's just one chief end to man's purpose
One main reason for existence
All man's vain and high ambitions
Will one day be brought low
Will one day be brought low

To treasure You above all others
To love You like we love no other
And Your greatness soon will be uncovered
And all the earth will then know
And all the earth will then know

For You alone will be exalted in that day
And worthless goals will be exposed as idols that we've made
For You alone will be exalted in that day
And You'll be seen as rightful King and from our hearts, we'll say,



That all is for Your glory
And all is for Your name
And all is for Your glory
That in all things
You may have first place
That in all things You may have preeminence
That all is for Your glory
And all is for Your name
And all is for Your glory
That in all things You may have first place
That in all things You may have preeminence

So put me anywhere, just put Your glory in me
And I'll serve anywhere, just let me see Your beauty
Just put me anywhere, just put Your glory in me
And I'll serve anywhere, just let me see Your beauty

So catch me up in Your story
All my life, for Your glory
Catch me up in Your story
All my life, for Your glory
Catch me up in Your story

All my life, for Your glory
Catch me up in Your story All my life
My God, my joy, my delight

So put me anywhere, just put Your glory in me
And I'll serve anywhere, just let me see Your beauty
Just put me anywhere, just put Your glory in me
And I'll serve anywhere, just let me see Your beauty

Our Staff



(l-r) Ann Frye, Kellie White, Jared Niedermeyer, Jordan Gigantana, Patty & Todd Loecher, John Whaley, Tim Gunderson, Deralyn Steigerwald, Sue Gunderson, John Steigerwald, Larry Minton



Steve Schwab

Kasie Weldon

Jim Andrews

Elizabeth Pullen

Glory of God Stories

Crazy...or Audacious?

By John Steigerwald

A comment was made to me recently and it has been lingering in my mind. Someone said, "I thought Steigerwald was crazy." I've been praying and evaluating that statement. The more I reflected, the more I realized something:

I'm 64 years old. Throughout Scripture, God often seems to work in seasons and decades. I began asking myself, "When I'm 74 years old, what stories do I want to be telling?"

Do I want to spend my remaining years talking about what God did when I was 30 or 40 years old? Or do I want to tell fresh stories, stories from this decade? Stories that required God to show up. Stories born out of impossible circumstances. Stories marked by uncertainty, risk, and complete dependence on the Lord. Ones that were far beyond my own ability, where success could only be explained by God's intervention.

I've come to this conclusion: I don't want to arrive at the end of my life knowing I played it safe. I want to arrive having been dangerous for the Kingdom of God. I don't want to settle. I want to keep planting fruit trees whose fruit I may never eat and digging wells from which future generations will drink. I want to invest in people, ministries, and movements that will outlive me.

So if some people call that crazy, I would call it holy ambition. I would call it audacious faith. I would rather be remembered as someone who attempted great things for God than someone who carefully protected what was comfortable.

May it be said of us that God was doing "exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or imagine (Ephesians 3:20) through ordinary people who simply believed Him.

Think about Moses. God's assignment was far beyond his ability. Think about Esther. The task before her was greater than anything she could accomplish on her own. Think about David. A shepherd boy defeating a giant and eventually leading a nation could never have been explained by human strength alone. Think about Peter. The man who denied Jesus three times stood on the Day of Pentecost, filled with the Holy Spirit, and preached with such power that thousands came to faith. That was not Peter's natural ability. It was God's supernatural enabling.

So let me ask you a question: If you had the chance to live your life over again, how would you live it? Would you strive to arrive safely at heaven's station, having carefully avoided risk? Or would you spend your life pursuing the purposes of God with courageous obedience, knowing that only His power could accomplish what He called you to do?

I know my answer. I want to live with holy expectancy. I want to dream God-sized dreams. I want to attempt things that force me to depend completely on Him because my confidence is not in myself. On my own, I am painfully average, but when God breathes on a person's life and the Holy Spirit empowers ordinary men and women, the possibilities become limitless.

So, call me crazy if you like. I'll call it audacious faith. And by God's grace, may I never stop living that way.

So, let me ask you a few questions:

What is God's vision for your life? What is He calling you to do? What will it require of you?

If you are fully capable of accomplishing it in your own strength, then perhaps the vision is too small. Ask God to expand your vision beyond your own capabilities. Ask Him to lead you into places where faith is required, where uncertainty is real, and where success depends entirely on His presence and power.

Step into assignments so large that if God doesn't show up, you will fail. That, my friend, is what it means to live dangerously for the Kingdom of God. Not recklessly. Not presumptuously, but courageously - walking in obedience, trusting that the God who calls is also the God who equips. And when He shows up, He doesn't simply rescue us from failure; He reveals His glory. He accomplishes what only He can accomplish, so that no one can boast except in Him.

Dream boldly. Pray audaciously. Obey courageously. Trust God to show up and show off His power, His faithfulness, and His glory through a life that is fully surrendered to Him; a life that exists to glorify God above all else.

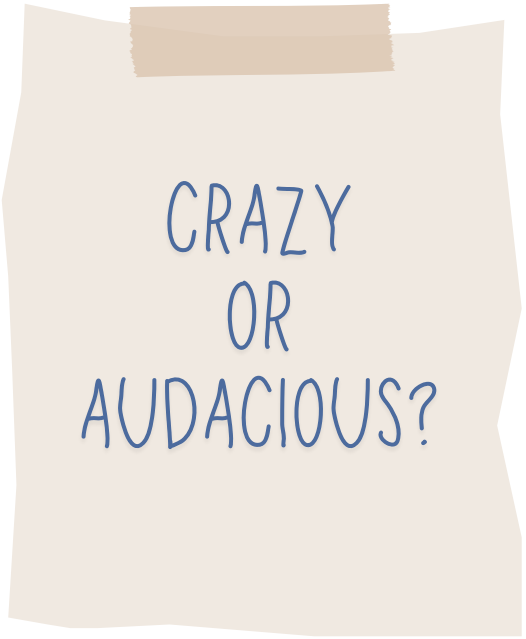
May the stories we tell not be about our courage, our vision, or our accomplishments.

May they be God-centered stories that testify to His greatness, His grace, His faithfulness, and His sovereign power. After all, the Bible is not a book about extraordinary men and women. It is the story of an extraordinary God who delights in working through ordinary people who trust and obey Him.

Our lives should proclaim the same truth.

So, dream boldly. Pray audaciously. Obey courageously. Live dangerously for the Kingdom and leave behind stories that point people, not to you, but to Jesus Christ.

For in the end, all glory belongs to Him.



FUTURE HOME: North Carolina Girls Academy



2026 ECY Capital Goal: $450,000

Property Value: $ 1,350,000.00
Listing Price: 475,000.00
Offer Accepted: 415,000.00

Under Contract: 10/09/2026
Due Diligence: 10/09-12/31/26
Closing Date: 01/29/2027
Target Opening: 04/2027

PREPARATION PHASES



PHASE ONE
1. Fencing Campus
2. Prepare Parsonage: clean, paint, new HVAC

PHASE TWO
1. Education Building: new HVAC, plumbing repairs, kitchen/dining repairs, interior & exterior paint
2. Landscaping

PHASE THREE
1. Remodel Education Building: first floor classrooms and offices, second floor dorm



PHASE FOUR
1. Remodel Sanctuary

A VISION TAKING ROOT

Glory of God Story Unfolding

A Place to Learn.
A Place to Grow.
A Place to Become.

"What began as an unexpected conversation has opened the door to a vision larger than we first imagined."

As we celebrate twelve years of ministry through NCBA, we are grateful for the stories of transformation, the faithful partners who have walked alongside us, and the opportunities God continues to place before us. As we look toward the future, we are excited to share a significant development in our vision for the North Carolina Girls Academy (NCGA): the opportunity to acquire and transform the former Whitnel United Methodist Church property in Lenoir, North Carolina, into a dedicated campus for the education, mentorship, spiritual development, and future preparation of young ladies.

This opportunity represents our 2026 Year-End Capital Project – an investment in a place where young women can be equipped academically, strengthened spiritually, encouraged personally, and prepared to pursue the future God has for them.

THE STORY BEHIND THE VISION

During our September 2026 parent weekend, we shared an initial plan to acquire a modular home and place it on church property to provide living accommodations for the girls, while utilizing existing church classrooms for educational and program activities.



Conversations surrounding this possibility had been underway throughout the summer of 2026. Then, through an unexpected conversation with a local parent, another opportunity came to our attention: an available church property in Lenoir, North Carolina.

Initially, the possibility was set aside. However, the following morning brought a renewed sense that we should take a closer look. At different times over the weekend, our team visited the property together, and what we discovered encouraged us to consider something much larger than our original plan; a complete campus where young ladies could live, learn, receive mentorship, grow in their faith, and prepare for a purposeful future.

What began as a conversation about providing living space became a vision for an entire ministry campus. We were reminded once again that God's plans may extend beyond what we initially see. Our responsibility is to remain faithful, seek His direction, and take the next steps with wisdom and prayer.

A PROPERTY WITH PURPOSE

The former Whitnel United Methodist Church property offers a remarkable opportunity to establish a permanent home for the North Carolina Girls Academy.

The campus includes approximately 4.I7 acres, a I6,006-square-foot education and ministry building, and a 2,746-square-foot parsonage. Together, these facilities offer the potential for residential accommodations, classrooms, administrative offices, gathering spaces, and future ministry activities.

The property has a reported valuation of approximately $I.35 million and was listed for $475,000. An offer of $4I5,000 has been accepted, and the property entered under-contract status on October 9, 2026. Due diligence is scheduled through December 3I, 2026, with a targeted closing date of January 29, 2027.

We are also encouraged by preliminary discussions regarding zoning. During a recent meeting with Hannah Williams, Chief of Planning for Caldwell County, our graduate Alex joined us to share his testimony and participate in a conversation about the NCGA vision. Alex is involved in Project Timothy 222 and attends Cornerstone Christian Academy.

The discussion provided encouraging insight into conditional zoning established in 2025 for a previous organization. The existing approvals appear potentially compatible with our intended use, although further verification of applicable requirements remains part of our due diligence.

Each conversation and each step forward reminds us that establishing this campus will require prayer, careful planning, financial stewardship, and the participation of our ministry partners.

THE 2026 YEAR-END CAPITAL GOAL: $450,000

This year-end initiative will support the acquisition and initial preparation of the North Carolina Girls Academy campus. The goal is to secure the property and begin the work necessary to make it a safe, functional, welcoming, and ministry-ready environment.

The accepted purchase offer of $4I5,000 represents the central acquisition commitment. The broader $450,000 capital goal is intended to support some of the project's financial needs, including applicable acquisition expenses and initial preparations, subject to final project budgeting.

We invite our partners, friends, families, and the broader community to prayerfully consider participating in this historic opportunity. Every gift represents more than a financial contribution. It is an investment in the lives of young ladies, the strength of families, and the future of a ministry committed to helping the next generation flourish.

A VISION BIGGER THAN WE CAN SEE

Throughout this journey, we have been reminded that the story is bigger than what we can see.

Deralyn often reminds us that God is the Master Painter. The canvas belongs to Him, and He has full editorial rights. We may not understand every brushstroke as it happens, but we can trust His wisdom, His timing, and His purposes.

The opportunity to acquire the Lenoir property is an encouraging example of how a vision can unfold in unexpected ways. What began as a practical conversation about a modular home has developed into the possibility of an entire campus dedicated to the growth and development of young ladies.

We move forward not presuming to know every detail of what lies ahead, but with gratitude for the opportunity, faith for the journey, and a commitment to responsible stewardship.

As we celebrate twelve years of ministry, we look toward the future with expectation. We believe the North Carolina Girls Academy can become a place where education and faith work together, where young women discover their potential, and where families find encouragement and hope.



WILL YOU HELP BUILD THE FUTURE?

As we prepare our 2026 Year-End Ministry Journal, we invite you to become part of this next chapter.

Please prayerfully consider how you can participate in the NCGA capital project through financial support, prayer, professional expertise, practical assistance, and sharing this vision with others who may wish to join us.

Our prayer needs are simple and significant:

- Clarity as we complete due diligence
- Provision to meet the $450,000 year-end goal
- Favor as we work with local officials and community
- Wisdom and timing toward the April 2027 opening
- Transformation in the lives of NCGA girls/families

Thank you for believing in the mission, walking alongside us, and helping make this vision possible. Your partnership enables us to look beyond the immediate needs of today and invest in the lives and opportunities of tomorrow.

What God has placed before us is more than a building project. It is an opportunity to establish a home for learning, spiritual growth, mentorship, and lasting transformation.

Together, let us prepare the place. Together, let us invest in the next generation. Together, let us trust God with the canvas.

Pastor John Steigerwald
Executive Director
North Carolina Boys Academy

Glory of God Stories

Moses said, "Please show me Your glory." And He said,
"I will make all my goodness pass before you
and will proclaim before you
My name, the LORD."

Exodus 33:18-19

The glory of God is evidenced by the goodness of God! As I look back over the past 12 years, the fingerprints of God's goodness are everywhere in the NCBA story. We see His goodness in the discovery and purchase of our present property. We see His goodness in the transformed lives of the young men who have walked on this campus broken and left as new creations in Christ. We see His goodness in how He has faithfully provided everything we have needed when we needed it. We see His goodness as He continually calls us to new horizons as we transition NCBA to Barrett Mountain and prepare to launch the North Carolina Girls Academy.

We have seen His goodness! We have experienced His glory!

What a joy it has been to be part of this journey since the very beginning; to have a front row seat to His glory and goodness. As I gaze into the future that God has for us, I am reminded of His promise in Jeremiah 29:11, "For I know the plans I have for you, declared the LORD, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope."

Come and see the glory of the Lord!

Pastor John Whaley
Board Member, Pastoral Counselor

Barrett Mountain Progress

BUILDING #i - NORTH DORM
Electrical, plumbing, HVAC rough-ins complete/inspection needed
Fire alarm rough-ins in progress
Camera rough-ins to start when Building #2 is complete

BUILDING #2 - SOUTH DORM
Electrical, plumbing, HVAC rough-ins complete/inspection needed
Fire alarms & camera rough-ins in progress

BUILDING #3 - MEETING ROOM
Plumbing, fire alarms rough-ins in progress
Inspection of meeting room framing complete

SEPTIC SYSTEM
Needs final inspection/sign off once electrical inspection for Building #2 completed

ENTRANCE ROAD
B. Bumgarner has plans and is working on a quote for repairing the road up to the specs set forth in the original plans

SITEWORK
Once plumbing inspections are completed, all exterior plumbing trenches can be filled/closed up
Discussion with B. Bumgarner to dig/install drain piping
B. Bumgarner loaning a skidsteer to grade the site to help
Silt fence repair/maintenance, stabilization of slopes
Remove concrete from washout area
Cut back weeds along entry road

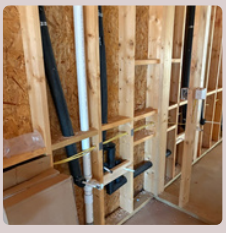
BUILDINGS
Exterior siding/soffit work, gutters/downspouts
Insulation, sheetrock













2026 Board Members



John Steigerwald
Chairman

Josh Holbrooks
Treasurer



John Whaley
Secretary



Mark Ivey



Monica Mouer



Karissa Corpeny



Bliss Steele



Journey Timeline of North Carolina Boys Academy



N C B A

OUR CORE VALUES

Integrity	Living and working with excellence
Compassion	Working together and supporting one another
Vision	Seeing beyond the present
Stewardship	Faithfully managing God's call and resources
Faith	Believing God for the impossible
Servanthood	Dedicating ourselves to the success of others

OUR STUDENT COVENANT

We pledge to serve every student with Christ-like compassion, respect and guidance.

We commit to address the needs of students and to assist them in the development of their godly character.

We dedicate ourselves to mentor and to nurture meaningful relationships, inspiring hope for the future.



OUR ACADEMY

North Carolina Boys Academy is a Christian boarding school for adolescent males struggling with behavioral challenges.

We endeavor to help young men mature spiritually, emotionally and relationally as they discover God's plan for their lives.

Our goal is to transform boys into mature, godly young men who are able to thrive in their God-given purposes for the rest of their lives.



OUR VISION

To offer life transformation
to individuals through Christ-centered programs.

OUR MISSION

To provide young men and their families with effective and comprehensive, Christian faith-based solutions to life-controlling behavioral problems.

Glory of God Stories













From the desk of Pastor Sue Gunderson

"Glory to God in the Highest, and on earth peace, goodwill toward men!" Luke 2:14

Suddenly, an angel appeared to shepherds on a hill and gave them instructions to go find a babe in a manger that would change their life. Then a host of angels appeared to give testimony of God's glory! What a moment. An ordinary dark night filled with visions of glorious light.

An ordinary walk with my dog and a cry out to God to help my son who was struggling and suddenly God prompts me to call John Steigerwald. This was the beginning of our journey with NCBA as a student and parents in training to go from dark times to returning to joy.

Life with the students is anything but boring. On a typical night, a student was struggling with self-control and regulating his emotions. Pastor John decided to take the boys on the hill and have this student run off his energy. The boys went back inside but the student lingered to tell Pastor John that he doesn't believe that he is a Christian. Pastor John led him through Roman's Road and told him to think about it. Suddenly, the student announced that he wanted to pray right now. He stepped from darkness to light as he accepted Christ. The staff and students testify that this student is changed.

Every Parent Training Weekend, the staff and parents spend time sharing testimonies and learning tools to help their families heal from trauma and return to joy. Pastor John was sharing his vision for North Carolina Girls Academy, and a parent approached him about a church that was for sale. Pastor John politely declined until the Lord prompted him the next morning, "Why don't you go look at it." Suddenly, a turnkey property became a great possibility for the girls academy and multiple community venues. God reveals His glory in ordinary moments through ordinary people for extraordinary purposes. They may seem sudden to us but it is all a part of God's plan.

The shepherds were surprised but God had the plan for Jesus' birth before the foundations of the world. I was surprised that a man I knew since I98I would be used to restore my son to his faith and walk in healing. The staff was surprised when a run on the hill became the place where a student bowed his knee and heart to Christ.

2026 has been filled with many Glory of God moments and I want to stop and thank the Lord for His goodness, mercy, provision and protection. In September, Pastor John, Ms. Deralyn and I went to a conference at National Community Church in Washington, DC. The title was RENEW. The sessions and workshops focused on creativity and imagination to dream beyond our physical limitations and resources. God is still creating if we have the eyes and heart to perceive what he is doing.

God has a creative plan to work in ordinary situations to provide finances, staff, and additional resources, to answer the prayers of families for their daughters to go from darkness into His light and fulfill the scripture: Glory to God in the Highest and on earth, peace and goodwill toward men!

As a member of NCBA's Promotion Review Team (PRT):

I am privileged to assist our students as they begin to understand and develop a heart to learn, coupled with a desire for selfless service.

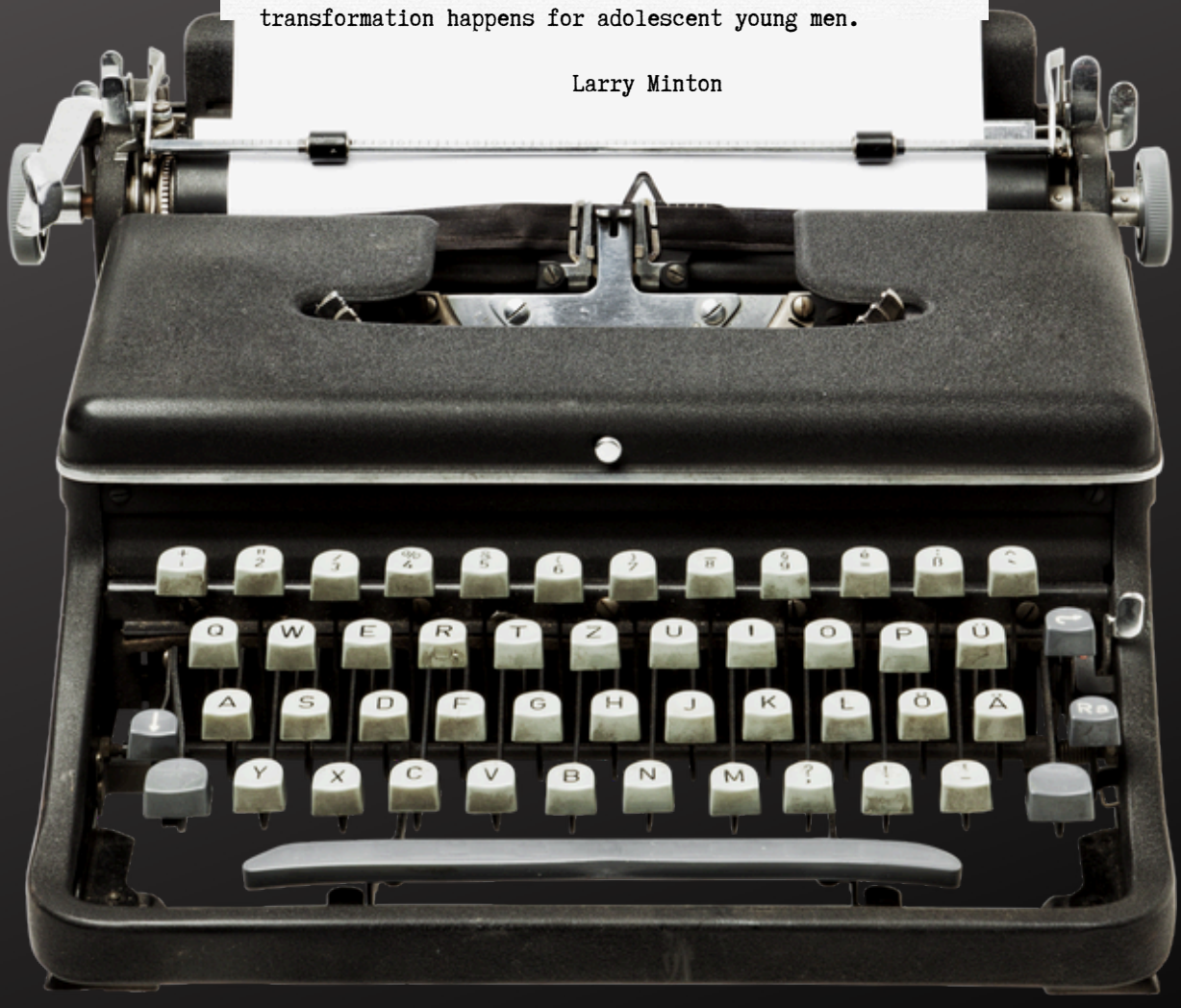
Students begin to practice servanthood; looking not only to their own interests, but to the interests of others. Students are encouraged to model spiritual leadership as they continue to develop integrity of heart and team leadership, thereby contributing to the development of others.

The promotion journey begins for our students as they work through their qualifications and present themselves to the Promotion Review Team. Students present for promotions to Student Learner Basic (Orange), Student Servant Intermediate (Gray), Student Servant Leader Advanced (Navy Blue).

Each "color" reflects character targets, responsibilities and tasks with expectations to be modeled by the candidate through actions and attitude.

It is an honor to be a staff member of NCBA where life transformation happens for adolescent young men.

Larry Minton



Descent Into Greatness

The Levels of Student Progression

Descent Into Greatness means following Jesus' example of humility, service, and sacrificial love. Instead of climbing towards recognition, power, or status, we willingly take the lower place to serve others.

In this Jesus model, greatness develops when we learn to choose humility, serve faithfully, use our strength to help others and obey God sacrificially. Our students "descent into greatness" is when they grow in godly character and obtain a greater capacity to love others like Jesus. This is a transformation journey of fifteen months or more.

LEVEL ONE: INTAKE

Orientation Stage/Green shirt: A new student is given the student handbook and other materials to study and familiarize himself with NCBA expectations.
Time frame: 2-4 weeks.

LEVEL TWO: ROOKIE

Beginner Stage/Carolina Blue shirt: A Rookie student becomes integrated into the student body and is given a Big Brother. He is eligible to begin the Descent Into Greatness journey and is given qualifications to become a Student Learner.
Time frame: 2 months.

LEVEL THREE: STUDENT LEARNER

Learner Stage/Orange shirt: The character qualities exhibited at this level are respect, honesty, simple obedience, and self-control. A Student Learner receives direction, correction, and guidance.
Time frame: 3 months

LEVEL FOUR: STUDENT SERVANT

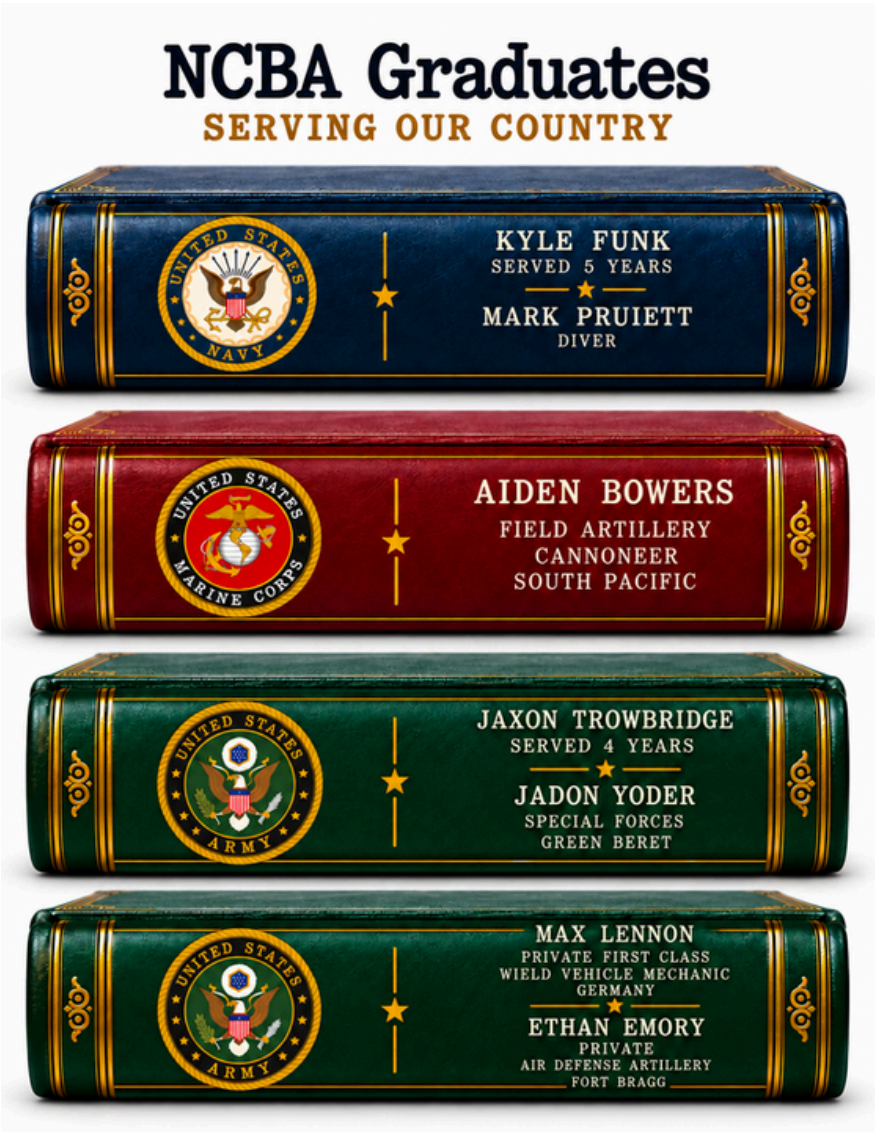
Servant Stage/Gray shirt: The character qualities at this level include humility, servanthood, courage, and perseverance. A Student Servant demonstrates acts of selfless service and encouragement for others.
Time frame: 5 months

LEVEL FIVE: STUDENT SERVANT LEADER

Servant Leader Stage/Navy blue shirt: The character qualities at this level include compassion, faithfulness, discernment, and decisiveness. A Student Servant Leader models spiritual leadership with integrity of heart.
Time frame: 5 months

NCBA Graduates

SERVING OUR COUNTRY





Glory of God Stories

SUCCESS FACTORS

Life Before NCBA
Culture of Blame

A Pathway of Destruction
Damaged Relationships
Decline of Family Unit
Academic Failure
Trouble with the Law
Manipulation
Dishonest, Deceitful

NCBA 15+ Journey
Culture of Responsibility

A Pathway of Recovery
Godly Character
Relationships
Discipline
Education
Physical Fitness
Transformation Happens
Physical, Spiritual, Emotional

Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and prove what God's will is, His good, pleasing and perfect will. Romans I2:2

Life After NCBA
Culture of Thriving

Parental Maturity
Restored Relationships
New Friends
No Social Media
Service & Adventure
Church & Community

















Hello NCBA Family!

I graduated from NCBA in March. Before going into the program, I had no direction or purpose. I had no interest in school, and was using drugs and drinking. I blamed God for all the pain in my life, and didn't want anything to do with Him. I was angry with my parents and my family. Because of my drug use, my relationship with them became extremely broken.

Thankfully, in October of 2024, my parents made the brave decision to enroll me into NCBA. At first, I was extremely angry. I didn't want to be there and still wanted nothing to do with God, but the staff was patient with me (and when you are learning about Jesus/God in depth, it's hard to deny the truth.)

About five months into the program, I gave my life to Jesus and that was the best decision I have ever made. Immediately, I started seeing the need for improvement. I began studying the Bible and the Life Model in depth. I began focusing on discipling myself.

Pastor John and Deralyn and all the other staff taught me valuable tools to help me change. I began receiving healing for my pain and I started to rebuild my relationship with my parents. Once God entered my life, I started thriving. I realized that life was so much more than just me. I started seeing that God actually did have a plan for my life.

While at NCBA, I felt Him calling me into mission and signed up with Youth With A Mission (YWAM). I graduated in March 2026 and a month later, I was in discipleship training in Hawaii. I spent three months there and then went to Africa for a two month outreach.

It was very difficult, but also very fulfilling. Daily, I saw the truth of the many tools NCBA had taught me. Because I was taught to endure hardship, I had the freedom to focus on ministry. I saw God in many incredible ways and am continuing to pursue His heart.

I am currently in Switzerland doing a traveling Bible school. I am so thankful for God's faithfulness. Without Him and the ways He worked through NCBA, I couldn't be where I am today. NCBA effectively prepared me for the next stage in my life and I have faith that He will do the same for all the boys that come through the program.

Reilly B.

Promotions













Glory of God Stories

As I reflect on this past year, I am amazed by the tremendous growth and opportunities God has allowed me to experience. This year has brought new responsibilities, unexpected opportunities, challenges, leadership experiences, travel, teaching, and changes in my role. Through all of it, one phrase continues to come to mind: "Glory to God." I have come to think of these experiences as "Glory of God Stories."

A Glory of God story is a time when I can look at what has happened and recognize that the credit does not belong to me. It is when God opens a door I could not have opened myself, gives me strength or wisdom beyond my own ability, or places me in a position to have an impact on someone else's life.

One of the greatest lessons I have learned this year is something I carry with me:

"God not only does a work through us, but He does a work in us."

There have been many opportunities this year for God to work through me, particularly in the lives of the young men I serve. But when I look back, I realize that while I was trying to teach, lead, encourage, and help them grow, God was also using those same experiences to change and develop me.

Leadership has required patience. Teaching has required preparation. Difficult situations have required perseverance. Working with others has required humility and flexibility. New responsibilities have required me to step outside of my comfort zone and trust God in areas where I did not always have all the answers. Through each experience, God was doing something in me while allowing me to be part of what He was doing in others.

That is a Glory of God story!

Coach Todd Loecher
Special Projects Manager

A Parent's Journey of Restoration

By Joel Hughes

Glory of God Stories

Reflecting back on these last five years, I write this with a grateful heart and with exuberant anticipation for what the future holds. I will always be grateful to North Carolina Boys Academy. Their directors, leaders, and coaches gracefully came alongside of my wife and I during a time of turmoil and uncertainty.

After months of parent meetings, visitations, hard work, and God's intervention, Evan returned home. I have to admit, we felt prepared for his return, but there was a feeling of uncertainty too. Are we going to be able to hold the line, maintain healthy boundaries, and continue to grow in healthy relationships?

I can look back now and say yes, we did it. It wasn't all roses and there was no perfection. It got messy, it got frustrating, but at the end of the day, we were all working together under God's hand, knowing He was with us through the good, bad and ugly.

Every family is different. Our personalities, what we bring to the table, our baggage ... whatever you want to call it. For me, it was about staying present, trying to be a good listener, staying unified with my wife, making decisions with grace, and understanding that our family might look different, but the path that we are on is the path that we're supposed to be on.



I always came back to, no one's in the hospital, no one is sick - everyone's alive! Sounds very basic, but at the end of the day, I was most grateful to be able to say that. Now we find ourselves in a new chapter.

Our son has married a beautiful woman who loves the Lord passionately. We are growing and loving each other as best we can. My hope is that we can continue to be parents and in-laws that cheer them on and offer our advice when they ask for it; to be Christ-like in every situation.

I think about all the intellectual knowledge and understanding of what God's love for His creation must be like. The closest understanding I have is rooted in my experience of being a parent. I am very thankful to be a tired, overworked, stressed out, and confused parent because at the end of the day, my soul gets restored - moment by moment - through the love of God and my faith in Christ.

Opportunities Flow From Obedience

I am a graduate of North Carolina Boys Academy. I am also the husband to my wonderful wife, Vitoria Hughes. I currently serve as the Youth Director at Cornerstone Church in Statesville, NC.

As I reflect on my journey, I am amazed at how far God has brought me. From the morning I first arrived at NCBA to where I am today, I can see the faithfulness of God through every season of my life.

I cannot adequately express how grateful I am for everything Pastor John and Deralyn have done for me and my family. I entered the program broken without hope or clear direction for my future, but through that season of my life, God began to restore my hope and give me a sense of purpose.

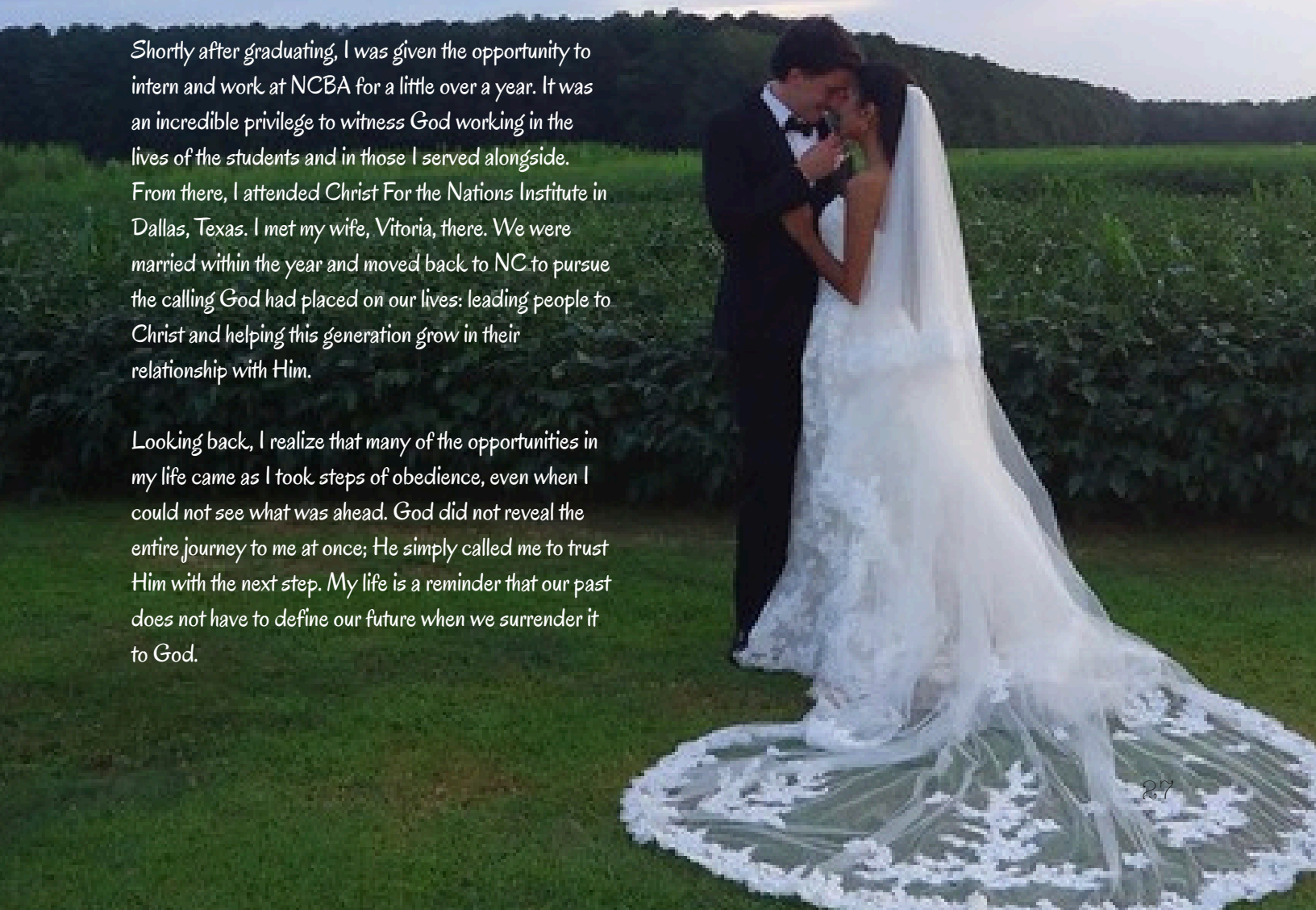
Shortly after graduating, I was given the opportunity to intern and work at NCBA for a little over a year. It was an incredible privilege to witness God working in the lives of the students and in those I served alongside. From there, I attended Christ For the Nations Institute in Dallas, Texas. I met my wife, Vitoria, there. We were married within the year and moved back to NC to pursue the calling God had placed on our lives: leading people to Christ and helping this generation grow in their relationship with Him.

Looking back, I realize that many of the opportunities in my life came as I took steps of obedience, even when I could not see what was ahead. God did not reveal the entire journey to me at once; He simply called me to trust Him with the next step. My life is a reminder that our past does not have to define our future when we surrender it to God.

Opportunities flow from obedience. When we faithfully follow God's direction, we position ourselves to be used by Him in ways we may never have imagined.

My encouragement to every student or parent that is a part of NCBA is this: remain faithful, trust God's timing, and be willing to obey Him even when the next step seems uncertain. You never know what God may have waiting for you on the other side of your obedience.

-Evan Hughes
2022 NCBA Grad



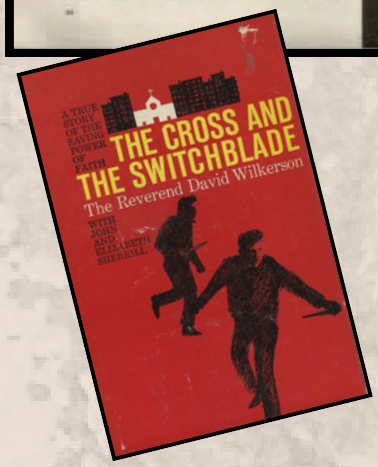
The Teen Challenge Story

"Go To New York City And Help Those Boys."

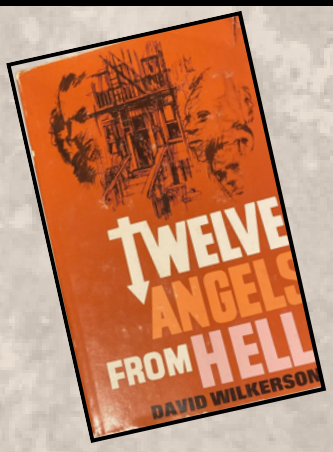
-David Wilkerson
February 1958













Minister Copes with Gangs

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Says Bible May Be Delinquency Answer

By NEIL CHAFFIE

The Rev. David Wilkerson picked up a rust-colored Bible and stated hopefully, "This could be the answer."

The answer he was referring to is one that has been long sought by law enforcement officials and the public alike— How to cope with teen-age gangs.

Mr. Wilkerson believes it rests in belief in God.

He first became interested in teen-age work last February. After reading an article in a magazine concerning seven boys on trial in New York City for the murder of young Michael Farmer, Mr. Wilkerson "felt the urge to take the word to them."

He left his wife, Gwendolyn, daughters, Debbie, 4, and Bonnie, 3, and a pastorate in Philipsburg, Pa., to go to New York.

Arriving in New York, he contacted the district attorney for permission to visit the defendants. Mr. Wilkerson was informed that the trial judge, Irwin Davidson, was the only person who could allow that.

* * *

MR. WILKERSON sat in on the trial Feb. 28 and made an attempt to speak to Judge Davidson after adjournment.

He was seized by police and ejected from the courtroom. He learned later that the judge's life had been threatened and police believed that he was a gang member.

Photographers and reporters outside the courtroom learned of the minister's attempt to visit the defendants and wrote stories about "the country preacher."



REV. DAVID WILKERSON
Weapons for Bibles

This humiliated Mr. Wilkerson, he said, but launched him on his idea of appealing to gang members to accept God and "give up weapons for Bibles."

For four consecutive weeks "the country preacher" took his message into the hideouts of New York gangs.

* * *

"I WAS ACCEPTED and only once was I threatened" he said. He noted that his youthful appearance and stories in news papers assisted him in gaining the confidence of gang leaders.

Since that time Mr. Wilkerson has been back to the city 14 times to meet with youth groups.

He appeared at St. Nicholas Arena from July 8 to July 20 in an appeal to gang members to accept God.

About 125 youths accepted his challenge "to give up your weapons for Bibles" and in September seven former gang members will enter Bible school.

Among the gangs he said he converted were the Mau Maus, Baby Mau Maus and the Hell Burners, all members of Grand Gangsters Inc. Their leaders will be in Elmira Thursday and Friday nights to tell their stories.

* * *

"ONLY LAST year," Mr. Wilkerson said, "the Mau Maus declared war on the police department.

"A couple months ago I entered a precinct station where several were having their Bibles autographed by a veteran police officer."

The officer turned to the Pennsylvania minister and with tears in his eyes remarked, "Reverend, this may be the answer."

Mr. Wilkerson says there are about 115 gangs in New York City some with as many as 10 divisions. The membership in the Egyptian Dragons alone totals about 2,000.

Gang members graduate to the adult mobs by "jitterbugging" or "rumbling," — raids. This draws the attention of the gangland overlords to the youths and they are advanced to the Mafia, Mr. Wilkerson said.

He cites three causes as responsible for gang membership: Thrills, home environment and survival.

* * *

"SOME join just for the kicks," he said. "Others have a poor home environment while some join to survive the attacks of other gangs."

Since Mr. Wilkerson began his one-man campaign, he has become the father of a boy. The youngster was born Saturday and was named Gary.

Meanwhile, Mr. Wilkerson continues plans for his campaign. He will travel from here to Philadelphia and back to New York City in late September.

From there he will go to Ponce, Puerto Rico, sometime next fall or winter.

Mr. Wilkerson is 26 years old and appears younger. He is a conservative dresser, sharp witted and serious minded.

He is confident of his new career in New York.

* * *

HE WILL appear tonight, Thursday and Friday at the Pentecostal Tabernacle to tell of his experiences.

Unless he is held over for another week here, he will pack his Bible Saturday and head for Philadelphia. Future results may





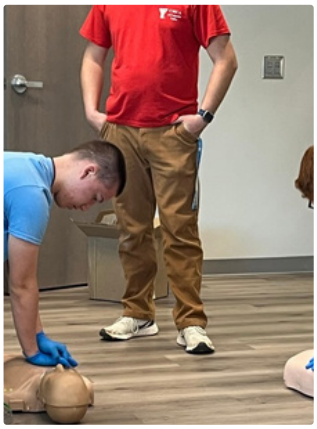


Red Cross
LIFEGUARD CERTIFICATION

















Glory of God Stories





NCBA has partnered with God to save my life. I was lonely, depressed, disobedient, addicted to porn and at the end of my rope. That's when the Holy Spirit pulled up and guided my parents into finding NCBA. I was enrolled in Nov. '24. My heart was totally unaware of the love of God, but through the ministry of the staff & students led by the Spirit, I gave God my pain and sorrow. He gave me His joy and unconditional love. I was taught so many things that helped me to grow and mature. Thanks to the staff and my parents - my life is God's victory. I graduated Aug. '26 and God is continuing to work in and through me. As a sophomore in HS, I'm pursuing good grades, on the soccer team and am seeking to use my life as a platform to shine the light into other people's lives. The glory goes to God. - John R.

Our family's experience and journey with NCBA is a testimony completely covered in God's glory and love. Like many that arrive at the gates of NCBA, our home and family was in a state of chaos, fueled by addiction and fear. Despite all our efforts and exhausting every resource available within the home, our life was unmanageable. Our son could no longer be in our home and we needed help.

We sought countless clinicians and professionals, spoke to innumerable in-patient program advisors, and scoured the internet for a program that would be suitable for our son, who we deeply loved, despite how badly he injured our family. God's love was on FULL display when we finally connected with NCBA. Ready to give up the search after weeks of work (and settle for a program we were doubtful of), we accepted one last unknown phone call early one evening. Pastor John Steigerwald was on the road and returned a call to us. That call changed our family's trajectory, and we enrolled our son in the program a few weeks later.

God continued to demonstrate His love for us again and again during our son's time at NCBA. Not only did he accept Jesus into his heart, develop critical communication skills and mature in ways that were unimaginable, but an entire body of believers (made up of staff and other parents) welcomed us into their community. This was the beginning of healing. The parent training/fellowship revealed God's glory in countless ways. It was this community that taught us the language of the Life Model and recovery from trauma. They also lovingly and gently highlighted that we needed help with reversing our dysfunctional generational patterns, ultimately leading us to a recovery program of our own.

As we work through our son's transition into our home and community, NCBA and God are not finished. Challenges persist, but our son's reliance on God, our new-founded tools, and the continued support from the NCBA staff, help keep the relationship above the problems and empower us to parent out of love, not fear. Our son was baptized shortly after returning home and truly has been made new! Recovery for our entire family is on-going and painful at times, but we are trusting and confident that God will continue to shower His love and glory upon us. We will forever be grateful to the staff for answering God's call on their lives to help our son and family. Hallelujah!

Kip & Christina Rainey

Transformation

A Changed Life

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!" 2 Corinthians 5:I7

It has been my privilege to witness firsthand the transformation of young people through the ministry of North Carolina Boys Academy. The staff is committed to seeing lives changed through the power of the gospel and the application of spiritual disciplines to everyday life of those who are a part of the program.

The NCBA team is motivated by love of God to use the structure, tools and daily interaction with the young people to help them become the men God has intended them to become.

The grace of God and the love of God are used to help students use their past experiences as stepping stones to achieve greater and bigger things for God and themselves.

There is attention given to every area of their lives by addressing the physical, social, mental, and spiritual well-being of the person. It is a program that gives full attention to the whole person.

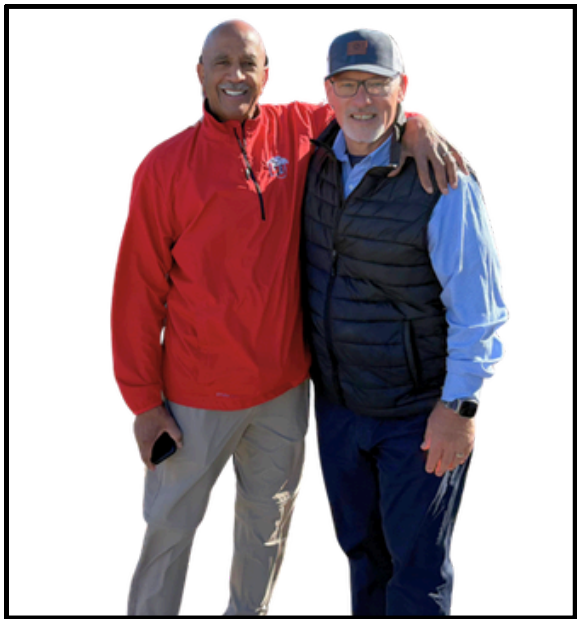
Thank you, Pastor John, for you and your team, for the way each of you allow God to use the team to be a part of the transforming work of God in the lives of these young men. Keep up the eternal work!

God bless,

Ed Gomes

Dr. Ed Gomes
Faculty Chaplain
Liberty University







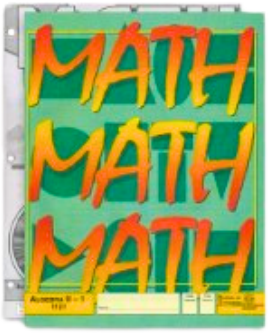

Made for More
Grace
GRIT

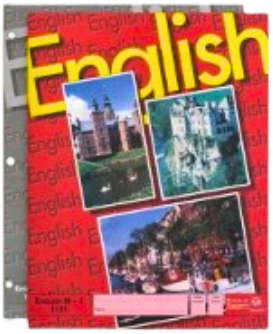


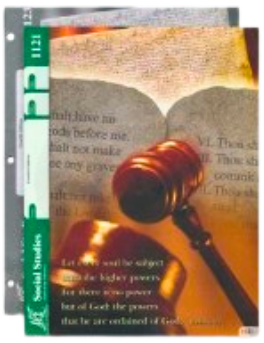


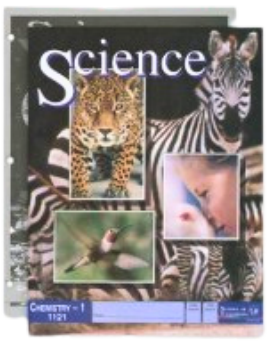

Grace
GRIT




MATH
MATH
MATH


English




Science

God Directs and Provides

In the spring of 2026, we began transitioning to the A.C.E. School of Tomorrow curriculum. Established in I970, it is a proven education system. We have partnered with Cornerstone Christian Academy in order to provide this educational program for our NCBA students.

The A.C.E. curriculum is Christian based. It requires a student to memorize Scripture. This curriculum also uses diagnostic testing to customize a student's education. It is not the typical "one size fits all" schooling. We are greatly encouraged by the students' progress. They are inspired to learn.

The new curriculum requires no internet to complete. There is no autocorrect to fix their spelling, punctuation, and capitalization. Our students are learning to do these things for themselves. They are also learning to write neatly in print and in cursive.

As a class facilitator, it was difficult at first to adjust to this new way of doing schooling. We went from monitoring online learning to being actively involved in each student's level of learning. However, the rewards far out way these challenges. I no longer feel helpless as I watch a student struggle and fail, not knowing how to help them.

I believe Cornerstone Christian Academy and the A.C.E. School of Tomorrow are going to go a long way in preparing our students for their successful futures. I am very grateful to be a part of it.

Ann Frye
Classroom Facilitator



I have seen a drastic change and incredible growth in our classroom this year. NCBA transitioned our students from online learning through Liberty University to partnering with Cornerstone Christian. The ACE/PACE curriculum is tailored to each student's level and academic ability.

It was a big change for our students as well as for our facilitators! It was definitely outside of my comfort zone, but the rewards have been amazing as we have grown and learned together. Many students came to us with poor spelling skills, lacking the ability to read and write cursive, unable to recite basic math facts, or even read an analog clock. These skills are not only being taught, but sharpened.

I have seen average scoring students become above average. I have seen students who hated school to learn to love and thrive in their school work. The fruits of lifelong learning have been a blessing to be a part of.

Kellie White
Classroom Facilitator

It has been an honor for Cornerstone Christian Academy to partner with North Carolina Boys Academy in strengthening their academic program.

Through this partnership, NCBA is now able to offer its scholars accredited transcripts and diplomas, opening doors to college, careers, and future opportunities.

Together, we have also transitioned the program from a screen-based academic model to a screen-free, individualized learning model, and the results have been remarkable.

Scholar engagement has increased, test scores have risen, and discipline incidents have declined.

Most importantly, we are seeing young men grow in focus, confidence, and ownership of their learning.

It is truly exciting to witness this kind of educational transformation, and we look forward to continuing this work together.



As the pastor of Cornerstone Church, I can say with confidence that our partnership with the North Carolina Boys Academy has been a great blessing this past year. What began as an opportunity to partner has become something that has enriched our own church and school family in ways we did not expect.

It has been a joy to provide academics for the young men of NCBA. These young men have worked hard, and we are proud of them.

We enjoy the Sundays they spend with us during the year and our congregation prayerfully supports them.

I am also grateful for Pastor John. He has been a mentor and a friend to our ministry, and his steady leadership and heart for these boys is evident in everything NCBA does.

We are honored to stand alongside this ministry and look forward to all God has ahead.

Sincerely,

Pastor Caleb Griffith

Pastor Caleb Griffith

Building Lasting Change



Christy Cole
MA, LCMHC, CCMC, C-DBT, CCPS
EMDR Trained Therapist

For the past nine years, I have been blessed with the privilege of serving as a counselor at North Carolina Boys Academy (NCBA), under the direction of Pastor John and Deralyn. Through these years, I have gained a deep appreciation for the heart behind NCBA's mission and the intentional work required to help young men change the trajectory of their lives. For families considering NCBA for their son, I believe it is important to understand both what the program stands for and what lasting change requires.

NCBA's philosophy centers on creating a high-joy environment rooted in Christ, where structure, boundaries, stability, and relationships work together to foster growth. The program is designed to help young men develop responsibility, character, discipline, and a clearer understanding of what it means to live in healthy relationship with others. Its beautiful campus situated on the water offers a unique setting for this process, with outdoor spaces and features that provide opportunities for students to be assigned meaningful tasks, contribute to their surroundings, and practice responsibility through hands-on work. These daily expectations help reinforce that growth is not simply something discussed in counseling; it is something practiced through everyday choices, responsibilities, and interactions.

A central principle of NCBA is that love and boundaries must work together. Students need to experience care that remains steady even when their behavior requires correction. The Life Model concept of "sticky love" captures this well: a young man can be held accountable without being rejected, and he can make mistakes without being defined by them. This kind of consistent relational connection helps students keep their relational circuits online, allowing them to remain engaged, think more clearly, receive guidance, and work through difficult emotions rather than retreating into familiar patterns of defensiveness or disconnection.

As their counselor, I help students recognize the thoughts, emotions, and behaviors that contributed to the difficulties that brought them to NCBA. Many have developed unhealthy coping strategies, including anger, avoidance, dishonesty, impulsivity, withdrawal, or addictive behaviors, in an attempt to manage stress, pain, shame, or rejection. Through Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT), Dialectical Behavior Therapy (DBT), and Life Model principles, I help them identify unhelpful thought patterns, regulate emotions, tolerate distress, communicate more effectively, and practice healthier responses. The goal is not merely to stop a behavior, but to understand what drives it and build new habits that can replace it.

This process requires repetition. A young man may know what the right choice looks like, but struggles to make it when he is frustrated, discouraged, or overwhelmed. With consistent practice, he can begin to experience that healthier strategies really can work. Each time he manages conflict differently, takes responsibility, repairs a relationship, or chooses a healthy coping strategy over an unhealthy one, he has an opportunity to strengthen new patterns. Over time, these experiences can help him develop the confidence and internal motivation to carry those changes beyond the program.

For NCBA's approach to be effective, the entire team must row in the same direction. Leadership, coaches, counselors, and other team members must share a clear understanding of the program's purpose and consistently uphold its expectations. When boundaries are unclear, team members undermine one another, or students receive conflicting messages, the stability necessary for growth is weakened. A unified team provides the consistency students need to learn accountability, trust, and healthy relational skills.

This commitment requires integrity and intentionality from the adults as well. We cannot effectively teach healthy communication, boundaries, emotional regulation, and personal responsibility if we are unwilling to practice these principles ourselves. There will be difficult moments when a student resists expectations or when enforcing a boundary makes us the person he does not want to hear from. Yet those moments are often when consistency and continued care matter most. Students need adults who believe in their capacity to change and who remain committed to helping them grow, even when progress is slow.

Over the past nine years, I have watched students move through stages of resistance, uncertainty, reflection, and growth. Change is not linear, but I have seen reason for hope even in young men who initially struggled to believe change was possible. The combination of a Christ-centered environment, consistent structure, meaningful responsibility, healthy relationships, and practical counseling skills creates opportunities for students to learn new ways of thinking, coping, and relating to others.

For parents considering NCBA, I believe the program's value lies in its commitment to more than correcting behavior. It seeks to help young men develop the character, skills, and habits needed to live differently. That work requires a student's participation and a dedicated team that consistently reinforces the program's principles. When everyone remains committed to that shared purpose, young men have an opportunity to grow beyond the behaviors that brought them there and begin building a healthier future. As a counselor, it has been meaningful to be part of that process and to witness the hope that can emerge when accountability, connection, and lasting change work together.

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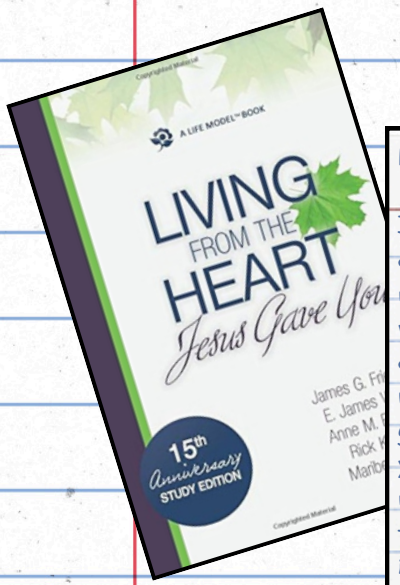
Glory of God Stories

June 10, 2025 was a bittersweet day for our family. It was intake day for our son at NCBA. For two years leading up to that day, our son was on a path of self-destruction. Our house was in daily chaos. Our son was angry and self-medicating. Although we had multiple children in the home, our focus was on him. Our concern was that he would end up in jail or dead. We prayed that God would provide a way to get our son the help he needed.

A friend told us about NCBA. After looking at their website, we met with the team. The goal of the meeting was to see what NCBA could offer our son. They listened to our story. and prayed with us. They never said the road would be easy, but they would prayerfully walk with us. The team spoke life over our son. We have seen the anger and self-destructive behavior disappear. Joy is now what we see in our son's eyes. The coaches, pastors, and leaders pray daily for our son's soul. Healing has begun in our family. It is not an easy road.

The unique aspect of NCBA is the parent training weekends. This is a time for the parents to learn about the Life Model: Living From the Heart That Jesus Gave You. This model blends biblical truth to guide the parent and child to healing, spiritual maturity, and restoration. Our son and family are continuing to heal and grow spiritually because of NCBA. We are grateful to live in spiritual maturity and restoration.

Nancy Wallace



My story in the doctor's office 10/9/26 MCW

I went to the doctor's yesterday for my yearly check-up. My doctor posed a question to my mom: "Is Michael still taking these medicines?" and he listed all of the medicines I used to take which was about 7 pills. My mom said confidently, "He's off all meds." My doctor stopped what he was doing and said, "What?" My mom repeated, "Yeah, he's off all meds." The doctor looked at me and gave me a high-five. He replied, "I'm impressed. NCBA is helping you and it shows that you can do anything." I smiled and asked my mom if we can show the doctor what NCBA is about. I went to the NCBA website and showed him Evan's video. He was very impressed.

Glory of God Stories

I walked into my first parent training workshop expecting little more than information I had heard before, meaningless small talk, and awkward group activities. I could not have been more wrong. I encountered a space where I could be completely open and honest about my family life and my own struggles as a wife and mother. I was introduced to the Life Model for the first time, and my mind was opened to new possibilities of healing and living from joy despite what is happening around me. The Lord has designed our physical brains to heal and create new pathways to achieve the true peace of God that passes our human understanding. In discovering that the highest need of each human is to experience true relational joy, I have learned to strengthen relationships both with my son (who is at NCBA) and with the family members still at home, equipping us to live through the power of the Holy Spirit and return to joy when things go wrong. In addition to these parent training weekends, I have been given multiple books to help be a better parent, set boundaries in my life, and follow Christ more fully. The impact of these parent weekends cannot be overstated, and I am thankful that the Lord put me right where I needed to be.

Carol



DAUGHTERS

United in Purpose.
Aligned in Vision.
Called for Such a Time as This.

The partnership between Daughters Ministry and North Carolina Girls Academy is one we believe the Lord has beautifully orchestrated. Together, we are committed to creating spaces where girls and women can encounter God, discover their identity and purpose, and be empowered to live out the calling He has placed on their lives.







Daughters Conference 2026 Statesville, North Carolina

Daughters had the privilege of partnering with North Carolina Girls Academy to help launch the vision and mission of the Academy by hosting Daughters Conference 2026 in Statesville, NC.

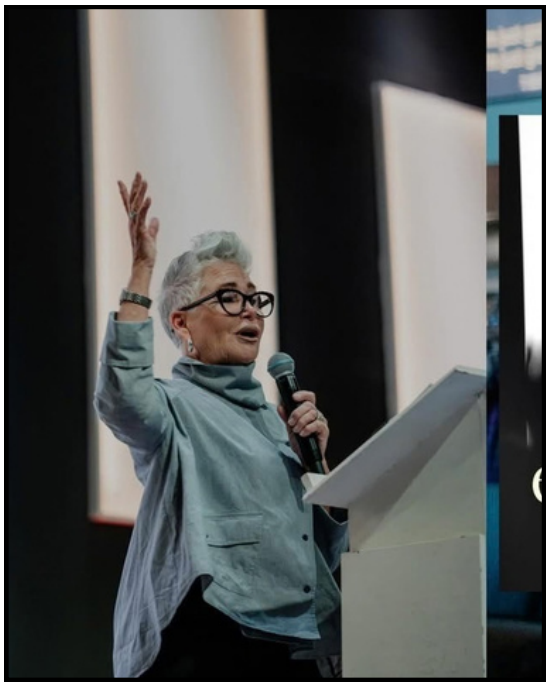
We believe this partnership was a divine alignment for such a time as this.

Throughout the weekend, we experienced countless moments that could only be described as God-ordained. Daughters from generations and backgrounds gathered around one mission: to know Him, encounter His presence, and become who He has created them to be.

With hearts united and filled with expectation, we witnessed God move in life-changing ways. What began as a conference became a meaningful gathering of generations, a place of connection, encouragement, healing, and spiritual renewal.

We are deeply grateful for what God began and believe the seeds planted during this weekend will continue to produce lasting fruit.












EXPECTATION
DAUGHTERS CONFERENCE 26



Ministry Trip to Arizona



Bethany Marshall and Kary Garretson joined Pastor John Steigerwald, Mary Louise Hellberg, and Sue Gunderson of North Carolina Girls Academy for a ministry trip to Springboard Girls Home in Tucson, Arizona.

This trip was another powerful reminder of what can happen when ministries come together with a shared heart and mission.



God opened doors, aligned key leaders, and created holy moments of ministry that were both deeply meaningful and unforgettable.

We witnessed the power of simply being present, building relationships, sharing our stories, and creating space for young women to encounter the love of Jesus.



Beyond the ministry moments, genuine friendships were cultivated and meaningful relationships were established. What began as a partnership has continued to grow into a shared investment in the next generation.

Daughters Ministry is honored to continue supporting the vision and mission of North Carolina Girls Academy. We are grateful for what God has already done through this partnership and we are excited about what is still ahead.

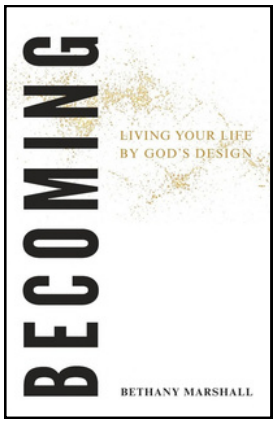
As we look toward Daughters Conference 2027 in Statesville, NC, we do so with great expectation for all that God will continue to build, establish, and breathe life into.

We believe this partnership is more than an event or a ministry trip. It is an opportunity to unite generations, cultivate relationships, strengthen the next generation, and make room for God to transform lives.

We are honored to walk together, believing that when daughters are united in purpose, generations are impacted.

Bethany Marshall

Founder and Director
Daughters



Bethany just released her newest book, BECOMING.
Order one today!



Christmas Eve at The Cove, Mooresville, NC







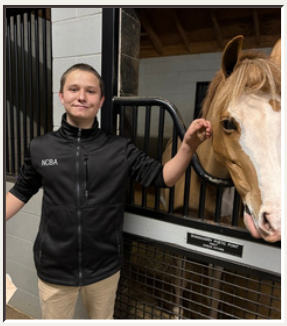




Briar Field Farm, Mooresville, NC















Christmas at NCBA 2025











Winter 2026













Their Stories Are Still Being Written

By Kent Solheim

When North Carolina Boys Academy (NCBA) brought a group of young men to us in May 2026, our goal at Oak and Arrow was never simply to take them camping or put them through a difficult outdoor event. We wanted to create an environment where they would be challenged physically, mentally, spiritually, and personally - and where they might begin to see themselves and their future differently.

One passage kept coming to mind as I reflected on that week. Romans 5:3-4 says, “Suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character and character, hope.”

Those words capture much of what we hoped these young men would experience. I spent 30 years in the Army, much of that in Special Forces, and one of the lessons I learned is that hardship can be a powerful teacher. Difficult circumstances reveal things about us. They expose weaknesses, but they can also uncover strength, determination, courage, and character that we did not know were there.

Hardship alone, however, is not the goal. What matters is what we do with it. Romans tells us that suffering can produce perseverance. Perseverance can shape character and character can lead to hope.

That progression became in many ways, the heart of this event. The young men were introduced to physical training, formations, equipment preparation, land navigation, fire building, water purification, survival skills and other outdoor training.



Eventually, they shouldered their packs and completed a backpacking trip in the Uwharrie National Forest, experiencing the backcountry, and the beauty of God’s creation. It was difficult. And that was intentional.

There are some lessons a young man can only learn by walking through something hard and realizing that he did not quit. We saw fatigue. We saw frustration. We saw discomfort and uncertainty. But we also watched young men continue moving forward when stopping would have been easier.

That is perseverance. As the event continued we began to see something else. The boys started encouraging one another. They became more aware that their attitude affected the entire group. They learned that being part of a team meant carrying their own load and at times, helping someone else carry his. They experience accountability. They were corrected when necessary. They were challenged to lead, to serve, and to take responsibility for their actions. That is where preseverance begins to become character.

Character is not formed when everything is comfortable. It is shaped in the moments when a young man is tired, frustrated, or disappointed and still has to decide what kind of person he is going to be.

Will he quit? Will he blame someone else? Will he think only about himself? Or will he keep moving, help the person beside him, accept correction, and choose to do what is right even when it is difficult? Those are the moments that matter.

One of the great privileges of the event was getting to work alongside the men who make up the staff of NCBA. Their commitment to the missions of the Academy was unmistakable. They were not simply supervising students or completing a work assignment. They were investing themselves in the lives of these young men. They encouraged them, corrected them, walked beside them, and held them to a higher standard because they genuinely cared about who these boys were becoming.

What struck me most was the sincerity of that commitment. Their desire to accomplish the mission of NCBA is real, so is their desire to do that work for the furtherance of the Kingdom of God. That matters.

Young men notice when adults are merely going through the motions, and they also notice when someone genuinely care. Throughout the event, I saw men who were willing to give their time, energy, patience, and leadership to students who needed all of those things.

It was a privilege to stand shoulder to shoulder with them. Some of the most important parts of the event were not scheduled at all. They happened while walking down a trail, sitting around a fire preparing equipment, or during quiet conversations between an adult and a young man.

Near the end of the event, members of our cadre sat down individually with each student. We talked with them about what we had seen - their strengths, where they had grown, the way they had contributed to the team, and areas where they still needed to develop.

Those conversations were some of the most meaningful moments of the entire experience. Young men need standards. They need discipline and accountability. But they also need adults who are willing to look them in the eye and tell them sincerely, “I see something in you. You are capable of more.”

That is where character begins to produce hope. We did not expect to change a young man’s life in a few days, and I would never claim that we did. The struggles and circumstances that brought these students to NCBA did not disappear because they completed a difficult hike or spent a few nights in the woods.

But I do believe they learned something important. They learned that difficult does not mean impossible. They learned that being uncomfortable does not mean they have to quit. They learned that mistakes do not have to define them. They learned that they can endure, grow, serve others, and become something more than who they have been in the past.

That is hope. And that may be the most important lesson of all. These young men are not defined by the circumstances that brought them to NCBA. They are not defined by their worst choices or their hardest moments. Their stories are still being written.



My prayer is that, years from now, they may forget how many miles they walked or exactly how they purified water or build a fire. But I hope they remember what if felt like to do something difficult and keep going.

I hope they remember that perseverance matters. I hope they remember that character is built through choices made when things are hard. And most of all, I hope they remember that there is always a reason for hope because God is still working in their lives.

Romans chapter 5 reminds us that suffering does not have to be wasted. In God's hands, hardship can produce perseverance. Perseverance can shape character. And charcter can lead us toward hope.

It was a privilege for Oak and Arrow to spend that time with the young men of NCBA, and it was equally a privilege to serve alongside a staff of men so clearly committed to the mission of the Academy and to advancing the Kingdom of God.

Kent Solheim
Oak and Arrow
Colonel, US Army Special Forces, Retired





















Coach Jordan Gigantana

NCBA is a place of transformation. It is a place where Christ is introduced, families are restored, and relationships with God are strengthened. Being a coach at NCBA has not only given me an opportunity for God to work through me, but also to do a work in me. Each day is a process of refinement as we do hard things, put ourselves last, and learn to live out our identity of Christ.

It is a blessing to see students arrive carrying struggles, unhealthy patterns, and personal challenges that may have affected their relationships with their families and with God. Then, over time, we get to witness them grow, take ownership of their lives, pursue healing, and discover a new identity in Christ. Seeing that transformation makes the process worthwhile.

One of the ways I have been blessed to be part of this process is through Personal Studies in New Life (PSNL). PSNL is a discipleship and mentoring curriculum that meets students where they are spiritually and gives them space to grow at their own pace, It helps students explore questions about God, strengthen their faith, and work through personal areas of growth such as self-control, lust, addictions, relationship, responsibility, and other struggles they may face.

What makes PSNL special is seeing students become excited to share their goals, talk honestly about their challenges, and celebrate the areas where they are overcoming. As a coach, I have learned that the role is about much more than coaching. It is about being available for Christ to use someone like me in the lives of young men.

As students grow, I grow with them. Their victories challenge me, their struggles teach me, and their transformation reminds me why this work matters. It is a privilege to witness lives being renewed and to play a small part in what God is doing at NCBA.

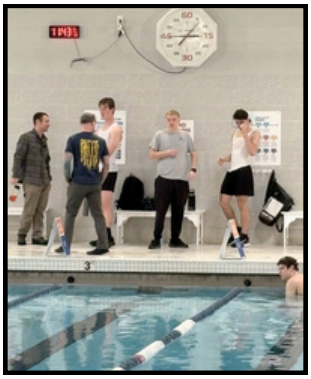
Virginia Road Trip

Don Wilkerson,Physical Training



















LEW STERRETT/PARENT TRAINING





Treetops Adventures on Lake Hickory is an aerial adventure park open to schools, churches and organizations. It offers a unique experience for all ages who enjoy outdoor challenges.

Micro-Enterprises

Adventure Camp is a weekly summer camp jam-packed with outdoor activities and play. Every week our aim is to develop a child's wonder and imagination in the great outdoors.

Glory of God Stories

















Jammin J's Catering

Jammin J's Authentic Jamaican Eats is a mobile catering business serving the local area.

Inspired by Jamaican cuisine, this food trailer offers catering and meals that are authentic and delicious. Jammin J's will cater any event, big or small.

This has become a popular meal choice for all of NCBA's special events!







Father/Son Missions Trip
Jamaica




















Dream




Dream


KEEPING TOGETHER IS
PROGRESS.
WORKING TOGETHER
IS SUCCESS.

Jamaica Summer Cross-Cultural Experience

I want to first express my sincere gratitude to Pastor John and the staff of the North Carolina Boys Academy for opening their doors to Barbara and I and the eight boys from Fountain of Life Assembly of God, Jamaica from June 26 – July 8, 2026. From the moment that we arrived at the airport and were picked up by Pastor John and his team we felt their love and warmth, with the care with which we were treated, we immediately felt the family atmosphere.

The experience for the boys this year was just as mind blowing for all the boys, as it was last year, and will create a lasting impression that they will certainly cherish for the rest of their lives. They all said that the experience they had from the moment they arrived will be remembered for the rest of their lives.

With the discipline of waking up in the mornings and having that time of exercise and coaching, the teachings and the very special time of ministry by Pastors Anthony and Veronica Mugnano, were all of great value to our boys and will certainly help to develop Godly characteristics in them as they grow up to be nation changers in the island of Jamaica. It will help them to create lasting impact in their school's community and wherever they go, these boys now understand how valuable they are and the work that it will take for them to know what it means to become a "whole" person.

We are always impressed with the high level of discipline that is maintained at the North Carolina Boys Academy. Our boys got the opportunity to see firsthand how discipline and good structure along with God's word can bring about true transformation in the lives of young men that need guidance and mentorship. We must mention the work of Coach Todd and the way that he stepped up to ensure that our boys had a great experience by providing all that was needed for the boys to enjoy a great time.

We appreciate all the hard work it took to coordinate all the activities that not only our boys experienced, but the boys from Trench Town and the North Carolina Boys as well. It was very well organized and structured in such a way to allow interactions with minimal incidents or accidents. Our boys thoroughly enjoyed all the fun activities that kept them totally engaged.

On behalf of Barbara and I, the parents of 8 boys and the boys themselves, we want to say a huge THANK YOU! to Pastor John, Sis Deralyn and the rest of the coaches for all that you did to enable the boys of Fountain of Life to have such a wonderful experience!

Sincerely,

Anthony & Barbara

Anthony & Barbara Richards
Pastors
Fountain of Life Assembly of God, Jamaica





The 2026 North Carolina Boys Academy and Jamaica Cross-Cultural Camp was a tremendous and life-changing experience for both me and the boys from Operation Restoration Christian School in Trench Town, Jamaica. My students thoroughly enjoyed the morning Physical Training (PT) sessions. Despite the challenge, they gave their best effort. Coach Todd did a great job leading these sessions with enthusiasm, discipline, and encouragement. The structure, consistency, and expectations of the Academy are exactly what my boys need in their lives. Unfortunately, outside of school they don't have enough discipline and structure.

The daily worship sessions were another highlight of the camp. They ushered the boys into the presence of the Lord, strengthened their faith, and built genuine camaraderie as we worshipped, prayed, and encouraged one another. These moments were deeply meaningful and created spiritual memories that will remain with them for years to come.

The teaching sessions led by Pastor Anthony left the boys with powerful lessons, practical wisdom, and unforgettable stories that they will carry with them long after camp has ended. Likewise, the ministry of Pastor Anthony and Pastor Veronica profoundly impacted the hearts of the boys. Their genuine love, compassion, and commitment to seeing young men grow in Christ were evident in everything they did.

One of the greatest blessings for me personally was the opportunity to spend uninterrupted time with my students. We studied God's Word together, shared devotions, talked honestly about life, and reflected on their future. There were also many moments when I had to correct behaviour, address poor choices, and teach important life lessons. At times this was frustrating and emotionally draining, but it was also one of the most valuable aspects of the entire experience. True transformation often happens through patient correction, loving guidance, and consistent presence.

Finally, I am incredibly grateful for the relationships that developed among the boys. Watching friendships grow, seeing them support one another, and observing teams overcome challenges together was inspiring. The cross-cultural interactions, shared experiences, and lasting bonds formed throughout the camp have enriched their lives in ways that cannot be measured. I know that my boys have returned to Jamaica stronger, wiser, and better because of these experiences.

I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to Pastor John Steigerwald for being the visionary behind this Cross-Cultural Camp and for faithfully leading this remarkable initiative. I also want to sincerely thank every member of staff who served us with such excellence and love—Coach Todd, Ms. Deralyn, Coach Tim, Pastor Sue, Coach Jordan, and Sam. Your investment of time, energy, and faith into the lives of our young men is deeply appreciated.

Bringing our boys from Jamaica to America was far more than a camp experience—it was an act of faith that has the potential to create generational impact.
The seeds you have planted will continue to bear fruit in the lives of these young men, their families, and their communities for years to come. From the bottom of my heart, thank you. May God richly bless each of you for your faithful service.

Sincerely,
Robert Dixon

Robert Dixon, Principal, Operation Restoration Christian School








Jesus

Spiritual Emphasis Week

Glory of God Stories











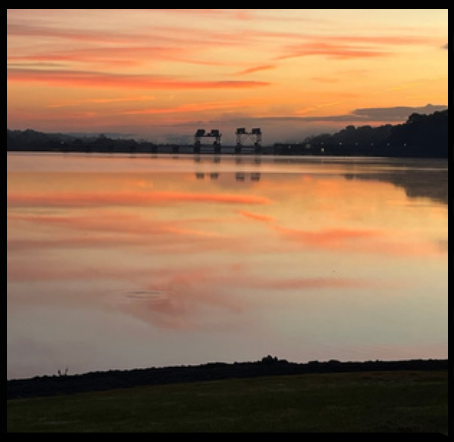






"When you do the common things in life in an uncommon way, you will command the attention of the world."
George Washington Carver

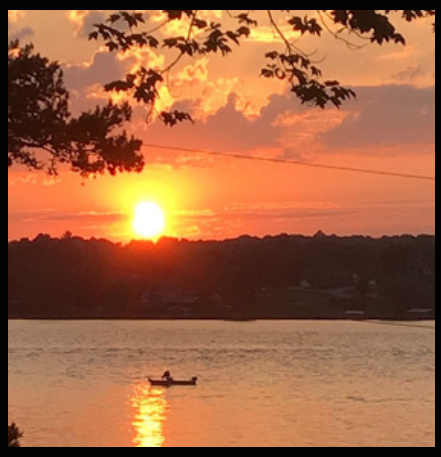


Sunrises and Sunsets on Lake Hickory From Campus











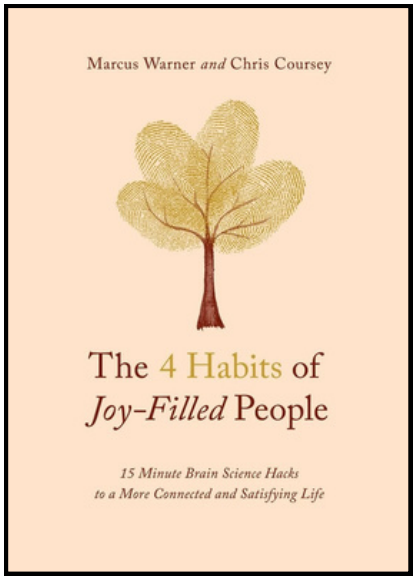


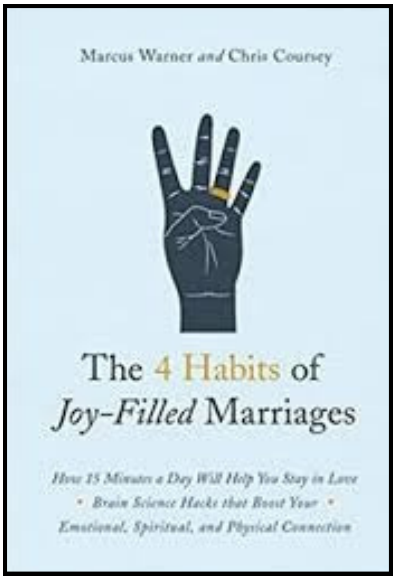


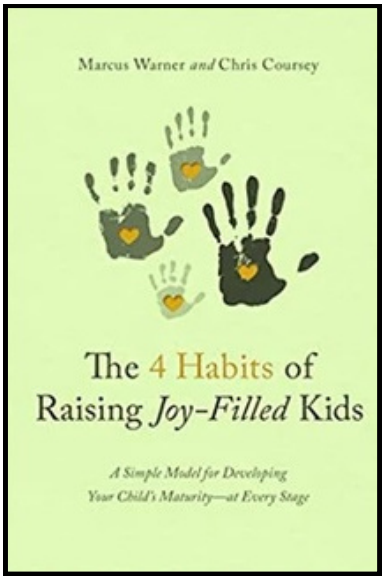


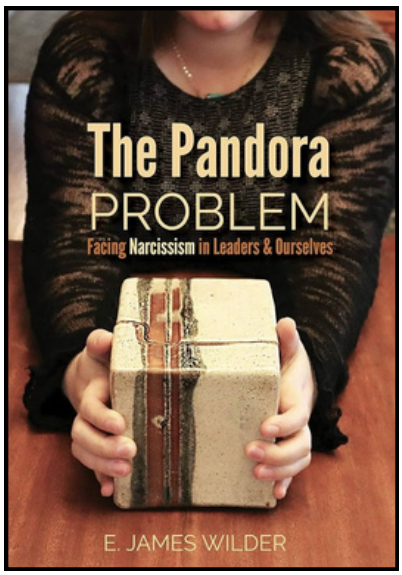
Recommended Reads

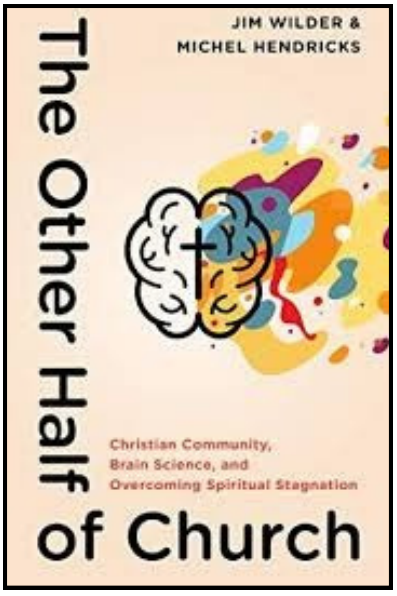
Emotional and Spiritual Formation

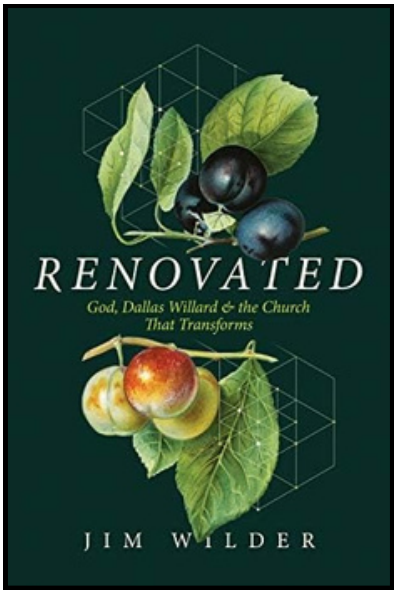












The value of growing in maturity reaches beyond our own lives. As we grow, we become better equipped to love faithfully, respond wisely under pressure, repair relationships, and help the next generation grow. Through God's grace and intentional practice, we can increasingly reflect the character of Christ in everyday life. We highly recommend book written by Dr. James Wilder, Chris Coursey and Marcus Warner.

Life Model Works™

Familiar Sayings of NCBA



ultracrepidarian

[uhl-truh-krep-i-dair-ee-uhn] / ˌʌl trəˌkrɛp ɪˈdɛər i ən /
adjective

1. **noting or pertaining to a person who criticizes, judges, or gives advice outside their area of expertise.**

Supporting Churches

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TO SERVE THE LORD AND GLORIFY HIM USING THE GIFTS HE HAS GIVEN OUR EMPLOYEES TO RESEARCH, DEVELOP, MANUFACTURE, AND MARKET PRODUCTS THAT IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF LIFE FOR PEOPLE AND THEIR PETS.

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NO HANDOUTS
NO EXCUSES






Let Your
Light
Shine
BEFORE
OTHERS





Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.

Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is – His good, pleasing and perfect will.

Romans 12:2



A Vision for the Next Decade

This decision flows from a clear, prayerfully discerned vision that will guide NCBA over the next ten years—a vision built on four foundational pillars:

1. Financial Freedom – "The borrower is the slave of the lender" (Proverbs 22:7).

The equity from the sale of the Valwood Road property will be used to eliminate outstanding debt, allowing NCBA to move forward with freedom and confidence. This step ensures that the generosity of our supporters can be directed more fully toward students, programs, and mission rather than toward campus interest and long-term obligations.

2. Sustainability

"Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found faithful" (1 Corinthians 4:2).

Living debt-free strengthens the long-term health of the academy. It allows NCBA to plan wisely, respond thoughtfully to changing circumstances, and remain steady and faithful for years to come.

3.Expansion – "Enlarge the place of your tent… do not hold back" (Isaiah 54:2).

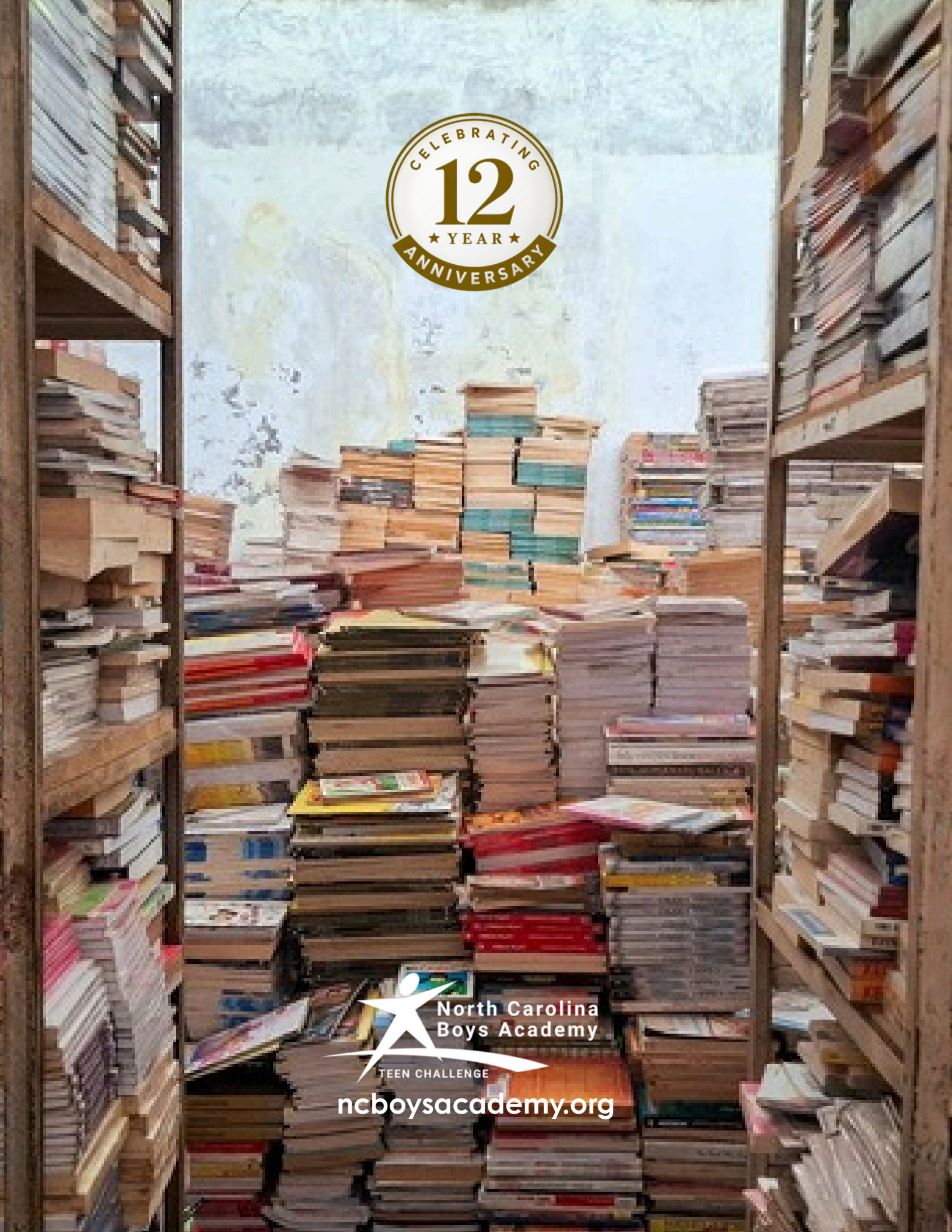
After debt is retired, remaining equity will allow NCBA to complete essential development at Barrett Mountain, our future primary campus, and to invest carefully in future growth. These investments directly support the environment, safety, and programming that help young men grow in character, responsibility, and faith. This also includes NCGA and WIBA.

4. Organizational Excellence

"Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men" (Colossians 3:23).

Organizational excellence means caring well for both the mission and the people who carry it forward. This includes strengthening leadership systems, improving operational clarity, and building a stable, career staff with adequate compensation. Well-supported staff bring consistency, longevity, and excellence to the daily work of mentoring and guiding students.

As Scripture affirms, "The laborer deserves his wages" (Luke 10:7)


CELEBRATING
12
YEAR
ANNIVERSARY
North Carolina
Boys Academy
TEEN CHALLENGE
ncboysacademy.org