



FLETCHER

Spirit

A Newsletter for the alumni and friends of Fletcher Academy, Inc.

FLETCHER ACADEMY UPDATE

— by Peter Cousins, Fletcher Academy Principal



“Our schools have been established by the Lord; and if they are conducted in harmony with His purpose, the youth sent to them will be quickly prepared to engage in various branches of missionary work. Some will be trained to enter the field as missionary nurses, some as canvassers, some as evangelists, and some as gospel ministers. Some are to prepare to take charge of church schools, in which the children shall be taught the first principles of education. This is a very important work, demanding high ability and careful study.” **Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students, pg. 493**

This statement from the Spirit of Prophecy has become paramount in our thinking as we endeavor to lay and implement plans for Fletcher Academy. This is primarily because the quote points so strongly to the fact that Fletcher Academy is God’s school. It is not mine; it is not the constituents; it does not belong to the caring members of the school committee, and it isn’t even the alumni’s—who have been great supporters and friends of the campus. No, make no mistake, this school is established by the Lord for **His** purpose.

I love the simplicity of Mrs. White’s statement because it spells out what the Lord’s purpose is for Adventist Education. The Lord’s purpose is leading Fletcher Academy down the path of training missionaries for both global and local outreach. Understanding that there are many branches of missionary work not mentioned in the statement above, it is interesting that Ellen White highlighted five foundational branches of missionary endeavors. These branches are becoming the backbone of life at Fletcher Academy.



Missionary Nurses ←

The first training for missionary work mentioned is in the field of nursing. While it is not possible for Fletcher Academy to offer nursing to high school students, we are able to provide the opportunity for students to get their feet wet in this branch of missionary work through the Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) program. Space for this article does not allow me to expound upon all of the ways that God has opened doors for this program to come back to Fletcher Academy.

This summer Fletcher Academy will kick off a CNA program that will run from May 19-June 16. Students involved in the CNA program will benefit as they learn to serve others, who are not able to help themselves. The joy of service cannot be learned in a textbook but must be experienced first hand. The CNA students will learn this as they become the hands and feet of Jesus ministering to those not able to help themselves. In the process of showing mercy, a gentler side of the student is called out and they gain a different perspective on life that they could gain in no other way.



C.N.A. TRAINING

Number of slots available: 10

Number of applications already submitted: 7

To apply visit www.FletcherAcademy.Com

Secondly, our students will be a powerful testimony to the difference in a Christian-trained CNA. Currently our students are making a positive influence at Beystone, the on-campus nursing home. While they have not yet been working there as CNAs, they have had a dramatic impact on the patients and the institution as they help and pray with individuals.

The CNA program will also benefit students’ ability to raise money for needed tuition. Our students can become CNAs at sixteen and will be able to earn \$9-\$12 an hour at the various nursing homes in our area. This has extremely positive financial ramifications not only for tight budgets at home, but also for tight budgets at Fletcher Academy.

Teachers ←

Our second step in the direction of missionary training has been to encourage students in the field of teaching. Through a joint-effort with the Arden and Fletcher Seventh-day Adventist churches, twelve of our students are currently helping at Captain Gilmer elementary school where they assist teachers with grading, tutoring, and tending the young children God has put in our care. Through the interaction with young minds, students get a taste of teaching and can evaluate prayerfully whether God is calling them to into this ministry.

Evangelists ←

Thirdly, in an effort to expose students to evangelism, we have split our Bible III class into two sections. The first section covers traditional Bible doctrines; the second is an Evangelism course that involves taking Bible doctrines and presenting them to the community. Our hope is that students who join this class their junior year will be prepared to participate in an evangelistic series their senior year.

Gospel Ministers ←

Finally, we are encouraging students to get involved in mission trips throughout the school year. In October, our Sophomore class went to Texas to clean the homes of hurricane victims, to pray and encourage them. In addition, during our spring break we will be sending some of our students to Kimbia Academy in Guyana, South America to participate in agricultural development and mission outreach activities.

The end of time seems to be fast approaching and our goal is to prepare an army of young people that will be rightly trained to meet the challenges that will present themselves to Bible-believing Christians. Please continue to pray that the Lord’s purpose for Fletcher Academy will be realized.

Citrus Fruit from Florida!

If you are looking for a great way to support Fletcher Academy, Inc. and stay healthy at the same time, this opportunity is for YOU! Captain Gilmer School is starting their fruit season. They are selling great citrus fruit from the Indian River belt in Florida. Each year from November through March, Captain Gilmer makes this fruit available to the community to help support the Elementary School. The fruit consists of Pink Grapefruit, Navel and Temple Oranges, and Honeybells, depending on what fruit is in season for that month. Prices are very competitive, and the fruit is tremendously tasty. To place an order, call Captain Gilmer’s Fruit Hotline # 828-687-5150 or their school office at 828-684-8221. We appreciate your sharing this information with family and friends, and greatly thank you for supporting our school.



Fletcher Valley Farms Blackberry Project

– by Craig Bradley, Director



About three years ago, Fletcher Academy, Inc. was presented with a viable commercial agricultural industry: the growing of blackberries for Sunnyridge Farms, a fresh berry marketer operating on the east coast. After in-depth research and prayer, FAI decided to sign-on and plant 10 acres in the open hay-field below the Fletcher Seventh-day Adventist church on campus.

We ordered blackberry plants from the company-recommended sources only to discover that there was shortage of blackberry plants due to the increased demand. We sought other sources and finally secured 10 acres of plants, but so much time had passed that most of the planting season was already gone.

Therefore, only four acres of plants were mature enough to harvest this year. Even in the face of this obstacle, we did much better than was expected. Our profits exceed the projected revenue for the four acres by 30%. God truly blessed our vines. God's blessings were especially apparent when a severe spring hailstorm destroyed the crops of the only other two blackberry growers in Henderson County but didn't touch ours. God's mercy was upon us!

One special advantage of growing blackberries in the mountains of North Carolina is that our crop is harvested later than that of the other Sunnyridge

growers. This means we receive a higher price for our berries because fewer berries are available when ours come to harvest. Recently, we have started working with Sunnyridge in an experiment to delay our crop even later. Hopefully this can be done using plant hormones that trick the plants into delaying flower formation. If this works we can expect an even later crop when prices are at their peak. This delayed-crop production would have, as an additional advantage, extra protection in the event of a late frost in the spring, which is a common occurrence in this region.

Along with these commercial 10 acres we have established a half-acre U-pick blackberry patch adjacent to the Fletcher Valley Farm greenhouses. Along with the U-pick blackberries, we have three varieties of red raspberries and a variety of black raspberry. Next spring we plan to increase this area to over a full acre, increasing the numbers of all the berry varieties as well as planting some boysenberries and loganberries. Please pray for our success and please keep Fletcher Academy in mind for your berry needs.

It should be noted that Fletcher Academy students have been involved in almost every aspect of the berry production. Currently nine students work for the school's agriculture department.



Fletcher Academy's Fleet

– by Bill Bass, FA Vice Principal of Student Services

In 2006, Fletcher Academy attempted to phase out our 1980 "Cheese Wagon" school bus by purchasing a 1990 Blue Bird bus. Before I could sell the "Cheese Wagon," our enrollment increased and we realized we had to keep the old vehicle in order to transport all of our students to events. At the same time, the Academy began making strides with our touring groups: band, drama, choir, and Acroknights. These groups increased the school's outreach by visiting more churches and schools. These combined factors made for some challenges and limitations when it came to transportation. This year, again attempting to replace the "Cheese Wagon," Fletcher Academy has purchased a 1989 MCI Coach to help us safely transport our students. With the help of the Century 100 Club and the Alumni Association, all of our busses have received a fresh paint job and have a professional, uniform look to them. Thanks to everyone who contributed.



Captain Gilmer Elementary School Update

– by Jeannie Larrabee, CGS Principal

Captain Gilmer is dedicated to defining excellence and standing above. Our number-one objective is for our students to have a personal relationship with Jesus. We strive for excellence in all of our endeavors, especially our academic achievements.

To achieve this goal, we hire some of the best in the business to serve as instructors in our classrooms. All of our staff have four year degrees, and 50% of our staff have a master's degree or higher. The staff is dedicated to reaching new standards in professional growth and is constantly



looking for new research to make our academic program even stronger. All this aside, it is their love for Christ that makes them top in their classrooms. I praise God for their dedication.

Each Spring at Captain Gilmer School students take the IOWA Test of Basic Skills (ITBS). The scores below reflect an average for students in Grades 1-8. We understand that test scores will not show all the talents that students possess. However, we use these scores to discover areas of focus for improvement and to celebrate areas of success and growth. We do not use these scores for grade promotion, but find them a valuable tool in the whole process of assessing students.

Our facility has had many upgrades as well. We have recently installed new carpet, repainted the inside of our building, repaved the parking lot, and upgraded the landscaping. We have upgraded Pearson Hall (gym) with exterior painting, new interior lights, heaters, and new doors. For grades 6, 7, and 8, we have added new lockers and new desks. We are conscious of keeping our textbooks up-to-date and we improve our technology each year.

Captain Gilmer School has been able to offer a variety of programs that continue to expand in many areas that interest the students. We offer many opportunities to the students in the area of music. CGS offers elementary band, choir, chimes and strings. Students can also take private lessons in violin, voice, piano and band instruments. We offer after-school intramural sports and an after-school gymnastics class. Local homeschoolers can join us for these events and other activities that we provide.

Our students have giving spirits and are willing to participate in many outreach activities. As a school, we participated in a Leukemia fund-raising program, multiple ADRA projects, and the Christmas Shoeboxes for other students around the world. Our students are learning to minister with their music and perform in churches, airports, and local retirement facilities. What a blessing they have been and continue to be.

We look forward to growth in our enrollment as we continue to offer a quality, Christ-centered program. We are looking into continuing our upgrades for our playgrounds and continuing to strengthen our language arts program.

We want to thank our community and supporters. We want to thank the faithful families and God for His goodness. May we always challenge our students to reach their personal best and discover God's purpose for their lives each and everyday!

To find out more about our program, visit us at www.captaingilmer.com.

Over the last three years, CGS has had a parent-approval rating of over 96%!



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Scholarships

At Alumni Weekend, Fletcher Academy, Inc. was pleased to present the 20 nominees for this year's scholarship awards, totaling \$12,810. Thank you to everyone who made these scholarships possible for our young people.

If you would like to establish a scholarship or endowment (self-

funded scholarship), please take action now. We request that scholarship funding for the 2009-2010 school year be in place by May 2008. To request information on establishing a scholarship or endowment, please contact Erin Teague at ETeague@FAincorp.org or 828-687-5125.

We thank you for taking an active role in blessing the young people of this institution.