



To seek, know, live, and proclaim the Truth.

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An Appeal from Southwest parents Scott and Susan Free

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Sacrifice, Provision and Blessing

When a committed group of believers joins in a Kingdom cause, three things are certain: there will be sacrifice, there will be provision, and there will be blessing. Throughout the Bible there are examples of God's people taking on seemingly impossible causes and projects for the Kingdom and the pattern plays out like clockwork: Noah building the ark, Moses and the Israelites building the Tabernacle, Jesus and the little boy feeding the 5,000 men plus their families, the early church taking care of business in the book of Acts. With every sacrificial contribution on the part of His people, God responds with provision and blessing. This pattern still plays out today and is playing out for our family as we continue to take on the Kingdom cause of giving our son a Christian education at Southwest Christian High School.

Our family has always valued Christian education. In his professional career, Scott has been both a development officer for a Christian college as well as an administrator for a Pre-school through 8th grade Christian school. We currently are fully funding two sons attending private Christian schools, one at the college level and one at Southwest. We know the level of commitment and sacrifice required, from the administration to the student level, to keep an institution healthy and operating at optimal levels.

The term 'sacrifice' has been cheapened in our time. We talk of it lightly and categorize lighter inconveniences as sacrifice when they are not. The biblical idea of sacrifice involves cost - giving the best first. It is a faith action and a heart issue. In most cases, something must die in order that something else might live, so when we say that it takes sacrifice to advance a kingdom cause, we do not use the term lightly. We also acknowledge that we see the term in its most literal sense playing out before us within the Southwest community every day.

For our family, the decision to come to Southwest was not made lightly. When Preston told us he was convinced that he was on the wrong track with his previous school and friends, and he believed Southwest was the answer to our prayers, it didn't just mean we would be out financially. We would have to initiate a cross-country move to make it happen. Within two weeks of the decision, we had put our home on the market, loaded up our car, and two of us moved into the basement of a friend until our home could sell. When counting the cost of funding two full tuitions at different private schools, we made the decision to downsize our home and use a portion of the proceeds as seed money, and the rest would be a giant leap of faith.

When we decided to enroll Preston at Southwest, we understood there were two separate financial commitments we were making: his tuition and our portion of the Annual Fund

contribution. We have never considered either commitment optional. We've had years where we didn't have any idea where the money would come from to meet our commitment. *Whether* we would contribute anything to the Annual Fund as well as *how much* was not our option to exercise, but *when* was (within the fiscal year), as well as *how* we came up with the funding. With each sacrifice made over these past 3 ½ years (for it was not a one-time sacrifice, made only with our initial decision to send him here), God faithfully provided both the provision and the blessing parts of the equation - *every single time*.

It is disheartening that historically approximately 2/3 of families at Southwest do not give to the Annual Fund. From a personal standpoint, we know from experience that there are abundant levels of provision and blessing not being experienced or accessed by these families. As a word of encouragement, 100% of the SW Board members have made a gift or pledge to this year's Annual Fund.

The Board has been faithful to set a budget that is frugal and reasonable. This year's goal for the Annual Fund is \$200,000. The Annual Fund, which runs through June 30, 2010, supports the academic programs at Southwest, as well as, faculty salaries and benefits, and facilities maintenance and upgrades. In addition, your tax deductible gift, no matter how large or small, supports families by keeping tuition as low as possible.

God has His hand of blessing on this school and He has all the resources available for us to access if we will step out in faith and ask for them. If He has called you to be a member of the Southwest community, there are responsibilities and roles only you can fulfill, and there are blessings only you can reap. He has already provided everything you need to fully participate in your commitment through every aspect of involvement: with your time, talents and money. Are you reaping without sacrifice?

Of all the biblical accounts of this process, there is one that stands out to us as applicable to what we are involved in at Southwest. In 2 Samuel, King David goes out to buy a hill on which he is commanded to build an altar of sacrifice to God. He is offered the hill for free, but his response speaks volumes of his attitude about participating sacrificially in the process. He states in 2 Sam. 24:24 "I will buy it for a price; for I will not offer to the Lord that which costs me nothing." Will you sacrificially adopt the same attitude with regards to your commitment to the Annual Fund? Our confidence is not in individual families to come up with the cash, but in God to release the resources that are His, and the resulting glory will be all His!

Please join us in prayerfully considering the place the Lord has for each of us in this year's Annual Fund. For your convenience, enclosed is a pledge card and return envelope.

Moving forward together in faith,

Scott Free Susan Free

Scott and Susan Free
Southwest Christian High School