

# HERITAGE CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

# IMPACT

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*At Heritage Christian Academy, our intent is to **impact** the lives of our students with an authentic Christian world view, so they in turn **impact** the lives of those around them for the cause of Christ. Below is one more example of the **HCA IMPACT** at work...*

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## Heritage Christian Academy Valedictorian Speech

May 30, 2008 - Jason Pacini

Let's have a round of applause for the first graduating class of Heritage Christian Academy. As we look back, it seems like only a month ago we were wide-eyed kindergarteners learning our ABC's by writing them in shaving cream on our desks. It seems like only a week ago we were worrying our supervisors as we wandered off on the 8th grade Washington DC trip. And it seems like only yesterday we were helping unload desks and chairs from the trucks to move into the new building.

Just as time always seems to fly, school always seemed to slowly walk. The end of the school day could never come quickly enough while I was growing up. In the end, however, these four years felt like a day and now that the end of this "day" of high school education has arrived, I realize how quickly it came and went, leaving only past memories, present friendships and what we have learned through our experiences. After all, life really is one long learning experience: Learning how the world works; what matters in life; and how relationships are built. But most importantly, learning to rely on God.

As time slips away, so do our opportunities to give up our struggles to the ultimate peacemaker. It's no secret the struggles this school has faced, such as changing buildings multiple times, even to the point of financial collapse. Dejection often reared its ugly head within both the students and the faculty. The light at the end of the tunnel had become engulfed within shadows of darkness.

But if there is one thing we graduates can learn from the experience, it is that reliance on God is the only way to align with His will. This school's peculiar fortitude demonstrates that God must have a purpose for this school, the faculty and its students. The Bible tells us that plan: to spread the gospel and honor God through a Christ-like worldview. This school has attempted to instill in its students that worldview because without it, where are we to turn? Learning to see the world for what it is, what it stands for and where it will go is essential to surviving in this irreverent society, and especially postmodern colleges.

With these colleges on the horizon and new opportunities at our fingertips, I urge this graduating class to forever use Heritage as an example of how to rely on God. Had those in charge not looked to Him for guidance through these years, none of us would be standing here today as graduates from Heritage Christian Academy.

2 Corinthians 1:9-10 says, "Indeed, in our hearts we felt the sentence of death. But this happened that we might not rely on ourselves but on God, who raises the dead. He has delivered us from such a deadly peril, and he will deliver us. On him we have set our hope that he will continue to deliver us." This verse perfectly describes the journey Heritage has taken. Likewise it describes the journey all of us will take at one point in our lives, whether in college or fifty years from now.

The following years will undoubtedly be some of the most memorable of our lives. It might even be some of the most difficult. But whatever the future holds for each of us, if we use God as our guide, he will deliver us. For some, deliverance might include returning to God after walking away. For others deliverance means giving up an addiction that has kept them from Him. But for this school, deliverance means a deepening of faith through the reassurance of God's promises. He delivered this school and we can be assured He will continue to as we rely on Him.

To the teachers we graduates thank you for helping us all these years. To the parents, we are unquestionably indebted for all your support and sacrifices. And lastly, to God we stand in awe with what you have done with this school, use it for your purpose, especially this graduating class of 2008.

***www.HeritageChristian.info***  
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*Nurturing environment. Critical thinking. Authentic faith.*

