Giving to Covenant

by Bill Davis ’82

ON MY SEVENTH BIRTHDAY, my father started giving me an allowance. He said that because I was doing chores, he would give me ten cents each week. He showed me ten pennies (a fortune!), and then set out two small bowls. Inside the first bowl he wrote “giving” and dropped in one penny. Inside the second bowl he wrote “savings,” and dropped another penny in. He put the remaining eight pennies in my hand and said, “Now that I’ve shown you how to do it, next week I will give you all ten pennies.” Every week after that, I would set aside two pennies just as my father had done, and then take the penny from the giving bowl to church.

Even though it has been over forty years since he showed me how to do it, I can still see the bowls, those first pennies, and my father’s hands. Since that first lesson, the hard part has not been deciding whether to give; it has been deciding where to give. The first priority has always been to give to the church where I am a member. But in addition to my church, sometimes I give to support ministries that are advancing the spread of the gospel, sometimes I give in order to encourage believers to persist in callings that the Lord has given them, and sometimes I give in order to express gratitude to people who ministered to me.

Covenant’s contribution to the spread of the gospel through the work of missionaries, pastors, and faithful church members has always been exciting. Covenant’s graduates are also busy serving their neighbors, usually in ways no one notices and without needing to be thanked. In part, their time at Covenant taught them both the importance of these efforts and the skills they need to carry them out. It is a pleasure to know that my gifts keep that happening.

Most of all, I give out of gratitude to the men and women at Covenant who invested their lives in me while I was a student. My debt to my professors is profound. They taught me how to think biblically, how to read critically but not skeptically, and how to construct an argument. Even more importantly, they showed me how to love the church, how to honor colleagues, and how to love God with my mind. I cannot imagine what kind of philosopher or man I would be without their example and encouragement. My professors are never far from my mind when I give to Covenant.

Despite my great debt to these professors, my gifts to Covenant have never been large. (My first gift as an alumnus in the early 1980s was more than a penny. But it wasn’t a lot more!) My father’s lesson to me on my seventh birthday had nothing to do with the size of the gift. It was about the privilege and joy of being able to give at all. Being able to see what God is doing and will do with my gifts to Covenant makes it easier to understand the importance of giving and to see what a privilege it is to play a small part. Knowing that my gifts encourage and honor those working at Covenant increases the joy of giving more than I can begin to explain.
“Giving to the College means we can support the mission of a place that was so meaningful to us and make it possible for the next generation of students to have the kind of experience we had at Covenant.”  
Jessica Anderson ‘11

“I knew that I wanted to give to others in the same ways so many had given to me.”  
Julie Moore ‘01

“As a professor at Covenant, I count it a blessing to be able to give back to the college by helping to educate the students of this generation and hopefully to pass on that love of learning that I acquired while I was a student here.”  
Dr. Don Petcher ‘75

“The generous donations of others made it possible for me to attend Covenant and receive a Christ-centered education that has thoroughly prepared me for teaching and coaching. Now it is my turn to start giving back and help future generations of Covenant students.”  
Laurel Hoffman ‘11

“Everything we have belongs to God. So why do we think we can just keep everything for ourselves?”  
Isaiah Smallman ‘11

“During my time at Covenant, I came to see, taste and better understand The Father’s overwhelming generosity, especially in the gift of His Son, and I want to express my gratitude in acts of giving back to the college through prayer and financial support.”  
Matt Trexler ‘11
“I believe in the work of the College, equipping young adults to integrate Christ into all aspects of life. Because of this I want to continue to give back to Covenant in whatever ways I can, walking beside the mission of the college.”

Jessica Chen ’11

“Benefit demands sacrifice. Stewardship means giving, even if it’s a little bit. $5 a month. I’m not kidding, guys. Do it.”

Drew Belz ’10

“Giving to Covenant is a way I can support, and participate in, its work to help students take up a life-long practice of resurrection”

Christian Man ’07

“I have little to give, I know that what I give to Covenant will be part of a ripple effect that spreads out and touches millions. It seems like a good idea.”

Hannah Vanbiber ’11

“Being a Covenant Alumnus connects you not only to amazing people who have brought Covenant to where it is now but also to future students who will be so essential in furthering God’s Kingdom. Knowing that we can contribute in both word and deed to this mission is a blessing from God.”

Josh and Liz Johnson ’11

“Though I have little to give, I know that what I give to Covenant will be part of a ripple effect that spreads out and touches millions. It seems like a good idea.”

Hannah Vanbiber ’11

“Having benefitted from scholarships and the annual fund during my time on the mountain, it seems right and fitting to give back to Covenant through prayer and giving with the mindset of supporting a place that means a great deal to me.”

Will Dyer ’11

“There is a special weight to being a Covenant alumnus that goes beyond nostalgia or cheering for the sports teams. When you graduate you aren’t just sent out with a diploma and good memories—you are sent out with a mission to further the kingdom. I don’t just see Covenant as my alma mater; I see the school as a critical partner in that mission.”

Kate Harrison ’11
STUDENTS ——— BECOME ——— ALUMNI

PRAY
MISSION
STUDENTS
STUDENTS
ALUMNI
ALUMNI
FACULTY & STAFF
FACULTY & STAFF
DONORS & RESOURCES
DONORS & RESOURCES

GIVE
COVENANT FUND
ATHLETICS
MAINTENANCE
SCHOLARSHIPS
SCHOLARSHIPS
FACULTY & STAFF SALARIES
FACULTY & STAFF SALARIES
ENDOWMENT
ENDOWMENT
SCHOLARSHIPS
SCHOLARSHIPS
ACADEMIC & CO-CURRICULAR PROGRAMS
ACADEMIC & CO-CURRICULAR PROGRAMS
CAPITAL PROJECTS
CAPITAL PROJECTS
NEW BUILDINGS
NEW BUILDINGS
RENOVATIONS
RENOVATIONS
CAMPUS CONSTRUCTIONS & IMPROVEMENTS
CAMPUS CONSTRUCTIONS & IMPROVEMENTS

VOLUNTEER
CENTER FOR CALLING & CAREER
MENTOR STUDENTS
MENTOR STUDENTS
NETWORK WITH STUDENTS & ALUMNI
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OFFER INTERNSHIPS & JOBS TO STUDENTS & ALUMNI
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HOST RECEPTIONS FOR PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS
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