

A SPECIAL MESSAGE FROM
cary christian center
BOARD PRESIDENT JERRY VOGEL

July 2011

[name]
[address 1]
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[city, ST zip]

Dear friends,

Even as I'm writing this, I can hardly believe it. In fact, I struggle to bring myself to put the words down on paper. But they must be said. You need to know. And you need to hear it from me:

Cary Christian Center is in danger of closing its doors forever.

I think the reason this is so hard to believe, is that there is not any one, single event that has brought us to this point. But a deadly combination of smaller events is taking its toll:

- We began this year with a computer server crash that destroyed eight years of records. Dorsey and his staff worked long hours, trying to reconstruct and re-input data. But many of our contacts were lost, and as a result we haven't been able to communicate with all of you like we normally would.
- More recently, the flooding along the Mississippi River forced us to close down for three weeks. The waters did not actually reach the Center, but we still had to pack up, shut down, and move out. So not only did cash flow stop for three weeks, but we also incurred significant expenses. For example, the cost of packing, moving, and storing the equipment from our dentist office alone cost \$3,000!
- And of course the economy still has a choke hold on many of our faithful donors. People who were able to give \$100/month last year are able to give only \$15 or \$25 this year. I feel their pain, and I appreciate their sacrifice!
- And now we're heading into summer, which is typically a long, dry season in terms of giving. Churches know this, and ministries know it too. People are traveling or out of sync with their regular routines, and donations dry up for a while.

So we've been falling behind, gradually, steadily, and I just don't know what God has in mind for us.

Do you?

**Honestly, I find it hard to believe that God would want
Cary Christian Center to close its doors!**

* Even now, as I'm writing this, I'm thinking about the dozens of young men who have been taught job skills at the Center—and who are now providing for their families...

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- * I'm thinking of the hundreds of children who have received tutoring throughout the summer months—so they could begin a new school year with confidence...
- * I'm picturing all the new mothers who found hope, and love, and forgiveness through our Parent-Child ministry—and who are giving their babies a chance at a better life...
- * And what about the poor of Cary and surrounding towns—people who came to us for food, medicine, dental care, prayer, someone to believe in them?

You've read about many of these people in Dorsey's letters each month. Remember Starlencia? And Walter? And Rebecca? What about Aamiracle, and Tyquez? Snoopy. Ledora. Ken Davis. Lola James. These are all real people!

People you've helped. People who are helping others now.

What if Cary Christian Center hadn't been there for them? Starlencia might be on drugs. Tyquez might have died as an infant. Snoopy would probably be running a gang now.

But God used **you** to make a difference.

And He still needs you! Cary is largely poor and hopeless.

And Cary Christian Center is the only ray of hope.

(I can't believe God would allow that to be snuffed out.)

Like many of you, I have a long history with Cary Christian Center. It was 1987 when I made my first donation. Three years later I made my first trip, driving a truck full of goods to the Cary Thrift Store. So for more than 20 years I have been driving a 22-hour, 1275-mile trip to share hope with the people of Cary. I fell in love with the ministry, with the people, with the idea that I could do something to make a real difference.

My involvement grew, and today I serve as president of Cary Christian Center's Board. I still drive truckloads of donated goods, but now I time my trips to coincide with board meetings!

I love this ministry.

I don't want to see it end.

Do *you*?

GIDEON'S FLEECE—

My friends, this letter is a fleece I'm putting out. Like Gideon, I need some kind of confirmation from God about what He has in mind for Cary Christian Center.

(I'm hoping it comes back soaked, even though the area around us is dry.)

That's really the purpose of this letter. I'm not trying to coerce you, or manipulate your

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emotions, or make you feel guilty. I just want to let you know how things are going here in Cary, Mississippi.

I know you've given sacrificially in the past.

And I'm asking you to pray about doing that again.

You see, your response to this letter will determine the future of this ministry.

If the money doesn't come in, quite frankly, we will be forced to shut the doors. It might start slowly—ending a program or two (*but which ones?*), or encouraging staff to look elsewhere for work (*although even now some of them have gone without paychecks—that's the level of sacrifice they're willing to make!*).

But I hope it doesn't come to that. Friends, I am praying that your response will be swift and decisive!

Will you pray with me?

And will you give?

I understand if you can't—not everybody can, and there's no shame in that.

But I know many of you can—you've given in the past. You've met needs. You've changed lives.

Will you do it again?

Today?

Sincerely,

Jerry Vogel

Jerry Vogel

Board President

Let me add my thanks to Jerry's. You have been faithful! But we need you now more than ever before. If you have questions about our current situation or our ministry in general, please call me! I want to give you all the information you need in order to discern God's will for your giving. I want you to know that we are totally trusting and looking to God to do this

Dorsey