



VCHS Awarded National Honor

Dr. Clifford Daugherty, President and Superintendent of Valley Christian Schools announced at an all school spiritual retreat on Monday, September 20th that the U.S. Department of Education had awarded the “No Child Left Behind” Blue Ribbon School status to Valley Christian High School. Word came from Dr. Mary Jane Pearson of the U.S. Department of Education, on Friday, September 17.

Valley Christian High School stands alone as the only private high school in California to receive the prestigious Blue Ribbon Award this year and is among only four private high schools in the entire nation to earn the honored distinction.

Including public schools, Valley Christian High School is one of 39 high schools in the entire nation to achieve Blue Ribbon status.

To make application for Blue Ribbon status, Valley Christian High School was required to show evidence that student scholastic achievement scores are among the top ten percent in the nation. Math and reading scores of the nationally administered Stanford Achievement Test were submitted for review.

Valley Christian Schools continues the Quest for Excellence in full view of the theme, “And whatever you do, do it heartily, as unto the Lord . . .” Col. 3:23

After Dr. Daugherty’s announcement, Valley Christian Schools’ Board Vice Chair, and chair of the Board Academic Committee, Mr. Michael Ainslie, delivered the following comments to all school administration, faculty and staff:

September 20, 2004

***U.S. Department of Education
2004 No Child Left Behind –
Blue Ribbon Schools Program Award***

It is my distinct honor and pleasure to be with you this morning to personally extend my congratulations to you all for this superb achievement. The Board is so proud of you!

The US Department of Education has chosen to bestow upon this fine institution the honor of being a 2004 recipient of the No Child Left Behind – Blue Ribbon School award. Few schools qualify to be considered for, let alone win, this honor. In the final analysis , this is an honor, which is all about you, the teachers and the administrators, who work tirelessly to make this school what it is and what it has become. I hope that for at least a

moment, you can pause and bask in the glow of this great achievement in a very personal way. Understand that it's the individual effort that you have given to your school, to your students and their families that make our school deserving of such a distinguished award.

One of the odd things about us folks who are called by the name Christian is that we are motivated by an audience of ONE. Our goal is to see Jesus honored and exalted in everything we do. When the occasional applause of man comes our way, we are careful to do a few things to make sure we don't lose our perspective. First, we pause and thank God and we thank man for the encouraging feedback. Second, we remind ourselves that it is by and for Jesus, our Commander in Chief, that we are called to serve regardless of whether we receive the applause of men. And finally, we ask the Lord to show us how we can use this tribute to better achieve our eternal mission.

In the end, it all comes back to simply being a good steward of the favor our government has shown toward our school.

I especially like the name of this award, the No Child Left Behind - Blue Ribbon School award. Blue is the color of the sky and sea. It is often associated with depth and stability. It symbolizes trust, loyalty, wisdom, confidence, intelligence, faith, truth, and heaven.

I also like the fact that this is called the No Child Left Behind award. To me, this award serves as a reminder of the individual and collective passion and determination of our faculty and administration to do everything they can in and through the medium of education to ensure that no child is left behind in terms of eternity. So let us draw upon this award as a reminder of the very reason this school was founded over forty years ago; the very reason we choose to serve the Lord at this school; that is to fulfill the great commission through education so that no child is left behind when, as the old hymn says, the "roll is called up yonder".

We are reminded in 2 Peter 3:9 that "The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance."

Again, my congratulations to all of you and may God richly bless you as you continue in His service at Valley Christian Schools.

Michael Ainslie
Vice Chair, VCS Board
Chair of VCS Board Academic Committee

Following Mr. Ainslie's comments, the Spiritual Retreat audience was addressed by Jonathan Burton. Mr. Burton is the Senior counselor and a member of the High School Administrative Team. Excerpts from his remarks follow.

While I am very excited about this significant academic recognition, I am particularly excited that we are able to announce it at this spiritual retreat. At first glance, an academic honor may not seem very spiritual, but I am reminded of Luke 2:52, which

refers to Jesus' development through his teenage and young adult years: "And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men." In God's view, spiritual development without concurrent intellectual, physical and social development leads to an unbalanced lifestyle. For people to have the greatest opportunity to make an impact for God's kingdom and to bring glory to our Heavenly Father, they need to demonstrate maturity in all areas of their lives. It is good for us to have excellent academic programs. It is good that we have tremendous athletic programs and one of the finest music programs around. It is good for us to strive for excellence in all our programs. And, it is certainly good for us to challenge our students to grow in their walk with Christ. But, for us to do well, we must excel in all these areas. So, as we take these few minutes to celebrate our academic success, I also look forward to this day of spiritual challenge and renewal, as we all move forward in our God-appointed task of fully training young people to glorify God and make an impact for His Kingdom.

Jonathan Burton
Senior Counselor, High School Administrative Team