



Larry and Rhonwyn Kendrick

Dr. Larry Kendrick - 22 years of Leadership at CCA

Dr. Larry F. Kendrick is Cumberland Christian Academy's founding headmaster. He holds undergraduate and graduate degrees in education from the University of Georgia and Mercer, as well as a doctorate in divinity from Liberty University. He and his wife Rhonwyn are longtime members of Roswell Street Baptist Church.

More importantly, Dr. Kendrick is a man whom God has used to make a worldwide difference through his personal ministry, through his family, and through his school and its students. His discipleship as a father and Rhonwyn's prayers as a mother have resulted in sons who are changing the world. His personal ministry has touched many, and his dedication to "unashamedly, unapologetically" Christian education has provided an environment for training many hundreds of young people to know and serve Christ.

"Faith is the confidence that what we hope for will actually happen; it gives us assurance about things we cannot see." (Hebrews 11:1) This is such a simple concept—believe that God is God and that he can deliver in accordance with his will. Dr. Kendrick saw a need for a Christian school and believed God could meet it. God not only met the need, he created a new community of faith with Dr. Kendrick as its leader. This community endures and thrives 22 years later as a testimony to Christ and the man he used, whose deeds testify to God's greatness.

From the mid '80s to the spring of 1989, Dr. Kendrick was the administrator of Smyrna Christian Academy (SCA), a school of about 300 students in grades K through 12. In April of that year the church that owned SCA decided to close the school at the end of May. Dr. Kendrick organized a meeting of the staff and parents to seek God's direction. After much discussion and prayer, Dr. Kendrick led the group to explore the possibility of forming an independent Christian school. Larry believes that God gave him Revelation 3:8 as a key verse to stand on during this time, *"I know your deeds. See, I have placed before you an open door that no one can shut. I know that you have little strength, yet you have kept my word and have not denied my name."* With no books, no school furniture, no place to meet and no money, Dr. Kendrick led the way, and in a step of faith Cumberland Christian Academy was established. Larry encouraged the small group of founding parents and staff to trust the Lord and to pray for his provision. One week before school was scheduled to start, the church agreed to rent the needed space along with books and equipment to CCA; God provided!

Dr. Kendrick then led our parents and staff in asking the Lord for a more permanent location. In the spring of 1990, Austell Road Baptist Church offered to rent its entire church facility to CCA at a very reasonable rate. The church also gave the school permission to expand and totally renovate the Sunday school rooms as well as build office space and additional classrooms. Larry organized and led an all volunteer workforce to work throughout the summer to complete the renovation in time for school to start in the fall.

Over the next several years, as Dr. Kendrick led in CCA's growth, he met and prayed with local church leaders to provide needed classroom facilities. At one point the school had campuses at five different churches. In 1997, Dr. Kendrick led the charge to build our own building at Westside Baptist Church. Later, CCA bought and renovated the facility on Clay Road. From the first year with fewer than 100 students and a graduating class of ten, CCA's enrollment has grown, with hundreds of graduates who are making a difference for Christ.

Through the years Dr. Kendrick has been a good steward of the personnel and finances that God has provided. The many long-time staff members at Cumberland attest to the fact that he has guided and treasured his teachers and staff, giving them both respect and counsel. He also leaves Cumberland a legacy of fiscal stability and prudence. Under his leadership, CCA has operated "in the black" for 22 years. It was been said that the real measure of a leader is how he leaves an organization. As he retires, Dr. Kendrick leaves behind a school with a balanced budget, a new headmaster that he has helped to train, a growing school community, and most importantly, a legacy of faith.