
[TEST] KEY - Great Lakes Christian College

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**The
President's
Pen**

A Servant and a Debtor

- President Larry Carter

In my last Trustee's Meeting, I was able to share some final thoughts in the devotional time we have at the beginning of each session. As this is my last article for The Key, I felt some of those thoughts would be appropriate here. Even though they were directed toward the Trustees, I believe that they are applicable to all of you who have walked in faith by our side.

"My favorite definition of leadership is one from Max DePree. He writes, 'The first responsibility of a leader is to define reality, the last is to say thank you. In between the two he must be a servant and a debtor.'



I want to start with the last thing – thank you. Thank you for the privilege of allowing me to serve as President of Great Lakes Christian College. Thank you for your belief in me and for the support, counsel, and encouragement you have given me for the last 23 years. Thank you for believing in the ministry of our college. Your involvement has been invaluable. I must also thank all those who have worked beside me. There are many that should be named but people like Greg Linton, Mark Christian, Phil Beavers, Greg Stauffer, and Marie Riggs, immediately come to mind. They have been difference-makers.

I have tried to lead with a servant's heart. I wanted to live out the mission of our college; to be a servant leader. And I served knowing I owe a debt to the future. Things haven't turned out as I imagined back in 1999. I envisioned a school much larger than the one we have now and in a healthier financial condition. But I am glad and grateful that we are still here fulfilling our God-given mission, no matter the difference in what I envisioned and what is reality.

Which leads me to the first responsibility of a leader – to define reality. Defining reality is an essential part of leadership. But because we are a faith-based organization I spent more time trying to 'divine' reality than define it. Normally, to divine means to know by inspiration, intuition, or reflection. It also means 'to guess'. I must admit I spent a lot of time in all those pursuits. But the basis of my 'divine' reality is my faith in the Divine Power. I have felt God's leading from the first day in office. His hand has been on our college. I have felt His presence. Ultimately my faith was not in data analysis and the undeniable unrelenting burden of balancing the budget, it was in the presence and power of God. We are here because God wills it. That is Divine Reality. Praise be to Him who is in all, through all, and above all."

It has been a blessing to be the President of Great Lakes Christian College. The work we do for the Restoration Movement and for the Kingdom-at-large is eternally important. We are preparing the next generation of servant leaders. I am glad to say that there seems to be a growing awareness of the need for our Bible Colleges in our churches, even our mega-churches. What we do and how we do it cannot be replicated in churches or in Christian liberal arts colleges. The Restoration Movement needs us.

I am so proud of our college and that my name will be written in its history. I close my presidency with a grateful heart and the knowledge that GLCC is in good hands. Frank Weller is the right person at the right time to become the 10th President of Great Lakes Christian College. Better days are ahead.

GLCC Commencement - 37 Graduated on May 14

We continue to see our mission fulfilled through the graduates that walk the stage and receive their diploma. Servant-leaders are trained and deployed.



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