



A Warrior Interview with Dr. Arnold*

Warrior: What Scripture is God using to direct your thoughts this spring?

Dr. Arnold: The biggest driver has been the goal of our instruction -completeness, "*attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.*" (Eph. 4:13) I'm also focused on the centrality of Christ in everything we do, "*.so that in everything He might have the supremacy.*" (Col 1:18) Though indebted to the legacy of our first 30 years, we are witnessing a renewal of our purpose as a college preparatory school anchored in Jesus Christ. My prayer is that we remember that we grow *only "as God causes [us] to grow."* (Col 2:19) Ultimately, it's all about creating opportunities for our families to flourish as people of the King, Jesus Christ. "*And all Thy children shall be taught of the Lord and great shall be the peace [flourishing] of Thy children.*" (Is 54:13)

So, it is my aim and prayer that:

- . Christ always has supremacy at Little Rock Christian Academy.
- . Jesus Christ is the ultimate Head of School.
- . Christ holds our school in trust as we hold Him in trust.
- . We grow as Christ would have us grow.
- . Our children experience **biblical peace, a flourishing of the soul.**

Warrior: In a school of this size, what helps you keep your focus?

Dr. Arnold: I am blessed by the wisdom of a strong board and a rigorous strategic plan. The challenge comes every day to discern first things. I must ask myself the question, "What will make LRCA pulsate with Kingdom energy as a school?" Five things immediately come to mind:

- Children
- Curriculum
- Culture / Climate
- Communication
- Capital stewardship

Warrior: Those are pretty broad categories. Would you like to comment on what you'd like to see in each category?

Dr. Arnold: I like to play with mental models, simple pictures of the bigger picture. The illustration below helps me keep my eyes on the prize and my hands to the plough as we work the fields of LRCA.



Warrior: Any changes in the wind for next year?

Dr. Arnold: If you know me, you know I like change. After months of multiple conversations with multiple stakeholders, we are on the brink of **a major initiative to improve the academic space for learning for all ages.** I pray that we'll see a big difference by 2009.

In addition to that, **we are making healthy strides** in our effort to serve whole families with learner differences, expand our college guidance program and coordinate our co-curricular programs.

There's more! I have a team of eight LRCA educators crafting a dynamic set of 12-15 markers that inform our stakeholders and the public of what we expect of our professional educators. We call it *The Excellence Project*. **"How do we know if we are teaching excellently?" By defining it in Christ-honoring, child-affirming and educationally challenging ways.** I look forward to 2008-09 when our LRCA standards of professional excellence propel us to a higher level of loving and learning.

Warrior: Somebody said you have a blog that talks about why we do what we do at Little Rock Christian Academy. Is that true?

Dr. Arnold: Yes, it's called the **Warrior Roundtable**, http://thetable.typepad.com/the_table/. I invite you to check it out.

Warrior: When you envision a LRCA graduate, what do you want to see?

Dr. Arnold: Covey told us years ago, it is wise to "**begin with the end in mind.**" The portrait below was generated from over 750 descriptor inputs submitted to me from various stakeholders. LRCA stakeholders, it appears, are looking for a LRCA graduate to:

- ✓ Love and follow Christ.
- ✓ Be equipped to thrive in a college of choice.
- ✓ Maintain an appetite for learning.
- ✓ Be able to engage our post-modern society.
- ✓ Be disciplined for the responsibilities of life.
- ✓ Think wisely.
- ✓ Be grounded in biblical truth.
- ✓ Serve others with gladness and love.
- ✓ Be prepared to pursue a God-directed vocation.

Warrior: Dr. Arnold, can you recite the LRCA mission?

Dr. Arnold: . to serve families, churches and community in providing a K-12 education characterized by excellence in pursuit of truth from a biblical worldview. But it doesn't end there. Our board has committed to two **strategic goals** to accompany the mission, namely:

1. LRCA seeks to be a pre-eminent K⁴-12 academic institution that offers an excellent college-preparatory curriculum while serving the greatest portion of the body of Christ reasonably possible within our community.
2. LRCA, above all else, must uncompromisingly teach and model the truth of the person of Christ.

Dr. Arnold: Amen?

Warrior: Amen!

Warrior: We hear you like to sail.

Dr. Arnold: Well, I'm a little out of practice but it's a great sport.

Warrior: Why do you like it?

Dr. Arnold: It takes away distractions and gives you time to think, pray, plot a course, use your hands and sense the vastness of God. With a good boat, a full sail in the steady breeze and the right equipment, it makes for a great day.

Warrior: Any advice for the novice sailor?

Dr. Arnold: These days I feel a bit like a novice boatsman. But, I'd say - keep the sail full, your eyes on a mark, and your hand on the tiller. Slice into the wind at 45 degrees. Trust the keel and the rudder. Watch out for the boom. Enjoy yourself.

Warrior: Do you have a favorite song these days?

Dr. Arnold: My musical tastes are all over the map but one song in particular comes up on my iPod quite a bit these days - "God of This City" by Chris Tomlin. "There is no one like our God. Greater things have yet to come. Greater things are still to be done." Listen to it and thank God you're a part of Little Rock Christian.

Warrior: Thanks, Dr. Arnold.

Dr. Arnold: You're welcome and GO WARRIORS!

***Full Disclosure:** the above interview with Dr. Arnold was conducted by Dr. Arnold. He is happy to elaborate or address other questions. Dr. Arnold may be contacted via email at gary.arnold@littlerockchristian.com

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