Allan and Hermena VandenBerg: A Legacy of Christian Education

Some legacies are measured in buildings, programs, or financial gifts. The legacy of Allan and Hermena VandenBerg is measured in something far more significant: generations of children who have been shaped by a Christ-centered education.

Long before they arrived in Borculo, Allan and Hermena understood the value of Christian education because they had experienced it themselves. Both attended Christian schools and believed deeply that education should help children grow not only in knowledge, but also in their understanding of God's world and their relationship with Jesus Christ.

That conviction would eventually shape one of the most important decisions of their lives.

In 1982, Allan and Hermena moved their family to Borculo. They were not simply looking for a new house or a new job. They were searching for a community where church, family, and Christian education worked together to nurture faith in the lives of their children. They believed that Christian education was worth sacrificing for, and they wanted their four children—Jalene, Marijo, Dale, and Beth—to be surrounded by people who shared that same commitment.

Like many Christian school families, their decision required sacrifice.

Vacations were often limited to visiting family. New vehicles were not a priority. Allan maintained older vehicles himself and often completed repairs in his own garage. Family resources were directed toward Christian education because they believed the eternal value of shaping a child's heart and mind far outweighed many of the temporary comforts of life.

Their hope was simple: that their children would know Jesus Christ, remain grounded in God's Word, and carry that faith into adulthood.

Today, all four children continue to reflect the Christian foundation that Allan and Hermena worked so intentionally to build.

While raising their family, Allan and Hermena became deeply involved in the life of Borculo Christian School.

Hermena devoted much of her life to Christian education. She taught in Christian schools, helped introduce computer education, led 4-H activities, and eventually became a librarian at Borculo Christian School.

Allan's influence took a different but equally important path.

In the mid-1980s, Borculo Christian School faced many of the challenges common to small Christian schools. Enrollment was smaller. Finances were tight. The future often required faith.

During those years, Allan became one of the founding members of the Borculo Christian School Foundation Steering Committee. The idea was simple but ambitious: create a permanent source of support that would strengthen Christian education for future generations. At the time, not everyone understood the vision. Many wondered why funds should be invested for the future when immediate needs existed in the present. The school needed support now. Why save for tomorrow?

Yet Allan and the other founding leaders believed Christian education required both present faithfulness and long-term stewardship. They trusted that God would use a foundation to bless students and families long after their own years of service had ended.

What began as a dream officially became reality in 1989.

Over the decades, Allan faithfully served the Foundation, only taking a three-year break to serve at his church. He witnessed its growth, one gift at a time. Although the progress was often slow and required patience, the vision remained constant. Today, the Borculo Christian School Foundation has grown to more than $1 million in assets and provides annual financial support that makes Christian education more accessible for families. What once seemed like a distant dream has become one of the school's greatest blessings.

For Allan and Hermena, however, the true success was never measured in dollars. Their deep hope was that children would come to know Jesus Christ and that families would continue to have access to a quality Christ-centered education. They believed Christian education was one of the most powerful tools God uses to shape hearts, minds, and lives for His Kingdom.

The Bible passage that guided their marriage and their service comes from Proverbs 3:5-6:

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.”

That trust led them to Christian schools as students, guided them to Borculo as parents, sustained them through years of service, and inspired a vision that continues to bless families today.

The story of Allan and Hermena VandenBerg is ultimately not about a scholarship, a foundation, or even a school.

It is the story of two people who loved Christian education enough to sacrifice for it, serve it, and invest in it so that future generations might know Christ and faithfully serve Him.

The Allan and Hermena VandenBerg Tuition Grant honors a lifetime of faithful service, sacrifice, and commitment to Christian education. Through this grant, their passion for helping families access a quality Christ-centered education will continue to bless Borculo Christian School students for generations to come.