

# Life Legacy Award



“A Christian leader is someone who guides and stands for the right though the wrong may be popular. It is someone who is sincerely seeking holiness of heart and purity of life. Their religion is not merely an influence among others, but an influence dominating all others.” (*Fountain Reveries*, 1979) **Ray Cornforth** was that kind of teacher.

Mr. Cornforth, along with his wife Evelyn, his shaggy dog Libby, and their 3-month-old son Jeremy, arrived at GCA in the summer of 1975. He was given the daunting assignment of being the '79 class sponsor.

Everyone could see he had ideals, visions, and hopes for his students beyond the pursuit of academic excellence. He wanted to inspire students to seek a personal relationship with Jesus. When Mr. Cornforth talked, prayed, sang, or played the piano, you saw his love for the Lord was real. He was very open about his trust and love for the Lord and that is something that many remember about him to this day.

Reflecting back, Sharon (McClellan) Honeycutt, '79 said, “We were pretty hard on him the first few years! We were a group of youngsters more interested in teasing him (mercilessly at times), than appreciating the value of what he had to share with us. Even when kids made fun of him, he still cared about them. One time he noticed that a student who had played several tricks on him was without someone to wash his feet at communion. Mr. Cornforth asked if he could wash that student's feet. His actions demonstrated that he honestly cared.”

More than once, when a student got into trouble due to a poor decision, Mr. Cornforth spoke out strongly in support of NOT suspending them, instead arguing that they should be forgiven. He even took one student into his home to finish the school year so the student could remain at GCA. Mr. Cornforth was a living example of the beauty and grace of true Christianity that shone like a beacon throughout his time at GCA.

Mr. Cornforth taught Bible classes at GCA until 1980. He continued to serve the Lord at Little Creek Academy, Oklahoma Academy, and Country Haven Academy in Pasco, Washington. He was the principal at Country Haven when he was killed on December 7, 1996, in a bus accident while driving the student body back to campus from a choir trip. Today, Mrs. Cornforth lives in Lincoln, NE, where she has served the Union office as an accountant for the past 15 years. Their son Jeremy works for the State Department and currently lives in China. Their youngest son, Matthew, is a family physician working in Summerville, GA, who also teaches in the Family Medicine Residency Program in Rome, GA.