



Left: A recent meeting with author and trainer, Kjell Fenn, and Clint Holden, CEO of SchoolRIGHT, LLC.

# RIPE *for Harvest* WORLD OUTREACH

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## October/November 2023 Ministry Update

Hello, Friends and family!

God continues to open new and expanded doors of ministry opportunity. One that I am excited to be a part of is in partnership with author and education consultant Kjell Fenn and the CEO of SchoolRIGHT, LLC, a school data company that services Christian schools worldwide. Above is a selfie from a recent meeting on the campus of Houghton University with these gentlemen.

### MEETING THE NEEDS OF SMALL CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS...

Since 2009, I've held a leadership role in four schools, all of which would be categorized as "large" schools. However, **the national average private school enrollment in the USA (including Christian and non) is just 174 students**. At Houghton Academy, we have 85 students (as of this week, with more joining us in January). Historically the Academy has averaged 145 students. It is the smallest school I've worked with—and it has made me aware of the significant needs and unique challenges small schools face. Most school support organizations and companies target and serve large schools. Thus, **there is a significant need for resources and services to be developed that meet the unique needs and limitations of small schools**. This was the focus of the meeting with Kjell and Clint. In collaboration with Houghton University, we are exploring meaningful, practical, and yet strategic ways to come alongside small Christian schools to help ensure their success and greater mission fulfillment. Your prayers and support for these ongoing efforts are appreciated.



### THE PASSING OF THE SHOVEL...

This past weekend, as part of the 140<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Convocation for Houghton Academy, Seth Pullen, Chairman of the Board of Trustees, presented me with the Academy's ground-breaking shovel as part of my official induction as the Head of School. The shovel bears a ribbon from every graduating class since it was first implemented in 1958.

Also pictured are Wayne D. Lewis, Jr., President of Houghton University, who delivered the keynote address, and Philip G. Stockin, Head of School Emeritus. I am **honored and humbled to lead one of the oldest continually operating Christian schools in the world**.

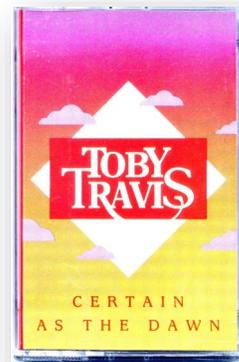
### MINISTRY FROM THE PAST CONTINUES...

For those who have been tracking my ministry for a few decades, you may recall that for a season, I had a small part of the then-budding Contemporary Christian Music world when the album **"Certain As The Dawn"** was released in LP and cassette form (1985). The music from that project lived on in significant ways in the countries of India and Sri Lanka long after the album had been released and forgotten in the USA. The distribution rights to the album were given to what was then South Asia Campus Crusade for Christ (i.e., Cru). They used the music from the album in many ways, and it was played over Christian radio stations for several years. All that to share that I recently received the following email:

"Hello, Dr. Travis. My name is Nova, and I'm writing this to you hoping you are the person that I am looking for. Years and years ago, I used to listen to an album called Certain as the Dawn by Toby Travis on our cassette player. Me and my brother loved it so much that years later, we tried to find a digital copy of that album. I'm originally from India, and that was the first English Christian album I've ever listened to. It's been decades since I've listened to it, but some tunes are still stuck in my head. I'm hoping you are the artist who made that album and also hoping to buy a copy of the album if possible. Sorry to waste your time if you are not the Toby Travis I am looking for. Have a wonderful day."

I was delighted to receive Nova's note, and I shared with her a link to download all of the digital tracks from the album and encouraged her to share them freely with others. If you would like the link as well, just send me an email.

As always, thank you for your support, friendship, and prayers! - Toby (for Tannia & Emma too!)





Enclosed is my gift of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ designated for the ministry of *Toby & Tannia Travis #20245*.

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