

Good News

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School is Christ centered

By RENEE WALSER

The kindergarten children are intent on a film when "Preacher Doug" walks into class for a moment. He goes over to hug some of the students in the center of the room. They respond with fondness and "Hi, Preacher Doug." But soon return their attention in a well-behaved manner to the screen in the front.

Walking through the halls of Cramerton Christian Academy in Cramerton, the first thing you notice is the quiet. It's not the kind of quiet that comes with a strict, no-talking atmosphere. For there are children in the classrooms in groups talking and interacting with each other and teachers. The students somehow know they don't need to be loud and rambunctious to communicate and learn.

"It's a structured kind of school," said Rev. Doug King, pastor of the academy's parent church, Free Will Baptist Church.

The school was begun 15 years ago by King's father, the Rev. Bob King, who was pastor of the church at that time.

"He felt led to have Christian education available," said his son. "He was a firm believer in good education and a Christian education."

Bob King died in 1989 and his son, Doug, was elected pastor.

"We have a Christ-cen-

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tered education," said Doug. "We try to center everything around Christ. It's not just an expensive sideline study. We believe it's every part of your life. Everything you do should be Christ-centered."

King said the school carries high standards for students. They have rules governing conduct and the way the students dress, for instance.

The girls wear dresses; the boys wear dress pants and collared shirts. And there are hair codes for boys.

"Our quality education is the biggest draw," King said.

The curriculum is strong in reading, he said. The five year olds in kindergarten for the most part can read before they go on to first grade, he said.

"We've maintained strong enrollment," King said.

The school has almost 500 students from kindergarten through 12th grade. There is a waiting list for enrollment.



Kindergarteners at Cramerton Christian Academy watch a film.

Students are transported by parents from all over the area -- as far away as Kings Mountain, daily.

Tuition costs begin around \$1,000 to \$1,600 a year.

Any denomination is accepted.

This coming year will see the first class that has gone all the way through from kindergarten to 12th grade graduate.

The school has an 80 percent rate of students go-

ing on to colleges.

"We prefer them to go to Christian colleges," said King. "to continue a Christian education. And we hope we are preparing people for a Christian ministry."

Among the past graduates are three Christian school teachers, three in college training, two in the pastorate and one deacon.

The school is in the process of certification with

Southeastern Association of Christian Schools. All teachers are college degreed and state certified.

Applications are taken on a first-come, first-served basis.

"We don't want it to be an elite school," said King. "However, we don't have LD classes. We're working on that."

King said enrollment includes hispanics, blacks and Asians.