From the President’s Desk

“To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven.”
(Ecclesiastes 3:1 KJV)

Life unfolds in seasons; even more importantly, God operates in seasons. He has ordained times and seasons for every one of His purposes and plans. This means that the countless circumstances of our life’s journey are orchestrated or allowed by God with great intentionality.

The beginning of each new season of life presents us with an opportunity for reflection, evaluation, and planning. It is essential to pause and reflect, if for no other reasons than to celebrate and thank God for the journey.

Since 1986, I have been privileged to serve as President of Huntsville Bible College (HBC). Together with the board, faculty, staff, and many of you, I have seen the rapidly changing climate of church ministry and biblical higher education in these times. These changes have required significant shifts, transitions, planning, and vision.

I am unspeakably thankful to the Lord for assigning me to this work. It has not always been easy, but I can say, without hesitation, that it has been worth it all. Across the decades, we have trained hundreds of men and women to serve as pastors, ministers, Bible teachers, and laity, continuing the work of the Kingdom. We have strengthened our ties to longtime friends and developed new partners in our mission. The future is bright.

Soon, HBC will welcome a new president chosen by our Board and prepared to serve alongside you. Please support the search effort with your earnest prayers that the Lord would guide the process according to His divine will. I ask you to provide the College’s next leader with the same energy, enthusiasm, and prayerful support you have so kindly shared with me.

While I will no longer be president after retiring later this year, I will always be an advocate for HBC. I will miss serving in this capacity, but I have every confidence in the long-term viability and potential of HBC.

Grace and peace to you all!
John L. Clay
President
Swift Transitions: Embracing the Beauty of Change

No human task is eternal. The work that engages us, whether building up or tearing down, changes with every season. Ecclesiastes 3:10 declares that God “hath made every thing beautiful in his time…” Everyone experiences the beautiful transitions and changes of life. Sometimes life is exhilarating and spectacular. Sometimes it is dull and predictable. Still, there is a time for everything and a season for every activity under the sun. (Ecclesiastes 3:1.)

The good news is that there can be so much beauty in change and even in letting go of past seasons. When incredible moments end and fade to sweet memories, our faithful, everlasting God remains the same. And He promises that there will be more incredible moments ahead, whether here or in eternity. Remember God’s promise to Judah, “For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the Lord, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end.” (Jeremiah 29:11.)

On earth, we find true beauty by living in the present and embracing the hope of eternity. The past has gone, and the future is never guaranteed. God orders our steps and supplies our needs day by day. All you have is now. Be present and intentional with your life. There is real beauty in every season.

Church Leaders Conference – October 17-18
Theme: “The New Normal: Strategies for the Post-COVID Church”
For Pastors, Ministers, Deacons, Elders, Stewards, Church Staff and Ministry Leaders

In the wake of COVID-19, pastors and church leaders are still navigating turbulent, uncharted waters. This unprecedented season of ministry has come with unique and tremendous challenges – spiritual, practical, organizational, personal, financial, and otherwise.

Beginning at 5 p.m. on Monday and Tuesday, October 17-18, HBC will host an on-site two-day Church Leaders Conference. The event will be a gathering of prayer, fellowship, and meaningful dialogue led by a team of six dynamic local pastors and church leaders. We will discuss adjusting and thriving in the face of new ministry challenges and opportunities.

Make plans to be a part of this timely and relevant conversation. To register your church leaders, call (256) 469-7536.

SESSION ONE: Monday, October 17
- “Restoring the Foundations”
- Sacred Moments: Age-Level and Family Ministry Models
- Balancing Act: Steps to Revitalization

SESSION TWO: Tuesday, October 18
- “Worthy of the Fight: An Action Plan for the Church”
- Staying Connected: Strategies for Small Group Ministry
- Sinking or Swimming: Staying Financially Afloat

“For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ” (Ephesians 4:11, 12)
STUDENT LOAN FORGIVENESS

On August 26, 2022, the Biden Administration announced an executive action to forgive $20,000 of student loan debt for Pell Grant recipients and $10,000 of student loan debt for borrowers who make up to $125,000 a year. Families with an annual income up to $250,000 will also benefit from the loan forgiveness.

The executive action also extended the pandemic pause on student loan payments through the end of the year. Initially, loan payments for millions of borrowers were set to resume after August 31. Debt relief will not count as taxable income for federal income tax purposes.

The loan forgiveness will apply to federal student loans acquired by undergraduates, graduates, and parents. The forgiveness should happen automatically for 8 million borrowers whose income information is already available to the Department of Education because of income-based repayment plans. For others, the Department is in the process of creating a streamlined application form.

Details on proceeding for all borrowers will be available in the coming weeks. Due to the influx of scammers, all borrowers are cautioned to be on high alert!

HIGHLIGHTS

17th Annual Scholarship Golf Tournament

On Friday, September 9, HBC hosted the 17th Annual Scholarship Golf Tournament at Colonial Golf Course in Meridianville, AL. The College extends its heartfelt gratitude to event sponsors, coordinators, committee members, staff, volunteers, and the 64 golfers who contributed to the outstanding success of this year’s Scholarship Golf Tournament. Your efforts and enthusiasm enabled us to exceed our fundraising goal.

We gratefully acknowledge the diligent work of the 2022 Tournament Committee:

Tommy Coleman, Chair
Billy Parks, Co-Chair
Lisa Battle, Gresha Lewis
Erskine Brown, Bradley McDonald
Robert Clark, Eloise McNealey
John Clay, Clanzelle Moore
Errol Davis, Harold Moore
Ruby Kent, Geraldine Tibbs

We also salute the following tournament winners:

FIRST FLIGHT
First Place: Michael Blankenship, Ricky Bolden
Second Place: Kareem Boyd, Gary Reedus
Third Place: Ron Kirk, Bradley McDonald

SECOND FLIGHT
First Place: Josh Oliver, Jerome Roberts
Second Place: Carlos Burwell, Joe Winston
Third Place: Gary Howard, Donald Walley

CLOSEST TO THE PIN – Wayne O’Bannon

LONGEST DRIVE – Michael Bishop

Fall Meditation: God is Faithful

“It is of the Lord’s mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness.” (Lamentations 3:22, 23)

Through the regular changing of the seasons, God orders the world so we may learn to rely on Him. In these seasons, God shapes us into what He intends us to be. God is the source and giver of every good thing. Accordingly, He allows everything to work together to achieve His master plan.

Life brings necessary seasons – labor and rest, sowing and reaping, laughter and tears. In every season, we must remember that God is with us and remains faithful in the midst of whatever we are experiencing. As we trust Him, God makes the times and seasons of our lives beautiful, and He does it in His own time.

In 1923, Thomas O. Chisholm wrote a poem, “Great is Thy Faithfulness,” celebrating God’s faithfulness over his lifetime. It has become one of the great anthems of the Christian Church: Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!

Morning by morning new mercies I see:
all I have needed thy hand hath provided--
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

HBC extends a special thank-you to Rev. Dr. Jermaine Turner and all who shared in the Fall Campus Convocation on August 30th.
Title IX: Facts You Should Know

Title IX is a federal civil rights law passed as part of the Education Amendments of 1972. It followed the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which prohibits discrimination in employment and public accommodations based on race, color, religion, sex, or national origin. Significantly, the Civil Rights Act of 1964 did not address discrimination against persons employed at educational institutions.

A similar law, Title VI, was enacted in 1964 to prohibit discrimination in federally funded private and public entities. This act covered race, color, and national origin but excluded sex. During the 1970s, lobbyists compelled Congress to add gender as a protected class category. Title IX law was enacted to fill this gap and prohibit discrimination in all federally funded education programs. This year, Title IX Celebrates its 50th Anniversary with key changes in the proposed amendments.

The Title IX Program was signed into federal law in 1972 to prohibit gender-based discrimination against students and employees of educational institutions receiving federal financial aid assistance. Title IX also prohibits sexual harassment, inclusive of any act of sexual assault or sexual violence.

Schools must appoint a Title IX Coordinator to oversee their institution’s Title IX compliance efforts. HBC is committed to maintaining a learning and work environment where all individuals are treated with respect and dignity. Presently, three staff members oversee and manage the College’s compliance efforts. More information is available on the College website. Students may pick up a Title IX brochure in the College administrative offices. Persons who desire to register a Title IX complaint may use the Intake Form available at www.hbc1.edu.

HBC STAFF UPDATES

It is with mixed emotions that HBC announces the retirement of our beloved Events Coordinator, Ms. Eloise McNealey. Since 2010, her commitment and dedication to HBC have been worthy of admiration. On behalf of the entire College community, we extend prayers and best wishes for a fruitful and well-deserved season of rest.

Additionally, we say farewell to Ms. Gresha Lewis, Public Relations, who will discontinue her role with the College, effective September 30. Rev. Chantaye Elmore Knotts is the newly appointed Advancement and Development Officer, and graduate professor, Dr. Erin Livingston-Stanbery, is now Interim Dean of Instruction and Academics.