From the President’s Desk

"From the chamber of the south comes the whirlwind, and cold from the scattering winds of the north. By the breath of God ice is given, and the broad waters are frozen." (Job 37:9-10)

Winter always comes. Shorter sunlight hours. Colder temperatures. Inclement weather. Coughs and colds. These are the things people associate with winter and why very few cite winter as their favorite time of the year.

Across the nation, “scattering winds” of declining enrollments and financial deficits have forced several Bible colleges to lose their accreditation, cut programs, eliminate staff, or even close their doors. To be clear, HBC has not gone untouched by the challenges other schools face in this climate; by the grace of God, we are holding steady. “Thus far, the Lord has helped us.” (1 Samuel 7:12).

Surviving winter can be challenging. Some things die in winter, and somehow, others survive. In Acts 27, Paul the apostle tells of being caught in a dangerous winter storm that threatened the loss of many lives. But consider the resilience of trees. Some birches, for example, can survive temperatures well below -100F. Scientists point to three factors that enable trees to outlast the winter – Insulation (bark), Preservation (leaf-shedding), and Preparation (cellular stability).

Insulation – Bark is essential to the health and longevity of a tree. Since 1987, HBC has been insulated by the work of committed faculty, staff, students, and volunteers and by the prayers and financial gifts of friends and partners in ministry.

Preservation – Through a global pandemic, HBC found and mastered new ways of doing things. As a tree sheds leaves to preserve the water necessary for its survival, we have streamlined academic programs, staffing, and work schedules for greater efficiency. To their credit, our committed staff has remained diligent and productive, even amid pending salary reductions.

Preparation - We have faced winter before. As the season approaches, trees slowly acclimate to the shift by increasing their tolerance for cold, doing everything possible to prevent freezing and protect vital cells. Likewise, HBC is adding new academic certificate programs and expanding our delivery of online courses.

In times like these, the formal study of God’s Word has never been more critical. Jesus Christ is still the only answer to the problems of our world. As winter comes, we will continue the work – building the Church, building believers, building personal faith, and building the knowledge of God.

Come build with us.

John L. Clay
President
“And remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He said, ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’” (Acts 20:35)

As many of you prepare for your end-of-year giving, please prayerfully consider making an endowment gift to Huntsville Bible College. There are endless worthy causes in our community, nation, and world that can only thrive with generosity, such as yours.

Partnering with HBC is an investment in its future and God’s Kingdom. We are laboring to fulfill the Great Commission by teaching the Gospel. We are helping disciples and church leaders achieve their God-given purpose and calling more effectively.

HBC faculty and staff serve as a living curriculum, providing a Christ-centered education and academic excellence for adult learners. The faculty who serve our students hold degrees from some of the nation’s finest seminaries and divinity schools. We recognize that you have a choice in where you give, and your investment in the HBC educational experience makes a difference.

As this year comes to a close, please consider a year-end gift of $100, $250, $500, or more to Huntsville Bible College. We are counting on you. You may donate online through our website or postmark your donation by December 31st for full 2022 tax credits. Please call or email the HBC Development Office anytime if you have questions. Blessings to you and your family in the New Year.

BOOK OF THE QUARTER:
The Difference Jesus Makes
By: H.B. Charles, Jr.

BIBLE VERSE OF THE QUARTER:
Ephesians 6:10
Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might.

SONG OF THE QUARTER:
“He Did It For Me”
By: Tamela Mann

2023: Resolve to Be Resilient

“We are hard-pressed on every side, yet not crushed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed.” (2 Corinthians 4:8-9)

2022 has been a year of challenges and perplexities. The year started with the war in Europe and has continued to unfold with mass shootings, financial challenges, and rising prices – housing, gasoline, groceries, and commodities; political confusion; and other personal and private struggles.

Resilience is toughness – the capacity to pass through a struggle or difficulty and recover fully. God has empowered believers with the spirit of resilience. There will be times when giving up, compromising your integrity, or giving up on your commitments seem like compelling options. But no matter what 2023 may bring, remain resilient in what God has called you to accomplish. The challenge may be fierce, the days might be long, and the nights might seem unbearable, but your omnipotent, loving God is worthy of your resilient trust.

God is our “very present help in trouble” (Psalm 46:1). He does not abandon His children in their crises; instead, God enters their troubles to guide and walk beside them. He is their abiding strength and the unfailing source of their resilience.

Prayer for Strength in Tough Times

Almighty God, who seest that we have no power of ourselves to help ourselves: Keep us both outwardly in our bodies and inwardly in our souls, that we may be defended from all adversities which may happen to the body, and from all evil thoughts which may assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.” (Book of Common Prayer, 1979 version, Protestant Episcopal Church in the USA).
HBC Supports Annual Children’s Coat Drive

Many families lack enough warm clothing to keep their children protected throughout winter, and lack the money to buy that clothing. To help children in need stay warm this winter, HBC partnered with The Second Chance Deliverance and Restoration Ministries, Inc. to support the Annual Children’s Coat Drive.

Through the generosity of HBC students, faculty and staff, HBC presented a generous check for the purchase of several children’s coats. HBC is pleased to partner with service organizations and ministries to touch the community for Christ.

Winter Meditation: Giving is Loving, Loving is Giving

“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. (John 3:16)

God loved us so much that even while we were still in our sin and rebellious enemies of His, He sent His Son, Jesus, into the world to forgive and deliver us from our sins against Him. God’s self-sacrificing love gives again and again, without partiality, even to His own hurt. God’s giving was motivated by a desire for all to come to repentance. If ever you doubt God’s love, look at the Cross and see God’s judgment upon sin, but also see God’s love toward guilty sinners. God expresses His love through giving. God proves and demonstrates His love as an action rather than a feeling.

Reflect on God’s blessings as you contemplate Christmas and consider what you have to give. What are you giving forth — to benefit others, advance God’s Kingdom, serve the needy, and support the salvation of souls? How well have you shown your love for God and others today?
Is Bible College Worth Attending?

If you feel called to go into ministry, then yes. Bible college can benefit any Christian, not just pastors and ministers.

**It Prepares You for Effective Christian Service** - Do you teach Sunday School? Are you a ministry leader? Do you feel called to evangelism and missions work? Do you want to be a better student of the Word? A “Bible college” will improve your Bible knowledge and provide tools for effective ministry leadership. It equips men and women committed to working in the local church.

**It Builds Your Spiritual Health** - Bible colleges promote a biblical worldview and provide the resources students need to connect the Scriptures to their personal lives. It also allows students to immerse themselves in a systematic study of the Bible. It upholds Christian doctrine and applies the gospel to every area of life. It also reinforces Christian values. It maintains that glorifying God should be the goal of our lives rather than chasing riches and fame.

**It Offers Career Training** - Bible colleges prepare students for careers across various industries, although the primary focus centers around preparing students for leadership roles in Christian ministry. In addition to concentrations in six areas of theology and ministry, Huntsville Bible College offers academic programs in Information Technology, Business Management, Child Development, and Social Work.

**It’s Worth the Money** - Huntsville Bible College offers scholarships and excellent low-cost tuition options for pastors or others who want to audit a class to benefit their ministry. But even for full-time or part-time students, undergraduates, and graduate seeking to take a few classes or to earn a certificate, Associates, Bachelors, Masters or Doctoral degree, Huntsville Bible College remains one of the most affordable academic institutions in Alabama. Many students graduate with zero debt.