

February 16, 2024

Dear Friend,

Greetings from Heartland Baptist Bible College!

The Lord blessed the 2024 Church Planting Conference tremendously. The attendance, fellowship, preaching, and giving was incredible. Many said it was the best church planting conference. We processed over \$970,196 in one-time gifts to church planters and over \$10,470 in monthly support for church planters. Please note that all the money raised for the church planters goes to them; Heartland does not retain any donated funds nor charge to attend this conference. Please take time to go to our website, view the church planters' presentations, and rejoice with us in all that God accomplished. Search our website at www.heartlandbaptist.edu for the 2024 Church Planting Conference.

The Lord blessed Heartland with a surprise offering from a church; in addition, He sent us an unexpected check from our insurance company. At the end of last semester, we received a check for \$173,000 from a small country church whose remaining members dissolved the church in late fall. They desired to distribute their assets to Heartland; in late November, we received the check. We thank our Lord for the faithful pastor and church members who wanted to invest in Heartland Baptist Bible College. In December of 2022, two ladies' residence halls were damaged during the Siberian Freeze, causing our fire suppression water pipes to burst and flood the halls during Christmas Break. We acted quickly as contractors, overseeing the renovation, and, as a result, we received a check this December for \$96,000 from our insurance company for acting as general contractor. We praise the Lord for the staff who worked extremely hard on this project.

These financial blessings allowed us to pay off the final mortgage on the Preaching Center. Our plan was to pay it off this May during the 2024 Graduation Preaching Conference as we celebrate the conclusion of 25 years in Oklahoma City. Paying the mortgage off early allowed us to save over \$7,000 in interest and to approach the next 25 years with a clear vision of moving ahead on several projects we feel can no longer be postponed. In fact, this now puts the school into the historic place of being completely free of any long-term debt. One long-time administrator and faculty member of Pacific Coast Baptist Bible College (now Heartland) told me that over the past 36 years of his association with the school, he cannot recall the school ever being debt-free. We praise the Lord, who in these tumultuous times, saw fit to bless the school in this manner. Again, THANKS to all those who have been faithful to support the school each month and annually in the May College Offering.

The 2024 May College Offering goal is \$1,000,000, to be used as follows:

- **Summer Operations \$750,000**
 - This covers everything related to normal operations of the school: utilities, payroll, singing and VBS teams (gasoline, insurance, food, clothing, etc.), health and dental insurance for staff, building and liability insurance, promotional material, mailouts, special meetings (YouthCon, Opening Days, etc.), repair for typical wear and tear in the residence halls, and equipment replacement.
- **Parking Lot Resurfacing \$100,000**

- Due to financial constraints, this project has been postponed for three years, and the need is great.

• **Capital Improvements** **\$50,000**

- This summer we will remodel the Men's Annex next to Art Wilson Hall, which is needed since the men's halls are at capacity, with only two open beds last fall. We plan to address this problem in the short term by using the Annex for next semester's growth in enrollment. This will result in twelve more beds.

• **Dorm Set-Aside** **\$100,000**

- This is priming the pump for the funds needed for the next new residence hall. We plan on increasing this annual set-aside amount each year.

Please help us celebrate Heartland's 25th graduating class in Oklahoma City, May 13-16, 2024. We thank the Lord for all He has done over these 25 years! Please come; help us celebrate the burning of the mortgage note.

We praise the Lord and thank all those who invest their prayers and finances into Heartland Baptist Bible College. As a result of your financial investment, Heartland students pay only \$8,790 annually, which includes tuition, room and board, and fees. Heartland is 50% less than most four-year, on-campus resident, independent, fundamental Baptist colleges in America. Your support allows any student called into ministry, regardless of socioeconomic status, to receive training and enter ministry completely debt-free of student loans, allowing them opportunities to go wherever the Lord leads them without the bondage of college debt. Thanks to all the churches, alumni, and individuals who invest in Heartland Baptist Bible College.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or ministry needs.

For souls,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeff Copes". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Jeff Copes, Executive Vice President

Psalm 71:18

JC/ls