

Hickory Christian Academy

THE SHIELD

“Celebrating 14 years of excellence in Classical Christian Education”

Volume 12 Issue 7

March - 2009

Why do you spend money for what is not bread, and your wages for what does not satisfy? Listen carefully to Me, and eat what is good, and delight yourself in abundance.” - Is. 55:2

Dear HCA Family,

We are in the midst of the toughest economic times of this generation. This is no surprise to anyone since it is plastered all over every newspaper, TV station, and website in the country (if not the world). Even more evidence is in the fact that most of you reading these words have taken big financial hits personally. You may have lost investment money, had your income significantly cut, or worst of all, lost your job completely.

Many of you have called me, or come by the office to discuss your financial status, and how that impacts your decision to have children at HCA. Each of those meetings have ended the same way, with us praying for God’s provision for your family. And, let’s not be misled, God really is your provider! As a husband and father, I understand the pressure put on a dad to provide for his family. There is an instinct within us that just will not allow us to drop our guard on this issue. Scripture is in line with this type of thinking, with many passages about the value and reward of hard work, as well as the leadership of the father. However, men (and women) can also get to the point where they really believe that the financial security of the family *totally* falls upon themselves. The reality is that I

am simply a tool that God uses to provide for my family, but too often, I try to be God myself.

We cannot predict the future, nor can we spend what we do not have. Additionally, it is true that scripture teaches us to avoid debt, and to count our costs as we spend money. So we walk a very fine line on the issue of faith when times get tough. Many of you had thoughts in your mind last month that went something like this, “I really want my kids to continue at Hickory Christian Academy, but the tuition may be more than we can swing right now.” Trust me, I totally understand. My family has also had to tighten the belt financially this year.

That is why I sent out a letter at the beginning of registration to encourage everyone to make this more of a matter of prayer than a matter of math. It makes no difference if you make one dollar or \$1 Million a year, it all belongs to God anyway. So, the main question is not “what do I want to do”, but “what does *God* want me to do” with the finances He has given me. If God wants our kids at HCA (or anywhere else), then we need to ask him to provide the necessary means. He has promised us the desires of our hearts, if we will delight ourselves in Him (Psalm 37:4). In other words, our humble and faithful obedience brings God’s blessings into our lives (more than just financial).

Since that time, several people have told us how they have decided to sacrifice material things in order to afford tuition. One person sold a car, others scaled back (or eliminated) cable TV or summer vacations. Some have chosen to buy generic clothes, groceries, etc. instead of name brand stuff. Many folks have told stories of how God has provided money from places they never

would have predicted. I have seen families helping families, providing for one another just as the believers did in the early church. The end result is that hard economic times are, in many ways, restoring real Christian faith, humility, and brotherhood that we may have lost when the money was more prevalent. God certainly works in ways that we cannot understand, but His purpose is always to make us more like Him.

My purpose in writing all this is to say “thank you” to everyone who has walked this faith path and who has emerged on the other side with a testimony to share. You are an encouragement to me and to many others who know you. Of the students who could have re-enrolled for next year (minus the graduating seniors), over 96% have re-enrolled. This is a phenomenal number, considering the times in which we now live, and we should all take a moment to thank God personally for providing miraculously for the school once again by providing for each of our individual families. I have even heard testimony from people who God led to *not* re-enroll, and I am equally grateful for their obedience to His command. You see, it is not an “*us versus them*” situation. As God’s children, we *all* sit at His feet, awaiting His instructions. Some get a “yes”, some get a “no”. Some get a “stay”, some get a “go”. The key is to listen, and I am excited to be in a group of people who truly do try to listen.

I continue to be amazed at the grace, love, provision, and power of our Lord. And, I continue to be amazed at the fact that He has allowed me the honor of knowing each of you personally, and to work with your children every day at HCA. May God richly bless your family and give you wisdom as you continue this walk of life with Him.

In Christ,

Tracy Robinson
Headmaster

CALENDAR REMINDERS

March

- 16-19** 5th grade to Williamsburg
- 16** Spirit Night Chickfila
- 20** Teacher Workday
- 16-20** Teacher Appreciation Week

- April** 1-8 Senior Trip to Puerto Rico
- 6,7,8 Stanford Achievement Test for grades 3rd-11th **early dismissal 12:00 noon each day for all students**
- 9** Teacher Workday
- 10-17** Easter Holidays – no school

Staff/Faculty Birthdays

- February** 6 **Connie Hall**
- 21 **Charissa Loftin**
- March** 3 **Lee Huffstetler**
- 23 **Stephanie Case**
- 23 **Mark Maier**
- 25 **Diane Seitz**
- 26 **Anne Dwyer**

Box Tops for Education and Tyson Project A+ News

Trash into Cash” Fundraising News:

The February Box Top totals are in and we (drum roll, please) **HAVE SURPASSED OUR GOAL OF \$2,800 FOR THE SCHOOL YEAR!!** With **3,686** Box Tops turned in last month, we earned another **\$368.60** for HCA; add in our Box Tops Marketplace earnings and we have earned around **\$3,000** for our school. WOO HOO! You guys are awesome! The reward for that astounding effort is a school-wide ice cream party—date TBA in the April newsletter. And please keep sending in those beautiful Box Tops, as they’ll still count for the monthly classroom trophy and random drawings, and towards next year’s total. Also be aware that many of them expire this June, so no hoarding until next school year!

Our prize winners for February are: Jackson Whiteside, Nathan Stephenson, and Kylar Pardon. The traveling trophy goes to Mrs. Jablonski’s 1st grade classroom. Congratulations! Mrs. Jablonski’s class turned in the most Box Tops this year, with Mrs. Fox’s class close behind. Both of their classes will be rewarded with a pizza party... date TBA. We also collected **107** milk caps but **just 2 usable** Tyson Project A+ labels. Remember that we must have the entire label/strip from the Tyson box or bag to get credit.

Lastly, here’s a brief update on some of our other programs: HCA currently has 89 online supporters

through the Box Tops website. We have 91 participants for Harris Teeter Together in Education and have earned \$385.25 so far through that program, as well as \$30 so far in Milk Cap money (this is the last year for the milk cap portion, by the way, and Harris Teeter has some great prices on milk lately!). We currently have 64 Food Lion Shop and Share participants and earned \$30 in our first quarter in that program. At Target, we have 22 linked cardholders and have earned \$783.58 this school year. Not bad. Not bad at all. Thank you once again for all of your efforts. It truly makes a difference!

EAT- MOR- CHIKIN

DON'T COOK Monday, March 16 --come out and support HCA Senior Class Trip at CHICKFILA ---OFF HWY 70 FOR SPIRIT NIGHT.

**HCA hosts
FREE Concert by
Shaun Groves
Friday, March 27, 2009
7:00 p.m.**

What an awesome blessing to be able to offer a FREE Christian concert to our community, especially in light of the strain on our economy! It has long been a dream of ours to host a well known musician/artist at HCA and offer it to our community. This is an opportunity for us to pay forward all the blessings God has showered on HCA while extending the hand of Christ to the Catawba Valley and ministering to those who do not know our Lord.

We know this is a God thing, because it is not something we have been planning for a year but something he laid in our laps just a few months ago.

Not only is God bringing a well-known Christian artist to HCA, but He worked it out so that we can offer it at no charge. This is not a fund raiser for our school, but a time of unified worship and praise of our Lord. He is worthy of our praise! I look forward with great anticipation to what God is going to do through this concert both within our HCA family and in our community.

I believe God can use this concert to open the doors for HCA to host future events with well-known speakers and or musicians. But, I also believe we have to do our part by attending and promoting these events and demonstrate our willingness to be used as a vessel in this way. Here are some ways you can help. We are asking each HCA family to pick up some flyers in the office and post them at your church, office, gym, doctor's office, etc., and please invite extended family members, as well. We have a total of 500 tickets to give away -- 250 of which are already taken. We want to fill every single seat; therefore, we are asking that you only take the number of tickets you will use.

If you have not already picked up tickets for your family, don't put it off any longer. Beginning this weekend at the Carolina Home and Garden Show at the Hickory Metro Convention Center, WMIT/106.9 The Light is partnering with HCA to promote this event. They will be handing out flyers, and it will also be on the Calendar of Events/Concerts on their website.

So, spread the word and make plans to be here in two weeks on Friday, March 27th at 7:00 p.m. as Shaun Groves leads us in worship of our Heavenly Father. I can assure you this is a time of fellowship and worship that you will not want to miss!

By HIS Grace,
Jennifer Jones

Scholarships Needed

All of us have been impacted by the current down turn of the US economy, so it is no surprise that we are seeing an increase in need for financial assistance and scholarships for the 2009-2010 school year. Please earnestly pray to see if God may be leading you to impact a life for

Christ by contributing to the HCA Scholarship Fund. What a wonderful gift to make it possible for a child to continue to attend HCA or for a prospective family to receive the blessing of being able to give their child(ren) the gift of a Christ-centered education.

Please contact Jennifer Jones if God is calling you to leave a legacy for HIM through the HCA Scholarship Fund.

Missions beyond HCA

Several HCA families will be traveling together to South Africa on a mission trip during April. They are collecting scarves and ties for adults who work with Aids victims in an orphanage outside of Johannesburg. These do not need to be new. If you have any scarves and ties you would be willing to donate please drop them by school office before April 8th. Thank you for your support.

Jump Rope for Heart & Hoops for the American Heart Association

HCA students recently participated in the Jump Rope for Heart & Hoops for the American Heart Association. The original goal set by the AHA was \$5,000 Mrs. Hartman challenged students as an added incentive, if they reached the target goal she would spend the night in the HCA BIG Chair. HCA students raised \$5, 356.25 for AHA so you will see Mrs. Hartman camping out in the BIG Chair on April 6th. Congratulations and thank you to all the students for their hard work!! Mrs. Hartman prepared a special lunch for the top winners in each grade level with pizza, lemonade, candles, music, heart shaped cake and a separate decorated table in the middle of the gym floor as a special thank you for all their hard work. Below is a list of the winners.

Top grammar school fundraisers:
Cassidy Collins, Sydney Green, Kathryn Behmer, and Heather Setzler

Top logic/rhetoric fundraisers:
Jonathon Green, Shannon Munoz, and Kendyl Hobart



Check out the HCA website for new pictures, sports schedules and updates!!

UNIFORMS

Students may begin wearing the HCA Formal Spring Uniform now. If you are a Senior student (male) and do not have a younger sibling at HCA, please consider donating any oxford shirts and ties to the office. We have had several requests for these items in the Uniform sale because of the expense.

Parents,

Just a quick reminder that next week is **TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK** (March 16th-20th). Please have your child write a note, draw a picture or simply "thank" their teacher for all they do.

Have a wonderful weekend!

PTF

