



November 27, 2024

Dear

I want to share the exciting news of God's hand at work and new opportunities at New England Bible College & Seminary because of people like you! Before I share the opportunities, let me catch you up on God's handiwork.

We have indeed seen a renaissance of our program and the opportunities at our combined 65-year-old Institution (New England Bible College opened in 1959, and Grace Evangelical began in 2001). Here is an overview:

- This year, we witnessed a 60% increase in enrollment, with students attending in-person and virtually from throughout Maine, several other states, and three international countries.
- NEBCS maintains student affordability by leveraging technology to touch other parts of the world by utilizing Zoom and continuing to build fully online (asynchronous) courses.
- We have seen an uptick in the number of graduate students.
- We have increased the number of high school students engaging in dual enrollment.
- We have more people already engaged in full-time ministry who are doing further studies with us.
- Denominations with reputable seminaries (like Trinity Evangelical Divinity School) are sending us students.
- We are sponsoring more events for the good of the whole Church—disciple-making training events, scholarly symposiums, pastors' appreciation events, and more—all to strengthen the Church.

We recently eliminated significant overhead by selling our permanent facilities. This helped us pivot our cost structure and ensure affordability. For decades, many of our classes have been taught at partner churches in various locations around the state. Our staff and faculty are spread throughout the state, the country, and even the world, so moving to a campus-free, non-traditional model made practical sense to our board, and that decision is paying off. We are establishing an administrative hub in shared space at Penney Memorial United Baptist Church in Augusta, allowing us to centralize closer to Maine's largest population centers. With these adjustments, we can now grow exponentially without significant increases in expenses. While many schools are experiencing significant decline and pressures associated with high overhead costs, NEBCS is poised for growth and impact.

For new and long-time essential partners of this ministry, **you need to know that the spiritual return on your investment has the potential to bear lasting, eternal fruit exponentially in the coming days as our reach continues to grow.** Consider the following testimonials of the impact our essential prayer and financial partners have made possible throughout the years....

**Ron Sargent, Retired Senior Pastor of Hollis Center Church & Current Professor**

*My first day as a student at NEBC was September 3, 1986. I was 39 years old and a Christian for almost three years. Through the professors at NEBCS, God changed my life in many ways! He gave me a love for the Bible and the One whom the Bible is about! Soon after graduating in 1990, I became the associate pastor of Hollis Center Church. In 2002, our senior pastor was called away to be a full-time missionary in Russia and Ukraine, and I was called to be the senior pastor. I served in that capacity until 2016. During that time, I completed the MABC (Master's Degree in Biblical Counseling) at the Master's University. Since then, I have taught Biblical Counseling at NEBCS for about ten years. I often think back, thanking God for how He changed my life forever at NEBCS!*

**Matt Collier, Student**

*I am gaining the knowledge I need by being taught by top-notch professors without the burden of debt. Whether I enter the mission field here or abroad, I know I'll have the confidence and knowledge to share God's Word with others.*

## **Our Incredible Next Steps**

We are living in an exciting time as our board and administrative leadership have conferred and collectively committed \$75,000 toward the \$200,000 goal of our newly established annual *Servant-Scholars Fund*. **I invite you to double the impact by matching their 2024-2025 commitments with your gift commitment of any size before December 31, 2024.**  
**Imagine – DOUBLE THE IMPACT for the glory of God!**

Our fiscal year ends June 30th, and we are asking the Lord and our friends to help us see significant commitment toward that fiscal goal by the calendar year-end. **Please help us reach that goal!** Your support enables us to provide debt-free equipping of pastors, missionaries, Christian School teachers, lay leaders, and marketplace leaders by maintaining a lower tuition than most colleges. It also enables us to offer further scholarships based on demonstrated merit and financial need. NEBCS does not participate in government funding, keeping us and our students unencumbered. **Your gifts are indeed an investment in Kingdom endeavors in Maine and around the world.**

Your prayerful gift between now and year-end — gifts of cash, stocks, IRA-qualified charitable distribution funds, donor-advised funds, or other creative sources — provides the margin that keeps our per-credit-hour costs low and our students debt-free. Our tuition is roughly 1/3 the average credit-hour pricing of most higher education institutions.

### **Your gift enables NEBCS to:**

- Meet our modest operating costs without continuing to raise prices.
- Send workers into the harvest fields (locally, regionally, and internationally) without debt.
- Assist those already in the field with continued affordable theological and practical ministry training.
- Continue to improve and expand our outstanding curriculum and delivery systems.
- Be an innovative leader among Bible Colleges and Seminaries.

Our aim is to develop annual partner-generated funding to enable us to accomplish these goals. Preparing people called to serve Christ without the weight of debt is crucial to Kingdom expansion. Your support ensures NEBCS students will be thoroughly prepared with the biblical teaching and missional training needed to multiply disciple-making efforts for Christ at home and abroad. Will you join us as an essential partner in funding our 2024-2025 \$200,000 goal to equip ministry leaders locally and to the uttermost parts of the world? You can give online at [nebc.edu](http://nebc.edu) and click “Give” icon, scan the QR code below, or return the enclosed response card.

Thank you so much for your essential partnership in the work of the Gospel!

Equipping workers for the harvest,

Jim Culbertson, PhD, President



P.S. Any gift given before December 31 (or postmarked by that date) is eligible for applicable tax deductibility as determined by your tax circumstance under IRS rules.

For creative gifts of other types, such as securities, please reach out for details on how to ensure those gifts are processed for tax year 2024 between your broker and ours.