

Dear Highlands Family,

Thank you so much for your generous investment in all that God is doing through Highlands this year! We've seen Him do such amazing things in 2024—far beyond what we ever imagined! Even though we've accomplished so much, God continues to expand our vision and give us more opportunities to make a difference. And that is why I am asking you to pray about your participation in this year's Legacy Offering.

We call this season and this offering “Legacy” because we believe that when we come together to combine our resources and do for others what they can't do for themselves, we leave a legacy that makes a difference for all eternity. God's Word tells us, “Good will come to those who are generous and lend freely, who conduct their affairs with justice. Surely the righteous will never be shaken; they will be remembered forever” (Psalm 112:5-6, NIV). Clearly, the Lord wants us to live our lives in such a way that what we did and how we live is remembered. We've witnessed this truth many times over the years and can testify that when all of us do a little, together we do a lot.

In this past year alone, we've seen **25,434 people** receive the gift of salvation through Jesus Christ at Church of the Highlands. Because of your generosity, we have opened a new building in Huntsville and have begun construction on buildings in Shoals, Opelika, and Oxford—all debt free. We've also secured land for future buildings in Daphne, Columbus, and Newnan.

These are just a few of the things that God has done through us during 2024. There are countless lives that have been touched by your generosity this year and we will send you a full report of every area of impact in our annual Legacy Report at the end of the year.

So what is the purpose of the Legacy Offering? Its purpose isn't for things we are already doing. Your consistent and generous giving has fully funded our budget, salaries, missions giving—even the building projects we are in right now have been paid for completely. This offering isn't about what we *are doing*, but rather it is about what we *could do*, specifically for new opportunities that God has given us. It will also help us complete some unfinished projects that are very close to being pushed across the finish line. Let me share some specific examples of things we hope to invest in through this offering:

**Thanksgiving and Christmas Outreaches:** Right away your gift will make an enormous difference in our communities as part of our annual outreach initiatives. Through these outreaches, we have the privilege of spreading the joy and hope of the holiday season to our neighbors in need, impacting over **20,000 people**. And our efforts can potentially be someone's first step toward experiencing the gift of Jesus in their lives.

**Local Ministry Partnerships:** Many of our local ministry partners are already meeting needs in our community, and this offering allows us to join in their amazing work. These partnerships minister by meeting essential needs such as food, housing, foster care, medical care, Christian education, and more. We love working together and remain committed to partnering with organizations that go beyond physical and social needs to nurturing their spiritual needs as well.

**Pastors Christmas Blessings:** We love churches. And for many pastors and church planters, it has been a tough year financially and many have faced unexpected obstacles. A portion of this offering will be a surprise gift to more than **100 pastors** so that they can provide for their families and continue the work God has called them to do.

**Scripture Translation and Distribution:** One of the most significant things we do together is continuing our efforts to translate and distribute the Bible to the people around the world who still don't have a Bible in their language. Out of the 7,000 languages spoken on earth, more than 3,400 of them still have little or no Scripture in their language. Basically, that's one billion people who live in Bible poverty. Our church is currently working on a translation project of two language groups that will impact more than **17,600,000 people**, and we are just a little over \$500K from meeting our goal of completing these vital translations.

**Highlands College:** Jesus said, "The harvest is plentiful—but the workers are few" (Luke 10:2), and by the grace of God we are responding to that call and building America's Ministry Leadership University, training the next generation of ministry leaders to be workers in His harvest field. Since our beginning in 2011, we have placed more than 1300 Highlands College graduates in full time ministry in 36 states and 21 countries.

Let me emphasize that Highlands College refuses to accept ONE PENNY of government support—not even indirectly in the form of federal or state student grants or loans. This principled independence frees HC from burdensome and restrictive federal regulations and allows HC to remain true to its mission and Biblical values. And that's why a portion of this offering will provide scholarships and financial aid to qualified students who would not have been able to attend otherwise.

On Sunday, December 8, I invite you to bring a special offering that will contribute to these projects and many more. Our goal is not a certain dollar amount—it is a participation goal. I'm praying that all of us who call Highlands home will participate in some way so that all of us can experience the joy of being a part of these incredible projects.

Please pray and ask God what you could do and then bring your offering to give in-person during a service or you can give online at [churchofthehighlands.com/give](https://churchofthehighlands.com/give). If you prefer using our secure Text-to-Give option, text the word "Highlands" plus the amount to 77977.

Tammy and I feel so blessed to serve alongside you and call you our church family. We can't wait to see how God will continue to work through Church of the Highlands to share the good news of Jesus Christ and advance His kingdom.

I love being your pastor!

Pastor Chris