



**April-May 2024**

Dear Prayer Partners,

I am combining the newsletters for April and May because a lot is happening. The Board of Directors met on April 9, 2024, and we hosted the annual fellowship meal. The academic year is coming to an end, and preparations are being made for the coming year. Before we cover these topics, I would encourage you to visit the College website. It is updated and has a new look.

The College Board and the General Conference Board of Administration met the week of April 9. The college is progressing, and the finances are currently stable. I believe we will end the year in the black. The Board approved the budget, and we are laying the foundation for better student recruitment. If you would like a copy of the reports to the Board, please ask me and I will send you an electronic copy.

The College is hiring a Secretary of Academics and Student Services. Reese Daniel will be starting in late April and will be contacting applicants and students. He will help applicants work through the application process and students with class registrations and scholarship applications. He will also periodically check in on students. This will help us with student retention.

The GC BoA of The Southern Methodist Church has decided to clean Gamble Hall. As some of you should know, the College had to relinquish its properties to The

Southern Methodist Church a few years back. This was done because the College did not have the financial resources to maintain the properties. If this had not been done, the College would have closed its doors. The past is the past, and we are pleased that The Southern Methodist Church will make Gamble Hall usable again. While the College does not currently occupy or use Gamble Hall, my hope is that in the near future we will be able to hold classes there and eventually to assume full responsibility for it. Gamble Hall will be a key component for the College to not only reconnect with the Orangeburg Community but also to provide a place where in person classes can be held.

The fellowship meal at Antley's Barbeque in Orangeburg blessed the eighty seven people who attended. Renee Williams Bozard sang, and Ellen Hucks shared how those who invested in her studies at Southern Methodist College have benefited her. She is now an Assistant Director for the South Carolina Child Evangelism Fellowship. She noted that she learned at Southern Methodist College how to relate to and communicate with people who are different from her. CEF brings her into contact with Children who do not know who Jesus is. These children live in South Carolina which is considered part of the Bible Belt. She also serves the Lord through a ministry called "Pearls" which seeks to redeem women from the sex industries. Southern Methodist College gave her a sound Bible and moral foundation for life and service.

The fellowship meal raised almost \$16,000.00 and netted over \$13,500.00. Furthermore, I want to remind everyone who gave at the fellowship meal to set up a Midlands Gives Fundraiser page and ask your friends and family to contribute to the ministry of the College. People can give through your fundraising page from now until 11:59 PM ET on May 7, 2024. Please ask people to contribute before then. Finally, I want to thank everyone who prays for the College and contributes to its ministry of training Christians to serve God