



# Piedmont Baptist College & Graduate School

Home of Spurgeon School of Online Education

November, 2008

Dear Fellow Alumni and Friends of Piedmont:

May I tell you unashamedly that I love Piedmont Baptist College and Graduate School? When I came to school in 1972, I was 17 years old. During my time at Piedmont, I settled forever my commitment to putting God's will first in my life; I learned wonderful lessons about the Bible, communication, human nature, and Godly living; and I met my husband who has been making me feel like a blessed woman for over 30 years now. My life has been different because of the College, and I want other people to have the opportunity to experience that difference, too.

Right now we have traditional undergraduate students studying to preach, teach school, mentor young people, and communicate the Bible cross-culturally. We also have 70 undergraduate online students, 25 students in Bangladesh, over 20 in a Spanish online program, and 19 in our PhD program. The Graduate School growth is significant—more than a 500% increase in the last five years.

God has blessed us with an important gift of land and a strategic estate, but nothing can replace the stability that comes from regular monthly giving. However, if you are like I am, you may be thinking, "My gift is too small to really make a difference." That is why I'm writing to tell you about our **STRENGTH IN NUMBERS** initiative. I'm asking 500 of you who feel like I do to fill out the enclosed card and commit to give \$1000 over the next three years (approximately \$28 per month) so that the college can count on a life-changing \$500,000. Together we will be very strong.

If you are reading this and saying, "I believe in Piedmont, but this commitment is financially impossible for me," then I have a special request for you. Would you please use the enclosed envelope to send Piedmont a one-time gift of any amount? Even ten dollars will communicate to the Administration, Faculty, Staff, and Students that you believe in our institution and stand with us. I'd like to count you. Communicating the message of unity will also share great strength.

If you haven't already read Dr. Pettit's accompanying letter describing the barge and tugboat metaphor, please take time to do so now and imagine all of us banding together as one big, giant tugboat pushing the great, old Piedmont barge loaded with God's cargo. Strength in numbers is a very powerful thing, and people all over the world will be blessed if we join together.

Because the Love of Christ Constraineth Us,

Beth D. Ashburn, PhD  
Provost