

DEAR FELLOW ALUMNUS

There are many different seasons in our lives. The beginning of a new year often reminds us just how fast our earthly life goes by. I still remember driving up the main entrance to NBC and being greeted by the existing student council, arriving as a 17 year old freshmen. 16 years have passed since that day. Some of you have attended more recently, but for many it's been even longer than that. Do you still feel a connection to this place?

Take a look at your Bible College yearbook and read through the grad testimonies. Almost each student notes how they grew during their time here. Spiritually, relationally, or in some other way they left here with a grateful acknowledgement of what God did in their life. Almost every one of you left feeling a strong connection to this place you called home for a season. I wish I could play back for each of you the most significant hours and days of your time at NBC (NBI). I am blessed to be back here on staff — to live and see those significant moments still happening today in the lives of students God is leading here.

As your alumni relations director my goal is to find the best ways to re-connect with the hundreds and hundreds of you, each with your unique interests and qualities, your busy lives, and your unique ways of feeling relational connection. It's probably an understatement to say this is a big challenge. As I seek to best serve you in this way, would you consider helping me by taking a step in my direction? A big way I'm choosing to maintain contact and build relationship with you is through praying and following up on your prayer requests. As we strengthen the connection between NBC and alumnus we will see the mutual effects of God working as we uphold each other in prayer.

We'd like to ask you to pray with us. We have set some faith goals this year and one of those is that our "Many Hands" support doubles by next Alumni Weekend. I know countless many of you bless us by lifting us in prayer. I'd petition you to join us or continue in that practice. Perhaps you would even consider joining hands with 82 other alumni units who have committed to support us on a monthly basis? 180 of you made a decision to financially connect with NBC in the last calendar year, which resulted in about 1/3 of our total donations coming from Alumni. Thank you for your prayers, for your spontaneous giving, and for your committed monthly giving. You may not realize the impact as much as us who live here, but let me assure you, God is blessing us and working here as you support us in prayer and finances.

Statistics show that if we all gave 10% to God there would be some very significant and miraculous needs met in this world. If you're already giving like God wants each of us to, I don't care if you're not giving a cent to NBC. Your home church, a local food bank, a sponsor child... there are so many worthy recipients and needs that touch our lives — God loves a giving heart! (II Cor 9:7) But if you're not giving and I can influence you

to give like that, God be praised! If you're considering or already are a part of blessing NBC out of your tithes and offerings, we're very grateful. We have alumni who give \$10/month - what a great value in God's kingdom! I appeal to you - reflect through your memories of how God moved on this campus while you were here. Consider whether He is calling you to be a part of what He is doing at NBC today by joining the many Alumni He has already directed to partner in this way.

One important last item to share with you: starting this semester I plan to travel and host a number of Alumni "connection nights". I'm still figuring out some of the finer details, but they would look something like this: we would meet in a local hall, church, or Alumnus' home with about 5-20 invited depending on the amount of Alumni in the area. We would share a brief video or powerpoint presentation to update you on NBC, hand out posters with pictures and names of current students and staff, and then have time for prayer, fellowship, and visiting—where we collectively pray for Alumni and the College, meet and/ or re-connect with Alumni, and work towards building a stronger and more connected community within the Alumni body as a whole. The purpose of these evenings is not to raise funds for the school, but rather, to raise the level of relationship we have from one Alumnus to another, as well as between College and Alumnus and vice versa. If you are interested in helping me host these in your home, church, or community please contact me.

I look forward to connecting with you for a first time, or in strengthening our existing connection with you in this season of your life. I pray that you will thoughtfully and prayerfully consider the same towards NBC.

Serving you in Christ,

Jason Elford Alumni Relations