



COLLEGE of ATHENS

CoA Winter 2022 Newsletter

Equipping the next generation of Christian leaders to transform the world in Jesus' Name



Time, the Currency of Life

The English language is filled with idioms about time. “Killing time,” “have a good time,” “making time,” and “just in time” are some examples. While it’s impossible to fabricate minutes in a day or kill something that’s not living, generally speaking, time becomes the one life parameter that we work the hardest at managing. Why?

People often confess that they can’t exercise, pray, visit an elderly relative, or even make a phone call to a friend because they don’t have enough time. Life is lived within the boundaries of the time we are given. While none of us knows the number of days we will live while in the flesh (Psalm 139:16), everyone gets 24 hours in a day—no more and no less. It’s not the amount of time we’re given that’s the issue. It’s how we choose to expend our days that can become stressful.

Given that each new day is a gift from God, how do we assess the utmost best ways to spend the days we are given, living free from the tyranny of the urgent? It begins with evaluating expectations and the priorities that are birthed from those expectations. Our culture rewards productivity and efficiency. As God’s ambassadors, we should be hard-working, diligent

employees. However, there is nothing wrong with negotiating reasonable deadlines and putting to death unrealistic expectations on our time.

Above all, God values loving relationships because God Himself is love (1 John 4:8). The foundation of love is trust, and trust requires an investment of time and experience to be proven. The best "yes" we can give is to spending daily dedicated time with God and with those relationships He has entrusted to us. Being presently present with our special ones is a worthy expenditure of our minutes and moments. Donating time to help someone in need or being kind to the ones who are more difficult to love makes God smile. Insufficient time can become a crutch or an excuse for not doing the hard things with or for other people. Ultimately, deciding how to spend our time means seeing and seeking God in every moment, and utilizing our God-given minutes as He directs. When we see everyone, everything and all of time contained in Him (John 1:3), life becomes a timeless adventure, free from the constraints of the moment—free to enjoy unbroken fellowship with the Lord and His other image-bearers. It's much easier to be generous with our time when we realize that all of eternity is ours in Christ.

Time is the currency of life. How are you spending the currency you have been given? The litmus test is to give your day planner to God, asking Him to direct your days and your steps. After all, He is the one who created the panorama of time and sustains the entire world (Hebrews 1:2-3) so that we don't have to! He never gave that task to us, so why do we live our days as if the world will spin off its axis and out of orbit if we slow down just enough to notice that there is a bigger story unfolding—well beyond our own?

This is what the Sovereign LORD, the Holy One of Israel, says: "In repentance and rest is your salvation, in quietness and trust is your strength, but you would have none of it (Isaiah 30:15)." May every one of God's image-bearers display a lifestyle so hidden in the Lord and His power to run the universe that His peace oozes out of our pores and displaces every manmade form of hurry, stress, and overwhelm!

By Dr. Marcia Wilbur, President

CoA Community Impact

CoA is making a difference in our community by serving as Jesus' hands and feet! See how your prayers and support are impacting the Athens area and beyond!



CoA recently held the 2022 **ServeAthens** event to bless our neighbors and serve **In Christ's Name!** Hosted by Nations Church on Saturday, October 22nd, participants volunteered at seven projects throughout the Athens area, serving as Christ's hands and feet amongst our community!

Classic Center Community Thanksgiving

Local leaders organized a Thanksgiving feast as a gift to the impoverished and homeless in the Athens area. CoA President, Dr. Wilbur, along with six students packaged to-go dinners and waited tables. Stacy Fleming accompanied a large group of men from Fresh Wind

CoA students and staff joined volunteers from across the Athens-area at the **Sparrow's Nest Thanksgiving Meal**, serving over 300 people from the local community. Participants received two meals each, in addition to hygiene packs and supplies, covid tests and vaccinations!

Addictions Recovery where he is currently serving as a student apprentice.



2023 New Year - New Heart Conference "Giant or Grasshopper?"

Would you like to live more like a giant than a grasshopper? Register now for our 10th Annual *New Year - New Heart* Conference! Join us as we explore Hebrews 4:1-3 together!
Saturday, January 7th
9:00 AM-4:30PM
2150 Lexington Road, Athens



Chick-fil-A Percentage Night

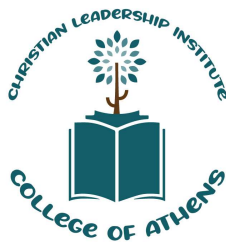
"Eat Mor Chiken" to support our mission!
Chick-fil-A Beechwood, 196 Alps Road, Athens
Tuesday, December 6th, 5:00-8:00 PM

You're invited to come out and eat with us to support the mission of the college. 10% of all proceeds (drive-through or dine-in) will benefit CoA. Make sure to tell them you are with College of Athens! Family, friends, and fellow church members are welcome!



Dr. Marcia Wilbur Receives Patriot Award

Lieutenant Colonel Cindy Berry serves in the Georgia Army National Guard. She nominated Dr. Marcia Wilbur for the Patriot Award for support provided directly to her and her family. In October, the Office of the Secretary of Defense Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve recognized Dr. Wilbur for the second year in a row as a Patriotic Employer because of her contribution to national security and protecting liberty and freedom resulting from her support of employee participation in America's National Guard and Reserve force. Thank you, Cindy Berry, for honoring us all with your dedicated service!



2023 Christian Leadership Institute

Are you looking for an opportunity to go deeper in your walk with the Lord and to connect with others in a real and tangible way that affects Kingdom work? Applications are currently open for the upcoming Christian Leadership Institute. Our new cohort begins in January and will cap at 20 participants. Registration closes January 7, 2023. This is an 18-month program that is designed to fit around busy schedules. Learn more about the [CLI program here](#).



Coaching 4 Christlikeness

Imagine a fresh approach to discipleship that goes beyond reading something and talking about it! Do you value application and experience as key components for growing in Christ? Would you like to develop the skills that will equip you to restore and build up other people to live from a place of wholeness in Christ, empowered for their personal journey through all aspects of who they are? Are you interested in becoming more effective in explaining? Consider CoA's certification to become a Christian Life

Coach and how your church might grow in its ability to engage even more effectively in Christian formation.

See: [Coaching 4 Christlikeness](#).

Hancock State Prison Extension Program

The College is excited to admit over 100 inmates from Hancock State Prison into our degree program beginning January 2023. The inmates will attend classes by videoconference taught by our incredible faculty. Through the transformative CoA model for teaching and inner healing, the shared hope is that all students will gain a deep realization of who Jesus is and who they are in Him. From their Christ-empowered Kingdom identity, they will be prepared to live full, productive lives as His ambassadors wherever they are.

CoA needs your help! Federal financial aid through Pell Grants for inmates was just suspended until July 1, 2023.

Because the men at Hancock State Prison are ready and eager to begin their degree programs, would you consider sponsoring one or more inmates for the spring semester? Your gift of \$1200 will enable CoA to provide the instructors and textbooks for one individual. [Click here today](#) to sow into the opportunity to change a life for tomorrow and for eternity. Thank you!



Do you know someone with a master's degree in English, Bible, Counseling or Social Work who could fill the CoA Program Director role by overseeing the prison initiative? Please point such individuals to

m.wilbur@collegeofathens.edu.

CoA Student Spotlight--Meet Mendi!



Meet Mendi Budzileni, a new graduate student in our Master's of Christian Ministry program! We asked Mendi about her first semester experience here at CoA:

"I have been most excited about the opportunity to explore theological studies in a way that I have never experienced and amongst an amazing and caring community of leaders, teachers and staff who truly value Christian education and desire to make a difference in their sphere of influence and in the lives of their students. I am learning and growing immensely in just this short time and am grateful for what mentors see in me and my abilities, that I haven't been able to see in myself. What I find most exciting is the opportunity to enter into depths of conversation with others regarding the things of God and that's where a lot of learning happens along with the ability to renew my mind."

Please join us in welcoming Mendi!

CoA Offers New Transformational Leadership Degrees

In an effort to expand God's work through CoA, an undergraduate Transformational Leadership degree was developed and accredited this year. In 2023, the College will accept students into this exciting course of study. Students will learn to lead self and others with resilience and Christlike courage. The Associate's or Bachelor's of Science in Transformational Leadership offers two different majors—entrepreneurship and business administration. The program is a perfect next step for high school graduates to realize who they are in Christ and how to thrive in life and career before launching into a specialized vocation.



CoA's strategic plan includes the expansion of its degree offerings in the near future to include programs in Social Work, Nursing, and Education. The goal is to equip individuals who serve others with a solid foundation in Christ and His Kingdom. Thank you for your prayers and ongoing support of God's work through the College. Every ounce of hard work is a joyful, worthy sacrifice because of the potential ripple effects in the lives that our graduates will touch.

Campus Development Update



The campus development momentum is exciting! Working closely with Smith Planning Group, Phase 1 work has been approved by Oconee County to include the installation of the deceleration lane onto the campus off Barnett Shoals Road as well as the foundation for the outdoor amphitheater near our ponds.

Phase 2 development to build the House of Hope, House of Joy, and 12 cabins is expected to receive County approval in January 2023 after amending the site concept plan to include six campsites that will allow Christian volunteer workers to stay on site and assist with our build out. **Please ask God to supply all the funding needed to begin moving dirt, paving roads, and raising up buildings in spring 2023!**

Thank You, CoA Business Sponsors!



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the Sparrow's Nest



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www.rhettbutler.biz

CoA Mission Statement

College of Athens is a biblically-grounded, Holy Spirit-empowered, accredited Christian college that prepares and restores men and women who will teach, reach, lead, and minister to others out of their identity in Christ through relational, hands-on training for life and leadership in the church, in the marketplace, and across the globe.

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