

ON★COURSE

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Educating Christian Leaders for the Advancement of Kingdom and Community

THE VERY FIRST GRADUATING CLASS OF HCC STUDENTS AND THE 19TH CLASS OF HBI GRADUATES ARE ALREADY REACHING OUT INTO THEIR COMMUNITIES AS SERVANT LEADERS.

NOW YOU'RE INVITED TO FOLLOW ALONG, WALK SIDE BY SIDE WITH THEM, AND BE PART OF THEIR VISION AND MISSION!

A NEW YEAR BEGINS AT HCC



As we start the new year, let's take a few minutes to look back, before we look forward. The year 2019 will always be remembered in the timeline of Heritage Christian College as a milestone year. A time when 30 young men and women finished their studies at HCC, received their diplomas, and will now always be referred to as 'the very first graduating class of HCC'. Along with this class of graduates were 37 men and women being commissioned as graduates of the Heritage Bible Institute.

As you know, this momentous day doesn't just happen overnight. Many years of dreaming, planning, meetings, studying, budgeting, organizing, training, etc preceded this incredible day. So before we move forward, I encourage all who are reading these words to take a few moments to lift up everyone involved in getting HCC to this point in history, in a special time of prayer. A prayer of thanksgiving, a prayer of gratitude, a prayer of humility, a prayer of guidance, and a prayer of sustainability in the long days ahead. Let's remember these servant-leaders and their families at HCC in our daily prayers, and I encourage you to reach out to them through the foundation (*more on this process will follow*) to let them know your thoughts and prayers are with them every day.

What makes an institution or a business exceptional? At the very core of excellence in institutions and businesses, you will always find exceptional people. Individuals who live their lives with a complete understanding and commitment of what it takes to live out and truly embody excellence. The passage of scripture that we might quote in this context is from **Matthew 19:19 'Honor your father and mother, and, You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'** This year we would like to introduce to you the individuals who we believe represent and live out the concept of excellence through the words of Jesus, 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' Our hope is that you will come to have a greater appreciation for both the students and leadership that makes up this exceptional institution we call Heritage Christian College.



Entrepreneurs and Servant Leaders

What makes the Center for Entrepreneurship, Philanthropy, and Excellence (CEPE) so exceptional, and how does it embody excellence? We need to travel back for a moment to understand how and why CEPE came into existence and then look deeper into the early but astounding results that CEPE has accomplished in a very short period of time. We start with the words of Dr. Williams Atuilik, Provost, Heritage Christian College, and Director of The Center for Entrepreneurship, Philanthropy, and Ethics:

'Christ himself cared enough about our problems; that he came to die. We want to build a young generation of Africans who care sufficiently about the African problem and the world problem... to make a significant contribution in solving those problems. To have many Christians who are well trained with sufficient capacity to do things for themselves, really to push the frontiers of Christianity further. That's what we are doing here.'

An idealistic vision that sounds like a dream? Yes and no. It's already happening in Accra, Ghana, where Heritage Christian College (HCC) is making a positive difference. The mission of HCC and its Center for Entrepreneurship, Philanthropy, and Ethics (CEPE) is to help Africa help itself – to help students to develop their own potential and to help the continent make better use of its rich resources.

“Mission” has always been a word that brings Africa to mind to outsiders – Africa as a “mission field,” a place where evangelists arrive from places like Europe and America to spread Christianity. That scenario has changed, and HCC fits the current scene as a Christian base for sending Africans out to help Africa, and beyond. It’s not by accident that HCC believes entrepreneurship goes hand in hand with the Gospel. The apostle Paul, a tent-maker, comes to mind. But it’s a parable of Jesus that Dr. Atuilik likes to cite when he talks about the role of HCC and the CEPE:

'More will be given to those who have more capability, Jesus Christ gave one talent to a particular servant, gave two talents to another servant, and gave five talents to another. The one who got five, according to the scripture, was based on his ability to take care of more, and he confirmed that by using it to work and make fivefold of that. The one who had two also did the same, the one who had the least went and buried it. So we tell our students, if you don't create a bigger capacity to manage more, you will be given less. If you are not careful, even the less that you have will be taken out from your hands.'

At HCC, entrepreneurship is part of the “culture” of the college – not an elective. It’s compulsory for all students to grasp the concept. HCC teaches not only ethics and business principles but also the nuts and bolts of starting a business in Ghana.

'Whatever program that you are doing, whatever curriculum you are following here at HCC, whether you are doing theology, whether you are doing business, or you are doing information technology, we interact with you from the CEPE. We integrate practice on entrepreneurship, With whatever that they are learning in their various curricula... it is mandatory.'

In one sense, the CEPE is a business incubator, a concept that’s been tried with some success in America. Dr. Atuilik doesn’t use the term “incubator,” but he describes the same sort of approach to hatching businesses.

'We have lots of people here who can do things, all you need is to build their capacity. We are targeting the younger generation. We want to make sure that we don't churn out people who will go out with knowledge, and they cannot do things. As we give them knowledge, and we give them practical skills, we want to be able to support them to get started immediately. They will make mistakes but with our guidance we will support them. So by the time they are getting out, they will have a solid grounding and they can pick up from there. That is the way to go actually.'

Heritage Christian College has positioned itself at the leading edge of excellence and stands ready to see great things happen across Africa. The college is already tasting success and entrepreneurs equipped with practical business knowledge, and invigorated with the spirit of Christ, are using their start-up talents and beginning to see them multiply. Each month we will feature two of these businesses, and the students behind these great stories of success and excellence.



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