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Dear Friends and Family,

July 14, 2009

I hope this letter finds you all blessed and having a great summer! As many of you know, I just graduated in May from Southwest Baptist University, and just recently finished my fourth summer working with youth at Kanakuk Kamps in Branson, Missouri. Upon graduation, I was not sure what I was going to be doing in the fall, so I continued to pray over the summer that God would lead me where He wanted me to be. Over the summer I have felt God leading me in the direction of working in ministry. Because of this leading, I have decided to attend the Kanakuk Institute in Branson, Missouri this fall to prepare me for ministry, a life of ministry no matter my future vocation.

The Kanakuk Institute is an eight month long program during which I will be doing an intensive study of the Bible and the Christian faith and then applying what I am learning immediately in an internship that I will have with a local youth group or K-Life group. I will be living in Branson for the year with the other Institute students. During the fall semester, we will be doing a Bible overview project. In the Bible overview, we will be taught the Bible from front to back in-depth and will finish off the semester by making teaching notes of our the history and events in the Bible. In the spring semester, we will be focusing on belief statements. We will be making our own personal belief statements in which every word of those statements must be backed by scripture. We will finish the semester by individually going in front of a panel of local pastors and ministry leaders and defending our belief statements. We will have a variety of teachers throughout the year, including Tommy Nelson, Gary Smalley, Joe White, and many others. The unique and valuable thing that I am most excited about at the Institute is the ability we will have to learn from wonderful teachers about the Bible and our faith and then be able to apply it immediately in our internship. I am also excited to learn how to take what we have learned into our future vocations- to live a life of intentional ministry no matter what we are doing.

I would like to ask that all of you partner with me in prayer this year as I go through the Institute. I know it will be a great and challenging year. Specific prayer requests would be that I am able to remain focused on God and what we are learning and also that I will be open to change and open to where God will lead me in the ministry opportunities that I receive.

I would also like to ask that you prayerfully consider supporting me financially. The cost of the Institute is \$8,600. Tuition for the Institute includes our classes, the teaching and cost to bring the teachers in, our housing, our food, and activities that we will be involved in. My goal is to pay for at least \$3,000 of the Institute myself. I have saved over \$2,000 of my own money and am working to save the other \$1,000. This means that I still have at least \$5,000-\$6,000 to raise in order to attend. I would be more than grateful for any financial contribution that you feel God is leading you to contribute. The Institute asks that you make

checks out to me and you can rest assured that the money will go directly to the Institute once I receive it. I am also very willing to work, whether it be a babysitting job or cleaning a house, etc., just let me know.

Thank you for all of the influence that each of you have had in my life. I know that without your positive influence and love, I wouldn't be who I am today. I look forward to keeping in touch with all of you this year. I would love it if you would send me your email addresses so that I can update you on how God is working throughout the year. Thanks for all of your love and support!

Love,

Phone:

Email:

[I wrote personal notes to each person I sent the letter to in this open space.]