

Dear Family and Friends,

I pray that this letter finds you healthy and blessed. Hopefully, you are being led by God's hand and learning more from His perfect wisdom. For the only things worth undertaking and worth knowing are the things to which the Lord Himself directs. His Purpose is what ascribes value to any aspect of life. To be in line with His Purpose is to have life with meaning. The Lord has recently been reminding me of this because I seem to forget it so easily. I pray you do not.

I write this letter to you with much excitement and with much anticipation for what God has awaiting me. I am starting a new chapter in my life. In May of this year, I graduated from Faulkner University, having earned a Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Arts with a minor in Biblical Studies. It was a five year undertaking that finally reached its culmination, and I was quite excited for that moment. My time at Faulkner was one of growth. I sat underneath some excellent professors as they taught me the foundational disciplines of all others. I learned about logic, rhetoric, philosophy, and the classics all the while making those disciplines subservient to the cause of Christ and to His Mind rather than any worldly end. I do believe that God used that time to awaken my mind to the tactics of persuasion used by the world but redeemable by our Father.

This past year also offered a unique opportunity. I taught two classes at a Co-operative program in Montgomery for High School aged Homeschoolers to prepare them 1) for collegiate academia and 2) for wise living in a world warring for their minds. Throughout this entire last year I taught Latin I and an Understanding the Times class, which covered six different worldviews and the various ways those worldviews have infiltrated our culture. It was a great experience, and though the planning, grading, and preparing process was not all that exciting, I thoroughly enjoyed both classes. I am sure that I learned more than my twenty-two students, but my prayer is that they are now more prepared and equipped to be effective soldiers for the cause of Christ, not only for their future academic challenges but mostly for the battle that is being fought for their hearts, their minds, and their souls.

My opportunity to teach was great because I have a passion for apologetics—the defense of the Christian faith—and because I would like to eventually teach apologetics and worldviews on a college level. Teaching incorporated both aspects. In our modern era, there is a war being waged for the hearts, the minds, and – ultimately – the souls of the young generations. This war's favored battlegrounds are the colleges and universities across our nation. The very places where young minds should be guided and nurtured to know Truth more fully are the same places where they, instead, are being filled with deception and being crippled from truly being able to think and to rationalize for themselves. Worse than that, over three-fourths of youth that are raised in a Christian home and in a Christian church fall away from the faith once those youth enter the college realm. The reason: they do not know what or why they believe in Christ. Therefore when those youth become college students, facing a worldview battle on the university campuses, their

foundationless faith easily topples in a great crash and is replaced by the professor's favored system. For this reason, I want to be a stronghold on a university campus, providing a safe place for students to develop a rational faith and equipping them with the tools necessary to effectively defend their innermost parts.

Because of my passion and because I am acutely aware of how much more I need to know Scripture, I have decided to attend the Kanakuk Institute this upcoming year. The Institute is a youth ministry training program, akin to Kanakuk Kamps for which I have spent five summers working. The Institute is a year-long program based in Branson, Missouri. While attending the Kanakuk Institute, I will sit under the instruction of 30+ nationally-recognized leaders as they walk me through the entirety of Scripture, through the "Big Picture" of God's Word, and through necessary skills for effective youth ministry. I will have a host family who will take me into their home and who will invest in my life, an accountability group that will challenge my personal walk with Christ, and staff who will coach me in effectively digging into the depths of Scripture. All the while, I will be leading a small group of guys from one of the local churches, pouring into their lives and investing everything I learn into them. The Institute is designed to balance the ministry preparation process with the practical application of ministry so that I will actually use everything that I learn. I have an insatiable desire for Truth—God's Truth. The Kanakuk Institute will pour Truth into my life, prepare me to enter the field of apologetics, and unwaveringly face belief systems that aim to tear apart everything that I believe. I am super excited about this next year and for the growth that I know will come. I will be spending a year at the feet of my Savior! There is no better place to be; I cannot wait!

I have no doubt that the Lord has purposed me to attend the Kanakuk Institute. Because of the important role you have played in my life, I want to keep you updated on this growing process. I believe that God places people in our lives for us to either learn from them or to teach them or both, and the lessons the Lord teaches one member should be shared with the entire Body so It may be healthy and avoid unnecessary illnesses. Because of the nature of the Institute program, I have to raise all of my tuition and living expenses for the next year, which will total around \$10,000. The Lord has had to work on me about this fundraising process because I am one to cover all of my own needs and to not be a burden to anyone for any reason. However, the Lord has humbled me and has shown me that this is a task I cannot fulfill on my own. So I am asking if you would consider partnering with me in my ministry as the Philippian church partnered with Paul in his.

First and foremost, I covet your prayers. This upcoming year is going to challenge and to break me like none other. Please, pray for me that God will ruin me so that He can mold me into His image and into the man He desires me to be. Also, I ask for you to prayerfully consider financially joining with me in my ministry. I trust the Lord fully on this aspect, and even if you cannot financially give, I am inexpressibly thankful for your prayerful consideration—that means more to me than anything else. However, if the Lord has placed it on your heart to financially give, you will be nothing less than an answer to prayer, and I will be speechless with gratitude. If

you would fill out the enclosed card indicating how you will join with me in my ministry and return it to me, using the self addressed stamped envelope, I will be exceedingly thankful. Throughout this upcoming year, I would like to keep updating you on what all I am learning and on how God has blessed our joint work for Him.

Thank you so much for your time but, most of all, for the investment you have already made in my life. I am convinced that I would not be the man I am were it not for the lessons you have taught me and the words you have spoken into my life. Thank You. I pray that the Lord will bless you richly and will reveal Himself to you in a new and a revitalizing way!

Humbly His servant,