

As I write this letter, I am reminded of how faithful and consistent the Lord has been to me. Looking back, I can see how different pieces of my life have worked together to grow me, lead me and shape me into the person I am today as well as the person I am becoming. While these transformative pieces of my life range from simple conversations, or difficult times and situations, to relationships that have developed over my 22 years, these experiences and the people I have shared them with have all been a part of God's plan for my life. For that, I am truly thankful.

During the next few months, my time at Columbia College will come to a close, and I will once again have to answer the question "what does the next chapter of my life hold." This period of my life has been one of both opportunity and discovery, and while I am not sure exactly what I plan to do in the future, I have learned that I desire a life grounded in ministry. While volunteering for the Crossing Church and Columbia K-Life during my time in college, I have seen the Lord work in the hearts of middle school and high school students, as well as in my own heart. While coaching middle school basketball this year for a school where the kids do not have a lot going for them back at home, I was able to use a job as a ministry and pour into those kids' lives daily. Through multiple internships, I have seen business leaders use their influence and passions to lead others to Christ, impact the community and to make His name known in a place that truly can be lacking consistent Christian leaders. These moments will stick with me forever.

Psalms 119:105 says "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path." I remember camping with my family as a little kid, and each of us kids had our own lantern, mine was orange. They looked so cool, but they were not the best option for a little boy with so many things to do and places to be. I can't tell you how many times I tripped on the stakes around the tent, or ran into something, or someone for that matter. Unlike a flashlight, my lantern only showed one or two steps in front of me, which was just about useless for the practical needs of my 6-year-old self, now, years later, I love the application of this memory. The Lord is a lamp (or lantern) to my feet, showing only a step or two at a time, requiring me to walk in faith. While the next chapter of my life is yet unknown to me, I know that I want to be prepared for a lifetime of ministry, by trusting the Lord's timing and direction, which leads me to the purpose of this letter.

This next year I have the opportunity to attend the Kanakuk Institute, a discipleship program that is designed to equip young men and women with biblical skills in order to impact the world for Christ. I will spend the year learning from more than 30 of the country's most influential biblical teachers, (as we walk through scripture to write personal belief statements, conduct a complete biblical overview) developing the skills necessary to complete a lifetime of ministry regardless of vocation. I will also be placed into a "touch point group" allowing me to be challenged in my daily walk, to grow in community with other students, and to have genuine accountability. I will also have a "host family" in Branson, who will take time out of their own lives to invest in me and invite me into their family during the year. This serves not only as a sort of home away from home, provides another example of the ways in which ministry is used in all aspects of life.

I truly believe that the Lord has opened this door for me and is allowing me to take advantage of an opportunity that will impact the rest of my life, as well as those around me. The cost for me to be a part of the Institute program will be \$11,750 for tuition. This is one area where I have seen the Lord at work in my heart, because pridefully, there is a part of me that desires to do this all on my own. However, as I began to study ministry support throughout scripture, I have seen how the Lord is able to multiply ministry beyond what is possible by human standards. As Jesus was supported in Luke 8, and Paul partnered with the Philippian church in Philippians 4, the bible has multiple examples of what it means to offer support. First and foremost, I ask you to join me in prayer. I am praying that my heart would be open to all the teaching and challenges that I will receive, that the Lord would be at work in the lives of all those who are involved with the program, and that as I enter the program my desires would be in line with the Lords. Second, I would invite you to consider financial support, as I truly believe that the Lord does provide, and with a team of supporters, more abundantly than I could on my own. I would treasure your support and partnership as I commit to a year of discipleship and prepare for a lifetime of ministry. I thank you even now for your time and your consideration, and if you are willing to commit to pray for me, and/or are able to give financially to support me, I would be so grateful and excited.

I am thankful for prayers, and for the impact that you have had on my life to this point. Thank you for considering joining me in prayer as I take this single step that the Lord has illuminated with His light. I am excited to see the team that God puts together for me and look forward to sharing the adventure with you as I go. I am beyond thankful for you and your time!

In Him,

Tanner



How do I indicate commitment?

Included in the letter is an addressed envelope, as well as a response card. The purpose of this response card, is to provide me with a record of who is a part of my team and allow me to keep in touch. Please return this to me by May 14th.

What is the best way for me to donate?

If you would like, PayPal or Venmo may be used for online donations. Personal checks may be sent with the response card or sent to the address below at a later date.

Venmo: Tanner-Cranford

PayPal: paypal.me/TannerCranford

Address: 2209 Fairmont, Columbia, MO 65203

When are the donations due?

With the due date for tuition at the institute set for the beginning of September, it would be incredibly helpful if donations were received by May 14th, which is the date that I leave to serve at Kanakuk for the summer. Monthly donations are also a viable option if that works better financially.

KANAKUK INSTITUTE



STUDENT,

YES, I, _____, WANT TO JOIN WITH YOU AS YOU COMMIT THIS NEXT YEAR TO MINISTRY AND TO STUDYING GOD'S WORD. YOU CAN COUNT ON ME TO SUPPORT YOU IN THE FOLLOWING WAY(S):

- ☐ PRAYER—I UNDERSTAND THAT THIS IS THE BEST AND MOST EFFECTIVE WAY TO SUPPORT YOU WHILE YOU FOLLOW HIS CALLING. I COMMIT TO INTERCEADING ON YOUR BEHALF.
- ☐ FINANCIALLY—I WANT TO HELP MEET YOUR FINANCIAL NEED WHILE YOU ARE LIVING AT THE KANAKUK INSTITUTE. I HAVE PRAYED AND FEEL THE LORD LEADING ME TO GIVE:

☐ A ONE TIME GIFT OF: \$_____

☐ A MONTHLY GIFT OF: \$_____

PLEASE, RETURN THIS CARD USING THE PROVIDED ENVELOPE OR MAIL TO:
JOHNNY STUDENT
1234 YOUR DRIVE
SOMEWHERE, PA 12341