

THE LYNN LETTERS

SEPTEMBER 2017



A caring community passionate about connecting people to Jesus Christ



Dear Church Family at Grace Christian Fellowship,

It's been another fast and full start to the semester, both exhilarating and exhausting. I love it though. In just a few weeks, I've connected with hundreds of students and dozens of professors. Student Activities Fairs the first week, connecting with freshmen the next week, kicking off our weekly large group gatherings, talking to sports teams about ministry to athletes (we've got such a good relationship that *coaches are asking me* to speak to their team!), and hosting our first of many dinner-discussion seminars with faculty and local clergy on the topic of science, religion, and society. This sounds like a lot, and it is; and there's no way we can keep up without your faithful prayers and support. Together, we're riding God's wave of blessing, guided and empowered by His Spirit, to bring the Light of Christ to a dark place.

We praise God for these opportunities, yet the best and perhaps most important meeting took place in our home at the beginning of the month with our student leaders, before the chaos of the new year began. I reminded them about God's faithfulness to keep a remnant of His people on the college campus, and shared my eager expectation for what He will do this coming year (some of which has already happened!). But I think I surprised some of them when I shared how they can truly be part of God's plan at Brown and beyond.

I gave them three key priorities as leaders of our growing movement. "First, your relationship with God. Yes, it's obvious, but you will have to fight all year to keep this a priority. Unless you are connecting and enjoying God, your personal ministry—and our movement, for that matter—will not be Spirit-led, but Spirit-less. Second, *daily* prayer and time with God. This is one practical area where you can measure how you're doing. It's not about *duty*, but it is about *discipline*, knowing and believing that our *delight* in God leads to the true desires of your heart (Psalm 37:3-7). Third, we're here to make disciples of Jesus (Matt. 28:18-20). You must first be a disciple, and part of your job (and joy!) is to find others to disciple. You are a *CoJourneyer*: coming alongside others in their journey and pointing them to Jesus."



Nothing secret or extraordinary about this strategy: be with God, talk with God, share about God. Fortunately, I've been blessed with some phenomenal student leaders—content but still contending, humble but still hungry, passionate but still purposeful. For example, soak up this quote from one of them when I asked her why she wants to be a leader:

"What motivates me to serve in the leadership for AIA at this point in my life is the idea of giving back to not only Christ, but also to the program of AIA itself. At the beginning of my freshman year at Brown, I was having a very hard transition...I was centering my self-worth on soccer, not God...I remember walking into AIA during the second meeting of the year and Jarrod read out the mission statement. Once I heard these words I was immediately overcome with emotions and tried to hide my tears from the strangers (and soon to be friends) around me...I taped the handout on my wall, which remained there until move-out day...Although I was lost and scared, I felt appreciated, welcomed, and hopeful once I entered that meeting. I am a firm believer that AIA helped me find Christ and myself again during this difficult time in my life. I want to help other student athletes do the same..."

"By no means is becoming stronger in your faith an easy task. However, I know that if I am put with the responsibility to lead by example and get out of my comfort zone in terms of my faith, my relationship with Him will be challenged and strengthened. What motivates me is my experience with AIA and how impactful being a part of this program can be, as well as knowing that God is calling me to take this next step in my own faith."

Praising God with you,
Jarrod, Susie, and kids