

THE LYNN LETTERS

NOVEMBER 2017



A caring community passionate about connecting people to Jesus Christ



Dear Church Family at Grace Christian Fellowship,

“What it would take for you to believe that the spiritual realm is real and exists?” This is the question I posed at my table during our faculty dinner-discussion-seminar event a few weeks ago. Sitting next to me were a psychiatrist (agnostic), writer (spiritual but not religious), biomedical engineer (Bhuddist), and priest (Catholic). We, along with 50+ other faculty, alumni, and some local clergy seated tables throughout the room, were discussing the presentation by Dr. LaFrance about science and faith in the medical clinic. It’s always an incredible opportunity to influence the very people influencing this next generation. About the event, one professor said:

“It was a great mix of people - I think that’s in part what made the table discussion so good...quite different from the usual intellectual fare we’re engaged in and was more common for others at the table, and yet we all had very strong thoughts on it. The overall topic brought out comments from the group stemming from academic training, sure, but also family upbringing, personal experience as adults out in the world, convictions and values. I thoroughly enjoyed it.”

The following week, we brought in big-time gymnast Kim Anthony to share her story of fear, freedom, and faith on her journey to become one of the most decorated NCAA gymnasts of all time. Before Kim’s talk that night, she had dinner with all the gymnasts on Brown University’s varsity squad—a great time of swapping stories and learning from Kim’s experiences. Kim’s story is powerful, which is why we gave away 45 copies of her memoirs, *Unfavorable Odds*, to many student-athletes, including the gymnastics coach and two key athletics



department administrators. Additionally, I gave a copy to Janet, the Head Chaplain of the university, and introduced Kim. Janet is starting a new initiative on “Truth, Racial Healing, and Transformation” that I thought Kim might be a great fit for, I was hoping for 2-3 minutes with Janet, but our meeting ended up being over an hour!



Janet has such a good pulse on the university and its students, and she’s finding that it’s really only through conversations and stories that people change. Janet wants to focus on ‘narrative’ in her upcoming programs—which is exactly what we’re already doing in our ministry! And Kim is a great example of that. Please pray with us that we and Kim can partner with Janet in the future, because I know we’d not only share powerful and meaningful stories, but our narratives would point to the true meta-narrative, the grand story that, by God’s grace, we’re able to play a part in.

As we approach Thanksgiving, we’re reminded of you, our faithful and supportive ministry partners. Please know that we’ll be giving thanks to God for you, and how, together, we’re impacting lives for the glory of God. Also, thank you for considering us in your year-end giving. May our great God continue to bless you during this holiday season!

In His service with you,
Jarrod, Susie, and kids

P.S. – Please email us if you’re not on our email updates list. We send a monthly email (in addition to this paper newsletter) which includes ministry highlights and family updates.

