

Financial Aid Generic Thank You Letters

By Zackary Kendall

2010-2013

Dear friends,

Out of all of the reliefs in a young person's life, perhaps there is none so significant (educationally speaking) as knowing that one will be able to afford his college education. As a contributor to a scholarship for my college education, you are an integral part in helping me to excel later in life.

Just as a jumbo jet requires many parts in order to soar, so the young person requires many helps in order to excel. These include not only those helps which lead him down the runway of preparation, but also those which enable him to stay in the skies of service. There are also those people and helps which ensure his safety and guidance.

In my life there have been many such helps and people for-which I am grateful: an assistant who helped me in elementary school to avoid choking on food, an elementary school teacher who taught me humility, several encouragers, the witness unto Christ by my grandfather to me some seven and a half years ago, and a wholesome local church for me to grow in the Lord, to name some.

Of course, on the runway there may be many bumps, and in the skies some turbulence. Such is a part of life; and I am also grateful for Providence, who preserved me through a few such bumps, including family troubles, a stomach virus I had during the night and following morning before a high-school midterm exam, the deaths of my two pet hamsters (Blake and Jake), and traumatic childhood injuries.

Also, like a plane which is limited and imperfect in its flight in this world, in this world I (like any other mere man) can fly only so high and only imperfectly. In all – spiritually speaking – there have been both victories and failures, both joy and grief, and both good and bad role models in my life thus far. By your sacrificial gift for my education, you are more than a good role model to me.

Perhaps college is to the young person as one engine is to the jumbo jet: if a young person does take off without that engine, for him there will be a slower, more risky flight ahead. So what then is your part? Is it not a part of that engine? Without your contribution, I would not be able to have installed the engine of the instilled education from a Christian university such as BJU. For this contribution—for an opportunity and privilege no less—I am grateful. It is an investment in an airplane which is of the intent to soar high, being fueled by the oil of time in Scripture, being guided by the navigation system of the Holy-Spirit, and being ready to learn the skills necessary for a career in mass communication.

Thank you for your gift of generosity, and God bless you in each opportunity.

Sincerely,  
Zackary Kendall

Dear Friends,

Many times in this high-paced life, people pass up opportunities that can benefit their lives or the lives of others. At other times, people are prone to forget what they need to remember and tend to ignore the reminders that God and others so often send to them.

During my freshman year at college, there was an increasing focus on the truth of the necessity of taking advantage of such opportunities: there were opportunities for enjoying theatrical and musical performances, opportunities for striving to do one's best academically, opportunities for fellowshiping and edifying others in Christ, and opportunities to go out to seek the lost—just to name a few. Indeed, taking advantage of our opportunities as Christians is truly essential (Eph. 5:15-17).

Another truth impressed more upon my mind is that there is a time for every purpose of Providence (Eccl. 3:1). News of births and deaths, challenging messages from the podium and pulpit, and even friendships with others at college were reminders that the past, present, and future are all in God's hands. He gives and takes away, and He ensures that His people who serve and love Him receive "an expected end" (Jer. 29:11).

While here on campus, subtle reminders of home, of good times at church, of experiences with friends, and of personal commitments occasionally came to mind. Of course, there were also reminders of a more academic nature: the beeping sound of alarm-clocks signaled the beginning of school-days; the ringing of school bells signaled the beginnings and finales of classes; and the syllabi served as schedules of reminders for what was necessary to accomplish. More importantly, however, were the personal reminders of Christ's loving sacrifice and God's faithfulness. Through childhood trauma involving the near divorce of parents, the witnessing of my grandpa to me about Christ over eight years ago, the past bipolar disorder episodes of my mother, stumbling and improvement spiritually, reunions and goodbyes, and life's other challenges and circumstances, He has always kept His word and given safety.

With the confidence that He will still keep His word and that part of His will is for me to attend BJU, I both trust that He will make a way for me to attend even when there seems to be no way and am grateful that He has chosen you to help to make that way. By contributing, you help to give me the opportunity both to succeed and to improve the lives of acquaintances and friends. Thank you for investing in the future by giving me the opportunity to attend, to grow, to learn, and to edify at Bob Jones University.

Sincerely,  
Zackary Kendall.

Dear Friends,

Truly, there are many things that we can be thankful for as Christians. Not only do we share in fellowship with the Lord through the Holy Spirit, but we also can find peace in recalling His faithfulness to us in our own lives.

Looking back, I can personally, clearly recall God's faithfulness. Images come to mind from childhood: everything from experiencing a car accident just feet away from home, to being saved from choking, to experiencing other various injuries. In later years, I dealt with a nasty stomach virus, came within four feet of accidentally rear-ending a car in a sudden interstate traffic jam, and (due to an ice storm) endured six wintery days without electricity. Yet still in all those things, the Lord has brought me through.

Most importantly, however, is the Lord's faithfulness in saving my soul. At home about nine years ago with my grandfather advising, I trusted in Christ for my spiritual salvation. It would only be a few years later, however, that I would gain more assurance in that salvation. Step by step, the protective and instructive hand of the Lord has been upon my life, giving clearer and clearer focus on His purpose for me.

Thus far at Bob Jones University, I have not only heard the sights and sounds of performances but also have worked on visual and audio work within both my major and WBJU (the campus radio station). Furthermore, the critiqued practice, research projects, and push for Christ-honoring professionalism here at the university have certainly provided good preparation for future service. With continued support and the use of God-given talents, my intent is to serve Christ in the field of radio broadcasting.

Still believing that God desires for me to attend BJU, I both trust that He will ensure the completion of my undergraduate preparation there and am grateful that He has chosen you to assist financially (and hopefully, prayerfully too). Your contributions have been vital to giving me the opportunity to vocationally succeed while teaching, encouraging, and enlivening acquaintances and friends. Thank you for investing in the future by helping me to attend, to grow, to learn, to encourage, and to edify at Bob Jones University.

Sincerely,

Zackary Kendall

Dear Friends,

Many times in life, opportunities and challenges come as surprises. From helping with a media campaign for an animal adopt-a-thon to developing PSAs and a short video on the dining common, my time spend so far at Bob Jones University has been full of surprising opportunity experiences. One of those opportunities for me this past year involved helping to form a new society at BJU out of three pre-existing societies. Working with several other young men to organize the fine points of the new society, I can affirm that it was an encouragement to see so many leaders with a focus on serving Christ.

As the sole historian during the transition, I enjoyed the opportunity of documenting with pictures and a bit of film the various decisions and events of the new society, from its new mascot and Greek letters to the Atlanta trip service project. Highlights of the service project included everything from fixing an overhead light that had landed on someone's head to eating pizza with "Mega Death" hot sauce after a long day's work. God again and again stressed diligence for the year.

Another opportunity that I had that I did not expect a few years ago was the opportunity of having two of my church friends attend the university with me. While sharing thoughts and prayer requests, I have enjoyed numerous talks with a friend who is planning on being a missionary. Yet another opportunity I enjoyed this past year, especially considering how much music speaks to me in church services and on the radio, included helping some fellow students to record a hymn for a class project.

Of course, not all news during this past year was bright and cheery. My great uncle Clarence died, one of the sons of my audio professor got cancer, and my grandpa by no fault of his own put stress on my mother to take care of his problems, from hearing aids breaking to his dementia. Even through these things, I can see the power of God sustaining my mother, me, and others. However, I am definitely still a work in progress. Please pray for my continued spiritual growth as I endeavor to complete more projects, sharpen my skills, and reach out to others.

This coming academic year at the university will aid me to prepare for the vocation of radio broadcasting through further practice, classes, and an internship. Grateful for God's grace and goodness, I look forward to encouraging others of the student body, helping grow my new society culturally and spiritually, and ministering to others for the sake of the name of Christ. Thank you for investing in the future by giving me the opportunity to grow, learn, and serve at Bob Jones University.

Sincerely,

Zackary Kendall