

Letter to Jonathan on his 18th birthday expressing our desire and thoughts about the person he has become and preparing him for the next step in his life.

May 16, 2010

12 Stone Church – Hamilton Mill

Dear Jonathan:

We are writing this to you as you are being dedicated to the Lord on May 16, 2010. It seems like only yesterday that you were 6lbs and could rest in the cradle of our arms between our wrists and elbows. Now, you are much bigger and, we must say, much more handsome. We are only in our 30's right now and we are not old or infinitely wise, but we wanted to write to you on this special day about the person we hope you become. It is not our desire to shape your life to have an occupation that we desire for you, nor do we want to shape you in your thoughts and desires as we know those only develop as you grow. But, at this time, we would like to share our heart for you to first and foremost come to know the Lord as your own personal and soul changing savior. In our opinion this is the most important decision that you can make in this life. Your mom and I chose to follow Him, and though life has had its challenges, we have found that strength and security are found only in Him and not in the strength of our hand nor in number of our possessions. Second, our desire would be that you would become a man full of integrity and character. In a world full of dishonest and unscrupulous people may you stand apart as an example of one who is true to his word and not shaken by chance or circumstance. Your mom and I named you Jonathan because we were attracted to the loyalty and friendship that that name personifies because Jonathan in the Bible was a trusted friend to David and David loved him very much. May you always be honest in your thoughts, sincere in your actions, pure in your intents, and loving in your conveyance. We trust, at 18, you have a good grasp on these two things because in the years ahead they will be a much appreciated compass to lead you on this next journey. As you embark on this next phase of your life, pressure will hit you from all sides and you will begin to realize that the decisions you make now have real life consequences. Please, stay true to yourself and the character that you have developed. May your conscience, through Christ Jesus, be your guide and put light on the decisions that only you can make. Lastly and ultimately, know that we love you fully and completely. You will always be our baby boy, our first born. But, you are a man now and we are sure we will be proud to see that young man that you have become.

With tenderness and immense love for you,

Daddy and Mama