



Dear Friends, This is the wondrous season that reminds us of our countless reasons for thanking God for His many blessings on Thanksgiving. It is also a special month for us because we have reached 25 years of ministry. When I consider how God has sustained us over the years, I am extremely grateful for His faithfulness. I am also very thankful for the gift of your friendship and support for Legacy of Truth.

Our Mission—Students: One of the best ways to stay true to our purpose (why we exist) and our mission (why we do, what we do) is to go back to the beginning. When times are challenging, remembering why we started in the first place can bring about a renewed commitment to “stay the course.” At our first board meeting we implemented a number of nonnegotiable principles and policies that would serve as safeguards to guarantee that our full confidence would always be in God alone (1 Corinthians 2:4-5). A few of those safeguards included a decision to enact a “no-fee” policy, trusting that God would raise up like-minded believers to support our mission. We pledged not to be self-promoting, or to engage in any type of marketing plan. Furthermore, we dedicated ourselves to continually stay on mission—to teach and mentor high school and college students (2 Timothy 2:2).

Our North Star—God: During our 25 years of ministry there have a number of times when unexpected situations and compounding factors would have, but by the grace of God, taking us “off mission.” It is analogous to a ship being blown off course, diverted by unexpected winds with the possibility of being shipwrecked. When a ship was lost at sea, during the sailing era, a navigator would use the North Star to get back on course. This was possible because the North Star is a fixed point in the heavens. God is our North Star—our fixed point—and we look up to Him to know that we are currently where we ought to be (on mission) before we

set a course to continue our journey. “I lift up my eyes to You, to You who sits enthroned in heaven” (Psalm 123:1).

Our Helmsman—Holy Spirit: We are living in the midst of some very fierce sociocultural storms, triggered by the turbulent winds of woke ideology and powered by the belligerent mouthpieces of identity politics and cultural diversity. As we look ahead, we know God’s vision will not change and we know our mission will not change. The only change that needs to take place is to create a series of lessons that will be used to train students to navigate these ideological tsunamis. There are numerous ideologies connected by a web of social constructs and dogmatic ideas such as wokeness, equity, gender identity, and social justice issues. Analyzing and evaluating these topics can be quite confusing and rather overwhelming. Without the right person at the helm, students can very easily be “tossed back and forth by the waves and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of people in their deceitful scheming” (Ephesians 4:14). However, with God’s Spirit at the helm that will not happen!

Our Navigator—Jesus: We know that Jesus never hesitated to respond to the controversial issues of his day. Nor did he shrink back from the aggressive attacks of the enemy. In fact, Jesus confronted false accusations, bold-faced lies, distortions of the truth, and deceptions “head-on.” He did this by using first principle questions and challenging the hidden assumptions of his adversaries, leaving them to pick up the pieces left behind of their own arguments. The technique used by Jesus was profoundly simple, undeniably successful and unparalleled by any measure. Creating a course based on the critical thinking skills and communication strategy of Jesus will guide students through this tempestuous ocean of ideas.

Our Priority—Mentoring: One of our ministry distinctives is to equip high school students and *stay connected to them* during their college years. Over the years, God has connected us with many outstanding young adults who have the potential to one day be an Esther or a Daniel. Whenever we recognize such an individual, we move into high gear and begin a one-on-one mentoring relationship. There is no short-cut for the time and effort involved to invest in these lives, but as God has clearly shown us over the years a harvest goes forth, multiplying itself many times over, by the work of the Spirit. For your encouragement, I have included (below) notes of gratitude written by two very exceptional young adults, Drew and Mireille.

Ways To Donate: Since the summer months are financially challenging, a donation would be most appreciated! Other ways to support our efforts would be to make a monthly contribution or to help us through AmazonSmile (Amazon contributes to us when you purchase). For more information on how to donate, please visit our website at: www.legacyoftruth.org/giving/

MEET DREW, A JUNIOR AT UGA: God has an interesting way of putting people into your life just when you need them. Pete mentored me when I was wrestling with faith in high school, when most days felt like I was losing the battle. Then I met Pete and I finally felt like I understood my questions and anxieties. I wasn't 'winning' in the sense that I would strap arguments to my hip in hopes of subduing the deconstruction rebellion. I just felt like I was at peace with my faith. I felt that no matter what tensions came up in my walk of faith, I could work through them – just like I was having a coffee with a friend. Perhaps that is where Pete is most special. Nobody loves the truth more than he does, and also nobody enjoys a relationship like Pete. You can't have one without the other. Tears and jokes, grace and truth: just two sides of the same coin.

Pete continues to be my mentor and because of that I decided to pursue a graduate degree in theological studies, then a doctorate (hopefully). I would not have the confidence to think deeply about faith and truth if it weren't for our mentoring relationship. It's simply too scary and emotional to do it by myself, especially so young. Once I connected with Pete, I was able to figure out my doubts and uncertainties. After that, I would not let my anxious thoughts have the last word. To this day I maintain the importance of a clear-headed philosophical mentorship at a young age. Life is too confusing to not think through it well, and it's too emotional to think about it too much (and forget to work your heart muscle). For this I can thankfully point to Pete, my friend and mentor. I am also grateful for people that support Legacy of Truth! All the best, Drew

MEET MIREILLE, A JUNIOR AT UNG: In high school I took Mr. B.'s Critical Thinking (CT) course because I had no real basis for my beliefs. I grew up in the church, but when I had questions like "Why is Christianity the only way to heaven?" or "Why does God let terrible things happen?" the only answer I was given was "because the Bible says so!" Yet, I really wanted to know the

answers to my questions. This course gave me the skills I needed to think for myself. CT taught me how to examine both my beliefs and the arguments against them. I practiced interviewing people with opposing views and answering their questions. I wrote papers that forced me to question myself and phrase my thoughts precisely.

As a college student, I have found that most lectures, textbooks, and conversations require me to apply the skills I learned in CT. I found that the principles I learned are foundational and applicable to many of my college courses. This is especially true every time I'm faced with new ideas and arguments. For example, my anatomy professor stressed the importance of the terms embryo, cell, and baby in her lecture and used those terms synonymously. Yet, I knew that my professor could not believe that an embryo was a human baby, while at the same time saying that exterminating a baby was not murder. When I left that classroom the girl next to me was quite upset at what the professor said in her lecture. Yet, she was not able to articulate a good reason as to why she was so upset.

As for me, I have no problem explaining to my peers why beliefs such as "all religions are true" or "all truth is personal" are irrational. Other students have shared why they believe Christianity is not true. However, after discussing their positions for a few minutes, their arguments start fading away. Then it becomes clear that they were only repeating common arguments against Christianity and that they did not know how to think for themselves. CT also helped me formulate my political and social beliefs. I have watched my peers struggle with their faith because they do not know why they believe what they believe. However, I have the tools I need to test truth claims and to identify the characteristics of truth. I must say that this is the most valuable skill that I have learned. I am quite sure if I did not take CT in high school, college would have destroyed my identity. For this, and many other reasons, I am very grateful for a ministry that teaches young people to think for themselves! Sincerely, Mireille