

First Baptist Church of South Holland

Dear Pastor,

Micah Christiansen is a stand-out servant of our Lord Jesus Christ. He has displayed loyalty, sacrifice, and determination in the years he served with me in the Chapel Ministry of First Baptist Church of Hammond. The Chapel Ministry was started to plant churches in largely African-American neighborhoods throughout Chicagoland. One of those churches thus started was the First Baptist Church of South Holland, which I pastor. Micah was there the first week I started as a pastor in the Chapel Ministry in the fall of 2005. He remained a servant in the shadows, serving his bus route till later becoming the bus captain. He served in our Junior Church till later being named the pastor of our youth.

Micah has proven to be faithful, receiving a master's degree from Hyles-Anderson College while interning with me personally. During this course he not only served a weekend ministry, he also learned the nuts and bolts of the daily work that goes into church planting. He used some of his writing skills to create a play called *Judgment Nights*, of which he later became the director. This play was used of God to see literally hundreds saved and over a thousand in attendance!

I am thankful for the friendship established during these years of service with Micah. I have had the privilege to watch him live above reproach as a single student and then marry the love of his life. The Christiansen name has respect and trust at the First Baptist Church of South Holland, and investing in Micah with your support will not be money wasted.

God bless you,

Danny Brannon



SCOTT AND DEBBIE CHRISTIANSSEN



June 24, 2014

Dear Pastor,

It is with great joy that I can recommend my son and his wife, Micah and Abbie Christiansen, to the work God has called them to do in Ghana, West Africa.

In the years that my wife and I raised Micah with his one sister and four brothers, he marked himself as a young man who demonstrated an excellent spirit. He was diligent in his studies, obedient as a son, dedicated to his Saviour, and a credit to his church family. Micah has maintained his cheerful spirit as he worked his way through Bible college and graduate studies, overcoming many obstacles with a determination that will serve him well on the mission field.

The words *sincere* and *balanced* come to my mind as I think of Micah. He loves souls and the truth. He is solid in his doctrine and pure in his personal practices. He was willing to wait for a young lady who would help him to serve God with joy and who would have the same dedication as he has towards his Saviour's will.

Micah and Abbie have been given excellent training and are dedicated to the "old-time religion" on which they both were raised. The field of Ghana is challenging in every way—physically, spiritually, and mentally. I believe that they are not only willing to go but also are capable of dealing with the difficulties ahead, because they have already learned to trust in God's grace.

"My son, if thine heart be wise, my heart shall rejoice, even mine." (Proverbs 23:15). I am rejoicing because Micah and Abbie have chosen to *"walk in truth"* (III John 4). I believe they will see much fruit for their labors in Ghana and will be a faithful asset to the team of missionaries in Kumasi.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions about Micah and Abbie. Thank you for prayerfully considering to help them on their way to a fruitful and needy part of God's harvest field.

Yours for souls,

Scott Christiansen

Scott Christiansen
Fundamental Baptist Missions International
Missionary in Negros Oriental, Philippines



Dear Pastor,

We are very excited to have Micah and Abbie Christiansen on deputation to join our ministry here in Ghana! Of course, all of our team members go soul winning, are involved in discipling converts, and help with the work of multiplying churches throughout Ghana and beyond. However, there are some particular areas of need which I believe the Christiansens are well suited to fill.

Four years ago we started a Christian school. Our school now has over 150 students, and it continues to grow. This school is a great opportunity for us to disciple young people for Christ's service. However, we need help in administrating this ministry in order for it to continue to move forward. I believe that Micah is suited perfectly to help us in this capacity.

Furthermore, our church is in desperate need of a children's pastor. Micah has a heart to work with children, and he will take on that duty, which will include training Ghanaian nationals to work with children. Micah will also help us by teaching in our monthly, modular Bible college classes.

If you have any questions that you would like to ask me concerning the Christiansens, then please email me at tedspeer@fbmi.org.

God bless,

Ted Speer



Team Leader



MICAH AND ABBIE CHRISTIENSEN



Micah's Testimony

I was born the third of six children to Scott and Debbie Christiansen. My dad was a pastor; so, of course, I grew up in church and heard the Gospel regularly. I had made a profession of faith and been baptized by the age of seven, but the truth was that my trust was more in my prayers than in Christ. I rightly began to doubt my salvation at the age of nine, and shortly after, I decided to make sure I was saved. I went forward at the end of a Sunday night service and prayed, this time trusting Christ alone. I was baptized the same night.

When I was twelve, I went to my first Youth Conference in Hammond, Indiana, where I heard Dr. Jack Hyles preach, resulting in my surrendering to full-time Christian service. That decision was strengthened the following year when I went to Teen Convention in Longview, Texas. I did not know which avenue of full-time Christian service I was supposed to take, but as I grew older, I just began to assume that I would be a pastor or a missionary, as they were the options that most appealed to me.

I went to college and started with a pastoral major, but I decided to switch my major to missions in the second semester of my freshman year. I finished my bachelor's degree in four years, and on my pastor's advice, I began a master's degree in education. It was while I was working on my master's degree that I met and started dating my future wife Abbie. We had been dating for a year when I began a two-year internship at First Baptist Church. The first year and a half, I interned for Danny Brannon, the director of the Chapel Ministry, which was my ministry for most of my college experience. I interned for FBMI my last semester. When I was finished with college, Abbie and I were married on August 3, 2013.

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MICAH AND ABBIE CHRISTIANSSEN



Abbie's Testimony

I was born and raised in a Christian home. My parents, Tim and Kathy Cortopassi, made sure that my four siblings and I attended a Christian school and that we went to church as a family every service. Since I grew up in church, I heard the Gospel often. I may have been saved at the age of seven. I remember my mom talked to me during church on a Sunday morning. I prayed that morning and got baptized that evening.

Sometime later, my family watched the movie *Left Behind*. I got scared, wondering if I were really saved or not. I went through several years not sure if I was going to Heaven but assuming that I was because I had prayed with my mom and gotten baptized.

In seventh grade, I started going to Teenage Soul Winning. I started leading people to Christ but still was not sure if I was saved or not. In November 2001, I sat on my bed with my Bible, and I looked up the verses for the Romans Road. I went through the verses as if I were leading someone else to Christ, but I was doing it for my own benefit. I wanted to settle my doubt once and for all. I prayed, accepting Christ as my only way to Heaven. When I finished, I felt a huge burden lift from my shoulders. Since that time, I have not doubted my salvation.

Ever since I was a little girl, I knew I wanted to be a missionary. It was with that in mind that I went to Hyles-Anderson College and got my bachelor's degree in elementary education. At that time I wanted to be a missionary to China, so I tried to take a missions trip there three different times. Every one of the trips was canceled. After trying for the third time, I really felt that God had closed the door to my going to China.

I did go on a missions trip to Honduras and Belize in 2010, simply because I wanted to take a missions trip before graduating from college. A week before my trip, Micah and I had our first date. We dated for three years before getting married on August 3, 2013.

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MICAH AND ABBIE CHRISTIENSEN



Micah's Call

I began to pray through an atlas during my tenth-grade year, and God used that prayer time to bring Thailand to my attention during my senior year of high school. I could not get Thailand off my heart and mind, so I prayed about whether I should go there as a missionary. I was still praying about it when I went to Hyles-Anderson College, and when the college had its Missions Emphasis Days, I still had a burden for Thailand. By the close of the conference, I wanted to be a missionary to Thailand more than I had ever wanted anything. I told God, "I think you want me to go to Thailand, and I know I want to. If I'm wrong, I believe You're big enough to get my attention. Otherwise, I'm going to go for it." On the strength of that decision, I finished my bachelor's degree with a major in missions and moved on into my graduate degrees.

However, a problem came up shortly after Abbie and I were engaged. We no longer knew where we should go as missionaries. Mere months before I graduated, God shut the door on the way we were planning on going to Thailand. When I was given the news, my mind instantly flashed back to my freshman year of college, telling God that if Thailand was not His will, He could get my attention. I felt like God was saying, "Have I got your attention?" He did have it, and Abbie and I started praying and seeking God's plan for our lives. I did not doubt God's plan for me still included missions, but I did question if Thailand was where God wanted me to go. Through internship, God had shown me that I should work with a more experienced missionary, so our thoughts and prayers leaned heavily toward team missions. Nonetheless, Abbie and I had to wait for a little over a year before getting God's specific direction for us.

Abbie and I had a meeting with Pastor Wilkerson, during which he went over some different options open to us with a few of the teams. One of those opportunities was with Team Ghana. The nature of the opening interested me, but the fact that Bro. Speer is the team leader interested me even more. I had served under Bro. Speer in the Chapel Ministry before he went to Ghana, so I already knew and loved the man. Not long afterward, Bro. Speer and I talked. I found that the work available in Ghana fit in a way that made it apparent that God had been preparing me for a long time. Abbie and I prayed about the opportunity, and it did not take long for us to come to the belief that Ghana is God's plan for us. We are very excited about getting to work for Him with the team in Ghana!

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MICAH AND ABBIE CHRISTIENSEN



Micah's Vision

Team Ghana's driving purpose is making disciples of Jesus Christ, and the result has been the multiplying of churches. God has blessed the efforts of the men and women serving Him in Kumasi, Ghana. Fundamental Baptist Church International has been in existence for 8 years and has already directly influenced the start of 36 other churches in Ghana and Liberia.

The church in Kumasi is also home to Hyles-Anderson College of West Africa, which has 61 graduates and an average of 37 students per month. The college prepares the young and old alike. The current student body is made up of young men who are aspiring to be in ministry, as well as current pastors who see their need for better training.

I eagerly anticipate doing as my fellow team members have done: winning souls, discipling converts, and helping advance the spread of churches across Africa. One of my specific duties on Team Ghana will be to disciple children. God has given me a passion for reaching children, so I eagerly anticipate this opportunity.

It is well known that children are the most easily reached people group, and I would contend that they are also the group with the most potential. Half of Ghana's population is 20 years old and younger; young people truly are the key to making a long-term impact in Ghana and the surrounding regions. I look forward to teaching Ghanaian pastors and workers how to develop Children's Ministries so that the next generation is reached across Ghana and beyond.

In addition to leading the Children's Ministry at Fundamental Baptist Church International, I am excited about teaching in Hyles-Anderson College of West Africa and Fundamental Baptist Academy. I am thrilled to have the opportunity to mold the lives of pastors, pastors in training, and the young people of our Christian school.

I can hardly wait to experience what God has in store for Abbie and me in Ghana!

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