Dear Pastor,

My name is Charles Newton. My family and I are missionaries to East Africa. We are sent out of Hopewell Baptist Church of Napa, California, under the leadership of Pastor Mike Ray.

Below you will find our personal testimonies and our mission, as well as our letters of recommendation. Thank you for taking the time to look over our materials.

Thank you again for your consideration in allowing us to present our ministry to your church. I look forward to communicating with you in the near future. If I can help serve you in any way, please allow me to do so.

God bless,

Charles Newton
Charles’ Testimony

I am a first-generation Christian. Growing up, my family never talked about the Bible or God. I couldn’t tell you one story from the Bible. Honestly, I never thought about God until I was a young teenager. A family member invited my family to church, and I soon started attending off and on for a few months. I did not really understand what the big deal was. Growing up in a family that never attended church, I wasn’t sure if I really needed to go.

I was 14 years old when I attended a Wednesday night service in November of 2007. That night the pastor preached on salvation and Heaven. Suddenly that night, I felt true conviction and finally understood it for the first time. I talked to the assistant pastor at the end of the service, and on the back row of the church, he led me in the sinner’s prayer.

I had no idea what God had for me. I began attending church every time the doors were open. Six short months later, I attended a revival meeting with a group from my church. Every night I felt strong conviction, but I was not sure why. The last night, the preacher preached on “Taking Up the Mantle.” At that moment, it became abundantly clear what God had for me. He wanted me in the ministry.

Melissa’s Testimony

In the summer of 2000, I went to Hopewell Baptist Church in Napa, California. I did not regularly attend this church because I lived four hours away in a town called Visalia; however, my dad did attend this church on a regular basis. I knew that when I visited him, I would have to go to church. This particular Sunday my cousins and grandma were also in town visiting. My cousin and I went up to our designated Sunday school class. I do not remember what the teacher was speaking on, but I do remember at the end when she was praying, she asked if there was anyone who did not know 100% for sure that if they died they would go to Heaven. I remember knowing in my heart that I was not 100% sure I would go to Heaven, but I did not want to be the only one raising my hand. So like pretty much all children do during the prayer time, I peeked, and to my surprise, I saw my cousin raising her hand. Once I saw her hand up, I decided I would raise mine as well. A sweet lady then had us follow her out into the hallway, where she proceeded to tell us how we could know without any uncertainty that we were on our way to Heaven, and that day I accepted Christ.

Fast-forward seven years. At the age of 10, my mother’s addiction to drugs was discovered. Through a series of events, God me placed in Napa under my dad's care. My dad was determined to raise me right. He placed me in a Christian school, made sure we were at every church service, and reared me according to the Bible.
I was what most people considered a good Christian girl. I was at every service, went soul winning with the teens, and was even awarded the Christian Spirit Award by our Christian school. Deep inside, though, I had rebellion in my heart. I regularly visited with my mother, who was not a devoted Christian. She was saved but did not live a life for Christ. I lived a double life for many years. I would be the good Christian girl at my dad's, and the moment I got to my mom's, I slipped into my jeans and put on my old sinful-natured self. At my father's, I was living what looked like a good Christian life, but deep down I knew I was not fully committed.

God allowed my sin to be found out that year. My parents still sent me to camp but with strict instructions to be with a chaperone at all times because I was in trouble for living my double life. That year God did a tremendous work in my life. My pastor was one of the guest speakers at the camp, and during a Wednesday night service, he spoke on "8, 3, 1." This message was a major turning point in my life. I had been having fears of death and questioning if I would really go to Heaven if I died. There were nights I was scared when thinking about if I were to die. As soon as the invitation began, I spoke with one of the counselors and nailed down my salvation. To this day, I say I truly accepted Jesus Christ as my Saviour on August 7, 2007. The fear of death and where I would spend eternity went away after that and never returned.

I had no idea that the second decision I made that night would be one of the biggest decisions of my life. Bro. Mike Johnson got up after my pastor and felt the Holy Spirit wanted him to extend the invitation. During this extended invitation, I rededicated my life to Jesus and told Him, "God, I do not feel called anywhere specific, but I will go wherever you send my husband . . . even if it's Africa." Bro. Johnson never did get to speak that night, but because he extended that invitation, a bunch of teenagers got saved and made life-changing decisions. It was during that extended invitation I made a decision that at the time seemed so small, but it would be the very decision that would lead me not only to my husband but also to God's perfect will.
Call to Missions

It was my sophomore year of Bible college when I received my call to missions. I knew that God called me into full-time ministry, but I wasn’t sure what He would have me do. I began to pray that God would start to reveal it to me and asked God to use me however He wanted. God started dealing with me about missions, but I did not want to deal with the trials that I thought a missionary would face.

During the Missions Week in college, I finally partially gave in and prayed, “Lord, I will go if you want me to go, but I don’t know where, and I’m not going to tell anyone until I have been on a missions trip at least once. I don’t know where to start with planning; I am going to need You to take care of it.” I thought that I would have time before that ever happened. As soon as I finished praying, one of my teachers stepped up and announced a missions trip to Zambia and Zimbabwe, Africa. I knew right then that I would be going. I still never told anyone that God was calling me. I wanted to be sure.

The day we landed in Zambia, I knew that missions work was what God had for me. A mixture of God’s leading, the people’s receptiveness, and a thirst for God was unlike anything I had ever seen. When I returned home, I began to pray about what country God would send me to. I found it more and more difficult to pick a country. Every country needed someone and needed help. After several months of praying, God opened the door for me to get to know a missionary, Bro. Peter Morris. He shared with me his heart and the need in East Africa.

As I prayed about it more, it became clear that God was leading me to East Africa. We are very excited to be working with the Morris family and Team East Africa.
Mission Statement:
Our mission is to plant new churches by reaching out to believers and non-believers, teaching them how to follow Jesus and reach others.

Vision Statement:
Our vision is to see an equipped local New Testament church, serving in every city in the region of East Africa.

Core Values:

Christ-likeness
We depend on the transforming power of the Holy Spirit, the Word of God, and prayer to make us more like Jesus Christ.

Truth
We stand together in the truth of God’s inerrant and infallible Word.

Trust
We tell one another the truth in love and do what we say we will do.

Unity
We cannot accomplish the mission God has given us if there is unwarranted division. There must be unity with co-laborers and, more importantly, God.

Stewardship
The resources that come to our disposal are not our own. They are a trust from God. We are faithful to manage them in a manner that brings maximum benefit to God’s work.

Statement of Faith:

The Bible
We believe the Holy Bible is inspired by God and is the product of Spirit-controlled men, and therefore is the absolute truth without any error in its content. We believe we have a faithful representation for English-speaking people in the King James Version translation. We accept a literal interpretation and believe the Bible to be relevant for today as the guide for what we believe and how we live.
II Timothy 3:16-17; II Peter 1:19-21
Creation
We accept the Genesis account of Creation being six, literal, twenty-four-hour days, and believe that man came by direct creation of God and not by evolution.
Genesis 1-2; John 1:3; Colossians 1:16-17

God
We believe there is one living and true God. He is the Creator and the supreme Ruler of Heaven and earth in holiness and alone worthy of our worship. In the unity of the Godhead, there are three persons: The Father, The Son, and The Holy Spirit, equal in every divine perfection and executing distinct but harmonious offices in the great work of redemption.
Exodus 20:2-3; Revelation 4:11; I Corinthians 8:6; I John 5:7

The Son of God
We believe that Jesus Christ is the begotten Son of God the Father and in a miraculous manner was born of the virgin Mary. He is both fully God and fully man. He took upon Himself our nature, yet without sin, and by His death and resurrection made a full and substitutionary atonement for our sins. Jesus is the only way to Heaven and the only mediator between God and man.
Isaiah 7:14; Luke 1:27; John 1:14

The Holy Spirit
We believe that the Holy Spirit dwells in all believers, conforming them to the image of Jesus Christ. The Holy Spirit sanctifies or sets us apart to fulfill God’s purpose for our lives. The Holy Spirit comes within you when you accept Christ into your heart.
I Corinthians 12:13; Romans 8:16-17

Sin
We believe that man was created in innocence under the law of God, but by the voluntary transgression of Adam and Eve, they became sinners, consequently making all mankind sinners. Therefore, every man and woman born today is a depraved being and will therefore be accountable for the wages of his sin, which is death and Hell.
Genesis 3:1-6; Romans 3:23; 5:12, 19

Salvation
We believe that the salvation of sinners is wholly by grace apart from works, through the death and resurrection of the perfect “Lamb of GOD,” Jesus Christ, Who substituted Himself for us by taking the penalty for our sins. This satisfied the demands of the Holy God, thus justifying the repentant sinner. We furthermore believe that faith in the Lord Jesus Christ is the only condition of salvation.
Ephesians 2:8; I John 4:10; Romans 3:24-27; 5:1-9; II Corinthians 5:21
Eternal Security
Because God gives man eternal life through Jesus Christ, the believer is secure in that salvation for eternity. Salvation is maintained by the grace and power of God, not by the self-effort of the Christian. It is the grace and eternal power of God that gives this security. Hebrews 5:9; John 10:27-29; Jude 24; Romans 8:38-39

Separation
We believe that every Christian should live in a manner that honors and glorifies Christ, separating himself from the world and the things of the world, and setting his affections on the things of God. I Corinthians 5:13; James 4:4
To Whom It May Concern:

It is my great privilege to write this letter of recommendation on behalf of Charles and Melissa Newton. I am grateful to have had the opportunity to be their pastor after their completion of Bible college. During their time serving at our church, they proved to be both faithful and sincere, as well as a joy to be around. Bro. Charles is a solid young man with great fervor and a zeal for the ministry. He’s a wonderful Bible preacher with a burden for souls and a heart for the church.

It is my belief that both Charles and Melissa possess the faith and determination needed to fulfill the call of God upon their lives. I believe, with full confidence, that any opportunity Bro. Charles is given to preach and/or share his calling, he will not disappoint and will prove to be a blessing and help to your church.

Knowing their faithfulness and work ethic, it is also my firm belief that any support given to this family will not be given in vain but will rather be an investment in the Gospel ministry. Please prayerfully consider supporting this couple as one of your missionaries. Thank you for taking the time to read this letter.

Sincerely,

Pastor Josh Williams
Crossroads Baptist Church
Dear Pastor,

Charles and Melissa are going to do an awesome job in Africa as missionaries! Ever since I met Charles several years ago I have sensed he is consumed with reaching the people of the Dark Continent. His wife, Melissa, grew up in our church and was very involved for 13 years. They are both-graduates of Hyles-Anderson College. They are now married, have a baby, and ready for deputation. I am hoping you will support them financially as we will.

If you have any questions, feel free to call us.

Sincerely,

Pastor Mike Ray

MR/cm