

From our adopt-a-student

June 11, 2010

Hello friends, fellow workers in the Kingdom of God,

I am pleased to write you and let you know that I have finished my first year of seminary at Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne, IN. It will be good to have a break from studies however I am not taking a break from working. I'm thankful that I started a job at ANR pipeline 24 miles from my home. It is a pump station for natural gas; the 36 inch pipeline runs from Oklahoma to Wisconsin. There is a booster station like the one where I'm working every one hundred miles to keep the pressure at 900 psi. I help do minor maintenance on the engines and work around the yard, a lot of mowing, painting, cleaning, etc. I had worked there the first two summers I came home from college.

Along with my job I'll also be helping at my home church in Abilene, KS. Pastor Panzer has me scheduled to preach several Sundays in June and July. I am looking forward to getting more experience behind the pulpit. I had the opportunity to preach a couple times at my field work church in Indiana last quarter.

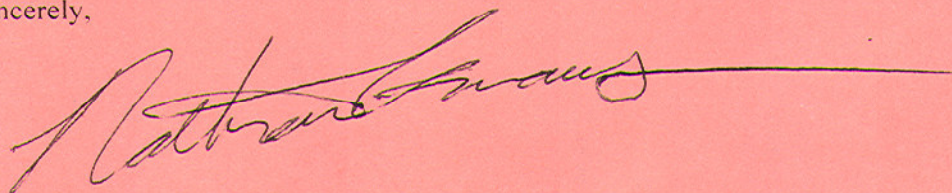
As for classes this last quarter Pauline Epistles and Theologia Baptism were my two most interesting classes. In Pauline Epistles we went through Galatians, Romans, 1 & 2 Corinthians. I wrote a paper covering the theme of obedience in Romans and a paper about Paul's discussion of marriage in 1 Corinthians chapter 7. In the Baptism class I learned about what Baptism really means, the development of the Baptismal rite from the time of Christ, and how Baptism inaugurates us into the Christian enterprise and is a lifelong means of grace. I wrote papers considering the early church fathers St. Augustine and Cyril of Jerusalem, and their commentary and teachings on Baptism.

It was a good year and I've had many great experiences with my fellow seminarians and professors as we have been a part of each others lives and studied God's Word together. It seems as though, the more I learn the less I know. On that sentiment I am very excited to keep on learning as much as I can so I will better be able to minister to God's people. As I keep on growing and maturing, again and again I keep seeing that true concern for one another within the intimate bond of Christianity is vital and invaluable. We build these relationships up with the love that God gives to us through His Son Jesus Christ.

There have been many instances in the last year where I or my friends and family have gone through hard times. It may have been something as insignificant as spending late hours to finish a paper, or the deep anguish that my friend Peter felt when he lost his wife of one year, when she died from cancer, or when two other seminarian families had stillborn children. As we suffer and go through present affliction (2 Cor. 1:3-7) God's grace is sufficient (2 Cor. 12:9,10) and He sustains us with eternal joy found in Christ.

I am deeply honored and humbled that God might use even me as His instrument to share this peace that does not come from the world. I am eternally grateful for your generosity and support as we work together to further the Kingdom of God.

Sincerely,



Nathan
Kraus