

July 31, 1994

Dear Dr. McDaniel,

I want you to know the impact that your teaching and modelling has had on me as your student over the last four years.

From the first day I sat in your O.T. class and you talked about the Hebrew words in the second Creation story...

Through the lecture in your Psalms class where you read and interpreted Ps. 22 — and I cried...

To my last class, The Pentateuch, I have been challenged to think, question and struggle with interpretation.

You have given me the tools and the curiosity to open many locked biblical/theological doors.

Sometimes the process has brought confusion and pain, but ultimately it brings me closer to the light. And I am deeply grateful that I was your student.

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The second big gift you gave me is the persistent encouragement to persevere with Hebrew. Never have I struggled harder in an academic endeavor for so meager an outcome! Yet the reward, though modest, was profound... and yes, well worth my effort.

But when I have completely forgotten the Hebrew and the shamah steals away from my memory, I will still remember you and the great privilege of sitting in your classes. Thank you for sharing your belief that the Bible is God's word through the eyes of humans.

I have had tumultuous times in my seminary years and have had to work through I and continue to work through - a revised theology and view of the Bible, but your faithfulness and gentleness are an example of constancy amidst turmoil.

As my spiritual construct and many of its pillars toppled around me, there were a few people left standing. You were

among the few who remained.

I thank you for your dedication to teaching, your fire for justice, your pastoral heart and for making me feel special.

I continue this journey I began years ago, still uncertain, asking many questions and saddened by the few who dare to travel it. But I feel stronger than I've ever been and that, it seems, is enough.

May you receive blessing in kind to the blessing you have been to me -

Linda Holland

P.S. Enclosed is a sermon I recently gave. It was well received - Imagine that!