



Joseph Little

Living a Life of Purpose

Dear Friend and Supporter of Alice Lloyd College,

My name is Joseph Little, and I'm from Inez, a small town in Eastern Kentucky. I'm just your average "Joe." I have a huge family that I don't get to see very often anymore, and miss quite a lot. Being from a struggling and broken home in Eastern Kentucky, I was automatically stereotyped as someone that wasn't going to go very far. I'm currently a first-generation college student who is getting closer each day to becoming the first in my family to earn a bachelor's degree. God sure has been great to this simple man for whom no one initially had any hope.

Alice Lloyd College, put simple, is a Godsend. It is a place that gives opportunity to many people who wouldn't have a shot at a degree anywhere else due to the price of tuition. Here at ALC, we not only have a chance of getting a degree, but also a great opportunity for developing a work ethic. Being raised by my grandparents nearly all my life, I learned early on that to have anything in this life it comes at a price. I was also taught that anything worth having in this world requires hard work to get and keep it. During my journey here at ALC, I've kept a part-time job and stayed on the Dean's list every semester following my first. That doesn't just happen, and I'm so glad that God has allowed me to be able to provide for myself while also doing well in my courses. I truly believe that He has great plans for me, just as the book of Jeremiah shares with us. My favorite saying from President Stepp is, "The Leaders are Here!" I love the idea that my Savior has placed me in a position that I may be able to get a degree and return home to serve my small town.

While attending Alice Lloyd College, God has put me in the position to be a great light for Him through leading a weekly Bible study for the men on campus. Isn't that amazing? I attend a college where I am freely able to share my faith. If I was forced to pay the full cost of tuition, like other students do at different

colleges, then I might not be able to attend this amazing school where I can tell the great story of the Gospel. Thank you again for helping ensure that my tuition is guaranteed!

By this point you may be asking what degree this young man would possibly be going for. I'm in my third year here at ALC, inching closer and closer to obtaining my Sociology degree. Upon graduation, I plan to get my masters in counseling. Lord willing, in a few years, I'll be back home in Martin County sharing with some little boy, or possibly a grown man, that there is hope for tomorrow – that even through their struggles, they do matter. Most importantly, I want to be able to tell them that living this life alone will lead to nothing but misery, and a physical companion still isn't enough. My favorite verse in the Bible is Philippians 4:13: *I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me*. Most people have a common misconception of the meaning behind this verse. While playing football in high school, I always had my fellow players quoting this scripture so that they might be able to get that last touchdown we'd need to win, but my God is so much better than just a magician. To me, this verse means that no matter what this life throws my way, I can make it through, but only with the help of my Savior Jesus Christ.

In reference to the struggles that I was eluding to above, my family was more than just broken. I have a great testimony similar to that of Job. This world has meant so much bad for me that God has meant for good. My five brothers and I were all abandoned by our parents who made the choice to pick drugs over their children. God had it all planned out, though. He blessed us with the best grandparents anyone could ask for. They welcomed us in with open arms! Sure, I've been through struggles, but who hasn't? My God has brought me through every fire stronger than before.

I'd like to conclude by saying thank you again. It is because of the great blessings from people like you that make it possible for students like me, who come from very humble beginnings, to have a chance at a decent future. May God bless you and every life you touch!

Sincerely,



Joseph Little