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“But whatever you do, find the God-centered, Christ-exalting, Bible-saturated passion of your life, and find your way to say it and live for it and die for it. And you will make a difference that lasts.” – John Piper

Major: Children’s Ministry

I want to make a difference that lasts. On this earth, I want to use every second that I’m given to share the reason that I’m alive; Jesus. There’s no one that I love more than Christ and I’m passionate and ready to pursue the education He’s called me to at Northwest University and share His love with the world. In my experience working at a kid’s summer camp this past summer, I felt God’s calling on my life to become a children’s pastor. Not only is this my calling, but it’s my passion. I love working with kids in any area and I believe that this God-centered, Christ-exalting, Bible-saturated passion is going to take me to heights that I never knew were possible. I’m ready and I’m excited to experience all God has for me at NU and in my career.

Plans After College:

With my Children’s Ministry degree from Northwest University, I plan to serve God and my community to the fullest in a variety of ways. First, I believe that God has called me into the Peace Corps. Being involved in the Youth Development department of the Peace Corps will allow me to use the ideas and skills I have learned at NU in helping the world. My dream is to work with the Peace Corps in creating youth empowerment camps. I want to teach youth through summer camps about who they are and the incredible opportunities they have available to them. Second, after my work in the Peace Corps I want to start a chain of Pentecostal summer camps and youth conferences. My heart’s desire is for many children and youth to come to know the Lord and I believe that through creating more summer camps and getting youth together in active spiritual events through youth conferences that my desire will be fulfilled. God spoke to me and saved my life through my experiences in a summer camp, Camp Berachah, and a youth conference, Acquire the Fire, and I know that God can have an impact in other’s lives through these opportunities as well. Third, God has called me to missions in West Africa. God has placed in me a heart for the people in West Africa and He has asked me to devote a portion of my life serving them and showing them the Lord. I desire to serve in West Africa for however long the Lord determines and show the people that I come in contact with the love of Christ to the very best of my ability. With my children’s ministry degree and my experience in the Peace Corps and in my job I believe that I’ll be able to make a large difference in the lives of children and families in West Africa. Though my plans
after college are great, my true desire is to serve Christ and Him alone. I will follow wherever He leads and know that He will guide me into the incredible plans He has for me.

Leadership Goals at Northwest University:
Life Group Leader

At Northwest University I would love to lead a small group and explore with other students all that God has in store. Being a part of CORE (a type of small group at my church) I’ve learned what a small group looks like and would love to lead others in the way I have been led over the years. Leading others through the Word is something that I love to do and have had much experience with as a camp counselor at Camp Berachah through leading daily devotions for my camp group. I definitely want to continue what God has taught me through preparing devotions by being a Life Group Leader.

NU Student Representative

After being a part of summer camps as a camper and counselor for my entire life I have a passion for what God is up to at summer camp. Seeing the ministry opportunities that the NU Student Representatives have is definitely something that stirs my spirit and gets me excited. I’d love to work alongside other individuals that are passionate about Jesus and impact student’s lives all summer long through summer camp ministry. This would also be a great opportunity for me to search out my calling to lead summer camps and have more experience involved in them.

School Information:
FRESHMAN & SOPHOMORE YEAR
Federal Way Public Academy
34620 9th Avenue South
Federal Way, WA 98003
Number of students: 300
Student to teacher ratio: 23:1

JUNIOR & SENIOR YEAR
Todd Beamer High School
(Math Science Health and Fitness Academy)
35999 16th Avenue South
Federal Way, WA 98003
Number of students: 1,800
Student to teacher ratio: 22:1

JUNIOR & SENIOR YEAR
RUNNING START
Highline Community College
2400 South 240th Street
Seattle, WA 98198
Number of students: 15,000
Number of Running Start students: 1,000
Student to teacher ratio: 100:1

Church Information:
Northwest Foursquare Church
34800 21st Avenue Southwest
Federal Way, WA 98023
Size of congregation: 2,500 people

City Information:
Federal Way, Washington
Population: 89,300 people
School Involvement

National Honor Society:
At Federal Way Public Academy I was heavily involved in the National Honor Society. This branch of the Honor Society met to give back to the local community. We planned various projects including a T-shirt drive to support an orphanage in Kenya, a book drive for a local elementary school, a collection of school supplies for children in Mexico, monthly garbage pick-ups around the school and local area, and much more. To be in this group I needed to maintain a GPA of 3.5 or higher and actively participate in each community service opportunity. This has significance to me because it shows that I have a heart for my community and desire to get my school involved to help to better the world. I love to organize fundraisers and school wide events to benefit an organization or place in need and seeing the impact my school can make on the world. Not only do I organize events to better the community but I am able to maintain a high GPA while doing so. This experience in the National Honor Society has increased my awareness of the needs of my community and has inspired me to make a difference. Through this experience I'm now involved in volunteering in various places in my community to further the great work done by my National Honor Society team and me.

Phi Theta Kappa:
For the past two years I have been a member of the Highline Community College Honor Society, Phi Theta Kappa (PTK). PTK serves to recognize students with a GPA of 3.5 or higher and provide them with educational opportunities. Through individual growth and participation in an honors program students in PTK are prepared to be successful in a four-year college environment. In PTK we have honors, leadership, and service projects that are offered to students to help their community and gain critical leadership skills. Through this program I’ve had the opportunity to grow academically and also serve my community.
Conversation Pal:
This year I have been involved in leading a group of international students in conversation through a group at Highline Community College called Conversation Pal. Each week we meet for one hour and discuss topics that help improve the international student's pronunciation and speaking of English. Through this process I've also learned about Korean and Japanese cultures. As the group leader, I prepare questions and conversation starters for the group and plan where and when the meetings will take place. We try and meet at various ethnic restaurants around the school to experience each other's cultures and gain a greater cultural awareness. I greatly enjoy leading this group of students and teaching them about the various English words and phrases that are only learned through interaction with a native speaker. Through this school and leadership experience I have gained cultural awareness and have a greater appreciation for different cultures, customs, and perspectives.

Campus Crusade for Christ:
During my Junior year of high school I was involved in Campus Crusade for Christ (CRU) at Highline Community College. Through weekly meetings and discussion we went deeper as a student body into the Word and studied various books of the Bible. In our discussions I learned about denominational and cultural differences in interpretations of scriptures and how to better explain the Gospel to those of varying religions and races. As an outreach, CRU prayed weekly for the school through prayer walks and planned regular discussion boards in the Student Union. For example we asked students who they thought Jesus is and used that information to learn how to spread the Gospel on campus more effectively. Sadly, because of scheduling conflicts, I am unable to be as actively involved during my senior year but the experience and knowledge gained through my year of involvement was extremely beneficial.
Kids Camp Counselor:

“Buzz buzz buzz,” Alison said as she zoomed across the playground pretending she was a bee. Time on the playground was growing shorter and it was soon swim time—Alison’s favorite.

“Swim-m-ming!” Alison struggled to get the words out of her mouth as I held her hand and led her to the pool. As a special needs counselor at Camp Berachah, I was assigned to lead Alison because of her Asperger syndrome along with eight other girls in my summer camp group. As a student at Highline Community College, the most diverse college in Washington state, I was comfortable with the cultural diversity of my campers. Guatemalan, Jordanian and Korean students in my classes helped me understand the different cultures in my camp group, but nothing could have prepared me for this week. Not even my 3.99 GPA taught me everything I needed to know to take care of a child with this form of autism. When we walked into the locker rooms, Alison paused and suddenly exploded into tears, screams, and stomps.

“What’s wrong, Alison?” I asked frantically as the other girls in the locker room stared curiously. I struggled to relax her by singing her favorite songs and talking to her calmly, but nothing worked. It felt like I spent an eternity trying to understand Alison’s mumbled words through her sniffles. Finally I understood that we had forgotten her backpack at the playground, so I went back to retrieve it. Even though waiting for Alison to calm down was tiresome and she had a hard time expressing her thoughts, we got through it and I’ll never forget my experience at Camp Berachah.

For three summers I have devoted my time as a Camp Counselor at Camp Berachah Ministries in Auburn. As a kids counselor I am a leader of 8-15 kids ages 13 and under every week. I prepare and lead the children through activities every day and teach them Christian values through daily devotionals. Every week I lead the kids through an educational field trip and am responsible for keeping them accounted for. I am primarily a special needs counselor at Camp Berachah meaning that every week I have children with special needs in my camp group. I have years of experience with autistic, ADHD, and hearing impaired children and love working with them! The children often come from different countries and ethnicities and I have had the opportunity to learn about the ways I can effectively lead and assist children from different backgrounds. Through Camp Berachah I have learned how to lead a group of children academically, physically, and spiritually and plan to use these skills in my future career as a children’s pastor. At the end of this portfolio is my evaluation as a Counselor in Training (CIT) with Alison in 2010 and my end-of-summer evaluation as a Counselor in 2011. You may notice that my name is listed as “Paprika”. At Camp Berachah all Counselors are given camp names to maintain a fun environment and the one I have is “Paprika”.

Camp Berachah Group
(Wallace)
Dance Team Captain:

“Everything, all at once, every time” was the phrase that has continuously popped up through my experience being on a ballroom dance team. My team coach would constantly quote the phrase reminding my team that every step and movement was to be done all at the same time every time she asked. As well as participating with Pacific Ballroom Dance through performance and tour teams for three years I have also been nominated as captain for the past two years. Being team captain I have learned how to plan performances, manage costumes, and keep track of a budget. I always keep my eyes open for new places and opportunities to perform and alert my team coach of any performances that we could be involved in. I also am the head coordinator of costumes and lead the selecting, cleaning, sorting, and assigning of them for each person. When a new dance routine starts to become finished, it’s my job to decide what costume plan would work best and with guidance from the team coach I select the costumes. Once the costumes are created I assign a costume for each person in the routine and make sure that each costume is clean and accounted for at the beginning and end of each performance. Not only do I manage costumes but I also have a part in handling the money my team is allotted. Through the fundraisers and efforts I have helped to plan my team was able to go on a tour around the Pacific Northwest last spring. Being involved in the fundraisers has taught me responsibility of money, how to be a leader to my team, and dedication to each fundraising opportunity. My experience of being a team captain of my ballroom dance team shows my dedication and leadership abilities.

Welcome Desk Co-Coordinator:

This past year I have co-led the Welcome desk at my church, Northwest Foursquare Church. Every Wednesday night I welcome those who come to youth group, sign them in, and instruct them of any announcements or events that are happening in the church. I set up and clean up the welcome center every Wednesday and make sure every student is signed in on Wednesday nights. This act is important because it lets my youth pastor and youth leaders know who isn’t able to show up to service anymore. In doing this, we are able to reach out to those in our own community more effectively and keep in contact with those who have not been attending youth group. In this responsibility I have had the privilege to learn everyone in my youth group’s name and have been able to become a more effective leader. Through this I have learned how to show kindness and acceptance in welcoming each student as they come and responsibility and leadership qualities through setting up and cleaning the welcome center.
CORE Group:

With CORE (Committed. Obedient. Responsive. Expectant) I spent one of my Friday nights scooping rice onto plates. We were involved in serving at the Union Gospel Mission in Seattle and were blessed to have the opportunity to serve the homeless that came for food. As I dished food and sent it down the assembly line, I came into a conversation with a man in line about why we wanted to serve him.

"Why would young people like you want to spend your Friday night giving food to an old homeless guy like me?" He asked. I couldn't think of a response that adequately described my passion and desire to serve this man, how God had instilled in me a love for the homeless of Seattle, and that I wanted nothing more than to serve him that Friday night. All that I could think of saying was "It's all for the glory for Christ!" My interaction with this man reminded me of a C.S. Lewis sermon that we had previously studied in CORE. The line that stood out to me was "To please God...to be a real ingredient in the divine happiness...to be loved by God, not merely pitied, but delighted in as an artist delights in his work or a father in a son—it seems impossible, a weight or burden of glory which our thoughts can hardly sustain. But so it is" (Lewis 6). We bear a weight or burden or glory upon us through being loved and delighted in through Christ. At the Union Gospel Mission I truly felt the love and delight of Christ on us as were served and I began to experience this weight of glory. CORE doesn't only take advantage of opportunities to serve; we also study how to become better community members.

CORE has studied C.S. Lewis but we have also studied books such as "Evangelism Without Additives" and "Destined for the Throne". Through our studies we have learned how to love God deeper and without reservation. As a team, CORE prays together, leads worship together, and serves the youth group together. To outpour the love Christ teaches us in our studies we lead outreaches in the community and in our youth group.

CORE has been involved in community service through trash pickups, yard cleanups, sorting and serving food at the Multi-Service Center, collecting canned foods for our church's food drive, and serving the homeless at Union Gospel Mission. We
are constantly engaging in our community and trying to love them with the love Christ has shown us. In our youth group we plan and lead monthly hangouts, serve as student leaders during Wednesday night services, and play on the worship team once a month for small groups. Through the variety of events I have been involved in and experienced I know that my relationship with Christ has been strengthened. The incredible friendships made will last a lifetime and through this group I have learned how to not only be a leader in my youth group but how to be a server in my community.

**Worship Team:**
For the past two years I have been involved on the youth worship team playing the keyboard. Every month we have a youth group wide practice that includes learning a new song, teaching of new techniques, and performance practice. Also, once a month I am selected to play on the worship team for the youth small group services. This includes practice, dedication, and skill to be able to play in a band. The worship team gets together before the service starts and practice the songs selected to be played that night. After practice the worship team plays and leads worship for the youth group. I’ve loved being a part of this because it has taught me about how to be a part of a group, in the worship team, and also how to lead, through leading music during prayer. Being involved in this ministry has given me a great outlet to pour out to my youth group and serve my fellow students. It has taken a lot of time and patience to learn this instrument but through a lot of practice and the grace of God I’ve been able to be an effective member of the team. I plan to continue what I’ve learned at Northwest Church at Northwest University and play the keyboard on the worship team for chapel services. I love being able to worship the Lord and serve His people at the same time and enjoy being a part of my youth group’s worship team.

**Dance Team:**
The dance team at my church has just started up this year and I’ve had the opportunity to use what I’ve learned through my experience at Pacific Ballroom Dance to glorify God. We learn dance routines to Christian music and perform it in front of the youth group and the congregation. Through this experience I’ve learned how to use the skills God has given me to glorify Him. The dedication and teamwork I’ve learned through this experience will definitely stay with me through college as I strive to use all of the skills Christ has blessed me with to glorify Him.
Community Involvement

**Elementary School Volunteer:**
During this past year I have had the opportunity to serve Lakeland Elementary School as a volunteer. Every week I work in Mrs. Abrahamson’s class teaching her fourth graders math. I teach multiplication and division in class and also pull students out of class that are struggling to encourage and better teach them the skills they need to be able to pass the tests and gain critical math skills. I also work with the fourth graders in reading and writing and encourage imagination and creativity in them through their writing webs and brainstorms. Through this process, students are more prepared to take the district wide testing and have been receiving better scores on their math tests and essays. Volunteering at Lakeland Elementary School gives me teaching experience that shows that I’m able to lead a child, or a group of children, in an academic subject and help them reach a goal. Volunteering at this elementary school has increased my dedication to helping children develop and has grown my passion of children’s ministry. I attended Lakeland Elementary School as a child and love having this opportunity to give back to the teachers and school that laid the foundation for my incredible scholastic experience.

**World Vision Volunteer:**
For the past two years I have been volunteering with World Vision mainly in the Human Services department. I assist the workers in office work such as filing, organizing, and sorting information and supplies. In doing this, I help the Human Service’s employees have more time to do Christ’s work around the world. Not only do I help in the office, but I’ve helping in the mailing room filling packets and information for those who have sponsored a child or are interested in sponsoring a child. I’ve also helped out one employee in researching all of the employee’s churches in the United States and contacting multiple church offices to receive information about mailing addresses and pastor’s contact information. One of my favorite projects was assembling the Gift Catalogs that World Vision sends out all over the country. People that donate things listed in the Gift Catalog help out children and families in countries that thrive off of the donations and support that World Vision gives. Currently, I’m working on a project with a Human Services employee that organizes the weekly staff chapels. I assist her in planning the chapels and sort and organize all information from past chapels. Through my work at World Vision I’ve received experience in working in a large business corporation. I’m given responsibilities every week and objectives to accomplish and am expected to work and complete them on my own. Though my work is mainly independent, I also have gained teamwork skills through working with the Human Services team.
Extra-Curricular Involvement

Ballroom Dance:
Pacific Ballroom Dance has been a large part of my life the past three years and you could find me there almost every day of the week. The dedication it takes to be a ballroom dancer is reflected in the 10-15 performances throughout the year, annual concert, and the 2nd place award received in the team competition at the United States National Amateur DanceSport Championship last year in Provo, Utah. Through the experience of Pacific Ballroom Dance I have learned about teamwork and how to live and work with a group of socially and culturally diverse people. My dance company promotes leadership, teamwork, and excellence values through our performances, practices, and community events. We all are required to be involved in community services projects throughout the year. Some of these have included Human Trafficking awareness dances and Zumba lessons with all proceeds going toward research for Muscular Dystrophy. Through my experiences as a team member and team captain with Pacific Ballroom Dance I not only have gained values in fitness and dedication, but I’ve also learned about inclusiveness and how to promote and lead a successful team.

Piano:
For the past 8 years I have dedicated myself to the technique and study of the piano. Through weekly lessons, daily practice, countless competitions, and yearly adjudications I have aimed to master the skill of this timeless and beautiful instrument. I no longer take lessons but I play for enjoyment and for my church’s worship team. Through this experience I have learned how to work hard at a skill to fine tune it daily. I’ve also learned how to prepare for nerve wracking competitions and performances and today I feel confident on any stage. In my piano practices and performances I’ve gained a skill that will last me a lifetime but I’ve also gained dedication, excellence, and time management skills that are equally as important.