

September 1, 2010

[Click **here** and type recipient's address]

Dear <first name>,

Greetings! I hope this letter finds you well. I am writing to give you a quick update.

Since graduating from Auburn University in May of 2009, I have been furthering my education at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, North American Church Planting. God has been faithful and done great things in my life as He continues to disciple me and strengthen my walk with Him. I have seen God continue to grow and equip me for a lifetime of serving Him, confirming the call to ministry that I sensed back in my days at Wilson High.

I am now on the brink of a new season in my life. Since I was a student at Auburn University, God has placed a specific vision of planting churches on my heart that would effectively transform lives and communities in the name of Jesus Christ. I am very excited to share with you that I will be moving to New York, NY within the next couple months to help plant Redemption Church. Around 20 people will be uprooting their lives and families to move to this city to revolutionize universities, colleges, schools and families. Just writing this letter makes me long to be closer to the city.

In partnership with the NC Baptists and several other churches around the country, Redemption Church will be launched in the heart of downtown New York. The church planting team has extended a call for me to join them as an Intern Staff Member, serving with the leaders of the church in order to one day be able to plant another church out of this one. At the junction of a burden, a vision, a need, and an opportunity, I have had to very carefully and patiently seek the Lord, and I believe that God is calling me to be a part of this church-planting team.

Church planting is one of the most strategic things the church is doing to fulfill the Great Commission. This calling in ministry, though the same in mission as what I've been doing in both NC, will look different for me in many ways. Redemption Church is receiving funding from these supporting churches and other organizations, but it will be a couple of years before it is completely self-sustaining.

Before reporting for full-time duty, I will spend the next few weeks building a team of ministry partners who will support me both prayerfully and financially for a season of time, until the church plant is able to be self-sustaining. I would love the opportunity to visit with you in the coming days to share more about this church plant and also how you can be a part of helping this new church get established in the New York City community. I plan on calling soon to visit with you and share more about the vision for this new church. In the meantime, should you need to reach me, you can call me at (555) 555-5555 or e-mail me at [jsmith.redemption@gmail.com](mailto:jsmith.redemption@gmail.com). I look forward to talking to you soon!

In Christ,  
John Smith