



Emblem

THE KING'S COLLEGE MAGAZINE

ACTIVE LOVE



Note from the Editor



Active Love: Putting Our Faith Into Action

We find the word “love” everywhere: in advertising, on slogans, and shared on social media. The ubiquitous nature of this catch-all term has often been misinterpreted and misused, but Jesus clearly defines love in John 14 as keeping the commandment to “love your neighbor.” Putting this commandment into action, therefore, is our calling to love our neighbor in an active and sacrificial manner.

Stemming from a much larger quote (within a much larger Russian novel), author Fyodor Dostoevsky exhibits his understanding of loving one’s neighbor into the character of Father Zosima, an elder and spiritual advisor. Zosima encourages a woman to be convinced of the act of loving others, and gives an explanation for its merit:

“Try to love your neighbors actively and tirelessly. The more you succeed in loving, the more you’ll be convinced of the existence of God and the immortality of your soul. And if you reach complete selflessness in the love of your neighbor, then undoubtedly you will believe, and no doubt will even be able to enter your soul.”

As part of our annual collection of alumni stories published in *Emblem*, I invite you to consider the examples of our alumni actively loving well. Whether in their families, in their professions, or within their community, these are your fellow King’s alumni putting their faith into action.

Sophia Coston

Sophia Coston
Editor-in-Chief

Letter from the President



Dear readers,

It's breathtaking! And soul shaking. Please take a few minutes to soak in some of the testimonies of TKC grads on these pages. Here you will see results right before your eyes of the hopes and vision of the TKC mission established decades ago by men and women of giant faith. Through putting their faith into action, we see examples of love based in truth and knowledge.

Look to Dr. Jay Mancini's story - whose research has centered on what makes families thrive and investigating the methods to encourage health in familial relationships. The mission of The King's College is to shape and eventually lead strategic institutions, including the family.

Connecting both Jesus' call to love in a sacrificial and active way with the call to serve families demonstrates the fulfillment of our mission.

Borrowing from a phrase in the greatest Book on Earth, and applying it to things being done by our alumni, "... the world itself cannot contain the books that should be written." John 21:25. The innumerable deeds being performed around the planet by grads of The King's College are far reaching and yielding eternal results. You can take a well-deserved (but humble) bow for being part of this global impact.

"When did I take part in these deeds?" you may ask. Every time you breathed a prayer of support, encouraged a TKC student, or sent a donation, you linked arms with one of these graduates who are now out there living the mission and impacting the world.

"Give and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over." Luke 6:38

In these challenging but exciting times we need those prayers, words and 'dollar deeds' as much as ever. As we now renew our lease on our New York City campus I hope you will respond to the impulse of the Spirit you may be feeling to send that

prayer, that word, or that donation. And though you do it with no expectation of return we do have a promise that you will receive blessing in return.

May we graciously give his love as actively as we receive it.

Yours in Service,

The Honourable Stockwell Day
Interim President

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Active Love: Hospitality & Friendship

By Dr. Paul Mueller

We live in the age of loneliness.

The Survey Center on American Life found that more than one in ten survey respondents in a 2021 survey reported having no close friends. And among young people the number is even higher. A different survey in 2019 found about one in four millennials reported having no close friends and almost a third of those in their 20s and 30s reported feeling lonely most or all the time. But deliberately fostering deep friendship where we practice active love works against this trend.

The decline of community, family, and other institutions has been well-documented by thinkers like Robert Putnam, Neil Postman, Robert Nisbet, Charles Murray, J. D. Vance, and many others. Social media, endless entertainment options, declining family formation, and workaholic culture are often blamed for the rise of loneliness. But on a personal level, why do so many of us struggle to form close friendships? Let me suggest that the struggle stems primarily from our lack of intensive and uncurated time with others.

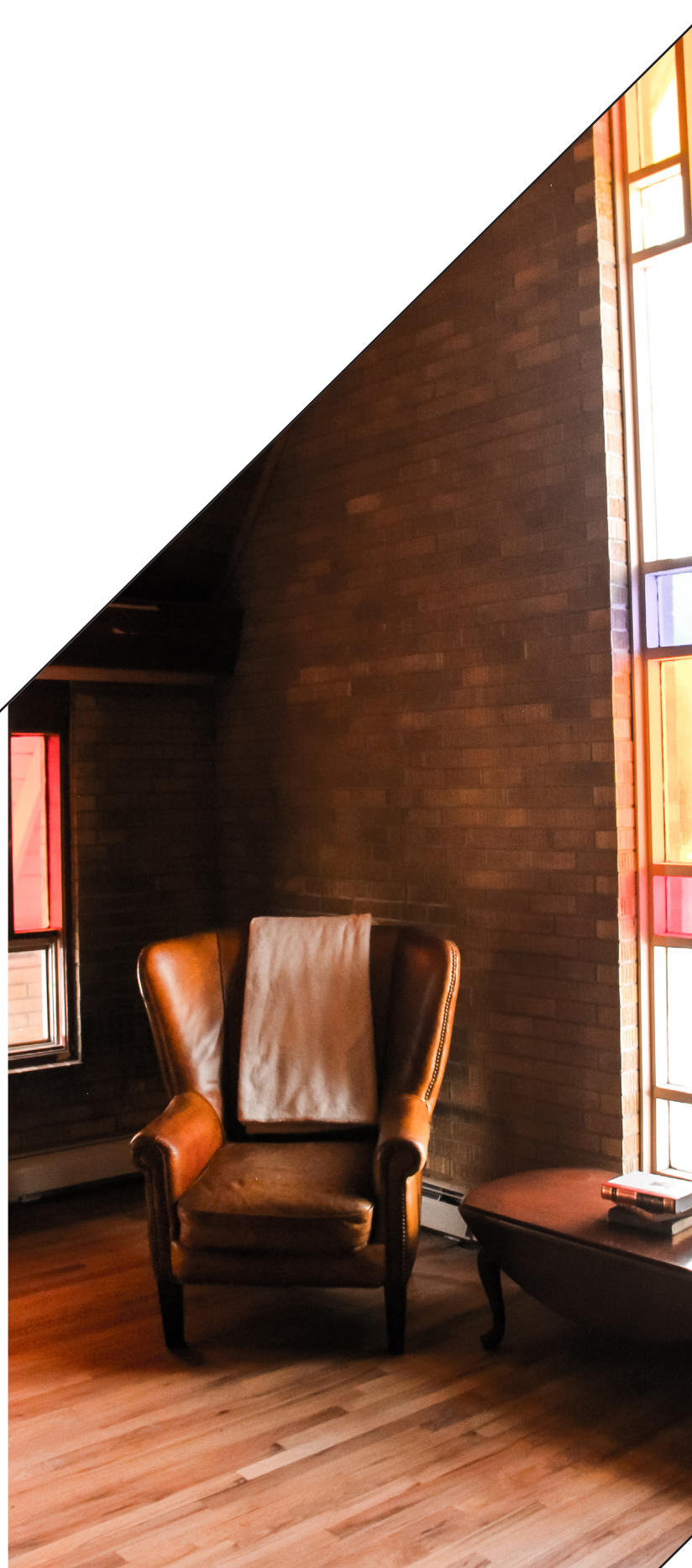


Photo Credit: www.staytheabbey.com

Have you ever wondered why people tend to form such close friendships in college?

By intensive I mean quantity and quality time – interacting with people regularly and sharing meaningful elements of our lives. No formula will tell you how much quantity or quality time you need to create or sustain friendship. It varies by person and by how much relationship already exists. But most people give neither the quantity nor the quality necessary.

We also need uncurated time. Social butterflies can still struggle to form deep friendships when all their social interaction is highly curated – that is to say, limited to the venue, activity, and duration the person wants. How deep can things really go over dinner or while watching a movie or playing a game together? Although these interactions can be revealing, most of us are able to be on our best behavior or to pretend that we are fine, perhaps even “living the dream,” for an hour or two a couple times a week.

Have you ever wondered why people tend to form such close friendships in college? Well, they spend intensive and uncurated time with others - sharing classes, meals, social activities, living space, etc. They have overlapping networks of friends and acquaintances. And they see one another in many different circumstances.

But after college, or after getting married, or after having children, most people struggle to form close friendships because they see fewer opportunities to share living space, even for brief times, with others.

Yet sharing space is so important! Our personalities are rarely on full display over dinner, or on a play date at the park. They are not fully expressed in conversation after church gatherings or over the phone. And they certainly find limited expression in online spaces like social media.

Yet a key part of friendship is knowing and being known. What are you like after the kids go to bed? Or first thing in the morning? Or in the midst of breaking up a fight between your children? What do you like to do in your spare time? When do you read the Bible and pray? What routines do you have for parenting or for work or for life? How do you deal with stress, frustration, fear, failure, or loss?

Talking with someone about these questions is good - observing them living out the answers to these questions is much better.

Obviously, we cannot welcome others into every corner of our life, nor should we. Nor can we welcome everyone into our life - we are limited beings after all! But most people don't invite others into any part of their life except for brief, structured, curated times.

So, how can we work against a limited and curated social life? My wife and I have found hospitality to be a key ingredient to fostering deep meaningful conversations and, by extension, friendships. Our first apartment was a 600-square-foot one bedroom in the Washington D.C. area. It was a great size for us, but there wasn't anywhere to put guests. Yet guests we had! During the two years we lived in this apartment, we probably had over two dozen people visit and stay at least one night. They would sleep on the couch or on an air mattress in the middle of the apartment.

Still, many of our social activities at the time like church services, community group, Bible study, and occasional game nights rarely fostered deep relationships or conversation. Most of our time was spent catching up on the details of each other's lives and talking about the latest news.



Photo Credit: www.staytheabbey.com

But when I took the job at King's, we decided to take a more radical approach to hospitality and community. We chose to live in Harrison, New Jersey (about 50 minutes from campus) because we could afford to rent and later buy a house there while still being close enough to downtown that students would come out for dinner.

That first academic year we had 3-6 students over for dinner about twice a week every week. Many dinner conversations with students didn't go anywhere beyond that evening. But having students over for dinner laid the groundwork for our best and deepest friendships with students. Eventually many of these students babysat our children regularly, visited us in Colorado over the summer, and a few even lived with us during the school year.

Hosting dinners twice a week, while having two children under three, taught us a few things:

1. You cannot keep your house as clean and pristine as you would like. If the cleanliness of our house was a prerequisite for having people over, we would rarely have people over.
2. You don't have to do everything yourself - most people are happy to chip in with food, setting the table, washing dishes, or most importantly, playing with and reading to small children.
3. Sometimes the most important part of hospitality is not the conversation, but the experience. When students came over, they saw how we lived, what our marriage was like, and how we cared for our children.
4. It helps to have some structure or questions planned ahead of time - just keep them simple.
5. Deep conversation and friendship take time. Having dinner with people or hanging out periodically is much less effective than spending concentrated time together over several days and nights - and sharing living space.

There is no silver bullet to making friends. But practicing radical (by today's standards) hospitality is a good start. Commit to having people over, even when things might not be as put together as you would like. Invite people to visit and stay overnight. Think about whether you have the means and capacity to have someone come live with you for a while (or go live with someone else!).

You should do these things thoughtfully, of course. Having someone live with you is not trivial. But many don't even consider the possibility. Nor do they make plans to create

the possibilities in the future. I mentioned how we hosted people in the living room of our small apartment when we were first married. In recent years we have had people live with us though our house is full of children! It can be done.

Living with others is the most intense form of hospitality. But there are other ways to practice purposeful hospitality before diving in the deep end. Vacationing with other families, especially if you can share space, creates intensive and uncurated time together. Committing a night or two a week to hospitality is another good step. Set up a regular gathering, even remotely, if necessary, with a few close friends.

We all need intensive and uncurated time together for sustained conversation where we can know and be known. My family spends concentrated time with close friends from college every year or two. With eleven kids under ten years old between the three families, you can imagine some of the logistical challenges. Yet we gather precisely because of all the kids.

Young children are great blessings from the Lord, but they also mean frequent interruptions. But good conversation, especially one including both parents, takes time to unfold and cannot be sustained with frequent interruptions. Our best conversations nearly always

occur after all the children are asleep - assuming all the adults are still there and haven't gone home...hence the need for shared space.

Active love means more than wishing others well. It means more than hoping or desiring friendship and community. It means taking concrete steps to ordering our life and habits in ways that welcome people into conversation and fellowship. That can mean sacrificing how many shows we follow. It can mean adding a bit more to our monthly food budget. It might mean being a bit more tired at the end of the day.

It can also mean changing our long-term plans. Space is a resource to manage and develop with an eye to practicing loving others. As an example, we bought and developed a property in the mountains of Colorado, The Abbey, to create greater opportunities for others spend meaningful time with us and with each other.

So, if you're ever passing through Colorado, be sure to let me know. Perhaps we can find some intensive and uncurated time to spend together.

There is no silver bullet to making friends. But practicing radical hospitality is a good start.



Know a future King's student?

We are looking for students who put their faith into action before graduating from college. Grounded in a Biblical worldview, we teach the next generation of graduates to pursue truth shoulder to shoulder with the best in the world.



Don't just go to college. Come to King's.

Scan to see how we are committed to transforming society through our students.



Going the Distance

By Celina Durgin

Photo Credit: Abby Miller



O ne

Saturday morning in 2018, Gabrielle Vickers (PPE, '17) completed the first of two hours-long endurance tests she had signed up for that weekend.

The test she had just taken was the Law School Admission Test at Pace University, down the street from King's campus. After finishing, she hopped on a bus. The next morning she would run the Philadelphia Marathon, the second of three marathons she has run.

This is Gabrielle, one might say: a 27-year-old Fordham Law graduate (May '22), a marathoner, and someone who read nearly 90 books for fun in 2020 while her law classes continued on Zoom. But to understand Gabrielle, one must understand what she, with all of these traits—the determination, the intelligence, the ambition—is truly driving at. At first, she wasn't sure herself.

When still a student at King's, she confronted this uncertainty in church while at home in Texas on a break. Her sister Sydney Vickers, 24, recounted the "big moment" when Gabrielle broke down during the service after a sermon on Christian ministry. Sydney remembers Gabrielle asking, "Why am I pursuing this education? Why am I not in ministry for people in need?"

Actually, Gabrielle was involved in ministry, and she had been for some time: mission trips, local service, children's ministry, and volunteering at The Bowery Mission in New York City. She also worked in donor services at the Bowery between undergrad and law school. "Service has always been in her nature," Sydney said.

Gabrielle's breakthrough moment in her Texas church was realizing that she wanted to prioritize service in her life goals, and not just perform it on the side. Yet the path forward hasn't been simple. She has felt tension between her heart for ministry—particularly for serving children—and her intellect and ambition, including the different opportunities that her law school degree affords her.

Her roles in children's ministry at Liberty Church Brooklyn from 2014–2021 were particularly representative of her service priorities. Leticia Mosqueda, King's Director of Residence Life and Gabrielle's friend and roommate,

marveled at her commitment to the ministry week after week. "I had never met someone who wants to serve in this capacity every week," Leticia said. "It can be difficult to get people to serve even once. It brought her so much joy, and she was faithful, even if only three kids showed up, even if the kids were difficult."

The motto of the Liberty Kids is "building strong families," Gabrielle said, "and that's what I want to help do."

Following her job at the Bowery, Gabrielle was ready for a challenge. She knew she wanted to attend graduate school, and she had been considering a degree in social work. However, after conducting some informational interviews with social workers, she realized that the job did not suit her skillset. Her goal remained the same—to help build strong families—but she wanted to find a career that would combine the human with the intellectual, whereas she learned that social work is "all people skills and all interaction."

Law school had been in the back of her mind as well. It wasn't exactly a dream, but it was a "maybe." Taking Constitutional Law with Dr. David Tubbs at King's gave her confidence that she could understand and enjoy the study and research involved in a legal career. Also, as the faculty assistant to Dr. Joshua Blander for Intro to Philosophy, she discovered that logic came naturally to her. The LSAT mostly consists of logic problems and reading comprehension, and lawyers must be able to see how legal statutes fit together in a logical "if-then" manner.

The vision for easing the tension between her service-oriented goals and intellectual gifts was taking shape. Gabrielle has since pursued public interest and family law in her legal internships, and she most wants to represent children as a lawyer. Now a Fordham Law graduate, she worked as a legal intern in juvenile rights practice at The

Legal Aid Society, a nonprofit legal aid provider in New York City, the oldest and largest of its kind in the U.S. She was previously a legal intern at the NYC Administration for Children's Services (ACS).

Though Gabrielle believes she's on the right path for now, the kinds of legal cases she has confronted at ACS and The Legal Aid Society have unearthed a new world of challenge. Performing research for cases of child abuse and neglect has been psychologically and emotionally taxing.

The details of these cases are confidential, but Gabrielle is able to share her general observations on the child welfare system. Many problems of the criminal legal system, such as racism and bias, also infect the child welfare system and particularly affect Black and Native American children, she explains. Sometimes the ACS would remove a child from a rough family situation, and then that child would remain in the welfare system until they were 17 or 18. "It's the definition of a cycle," she said, "a clear illustration of the brokenness of the system."

At first, the emotional toll of her work did make her doubt her vocation. Earlier in her journey, she would have avoided a career that so deeply immerses her in the tragic details of the lives of suffering children and broken families. So, she says, her current pursuit of this vocation "speaks to the Lord's leading thus far." Her faith, as well as her coworkers, with whom she "trauma-bonds," help sustain her.



But Gabrielle still feels the pull of other options within the legal profession. Sydney noted, "She has these ideas of what she wants to do, but you never know what kind of job offers you'll get." Gabrielle could go into corporate law, where the pay may be higher and the emotional toll lower. Whatever she ultimately decides, Sydney said, "I don't think she's going to do something just for the money. Her internships are a huge indication of where her heart is."

Leticia agrees: "Gabrielle doesn't want money and prestige; more than anything she wants to help children and families. She's willing to forfeit the bigger salary that would wipe out her student debt quickly."

In contrast to the painful cycles of broken families and broken systems she sees in her work, Gabrielle's own family has been stable, secure, and whole. She looks to them for inspiration, to remember why she perseveres toward her goal. "I have a real sense of not deserving or earning this stability," she said. She sees her family as an expression of God's grace. Due to her own experience, "when people lack physical, emotional, and spiritual stability in their families, I want to work to alleviate that."

Introduction to Philosophy

By Luke Finley



Photo Credit: Matt Salavitch

Matt Salavitch parked his fixed-gear bike outside of his high school in San Ramon, California, excited to attend his first day of jazz band class. As the other students trickled into the classroom, a classmate named Nick made the connection between the bike outside and Matt's skate-punk appearance, asking him: "Do you ride fixies?" "Yeah," Matt answered. "Do you like punk music?" "Yeah," Matt said again. And just like that, the pop-punk band Modern Day Kids was born.

Soon, Matt and Nick had recruited two more friends to join their band and they began practicing in their parents' garages every day after school. As the band got better and better, they started playing gigs around the San Francisco area, slowly building a following. With Modern Day Kids growing in popularity, a local music scout heard about this new band and signed them to a record deal with a regional music label, where they recorded their first album. With this success, Matt, the band's bass guitarist, set his sights on becoming a professional musician.

But when the band began to lose momentum, eventually breaking up during Matt's senior year of high school, Matt started to think about college. Maybe he could study business and help other young musicians achieve their own musical dreams? Unsure of where to go to college, Matt started looking at different schools in California. His mom's friend, though, had heard about a Christian college in New York City called The King's College; maybe Matt would be interested?

Matt had always been fascinated with New York City, so he signed up for an Inviso campus visit, flew across the country, and was welcomed to New York by a blowing snowstorm. As Matt learned about the mission and vision of King's during his visit, he was intrigued by the PPE classes and the idea of influencing strategic institutions for good. King's could also serve as a great entry point into the New York City music industry. Matt flew back to California interested in King's but still wasn't sure where he would end up.

A week later, though, Matt received a large, flat package in the mail with a New York return address. As he opened the package, he saw a vinyl record from the Red Hot Chili

Peppers, his favorite band. Two King's students, Alex Price and Seth Parks, after hearing of Matt's love for the Red Hot Chili Peppers during his campus visit, had found one of their early releases in an NYC record store and mailed it to Matt in California. Matt was blown away by the gesture and decided that King's was the college for him. "King's was different," Matt said, "And I resonated with the mission so much."

Once on campus, Matt experienced a transforming confrontation with the ideas he encountered at King's. His professors challenged him to explore new concepts he'd never considered before and encouraged him to examine why he believed what he did. Matt thought he knew the Bible and basic Christianity pretty well, but at King's, he was pushed to grow deeper in his relationship with God.

He also grew in his marriage to fellow alumna Alexandra (Rollis) Salavitch. Dating her while a student at King's, and now being married for five years, has taught Matt the responsibility and sacrifice of being a husband and also the balance one must strike between building a career and responsibilities to your family.

But Matt's time at King's did more than just help him grow, it also gave him opportunities to get involved in the music industry. When a King's classmate heard that Matt was interested in the music industry, she helped him get an internship at Descendant Records, a record label that signed Christian artists who existed outside the confines of traditional Christian music. Matt thrived during his internship at Descendent, turning it into a legacy position at King's, passing it on to three consecutive King's students.

After his internship at Descendant, Matt got connected through another friend at King's to Epic Records, part of the Sony Music Entertainment group. Epic Records was one of the most successful record companies over the last several decades, working with artists like Michael Jackson, Pearl Jam, and Mariah Carey. Matt interned in their Artists and Repertoire (A&R) division, helping to scout and sign new talent, as well as working with existing artists to create and produce new music. The next summer, Matt used his connections at Epic to land an internship at Columbia Records, which was also a part of the Sony



music empire. Every day he'd walked into the giant Sony Music Building on 57th Street in Midtown New York, passing a wall filled with the world's best-selling records ever, before working with some of the most well-known music executives in the industry.

But Matt was doing more in college than helping artists succeed in the music industry. As he went through his core curriculum classes, he began to wrestle with how politics and economics impacted everything around him. He watched the downtown Brooklyn skyscrapers being built next to his apartment with a new fascination, as he observed political power and economic policy come to life through cranes, steel, and concrete.

While Matt was intrigued by New York City's political and economic systems, when graduation came, he used his network in the music industry to find a job at Communion Music, Mumford and Sons band member, Ben Lovett's, concert promotion company. Matt was living his dream, in charge of putting on small shows in New York and up and down the East Coast. He curated the lineup for a monthly artist showcase, where A&R executives would scout out the next wave of rising musicians.

From Communion Music, he transitioned to Rockwood Music Hall, a three-stage venue on the Lower East Side that booked up-and-coming artists each night. While Matt worked at Rockwood, he started to get calls from an unlisted number. The caller turned out to be a recruiter, wanting to know if Matt would be interested in a position on the music editorial team at YouTube's streaming service. That led to an interview, and Matt was soon hired to be a project manager, working between the musical artists and the programming team.

By the time 2020 came around, Matt had transitioned to working at Facebook, where he was a content curator in several music-related categories. He was in charge of finding and promoting the best music-related content on the platform. But as Matt contemplated the cultural events of 2020, he began to think back to his PPE classes at King's while wondering if there might be a way to use his gifts to help others in a more tangible way?

While Matt had fulfilled his high school dream of working in the music industry, he began to realize that he wanted to impact the world in a different way.

As he thought about the importance of the rule of law and the impact politics and economics had on society, he started to ask himself: "Could I be a lawyer?" After talking

While Matt had fulfilled his high school dream of working in the music industry, he began to realize that he wanted to impact the world in a different way.

to different lawyers about their experiences, Matt felt more and more confirmed that God was leading him to switch careers and go to law school. Now Matt has taken the LSAT, been accepted to several NYC law schools, and is all set to start this new career path set to start this new career path at Fordham School of Law in the fall.

Matt credits his King's education for showing him how the law and politics are the foundation of society. "King's made me understand where society has come from and where it's at. And now, I am realizing that I can be involved in influencing some of these issues." While the music industry and legal work might seem total opposites, Matt sees a natural connection; in both fields, you're working on behalf of someone else, whether an artist or a client, to help them succeed.

Matt has realized that he doesn't need to be the star of the show to be a success but finds great joy in helping other people thrive.

While the skate-punk high school version of Matt would have never believed that he'd someday be going to law school, Matt's looking forward to how God will use him in this next chapter of his life. While Matt knows that his time in music has made an impact, he sees being involved in the legal system as an opportunity to make an even bigger difference in the world. He's not exactly sure what his career in the legal field will look like, but he's trusting God to guide him in the right direction. "I'm hoping to go into law school and let God lead the way," Matt said. "I'll do my best and bring my A-game to whatever doors He opens for me."

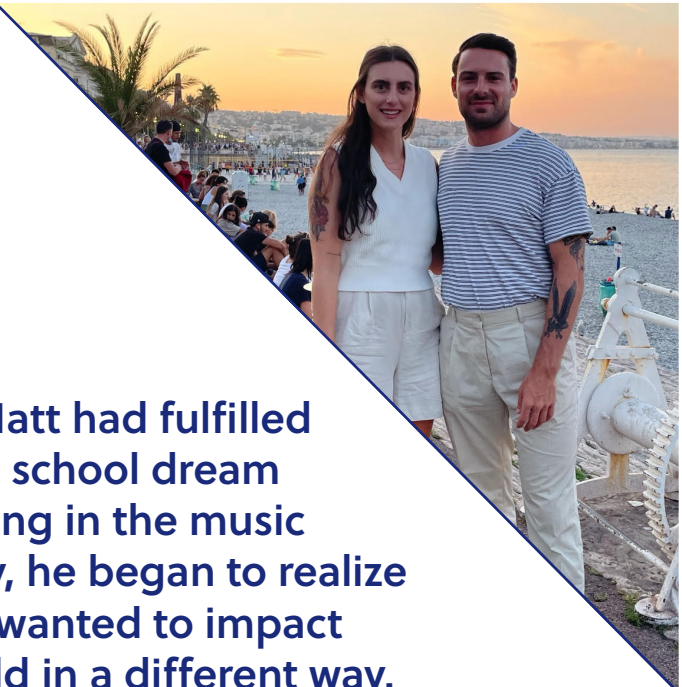


Photo Credit: Alex and Matt Salavitch (PPE '16)

Walking With The King

By Luke Finley

Hello, again
radio friends!
How in the
world are
you?

The radio crackled as a young Glenn Kroneberger ate his bowl of shredded wheat. Every day during breakfast, Glenn and his family always listened to “Walk With the King,” the short radio program by Dr. Robert Cook, from 1962-1985, the president of The King’s College. Then as Glenn and his two older brothers grabbed their backpacks and scurried off to school, his mom would always stand by the door and repeat Dr. Cook’s closing tagline from the show: “Walk with the King, and be a blessing!”

Glenn didn’t know it then, but this phrase would become his life’s mission statement, challenging him to use his gifts to serve God and bless others.

Glenn grew up in the suburbs of Baltimore, the youngest son in a family that was grounded in God and gifted with

a love of entrepreneurship. From a young age, Glenn and his two brothers were always looking for new businesses to start. Every Fourth of July, Glenn's mom would drive her three sons to the fruit wholesaler at the Baltimore docks. There, these young entrepreneurs would buy crates of fresh lemons, filling their 1969 Volkswagen Squareback to the brim. Once home, Glenn and his brothers would slice each lemon in half and insert a striped peppermint stick into the center, creating a lemon stick, a long-time Baltimore summer tradition. They'd then sell their lemon sticks at the parades, hawking their sweet treats to the crowds until they were sold out.

But lemon sticks weren't the brothers' only business. Another summer they bought a snow cone machine and a variety of flavored syrups. After building a wooden stand and setting it all up in their driveway, the Kroneberger snow cone business was born. Their business model was simple; one brother would run the stand and make snow cones, while the other two would fan out through the neighborhood, drumming up business through word of mouth.

When they weren't starting businesses, Glenn and his brothers loved talking about them with their dad. They'd all gather around the kitchen table and discuss their latest business ideas. While Glenn's dad worked for a Christian ministry, he was an entrepreneur at heart and he loved encouraging his sons in their entrepreneurial dreams. As they'd sit around the table, Glenn's dad would often tell his sons stories about their great-grandfather Kroneberger, who had started Kroneberger Coffee Roasters in Baltimore back in 1905. While Glenn's great-grandfather eventually sold the business, a picture of him sitting in his 1920s Ford delivery truck with "Kroneberger Coffee Roasters" written on the side still hung next to the kitchen table, reminding the boys of their family's entrepreneurial past.

Given these experiences, when it came time for college, Glenn knew he wanted to study business. The only question was where? Glenn's older brother Bryan, influenced by Dr. Cook's radio programs, had chosen to

attend King's, and even though he was six years older than Glenn, he'd always invite his kid brother to Briarcliff Manor to visit. Bryan's friends always welcomed Glenn into the group and let him tag along on their ski trips to Vermont. Glenn was struck by the group's comradery and knew that he wanted that kind of college experience.

So Glenn enrolled at King's, ready to study business and see how God might use his gifts. After the initial ups and downs, Glenn fell in love with King's. He especially appreciated how each professor began their class with a short devotional and prayer. This time set the tone for the class, challenging Glenn to approach business through a Christian framework.



Photo Credit: Glenn Kroneberger

After graduating from King's, Glenn followed his two older brothers to Miami, where he took a job selling plants for a large tropical nursery to grocery store chains. But he soon grew tired of the corporate culture and spotted an opportunity for a business; he could become a plant broker between the nurseries and the grocery stores. So at 26, Glenn started his first business as an adult, buying thousands of tropical plants from different nurseries and reselling them to national grocery store chains.

While the plant brokerage business took off, after several years of success, Glenn decided to move back to Baltimore. There, he used his profits to open up two restaurants with his middle brother Jeff. But the restaurant business was tough, and as the years passed, they found themselves working harder and harder for less and less money. Eventually, burnt out

on restaurant life, Glenn told his wife Nancy, "We need to go somewhere to get away and think about life." So they booked a flight to Sarasota, Florida, hoping that a weekend away would bring clarity to their future.

Soon after they landed, Glenn and Nancy fell in love with Sarasota, eventually deciding to sell the restaurants and to move their young family to Florida. As they settled in Sarasota, Glenn wasn't sure what was next for him. One night, though, Glenn and Nancy invited another couple over to their home for dinner. As the two couples talked



Photo Credit: Glenn Kroneberger

Glenn (far right) with his brothers Jeff and Bryan and Dr. Robert A Cook ('80)

“Through all of the ups and downs of Glenn’s entrepreneurial journey, he’s always sought to live by Dr. Cook’s encouragement Walk with the King and be a blessing to others.”

after the meal, Glenn’s friend saw the picture of his great-grandfather’s truck hanging on the wall. “Glenn,” he asked, “Have you ever thought about getting into the coffee business?”

The question set off a spark in Glenn. He ran to his office and grabbed an inch-thick folder filled with ideas about a coffee roasting business. As the two friends talked, they made plans to open up a new coffee business called Sarasota Coffee and Tea. Glenn would focus on the wholesale side, while his friend would run the retail shop. The two friends soon bought a coffee roaster and took out a lease on a cafe, bringing the business to life. Glenn used his sales experience to establish accounts with restaurants and churches while his friend focused on the coffee roasting and retail shop. But just six months into the business a wrench was thrown into Glenn’s coffee-roasting dreams.

After attending a coffee trade show together in Atlanta, Glenn’s business partner told him on the drive home that the coffee business wasn’t right for him and that

he needed to get out. Glenn was blindsided. He hadn’t planned on operating the business by himself, but together they figured out an exit plan for his friend and Glenn became the sole owner of Sarasota Coffee and Tea.

Glenn’s entrepreneurial instincts took over, as he closed the retail shop and put all of his efforts into the wholesale business. He used his relational gifts to develop a devoted customer base, who were won over by the high-quality beans and creative coffee flavors. As the business grew, Glenn hired more employees, expanding Sarasota Coffee and Tea’s presence both in Florida and throughout the country.

But a unique opportunity came when Glenn received an unexpected phone call from the owner of a large Sarasota restaurant. The restaurant owner had just met a businessman from Indiana who was trying to sell a shipping container full of unroasted coffee beans. Intrigued, Glenn gave the man a call.

The businessman turned out to be Martin Graber, a Christian man in his 80s who owned a high-end cabinet-making business. Martin had just been in Nicaragua on a mission trip, where he'd met Diego, a coffee farmer who was about to lose his farm to a predatory bank. Moved by Diego's plight, Martin came up with a plan to bypass the bank and buy a full shipping container of beans himself. That's why Martin wanted to talk to Glenn: would he be interested in 37,500 pounds of green coffee beans?

Glenn wanted to help, but first, he had to answer one question: was the coffee even any good? So Martin overnighted a sample to Glenn, which he roasted, ground, and brewed. "Wow!" Glenn thought as he sipped the coffee, "This is some of the best coffee that I've ever tasted." Sarasota Coffee and Tea bought the entire shipping container from Diego's farm and began roasting and selling the beans.

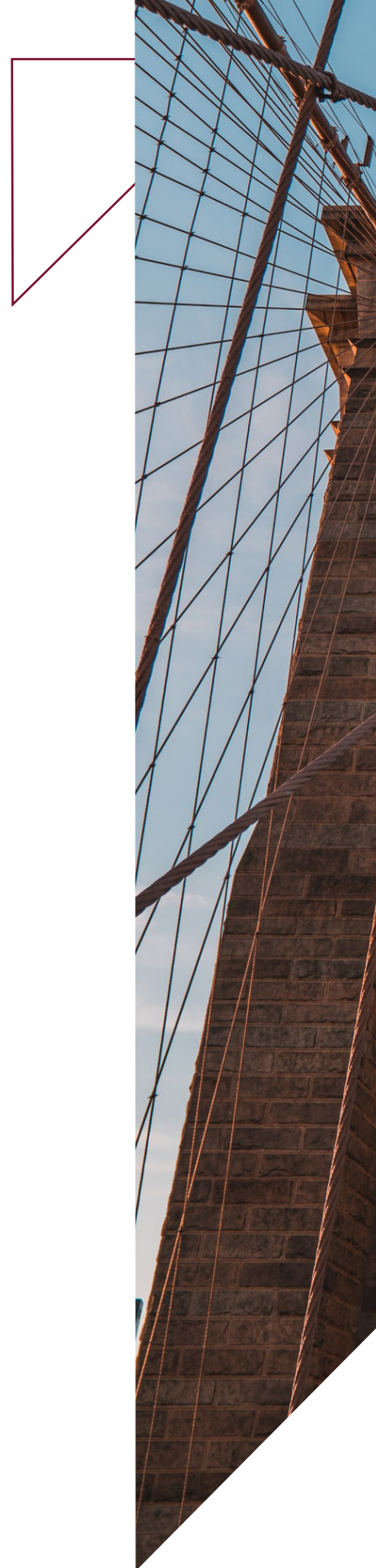
As the years went by, Glenn's partnership with Diego continued to grow. Glenn purchased more and more coffee beans from Diego, helping him to escape financial bondage and provide his workers with better pay and new benefits like health insurance and scholarships for school. Diego's farm flourished, and grew from harvesting one shipping container full of coffee beans a year to seven!

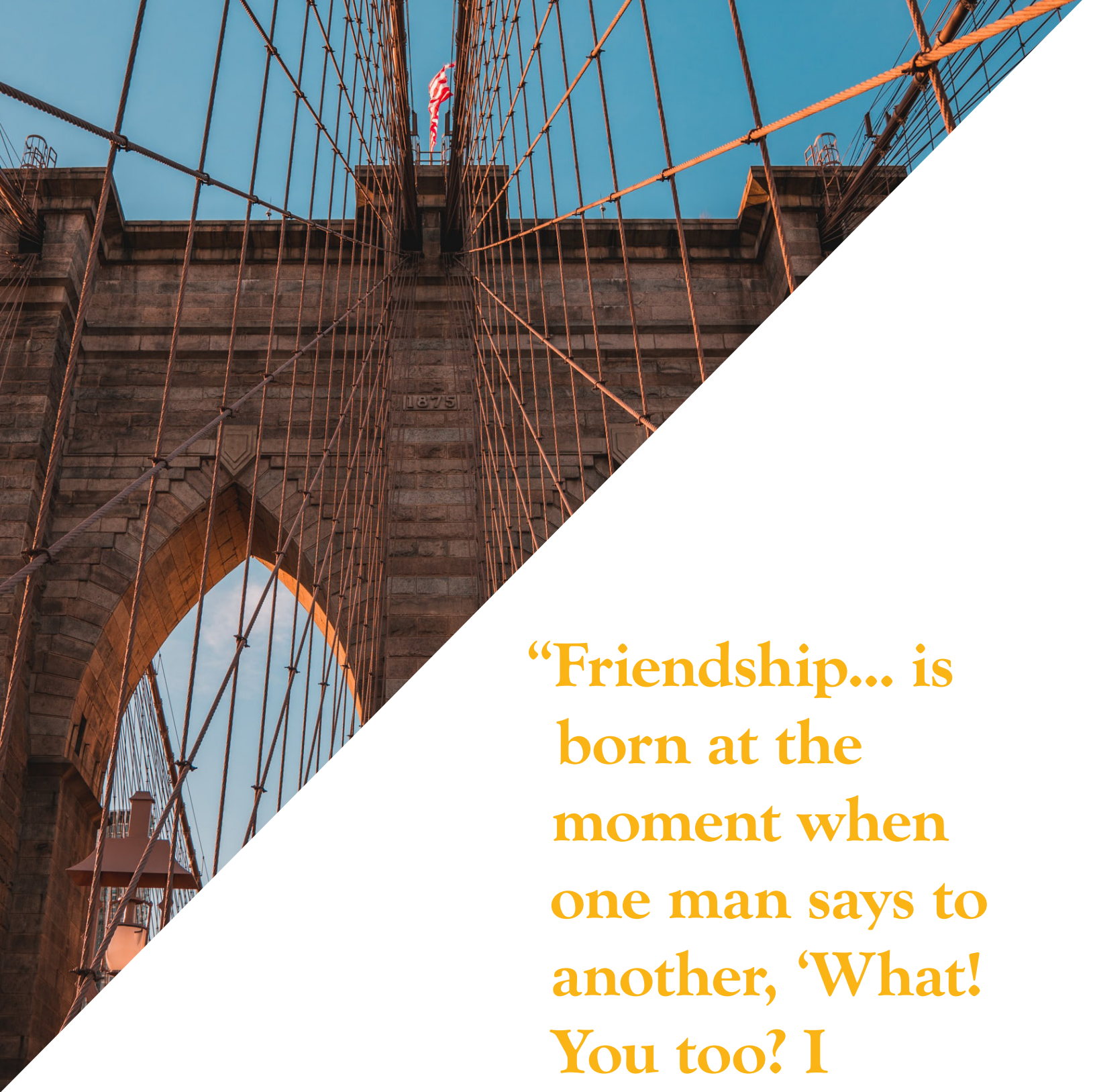
Inspired by this work in Nicaragua, Glenn started a new sister coffee brand called Fresh Cup of Hope. Fresh Cup of Hope works to support local coffee farmers in Central America by buying their coffee and helping them follow sustainable farming practices. Glenn also donates a portion of the profit to Feed the Children, a non-profit that works to alleviate child hunger throughout the world.

Today, Glenn has grown Sarasota Coffee and Tea into a thriving company. Despite a pandemic-caused dip in its wholesale business, its e-commerce sales have doubled over the past two years, setting the company up for future growth.

Through all of the ups and downs of Glenn's entrepreneurial journey, he's always sought to live by Dr. Cook's encouragement to walk with the King and be a blessing to others. He adopted this phrase as his life's mission statement, using it to guide him through daily life, and continued his mom's tradition with his own two children, saying it to them every day when he dropped them off at school. To Glenn, "It's a daily reminder of who we serve and how to live our lives."

This multi-generational motto has helped guide Glenn to impressive heights, whether he's helping a Florida restaurant find the perfect coffee roast or enabling Central American farmers to live better lives. How can other people put this phrase into action in their lives? "Don't be afraid to dream," Glenn encourages. "Ask the Lord for a vision for your life and He'll provide it. Then don't be afraid to act."





**“Friendship... is
born at the
moment when
one man says to
another, ‘What!
You too? I
thought that no
one but myself..”**

C.S. Lewis

Loving the Way God Loves

By Luke Finley



Photo Credit: Leslie ('80) and Carol Cool

Carol Cool was walking down the hall when she was approached by her coworker Cyndi with an unexpected question: "So what is it that you believe anyway?" Carol and Cyndi worked in nearby departments at a Philadelphia area department store but hadn't interacted often. But now, as Cyndi's life had fallen apart, she was interested in what made Carol's life so different from hers.

It was no accident, though, that Cyndi approached Carol with her question. Carol had been asking God to send someone into her life who would want to hear about Jesus, so when Cyndi asked Carol what she believed, Carol started inviting her over to her home and telling her about her faith. Carol eventually invited Cyndi to church, and Cyndi would walk to the second row of Carol's formally dressed church, wearing the eccentric clothes of a 1980s artist and occasionally a baseball hat that said, "I survived Friday the 13th." After many conversations and lots of love, Cyndi finally called Carol and told her, "You're right, I need Jesus."

Carol (Anderson) Cool always knew that she wanted to be in ministry, but it's taken much of her life to figure out what that's looked like. She grew up hearing stories of her grandparents' work with the Salvation Army, ministering

to the New York City bread lines during the Great Depression. While Carol's parents weren't in full-time ministry, they encouraged their children to use their lives to serve God. "We were raised," Carol said, "to believe that there was nothing better we could do with our lives than to serve Jesus. It was the tenor of our home; even if you were a layperson your goal was to serve Christ."

When it came time for college, Carol chose to attend Northeastern Bible College, hoping to use a Bible degree to go into youth work and eventually become a missionary. There were some missionaries from her home church who had attended NBC, and she was drawn to the small size and its emphasis on the Bible.

Once on campus, Carol enjoyed her classes, especially the Biblical languages. "I really liked that I was able to take Greek and Hebrew with really great teachers. I loved the original languages, so I was just thrilled." She looks back fondly on Mr. Lincoln's Old Testament class, where each student had to do a 60-page analysis on a section of Ezekiel. Looking back, Carol is thankful for what was a difficult assignment, because "what it really taught me was to dig deep into the Scriptures." Carol credits Northeastern for instilling in her a love of studying the Scriptures and for teaching her not just what to think, but rather how to think.

As she went through college, though, Carol wasn't sure what direction her life would go. She'd spent a summer abroad in Sweden to see if missionary life was right for her but found the experience incredibly isolating. This caused her to reevaluate her interest in mission work, and since few churches were hiring women youth workers, she wasn't sure where God wanted her to serve.

But during her senior year, Carol met a new transfer student named Leslie Cool. Les had started college at a large university, but when he became a Christian during his freshman year, he felt God's call into ministry and left his full-ride scholarship to transfer to NBC. As their relationship progressed and they made plans to

be married, Carol took a retail management job. Les completed NBC and worked as a meatcutter to put himself through seminary.

Carol began to work her way up at Bamberger's, a Philadelphia department store that was owned by Macy's. She was first promoted to assistant store manager and then became a buyer in the corporate offices. While Carol still had full-time ministry as a goal, she and Les were both so involved doing youth work in their home church that she was okay with her retail work. And through Carol's ministry gifts, God started carving out a unique

ministry for Carol at her job. "I really found God using me in the workplace," Carol said. "I always joke that I'm the kid who never had the rebellious phase, never smoked or drank, but God has ended up using me with people who were on the far edge of hating Christianity."

Carol learned to minister to her coworkers through her relationships with them. She would write

down things they'd share as prayer requests on post-it notes and stick them on her computer monitor. When her coworkers started to ask what the post-it notes were for, she told them that it helped her remember to pray for them. People connected with that and it gave her opportunities to talk about Jesus without them feeling uncomfortable.

God particularly used Carol in the life of one of her bosses, Barbara. Barbara was a confident and successful businesswoman who had embraced polytheism and the occult, proudly telling her team about her many out-of-body experiences. One day, though, Barbara's mother died unexpectedly, and she asked Carol and another Christian coworker to pray for her. Carol and her coworker prayed for Barbara and shared a few Bible verses about the peace that was possible with God. Barbara went on bereavement leave, but after she came back, she sought out Carol and told her, "Your god answers prayers."

"Carol, more than anyone I know, genuinely connects with the heart of God, who He loves and what He cares about, and her life reflects the desire to follow His heart. She really has that connection. What hurts the heart of God hurts Carol."



Photo Credit: Carol Cool

But Barbara was still skeptical of Christianity and especially wary of Christians. "If I never accept this Jesus of yours," Barbara asked Carol, "Will you still be my friend?" Barbara had had previous run-ins with Christians who only saw her as a project and disengaged from her when she didn't immediately convert to their faith. Carol, though, developed a genuine friendship with Barbara, and over the course of several years, found ways to share the message of the gospel with her, while at the same time refusing to base her love for Barbara on the condition of her becoming a Christian. Carol has remained friends with Barbara decades later and is still a part of her spiritual journey toward God.

Carol never set out to make her work a major place of ministry in her life; she just prayed that God would give her opportunities to talk about Jesus. "Most of my evangelism has been people that I've just loved and cared about their lives and invested in," Carol said. "And sometimes years later I've learned that they've come to know Jesus and that their lives have turned around. God has always used me at work in ways to make a difference in people's lives for his kingdom.

As Carol's friendships with her coworkers grew, she and Les began adopting some of them into their home. A few came to live with the Cools for a few weeks or months while they were going through a tough time, allowing Carol and Les to love them and to become a family for

them. Eventually, this spirit of inviting people into their home led to Carol and Les to take in two teenage girls, one of whom, Joy, they ended up adopting. With two teenagers now at home, Carol needed a job with more predictable hours, so after 18 years in retail she started to look for, in her words, "a mindless, part-time job." But God had other plans for her.

When a friend heard that Carol was looking for a part-time job, she asked Carol if she'd ever want to pack boxes at a printshop. Carol said sure! One of the tasks at her new job was to check to make sure the items were printed correctly before they were shipped. Much to her boss's chagrin, she kept finding mistakes in the already printed books. One day, four months into the job, her boss told Carol, "Come with me," and walked her to the office. Carol was sure they were about to fire her. Instead, her boss wanted to promote her! "We're going to make you a proofreader," her boss said, "because we'd rather you find the mistakes before we print things than after." And so Carol was introduced to the world of writing and editing.

When her husband Les was asked by their denomination to plant a church in Delaware, Carol found a job proofreading and writing advertising copy for a large bank. Impressed by her work, a coworker encouraged her to find more ways to write. So Carol attended a Christian writers conference, where she met a mentor who showed her how to write for Christian magazines. Soon, Carol was writing articles for a variety of Christian magazines throughout the country.

After Les took a call to pastor a church in the Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, Carol transitioned into being a freelance writer and editor. A friend told Carol that she was thinking about becoming a Christian speaker. Wanting to support her friend, Carol suggested she

attend an upcoming conference for Christian speakers and writers and even volunteered to go with her. At the conference, Carol went through the speaker training with her friend and found that she loved it. She got all kinds of positive feedback from the other participants, so after they got back, her friend gave Carol her first speaking opportunity at a women's retreat.

Now, Carol speaks at Christian conferences and retreats throughout the Northeast, helping her audience to understand God's love and purpose for them. Through her speaking, she's been able to tell others about God's work in her life and minister to a variety of groups. She has also written and published two books, *"Finding Balance in the Circus of Life"* and *"The 29¢ Baby Jesus,"* and continues to write on her own website CarolCool.com.

Margie Miller has served alongside Carol for over 20 years and has seen her love for others firsthand. "Carol always makes space for people and meets them where they are. If someone is struggling, she comes up with a plan to help them, meeting with them on a regular basis, even those who are estranged from faith or any kind of religion." How can Carol love others so selflessly? It's because, according to Margie, "Carol, more than anyone I know, genuinely connects with the heart of God, who He loves and what He cares about, and her life reflects the desire to follow His heart. She really has that connection. What hurts the heart of God hurts Carol."

Carol has always tried to use her life, whether in retail, writing, or speaking, to love people where they are. That's why Carol's coworker Cyndi could march up to the front of their traditional church and sit next to Carol, even when she didn't fit in. "Cyndi knew that she was loved," Carol said, "That's what makes the difference." Even now, forty years later, Cyndi still calls Carol her spiritual mom, despite the fact that they are the same age, to recognize how Carol's love for her has changed her life forever. "You have to love people where they are and trust the Spirit to move in their lives when they are ready for that. That's what I've tried to do." Carol said, "It comes back to loving the person the way God loves them."

"You have to love people where they are and trust the Spirit to move in their lives when they are ready for that. That's what I've tried to do. It comes back to loving the person the way God loves them."

Heal the H

By Luke Finley



Photo Credit: Jay Mancini

When Jay Mancini walked into the Philadelphia's Institute of Pennsylvania Hospital adolescent treatment center for his first day of work, he didn't know he was beginning his career focused on helping families thrive. He'd just graduated from The King's College with a degree in psychology and had taken a job as an orderly helping young people in crisis. Jay spent a year working in a clinical environment, trying to help young people who were struggling with deep-seated addictions, eating disorders, and psychiatric problems.

As he watched the young people bounce in and out of the treatment center, relapsing over and over, he was struck by the role that the family played in every patient's life, either as part of the problem or as part of the solution. Jay realized how the family makes up our core relationships

ling Hurt

and impacts every person so much. He was moved by how many families wanted to help their children but didn't know how, motivating him to embark on a career in the emerging field of family science.

In Jay's life up to that point, family had always played an important role. He was born in Ridley Park, Pennsylvania, into the kind of Italian-American family romanticized in movies. Jay's grandparents had immigrated from Veroli in southern Italy to the U.S. shortly before World War I, hoping to give their children a better life. They bought a house, planted the customary Italian fig tree in their backyard, and got to work raising their six children.

By the time Jay was born, Sunday family dinner at his grandparents' house was the highlight of the week. To a young Jay, Mom Mancini's kitchen seemed to contain all of the food in the world. There'd be peppers hanging on the wall, homemade pasta drying on the counter, and a table overflowing with homemade meats. Jay's grandmother invited him into the kitchen, teaching her grandson to use a crochet hook to pull snails out of their shells and boil them in red gravy.

Jay's parents continued this tight-knit culture in their own family and taught Jay to always look for ways to serve others and make them feel appreciated, whether you know them or not. Jay remembers one time when

his father took him to a Phillies baseball game at the Connie Mack Stadium. As they crossed the street to enter the stadium, they passed a police officer trying to corral traffic. Noticing his stress, Jay's father walked into a corner store, bought a cup of coffee, and handed it to them as they passed.

Since Jay's parents weren't able to attend college, they instilled a belief in the importance of education in him. Jay grew up going to small Christian schools, so when it came time to choose a college, he was looking for a similar experience. An older classmate had gone to King's, so Jay visited Briarcliff Manor and decided to attend. Once at King's, Jay majored in psychology, enjoying his classes with Dr. Samuel Barkat, the head of the psychology department. Dr. Barkat was the first scholar Jay had ever met and he was impressed by his professor's deep knowledge and scholarly approach to learning.

Even more influential on Jay, though, was a series of lectures hosted by King's on the campus. The students heard from O.H. Mowrer, a psychologist who studied primates; Jonathan Kozol, a social reformer; and Victor Frankl, the world-famous psychologist who survived the Nazi concentration camps and wrote *Man's Search for Meaning*. Frankl's lecture deeply impacted Jay, as

“How can we better support families? How can the family and community strengthen each other in a way that provides a better foundation for families and children?”

he spoke on the themes of overcoming adversity and finding meaning in life, even in the midst of tremendous difficulties. Jay was moved by Frankl's ability to withstand the worst possible experiences in life and find a way to keep moving forward.

After graduation, Jay spent a year in Philadelphia working at the adolescent treatment center. Wanting to find a way to help families, Jay started to look for graduate schools where he could get his master's in family science. This led to Kansas State University and his first encounter with the

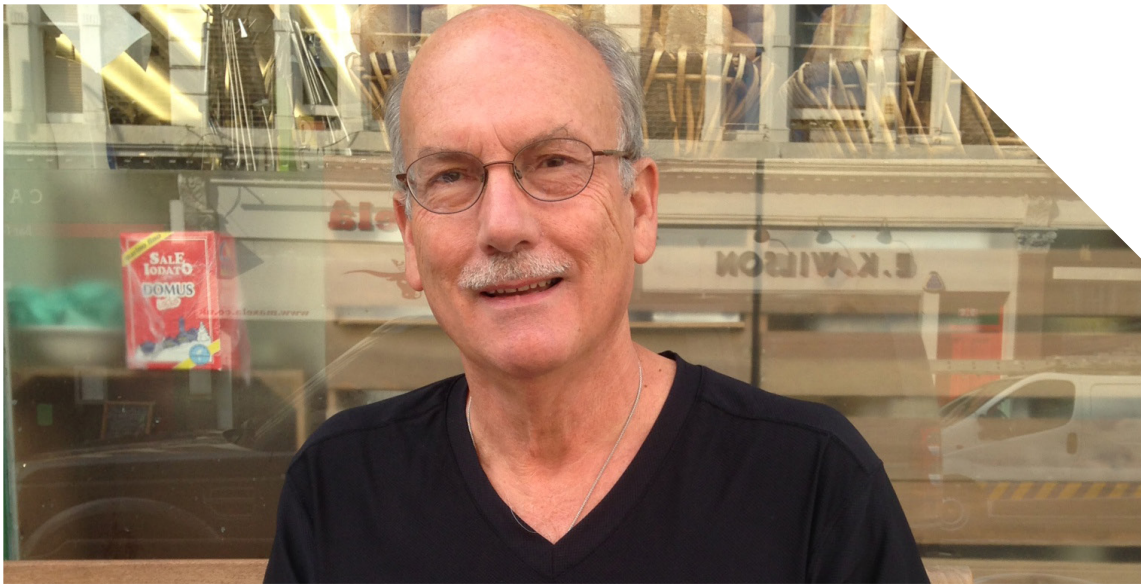


Photo Credit: Jay Mancini

field of family science, the scientific study of families and close personal relationships. At Kansas State, Jay learned how research on families could be used to prevent and intervene in relational and communal problems, opening up a new world of scholarly work to Jay.

When he completed his master's, Jay realized that he wanted to become a university faculty member in family science. So he applied to the University of North Carolina at Greensboro and was accepted into their family science doctoral program. Jay blossomed under the mentorship of the UNC Greensboro faculty, as they trained him to be a family science scholar and helped him to hone his research skills.

After finishing his doctorate, Jay accepted a faculty position in the family science department at Virginia Tech, where he spent the next 32 years, serving as the department chair for eight of those years. While Jay taught some classes, his passion was for research, so he focused on using quantitative data to develop new insights on how to create healthy families and communities. Jay was enamored with the notion of inquiry, of looking at the world around him from a place of curiosity. "I would look at other people's work," Jay said, "And wonder what new research would uncover." By looking at established opinions through a fresh lens, Jay was able to find fresh areas for research, allowing him to challenge faulty assumptions and correct long-standing biases.

During these years at Virginia Tech, Jay worked on a variety of research projects, from studying the intergenerational relationships between aging parents and their adult children to the sustainability of community-based programs for at-risk families. He also researched topics like the impact of leisure on the family, sibling relationships in adulthood, and managing the

risks of youth. While Jay's work touched on many different topics, it was always centered around the themes that Victor Frankl introduced to Jay at King's: vulnerability and resilience during times of adversity.

Jay has also done extensive research for the U.S. government on military members and their families, studying how families can thrive even during the stresses of military life. He's worked with both the U.S. Army and Air Force, helping to create and assess family support centers. Jay would travel all over the world and gather firsthand experiences from members of the military. Once, when Jay was visiting a military base in Germany, an officer shared his excitement with Jay about a support program they were implementing on the base. When he took Jay to his office to show him the program's materials, the man looked down at the title page and realized he was talking to the author! The man asked Jay to meet with his staff directly, allowing Jay to connect with the people who were implementing his research in real life.

In 2009, Jay transitioned from Virginia Tech to the University of Georgia, where he served as the Haltiwanger Distinguished Professor and head of the department for the human development and family sciences. Today, Jay serves as an adjunct professor at UGA and continues to conduct research and publish articles, including a textbook on family stress management, now in its third edition. At this point in his career, Jay has published almost 125 journal articles and has been cited over 7,500 times, a sign of the value that Jay's academic colleagues have found in his work.

One of these colleagues is Dr. Gary Bowen, the former dean and Kenan Distinguished Professor of the School of Social Work at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Gary and Jay met as classmates at UNC Greensboro

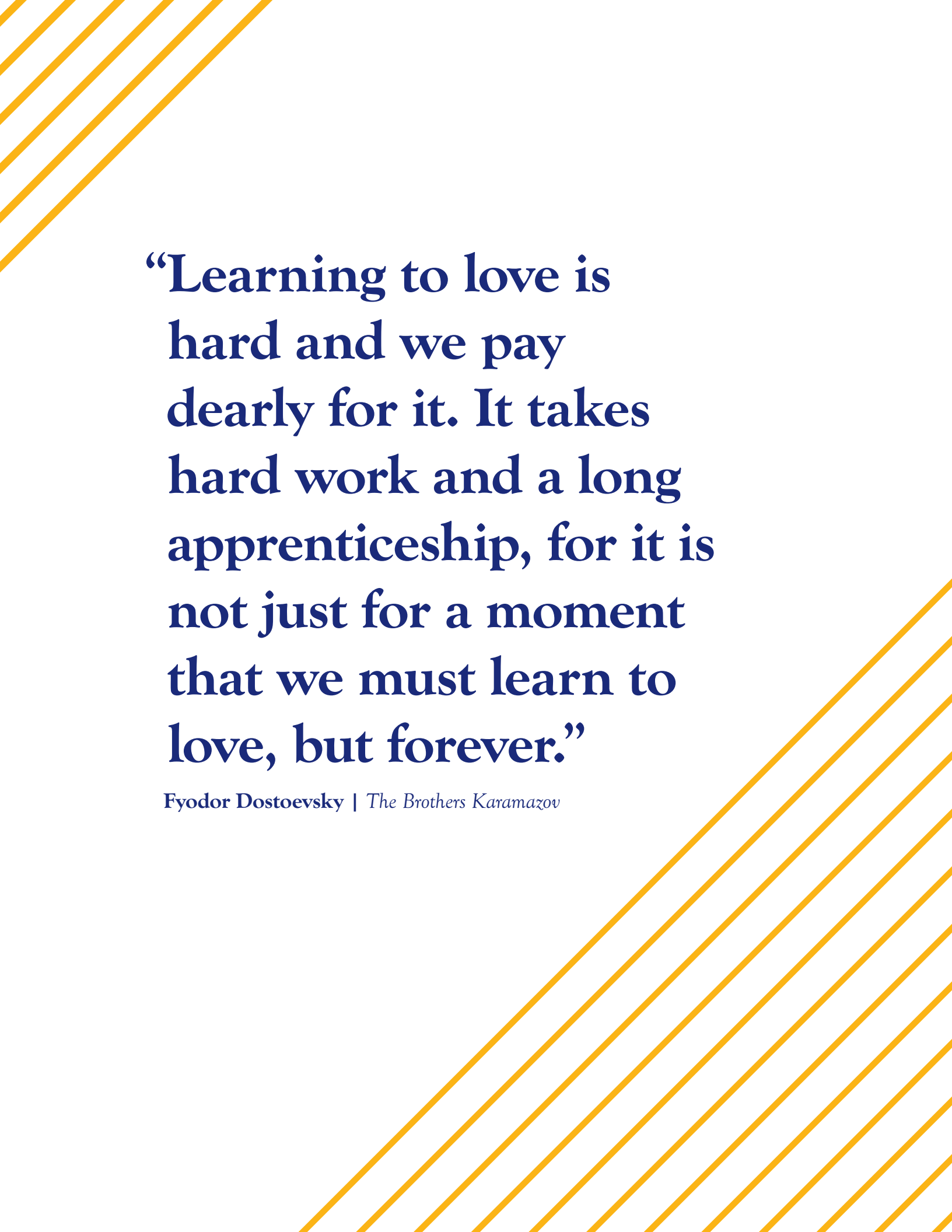


Photo Credit: Jay Mancini

and have worked together through the years on major research projects surrounding military families, co-authoring a number of journal articles. Gary has always been impressed by Jay's creative thinking, innovative research, and disciplined approach to his work. "Jay thinks deeply about problems and issues and how research can help deal with particular issues, whether it's dealing with individuals, families, or communities."

But more than this, Gary said that Jay's always thinking about how to help families. "Jay's always asking the questions, 'How can we better support families? How can the family and community strengthen each other in a way that provides a better foundation for families and children?' He's done scholarship that is cutting edge and that has really impacted the lives of people. His work is theoretical, but it's good science that's committed to making a difference for individual families and communities."

As Jay reflects on the opportunities he's had to help build stronger families and communities, he's always been motivated by Jesus' teaching, "Luke 12:48 To whom much is given, much is required," Jay recognizes how blessed he was to grow up with loving parents and surrounded by a supportive extended family, and he sees his work with families as a way to give back to others and answer the question that his parents were always asking, "What can I do to help other people?" Through Jay's career in family science, he has equipped families and communities all over the world with the resilience and skills they need to thrive.



“Learning to love is hard and we pay dearly for it. It takes hard work and a long apprenticeship, for it is not just for a moment that we must learn to love, but forever.”

Fyodor Dostoevsky | *The Brothers Karamazov*



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