

A LETTER FROM DR. SEAN LUCAS

August 22, 2019

My dear Friends:

Sara and I are fixing to leave here in a bit to take Drew to Covenant College. He moves into his dorm tomorrow morning and we are excited to get the third one launched. It is a funny thing, seeing your kids get to this point, having three (!) in college with our oldest graduating in May.

But before I get all sentimental about that, I'm still reflecting on the wonderful panel we had last night. Thanks once again to Hillary and David Butler and Beth Winterburn for sharing their art, their processes, and their sense of calling with us. It was so good to reflect on what Herman Bavinck, the great Dutch theologian, observed: that as we live out our callings we are co-creators and co-workers with God. He has called us to bring our particular places to flourishing—whether it is through art or music or writing, through gardening or homemaking, through accounting or finance. Every square inch is his and he calls us to exercise dominion over it as his vice-regents.

I was reminded too that we have many at IPC who are engaged in the arts in one degree or another. Obviously, we see our musicians, both on Sunday mornings and evenings, who use those gifts. We have a large IPC Ballet ministry under the oversight of Rachel Himebook with over 175 dancers. We have other artists like Tirzah Rhodes and Carl Fox, Sheley Taras and Shelley Bolton, Ann Aldinger and Mike Moffitt, Elaine Pacello and Wess Bramlitt. Not only does Jess Ada paint, but she is a restorationist and does amazingly creative work. We have authors, like Carolyn Vaughn and Jurey Howard and Michael Thompson. And many others besides.

As you run across these folks, ask them the questions that Jeremy asked our panel: how did you get into this? What is your process for doing art, writing a novel, making or arranging music? How does this reflect your sense of the world, the truest truths that the world holds because they come from God himself? I think you'll be just as amazed at how these others engage God's world as we all were last night listening to Hillary, Beth, and David.

Of course, our great hope when we take our kids to college is that they too will come to know true things about the world and do something about them, that they will have a passionate engagement with a place and a purpose, that they will see themselves implicated for love's sake in the lives of others and use their gifts to tell true stories, sing true songs, build true buildings, pursue truth and justice in the courts, or many other things besides. That's my hope for my kids, especially Drew as we drive him to Chattanooga today.

In the grip of God's grace,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sean". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.