

September 25, 2012

Administration
Emmanuel Christian Seminary
One Walker Dr.
Johnson City, TN 37601

To the administration of Emmanuel Christian Seminary,

I am writing in support of my former professor, Dr. Christopher Rollston, especially in response to his recent article on Huffington Post. I appreciated the article, as I appreciated his candor in the discussion of difficult topics throughout my education at Emmanuel. I believe it reflects well on the academic stature of the institution, for academic integrity is only possible when professors have the freedom to pursue their studies wherever they might lead. I also find his willingness to engage those aspects of biblical study which some may find troubling to be salutary for the mission of the school and to a robust, reflective personal faith. At the very least, it had that effect on me. Furthermore, I applaud him for the pastoral nature with which he deals with such topics—attempting to bring students along slowly so as to allow them time to create the conceptual framework for the incorporation of new information into their Christian worldviews.

On a more personal note, Dr. Rollston demonstrated his belief in me moreso than any educator I have ever had. Most of the time he had more faith in me than I did. He pressed me to work hard to achieve my full potential, and he devoted himself to that end as well. He always made himself available not only to me, but to any student who might need encouragement or guidance. In short, he cared about me as a student and as a person—if only all educators showed as much interest in their students as he does.

Thank you for fostering in your professors this sort of twin devotion, to scholarship and to the student. I am grateful to have been able to study at Emmanuel under professors such as this, and it is my sincere desire that this tradition continues in the days ahead.

Sincerely,

Jared Poznich