

To whom it may concern:

I had the pleasure and blessing of being a student of Dr. Christopher Rollston's for two years while attending Emmanuel School of Religion (now Emmanuel Christian Seminary). The first impression of him is an accurate one; he is every bit as intelligent and kind as he appears. More specifically though my interactions with Dr. Rollston were so instrumental in my intellectual, spiritual and personal development that I am compelled to relay my experience.

Were it not for Dr. Rollston I would have given up on academics. Dr. Rollston spent a great deal of time and care in explaining my options, providing me with opportunities and encouraging me to excel. I was very unsure of my vocational path and on several occasions Dr. Rollston listened to my passions and exasperations and offered specific ways I could use my studies to meet futures goals. He assisted in my acceptance at Tel-Aviv University's summer program, wrote letters of recommendation to employers, and reviewed an academic paper I had written to submit it for publication. Though he was very busy and had many obligations, Dr. Rollston always made time, often weekly, to speak with me regarding my grades as well as my intellectual processes, concerns, and questions. Dr. Rollston was extremely instrumental in teaching me to think critically.

Were it not for Dr. Rollston I would have given up on my entire religious heritage. During my time at Emmanuel, my growing disillusion with the Christian faith and the conservative dogma I was raised to regard was brought to the forefront. I wrestled with a number of spiritual dilemmas especially how to remain a person of faith given the lack of evidence for historicity which had been the foundation of my Christian beliefs. It was a great struggle finding someone who could not only give me answers but who would actually listen to and appreciate my questions. Both of these were addressed with great care in my regular meetings with Dr. Rollston who also advised me on how to interact with my family and how to deal with conflict that arose and would arise due to my changing ideologies. Dr. Rollston was extremely instrumental in teaching me to integrate reason and religion.

Were it not for Dr. Rollston I would have given up on life. This is a dramatic statement but I mean it with all seriousness. During my time at Emmanuel I was in a very unhealthy marriage and as a result I had for a long time been suffering from clinical depression. There was a culminating moment when I was so unhappy that I considered taking my life. Upon revealing my struggles to Dr. Rollston, he assisted me in explaining my options in order to give me hope and spent many hours counseling me on my concerns. If I did not stop by his office for a few days he would send me an email or a text to make sure that I was safe and to encourage me not to give up. Dr. Rollston was extremely instrumental in saving my life.

For these reasons he has my deepest admiration and loyalty. Much of my current health and success is due to my time with him. Dr. Rollston is the sort of person who changes people for the better.

Thank you,

