

October 2012

Dear Colleague in Ministry,

Joel and Sarah Wagner have been members of my church for about six years. During that time I have been their pastor as well as seminary professor for a number of Joel's Master of Divinity degree courses.

Joel has consistently demonstrated excellent Christian character and commitment to the Lord. His high personal standards of conduct reflect his spiritual maturity and godly perspective on life and ministry. Furthermore, his wife Sarah seems to match his character and personal convictions, complement his gifts, and support his ministry in every way. His children are well-mannered and orderly, indicating that this family takes seriously their responsibility to train and discipline in their home. I believe their Christian testimony is impeccable.

During Joel's years in seminary, he has shown a desire to accumulate all the tools he would need in order to fulfill God's call to Bible translation ministry. He persevered diligently in his course work and even chose to extend his study beyond those courses that would have a direct impact on Bible translation. Seminary study places pressure on a man with a family, but Joel has maintained a healthy, biblical perspective on the priority of his home. Furthermore, he has effectively balanced academic preparation with practical ministry involvement in our local church setting. He and Sarah have been active and faithful members of our church and have demonstrated leadership among our people.

Besides Joel's skills in Bible translation, he and Sarah also have a heart for people. Personal trials, including the loss of a newborn son, have further refined them and prepared them for ministry. They both show a special tenderness toward people in need and a willingness to give of themselves to meet those needs. They have the humility and submission to the Lord necessary to be godly servant leaders.

Based on Joel's ministry burden, training and experience, as well as his ability to preach God's Word, I believe that he will serve effectively in the role of Bible translation consultant, including all the various ministry opportunities that role will involve.

I am happy to give this couple my full recommendation with the expectation that they will bring much honor to the Lord and further His cause in the world. Our church was thrilled to show our endorsement by voting unanimously to provide a substantial part of their needed financial support.

Please let me know if I can answer any questions you might have.

Sincerely,

Gary Reimers
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Greenville, SC
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