

BRIAN L. OLSON

OBJECTIVE

To obtain a ministry position for which the Lord has prepared me to serve, where I may help God's people live, grow and reach out to the world as their spiritual act of worship to the glory of God.

SUMMARY OF QUALIFICATIONS

- Believer in Jesus Christ and a Commitment to faithful services to His glory
- Leader who effectively motivates others in understanding their roles in the greater mission.
- Highly analytical thinker with proven ability to visualize details in accomplishing objectives.
- Creative and dependable visionary with experience in strategic planning
- Skilled relationship builder in both internal and external business contacts.

MINISTRY EXPERIENCE

Hospital Chapel Leader

September 2011 - Present

Advocate Condell Medical Center, Libertyville, IL (A ministry of the Evangelical Free Church of Libertyville)

- Preach as part of a speaker rotation
- Lead worship as part of a worship leader rotation

Boy Scout Chaplain

April 2008 - Present

Troop 273, Vernon Hills, IL

- Created opportunities for those in scouting to learn that duty to God is foundational to all of life
- Worked to create an atmosphere where individuals were open to spiritual discussion
- Led prayer at various scouting activities and served as a member of the Troop Committee
- Worked with youth and adult leaders to develop Scouts' Own worship service for campouts

Trinity Speakers Bureau

January 2007 - Present

Trinity Evangelical Divinity School, Deerfield, IL

- Preached sermons at church that were in need of pulpit supply from time to time

Adult Bible Fellowship Teacher

December 2004 - Present

Evangelical Free Church of Libertyville, Libertyville, IL

- Taught lesson series to adult classes of different ages on numerous occasions

Small Group Leader

August 2008 – March 2009

Trinity International University, Deerfield, IL

- Led a group of 6 - 10 college men in prayer, scripture meditation and sharing on a weekly basis

Worship Choir Member

September 2003 – June 2005

Evangelical Free Church of Libertyville, Libertyville, IL

- Sang with sanctuary choir (solos, groups and choir numbers) during various services

Assistant to the Youth Pastor

June 1995 – August 2000

Cary-Grove Evangelical Free Church, Cary, IL

- Shared in the leading of activities at the weekly midweek Senior High meeting, including teaching, games, music, prayer, praise, small groups and other activities
- Worked as a part of a team with the Youth Pastor and other adult leaders in the planning and scheduling of the youth activities and meetings
- Attended and taught sessions at youth retreats
- Taught Junior and Senior High as well as adult Sunday school classes

OTHER EXPERIENCE

Director of Campus Safety & Security Services

January 2000 – March 2009

Trinity International University, Deerfield, IL

- Maintained a twenty-four hour schedule for multiple staff including scheduling and staff training
- Wrote and implemented the departmental mission statement
- Built positive relations within the department, with other departments, and the community
- Six years prior Full-Time as Lead Officer & Four years prior Part-Time as Patrol Officer.

SPECIAL TRAINING & CERTIFICATIONS

Woodbadge BSA Leadership Training C-18-09 – Completed February 2011

Illinois Substitute Teacher Certification – Expires June 2013

EDUCATION

Master of Divinity, Trinity Evangelical Divinity School, Deerfield, IL 1996

Bachelor of Arts in Youth Ministry, Trinity International University, Deerfield, IL 1992

CONVERSION

I was born in a Christian family and accepted Jesus as my personal Savior during Vacation Bible School when I was four years old. During my elementary years I continued to grow in my relationship with Jesus. When I entered Junior High, I began to wonder how I could know Christianity was true. I decided to just accept it and go on with my life, putting off the questions. After my senior year of High School I attended a Youth Conference where I rededicated my life to Christ. The following year was a time of significant growth and confronting the questions I had put off. Through this it became my faith and not just my parents' faith.

CALL AND COMMITMENT TO MINISTRY

My call to ministry started early, though I approached it reluctantly at times. I first clearly remember having the thought when I was in fourth grade. At that point, this was about as far as it went. In high school I began to think more about this but did not want to become a “pastor”. At this time I began to consider youth ministry. Upon entering college I studied youth ministry with the intent of going into it. However, when I graduated God made it clear he wanted me to enter seminary. During my time in seminary I questioned why I was there until one day I sat down and began to write out everything God had done to lead me there. It soon became evident that I was where God wanted me. Further information on my call and commitment can be found in the **NON-TRADITIONAL MINISTRY EXPERIENCE** section.

PHILOSOPHY OF MINISTRY

The goal of any ministry is to bring glory to God. This is done through providing the opportunity for people's lives to be changed through a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. I believe that as a pastor I need to build up the body by providing opportunities for people to grow, be equipped, and use the gifts that the Lord has given them. I also believe that as a pastor I need to set an example and provide opportunities for people to engage the culture around them, this is where faith truly becomes more than just words. Finally, as a pastor I need to reach out to the lost and provide opportunities for the body to share the gospel. To accomplish this the ministry must be founded on two things. 1) The ministry must be founded solidly in the Word of God and 2) The ministry must be founded on the development of personal relationships.

THE PRIMARY PURPOSE OF THE CHURCH

The primary purpose of the church, just as it is for any Christian, is to glorify God. I believe this is done through three parts. First the Church must build the body of Christ into a productive community by encouraging members to exercise and share their God given gifts and to develop in weaker areas. Second, the Church is responsible to engage the culture around them. This is done by not hiding behind the doors, but being in the community. Third the Church must reach the lost, and lead them to Jesus Christ.

LEADERSHIP STYLE

Leadership is not giving order and leadership is not doing everything by yourself. I believe that as a leader I must engage those I wish to lead. It is only through this relationship that I earn the right to lead. This means I need to be involved in their lives. Though this I can encourage others to develop their gifts for ministry. I describe my leadership style as a player/coach, using example and relationship to develop others.

NON-TRADITIONAL MINISTRY EXPERIENCE

At first glance one may ask, why are there so many years between graduating from Seminary and looking for a ministry position? Why was he not in ministry in that time? My answer is simple. I was where God put me. When I graduated Seminary, I began looking for a "Professional Ministry" position. I was confident God had called me into ministry. I interviewed with many churches, even candidating at one, but something stood in the way. Each place I interviewed told me that they had no question of my call to ministry. The question was whether I was the right person for their opening. So I continued to serve as the assistant to the youth pastor at Cary-Grove EFC and continued my work with Trinity's Security Department.

In December of 1999 God's direction became clear to me. Leading up to this time my wife and I had prayed and decided that when my supervisor retired in May of 2000 I would apply for the position. Unexpectedly he retired six months early. I submitted my application. My wife and I examined our finances and discussed our concern of childcare as we had one child and were expecting our second the end of the month. On December 28, I interviewed with the VP of Institutional Services. We discussed how we each viewed our work as a ministry and not just a job. We saw how our roles played into the success of the mission of the university. During our discussion I learned that they were offering to pay right at the minimum level my wife and I had determined we would need. He was also willing to adjust my schedule to working 5:00 am - 12:00 pm daily to allow my wife to work part-time in the afternoons and avoid the need for childcare. That evening my wife and I went to the hospital and our second child was born in the early morning hours of December 29. Everything had perfectly landed in place. On December 29, I accepted the position of Director of Security. I understood that God had been keeping me in a holding pattern for this position.

I knew it was the ministry God had given me and I approached it as such. I set out to build a department that would serve the community, to build its reputation in the eyes of the community and to approach it from a Biblical perspective. During those years I had numerous opportunities to deal with students, faculty and staff from a pastoral, teaching and sometimes disciplinary position. The motto of the university is "Forming students to transform the world through Christ." The department serves the university's mission by providing a safe environment in which to live, work and learn. It serves the university's mission by ensuring that physical items that serve the university's mission are not damaged or stolen. It serves the university's mission by educating people regarding both the need to approach the world with safety in mind and in setting an example by our behavior. Scripture teaches that we are to be wise as serpents, but innocent as doves as we go into the world. The department works to educate the community in being aware of the dangers in the world and how to prevent falling victim to them. Scripture also teaches us to submit to the governing authorities, as long as they are not asking you to sin. Through this behavior people see our witness in our action. The department uses its opportunities as a way of addressing the need to work within the rules and submit to the governing authorities when in the world. If one cannot submit to such rules in the confines of a Christian community, how will they do so in the world, and if they do not, then how is their witness impacted? This philosophy and approach to this ministry led to the development of the departmental mission statement:

In order to provide and promote a safe and secure working and living environment for the entire Trinity International University community on the Deerfield Campus, Campus Safety & Security Service works:

- To Serve - the needs of the TIU community in a manner which fosters positive relations.
- To Protect - the people and property within the TIU community through a highly visible and readily accessible presence.
- To Inform - the TIU community about security, safety and parking related issues.
- To Educate - the TIU community about security issues, personal safety measures and protective strategies.
- To Ensure - the fair and equitable application and enforcement of Trinity Safety, Security and Parking policies.

By promoting the safety and security of students, faculty, staff and their families we support the motto of Trinity, "Forming Students to Transform the World through Christ".

In addition to this ministry, during this time I continued involvement in the worship ministry and adult teaching ministry of my local church. I also began involvement with the Trinity Speakers Bureau during this time, filling pulpits and speaking at camp meetings as the opportunities arose. In addition, I began my involvement as the Chaplain for a local Boy Scout troop, leading in prayer at various activities and leading a Sunday morning worship service at weekend camp outs. Through all of this, I have felt re-affirmed in my call to professional ministry by both friends and family.

After many years as the Director of Campus Safety & Security and accomplishing many of the goals that I had set out I began to feel a tug on my life for change. After much consideration, debate, prayer and advice, my wife and I decided it was time to begin looking at moving on.

In 2009, as result of the economic conditions in the country, I was laid-off from my position with Trinity International University. God has now closed that door on my life and I anxiously await the opening of the next door in ministry.

In the time since, I have continued my teaching ministry at my local church, providing pulpit supply to churches and my Chaplaincy ministry with the Boy Scouts. Most recently, I have begun involvement in a ministry of our local church speaking and leading worship for the Sunday morning chapel service at the neighboring hospital.

During all of this time, God has allowed me to have mentoring relationships with many people, both those who served directly under me and those I have worked along side. Many of these have gone on to serve in ministry themselves. For others, I was one of the first real contacts they had with an openly evangelical Christian.

So I come back to the question, "Why haven't you been in ministry?" The answer is I have been in ministry. I have been in the very ministry in which God called me to serve. I believe that this time has served me greatly in growth. I am more confident in who I am. I am more certain of what I believe. I have gained indispensable experience in administration, leadership, confrontation, compassion and public speaking. Seminary gave me the knowledge to serve. These years have given me the experience.

REFERENCES AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST
