



April 2009

To Whom It May Concern:

I count it an honor to recommend Christie Jo Johnston to you. I have had the great privilege to teach Christie in the classroom and to speak in her Bible Study class at First Family Church in Overland Park, Kansas. It has been a joy to get to know her and experience first hand that her faith is unpretentious and contagious.

Along with her husband, Pastor Jerry Johnston, Christie is a co-founder of First Family Church. She works diligently serving the congregation, witnessing and ministering to many in the name of Christ. She is the teacher of a long-standing and successful Bible study class, and she is also in demand as a conference leader and Bible teacher on the national and local level.

Christie is an excellent student. She writes with clarity and passion and is able to speak to the needs of others. Christie communicates the hope of the Gospel in effective and winsome ways. She has earned several theological degrees and is currently pursuing doctoral work in Christian ministry at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. In addition to all of this, Christie is a gracious and loving wife, mother, and grandmother.

One thing that has impressed me very much about Christie is her humble lack of pretension. Once Christie shared with me her fear that something she wrote on an online Class Blog unintentionally offended another student. At this point, others might let the matter pass. But not Christie. She went the extra mile to contact the other student and make it right. This act to me displays the real heart of a disciple. She is real; her faith in Christ is real.

It is my pleasure to recommend Christie Jo Johnston.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stephen J. Andrews". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial "S".

Stephen J. Andrews, Ph.D.  
Professor of Old Testament, Hebrew, and Archaeology  
Director of PhD Program

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Since 1998 Dr. Steve Andrews has taught Old Testament, Hebrew, and Biblical Archaeology at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He currently directs the PhD program at Midwestern, as well as the Morton-Seats Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology located on the campus of the Seminary. Dr. Andrews has participated in the excavations of Tel Gezer, Dan and Hazor, Israel, and the Karak Resources Project dig at al-Mudaybi', Jordan. He has also traveled extensively in Egypt, Israel, Jordan and Greece. From 1991-98, Dr. Andrews taught Hebrew and Old Testament at Southeastern Baptist Seminary in Wake Forest, North Carolina, where he also directed the school's archaeological program.

Dr. Andrews is a native of Baltimore, Maryland and attended local schools in Maryland before graduating with a Bachelor of Arts degree from Carson–Newman College, Jefferson City, Tennessee. In 1979 he received a Master of Divinity degree from Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and in 1983 he graduated with a Master of Theology degree from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, North Carolina. He completed his graduate studies at Hebrew Union College in Cincinnati, Ohio, earning a Doctor of Philosophy degree in Hebrew and Semitic Languages in 1995.

An ordained Southern Baptist minister, Dr. Andrews has pastored four churches in Maryland, Ohio, and Missouri. He has over 33 years experience in Southern Baptist ministry as a pastor and seminary professor. Dr. Andrews has also served as interim pastor, supply pastor, conference & radio speaker in many churches and schools in the United States.

Dr. Andrews is the co-author of the Holman Old Testament Commentary on 1 and 2 Samuel with Dr. Robert Bergen. He has most recently written commentary on 1 Samuel for the Bible Studies for Life Adult Curriculum Leaders Guide of LifeWay Christian Resources. Dr. Andrews has published several articles and book reviews in the *Biblical Illustrator*, *Faith and Mission*, the *Journal of the Evangelical Theological Society*, the *Midwestern Journal of Theology*, the *IVP Dictionary of the Old Testament*, the *Eerdmans Dictionary of the Bible* and many other scholarly publications.

He is married to Tammie Flynn Andrews of Strawberry Plains, Tennessee. They have four children (Rachel, Hannah, David, and Daniel).