

3-28-2023

Darren,

I've written this letter to you and want to share it with you in this public forum so that you and others who are in your life will know what has been on my heart and mind for the past several months.

It was no accident that God brought our worlds colliding together again last September. God often uses strange events to bring people together to accomplish his purposes. I couldn't have ever imagined anything quite as strange as the way the events of the last several months have unfolded. I am trusting that God has a plan and purpose that he wants to fulfill in my life and in your life that will bring him the glory that he deserves, because he is the creator of us both.

We (Van + I) have been your coaches, teacher, and friends and have had an influence in your life during the many years you attended Xenia Christian. You have heard hundreds of daily tennis devotions, chapel messages and other lessons from many teachers and staff members during your years at Xenia Christian that pointed you to Christ. I know that your mom loved you. I observed your mom during the three tennis seasons which you were a member of our team, and the support she regularly showed me as a friend and as one of our faithful "tennis moms" during those long, and often cold tennis matches each spring.

God created you for a purpose and you are not a mistake. I believe our days are in God's hand and that nothing that has happened during these past few months has been out of his plan or caught him by surprise.

For me what it means to honor God and be faithful to him first during my life is to speak his truth and show love to the people who are around me to the best of my ability. Honoring God and loving the people in my life includes you Darren, but it also includes the many women and girls who are in our community who use the YMCA lockerroom. Standing up and speaking up for women and girls when their safety, protections and necessary privacy and respect are in danger is something that I will do also or I would not be loving them well.

Darren you are an adult now and are obviously responsible for the choices you make and the consequences of those choices. God gives us a freedom to choose him or not as well. It is never too late and Jesus is always ready for a relationship with you, no matter how twisted and hard the road has been for you in your life.

I recently had a conversation with Van about you and our memories of you on our tennis team. You had the best smile and that goofy grin that was always on your face. You seemed to love life and always were part of the team and

participating to the fullest in whatever setting you were in. In recent months we have not seen the joy or happiness on your face anymore.

I'll probably always regret not approaching you and having a conversation with you before September 26, but want you to know that we will always be here for you if you are open to talking now or in the future. I know that this would also be the same desire of Jacob and your other classmates and teachers at XC as well.

I've prayed more for you the past 6 months than I ever did the previous 22 years of knowing you. Going through these last 6 months is not something that I would have ever chosen to do, but God has been faithful to me in so many areas of my life. Trusting him in this situation is no different because I know he uses all the "hard" things in our lives to accomplish his purposes.

Your friend & former coach
Janell Holloway