

Fall Fellowship Dinner 2024: *My Firm Foundation*

“The plans of the Lord stand firm forever, the purposes of His heart through all generations.” - Psalm 33:11

Hello, everyone. My name is Anney Fisher-Henson, and I am the high school English teacher here at BMS. While this is my first year serving in this role, BMS has been a part of my life - and a firm foundation for me - for much longer than that. I was in 6th grade when I started attending BMS, and I graduated from here in 2020. During that time, I developed lasting relationships with my classmates and teachers, both of whom taught me much about matters of academics and faith.

When Gwen shared tonight’s verse with me, I of course recognized the theme of having a firm foundation in the Lord. I wrote it down and set it on my desk here at school, where I could read it regularly leading up to this time of fellowship. But between then and now, I became more attune to the second part of this verse, which references “*the purposes of His heart through all generations.*”

When I think of BMS, I think of discipleship. As a student here, the BMS community showed me how to walk closely with Christ. I still remember stories of faith that my teachers shared in Monday morning chapels that have become part of my foundation in the Lord, the things that I recall as reminders of what it looks like to live in daily devotion to the Lord. And because BMS showed me that spiritual discipline and academic rigor can go hand-in-hand, I was prepared to stand on this foundation when I started college in 2020. My four years of college happened to coincide with what felt like tumultuous seasons on the national and global level and that intimately affected our college campus, and in a season that could have easily unmoored me, my faith actually became more refined, in large part because of their example.

As I prepared to graduate from college this past spring and was considering what my next step would be, my main priority was to walk into

a place where I would receive Christian mentorship. And teaching at BMS has multiplied whatever I thought that could be. I now get to be in the room with my former teachers and ongoing mentors and new members of the BMS community as they lead in the prayers and spiritual disciplines that meant so much to me as a student. I'm not sure that they realize it, but the very people who disciplined me are now teaching me how to offer that to others and to our current students.

Earlier this school year, we were asked to consider what has been entrusted to us. I immediately thought of the students that I now teach and the things that I want them to learn from me, the intentional steps that I'm trying to take so that they can see what it looks like to live a life of faith from someone a few steps ahead of them. And then I thought of how many times my own teachers must have done the exact same thing. This is a new season for me, and I know that every school year brings a new season for BMS and for the people here, but these disciplines that the Lord grows in and through us are not. They are, and more accurately, Christ is the firm foundation that guides us in the purposes of His heart through *all* generations. I have loved every opportunity to get to know the students here and truly to learn alongside them. It is a blessing to be a part of the stories of discipleship that God has written.

This past spring, I drove up from college for a day to meet with Mr. Wilson and discuss what was then the open high school English teacher position. On my way back to Carlisle, where I lived, I started to use the drive to think through our conversation and other applications that I had submitted through the course of the semester. There's a part of the drive that I have always admired, along Rte. 22 near Millerstown, where the mountains widen and you can see the entirety of the valley below. Now, on that morning, it had been raining, and when I rounded the bend, the mountains opened to a double rainbow in a full arc over the valley. At that moment, it was such a beautiful reminder that God walks closely with us wherever we go, and it continues to remind me that Christ, our firm foundation, is faithful to fulfill His promises.