

Hey Wendy!

Following is the meat and potatoes of the letter I've been sending my friends and family; I would be humbly appreciative if you shared the link as well as any excerpt as you wished with your Camino followers!

In my acceptance to Gordon Conwell Theological Seminary in September I have been provisionally granted the Partnership Program Scholarship, covering full-tuition as well as providing practical ministry skills and experience with applying principles of biblical stewardship. The vision of the program is to help students enter Christian ministry debt-free with a supportive network of friends and family partnering in both prayer and financial support. I write you now to ask if you would consider being a partner of mine! In including you all in this supportive network I'll be able to stay connected through monthly updates sharing my experiences, lessons learned and prayer requests throughout my time in seminary, as well as hearing from how I can be praying for you!

The Partnership Program's goals for financial support include striving to raise \$13,700 per year to the fund, while the Program Scholarship provides full tuition for me. To reach that goal, ideally, I will seek to find thirteen donors who pledge \$75 a month for the duration of my studies that year, with my sponsoring church giving \$2,000. Each year I'll have the option to reapply for the scholarship. The pledge/ commitment card, attached with the brochure, will be required by the Program by May 31st to ensure I'm on track in my fundraising, with the first gifts being sent by June 30th through automatic credit card withdrawal, electronic fund transfers, or checks made out to Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary. If more convenient to pay online or you'd prefer to look into the details the link is [my.gordonconwell.edu/partnership/support-the-program](http://my.gordonconwell.edu/partnership/support-the-program) All gifts are tax-deductible! If there's anything I learned in undergrad and life in general, it's that I could not succeed without the support of those who have been personal advocates, mentors, truth-speakers and friends. Regardless of your decision I thank you for your consideration!

As I am expected to raise the amount in total, any donation of any size would help me to reach my goal, regardless of whether you are able to be full monthly donor. Through numerous of Paul's accounts of the provision for the saints in the early church towards enabling their ministry, I believe that support raising is not only generous; it's biblical: "Not that I seek the gift, but I seek the fruit that increases to your credit." Phil 4:17. However, I would like to stress that any decision to join me in partnership to reach my goals, through gifts, prayer or both, would be graciously received on account of the giving, not the quantity. If you are unable to or uncomfortable with giving, –don't! I understand; –it's uncomfortable for me to ask. "Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." 2 Cor 9:7. Again, regardless of what or if you feel called to give, I am grateful to know people who are willing to consider supporting me and for the opportunity to learn in and of my greatest love, Jesus, through my time in seminary!

God truly works in mysterious ways, friend Wendy. It still blows my mind that on my trek through Spain 4,500 miles from home our paths crossed and Ray fortuitously asked me about my sweatshirt. What a God we serve, bringing people together in ways and places we would least expect. In the time we've spent together alone I am so thankful to have had the opportunity to meet you and Ray, and I look forward to walking together many miles to come!

Grace and peace;  
T.I. Atkins