



Charles Lyons  
2304 N. Sawyer  
Chicago, Illinois 60647

October 26, 2020

To Whom It Concerns,

I met Charles Lyons in 1995, in conjunction with the Luis Palau Campaign, little knowing that three years later I would become part of his pastoral staff at Armitage Baptist Church in Chicago. For exactly five years, I served with Pastor Lyons. It was the pivotal period of my pastoral ministry.

As a minister, one hears of being trained in the ministry, but I know of few who would say that it actually took place for them. Training *for* the ministry and learning how to actually do the tasks that lead to ministry are quite different. Charles Lyons provided the former, taking me with him to show me how to do a home visit, a hospital visit, a funeral, and explaining it to me as we went. As I did each, we reviewed my experiences. I learned how to guide someone from conversion through basic discipleship and into connection with the church for relationship, nurture and accountability, and on into Christian growth and service. The relationship between the intermediate group (e.g. Adult Sunday School or Adult Bible Study), the small group and the congregation. While his model was Southern Baptist, the concepts were transferable to other approaches to “doing church.”

I also found in Charles a repository of knowledge about large cities and ministry. This wasn't a detailed part of my training but was an active part of our discussion because we ministered in center-city Chicago.

In the five years that I served with him as worship pastor, and the many years since that I've had the privilege of his friendship, I have known Charles to be a man of impeccable character, an anointed preacher whose life is shaped by the disciplines of prayer and the Word of God, one who has expended himself to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ and make disciples. Currently, I have the privilege of being his pastor and a board member of City Hope International, the ministry umbrella under which he serves. His ministry is with the full blessing and confidence of myself and my co-pastor, Rev. Steve Mason.

For His Kingdom,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Charles M. Butler", is written over a horizontal line.

Charles M. Butler, Co-Pastor