

Internship Bio Sheet

Tell us about yourself.

Let me see, where to begin! My name is Dale Kellar, and I am a sinner saved by grace. I am twenty two years old, the youngest child and only son of Craig and Darlene Kellar. I have two wonderful sisters and brothers-in-law, an adorable niece, and a nephew currently being knit together. I have been described as “an introvert with highly developed social skills”, otherwise stated as, “I love people, but I recharge by myself.” I am a student at Reformed Baptist Seminary where I am working towards a Master of Divinity, and recently graduated from Cornerstone University in Grand Rapids, MI where I double majored in Ministry and Biblical Studies. Some of my hobbies include hiking, roller skating, playing board games, pyrography, musical theatre, and pretty much any activity involving water.

How did you come to know Jesus?

Like many who were raised by Christian families in Christian homes at Christian churches, the truths about God’s love for sinners permeated every aspect of my life growing up. I was saved as a very young child after a Sunday school teacher explained the good news to our class, confessing my sins to Jesus and believing that He was my Savior. The early years of my childhood were sweet and simple: singing in kid’s choir, attending VBS each year, participating in every Pinewood Derby race the church hosted. The entirety of middle school and the first years of high school were my formative years, seeking after the truth to see if what I had been taught so often could indeed be true. After a trip to the Creation Museum one summer and the discovery of the marvelous world of podcasting, my faith took off like a rocket as I was propelled forth with the love of all things Scripture and salvation. That thirst eventually led me to the call forth into ministry, a call which I have been pursuing ever since.

There have been many moments in my life where I have looked down on my testimony. Hearing those cries of faith from others who have had life-changing experiences, 180° turns from lives embracing their sin, I thought that my faith must be less grounded, given that life had been easy for me. However, a very wise friend, whose testimony echoes the former, reminded me that the magnitude of God’s grace depends not upon the extent of my brokenness but upon the breadth of His goodness. I am able to look back now and realize the truly miraculous experience of my conversion. In the prayers of a tiny boy – all the while his mom and dad tucking him in for an afternoon nap – the blood of Christ made a covering over his sins and guaranteed his preservation till the end. What a glorious truth made manifest in the life of a sinner saved by grace!

How did you get involved in ministry?

My journey into the pursuit of formal, vocational ministry began when I was on the BASIC mission trip in the summer of 2010. It was the Fourth of July, and our mission team was at a city park filled with thousands of spectators who had come together to watch fireworks. Patrick had given us a simple task: go around to groups of people and ask if you could pray for them (simple in direction, difficult in execution!). Paired up with two of my fellow teens, we began to make our way around to different groups, sometimes openly welcomed into the fold but more often turned away with a snicker. Occasionally, the prayers we offered produced an open door into sharing the gospel, and it was during that event where the call to ministry began to arise within my soul. With further discernment and encouragement, I was led to Cornerstone University for educational training and was able to participate in several different areas of ministry. My experiences have included a youth ministry internship at a church in Grand Rapids, two semesters of teaching Bible at a Christian school, and a summer camp counseling position. I have worked with students from Kindergarten through 12th grade, and have had direct involvement and training with students with physical, mental, and social disabilities. I am excited for this internship at Cornerstone as it will provide me with a much greater understanding of the life of the church, and will allow me to continue following the guidance of God's calling in my life.

How did you come to find out about Cornerstone and the Student Ministries internship?

Now that is an easy question to answer! I have been a member at Cornerstone since 2004, right around my entrance into the fourth grade. My family came to Cornerstone after leaving our old church, and we quickly discovered that Cornerstone was our home. Working up through the middle school and high school programs, I had direct interaction with and guidance under the Student Ministries interns. I look back on my time in middle school as a pivotal moment of transition and growth in my own spiritual development, encouraged in my walk by my two interns, Kerry John Weishaupt and Caleb McClarren. Before I went off to Cornerstone University, I had lunch with an incredibly godly role model in my life, Patrick McGoldrick, who encouraged me to look into pursuing the Student Ministries internship after I had graduated from college. Recognizing the incredible opportunity that this internship provides for young men pursuing the ministry, I knew I could not pass it up and was quick to contact Johnny when the position became available for this year.

Why do you want to work with students?

The students of today are the leaders of tomorrow. As our culture continues to celebrate sin and harbor God's judgment, the two institutions of the church and the family are ordained by God to develop a people who are sold out for the gospel of salvation. By His grace alone, the message that the bride of Christ proclaims is the very tool that He uses to bring sinners to Himself and make them a new creation. The church has specifically been tasked with the spreading of the gospel, and that gospel is not limited to the old and the wise, but is offered to members at every stage of life. It is my belief that the pivotal stage of development throughout the adolescent years and into young adulthood are vital to the foundation of a worldview that is centered around the truths of God's Word.

Countless testimonies have been spoken in which students have confessed that the faith they held to was simply the faith they had grown up with, but through their journey in student ministries, that same faith had come to be their own. Many other students, not having been raised in Christian homes, are challenged by a comment a friend makes and are prodded on to seek out answers for the sake of the truth. Ultimately, my desire to work with students simply stems from the reality that they need the gospel as much everyone else, and it has been my personal experience that they are often more willing to listen, grow, and be challenged than we adults are. I have much to learn from these students with whom I have the incredible opportunity to minister with this year. I hope to encourage them in the pursuit of Christ as much as I recognize that they will do the same for me, pouring out the same love and grace into their lives as has been freely offered to me. It is a joy and a blessing to walk this journey with them as we seek to glorify the living God together.

What other pertinent information should we know about you?

To conclude this introduction, I thought it would be beneficial to provide three areas of strength that others have identified in me, and identify three areas of weakness that I recognize in myself and seek to grow and be stretched in.

Strengths:

1) Leadership

I often find myself naturally drifting into leadership positions. When a task is at hand, I am happy to take lead and work hard to get the job done. Raised by parents who faithfully trained me with a strong work ethic, I put my all into every task while also trying to involve the gifts and talents of others in the

completion of the job. It is my desire in leadership to put on display the sacrificial servitude of Christ, who made Himself nothing on our behalf.

2) Organization

I don't have OCD, but I might as well! My personal calendar is filled with highlight marks, pen scratches, notes, dates and phone numbers, all of which have aided in shaping me into an extremely organized individual. If it is true that organization is half the battle, you can walk into any situation assured that I will be where I need to be and will have completed what needs to be completed.

3) Attentiveness

I find myself living by the old saying, "You have two ears and one mouth, so listen twice as much as you talk." When I am communicating with others, I seek to give them the awareness that they have my undivided attention. Being an introverted individual, this tends to come naturally for me, and I am adamant in pursuing relationships that go beyond surface level knowledge of one another. I am always happy and willing to listen, give opinions when asked for, and open up my heart to hear what you have to say.

Weaknesses:

1) Dogmatic

It has been my tendency to live in a world of black-and-white thinking. My family could testify that when I was growing up, I had difficulty uttering those three fateful words, "I was wrong." I praise God that through close relationships and life experiences, I have moved closer towards the center of the "truth and love" scale, learning as a truth-driven individual to express those truths with the love that is needed. While there are certainly issues that need to be defined as black or white, I am continuing to be challenged by the truth that many subjects can be a matter of gray area.

2) Conflict

Now let's be honest, most of us don't enjoy conflict, and I certainly count myself among that majority. I pray that my ability to address conflict appropriately is strengthened through this internship.

3) Introspective

My personality leads me to be inclined towards intentional, one-on-one relationships. However, I am aware that this internship, and ministry in general, requires many aspects of group interaction. I am looking forward to growing in this area as I am challenged to step out my comfort zone and engage in large group activities.

I am very excited for this opportunity to work with the youth group and participate in the broader aspects of church life. I ask that you would pray for me as I seek to grow and to help your students grow with me. May we continue to do all things for the glory of our great Savior.

Sincerely,

Dale Kellar