

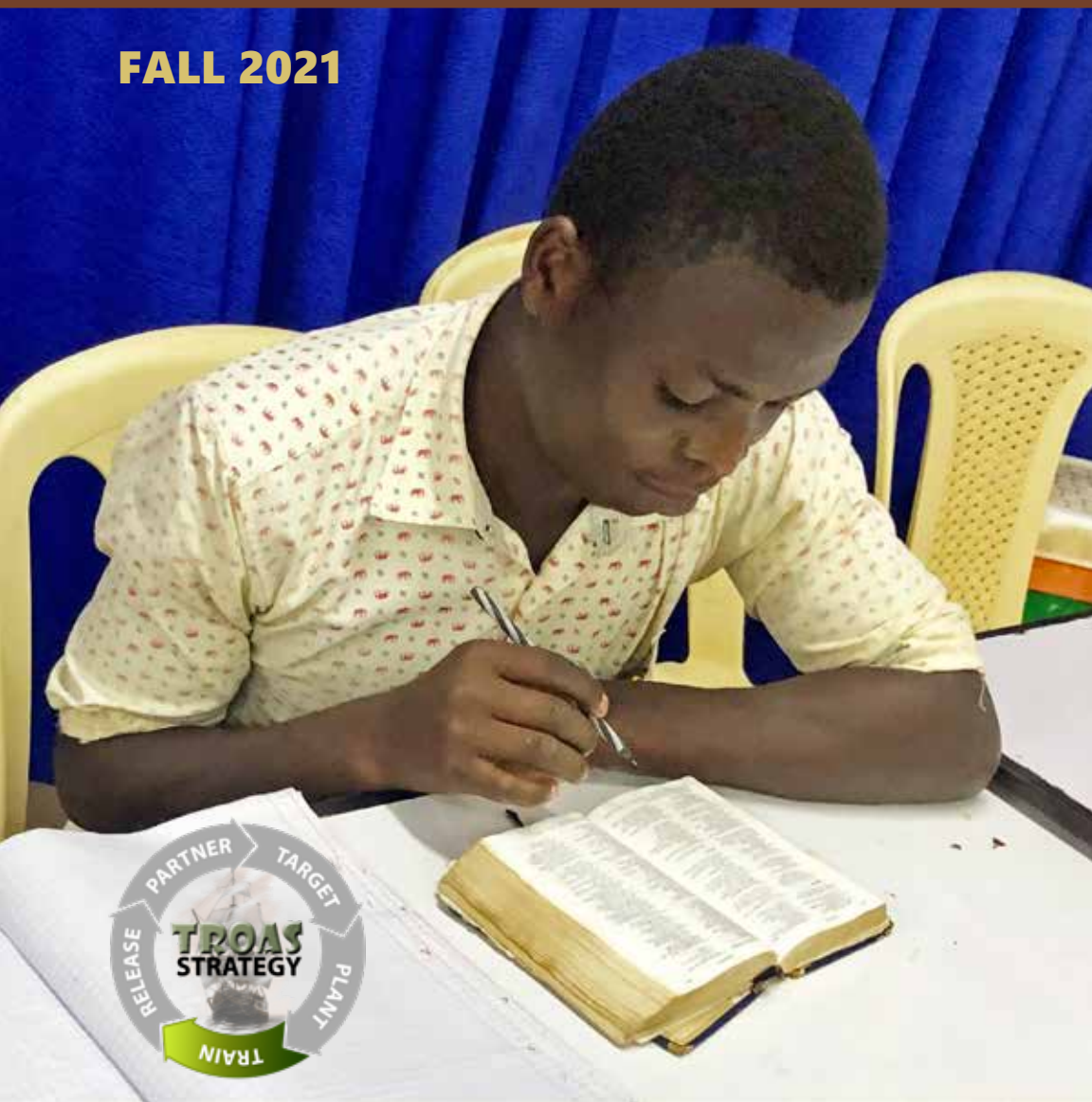
INTERNATIONAL

THINGS
TO COME
MISSION



Harvest

FALL 2021



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THE 12 DISCIPLES OF PAUL

Ben Anderson, International Director

When Apollos was at Corinth, Paul took the road through the interior and arrived at Ephesus. There he found some disciples ... about 12 men in all. ... He took the disciples with him and had discussions daily in the lecture hall of Tyrannus. (Acts 19)

Jesus chose 12 disciples to preach the gospel of the kingdom to Israel. Apostle Paul chose 12 disciples to preach the gospel of grace to the Gentiles in Asia. A startling verse in Acts 19 claims, "This went on for two years, so that all the Jews and Greeks who lived in the province of Asia heard the word of the Lord." How could one apostle accomplish such an amazing task? The answer: He trained others to do the work with him!

When Paul arrived in Ephesus on his third missionary journey, he met 12 men who had been mentored by Apollos. They only knew John's water baptism and the gospel of Israel's kingdom. In Acts 19:6 Paul placed his hands on them and they received the Holy Spirit. Many Bible translations add an ending quotation in Acts 19:4 instead of the end of 19:5, giving rise to the nonsensical idea that Paul re-baptized these men with John's baptism. Not so! Through the Holy Spirit they transferred from Israel's physical outlook to the body of Christ's spiritual hope.

Apostle Paul's method was to remain in the capital Ephesus training his disciples for two years. These disciples were the ones who traveled across the province of Asia proclaiming God's grace to the Gentiles. One result was the church in Colossae which was planted not by Paul, but by his disciple Epaphras.

Things to Come Mission has adopted the **Troas Strategy** as our *modus operandi* for reaching out with the gospel: Target – Plant – Train – Release – Partner. The middle stage is Train. Leaders must be trained for the growing churches. If the Train stage is not successful, that mission field will stagnate instead of developing to Release.



When TCM's first missionaries arrived in the Philippines, within one year they had established International Grace Bible Institute (IGBI), which now has six residential campuses with more on the way. The hundreds of Grace churches in the Philippines were not planted by missionaries, but by dedicated Filipino pastors and Bible women who were trained at IGBI.

While reading this issue of the *International Harvest*, you will see that TCM remains committed to training nationals who will take over the ministry from the missionaries. Due to changing times, some of this training is online or conducted through weekend seminars. And, yes, there are still residential Bible schools being developed such as Kenya Grace Bible Institute (KGBI), a project that is close to my heart because of my Kenya service. TCM has initiated a project to complete Phase 2 of the main KGBI building. Our budget is \$4,000 to finish the dorm, dining hall and three offices.

Apostle Paul told his spiritual son Timothy, "The things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, entrust these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also." Four generations are in this one short verse: Paul > Timothy > faithful men > others. Training is at the very core of preaching the gospel to the regions beyond. ❖

MINISTRY TRAINING BEGINS AT HOME

Timothy Board, Development Director

As you know how we exhorted, and comforted and charged every one of you, as a father does his own children, that you would walk worthy of God who calls you into His own kingdom and glory.

(1 Thessalonians 2:11-12)



My family and I travel across our country ministering in churches, camps, and conferences throughout the year. The aging demographics we observe in many congregations present challenges to the sustainability of American grace churches and our impact on the foreign mission field. Radical changes must be made by churches and families moving forward as co-champions of the next generation. Both must understand that ministry training does not begin when young people arrive on campus at Grace Christian University or Berean Bible Institute, but well ahead of time during the formative years of life right at home with dad and mom (1 Thes.2:11-12).

In *The Gathering Storm: Secularism, Culture, and the Church*, Dr. Albert Mohler issues a bold challenge for the church to be deliberate in engaging the storm gathering over the coming generations. Intentional ministry training begins at home in three poignant ways:

1. Christian parents [and grandparents] must view church as the highest and utmost priority for their family's weekly schedule.

A secularized culture idolizes athletic prowess, and many Christians buy into this due to the perception that incessant sports activities (even on Sunday) will increase their child's eventual college entrance application. Should they really be surprised when their investment into the traveling team captures the heart of the next generation at the expense of a church which they have never really known in the first place? As the pillar and ground of doctrinal truth, the ministry of the local church should be paramount to the weekly routine and rhythm of biblical family life (1 Tim.3:15).

2. Christian parents [and grandparents] need to be serious about the effects of technology, screen time, and social media. Such gadgets and platforms are worldview-shaping influencers in the lives of young people whose impressionable minds are susceptible to the diabolically insidious nature of deception (Col.2:8). The formative years of youth should not be squandered but redirected toward developing a comprehensive and therefore biblical Christian worldview. Along with this, cultivating practical ministry skills by learning how to read robust literature like missionary biographies, playing musical instruments, and building daily work ethic through being industrious, diligent, and disciplined is a priority of home-based ministry training (Eph.5:15-17).

3. Christian parents [and grandparents] must endeavor to fill their homes with the fragrance of the gospel. More important than adorning the physical house is filling it with "the fruits of righteousness which are by Jesus Christ" and the intangible virtues of faith, hope, and love (Pr.24:3-4; Phil.1:11). Training the next generation for ministry leadership begins right at home through spiritual disciplines like family worship time, Scripture memorization, and singing the praises of Him who alone is worthy of all praise because of who He is and what He has done in Christ Jesus. ❖

HARVEST TIME

Joe Watkins, TCM missionary 1958-2014

Reprinted from International Harvest Vol.3 No.1, Jan-Feb 1960

But when he saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion on them, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd. Then saith he unto his disciples, The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few; pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest. (Matthew 9:36-38)

When the Lord saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion. Just think, the Lord himself was concerned with the multitudes. The truth is that God will have all men to be saved. He has provided the means by which a person can be saved, through the Lord Jesus Christ. Now the job of the Christian is to take the gospel to the ones who have never heard the way of salvation.

The above scripture in Matthew fits into a very consistent pattern that should be followed. Chapters 5-7 of Matthew record what is known as the Sermon on the Mount. This might also be called the Constitution of the Kingdom of Heaven. These teachings of our Lord, from the mountain, were the announcement of the Laws which would exist in His Kingdom. It should be kept in mind that these laws do not set forth terms of salvation to sinners, but the principles of life which shall be obtained when Christ reigns on the earth. We have recorded in Matthew 8:1-9, 34, the King demonstrating His mighty power with many miracles. They display the King's mighty power to establish and administer the affairs of the Kingdom. The Lord did not call the Twelve just to be His earthly companions; He had a special work for them to do. In Ch. 9:35-38, the Lord puts before the Twelve a vision. What is it? A Great Harvest but Few Workers. In Chapter 10, after teaching and showing them the need, He sends them forth to preach the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand. I know this portion of scripture is not for the church today and the literal interpretation is for the Kingdom of Heaven and the Jews, but this is a pattern that fits all dispensations. That is, when we have been taught and shown the vision, we must go forth to preach and teach to the lost that which we have been taught.

Let us use an example from the life of the Apostle Paul. In Galatians 1:17 he says, "Neither went I up to Jerusalem to them which were apostles before me; but I went into Arabia and returned again unto Damascus." This event took place right after his conversion. Most Bible teachers think this is where God revealed to him the Dispensation of the Grace of God. He did not receive it from the Twelve but from the Lord Jesus Christ. Paul himself took young men along with him on his missionary journeys and no doubt taught and worked with them during these trips (Acts. 20:1-5).

Paul was continually sending or calling for Titus and Timothy. Paul and his workers were taught and then they went forth. We of the International Grace Bible Institute (IGBI) want to follow this pattern—training, presenting a vision and sending forth.

TRAINING

The goal of IGBI is to train young people of the Philippines and the Far East in the Bible, the Lord Jesus Christ, and the Gospel of the Grace of God as revealed to the Apostle Paul. After this training they will go out into the harvest field of souls. The students not only get a knowledge of the Word of God, but also training in practical things such as rice planting the modern way, gardening, raising chickens, pigs, etc. Many will have to go back and work and preach in order to build congregations that can support a pastor full time. The training at IGBI will help them to know how to get the most from their land. The Apostle Paul worked and preached (Acts 18). We are to follow him as he followed Christ.



In training the student to work the land and raise livestock, IGBI will use the produce from the land and animals to pay the expenses of the school. Our land and livestock are small now, not enough to carry the full expenses of the school, but we are praying that within two or three years the work will be completely self-supporting. Many are getting an education in the Bible that they could not have gotten otherwise. The average Filipino is not able to pay his way to Bible school. We want to make it possible for all who desire to study the Word of God. The rich can pay, the poor can work for the school. It takes so little to reach our goal. What is the goal? Trained young people going out with the rightly divided Word of Truth. This cannot be attained unless all stand behind the work.

VISION

A great harvest field. There is much work to be done here. Spain controlled this country for 330 years and this served to establish Roman Catholicism as the principal religion. The boast is that the Philippines is the only Christian nation in the Far East. In reality, however, the Bible was not given to the people; the gospel was not preached and education was not promoted. People are going about trying to establish their own righteousness. They have no hope. There can be no hope as long as they serve the priests, idols and the church. The population of the Philippines is 20 million, consisting of a great variety of tribal divisions and language groups. There are more than 7000 islands in this group with 156 different languages. The Bible has been translated into only 12 of these languages. Many

tribes have never been reached with the gospel and there is only on Protestant missionary to every 30,000 people. Is this not a great Harvest Field?



First IGBI Class. IGBI Director Joe & Pauline Watkins (front row center)
Poinciana Sabanal (middle row, 4th from left) mother of TCM missionary Joy Escobar
Josephine Palma (middle row, 2nd from right) mother of TCM missionary Gardner Improso

SENDING FORTH

This is yet future. The training of the present Filipino students is still in process and will be for another three years. We are now engaged in the second semester of the first year of training. What will happen after three years, only God knows. Will they go forth? Will we help them to go forth? Are we willing to sacrifice in order that they might do the work? There is no doubt, one national can do more than three American missionaries put together. I know from experience. I have tried to keep up with the National Evangelist of TCM-Philippines and couldn't. We must help—they can do the work.

Today with the spread of Communism in the Far East and the forces of evil closing in on every side, I wonder how much time the Church has to reach these people with the gospel? Not too many years ago the Communists almost took over the Philippines. The people are tired of religion that offers no hope and gives no peace. Communism comes along offering them a share in their millions and the people accept. We are trying to train young people in the Bible so when the missionaries are forced to leave, the nationals can carry on. Right now the door is open to the gospel and we can preach and teach anywhere.

When he saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion.

The love of Christ constrains us. What about it, Christian friend? Does the lost condition of the world move your heart? Are you willing to follow the pattern? I have tried to present the need of the

Philippines because this is my present place of service to Him, but this is only one of the many nations that need Christ. Check your life. Something must be wrong if the love of Christ does not move you for the lost. Just think, the lost have no hope, they are without Christ. The harvest is great. What are you doing about harvesting? The workers are few. What are you doing about the workers? Can you be one? If not, you should see that someone takes your place. We must not let the harvest pass. ❖

“The supreme task of the church is the evangelization of the world. Untold millions are still untold. Oh for a hundred thousand lives to be spent in the service of Christ!”

–George Whitefield

FAST-FORWARD TO 2021

TCM-Philippines ministers to approximately 25,000 Grace believers in 512 churches + 210 pioneering works served by 845 Pastors and Bible Women, and has trained 27 current Filipino missionaries serving with TCM in 9 countries.

1960 IGBI STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: JOSEPHINE PALMA

I was born of parents whose religion is Philippine Independent Catholic. Their doctrines are the same as the Roman Catholic except they do not accept the Pope. When I was yet a child my parents brought me to church every Sunday. When I was ready to begin school, I was forced to attend Catechism classes which were from Grade 1 to Grade 4. I did not want to attend these classes, as I found that my conscience was not agreeable to their teaching. I began to doubt what they taught us. One of the things I did not like was making the sign of the cross and kneeling for long periods of time. I asked the teacher if we could pray without doing these things. The answer was that it is more sacred to have these signs.



When I entered elementary grades and could read, I began reading the Bible. I found it very interesting and inspiring. I discovered how to worship the true and living God and that it is wrong to worship idols. I read my Bible all through high school. Upon graduation from high school, I went to my aunt's house every Sunday so I could attend her UCCP church instead of my parents' church. I liked the doctrine and teachings of this church, and I accepted Jesus Christ as my person Savior. Brother Juan Undag was preaching in the UCCP church in Oroquieta, and I heard of the dispensation of the Grace of God. I became interested in TCM because it was trying to abolish the old ways of worship based on tradition and bring people into true worship through understanding the Bible. The truth of God's Word was as a light that shined upon my heart, especially the doctrine about water baptism. I want to learn more about the Bible and the Lord Jesus Christ. This is why I wish to attend the Bible Institute. ❖

Note: Josphine later married Antonio Improso, Director of IGBI and TCM-Philippines for many years. Her son, Gardner Improso, has served for 26 years as a TCM missionary in Kenya and Myanmar.

PASSING THE TORCH:

TCM Training Centers are a Vital Ministry

Patrick Kilgo, Southeast Asia

Ministering with TCM has given me the opportunity to travel far and wide to share the gospel and teach biblical truth. But my most transformative travel experience came in 2015 when I was asked to deliver a series of graduation speeches at the TCM Philippines' residential Bible schools.



My first stop on this trip was at International Grace Bible Institute (IGBI) in Tagum City on the island of Mindanao. There were 18 graduates that year, and all of them had agreed to work with TCM after graduation as pastors or Bible women. Most of them had started the 4-year IGBI program at age 16 or 17, quite different from seminarians in the USA. These graduates would immediately join established churches as full-time workers, though some of them would be involved in "pioneering" works, which are new church plants, often in unreached parts of the Philippines. And this was just one school – there were three other schools producing workers too! TCM-Philippines has set up a system that not only provides a pipeline of workers to existing ministries but also ensures that communities "beyond their borders" will be offered grace churches someday. What a stark contrast to the USA, where many Grace churches struggle without a pastor, and the average age of members is getting higher while church attendance is getting lower.

Indeed, if we expect the Gospel of Grace to continue to be preached then the next generation needs to be trained. This burden starts in local churches, whose youth should be built up in basic Bible doctrines and given practical opportunities to "work out" their faith. But a challenge still persists: How can we inspire at least a portion of our church youth to continue into full-time ministry training? This has proved difficult in America, where the Philippines model has been attempted without much success, a victim of the national prosperity that directs young people to "better" options. A creative solution is needed to entice America's youth into ministry or this present generation of Grace believers will be the last!

Meanwhile, TCM ministry fields in Asia and elsewhere are way out in front of this problem and working together to train the next generation. In addition to traditional, residential Bible schools, TCM-Philippines now offers "field" Bible schools where training is given in a seminar format to non-residential students. Indonesia also has a well-established residential Bible school that churns out ministry workers for their 90+ Grace churches. TCM ministries in Kenya, Myanmar and South Africa have Bible schools at various stages of maturity that were started by TCM personnel from the Philippines! This is a prime example of how TCM's Troas strategy comes full circle to propel the work forward, as formerly "fledgling" ministries turn into "sending" ministries.

COVID certainly affected how education was administered worldwide, and TCM Bible schools, including our new school in Malaysia, all had to operate their classes online due to government restrictions. While few preferred this platform, it proved that online education was possible and forced us to think of innovative ways to adapt to a changing world. I fully expect that online training will continue to play an important role.

How can you help? I asked myself the same question in 2015 after the first graduation ceremony. As I sat in the school office pondering the comprehensive scope of the church planting network in the Philippines, a young first-year student came in and spoke to one of the campus pastors in the Cebuano language. After she left, the pastor explained that she would not be coming back to IGBI the following year because her family didn't have the finances. I asked about the costs for students and was both encouraged and disheartened to hear that it was only \$158 per year for one student's tuition, room and board! When I asked how many other students could not return for financial reasons, he replied that there were six total at IGBI-Tagum.

Was I really going to let six potential church workers be derailed from their desire to do ministry over a mere \$948? Long story short, I easily found American sponsors for these six students, and soon even more money came in from people inspired to help. With these extra funds, we started the **Good Soldier Fund** (GSF), which six years later now annually helps about 70 needy students in the Philippines, Myanmar, Kenya and Malaysia with full tuition and, in some cases, room and board. More than 370 scholarships have been given out to students on a needs basis to help make sure that capable workers are available for the next generation.

Additionally, TCM regularly offers information about Bible training projects that donors can support. These include Bible school construction projects and renovations, support for electronic necessities, transportation, and other needs. Additionally, there is a need for mature saints to share their sound doctrine with a younger generation as Bible teachers. This is especially effective in countries that are hard for missionaries to legally enter ... and most countries of the world are getting harder to enter!

But do you know the number one thing you can offer to a TCM training ministry? YOUR skills, whatever they are! In addition to sound teachers and financial support, there's room in training ministries for just about any skill set. Recently, for instance, a Malaysian family visited the IGBI schools in the Philippines and painted murals on their campus – a much appreciated improvement. There's need for web designers, A/V experts, children's ministry workers, English teachers ... just about any skill can translate into a valuable commodity for a training ministry.

In short, there's room for you somewhere if you have the desire and the perseverance to see it through! May the Lord continue to bless TCM's training efforts, and may you and I earnestly seek ways to bless the next generation, even if we never see the fruit of our labors in our lifetimes. I'm reminded of this old proverb (author unknown):

"Blessed are those who plant trees, under whose shade they will never sit."❖

IGBI PHILIPPINES

OUR COMMITMENT TO TRAIN FUTURE SPIRITUAL LEADERS



Pastor & Mrs. Fermantes and their son
who is also a pastor

Calixto M. Fermantes
President, IGBI Department

*"And the things you have heard
me say in the presence of many
witnesses entrust to reliable people
who will also be qualified to teach
others."*

(2 Timothy 2:2)

Paul's challenge to young Timothy continues to be the thrust of Things to Come Mission Philippines and International Grace Bible Institute (IGBI) to make Christ and the power of salvation that comes through faith in His finished work known to the Filipino people and the rest of the world.

As an educational arm of TCM-Philippines, IGBI remains true to its commitment to train young men and women for the ministry. The IGBI Department oversees 4 residential Bible schools and 6 field Bible schools. Our residential Bible schools are well established on their own campuses with permanent facilities, a complete 4-year curriculum and highly qualified teachers. After finishing three years in the classroom, the students are assigned to churches under senior workers for their internship. The internship program requires the student to work in the church for nine months, then return to the school for graduation. Graduates from our residential Bible schools, upon submission of application forms and passing a simple interview and orientation, are competent for acceptance as TCM workers. For several years now our residential Bible training centers, located in strategic places, have been producing great numbers of committed pastors, Bible women, church planters, missionaries and Bible teachers, most of whom are actively involved in the ministry of winning souls and establishing churches both at home and abroad.

Our Field Bible Schools (FBS) are mobile in nature, although two church districts own lots and buildings designated for FBS. Training is done according to a schedule and place agreed on by church district leaders. Subjects are chosen depending on the priority needs of the students. The majority of FBS enrollees are already leaders in their churches. Training times are shortened, and internships are not necessarily required. FBS graduates still undergo screening before being accepted as TCM workers.



One of our goals at IGBI is to combine excellence in scholarship with a heart for people in the context of devotion to God. We always challenge and equip

our students to be vitally connected with what God is doing in the church throughout the world. The curriculum is designed for our students to be grounded in the Word of God rightly divided, to acquire practical skills to minister effectively with people in the community, and to prepare them for the ministry of reaching the unreached of the world. In addition to our Evangelism classes, we have integrated into our curriculum two subjects on Missions that are specifically designed for the ministry of soul winning and mission abroad. Every year 5-day “Mission Emphasis” conferences are conducted on all four IGBI campuses, and missionaries are invited to give lectures and messages to our students about mission.

Our average annual enrollment ranges from 150 to 200 in four main Bible Schools. Presently, due to pandemic restrictions, our enrollment has dropped significantly to less than 100 students. We utilize whatever ways and resources are available to realize our goals for our students and schools. Some of our Bible schools resorted to hybrid instruction, using a combination of virtual and modular classes. Others, with government approval, continue with traditional in-person classroom instruction, while some schools are temporarily closed.



A number of faculty members and students have been quarantined and/or treated due to the virus. We appeal for your prayers for IGBI and TCM-Philippines in persevering through this pandemic.

Our qualified and highly skilled teachers shoulder responsibilities beyond what is expected, and their outstanding commitment to teach is highly commendable. Most of them are not financially compensated; instead, they are the ones, among others, who support our Bible schools.

IGBI ministries are supported financially by churches and individual members of TCM-Philippines and TCM-USA. We only ask a minimal amount from our students for their registration fees. Most of the time, our schools help them with their needs, and many are supported through **Good Soldier Fund** scholarships. The pandemic has greatly affected our financial support, thus we appeal for financial help for our Bible schools. To all our friends and brethren abroad, we thank you for always praying for us, sharing your financial blessings with us, and partnering with us in this worldwide mission to reach the lost for Christ. Most of all, thank you for sharing with our pains in this pandemic. May God abundantly bless us. All glory belongs to Him. ❖

IGBI GRADUATE SPOTLIGHT: Klondale B. Violango **Pastor of Talomo Grace Gospel Church, Davao City, Philippines**

By the grace of God I graduated from IGBI-Davao in 2001. Though I attended Sunday school as a kid and teen, studying in a Bible school was never an option. because initially, I did not want to be a pastor. After

graduating from high school, I passed the entrance exam for a university, but shortly before the academic year started, I realized my parents could not afford to pay for my studies because their business went down at that time. I was left with no choice but to let the opportunity go. After some encouragement from my elder brother, I decided to give Bible school a try because tuition was free then, and I only had to worry about meal expenses.



Around that time, some people from a different faith shared their religion with me, but I was not able to totally refute them or share with them the Apostle Paul's teaching. I knew they were wrong doctrinally, but I didn't have enough knowledge to answer them. That boosted my resolve to enroll in Bible school to learn more about God's Word.

Being in Bible school changed my life as it opened my eyes to the importance of developing spiritually. It increased my knowledge regarding doctrine, especially the distinctive character of Paul's message and how to study the Bible by rightly dividing God's Word. I am an introvert, and when speaking to a crowd, I was frequently overwhelmed with stage fright. My experiences in Bible school helped me step out of my comfort zone. I believed it was my calling to evangelize, teach, preach, and associate with people. By the help of God, along with the training I underwent, I successfully achieved that calling. I am currently in my 12th year of ministering in this church, and it is my joy to serve my Savior Jesus Christ.

God wants us to have a ministry. For those interested in attending Bible school or who have doubts about following that path, know that "secular knowledge without Bible knowledge is vain; on the other hand, Bible knowledge with less secular knowledge—you still have everything." I may not have studied the course at university that I desired when I was young, but I am forever thankful that God helped me finish Bible school and put me in this ministry. Such an act of service will be rewarded when we finally face God. It is not how long we live—it's how we live for the glory of God that matters most. ❖

IGBI STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: Cherrelyn Lamata



I am 26 years old and in my third year at IGBI-Tagum City campus. My father worked as a tenant farmer and my mother was an assigned Bible Woman of Tafal Grace Gospel Church of Christ. After high school, I was offered a college scholarship, but being the eldest of 8 siblings, I decided to work instead to help my family. After a year, I was given another opportunity to study a vocational course. This time I grabbed it, graduated, and applied for a related job.

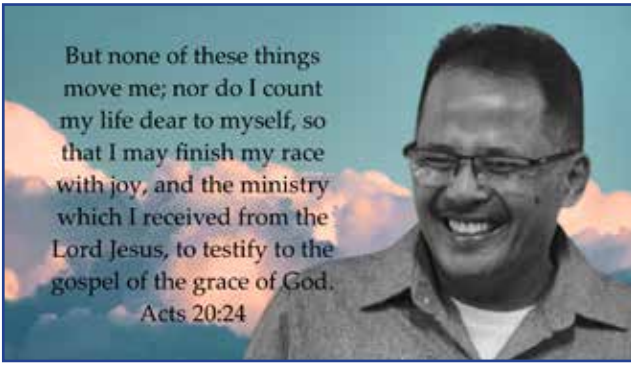
WHY I DECIDED TO ATTEND BIBLE SCHOOL: During those years of employment, I felt a sense of emptiness inside me. I was so bored and lonely. I didn't even have a dream and plan for my future. I only found comfort when I attended church services. I always wanted to stay in church and be with church workers doing ministry, but my job limited me from doing what I desired. As years passed, I noticed our youth pastor became less willing to teach us, but we really wanted to learn more. One night, I prayed, asking God to give someone to teach us. I sensed the conviction of the Holy Spirit causing me to desire to study in Bible school. The feeling of excitement and eagerness led me to ask God for clear direction because I didn't want to decide based on my feelings. I also sought advice and recommendations from many pastors. After what seemed to be confusion, God placed all things in order. My family was in full support of my decision. I resigned from my job and enrolled at IGBI in June 2019. How I was going to pay for my tuition and other material considerations did not bother me much. I was convinced that if this was God's will, He would surely meet my needs and not forsake me. I traveled to Tagum with little money in my wallet—just enough for the fare. Today I can honestly say that God indeed is my *Jehovah Jireh*.

HOW BIBLE SCHOOL BENEFITED ME AND PREPARED ME FOR MINISTRY:

Even though I am the daughter of a Bible woman, my knowledge about the Bible and God was far from being enough. In Bible School, those gaps were slowly filled in. Basic doctrines and practical applications of God's word continue to inspire my study. I learned that ministry is not always about teaching the word of God but also skills in how to deal with people and courage to face everyday challenges in life. I still remember people I met before thinking I was probably deaf because they didn't see and hear me talking. Through Bible school, I gained confidence to face and talk to people which I didn't have before. By God's grace, God allowed me to experience brokenness in my life to mold me into the kind of person He wants me to be. I've gained more confidence for ministry knowing that God will always be there to guide and direct my decisions and plans. During this pandemic, I am fully aware that God is still actively working in my life, and discouragement should not be an option. Instead I am reminded that God is indeed good to those who truly trust and seek Him.

MY CHALLENGE TO THOSE WHO DESIRE TO ATTEND BIBLE SCHOOL:

For young people who want to devote their lives to study the word of God, studying in Bible school is the best choice you can ever make. Yes, we can learn the word of God outside Bible school but learning it with credible, spiritual mentors is very profitable. In Bible school, you can really focus on learning. Your spiritual growth and development are assessed and assisted by skilled teachers. You will be exposed to different opportunities and situations to enhance your talents and gifts that will equip you for future ministry. Even hard times are part of God's molding process. Let's just trust the promise of His presence and strength. Most importantly, ask God's guidance and will for your life. Choosing Bible school was the very best decision I ever made in my life. If I did not heed the call of God, I can't imagine how would my life be now! I pray that you also will experience that incomparable joy of responding to the call of the Lord in your life to be one of His ministers someday. I pray that God gives you that desire. Do heed God's call for you right now! ❖



REMEMBERING

JIMMY ESCOBAR

February 19, 1968



September 15, 2021

The scripture verse above is the very life verse of our dear friend, Pastor Jimmy Escobar. Little did we know when he and his dear wife, Joy, left the Philippines for the mission field in July 2018, he would no longer return home in person. However, we know that God's word is sure, and Pastor Jimmy is with our Lord Jesus now! – Genesis Maraas, TCM missionary to Thailand

Jimmy and Joy were TCM's Team Vietnam living in Ho Chi Minh City (Saigon) and learning Vietnamese. Joy was teaching English in a university and Jimmy was traveling to Hanoi every month to teach in a Bible training program until the pandemic necessitated a shift to online instruction. They planned to move to Hanoi as soon as they could get a visa.



At the end of August Jimmy and Joy were both diagnosed with Covid and admitted to a government hospital. As a diabetic, Jimmy experienced difficulty breathing and was transferred to the ICU and intubated. Eventually his kidneys stopped functioning which led to his death on September 15. A kind nurse enabled Joy to visit Jimmy for 45 precious minutes. Although he was unresponsive, she prayed with him and told him how much she and their children loved him. It turned out to be the last time she would see him.

Joy was discharged 5 days after Jimmy's death and spent the next 2 weeks isolated in their apartment due to quarantine restrictions. Technology has



been a lifeline for Joy in keeping her connected with her children, Jam and Josh, attending university in the Philippines, and other loved ones and friends. She's been able to virtually attend memorial services held in their home church as well as a special international online

remembrance of Jimmy's life and faith, during which 8 Christian leaders from Vietnam shared emotional testimonies about Jimmy, recalling his deep commitment to ministry, his burden for the Vietnamese people, and his emphasis that "now is the day of salvation!" Jimmy is the only TCM adult

missionary who has died on the field in TCM's 66 years of operation.

Jimmy was taken by the Lord with his boots on in the battlefield of Mission Work! Hallelujah! Because of their love for Christ and their love for the Vietnamese people, Jimmy and Joy left a secure, well-paying job at Siliman University and a thriving ministry in Dumaguete City for Vietnam. They also left their two children studying at Siliman, and several churches in the Philippines. Separation for cross-cultural mission work is a sacrifice, holy and acceptable unto God. They served the Vietnamese people by bringing to them the message of Grace, the message of salvation. May we all who remain have the same love they had, serving with them through our prayers, encouragement and financial support. —Gerson Bermejo, TCM-Philippines Mission Department Director

In Jimmy's last years no one could know that being in the presence of the Lord was so near to him; but from how he walked and lived, you might've thought that he himself knew. He served in a country which was not his, learning a language not his own, and carrying the warmth of Christ to everyone, gravitating people to him with his family nature. He was enthusiastic and passionate, the first to call out to you and wave you into a group. He made all around him feel included, and I will never forget the last time I heard him pray for my family as it was encouraging and strengthening. You can't think of him without thinking of his laugh and humor, one of a kind. Pastor Jimmy was a leader, and he has bravely lived out what he was convicted of in 2017. What a man of God! Sharing Christ with his life and even in his death. —Anne LaBrake Sin, GTCM 2017 trainee

Jimmy told me it was when he understood the difference between "unreached" and "unsaved" from my mission lesson that he saw the necessity for him to give his life to take the gospel of Christ to an unreached people. How surprised and pleased I was to see Jimmy, Joy, Jam and Josh show up in 2017 at the opening day of Grace Theological Center for Mission at IGBI in Tagum. They gave themselves fully to the training and became convinced of God's calling to mission.

My greatest heartache in Jimmy's passing is for the Vietnamese people who would receive eternal life. Jimmy loved them. Yet, he will never have another opportunity to preach to them. How about you, my friend? How is your faith? Is your health good? Are you unashamed of the gospel of Christ? Will you take the place of Jimmy? If you cannot go, will you support someone else to go? How will they hear unless we send someone to preach to them?

So, we say our temporary goodbye to our dear brother. Apostle Paul said, "To live is Christ and to die is gain." Both are good and now Jimmy has done both. Jimmy, thank you for demonstrating what it is to be a faithful servant of Jesus Christ. —Ben Anderson, TCM International Director

When I spoke at the Escobars' church I passionately challenged them to become missionaries. It didn't seem that would ever happen because they had a thriving ministry and were building a brand new church after outgrowing the one they were in. On my departure I gave them my brown suitcase and told them to use it when they became missionaries. When they came to GTCM they brought that brown suitcase.



—Joyce Anderson,
TCM missionary

TRAINING TO REACH ALL KENYA WITH THE LIFE-SAVING GOSPEL



**Titus Kivilu, KGBI Director
& Robert Heath, KGBI Dean**

The purpose and mission of Grace Bible Church (GBC) Kenya since it was established in 1986 has been to reach all of Kenya with the life-saving gospel of the grace of God, and training has been our key objective to accomplish this great vision. It is an irrefutable fact that no ministry will ever grow to be productive and effective in reaching its objectives without committing to training faithful men and women who will go and reach out with the gospel. Indeed, it is worthwhile to invest our lives and resources to train reliable people who will train others, just as Paul urged his son Timothy in 2 Timothy 2:2. To date, we have over 100 well-trained, qualified pastors and Bible women who are active in the Lord's ministry.

Over the years, we have used various training programs in an endeavor to teach and equip. Currently, we have four programs: Grace Pastoral Training, Berean Grace School of Ministry, Kenya Grace Bible Institute, and KGBI Bi-Vocational Training. Three of these programs are informal, and one (KGBI) is a formal residential Bible School. These programs are set up in different ways to accommodate people's various commitment levels. Each of these programs is briefly described and elaborated below:

GRACE PASTORAL TRAINING PROGRAM (GPT)

GPT is a modular training program that missionaries Ben and Joyce Anderson launched in 2004. It takes one year to complete and is comprised of two major parts: Mentoring, which is done by the pastor mentors while serving together with the trainee in a local church, and Training Seminars, where pastor trainees come together once or twice a month (depending on the availability of the trainees) at a chosen center for additional studies. A Training Coordinator appoints qualified pastors to mentor the trainees and to teach in training seminars. Currently, we are running three GPT centers with a total of 17 trainees. The students are required to cover six units/modules, totaling 192 hours for both parts. After completion, the trainee is awarded a certificate at a graduation ceremony.

GPT was initiated to train church leaders to effectively support the pastor in preaching, teaching, and doing the work of the ministry in the church.

However, since the residential Bible school closed in 2003 due to logistical and financial difficulties, no other pastoral training programs were operating in GBC Kenya for about 15 years. Therefore, GPT was being used as the training program even for pastors and Bible women. As a result, over 40 pastors and Bible women actively serving in GBC churches today received their training through GPT.



GPT is a convenient program since it is decentralized to the local churches and reaches many of the grace believers. The students are charged an affordable amount, and the local churches subsidize fees. In addition, GPT trainees may check out books from the KGBI library. We would request prayers so we can strengthen and spread out the GPT program to many other regions.

BEREAN GRACE SCHOOL OF MINISTRY (BGSM)

BGSM is another modular training program in GBC Kenya started in 2010 by Pastor Peter Kagwi when he moved to Mombasa to pioneer a Grace ministry. BGSM targets leaders and people from the coastal region of Kenya. Students attend weekly evening classes at the church, which is favorable to those who work during the day. Currently, BGSM has nine students who are looking forward to graduating next year (2022).

Pastor Peter Kagwi is the principal and the primary teacher, though he invites other pastors to teach block classes. The main challenge BGSM is facing is a shortage of teachers. Pastor Peter lost two teachers when they relocated for job opportunities. BGSM also has financial challenges as the fees are only enough to facilitate the training. We thank the Lord that the service of teaching has continued despite various financial constraints.

We trust the Lord that in future, there will be a separate training center where training can be conducted without interfering with church activities. We are grateful for the small library we have for the students, but we appeal to anyone who may be able to donate to help expand our library.



KENYA GRACE BIBLE INSTITUTE (KGBI)

KGBI is the residential Bible school that was built in 2019 and opened for classes in 2020. It is a three-year program, including six months of internship, during which the student helps a pastor with his various church ministries. The benefit of this full-time program is that aspiring leaders receive in-depth theology and ministry training classes that more adequately prepare them for church leadership. We have 4 second-year students and 3 first-year students. So far, only men are enrolled but the school is open to women as well. Students follow a prescribed program using a curriculum designed after curriculums of the previous Bible school and IGBI Philippines. Titus Kivilu and Robert Heath are the two full-time teachers, but the school has been blessed to have different missionaries and Grace pastors as part-time teachers. Full-time teachers are not paid a salary and part-time teachers are only compensated for transportation expenses. Students are expected to contribute 9000 shillings (\$90) a semester, which they raise from friends and family. Each semester KGBI receives a gift from the Good Soldier Fund, which helps offset the



costs of food and supplies. Teachers utilize books from the on-campus library as well as the electronic Grace library.

KGBI requires a considerable time obligation for students so finding available and committed students is the biggest challenge. Many people are interested in the school but feel it is necessary to seek employment instead. The building construction is an ongoing project and we seek the finances for completion. We ask for prayer in these matters, and for the continued dedication of the 7 students currently enrolled.

KENYA GRACE BIBLE INSTITUTE: BI-VOCATIONAL TRAINING (BVT)

BVT is essentially the residential program condensed down into a program for working people. It is a three-year program that meets three times a year for two weeks of eight-hour-a-day instruction. It is intensive! Students are sent home with assignments to complete for the next session. They are expected to pay 2,500 (\$25) each time it convenes. Pray that the 7 students currently enrolled will return and that more will join in the next session starting this month. ❖

KGBI STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: Francis Odera

I am a second-year student at KGBI, a residential Bible school located in Thika, Kenya, East Africa. I joined KGBI when it opened in January 2020. I was taught the Grace message while attending Grace Bible Church (GBC) in Kisumu, Western Kenya, and I was so touched by the truth of the word of God, that I felt a call to preach it.



When I received information about KGBI in 2019, while attending a youth conference for GBC Western churches, I immediately applied and was accepted. I'm so glad I have grown in knowledge of the word of God and in my spiritual life since joining KGBI. After two years of training, I can already present the word of God plainly and with boldness. I thank the Almighty God for this opportunity.

I want to strongly encourage any person who feels in his/her heart that they are called to serve the Lord. As I have experienced, there are great riches of knowledge and truth at KGBI. What I love about the training is that it focuses on three important areas of a student's life: Knowing, Being and Doing.

I would like to thank GBC Kenya, TCM, and the **Good Soldier Fund** for their overwhelming support that has enabled my fellow KGBI students and me to continue receiving training. By God's grace, we look forward to completing the program next year and going out to minister where the Lord has called each of us.

I would also like to recognize and appreciate other modular training programs which are jointly providing a wide opportunity for people to be trained, and it is positively impacting the GBC Kenya ministry.

Finally, it is my humble request that you keep my fellow students and me in your prayers, together with our dedicated teachers performing their role in equipping us for the ministry. Thank you so much and God bless you all. ❖

INCREASING THE WORKFORCE BY TRAINING NATIONALS



Dean Padayhag, G-TEAMS Director

It may be hard to accept but the reality is, as missionaries, we are both the strongest and the weakest links in the mission field. We are the *strongest link* because of our knowledge, training, experience, influence, financial support, and availability. There is no doubt that we can plant, grow, and sustain the ministry. We have been taught and trained

for it. But we are also the *weakest link*, because when we do the work, it can cause indifference on the part of national believers in executing the ministry. We are non-permanent due to visa expiration or geographical movement so, if training and mentoring of local leaders is lacking, it can cause uncertainty, instability, and stagnancy in the work.

One of the scariest situations in our case, is seeing the work expanding and growing tremendously while knowing that our visas are expiring and we will need to exit soon. Will the ministry survive without us? Will growth be sustained when we are gone? Are we coming back to the same momentum?

Thank God for our **training** program! Knowing that we are grooming men and women capable and able to run the ministry in our absence is a relief. While scary thoughts remain, we are much more confident, knowing that trained nationals can sustain, expand, and extend the ministry.

In South Africa, we train men and women through Grace Theological Education and Ministry School. G-TEAMS is the educational arm of Grace Outreach Ministries in South Africa (GOMSA). Training men and women for ministry, using the message, means, and methods Christ gave to Apostle Paul, is the school's core mission.

G-TEAMS offers a two-year Christian Ministry Certificate program. The curriculum is designed to provide fundamental, biblical, dispensational, and religious education to the students. It uses both classroom and correspondence systems, with content suitable for classroom and online interaction and homework. Classes meet every first and third Saturday of the month, and students go home with assignments. The school year runs from January to the end of November with graduation and level-up ceremonies taking place



during the National Conference in December. Currently, G-TEAMS has three church-based campuses: Boksburg, Springs, and Soshanguve. Another campus will open in January in Lehae, west of Johannesburg. There are already several students from there.

Most of our G-TEAMS students are mature, and some have established careers in various fields. They already have a reasonable amount of experiential leadership ability, practical responsibility, decent personal influence, and communication skills. Consequently, the two-year G-TEAMS program focuses on the theological and theoretical aspects of the training.

Since the training program's inception, we have taught multi-racial/cultural students from Congo, Zimbabwe, Ghana, the Philippines, Swaziland, Mozambique, Mauritius, and South Africa. Using English as the medium of instruction makes learning convenient for everyone. We require the students to be at least a high school graduate and be able to speak, understand, read, and write in English. Students must also pay a minimal tuition fee to help cover book and lesson printing, shirts, and refreshments costs. We produce all textbooks, lessons, and other materials in our G-TEAMS office.



In addition to TCM missionaries, all teachers and staff of G-TEAMS are previous graduates who volunteer their time and skills in teaching and training others. In our recent interview, some teachers testified how they have grown in their knowledge and felt satisfied seeing their students learn God's Word and develop love and passion for the ministry. We constantly look for gifted graduates who have a particular desire to teach at the school. Guest teachers of the same faith, doctrinal stand, and training are also allowed to teach at G-TEAMS.

In addition to students from our Grace churches, several G-TEAMS learners are pastors and leaders from non-Grace churches. They come to the school desiring to learn more about the word of God and get further training in the ministry. On Sundays, they preach what they learned from their lessons, with the result that their congregants learn the Grace message and desire to enrol in the Bible school. In some cases, these non-Grace pastors and leaders develop a close relationship with the G-TEAMS teachers and eventually invite them to preach at their churches and teach at Bible study groups. Situations like this often result in their affiliation with GOMSA.

G-TEAMS graduates are qualified to apply as GOMSA workers. Upon acceptance, they receive a certificate of recognition and become part of the national workforce. They are also encouraged to attend a one-year Ministerial Advancement Program (MAP), a post-graduate level designed to provide additional theoretical and practical lessons to advance their effectiveness in the ministry. The MAP classes are held the 2nd Saturday of each month.

G-TEAMS graduates are now pastoring local Grace Outreach Churches,

planting new churches and outreaches in various areas, teaching at the Bible schools, leading home Bible studies, teaching youth and kids groups, sitting on the national board-of-trustees and/or financially supporting both local and national projects.

As missionary laborers in God's field, we are too few compared to the plentiful harvest before us. The mandate is loud and clear that we must increase our workforce by teaching and training national men and women to love the Lord, know the Word, and have passion for the work that the Grace message can go out faster, and the ministry can extend farther. The apostle Paul puts it this way, *"And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also."* (2 Timothy 2:2). ❖

G-TEAMS STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: Jo Chalmers



I have always loved the Lord but must admit I did not have a solid understanding of the Word of God. A friend asked if I would be interested in having Bible studies in my home and I agreed. I was introduced to the Padayhag family who are missionaries in South Africa, and Sheba Padayhag enrolled me in Grace Theological Education and Ministry School (G-TEAMS).

The two-year program covered some very solid foundations such as understanding the different dispensations and particularly the dispensation of Grace for our time. Whereas before I would have listened without questioning what people said about the Bible, I now questioned and also gave my input. Prior to G-TEAMS I had many beliefs and confusion, amongst which were baptism and speaking in tongues. All these became clear to me and everything we learnt was always from the Bible and backed up by Scripture. Confusion was no longer a part of me.

Learning about the Body of Christ and that I had a place in it meant that I could be used for His glory as a vessel of honour. I took all I learnt and began sharing with my family first and then with women in shelters. I felt equipped. Even though learning the Word of God is ongoing I felt like I had learnt enough to be able to share the gospel of our salvation confidently with others. It is such a simple message and clear enough that anyone is able to understand while you read the verses from the Bible.

I encourage both believers and non-believers to join G-TEAMS. Believers, because it is important to keep growing spiritually. Sometimes we are saved and we leave it at that; but we are here for a purpose, and understanding the Word of God helps us find our purpose and stirs up the desire to begin ministry. Non-believers, because we are not here on this earth forever. Tomorrow is not guaranteed. The moment for salvation is now. When we are gone from this earth there will not be another opportunity to be saved by Grace. Empower yourself, be saved, serve the Lord whilst you have the opportunity and shine your light for the Lord today! Salvation is free for ALL! ❖

EFFECTIVE MINISTRY TRAINING

Joe Campos, North Brazil missionary

Most people think that the greatest challenge in missions is the need for more missionaries. Although we are always short of new missionaries and could always use more, I believe the greatest challenge for the development of missionary work is the training of nationals to effectively carry on the ministry. Missionary work consists of bringing the gospel of the grace of God to a people (Acts 13:46), and eventually transferring that task to the very people we are trying to reach. We see this concept best stated by Paul to his son in the faith, Timothy, "And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also" (2 Tim. 2:2). It is clear here that an effective ministry includes training men and women who in turn train other men and women to carry on the mission.

When Michelle and I moved back to Brazil in 2015, it was clear to us that if we wanted to effectively reach Brazil, we needed to equip men and women for the missionary task as described by Paul. In an ever-changing world, we discovered that past training formats were becoming limited in their scope and effectiveness, especially in big metropolitan cities. We then began a quest to find a format that would most adequately equip people in our Grace Churches to carry on the ministry. After re-planting a couple of churches in northeast Brazil, we began experimenting with various training formats and realized it would take a lot of trial and error to find the right one.



The first format we tried was a 2-year curriculum of independent courses that would be taught on many weekends throughout the year. The idea was to teach the content of one course in a Friday night and all-day Saturday. The students would then go back home with reading and homework and would have a month to fulfill all the requirements to complete the course successfully. Even though the students were learning, we found that giving the content all at once was not ideal. Many students were lagging behind, while others were complaining that it was just too much information to digest in a short period of time. In response to these noticeable deficiencies, we decided to split the material into two weekends, instead of one. We did notice an improvement, but students still struggled to digest all the material in such a short time.

One might ask, why did we not opt for a regular format with classes every night of the week? Even though this was our preferred way to train in the past, we felt that having students come to classes every night was not doable due their work schedules, traffic and long distances to commute. This format might work in a closed community setting, but is not something that works well in a fast-paced city of 4 million people like Recife or in a country as big as Brazil, where people would have to quit their jobs and move away from

their support systems to participate in a training program.

Our transition from the intensive weekend modules to the online training we use today was born out of necessity rather than a well thought out plan. We continued to use the weekend intensive modules format all the way through the end of 2019, and the plan was to continue to use this format in 2020. However, the pandemic forced us to go in a different direction. When things started to close down in Brazil, we discussed with our national leaders how we could continue to train the men and women we were already training. That is when the online idea became more of a reality. It took us several months of planning to work out the details of how we could do it effectively. In October 2020 we taught our first course online.



To say that the results surprised us would be an understatement. The best attended module in our previous format had 17 registered students, while our first online course had 37 registered students. We went from only local students to students spread out in 7 different states in the country. Many of our students are in areas where no training was available for decades. Our courses are currently designed to be taught over 7 Thursday nights and they are recorded and posted later in our exclusive student YouTube channel. This YouTube channel also provides students with a place where they can re-watch classes as much as they want for the rest of their lives. We not only solved the issue of too much content all at once, but we created a library of lectures that students can always access as needed. We still have a lot to learn, but we feel that we have a much more effective format for training people who will be the next generation of leaders in our churches and possibly go out to new fields themselves.

We cannot stress enough the importance of the financial partnership between our ministry and individuals and churches in the US. There are costs involved in utilizing this format, and some of our students have been blessed by the **Good Soldier Fund**, a fund specially created to help students gain pastoral and ministry training. We believe we should continue coming together to fulfill the task given to us by God because the best is yet to come. We praise God for the results so far and pray that those being trained today will become the future generation who will go out to plant churches and train others to do the same. Let us all keep this godly cycle going. ❖

PROJECT ABBA

Your generosity allows us to make Christmas special for so many underprivileged Brazilian children every year, and most importantly, many get to hear a clear presentation of the gospel for the first time. Will you, your family, and your church prayerfully consider being a part of this exciting ministry? A \$10 dollar donation will provide a child with a toy and a nice outfit. As always, we will do the shopping, wrapping, and delivery to all our churches in North Brazil.

Designate donations: Project ABBA (Deadline Dec.15)



TCM MEMBER CARE

Missy Tollar is TCM's new Member Care Coordinator. She lives in Wisconsin with her husband, Jim, who is pastor of Grace Bible Church in Beloit. Jim and Missy have 3 children, one grandchild, and another expected in November. In addition to these roles, Missy is the Mailroom, Warehouse and Social Media Manager for Berean Bible Society.



Missy's interest in missions springs from the very heart of God expressed in Matthew 9:36-38, "When [Jesus] saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion on them, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd. Then saith he unto his disciples, The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few; Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest." When TCM approached Missy about the Member Care Coordinator role, she was overjoyed...yet hesitant, because Member Care is a big responsibility. She's thankful God doesn't depend on our resume—He values our willingness.

As Member Care Coordinator, Missy looks for ways to come alongside TCM missionaries and share their personal burdens so they can be more effective in their work. That means connecting regularly with them to listen to their concerns, pray with them, build them up in their walk with the Lord and direct them to practical resources related to the personal challenges they're facing. It means acknowledging special days and/or events in their lives and looking for ways to encourage them. It means offering support for their unique concerns as singles, couples and families. It also involves facilitating communication among the missionaries as well as with the TCM leadership and supporting churches/individuals.

In her Member Care role, Missy regularly burns the midnight oil—due to international time differences—in audio/video calls with TCM missionaries. She anticipates meeting with most of them in person as they come to the US for home assignment or attend the Southeast Asia Grace Conference. Missy looks forward to facilitating stronger, more personal connections between churches in America and the TCM missionaries they support for the benefit of both, and for the sake of the gospel. ❖

HARD BUT NOT IMPOSSIBLE

Jude & Cherry Honculada, Team Cambodia

Trying new things in a new place with new culture, language, people and food is both challenging and exciting. Being missionaries on the field is new to us, and it was difficult to think of living in a place where everything is unfamiliar.

Due to the COVID situation causing on and off lockdowns in the Philippines, we were stranded in several places for several months! But God is so rich in love and mercy that He prepared people to help us in these unfamiliar situations (Acts 18:10). We praise the Lord for providing people who were instrumental in helping us comply with all the requirements for our visa, plane tickets, COVID tests and other supporting documents needed for our travel. We also thank the Lord for giving us extra strength and wisdom in facing the immigration authorities, in travelling by plane for long hours and in listening to different and unfamiliar languages for the first time! We finally arrived in Cambodia July 15th.

After completing our 14-day mandatory quarantine, we stayed with the Bermejós and were treated to back-to-back welcomes from Team Cambodia missionaries and the Cambodia Grace Gospel Church (CGGC) board. We then attended 4 days of orientation, a Team council meeting and a CGGC board of trustees meeting. The following week we spent 4 days with our Team in Kep City for a team-building retreat. After that, we found and moved into our new rented place before starting language study.

It was hard to negotiate and talk with house owners without knowing their language; but, we praise God for a local church member who helped us settle on a place of our own. It was a blessing and answer to prayer that we could transfer to our new place before starting language study, which will be done online. Another answered prayer was the provision of a new laptop, printer and Wi-Fi installation in our rented house, which is necessary for our language study. Our priority for now is to focus on learning the Khmer language, but we are also expected to participate in the different ministries of the Grace churches here in Cambodia.

The Khmer language is really hard but not IMPOSSIBLE to learn. It gives us headaches but it's worth it when we see Khmer people smile at us speaking their language and adapting to their culture. We praise the Lord for enabling us to move up to Level 2 already. We know that in the future we may experience hardships and difficulties and be overwhelmed by the culture and people. But we've made it this far and will make it in the future because of the grace of God.

Discovering and doing new things leads to new experiences, new results, new mistakes and failures, new learnings, new victories, new friendships, new knowledge and new opportunities. We are hoping and praying that as we experience these NEW things in our lives, it will lead to NEW PEOPLE knowing Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. ❖



THANK YOU FOR CARING!

Since introducing the **TCM CARES** (Coronavirus Action, Relief, Encouragement and Support) project in April 2020, we have received \$65,315 in donations! We sent \$8600 monthly to assist pastors and Bible teachers on 10 TCM fields (based on need and number of churches) from May through September 2020, and again in July 2021. From January-June 2021 we provided monthly assistance to 4 individual pastors recommended by our missionaries. In July 2021 we sent an extra \$1500 donation to the Philippines, hit hard by the Delta variant. Thank you to all who donated so generously to help our national pastors/teachers get through this crisis when churches were locked down!

MEMORIAL GIFTS



JIMMY ESCOBAR

Elvira Cabahug
Juan & Jeanne Colombana
Hope Cranston-Damato
First Grace Gospel Church
(Ladies Fwp, Ashtabula, OH)
Luz Gaddi
Joe Holleran
Julia Liles
Dean & Sheba Padayhag
Santiago Sumilhig
Russell & Cherrie Vinton
Pauline Watkins

GENE LYNN

Beverly Lynn

JOAN RADDATZ'S MOTHER

Frances R. Harkness

CHARLES BROCK REWIS

Donald & Norma B. Rewis

PAUL RICHMOND

Richmond Family
Aileen Richmond

JOSEFINO CALANG TORCAL

Valerie Wynalda

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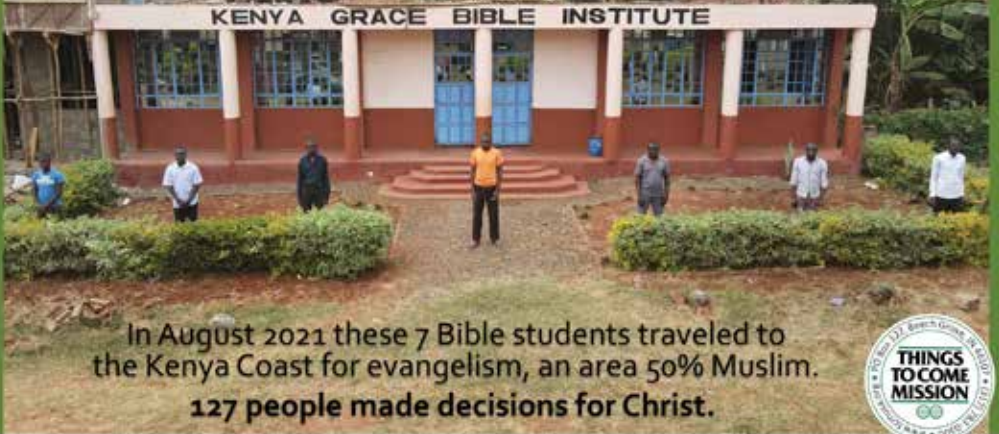
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Things to Come Mission prepares people for Jesus Christ's return through the methods of the Apostle Paul by sending missionaries to evangelize, plant churches and train leaders worldwide. Our financial support comes from free will gifts of churches and individuals. Things to Come Mission will disburse gifts as they are designated. When a project is complete, TCM will disburse the gifts in a manner consistent with its mission statement and purpose. As a 501(c)3 tax exempt organization, TCM issues tax-deductible receipts for all donations.

HOW CAN I HELP?

The things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, entrust these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.

2 TIMOTHY 2:2



How many people will be reached in the lifetimes of 7 faithful men?

You can join in training faithful men and women in Kenya by helping to complete their Bible school.

Phase 1: Complete! Phase 2: \$4,000 to finish dorm rooms & 3 offices. Phase 3: \$30,000 for upper floor meeting hall and rooms.

Designate Donations: KGBI Building

GOOD SOLDIER FUND

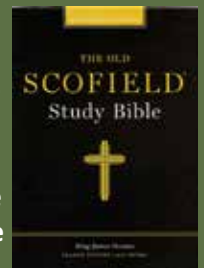
Training is absolutely essential to the mission of TCM. The Good Soldier Fund (GSF) has helped meet that need by providing tuition scholarships that enable financially needy students to enroll in TCM Bible schools across the world. Scholarships are awarded based on application data, and recipients must maintain a high grade average and good moral standing. The average scholarship awarded to a Bible school student is \$100 to \$200 per academic year. Designate Donations: Good Soldier Fund

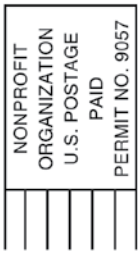


BIBLES & BOOKS

IGBI (Philippines) libraries need newer reference books for Bible training. Second-hand books authored by Grace writers are much appreciated to maintain sound teaching of the Bible for the students. You can also donate to provide each new graduate with a Scofield reference Bible (\$25 each). The Philippines is one of the only countries where the TCM office can still ship books inexpensively. Donations of books can be sent to TCM, 6202 E Thompson Rd., Indianapolis, IN 46237.

Financial donations for purchasing Bibles and/or reference books can be sent to TCM, PO Box 127, Beech Grove, IN 46107 Designate: IGBI Bibles & Books





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