

# ETERNAL REWARDS

A MINISTRY UPDATE FROM GRACE SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

***EQUIPPING SPIRITUAL  
LEADERS IN THE  
MISSION FIELD***



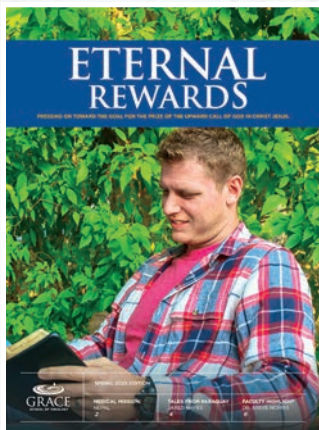
SPRING EDITION 2020

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*In the cover:*

*Jared Haynes, a student based in Paraguay, is preparing for a discipleship group meeting with other Grace students*

## THIS ISSUE:

### GRACE IN ACTION:

*From Nepal to Paraguay, Qatar and the US, find out how our students, faculty and staff have been putting grace into action*

### STUDENT HIGHLIGHT

*Finding "Saving Grace" at a distant land: Jared Haynes testimony*

### ALUMNI HIGHLIGHT

*Get to know unstoppable Grace-filled ministers with a heart to create a ripple effect in their communities*

### FACULTY HIGHLIGHT

*Discipleship programs: turning great experiences into wow*

## MEDICAL MISSION: NEPAL

There were nine of us that went. We had three intensive days of medical and dental services, with two days spent in what was once known as the Leprosy colony of Nepal.

The main issues were bad dental hygiene, and we medically treated parasites, diarrhea, uric acid, kidney stones, etc. Our work in this area created new opportunities for the church family to follow up and build relationships with the local people.

This was the main purpose of our visit in Nepal. With the lack of language, and the fact that we were not from the country, we were limited on what we would accomplish for the Lord. Yet, we all know God used us through medicine, listening, compassion and seeing them and their needs. There were a few children that came and they so enjoyed the little stuffed animals and coloring sheets with crayons that we brought.

The third clinical day was a rough one, as we visited a school located in the lowest of the caste system called "The Untouchables." A lot of children and most of them had fevers, diarrhea, junk in their ears. Every child in the school received one of the stuffed animals that I took over thanks to your generosity!



I ended up being the scribe for Dr. Paula Kruppstadt which basically meant I wrote down what medicine each person needed and then helped get it for them. We were extremely blessed by several medical companies that donated meds and supplements for us to give to the people.

Please pray for the church and for Ramila and Bishwa, a Grace MDiv graduate who also oversees that satellite campus Grace has in Nepal which is training several dozen future church leaders as they follow up on the contacts made through our trip.

The ministry that Bishwa and Ramila have is such a huge opportunity. I didn't realize how connected they were within their country, so much so that people know and respect him. How grateful they are for Grace School of Theology and the support that we provide for them in prayer and our gifts.



**Tammie Jurek,**  
**Donor Relations Officer,**  
**Grace School Of Theology**



Our Grace team worked with Transformation Nepal ([www.transformationnepal.com](http://www.transformationnepal.com)), a ministry founded by a Grace alumnus.



# CELEBRATING 18 YEARS OF GRACE

This Academic Year ended in a season of uncertainty brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic. However, we have many reasons to celebrate God's faithfulness. Top of the list is the impact that our students are making at such a time as this. When many have resorted to panic and despair, our students all over the world have harnessed the power of technology to bring hope and peace to their churches and communities. They are bold and they are ready. Be encouraged by these messages of grace from our very own students:

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*We have this mandate of social distancing and washing our hands but where is the mandate for prayer?* - **Pastor Dan Greer • Community Baptist Church, TX**

*In the midst of your storm, Christ knows how to bring calm to your chaos.*  
- **Pastor Erick Hoskin, The Word of God Christian Fellowship Church**

*We are helpless but not hopeless because Jesus is our healer.* - **Pastor Erwin Amador, GCF Nuvali Church Philippines**

*Now that we know the Truth, let's live in light of the Truth.*  
- **Stephanie Sayson, Grace School of Theology**

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## FACES OF GRACE



**DR. KENNY HODGES**

One of our first four Doctor of Ministry Graduates, 2020

I believe that GRACE is a beacon of light in a world that desperately needs to hear the good news of the gospel of grace.



**JENNIFER MORALES**

First MAC Graduate, 2020  
BABS Graduate, 2016

My Grace education completely transformed my life.



**IRENE TIAMSON**

HR Coordinator & Executive Assistant for Administration

I turned to prayer and the Bible to be able to accomplish my mission as a mother.

## RACE TO RAISE: ALUMNI SCHOLARSHIP FUND

The Grace School of Theology Alumni Scholarship Fund is established to allow alumni and friends of Grace to support the mission of the school by providing direct support in the development of spiritual leaders who may require financial assistance from time to time. All alumni and friends of Grace are invited to join in making a financial gift toward this newly instituted scholarship fund, with an initial goal of **\$5K**. We will make the scholarship application available during the Spring Semester of every Academic Year starting on Spring 2021. Moreover, our Grace Alumni Association Board members will select a scholarship recipient and announce the successful candidates at our May Annual Alumni Banquet.

Give now at [gsot.edu/donate](https://gsot.edu/donate) & select "Alumni Scholarship Fund"



## SAVING THE SAVED

A New Book by Dr. Dave Anderson

Many believers are not in danger of losing their "place" in heaven; rather, they are in danger of losing their "piece" of heaven. Entrance is not the issue, ownership is, and we need to recalibrate how we see certain verses, so we can position ourselves to make the most impact in the sphere entrusted to us.

This is a book about "saving the saved," or to put it simply, preserving the significance of your time on earth. Dr. Dave Anderson shows us from the Book of 1 Peter how we can make the most of our life through sanctification, submission, and suffering in a spirit of humility. Why would we want to do that? Because we were not purchased by pieces of silver or gold, but by the very lifeblood of the One who scaled every barrier we could erect to prove His love for us.

As you read this book, may you realize that your purpose to glorify God by being a reflection of Him to the world and to each other, can completely reshape your response to challenges and propel you towards a life of the deepest significance.

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**GRACE**  
THEOLOGY PRESS



# TALES FROM PARAGUAY

A TESTIMONY BY JARED HAYNES  
MASTER OF ARTS IN BIBLICAL STUDIES

I'm from a small town called New Milford which is located in North Eastern Pennsylvania. My parents are both believers and I was raised in church. Despite growing up in church and attending Sunday morning services each week, my ability to articulate the gospel was pretty limited - thinking I had to try harder, to be better, to really believe this time, were my thoughts as a kid.

Fast forward to August of 2008, I moved to Jackson, Michigan to attend Ethnos360 Bible Institute (formerly known as New Tribes Bible Institute). I was 17 at the time, and if it wasn't for my parents and my future father-in-law, I probably would have left before I even finished registration! Being a small-town kid, I was overwhelmed by the "big" city. I was so fearful and felt that I didn't belong... but I stayed, and it changed my life forever.

My wife on the other hand grew up in a family of missionaries and lived in Paraguay, South America. Her family was sent out by my home church. We grew up knowing of each other and ended up going to bible school together. We married a week after bible school ended and now have two kids, Gabriel (8 years old), and Shiloh (6 years old). We returned to Paraguay in July of 2014 together as missionaries.



## A GRACE ENCOUNTER

On September 18, 2018, I dropped my truck off for maintenance and was walking home on a sidewalk in a small town in Paraguay. I was sulking, honestly, and was just feeling sort of like I didn't care to be here anymore. In reality, I was dealing with hurt, discouragement, and unfortunately other all too common ministry related things. Having just started classes at Grace School of Theology, I turned on the "Saving Grace" podcast put out by Grace as I walked home. That day, I listened to someone named Scot Pollok from Faith Bible Church in the Woodlands who shared a series called, "Grace Gospel." Hearing the first message in that series encouraged me in a radical way! I remember walking an extra few blocks to finish the message and found myself welling up a number of times. It just sort of hit me where I was at. In later weeks, Scot moved into forgiveness and other elements of what the gospel of grace brings along. I was challenged and motivated to dive back into what God had brought us here to do—reach the unreached. There were things in my own heart that I needed to fix, and those messages helped me do just that, eventually reaching out to Scot and wrote him. It was amazing to just sort of experience the grace of God through a small "friendship" with someone I didn't even know or had never even met.

## KNOWING GRACE

I had faced some challenges and even hurts that sort of dragged me down and seemed to zap any amount of excitement I had towards ministry. It was at this same time that we found a then golf ball sized bone tumor in the arm of our then 4-year-old daughter. We returned to the United States as we were told through an initial x-ray that it was potentially cancerous. A few weeks later we learned that it was a benign bone tumor and that she would be just fine! This was great news! I'll admit, however, that I was extremely discouraged that my "legitimate excuse" for leaving the mission field was now gone. I really thought that God was giving me the "honorable discharge" as it were.

The reality that I'd be returning absolutely terrified me... I knew that I needed help, and my wife encouraged me to talk to a great friend and mentor of mine who was a teacher and dean at Ethnos360 Bible Institute who was also taking classes at Grace.



He recommended Grace for several reasons like:

*1) Because missionaries in today's world are finding that degrees can help make entry into ministry locations easier, and 2) Because it would keep me rooted and grounded in the truth. I called Grace School of Theology the very next day.*

I'm encouraged to have found likeminded individuals and communities from Grace. Every now and then a classmate will write something in a discussion board that really connects and challenges me. I'm appreciative of that. I think I could be more proactive in my relationships with teachers, they've been super open and willing to help and reach out to us. I've enjoyed my correspondence with them. Now, I feel more prepared and equipped to handle the challenges in the future.

My Grace School of Theology education has helped me immensely by keeping me grounded and rooted in good theology. Classes have been applicable to both life and ministry. I can take what I'm learning in the classroom and apply it to my everyday life and walk with the Lord, as well as apply it to my ministry among the people here in Paraguay. One day, by the grace of God, we hope to see a thriving church among the people we're serving here in Paraguay. When that day happens, Grace will have been instrumental in seeing that church established. We, along with you all, look forward to that day with excitement and great anticipation.





# GRACE DISCIPLESHIP: TURNING GREAT INTO WOW

BY STEVE NORRIS



Life-changing ministry begins with learning to think biblically about everything. But there is more, how do you land the plane of application on the field of one's everyday life? That's where discipleship comes alongside a great education to make it real in life. For discipleship deals with the heart which is then reflected in everyday life.

Our goal is to train the mind in the classroom then sharpen the student's ministry approach to mirror Jesus' training of his disciples. Jesus was brilliant. His disciples turned the world upside down. And we can learn from Him. In the Grace Discipleship and Mentoring Program, students in undergraduate and graduate programs are required to sign-up when taking a class during modules One and Three of each calendar year. Why is a Discipleship Group required? Great question!

Just before Jesus ascended, He commanded His disciples, then and now, to make disciples. It wasn't a suggestion. He modeled it, and He commanded it. So why wouldn't we prepare our students for ministry in line with Jesus' command and example? At times, the church struggles with effectiveness because it has gotten away from how Jesus changed the world.

We want to impact one life at a time, one person at a time, who will change another life, who will affect another and then another. Jesus did it and the Book of Acts shouts: "Wow! It can be done!"

## What is your biggest takeaway from your discipleship group?

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Deeper spiritual maturity from hearing how God is working in the lives of others... - **Jasmin**

Connecting to the diverse community celebrating the God we love. Enjoyed the sharing of struggles and victories. - **Daniel**

Pray, study, and be involved in the lives of other Christians. - **Keith**

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## What Our Students Say

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*"This is a great group and I'm very encouraged. I told God this morning that I feel like Paul when he wrote to the Thesalonians and stated that there was no word to adequately describe his joy over seeing that church thriving. That's how I feel about this group of men."* - Anonymous

*"It's always a joy to just join a meeting where we don't talk about doctrines and academics but life itself."* - **Adam**

*"Admittedly skeptical at first, Grace School of Theology's discipleship groups have quickly grown on me and even become the highlight of my week! What a fantastic picture of the body of Christ coming together, from different states, countries, vocations, and walks of life in fellowship and encouragement! Thanks, GSOT."* - **Jordan**

*"It's wonderful to be in a fellowship; just being who you are in Christ."* - **Fatima**

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**DISCIPLING & MENTORING WITH GRACE**  
GROW. TRAIN. LEAD.

Do you have inspiring stories, testimonies, poems, or any work of art? Submit them and see your works published.

[marketing@gsot.edu](mailto:marketing@gsot.edu)



## ALUMNI HIGHLIGHT



**Johnny Fernandez**

Master of Arts in Biblical Studies  
Justified by Faith International Ministry

As an Overseas Filipino Worker (OFW) in Qatar, a predominantly Muslim country, it was impossible for Pastor Johnny Fernandez to find a Christian seminary. While browsing through Facebook, Grace School of Theology caught his attention. One inquiry led to another that started his Grace journey. As a result of his studies at Grace, he started his fruitful ministry in which he leads a group of believers who are actively sharing the love of Christ.

At a glance, sharing the Word in a different country may be challenging; but at the same time it's also a unique opportunity to share the gospel to those who haven't heard it. He is convinced that only the grace of God can transform the lost. He understands that a non-believer with a deep indoctrination of a cult will have a lot of questions about the Bible, and having the knowledge gained from Grace equipped him to answer them.

Currently, Pastor Johnny Fernandez regularly conducts bible studies and leadership training for his members. Equipping and developing people in sharing the love of Christ can help amplify the impact, making a ripple effect or even waves of change in their area of influence like their communities and workplaces.



**Gusta Booker III**

Master of Ministry  
Community Development Director  
Greater St. Matthew Church

In obedience to the second greatest command to love your neighbor as yourself, Rev. Gusta Booker leads a ministry that brings the love of Christ not only within the walls of the church, but also to nearby schools and communities.

Working with children and the youth, Rev. Booker constantly encounters those who have been abandoned by their fathers. That is why he emphasizes the need for

godly men to serve as role models and be involved in the community. As he leads a ministry of helping children succeed academically, he also focuses on the behavior and character of these children.

Volunteers have also come together to make sure the people in these communities are fed, donating and preparing warm meals for those in need.

Rev. Booker believes that the best way to lead people to Christ is by living a life that speaks about His love.

Watch Rev. Booker's Chapel Address from May:  
[https://youtu.be/UeLgr\\_BIOR4](https://youtu.be/UeLgr_BIOR4)



**Biblical Application for Service in Christ (BASIC)** is a series of non-credit training opportunities created to prepare spiritual leaders worldwide in a variety of environments where fundamental and ongoing training is critical.

This year, we have launched our first BASIC offering, BASIC Ministry, providing training for those who desire to serve or are already serving in a church or para-church organization but have no prior work or skills training in the field.



Great weeks of training and learning took place at Greater St. Matthew Church and Loving Word Fellowship Church as more than 250 church leaders from almost two dozen churches participated in **BASIC for Ministry training**. More than a hundred leaders from different churches came to learn about Basics of Bible Study, Discipleship, Grace, and Systematic Theology.

Huge thanks to **GLO CPAs, LLLP** for the generous underwriting that made the training possible.

For more information, visit this page: <https://info.gsot.edu/basic>



*Thank you for underwriting these  
BASIC trainings*



## HELP US SHOWER OUR COMMUNITIES WITH GRACE

*A friendly smile toward a stranger.  
An encouraging note and a loving  
embrace.*

Though all are small gestures, the situation we are in today highlights how we've taken simple acts of kindness for granted as we're forced into isolation and uncertainty.

But there is no better time than now to be united as Christians. Jesus made it a point to go out of His way, no matter the circumstance, to reach the least and the lost, with a mandate for us to do likewise.

So how do we move forward like Christ in times like this?

### **We #sharegrace.**

#SHAREGRACE is a movement to inspire Christians to demonstrate love for one another through an act of kindness. One drop of grace can make such an impact on others and cause them to pay it forward. Together, we can create a ripple effect that leaves an eternal impact.

At such a time as this, let us shine the light of God's love all around us. Let's mobilize the world in a different form of giving by intentionally sharing the love of Christ, a love that cannot be earned and cannot be lost.

**TOGETHER, LET'S**  
*#sharegrace*



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GRACE**

**JOIN THE #SHAREGRACE MOVEMENT**  
[gsot.edu/sharegrace](https://gsot.edu/sharegrace)

**GIVE CONVENIENTLY & SECURELY TODAY: [gsot.edu/donate](https://gsot.edu/donate)**

Please make Grace School of Theology part of your regular charitable giving. Your gifts provide the tuition assistance needed to help our students access affordable seminary education. Thanks to the generosity of donors, domestic students are blessed with tuition rates among the lowest in the country, and international students access internationally accredited seminary education for just a few dollars per class!

Every dollar given has an exponential impact as Grace trains spiritual leaders around the world who will influence generations as they teach others about the love of Christ, a love that cannot be earned and cannot be lost.

**\$1,437,860**

*of* **The TOTAL AMOUNT  
DIRECT TUITION ASSISTANCE**  
*given by Grace donors*

**IN 2019**



**100% of each donor's contribution goes directly to support our students and academic programs.**  
All administrative and fundraising costs are generously covered by the Board of Trustees.