

New Chaplaincy Program



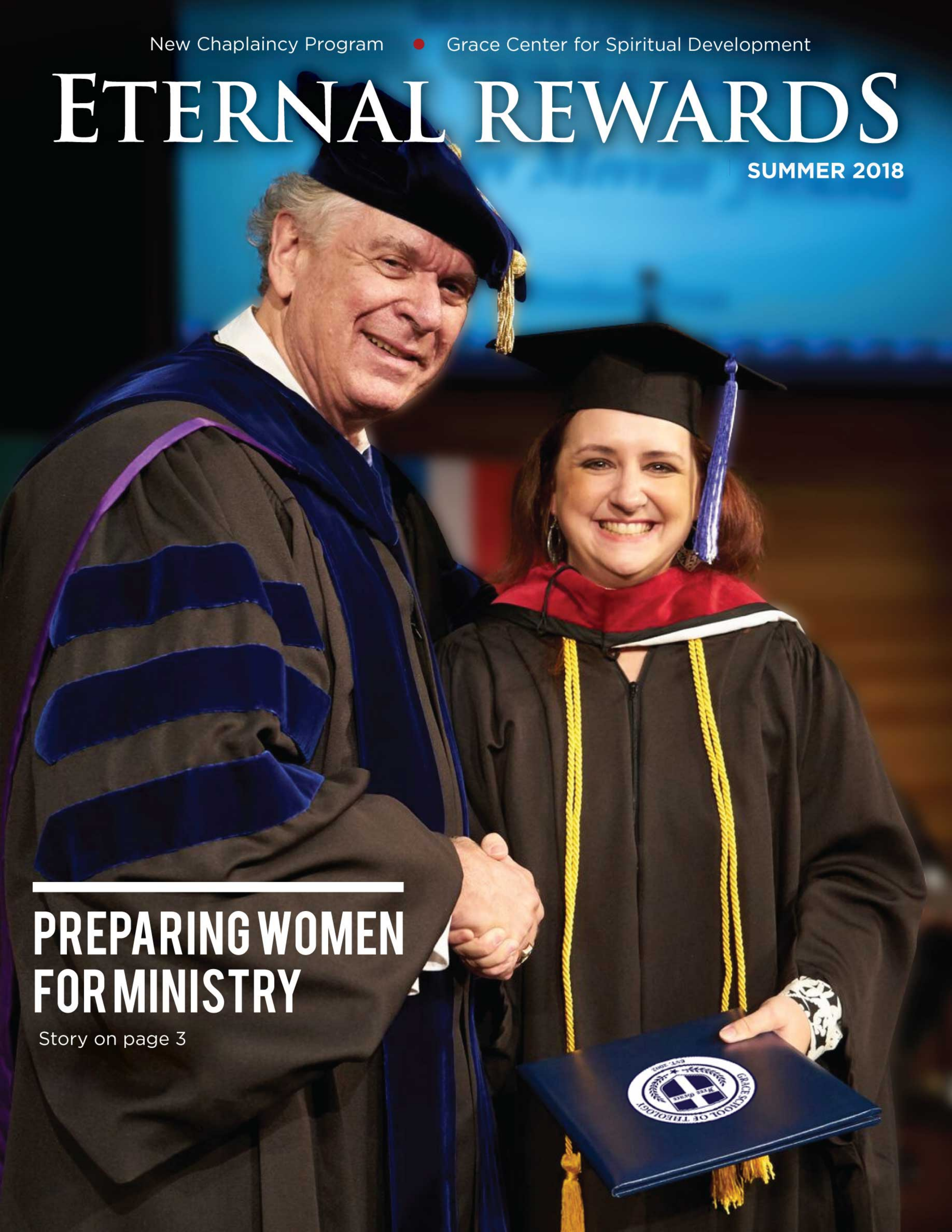
Grace Center for Spiritual Development

ETERNAL REWARDS

SUMMER 2018

PREPARING WOMEN FOR MINISTRY

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The Class of 2018 with faculty

The CLASS of 2018

 **44** GRADUATES
9 COUNTRIES

- Record-high number of graduates from the Spanish Bible Program
- First female MDiv Graduate
- First MDiv Graduate from the Spanish Bible Program

145 ALUMNI MEMBERS
AROUND THE WORLD

GRACE in NUMBERS

432 STUDENTS *becoming*
SPIRITUAL LEADERS



**STUDENTS IN
33 COUNTRIES**



SPRING 2018

7 LANGUAGES

ENGLISH | ESPAÑOL | KOREAN
NEPALI | KAZAKH | RUSSIAN | GEORGIAN

**12 ACADEMIC
PROGRAMS**

Raising up Godly Women

THE HEART OF A GRACE ALUMNA

Merritt Johnston, the first female Master of Divinity graduate of Grace School of Theology, believes that women have a unique and irreplaceable role to play in church when it comes to mentoring and teaching younger women. (Titus 2:4) This is her passion and ministry, discipling girls and training women on how to be Jesus followers at each unique stage they go through in life. Thus, she co-founded SAGE Girls Ministry while still attending college.

After college, Merritt had a desire to go to seminary and be trained in God's Word at the feet of seasoned teachers so she can better steward her gift and calling as a teacher.

God's perfect timing

Merritt had to wait for the perfect time though. Because of the overflowing demands of full-time ministry, attending a seminary in a traditional classroom setting simply was not possible.

Years later, after Merritt had gotten married and given birth to her first child, God revived that dream. Merritt found herself considering the Master of Arts in Biblical Studies program, a course being offered online by Grace School of Theology. With a young family to nurture and a demanding full-time ministry, the timing was far from perfect. Nevertheless, she and her husband sensed that they should take a leap of faith.



Merritt Johnston (seated center) along with the women of SAGE Girls Ministry.

A school that fits her life

Although it was not an easy feat, graduating from seminary was made possible for Merritt by Grace's innovative use of interactive technology which allows students to "attend class" right where they live and serve.



"My true passion is teaching. This is what I feel God made me to do. When I teach, I feel God's pleasure and because of that, I really wanted to be a better Bible teacher." - Merritt Johnston, Master of Divinity graduate

It was a blessing for Merritt to find a school that was able to fit her life rather than the other way around. The online classes gave her the flexibility she needed as a mom and traveling minister. The cultural diversity was also very enriching and not to mention, there was nothing like sitting at the feet of wise, seasoned teachers who were in love with Jesus, and who truly exemplified the grace of God in their lives.

The right environment to fall in love

In 2016, Merritt earned her Master of Arts in Biblical Studies degree, but her seminary journey did not end there. After a total of eight years and ninety-five credit hours, she received her Master of Divinity degree on May 19, 2018. This is the highest academic achievement of a female student at Grace—a significant milestone not only for Merritt, but for Grace School of Theology as well.

According to Merritt, Jesus walked with her through it all. Receiving the heart to tell girls about Jesus was where it all started. Now, this passion to tell the world about God's grace, especially to girls and women, could only burn stronger.

"Seminary puts you in the right environment to go deeper into God's Word and bear fruit... It's hard for us to create our own biblical boot camp to make sure we're growing. Grace comes in to create the right environment," Merritt explained.

"I'm thankful for the fact that I love Jesus more now," Merritt shared.



A MINISTRY OF PURPOSE, PRESENCE AND PEACE

The chaplaincy ministry provides a unique opportunity for men and women of Christian faith to serve in various secular environments, bringing the love of Christ to people who long to be cared for in their time of crisis.

SHARING THE LOVE OF CHRIST TO A HURTING WORLD

"One of the most impactful things that I have learned thus far is that Christ was willing to embrace those who were deemed by others to be the least of all. Now, I do not want to miss any opportunity to share the love of Christ and let people know that they are not alone. The world is hurting and I now realize that I cannot sit back and wait to see who will come to church. I want to take the presence of Christ into the midst of their storm"

Sharon Simmons
GRACE ALUMNA

**For more information,
visit gsot.edu/chaplaincy**



CERTIFICATE IN **CHAPLAINCY (CC)**

The Certificate in Chaplaincy equips students to become effective chaplains in secular environments such as sports, marketplace, disaster, community, and faith-based ministries.



MASTER OF ARTS IN **CHAPLAINCY (MAC)**

The Master of Arts in Chaplaincy provides practical chaplain training with a solid theological foundation for those serving in a broad spectrum of chaplain service, including community and public safety roles.



MASTER OF ARTS IN MILITARY **CHAPLAINCY (MAMC)**

The Master of Arts in Military Chaplaincy includes systematic theology, Bible exposition, biblical hermeneutics and ministry skills courses that prepare students to address the unique issues specific to the armed forces.

Legacy OF Grace



YOU CAN HAVE GENERATIONS OF IMPACT WITH A LEGACY OF GRACE GIFT

From a simple beneficiary designation in your will to gifts of IRAs or life insurance policies, these giving options will leave a legacy of grace that will have generations of impact. But you also don't have to wait until you're gone. There are ways to give asset-based gifts today -- especially if there is a sale of real estate or business interest in your future -- and these giving strategies can have huge tax savings. The Grace School of Theology team would love to visit with you or your financial advisor to explore options for your Kingdom giving.

Contact us for a confidential conversation at advancement@gsot.edu

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

John Paul Kabuhat
DMin Student, Philippines
Youth Pastor, Greenhills Christian Fellowship

"I BELIEVE IN GRACE BECAUSE THAT'S WHAT SETS US APART FROM HOW THE WORLD THINKS AND OPERATES. I BELIEVE IN GRACE BECAUSE IF I DON'T, THEN WHAT MAKES ME A CHRISTIAN?"

What made you decide to pursue seminary?

I preach almost on a weekly basis. I know full well that I would be held accountable by God in a stricter manner because I am teaching His Word. With that mindset of reverence to that strictness of how the Word should be preached, I began seeking further studies.

Why Grace?

It was very convenient for me to be able to take my classes online so I could do ministry. At the same time, I also value how I don't have to go to the campus in the US because that would cost a lot, not only in finances but also in relationships, in emotional stress, going to a different place without your family. With Grace's online platform, there's no disruption when it comes to how things flow both in ministry and family.

How is your Grace education helping you as a minister to the youth?

I'm enjoying my classes. I love the books and the discussions with the professors and my classmates. I'm at least a decade younger than the youngest person in our class so their perspectives are different. It's a privilege because I came to learn and this is where I could learn the most - in the company of people who have learned more than me. I felt humbled that I could be mistaken in many things that I thought before were solid truth. That affects me now such that whenever I deliver a message, I would deliver it with humility.



Steve Norris, DMin
Director of Discipleship

GROW IN GRACE DISCIPLESHIP PROGRAM MENTORSHIP IN ACTION

Grace's new "Grow in Grace Discipleship Program: Mentorship in Action" got off to a great start in Spring with a generous grant from The Looper Foundation to provide academic, personal and ministry mentoring as part of every student's experience at Grace School of Theology. Students will experience getting discipled, will gain tools to disciple, and will disciple others as they graduate. This unique discipleship structure bolsters students' academic studies and surrounds them with wise counselors who spur them on to spiritual growth along with academic progress, while building the foundation for Kingdom impact for generations to come.

"The objective is to train the mind in the classroom and shape personal and ministry life through mentoring relationships," shares **Dr. Steven Norris, Director of Discipleship at Grace.**



GRACE
CENTER FOR
SPIRITUAL
DEVELOPMENT

Grace School of Theology is excited to announce its new **Grace Center for Spiritual Development**. Stay tuned for an ongoing effort to offer non-degree opportunities of seminary-style Bible studies, devotionals and resources, interactive webinars, and conferences. The Grace Center programming is perfect for those interested in theological studies, but not so much the theological degree.



Mark Rae
Vice President of
Community
Development

Welcome **Mark Rae**

Join us in welcoming Rev. Mark Rae, our new Vice President for Community Development and Executive Director of the Grace Center for Spiritual Development. Mark is one of the founding board members of Grace School of Theology and also an alumnus of the school.

Watch out for the **Grace App** for your smartphone

Get access to devotionals, study guides, and other resources to help you grow in your spiritual walk. Stay connected to the Grace community and be encouraged by fellow believers. Watch out for the Grace Phone App!

Look for our **Devotional Plans** on the



YouVersion Bible app

- Stormproof Men by *Dr. Roger Fankhauser*
- Maximum Joy by *Dr. Dave Anderson*
- A Life of Glory by *Rev. Mark Rae*
- Eternal Security by *Dr. Dave Anderson*
- Victory in Christ by *Dr. Fernando Abella*

For more information, visit gsot.edu/center

HELP US DEVELOP SPIRITUAL LEADERS IN EVERY NATION

"Go therefore and make disciples of every nation. This is the mission Jesus gave His disciples, and the message is as relevant today as it was 2,000 years ago. At **Grace School of Theology**, we are committed to fulfilling the Great Commission by developing spiritual leaders in every nation who can teach others about the love of Christ, a love that cannot be earned and cannot be lost."

DR. DAVE ANDERSON
President, Grace School of Theology

Erick Totañes
Grace School of Theology - STUDENT
Philippines



Watch how the Lord has been moving through Grace around the world.
Visit partnerwithgrace.org

THANK YOU!

Spiritual leaders among the nations will have generations of impact because of the theological training generous donors like you make possible.

Every Grace Student is "scholarshipped" to some level because of the generous support of our donors that allows us to keep our tuition rates among the lowest in the world for comparable seminary-level education.

For many of our international students (65% of our enrollment), the vast majority of their tuition is underwritten by contributions from our donors. This is the fastest growing segment of the spiritual leaders that Grace is training—**these students need your help.**

One hundred percent of your gifts goes to our programs and support of our students. That's because our Board of Trustee's commitment and giving covers all of our administrative and fundraising expenses.

Please give your best gift today. The students you are helping are the spiritual leaders of their communities and countries who will impact generations to come.

gsot.edu/donate

