

# ETERNAL REWARDS

SUMMER 2019



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## GRACE WITHOUT BORDERS

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*Nepal:*

## GRACE WITHOUT BORDERS

*Students from all over Nepal and India fellowship together in Kathmandu, Nepal.*

Science can be hard enough to understand and teach in English, how much more challenging would it be in a foreign language? On top of that, how can one possibly teach communication skills amidst one of the biggest communication challenges—language barrier? With these questions in mind, imagine Professor Walt Jurek's agonizing preparation when he was tasked to teach Physical Science and Communication Skills to our students in Nepal. (Bachelor level students can't get the required basic core courses like communications, math, and sciences at other educational institutions in Nepal.)

"I spent much time in prayer as I developed these courses from the ground up. And the Holy Spirit came through!" Professor Jurek shared. With the help of Grace Nepal teaching site coordinators, husband and wife Bishwa and Ramila Karmacharya, Professor Jurek was able to connect with the students and deliver the courses successfully.

However, the more meaningful connections happened outside the classroom. Coming from all over Nepal and parts of India, the students only get to see each other when they converge for classes in Kathmandu. Many of them have come from remote places and have had to endure not just hours but days of commute. In a country where most people worship millions of gods, following the One True God is certainly not easy. But as Professor Jurek experienced first-hand, there is no barrier that God cannot break down to accomplish His purposes.

As all forty-six students with ages 22 to 72 excitedly gathered around the fire for a barbeque dinner where everyone got to sing, fellowship, and eat together, Professor Jurek felt an overwhelming sense of privilege to be among these precious students. And despite the language barrier and cultural differences, the students felt the same way toward their professor.

"I was told that it blessed the students to interact with me outside of class," Professor Jurek shared. The truth is, this experience has changed Professor Jurek.

"The work we at Grace School of Theology are doing, of equipping these saints for the work of the ministry (Ephesians 4:12) is worthwhile work that we would do well to continue to support whole heartedly."

**"I AM A BETTER MAN FOR HAVING SPENT THE TIME WITH THOSE DEAR SAINTS."  
- PROF. WALT JUREK**





# GRACE CUBA: LEAPS OF FAITH

Yeniseis Vience Pérez is a church leader in Cuba. When the opportunity to study at Grace School of Theology was announced in her church, she could not contain her excitement. She immediately immersed herself in prayer and believed for miracle provision as she could not afford a laptop, something required if she were to study at Grace.

To her surprise, her husband allowed her to use the money intended for house repairs, money which they had been saving up for many years. Although her laptop has missing keys and broken hinges, Yeniseis is beaming with gratefulness as she pursues her lifelong dream to finish school as a Bachelor of Arts in Biblical Studies student at Grace Cuba.

Yeniseis' story is one of many stories of perseverance and hard work among our brothers and sisters in Cuba who face the challenges of poverty and state restrictions. And the 17 master's degree graduates we awarded last May 26, 2019 at our graduation ceremony in Cuba are but the first fruits of many years of thwarted effort to knock on Cuba's doors until we were finally able to start training leaders two years ago in July 3, 2017.

Despite restrictions imposed upon church activities due to being a communist state, Cuba is in the midst of a Church Planting Movement (CPM) where hundreds of thousands are coming to faith in Jesus Christ and thousands of new churches are multiplying rapidly.

"God has already grown that one (Grace) location to now 4 locations and 143 students from 16 denominations and 48 churches for the upcoming semester! That's a God thing!," Dr. Anderson declares with excitement. But Cuba needs help in training its leaders and future leaders on all levels, thousands of them, in order for the churches being produced to be healthy.

Through the generous support of our donors, Cuban students pay about \$1 US dollar per credit hour, a cost that is still a leap of faith for many of them. With 143 students in sight for the next two years, we are also in for a big financial leap of faith. (With a cost of \$1 per credit in Cuba, a student getting a Master of Ministry degree is only paying \$36 USD -- but that's only possible with the support of our donors underwriting the remaining \$7,164 of the cost of providing a student's master's degree.)



*Yeniseis Vence Perez pursues her studies at Grace with a used laptop and an old sewing machine for a work table.*



This is a God thing! Cuba needs theologically trained spiritual leaders to strengthen its historical church planting movement. Grace is moving forward trusting in God's provision and protection.



# BREAKING GROUND

## IN THE MARKETPLACE



God has given husband and wife Broderick “Bodge” Santos and Roanna Lynn Santos leadership influence both inside the church and in the marketplace and that is where they are taking the fresh and powerful learnings they are receiving as Master of Arts in Biblical Studies students at Grace School of Theology.

Bodge and Roanna are being groomed to take the helm of leadership in church even as right now Bodge leads their “marketplace ministry” while Roanna leads the worship team and mentors the youth and young professionals.

Roanna influences young lives as a passionate leader and teacher of a Kumon school. Bodge, on the other hand, is a banker, the head of a network of Christian marketplace ministries, and a member of several others. He founded “Enlarge,” a nationwide summit that had seen more than 4,000 people come to Christ over the past four years by utilizing biblical financial literacy training as a platform for sharing God’s Word.

Roanna overflows with gratefulness when talking about the loving community she found at Grace, from the staff, to the professors, and students who had become a constant source of encouragement.

“WE SEE GOD’S WORD  
DIFFERENTLY NOW.  
IT IS AMAZING AND  
POWERFUL!”

- BODGE AND ROANNA SANTOS,  
MABS STUDENTS | PHILIPPINES



Roanna leads worship during class.

The fact that classes were online also didn’t keep her from leading them in a worship song during one of her classes under Dr. Mark Haywood.

At the level where God has taken Enlarge, partnering with the nation’s central bank, top Christian financial experts, and with local governments, Bodge knew he needed to be deeply rooted in the Word. Because if not, “You’ll think you’re doing something that is right, but you’re just pursuing your own agenda.” To pursue his call to “change the landscape of the place where the Lord placed him,” he needs solid grounding.

To their joy, the Grace experience does not disappoint. According to them, “Grace has been an epitome of excellence as embodied not only in its teachers, but also in its platform. We see the Word of God differently now. It is very amazing and powerful.” They also learned how to “savor every moment of studying God’s Word,” and they are both very excited for the “more” that is ahead of them as they grow deeper roots and grow in leadership and influence.



# GRACE IN ACTION

**"Grace is giving me the needed education to grow higher, stronger and wiser to enhance our ministry."**

Despite being blind for two decades now, David has been sharing the love of Christ not only in words but also in action. He and his wife started God's Blessings Church which became known in the area as a safe place for sharing food, warmth, and God's grace for anyone in need.

**DAVID RABORN**

**MM STUDENT | USA**



**"At Grace, I can study and do ministry without travelling to another city every day."**

Arcesio Slater Soo comes from the beautiful indigenous people group of Guna of the province of Guna Yala in northeastern Panama. Grace School of Theology's accessible education allows him to get the equipping he needs for ministry while continuing to bring the gospel to the communities of Guna Yala.

**ARCESIO SLATER SOO**

**MDIV STUDENT | PANAMA**



**"I love the depth of learning at Grace where I am challenged to explore the depth and breadth of Scripture in a way I never thought was possible."**

When Mike Cratch understood and believed the message of free grace, his life and ministry was radically changed. Today, he is seeing lives liberated and transformed as he faithfully teaches salvation by grace alone, through faith alone and in Christ alone.

**MIKE CRATCH**

**MDIV STUDENT | USA**







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# GLOBAL EDUCATION LOCAL TRANSFORMATION

Grace School of Theology is constantly evaluating more efficient ways to provide quality theological education in every nation through a balance of technological innovation and human interaction and "community" at the core of learning and mentoring. That commitment sparked a recent partnership that has become GDi Global.

"Technology has made data transfer astonishingly accessible. But there are ramifications for that. We don't want our pastors to sit through an entire MDiv program alone in their basement or in their bedroom with no relationship, no mentorship, no discipleship," says Dr. Nicholas Ellis, founder and CEO of Grace Development Initiatives (GDi Global).

While studying at Oxford, Dr. Ellis came to an important realization that shaped his professional and ministerial life. "I figured that one of the greatest secrets in education is that, despite the University of Oxford being a large university, there is no campus! It was made of these constituent colleges and private halls where you have your community and your rowing team, and you eat, and you have your fellowship. My experience at Oxford left an indelible impression on my heart, especially as I began to see online education emerging," says Dr. Ellis.

**"As we build in access to education through technology, how do we not at the same time strip away the deep, rich community side of education?"**

To provide a solution, Dr. Ellis founded GoEducation (now EDi) and partnered with educational institutions who will carry the burden of providing quality education, so that EDi can focus on the development of strong local communities. They currently have four sites in Brazil and also work with an organization called One Hope to bring global education to Uganda.



Dr. Nick Ellis comes from a long family line of dedicated Christians who have passed on the Christian intellectual tradition from generation to generation. Dr. Ellis' quest to continue this tradition of learning led him from Brazil, where his father was a missionary, to the United States, and then to Oxford, where he was trained as an academic. Dr. Ellis earned a Doctor of Philosophy and a Master's in Theology and Religion from the University of Oxford, a Master of New Testament from Trinity Western (Canada), and Master of Biblical Languages from Union University (Tennessee).

Dr. Ellis' vision of combining global education with local transformation is in the same heartbeat as the vision of Grace School of Theology to develop spiritual leaders in every nation, bringing quality education to the nations, in their own language when possible, and locally, right where they live and serve.

Thus, EDi has partnered with The Grace Foundation to form Grace Development Initiatives or GDi Global. GDi serves the global Church through regional learning centers called Private Christian Halls (PCHs). The organization works in partnership with accredited schools, colleges, and universities, supported by local churches, mentors, tutors and businesses, to invest in spiritual and social transformation and human flourishing. It is exciting to see how this partnership will allow Grace School of Theology to upscale its operations worldwide in a more sustainable manner.

**GDi** GRACE  
DEVELOPMENT  
INITIATIVES

Visit [gdiglobal.org](http://gdiglobal.org)  
for more information



# FROM LITTLE SEEDS GROW MIGHTY TREES

Celebrating 17 Years of Developing Spiritual Leaders



## CLASS OF 2019

## 71 GRADUATES FROM 12 COUNTRIES

Record-high number of graduates

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Our graduation theme, “from little seeds grow mighty trees,” really captured the generations of impact these spiritual leaders are going to have, and **you played a critical role in every graduate’s accomplishment!** You watered these “seeds” through your time, resources, and prayers. Your investment will provide international students access to an internationally-accredited seminary education for just a few dollars per class and bless domestic students with tuition rates among the lowest in the country.

Your annual, quarterly or monthly gift of any amount is an opportunity to impact generations to come. **Please consider joining our Champions of Grace today by committing to \$1,000 or above as a part of your annual charitable giving.** Thank you for believing in Grace. #ibelieveingrace



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