

A YEAR OF BLESSINGS • THE BEST MEDICINE • GRACE'S GLOBAL IMPACT

ETERNAL REWARDS

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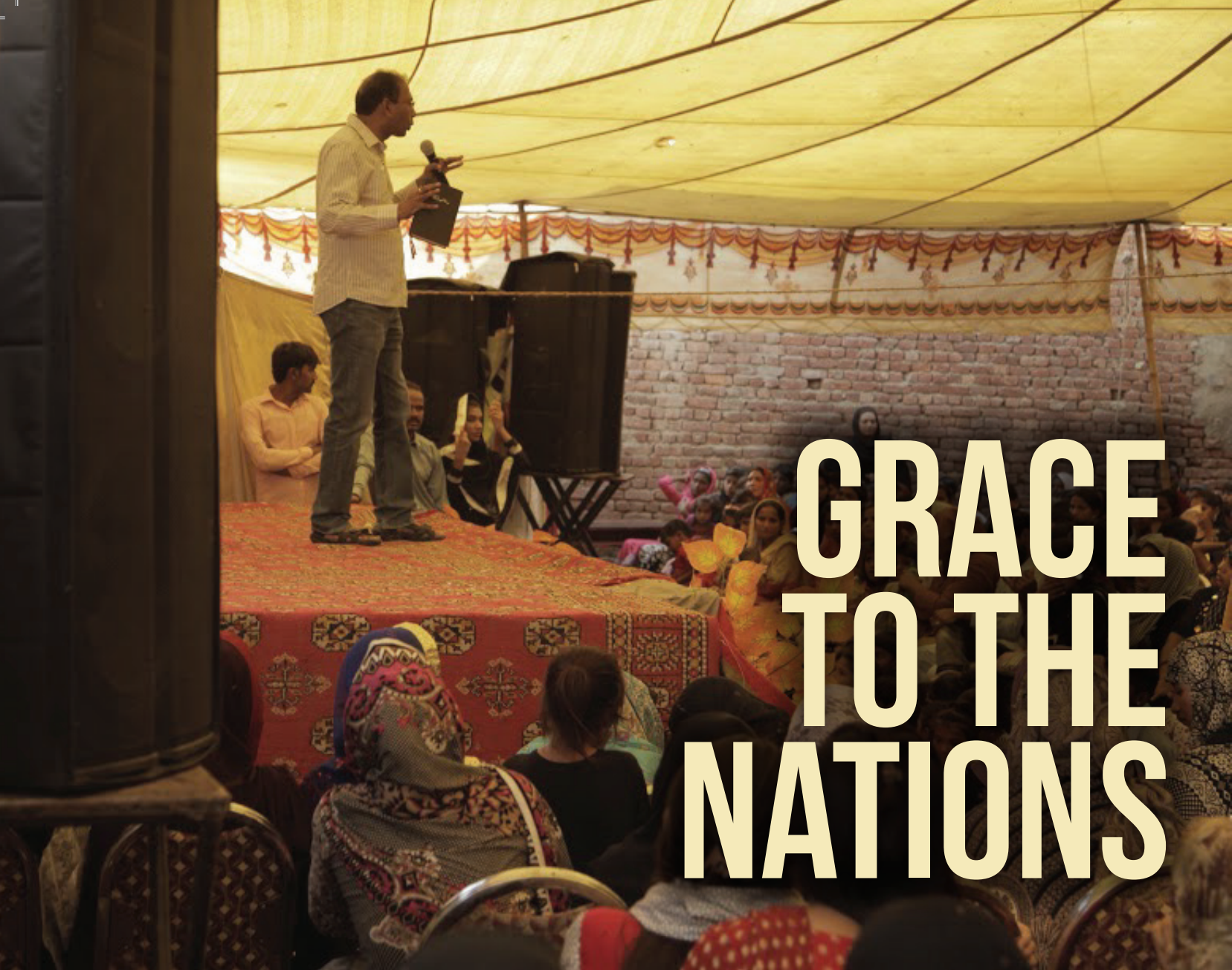


Dr. Tony Evans shares a powerful message at the 2015 "Kingdoms in Conflict" Grace Banquet



GRACE
SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

A SEMINARY
TO THE WORLD



GRACE TO THE NATIONS

“You never know when the next suicide bombing is going to occur,” says Ali*, a Grace student serving as a Christian pastor in South Asia.

Just two weeks before, suicide bombers attacked two churches, killing at least fifteen people and wounding dozens. This was the latest deadly attack against Christian minorities in the country.

Security is just one of the challenges that Pastor Ali faces daily in his ministry. His father is a first-generation Christian and was instrumental in establishing one of the first Christian churches in the country. Over the past fifty years, the Christian population has grown from zero to about 1.6% of the country’s overwhelmingly Muslim population. Despite this growth, the Christians remain a minority and are vulnerable to violent attacks.

** Name changed for security reasons*

The plight of Christians in South Asia is not limited to terrorist attacks. A BBC report says that the Christian community remains in the poorest sector of the society, consigned to menial jobs. Pastor Ali confirms this. “Ninety eight percent of Christians here earn very low salaries. They don’t get good jobs. As a result, most of the churches cannot be self-supporting.”

Despite these challenges, Pastor Ali remains committed to his ministry. “Those challenges are all the more reason we should be brave for God’s Word,” he says.

Although Pastor Ali grew up in a Christian family and came to know the Lord Jesus Christ as his Savior through his father’s ministry, he did not intend to serve full-time in the ministry. He was one of the few who were blessed to get an education. He has a Bachelors Degree in Business Management from Liberty University, one of the largest academic institutions in America. He also earned a Masters

Degree in Accounting from a university in his home country. Utilizing his vast education, he served as a professor of Economics and Accounting for thirteen years.

He remained active in the ministry, assisting in a ministry called Global Surge, a Christian organization that conducts youth camps to share the gospel. While serving with Global Surge, Pastor Ali began to hear God's call to pursue ministry full-time. It was a tough decision because it meant leaving his job and risking his family's financial security. His personal safety and his family's wellbeing were also at risk. Since the 1990s, scores of Christians have been wrongfully accused and convicted for desecrating the Koran or blaspheming against Prophet Muhammad. Witnessing to Muslims is still against the law. Unfazed by these risks, Pastor Ali took a leap of faith. "I always consider that as the biggest step that changed my life," says Pastor Ali.

In his current ministry, the biggest threat that Pastor Ali sees among the Christians in South Asia is the lack of sound doctrine. Most of the Christians are illiterate, barely finishing high school. They were not taught to dig into God's Word and are easily deceived by wrong teaching.

In order to address this problem, Pastor Ali became heavily involved in the ministry of translating Christian learning materials into a native language and training pastors in the rural villages to study the Bible. Despite security and economic challenges, the people are thirsty for God's Word. It has become critical to ensure that pastors who plant churches in the villages share the correct doctrine with the people.

Last October, his team conducted a training seminar for two hundred pastors in a rural village. Most of the pastors were not highly educated. But when they heard the Word of God, they were enlightened and their ideologies were changed.

"It's a miracle because it is a change of mind and heart," Pastor Ali says. No one had taught them to study God's Word in-depth. Now these pastors are concerned about understanding and correctly interpreting the Bible.

"This is where Grace School of Theology comes in," Pastor Ali continues. In order to train these pastors correctly, he knew that he needed further training as well. He needed materials that he could translate and bring to his people.

He first learned about Grace when he attended a graduation ceremony at Baptist Bible College Asia in the Philippines where he met Pastor Dan Greer, a member of Grace's Board of Advisors and a Vice President of Baptist Bible Fellowship International. He was excited to know that he would be able to complete a Masters degree without having to leave his family and ministry. "I will probably be the first person to complete a Masters in Divinity here. For that, I glorify God," he says.

"What I learn at Grace, I bring to the pastors here. Like a ripple effect, there is now a good and strong progression of doctrinally sound Christianity here," says Pastor Ali.



It is his vision to see more pastors get the kind of quality theological education he is getting now. Since the pastors in his area typically have limited education, he is hoping for at least a two-year diploma course that can be offered to them in the future. He is also aiming to build a library and fill it with Christian learning materials. He is also actively raising support for churches in the rural areas, which have basic needs like chairs and equipment.

Currently, he is pastoring two churches, one that was planted by his father who is now retired, and one that he planted six years ago. He also remains actively involved in youth camps where thousands attend. In 2014, around 30,000 individuals were reached by the gospel message through Pastor Ali. On top of that, he continues to provide training and mentoring to other pastors and ministry workers in the rural areas. He asks for prayer support for the pastors who risked everything to go and preach God's Word. He asks for prayers for the safety of Christians and the growth of Christianity in his country.

"It's a lot of work but I feel called to do it," Pastor Ali says.

Please be in prayer for Pastor Ali and other students like him who are impacting their part of the world with the love of Christ and the truth they are learning at Grace. ■

2015: A Year of God's Blessings



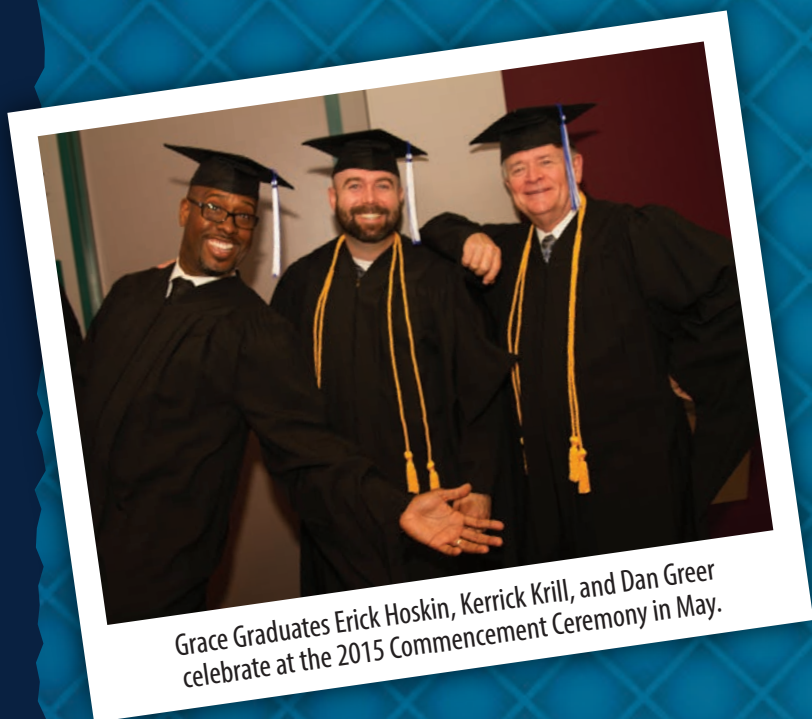
The new World Headquarters Expansion in The Woodlands opened in January, including a new office suite for student services and a professional recording studio utilized for course video production and other media projects.



Faculty member, Dr. Greg Sapaugh, and staff member, Micke Goteman, enjoy time in Grace's new recording studio.



Dr. Charlie Bing shares a powerful message at the "What's So Amazing about Grace" Conference in March.



Grace Graduates Erick Hoskin, Kerrick Krill, and Dan Greer celebrate at the 2015 Commencement Ceremony in May.



On May 16, Grace celebrated the accomplishments of the graduating class of 2015, including the first student graduating from the undergraduate program.



Grace is approved to offer an accredited Doctor of Ministry (DMin) degree, and Dr. Fred Chay joins the staff to oversee the new program.



Grace Alumni enjoyed a great evening of fellowship and worship at the 2015 Alumni Banquet in August.



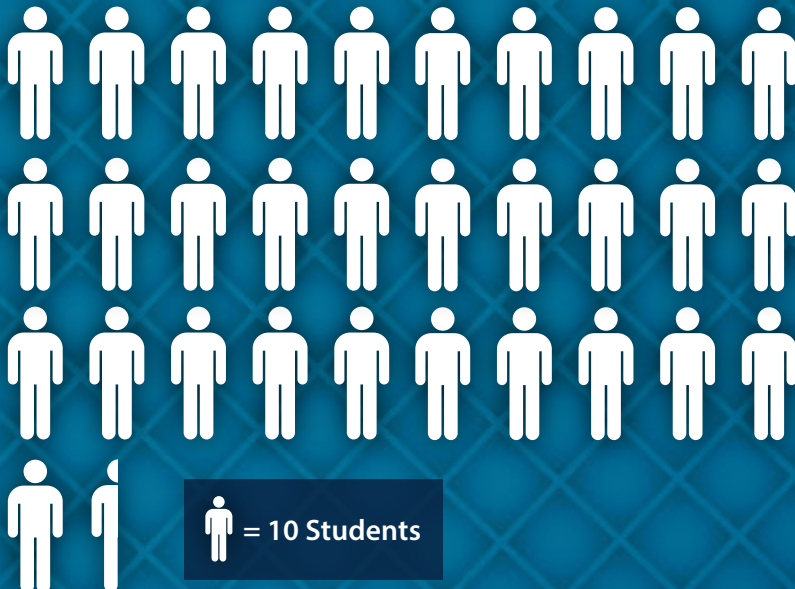
Dr. Elmer Towns, author of more than 100 books and co-founder of Liberty University, teaches an intensive course in August.



Do you have a PC/laptop you would like to donate for use by our international students? We are gratefully accepting donations at our World Headquarters in The Woodlands.



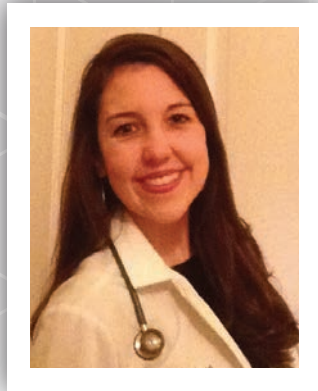
Grace now has an accredited teaching site in Honduras. Dr. Fernando Abella, Director of Grace's Spanish Bible Program, was able to travel there to invest in students and minister within the local church.



Grace continues to experience unprecedented growth with a record-setting enrollment again this fall. What a blessing to have an instrumental, God-ordained role in the development of more than 300 spiritual leaders in the United States and around the world!

His Grace is the Best Medicine

by Holly Hodges, MD



As the child of a pastor rooted in Free Grace teaching, I have had the joy of growing up with a clear understanding of the Gospel. By the time I graduated from high school, I had heard the distinction between justification, sanctification, and glorification more times than I could count! A strong motivating factor in my pursuit of a career in pediatrics was a desire to deliver the Good News to others, as I have always seen physical healing as a way to show His love and grace, but more importantly as a means to share the Gospel message. In pursuit of His calling in my own life, I now find myself training as a pediatrician at Harvard where there are constant opportunities to share God's grace and in two distinct ways.

First and perhaps most obviously, it is done through day to day interactions with patients and families. Being able to talk about the free gift of eternal life to all who simply believe has proven invaluable. I have seen hope restored to parents' eyes, I have seen a child understand the simple message of the Gospel, and I have seen patients facing terminal illness become confident in their eternal security. While I attempt to alleviate suffering through share the means of freedom condemnation through belief in

Being able to talk about the free gift of eternal life to all who simply believe has proven invaluable.

Over these past two years of along with my patients, my need of a clear message of brilliant individuals who have good deeds for self-worth and medical training fraught with sleepless nights, information overload, and demands on one's time and mental capacity that seem insurmountable! One co-resident coming from a faith background said to me: "I know you are a Christian. I feel like I need to confess that I haven't been going to church since residency. I'm afraid God won't forgive me." What an opportunity to help someone understand how faith in Christ alone is our sole means of justification! Clarifying this important issue then leaves room for multiple conversations to talk more about how we live that out through daily sanctification.

medicine, I have found ways to from sin and eternal Christ's death and resurrection.

residency I have found that, colleagues are those most in grace. I work alongside many always relied on successes and purpose. Residency is a time in

More commonly, there are atheistic colleagues who have finally realized that the works and intellect that they have trusted for so long will sometimes fail under conditions of stress and fatigue. In those moments they ask: "How are you still so happy?" or "How are you so calm or at peace?" Again, an open door for the Gospel. Would I be as confident in sharing it without a background in Free Grace? I'm not sure that I would. But thankfully through my dad and other teachers like Dr. Dave Anderson, I know the clear Gospel message and how to talk about it with anyone – whether overseas doing mission work or in the Harvard library with a scholarly colleague. As a disciple of Free Grace theologians, I am thrilled that Grace School of Theology exists with its mission to take the message of grace to the entire world, and as a pediatrician with that same mindset, I see it as an honor and a privilege to lend my support!



PARTNERS IN GRACE: Ministry Report

WELCOME TO OUR NEW STAFF MEMBERS:



Simon Eastwick: Join us in welcoming Simon Eastwick as Vice President of Advancement. He previously served on our Board of Advisors as well as the Vice President of Marketing circa 2008-2009. He has been a member of Faith Bible Church in The Woodlands for more than ten years and is responsible for leading our advancement and marketing teams. "I am thrilled to be a part of Team Grace and to work with such a great group of Kingdom-focused individuals. I believe that Grace School of Theology is at a tipping point, and that our challenge is how to best respond to the global opportunities God is clearly putting before us," says Simon.

To respond to the needs of our rapidly growing organization, we have prayerfully expanded our staff as well. We are excited to see how God has been faithful to bring the right staff at the right time. Please join us in welcoming the following team members to the Grace family.

- Glenn Mark Arnobit:** Web Specialist (Grace Asia)
- Myla Cahigas:** Spanish Communications Specialist (Grace Asia)
- Edilma "Eddy" Franco:** Technology Support Coordinator
- Razel Larangan:** Office Custodian (Grace Asia)
- Larry Lozano:** Admissions Advisor (Midland, Texas)
- Evangeline "Vhanjie" Taruc:** Human Resources & Finance Manager (Grace Asia)

A SEMINARY TO THE WORLD

GLOBAL OUTREACH INITIATIVE

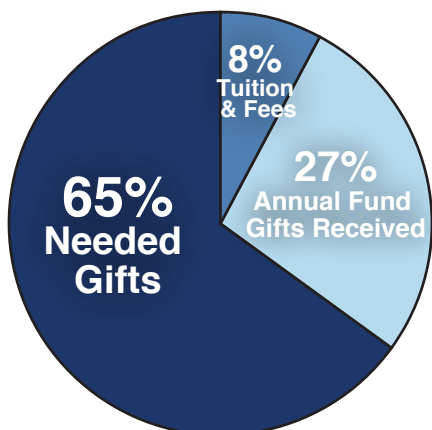
This fall semester we equipped **316 credit students**, including **153 international students** representing **20 countries**. This represents an 108% increase from Fall 2014. Please continue to pray as we respond to this amazing growth and the opportunity to develop spiritual leaders around the world.



2015 GRACE BANQUET UPDATE

Thank you to everyone who was a part of this year's "Kingdoms in Conflict" Banquet. Our numbers in every category (including attendance and giving) increased from last year. We were also pleased to have more than **100 people** from **11 countries** register to participate via live stream. Watch for more details soon about the next Grace Banquet!

SUPPORT GRACE TODAY: Visit GSOT.EDU/DONATE or complete the enclosed support envelope.



| 2015-2016 YEAR-TO-DATE* | | ACTUAL | BUDGET |
|-------------------------|---|-------------|-----------------------|
| TUITION & FEES | Received YTD: | \$251,201 | TOTAL: \$400,478 |
| | Remaining Expected: | \$149,277 | |
| ANNUAL FUND GIFTS | Received YTD: | \$1,362,468 | TOTAL: \$4,616,200 |
| | CURRENT NEED: | \$3,253,732 | |
| OPERATING EXPENSES | Ministry Budget for July 1, 2015, through June 30, 2016 | | TOTAL: \$4,990,005 |

* As of December 14, 2015

Grace School of Theology is a 501(c)(3), charitable, non-profit organization and is financially accredited by the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability.



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