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IT'S TIME 

WHY PI IS CRITICAL AT THIS TIME.

C O N T E N T S

W H Y

- 6 It's Time
F. Joe Ellis
- 8 PI Statistics
- 10 Academic Improvements
James Littles


H O W

- 14 How To Start A
Purpose Institute Campus
- 15 The Life Church
Stan Gleason
- 16 PI Graduates Impacting
Our Cities
Scott Grant
- 18 Northern Eurasia
Mark Shute
- 19 Ukraine
Sergey Tomev
- 20 Expanding Apostolic Training
Through Translation
Liane R. Grant

W H E N

- 24 My PI Story
Claude Leaman
- 25 Graduation Day
Cynthia Lovely
- 26 A Journey with PI
Donelle Bennett
- 28 Training with Purpose
Jason Dickson
- 29 Knowing God
Tim Schoppy
- 30 Obedience To God
Stephanie Lewis
- 32 Confidence To Serve
Venita Thurman
- 34 Graduates List
- 36 Steps To Enroll
As A Student

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WHY

WHY

It's Time

By F. Joe Ellis



It's a gross understatement to say we are living in unprecedented times. Covid-19 has shaken the world in ways no one expected. Regardless of how uncertain and unpredictable things may appear, God's purpose for the Church has not changed. The Church remains the very instrument God is using, and will continue to use, to fulfill HIS eternal purpose on the earth!

As the Church advances in the 21st century, God-called leaders at all levels must be not only Spirit-led, but also intentional about prioritizing the things that matter most to God. To only identify a few essential priorities, however, will not be enough. There must also be a determined willingness, as well as a disciplined commitment to do them once they are discovered, regardless of what that may require.

The will of God was never meant to be a walk in the park. Neither will it always be safe, convenient, or without risk. Why? Because it's not! Throughout the history of the Church, the work of ministry and service in the Kingdom of God has always been lived out in real time on a daily basis, whether or not it is safe, comfortable, or convenient.

Regardless of how turbulent our world becomes moving forward, it's time for the Church to trust God for the details and simply do what HE says. The Bible clearly confirms that the will of God rarely, if ever, has the appearance of being humanly possible. Why? Simply because it's NOT. It is, however, spiritually possible for those who walk by faith and bold obedience.

Those who wait for the waters to calm or the winds to cease will seldom, if ever, experience the miraculous. Neither will they attempt to do anything more than they've already done. As a result, full ministry potential and purpose in Christ are only dreamed about, but never realized.

While the world is being shaken by these crisis-filled last days, the Church is being awakened and prepared for its greatest ministry impact worldwide. Without question, **it's time** for the Church to "BE" the Church, and everything that includes!

It's time...

- To pray God-size prayers and expect those prayers to not only be heard, but also answered.
- To be bold in faith and radical obedience, willing to walk through open doors that until now have been closed.
- To take advantage of the various training opportunities such as Purpose Institute that are available to your nation, region, district, and local church.
- To be field-ready and equipped for the greatest harvest the Church has ever known!
- To make sure those you've been called by God to lead and serve have continual training opportunities available, should they desire them.

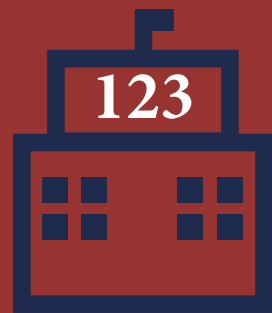
It's time to equip Disciples; **It's time** to equip Leaders; **It's time** to equip Ministers; **It's time** to equip the Equippers.

It's Time to believe; **It's time** to declare; **It's time** to expect the Apostolic Church worldwide, in 2021 and beyond, to make its greatest Kingdom impact since it was born on the Day of Pentecost. Why?

IT'S TIME!

PURPOSE INSTITUTE STATISTICS

As of the Spring 2020 Semester:



PI had 123 campuses in 15 nations and 27 U.S. states. 79 of those campuses were “standard” and 44 were “mission” campuses.

Standard Campuses: 79
Mission Campuses: 44



1,058 students were enrolled in courses. 657 of these students were enrolled in “standard” campuses, and 401 were enrolled in “mission” campuses.



279 Instructors were currently teaching courses.

FOR THE 2019-2020 FISCAL YEAR

August 1, 2019 - July 31, 2020

\$320,013.01

Standard Campus Investment:
\$152,689.21 (Requisitioned Hard Costs) +
\$167,323.80 (Student Enrollment Discounts)

\$ 42,536.76

District Investment: Requisitioned Hard Costs

\$ 408,607.56

Missions Investment:
\$ 8,287.56 (Project Hard Costs) +
\$400,320 (Student Tuition Grants)





Academic Improvements

By James Little

Purpose Institute remains committed to its vision by being a resource to enable “workers to develop ministry skills and discover individual purpose.”

PI continually looks for manageable and beneficial ways to offer upgrades that benefit students, campuses, instructors, and the local church on the way to what matters the most — the white mission fields that still await harvesters.

PI has more than just 25 years of experience as it plans for the future: it also has a whole network of campuses, deans, administrators, instructors, and campuses. Gathering information from the wider PI constituency provides multiple dimensions of wisdom needed to guide PI for the next 25 years. PI’s academic initiatives gather information from attendees at annual summits, pilot projects, and surveys.

Enhancing every student’s Field Experience learning is an example of drawing wisdom from summits and pilot projects. PI has always believed students must put their eight semesters of classroom learning into practice to actually develop skills and understand their purpose. Field Experience provides the critical applied learning component for every PI student to intentionally engage in local church ministry, disciple making, and missional engagement outside of the local church.

Over the past few years, the PI academic leaders have worked to augment the Field Experience program through collaboration at annual summits and three waves of pilot projects. Collaboration produced a revised Field Experience process that could be tested in live campus settings. Campuses in Pennsylvania, Quebec, and Texas volunteered to participate in the multi-year pilot study to refine the process, craft a Field Experience Handbook, and design forms before they become a part of the formal PI curriculum beginning with the Fall 2021 semester. Over the next six months, the PI community will receive ongoing written and video communication to help new and existing campuses reap the benefits of this very intentional upgrade to PI Field Experience.

The most exciting part of engaging local campuses in the pilot process has been responses from participating students. Students shared a sense of deeper, more intentional learning that took place as they served in the church and in the community. Students prepared for their service by developing key learning objectives with a mentor before and after they completed the ministry engagement. Students saw new opportunities to share their giftings with the world.

PI has also used surveys to collect information from everyone who would like to share wisdom gleaned from

teaching PI classes. The Fall 2018 instructor survey set the benchmark for surveys to come. Instructors shared their passion for preparing men and women for ministry, but most did not have the time or the financial resources to participate in formal training opportunities. After listening to instructors, PI shifted its instructor development plans from designing formal, teacher development training courses and certificates to building an instructor lounge website where instructors can share resources. The PI Instructor Lounge serves as a peer-to-peer resource platform that provides a repository of sample PowerPoint presentations, small group activities, discussion questions, and resource suggestions for instructors. Those who would like feedback from peers can submit questions and learn from the experiences of others.

The Fall 2018 instructor survey also highlighted the need for upgrades and revisions to the curriculum. Over the past year, PI has begun this important task through the summit consultation process outlined above and by designing the Fall 2020 instructor survey. The survey will help determine where PI should allocate its time and resources in making curricular revisions over the next five to seven years. Some courses will likely undergo major revisions, while others may only need minor adjustments. Some new courses will be written for campuses to use as elective courses in the guest lecture slots. Once the curriculum revisions have taken place, PI can begin to add additional teaching aids to help instructors maximize their preparation time as requested in the 2018 survey; instructor outlines would then be augmented beyond those received by the students.

PI chooses not to rest on its first 25 years of success. PI will continue to solicit feedback from the men and women who actively engage in preparing others for ministry through the local campus. By pursuing excellence that is informed by all parts of the PI community, we will be better equipped to



How

How To Start A PURPOSE INSTITUTE CAMPUS

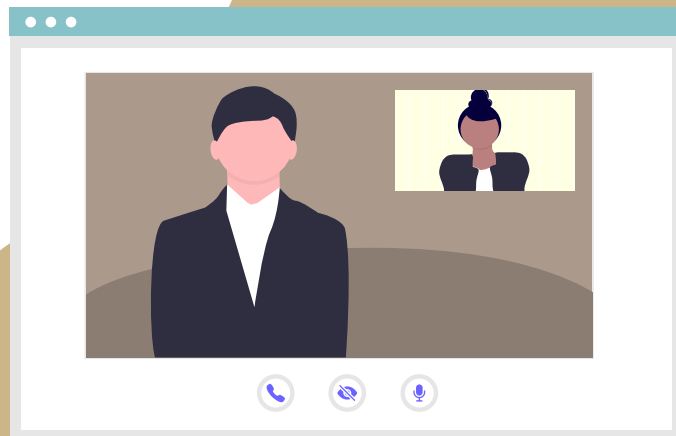
1

Go to **PurposeInstitute.com** and complete the Request Information form on the Contact page.



2

A Purpose Institute representative will contact you and discuss your training needs.



3

Once the campus has been approved, a date will be set for orientation and training at the local campus.



The Life Church

Kansas City, MO

A few of the UPC pastors in the greater Kansas City, Missouri area made a decision five years ago to open a Purpose Institute campus at The Life Church of Kansas City, Missouri. It is our understanding that a section-sponsored campus is something unique in the PI context. Twenty-seven students registered for our first semester. We are proud to announce that four of those students recently graduated, three from The Life Church, and one from The Pentecostals of St. Joseph, Missouri (Pastor Rex Arbuckle).

As a pastor, I keenly feel the responsibility of training and equipping saints for the work of the ministry. Every pastor should dutifully teach in the midweek service and preach on Sunday. But this alone is not enough to empower key leaders in the congregation to fulfill their calling. The model that Jesus and His apostles gave us was to call choice individuals aside and spend extra time with them. Paul alone had seventeen named disciples, with an additional thirty who were directly affected through his disciples. This would not have been accomplished by general teaching and preaching to a crowd.

Most PI students have careers, families, and responsibilities. Consequently, attending Bible college is not a feasible option for them. Rather than acquiescing to the frustration of missing out, PI provides a chance to fulfill their hunger to learn, to be exposed to deeper pastoral training, and become more effectively equipped to answer their calling from God.

The three students from our local church who graduated from PI have each gone to a new level. Their presentations are more informed, their influence has expanded, and their apostolic persona is more confident. Nathan Harvey leads our Global Missions ministry and is preparing for an extended Associates in Missions assignment. Venita Thurman is the administrator (Principal of Center for Alternative Instructional Resources — Special-Ed to Gifted) in a local school district. She also serves as Multicultural Director on our pastoral staff. Yudith Tartaglia has grown tremendously in her teaching and connecting with others. She now leads our Spanish small group, and is a Spanish church prayer leader and disciple-maker.

Some of the most fulfilling times of my life have not come standing before large crowds, but have occurred in a classroom with eager students, sharing biblical apostolic truth and principles. Purpose Institute provides such an opportunity to share a pastor's heart. Paul said that he found no one "like-minded", but this would not be the case in a PI class. In this context, PI can be a pastor's best friend.

Pastor Stan Gleason
Purpose Institute | Kansas City, MO

HOW

PI Graduates Impacting Our Cities

By Scott Grant



And the Lord said to Paul one night in a vision, “Do not be afraid, but go on speaking and do not be silent, for I am with you, and no one will attack you to harm you, for I have many in this city who are my people.”

Acts 18:9-10 (ESV)

The Lord spoke to Paul about the people he had in the city of Corinth. In reading that passage, it struck me that we as God’s people must be free from fear, continue speaking and not be silent. How many cities have been impacted in Quebec thanks to voices that would not be silent? Purpose Institute has trained and released dozens of workers into the harvest field of Quebec, Canada. I will share a couple of stories here.

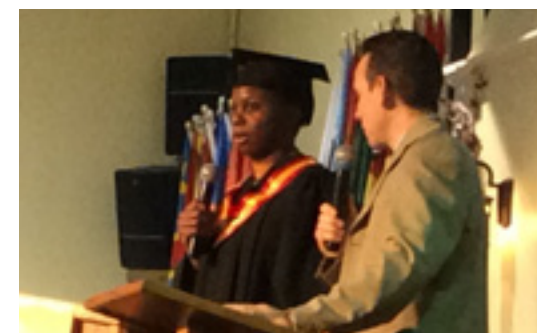
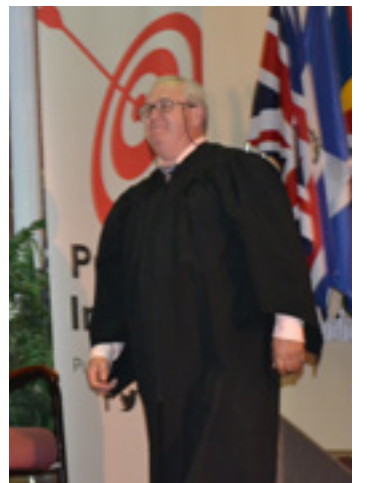
In Quebec City, Sophie Omari is engaged in reaching her friends, neighbors, and colleagues. Sophie, who received her Advanced Diploma, wrote for a local multicultural newspaper as part of her field experience, and had an opportunity to experience a deeper dimension of this city’s layers of culture and pain, while covering a tragic shooting that took place in the Muslim community. In an interview with a Muslim immigrant, the lady began to break emotionally. Sophie set aside protocol and offered a hug in the midst of the interview, which the lady gratefully received. In one poignant moment, God’s love was expressed in a very unique setting, and barriers came down.

In Granby, Vincent Auger and his wife Alexandra are planting a daughter work from a church in the east end of

Montreal. Vincent has his Advanced Diploma from Purpose Institute, and his wife will receive hers soon. What is unique is the multilayered impact of PI in Vincent’s story. His pastor, Abou Kontongomde, is also a Purpose Institute graduate who helped pioneer and now pastors the mother church, under the leadership of Pastor Dieudonné Kahozi.

On the South Shore of Montreal, the International Church that was initially planted by Liane and I is now pastored by Hector Arriola, who has a Foundational Diploma from PI. He and his wife have led the church to tremendous growth, and have now extended the vision to include a thriving Spanish daughter congregation alongside the French and English ministry that already existed.

Cities are impacted when people are trained to listen to the voice of God, let go of their fear, and say what the Lord wants them to say. We are his people, but the Lord has many other people, in a lot of other cities. Who will go? Who will train those who are to be sent, so that they can have significant impact? Aim, prepare, release ... cities are depending on it!



Northern Eurasia

I presently serve as the Area Coordinator for Northern Eurasia. Northern Eurasia includes countries like Russia, Ukraine, and Azerbaijan. There are 15 countries within this area made up of around 300 million people. We are very thankful for Bishop F. Joe Ellis and his ministry in Ukraine.

I had the opportunity to travel with Bishop Ellis and the ministry team to Odessa, Ukraine for a vision-casting conference. It was a great time of training, impartation, and demonstration of the Spirit of God. There were several people miraculously healed, delivered, baptized in Jesus' Name, and filled with the Spirit.

Presently, there are campuses in Ukraine and Azerbaijan. PI has helped bring more in-depth knowledge of the Word of God and ground ministers in the Word of God. It has also created the need for more teachers and has helped us to equip more people for the ministry.

PI has helped churches grow numerically and has opened doors to partner and influence other oneness and non-apostolic churches in Ukraine. The campuses in Odessa and Kamianske have helped local leaders to grow both spiritually and professionally, and have thereby caused the churches to grow. Through these campuses, we are influencing the south and east regions of Ukraine. The ministry team in Ukraine is planning to start two new campuses in the west and south of Ukraine.

PI has helped the ministry team build bridges. Many thanks to Rev Joe Ellis and the ministry team at PI!

Mark Shutes
Area Coordinator for Northern Eurasia



Ukraine



Training is one of the keys to revival in local churches, in communities, and in nations. I live in a country that has had two revolutions in the last ten years, recently had a large part of our land annexed by Russia, and is currently enduring active war. That being said, training in the local church has never been as important as it is now here in Ukraine. With everything that is happening in the world, as a church we must be ready to do God's work.

In Acts 2:42, we read, "And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers." Training and prayer were the key to success in the ministry of Jesus and the Apostles. Before there was ever a great revival of souls, there was much training and prayer.

We started Purpose Institute here in Kyiv in 2008, and it was one of the best decisions that we have ever made. Being the only UPCI church at the time with limited resources, we had a great need for leaders and ministers in our local church. I was a pastor who led worship, preached every service, and taught all the Bible Studies and new converts' classes. By opening a PI campus, we were able to train leaders, teachers, and ministers and have been able to transition them into various ministries and leadership roles.

As a pastor, it was through teaching PI that I could share my vision, passion, calling, and burden with the students. We see that this is what Jesus did. He trained his disciples, and they in turn trained the early Church. Through training, people received the knowledge, vision, and passion of the teacher.

By making PI available to other churches, God has opened a great door for us to minister and teach in other cities and churches in our country. We now have three campuses with God-called students who are already helping in their local churches. The vision is to open a PI campus in every part of Ukraine and the neighboring Slavic-speaking nations. I believe that the promised revival of the last days, in Ukraine and the world, will be seen because the Church is ready to do God's work as never before. The people of God are trained, equipped and qualified to go forth and share the Gospel.

The methods of Jesus and the first Church are still effective in 2020. Prayer, training, and love are still the keys to revival today.

Pastor Sergey Tomev

Expanding Apostolic Training Through Translation

By Liane R. Grant



Written translation is a powerful ministry with a far-reaching impact. It seems there is sometimes a false perception that if someone has passable English speaking skills, then they can understand written English texts. The reality is that many second language speakers are only able to get a surface understanding of written material, especially in regard to apostolic ministry, methods and doctrine.

As an example, Pastor Dieudonné Kahozi from the Montreal French PI campus makes frequent trips to the Congo to minister and bring written materials. During one trip, he came in contact with an entire group of pastors who thought they were the only ones in the world who believed in the Oneness of God. They were overjoyed to find out this was not the case, when they were given the French translation of David K. Bernard’s book about the Oneness, *L’unicité de Dieu*, which is on Purpose Institute’s required reading list.

The vision of Purpose Institute is to make Apostolic training available anywhere in the world, enabling workers to develop ministry skills and discover individual purpose. The PI curriculum was originally created in English, so the only way to fulfill this worldwide mandate is through the ministry of translation.

In the late 1990s, Bishop Ellis began extensive ministry travel around the world, and became even more aware of the need for training in other languages. The translation initiative began around 2002 by starting the translation of the English PI curriculum into Spanish. Over the next eighteen years, nine other languages were added. Then, in 2020, PI began translation into a tenth language (Polish), so that a campus could be started in Poland.

Without the efforts of our translators, many PI campuses outside of North America simply would not exist. And translation also opens doors for students of other languages even in English-speaking nations. As a case in point, Quebec does not yet have a Spanish campus, but Spanish students with basic French skills are attending French classes and downloading their course notes in Spanish so they can get a complete understanding of the material.

PI’s translation endeavors have created some interesting connections around the globe. Bishop Ellis met Karina at the PI campus in Geneva, Switzerland, and she now helps with the translation of required reading materials into French. Our new Polish translator, Martyna, was baptized in Quebec while attending university there. Our Polish reviser, Pastor Pablo Cimachowicz, has been located in Quebec for many years. God is weaving together people with language gifts and a burden for apostolic training.

All along, PI has chosen to use human translators (not machine translation) who can understand the nuances

and spiritual impact of our curriculum. We always have an apostolic team member involved to ensure that doctrinal elements are carefully preserved. Over the last couple of years, we have implemented a quality assurance system and translator training, so that our curriculum translations are done with excellence.

Translation is not something that happens quickly. For a quality finished product, it takes at least one hour to translate, edit, and proofread a single page. The PI curriculum has about 1,500 pages of material. So, as a conservative estimate, over 15,000 hours have been invested so far in translating the PI curriculum into 10 languages.

Purpose Institute’s curriculum is available in 9 of the 14 languages most spoken in the world. Will you pray with us for translators and campus opportunities in the other five languages: Hindi, Arabic, Portuguese, Urdu, and Swahili? The nations where these languages are spoken need apostolic training as we work together for endtime harvest!

Did You Know?

The name “Purpose Institute” is never translated because it is trademarked.

Students and staff have access to download their course notes in other languages.

Part of North American tuition fees are used to translate the PI curriculum, so that campuses can be opened in more countries.

Liane R. Grant is a certified translator, the Curriculum Administrator of Purpose Institute, and founder of The King’s Translators with whom she did her doctoral research.



WHEN

WHEN

My PI Story

By Claude Leaman

About five years ago, I attended one Friday night class at Purpose Institute at the Word Alive Church in Wiggins, Mississippi. It was a free class offered to anyone interested in the program and while I had my doubts, I wanted to see if this was for me.

That night, the lesson was taught by Dr. Mike Dobbs, then pastor of the Word Alive Church, which is now pastored by Bro. Bryan Winters. Some 30 minutes or so into the class, Dr. Dobbs felt that we should stop and pray. When we did, the Holy Ghost fell in that place much like it did on the Day of Pentecost. The only way to describe it was it felt like “WHOOOMP” and we were all, some 15 students and teachers, filled with the Holy Ghost and fire. The next day I paid for the entire semester.

Throughout the eight semesters, I have witnessed miracles, tongues and interpretation, healings, prophecies and much more. In addition to all of that, I have learned more about the Bible and Jesus than I could have ever learned on my own. PI gave me information and direction to search the Word even deeper on my own. The instructors have been the best of the best, and have all brought in-depth research, personal knowledge and know-how to each class. Some of my instructors have been Rev. Jonathan Dudek, Rev. Randy Pate, and Rev. Jerry Anthony.

I recommend that anyone who is truly desiring to know more about the Word should find a campus and invest in their future. These classes are especially good for people like me who do not have the time to attend a regular Bible college.

Using the knowledge gained from PI, I have taught Bible studies, encouraged others with insight from the different classes and forged a deeper walk with Jesus.



WHEN

Two simple words filled with a variety of emotions: excitement, anticipation, gratefulness, joy, nervousness, and ... relief. I know I experienced all of these feelings and more in 2015 as part of the first Purpose Institute graduation at the Old Westbury, New York campus at Bethel UPC. From the comments of fellow graduates as we lined up for the graduation ceremony, these emotions culminated in a unified sense of wonder: we made it!



Graduation Day

By Cynthia Lovely

We donned our caps and gowns, sharing a camaraderie carved out of years of serious study of the Word of God, apostolic ministry, and leadership principles. We could now look back on the months of excellent teaching, reading, writing assignments, final exams and Spirit-filled classes, with a depth of accomplishment and completion in our hearts.

Each student had made a sacrifice of time, travel and finances to attend Purpose Institute. And each graduate agreed it was worth all the effort. The knowledge we attained added greatly to our spiritual growth and individual ministry. We marched in to the familiar strains of “Pomp and Circumstance” like soldiers ready for battle. We applauded one another as we received our diplomas, “sanctified proud” of our brothers’ and sisters’ success. We gave honor to our unparalleled faculty led by the Campus Administrator at Bethel, Bro. Joseph Ferragamo; as well as our Senior Pastor and Campus Dean, Bro. Doug Davis. We were blessed by the graduation prayer and preaching of Bro. Lee Stoneking. This was even more special for me because Rev. Stoneking was my first pastor many years ago in Schenectady, New York.

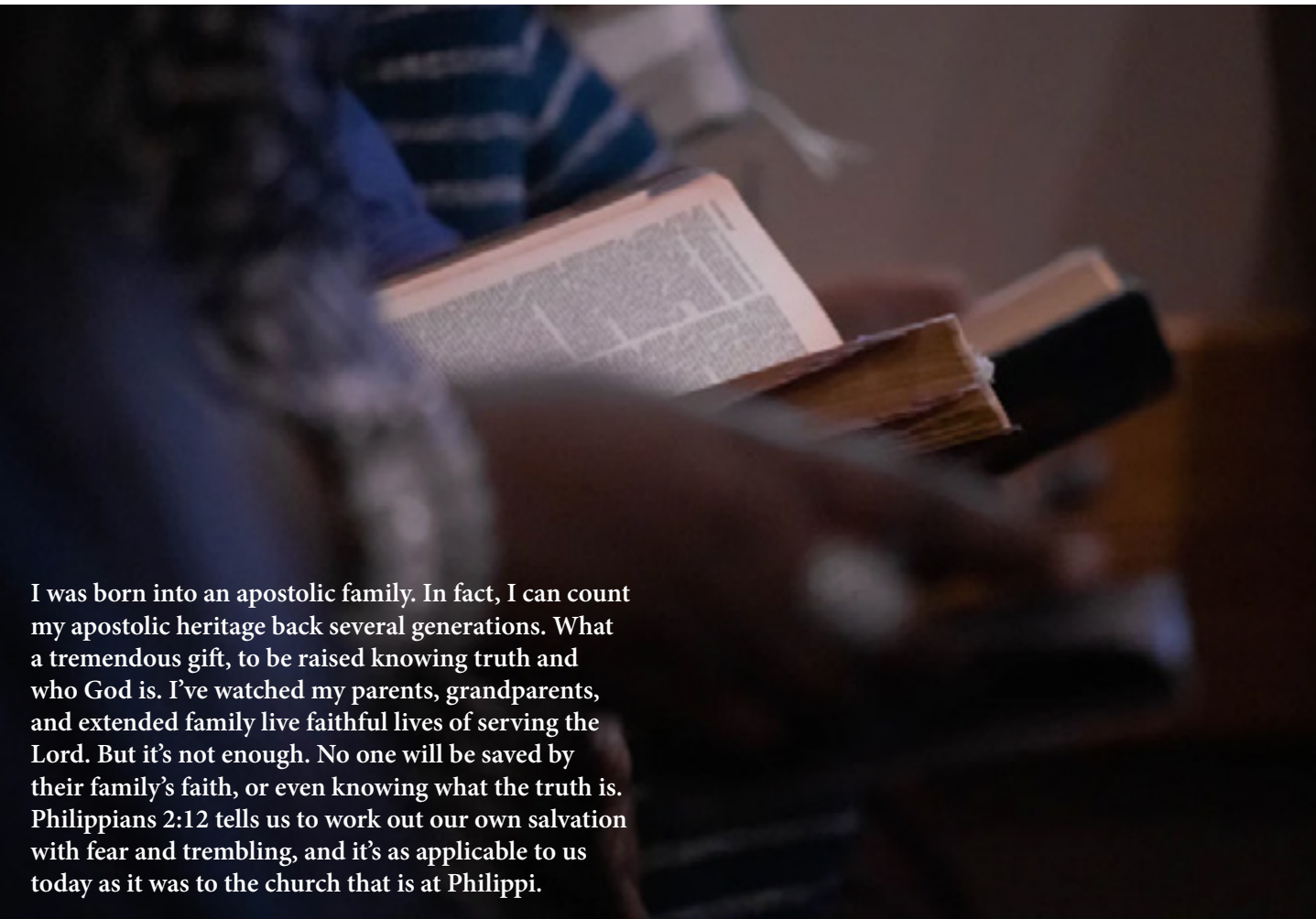
We weren’t a typical graduation lineup. The row of black-robed figures didn’t remain fixed and unmoving. When the Spirit of God moved upon us, a few cut out in dance before the altar with feet kicking joyfully in a Jesus rhythm. Other students waved diplomas before the Lord, acknowledging His majesty and vowing to follow His path. Our joy spilled over into tears of thankfulness.

My husband and I had enrolled in Purpose Institute at Bethel, feeling secure with the strong and balanced leadership team. In the beginning, we were filled with expectation of deepening our knowledge of Scripture and seeking God’s will for our lives among our apostolic friends. In this final event, we realized the entire learning experience had exceeded our expectations.

After the beautiful graduation ceremony and a lovely celebration dinner sponsored by Bethel, we finally departed in our separate directions to follow the call of God upon our lives. Looking back, it is difficult to describe all that transpired that day. But the very best part of it all: we felt God’s pleasure.

A Journey with PI

By Donelle Bennett



I was born into an apostolic family. In fact, I can count my apostolic heritage back several generations. What a tremendous gift, to be raised knowing truth and who God is. I've watched my parents, grandparents, and extended family live faithful lives of serving the Lord. But it's not enough. No one will be saved by their family's faith, or even knowing what the truth is. Philippians 2:12 tells us to work out our own salvation with fear and trembling, and it's as applicable to us today as it was to the church that is at Philippi.

By Donelle Bennett

I'm not proud to admit that I lived a shallow Christian life until my late twenties. But God in His graciousness has continued to call to me, and after enough pain and exhaustion with what the world could offer me, I very slowly opened my heart to sincerely seek the Lord. I'll never find the right words to fully express how wonderful that journey has been so far, and the ways He has slowly revealed Himself to me. It is the most personal and life-altering thing I have ever experienced. One of the more recent parts of that journey has been attending Purpose Institute.

For a few years, I had considered PI every time they made the announcements at church, and I had tried to do some research but couldn't really get a good grasp on what it was. But two years ago, during the annual fall PI announcement, I leaned over and told my friend I was going to go. Mostly because I needed to say it out loud to someone or I was going to let it slide again. He said, "Me too!" and that was my first and immediate confirmation of my choice.

I asked a lot of questions about PI (and still drive our campus administrator crazy with my constant texts), but mostly went in blind, so allow me to share what PI really is. The classes are generally about leadership, doctrine and the Bible.

Now if you are like I was and not really taking classes because you have a ministry track that you are following at your church, the leadership part may seem unnecessary. But we are all leaders in life, even if not at a pastoral level. We lead at home, our jobs, and if nothing else, we are the leaders of our own life. I think everyone can find value in learning how to be a better leader, especially from the perspective of leading by example and with the goal of serving others.

Doctrine is another benefit I wasn't expecting, but it has been so helpful. Because I did grow up in the church, I never had any formal new convert classes or an official Bible study, and I can tell you my knowledge was lacking. I have sat and cried after so many classes or while reading the books or lessons, because things really started to make sense for the first time.

The Bible classes are the only ones I was really expecting, and they do not disappoint. I learn something new with

every lesson, lecture and book. Mostly, I learn that I don't know much at all, and that I could spend the rest of my life studying the Bible and never be finished.

One thing that has been so much better than I could have anticipated is the general state of mind that participating in PI brings me. Since I am spending so much time reading and researching the Bible and learning how to be a better leader, these topics consume my thoughts and conversations. They generally lead to reading and seeking out more of the same content, and optimistically I believe this is motivating others around me to do the same.

Now, I'm not looking to do full-time ministry, but one large motivation for attending PI is my role as a parent. While my daughter will also have to work out her own salvation, I want to be the best example and teacher I can possibly be. Living shallow faith won't cut it for parenting. Children are very perceptive, and I want to live a life worth imitating, not create a stumbling block for her to overcome in her own search for truth. The time that I spend studying and reading at home has already sparked numerous conversations that would likely never have happened otherwise.

I think that anyone would benefit from attending PI, regardless of background or age. There is always more to learn and always more we can do in the Kingdom, and we should use all the tools available to equip ourselves.

Even if you don't ever attend Purpose Institute, get your hands on the required reading list and work through it. I've been told there used to be a two-book requirement for some classes and not just one as is required now, but most of the books are still listed as additional reading recommendations. Read those too.

Training with Purpose

By Jason Dickson

I cannot even begin to quantify the value Purpose Institute has added to my life. My father began pastoring when I was six years old. I was raised in a home missions church and saw firsthand the life-changing power of Jesus Christ. We did not have the funds for me to attend a traditional Bible college. I received a call to preach when I was only ten years old. I began studying under my father and lived in my Strong's concordance, hungry for the Word. I gave myself to the ministry from a young age. In all of this, my desire for more in-depth training burned in my heart and soul. I felt as if I needed a deeper understanding of His Word in my life. Something was missing.

I heard about Purpose Institute from my local assembly. I completed one semester there and then moved to a different location. I was privileged to attend the campus in Canton, Ohio, and learn from Bishop Ellis and other local pastors. The depth of training and the anointing of the Holy Ghost that I felt in the sessions was beyond description. My call to serve in the Kingdom was rekindled. The principle that ministry is first and foremost the call to be a servant were embedded in my spirit. I received direction from the Lord and continued to study further, earning my Foundational Diploma in 2018. I have since completed an additional semester locally in the area where I now serve.



In 2018, God called me to return home and assist my father in the church he has pastored for 37 years. I tell everyone who will listen about the value and blessing of Purpose Institute. There is no other program I know of that provides this level of apostolic training while allowing workers to remain in their local assemblies to work in the harvest. Utilizing what I have learned at Purpose Institute while being privileged to serve with my father has been the joy of my life. It is one thing to feel a general direction. It is another thing entirely to be released like an arrow with direction and momentum.

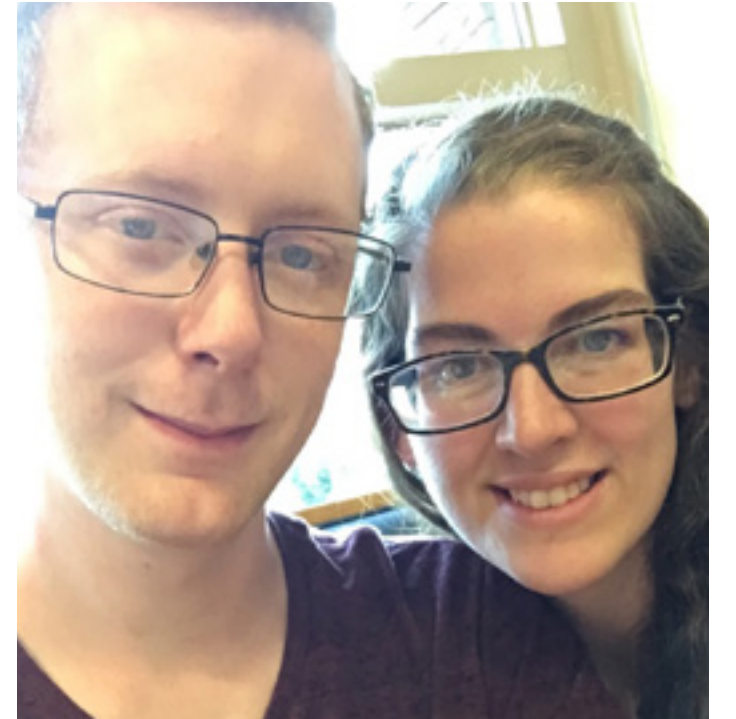
I have taught and preached many of the concepts that I learned while in Purpose Institute. I am amazed at the hunger for good, sound, apostolic teaching that I have observed. Purpose Institute has added depth to my ministry that I did not previously have. It also gave me a perspective on the role of a minister that I did not grasp before this training. I have been blessed to teach many Bible studies, see several people filled with the Holy Ghost, and many baptized in His name since my time of training with Purpose Institute. My wife and I are committed to working in the harvest for as long as the Lord allows. We plan on starting a Purpose Institute campus in our local assembly in the near future. How many souls have been won because of the vision of Purpose Institute? Only eternity will tell.

Knowing God

By Tim Schoppy

My wife, Amanda, and I learned about Purpose Institute at a camp meeting in Pennsylvania in 2018. I am sure we had heard of it before, but this time it really grabbed our attention. We had been struggling with learning about the things of God, including the basics such as the plan of salvation and why that was the only way. Our attention was drawn toward these students who had a certain confidence about them. Hearing the speeches given by the students was inspiring and motivated us to look into PI. For me personally, seeing the students who received their Advanced Diploma graduate in red gowns was just icing on the cake. It was God's will for my wife and me to attend Purpose Institute, and not because of my fondness for the color red. It was just that nudge in the right direction that we needed to get more involved in the things of God. We wanted to know more about Him and to learn more about the Word. Little did we know just how much we would learn.

Purpose Institute has taken our knowledge of the Word (both in "the basics" and the more advanced topics) and completely expanded it beyond our expectations. Not only that, but we are learning real life skills that we did not get in our secular schools, such as how to handle money. We are learning the principles of salvation and holiness on a personal level, and every month we enjoy being able to ask questions and engage in meaningful discussions with our instructors and classmates. We love the relaxed atmosphere that fosters growth; something you just don't see in secular schools. There are no stupid questions and if we get a little off topic, but the class is still learning, that's okay! It's enlightening and engaging for every student. Plus, being in a godly atmosphere where the Spirit can (and does!) move



at any time is phenomenal.

We are taking all these lessons and applying them to our personal lives and to our ministry in our local church. We have recently been appointed as the youth leaders for our home church. We also serve in roles on the worship team, and I work as the Men's Ministry director. With what we have learned in just four semesters of PI, we are able to explain biblical salvation and other essential topics to our students and other members of the church, as our pastor gives us space to do so in both pulpit and small group settings. By using the knowledge we acquire from Purpose Institute, we are better prepared to equip those whom we are teaching.

The relationships we have formed with our teachers and fellow students have been incredible. Being able to see that others with like faith struggle with some of the same things we do has boosted our faith in God and given us the courage we need to keep pressing on.

To anyone considering attending Purpose Institute, mention it to your pastor today! You will not regret it. It's more than just the foundational teaching that is so important, but it also dives into real-life topics, such as finances, and deeper biblical topics that are essential for a successful, God-centered life and ministry.



Obedience To God

By Stephanie Lewis

My reason for enrolling in Purpose Institute was simple: God told me to enroll. In May 2016, Purpose Institute was not a thought for me. Though I knew it was a Bible college, like many people, I thought Bible colleges were only for preachers. I had no desire to become a preacher; I had not been “called” to preach. A friend mentioned to me that he was considering enrolling. I thought it was great for him to be a preacher. In fact, I eagerly volunteered to help him study during his years of enrollment, but thought it was not for me.

A few days later, I was at a Thursday night Bible study on the “Things to add to our faith” based on 2 Peter 1:5-6. “Patience” was the quality I struggled with the most and finally the topic for the evening. The instructor, Bro. Irvin Baxter, mentioned “patience” means to “endure”. Just as those words were leaving his lips, I realized: “I am having a breakthrough moment: I am an ‘endurer.’” In the same moment, the Lord spoke to me and said, “Enroll in Purpose Institute.” I said, “Huh? Lord, I am trying to learn about patience — to learn about you. I am having an epiphany about patience. This is a life-changing moment. It’s Thursday night, and I have a long drive home. I have to be at work early tomorrow. I know Purpose Institute is important, but can we talk about this on Saturday? I am not saying, ‘No’. I just really can’t talk it about it right now because I am trying to learn about you.”

Early Saturday morning, He and I had a “meet and confer” about Purpose Institute. I told Him I would enroll in the fall, but needed more information to plan my work schedule and would research it over the next few weeks. The next day at the Sunday morning service, Bro. Steven Schobert announced it was a special day and in lieu of regular church service, the morning would be devoted to the Purpose Institute graduation. I was shocked. Having been from a Baptist background, I could not understand how a graduation service could pre-empt a church service. I remember during the applause saying under my breath, “No church service? Who does that?” God’s audible voice in my ear said, “I do.”

As I listened to students speak on their experiences, tears welled, and I knew I would obtain the materials I needed to plan my semesters. As I reviewed the material, I realized I would be starting in Semester 4, which seemed odd to me. “Why would the Lord want me to start in Semester 4?” I thought. “Maybe I misunderstood Him. Maybe I should

have another ‘meet and confer’ with Him because it seems to me I should wait and start in January 2019, which is 2 1/2 years away.” We discussed it. He said, “No, start now and finish in four years.” I recently graduated in August 2020.

What I understand now but did not understand in May 2016 is: We are all called to ministry. My ministry is in my workplace at a secular company. The Lord led me there to start a prayer team. We had a major miracle in which an employee had a horrible motorcycle accident, requiring five to six surgeries over a series of weeks. She was looking at a month of surgery after surgery with a certain amount of healing in between. Miraculously, the Lord accelerated her healing. She had six surgeries in five days. Moreover, Jesus healed a former employee’s toddler of cancer after three weeks. There were business miracles, too. The company underwent a bankruptcy restructuring, which should have taken much longer than it did. Those miracles were faith builders for the entire company. I look forward to future miracles which will occur at my workplace.

Being sensitive to God’s voice and leading is the most precious learning I have gained through Purpose Institute. Semester 4 was the perfect time for me to enroll because it emphasized and instilled that teaching in me. I have used that sensitivity in women’s prison ministry, while sitting with convalescents, during hospital visits, and when discipling others. Am I always successful? No, yet I keep trying.

Also, I believe writing is in my future and I have a few books in me. I would like to write a children’s book and need an illustrator, so I am praying for one. In addition, the Lord is leading me to establish a ministry which offers safe harbor to those who may need it. I do not know what that looks like, but I know if He wants it done, He will send the resources I need to build it. I look forward to many more

WHEN

CONFIDENCE



By Venita Thurman

I currently serve under the leadership of Pastor Stan Gleason at The Life Church in Kansas City, Missouri. I am the Multicultural Minister, Bible Study/Sunday School Teacher, Genesis Facilitator, ELL Coordinator and an active disciplemaker.

TO SERVE

God planted a desire in my heart to know Him as a 5-year-old who rode the Sunday School bus. After receiving the Holy Ghost when I was 12, the desire to know and serve God increased and spread to include reaching my world for the kingdom of God. This desire kept me through many seasons and helped me to keep Christ at the center of my life. I dedicated every area of my life to Jesus. I spent hours listening to preaching and teaching on tapes. (Do you readers remember tapes?) What I heard consumed me and I had a burning desire to share my knowledge with others. And that is exactly what I did. Every day, I knew that I must tell someone about Jesus. I daily looked for a target, at work, at school, at the gas station (when I had to go inside to pay) and at the grocery store. I was determined to share what I knew. I taught Bible studies at home, at work and in fast-food restaurants.

My knowledge of God's Word kept me and spurred me into action. I held it close throughout college and in my professional career, which is currently as a public school principal. Outside of work, I have served in every capacity in my local church from cleaning, running the buses, teaching Sunday School and preaching at home and abroad. Whatever my hand found to do for Jesus, I decided I would do.

Over the years, I considered participating in ministry training and even going to Bible school, but the timing was never right for me. Then just over four years ago, I heard about Purpose Institute and my heart was thrilled. The timing seemed just right; here was my opportunity to learn close to home, attend classes once a month and continue my discipline of study with an emphasis on apostolic ministry. I was all in.

Immediately, I knew I had made the right decision as I listened and learned from our local leaders. I benefited from the challenges I received in every session, from the content and from the knowledge and personal experience of our instructors. God's presence met with us during our sessions, I received revelations, my thinking and personal beliefs were challenged, and I felt compelled to step out of my comfort zone to take my current ministry to a new level.

Another benefit for which I am thankful are the relationships that were built with other students. Purpose Institute was a safe place to connect with others, to share our questions and wondering while pushing each other's thinking. I recall receiving and giving words of encouragement to stay the course or be challenged to take a risk.

As with any learning, I grew in confidence. I have confidence that I can step out in faith to fulfill God's purpose for my life, confidence that God will help me to lead others, and confidence that I can rely on the Word to share Apostolic doctrine rather than on my own intellect or persuasive personality.

I attest to my personal growth and the growth of others who have attended Purpose Institute. Since participating in Purpose Institute, I have facilitated a Spanish work that recently has become a preaching point with the UPCI. During this time, I have mentored future leaders of our Spanish work. I have also had an opportunity to give back by teaching several Purpose Institute courses. The impact of a PI student on the kingdom of God is invaluable.

GRADUATES

Foundational Diploma in Ministerial Studies

Hayes, Aric	Alabama, Montgomery	Anderson, Dale	Minnesota, Twin Cities
Hayes, Iracy	Alabama, Montgomery	Dougherty, Rochell	Minnesota, Twin Cities
Cooper, Shawna	Arkansas, Bentonville	Amason, Steve	Mississippi, Wiggins
Ryan, Gary	Arkansas, Cabot	Molina, Frank	Mississippi, Wiggins
Ryan, Stephanie	Arkansas, Cabot	Escobedo, Aaron	Ohio, Cincinnati
Taylor, Larry	Arkansas, Jonesboro	Urshan, Annah	Ohio, Cincinnati
Smith, Craig	Arkansas, Jonesboro	Glasgow, Zachary	Ohio, Cincinnati
Otero, Daisy	California, Stockton	Chavarria De Perez, Miurell	Ohio, Stow
Barnes, Elisabeth	California, Stockton	Perez Torres, Eli	Ohio, Stow
McJimsey, Christina	California, Stockton	Ellis, Jared	Ohio, Stow
Lasam, Milanetta	California, Stockton	Perry, Heather	Ohio, Stow
Rojas, Marcela	California, Stockton Spanish	Cazee, Anthea	Oklahoma, Oklahoma City
Rojas, Jose	California, Stockton Spanish	Shurden, Teresa	Oklahoma, Tulsa
Enciso, Elisa	California, Stockton Spanish	Long, Jeffery	Oklahoma, Tulsa
Rojas, Marcela	California, Stockton Spanish	Marshall, Faith	Pennsylvania, Selinsgrove
Lopez, Mari	California, Stockton Spanish	Marshall, Gregg	Pennsylvania, Selinsgrove
Perez, Maria	California, Stockton Spanish	Mason, Jenna	Pennsylvania, State College
Cruz, Erendida	California, Stockton Spanish	Mason, Everett	Pennsylvania, State College
Dominguez, Iliana	California, Stockton Spanish	Villanueva, Evelyn	Singapore Joy Fellowship (Filipino #2)
Actub, Mirazol	Canada, Quebec, Montreal (NDG) - English	Iradiel, Jonaline	Singapore Joy Fellowship (Filipino #2)
Richardson, Tammy	Canada, Quebec, Montreal (NDG) - English	Castro, Ginaflor	Singapore Joy Fellowship (Filipino #2)
Steinberg, Mike	Canada, Quebec, Montreal (NDG) - English	Pagurayan, Mary Jane	Singapore Joy Fellowship (Filipino #2)
Miranda, Adrian	Canada, Quebec, Montreal (NDG) - English	Tagudin, Cornelia	Singapore Joy Fellowship (Filipino)
Terrible, Jubenne	Canada, Quebec, Montreal (NDG) - English	Aquino, Theresa	Singapore Joy Fellowship (Filipino)
Steinberg, Mike	Canada, Quebec, Montreal (NDG) - English	Nicolas, Marites	Singapore Joy Fellowship (Filipino)
Sleep, William	Canada, Quebec, Montreal (NDG) - English	Sandigan, Dolly	Singapore Joy Fellowship (Filipino)
Singh, Cerrone	Canada, Quebec, Montreal (NDG) - English	Fedelis, Amelia	Singapore Joy Fellowship (Filipino)
Noel, Martin	Canada, Quebec, Montreal (NDG) - English	Malapit, Arcelie	Singapore Joy Fellowship (Filipino)
Suarez, Juliana	Canada, Quebec, Montreal (NDG) - English	Zamora, Norgem	Singapore Joy Fellowship (Filipino)
Clarito, Estela	Canada, Quebec, Montreal (NDG) - English	Yadao, Marylyn	Singapore Joy Fellowship (Filipino)
Antiro Steinberg, Aissa	Canada, Quebec, Montreal (NDG) - English	Hupeda, Nolita	Singapore Joy Fellowship (Filipino)
Meza, Esther	Canada, Quebec, Montreal (St. Laurent) - Français	Nagrit, Gerlynn	Singapore Joy Fellowship (Filipino)
Mahadia, Dave	Canada, Quebec, Montreal (St. Laurent) - Français	Gabriel, Lovelyn	Singapore Joy Fellowship (Filipino)
Molina Barriga, Juan Manuel	Canada, Quebec, Trois-Rivières - Français	Sican, Elvie	Singapore Joy Fellowship (Filipino)
Perez Gonzalez, Estrella	Canada, Quebec, Trois-Rivières - Français	Lopez, Nanette	Singapore Joy Fellowship (Filipino)
Louka, Lauréne	Canada, Quebec, Trois-Rivières - Français	Domingo, Sharon	Singapore Joy Fellowship (Filipino)
Fofana, Marcus	Canada, Quebec, Trois-Rivières - Français	Godfrey, Jassi	Texas, Garland
Sekpona-Medjago, Achille	Canada, Quebec, Trois-Rivières - Français	Pate, Molly	Texas, Garland
Vezina, Charles Jr.	Canada, Quebec, Trois-Rivières - Français	Ramirez Mercado, Oscar	Wisconsin, Almas (Spanish)
Hill, Stacie	Florida, Belleview	Daniels, Luke	Wisconsin, Eau Claire
Cline, Cara-Whitney	Florida, Belleview	Welke, Karen	Wisconsin, Eau Claire
Dawson, Elizabeth	Florida, Belleview	Welke, Gregory	Wisconsin, Eau Claire
Dawson, Trace	Florida, Belleview	Salazar, Sarah	Wisconsin, Madison
Freytes, Raquel	Florida, Belleview	Cruz, Jim	Wisconsin, Oak Creek
Swinton, Sam	Florida, Clearwater	Torres, Armando	Wisconsin, Oak Creek
Fox, Cammy	Indiana, Fort Wayne	Johnson, Wanda	Wisconsin, Oak Creek
Rao, Eswara	Malaysia, Kuala Lumpur	Newman, Kristene	Wisconsin, Oak Creek
Charles, Rachel	Malaysia, Kuala Lumpur		
Boloramo, Sharon	Malaysia, Kuala Lumpur		

Advanced Diploma in Ministerial Studies

Perry, Rose	Alabama, Montgomery	Pragados, Ma. Benita	Singapore Joy Fellowship (Filipino #2)
Canfield, Sonya	Arkansas, Cabot	Duclayan, Eufemia	Singapore Joy Fellowship (Filipino #2)
Hampton, Joel	Arkansas, Jonesboro	Flores, Rachel	Singapore Joy Fellowship (Filipino #2)
Bernardino, Lexa-Angelica	Canada, Quebec, Montreal (NDG) - English	Agtang, Irene	Singapore Joy Fellowship (Filipino #2)
D'Almeida, Jessica	Canada, Quebec, Montreal (St. Laurent) - Français	Dela Cruz, Norgie Agtang	Singapore Joy Fellowship (Filipino #2)
Boucicaut, Joana	Canada, Quebec, Montreal (St. Laurent) - Français	Nillosa, Merinel	Singapore Joy Fellowship (Filipino #2)
Dahgbawo, Didier	Canada, Quebec, Montreal (St. Laurent) - Français	Mauya, Gemma	Singapore Joy Fellowship (Filipino #2)
Anderson, Don	Florida, Pensacola	Sagaral, Liezl	Singapore Joy Fellowship (Filipino #2)
Winterhalter, Betsy	Illinois, Elmwood Park	Ronquillo, Nelia	Singapore Joy Fellowship (Filipino #2)
Panton, Cole	Japan, Okinawa, Uruma City	Kuizon, Danilo	Singapore Joy Fellowship (Filipino #2)
Rao, Eswara	Malaysia , Kuala Lumpur	Dimalibot, Nerwin	Singapore Joy Fellowship (Filipino #2)
Suppiah, Vanessa	Malaysia , Kuala Lumpur	Poli, Corazon	Singapore Joy Fellowship (Filipino #2)
Muthu, Maria Venice	Malaysia , Kuala Lumpur	Calinawagan, Jean	Singapore Joy Fellowship (Filipino)
Mojjih, Rose	Malaysia , Kuala Lumpur	Jolampong, Tessie	Singapore Joy Fellowship (Filipino)
Tabares, Veruschka	Maryland, Beltsville (Spanish)	Salvador, Neoriel	Singapore Joy Fellowship (Filipino)
Just, David	Massachusetts / RI, Boston	Nadera, Aide	Singapore Joy Fellowship (Filipino)
Cooley, Tina	Michigan, Flint	Agonias, Norma	Singapore Joy Fellowship (Filipino)
Harrison, Anita	Michigan, Flint	Altura, Violeta	Singapore Joy Fellowship (Filipino)
Bovee, Malorie	Michigan, Midland	Mallorca, Mia	Singapore Joy Fellowship (Filipino)
Viloria, Lacey	Minnesota, Twin Cities	Menil, Virginia	Singapore Joy Fellowship (Filipino)
Viloria-Toro, Rafael	Minnesota, Twin Cities	Piano, Eva	Singapore Joy Fellowship (Filipino)
Nti, Letecia	Minnesota, Twin Cities	Talingting, Rosalie	Singapore Joy Fellowship (Filipino)
Claburn, Larry	Mississippi, Wiggins	Tiongson, Ehra	Singapore Joy Fellowship (Filipino)
Baio, Donna	Mississippi, Wiggins	Loh, Bryan	Singapore Tabernacle of Joy (Part Time Program)
Huddlestun , Louana	Mississippi, Wiggins	Yeo, Tai Yi	Singapore Tabernacle of Joy (Part Time Program)
Anthony, Jerry	Mississippi, Wiggins	Robbins, Jana	Texas, Garland
Mignery, Marsha	Missouri, Kansas City	Lewis, Stephanie	Texas, Garland
Tomyev, Vasyi	Ohio, Canton (HQ)	Sherman, Lynette	Vermont, St. Johnsbury
Burris, Richard	Ohio, Canton (HQ)	Ellsworth , Erin	Vermont, St. Johnsbury
Larabee, John	Ohio, Cincinnati	Warneking, Craig	Washington, Vancouver
Profitt, Jacob	Ohio, Cincinnati	Rosas, Joaquin	Wisconsin, Almas (Spanish)
Sizemore, David	Ohio, Cincinnati	Zuniga, Raul	Wisconsin, Almas (Spanish)
Brodrick, Spencer	Oklahoma, Oklahoma City	Carbajal, Benjamin	Wisconsin, Almas (Spanish)
Brodrick, Anita	Oklahoma, Oklahoma City	Ingram, Tyler	Wisconsin, Appleton
Smith, andy	Oklahoma, Oklahoma City	Steffens, David	Wisconsin, Appleton
Dry, Merle	Oklahoma, Tulsa	Steffens, Jesse	Wisconsin, Appleton
Holt, Kyle	Oklahoma, Tulsa	DeMuth, Carol	Wisconsin, Eau Claire
Dry, Jesse	Oklahoma, Tulsa	DeMuth, John	Wisconsin, Eau Claire
Pacheco, Urbano	Oklahoma, Tulsa	Schilling, Rachel	Wisconsin, Eau Claire
Dry, Teresa	Oklahoma, Tulsa	Wuhrman, April	Wisconsin, Eau Claire
Vail, Daniel	Oklahoma, Tulsa	Young, Ben	Wisconsin, Eau Claire
Woodland, Chelsea	Pennsylvania, State College	Martinez, Fabian	Wisconsin, Madison
Cluster, Mickey	Pennsylvania, State College	Rivest, John	Wisconsin, Madison
Cluster, Debbie	Pennsylvania, State College	Rivest, Jessica	Wisconsin, Madison
Reep, Kristen	Pennsylvania, State College	Morgan, Rhese	Wisconsin, Oak Creek
Gruver, Michelle	Pennsylvania, York	Chaulklin, Larry	Wisconsin, Oak Creek
Palmer, Matika	Pennsylvania, York	Blaize, Frances	Wisconsin, Oak Creek





ARTICULATION AGREEMENTS

After successfully completing the PI curriculum on a local campus, some graduates may need to continue their formal education at the college level. Fortunately, PI graduates have the option of transferring their credits from PI into Ohio Christian University's AA in Christian Ministries, into any of Urshan College's degree programs, and into Global Association of Theological Studies (Global Mission UPCI). These educational institutions offer their transfer agreement to students on campus or through their online delivery program. Currently, UC's online program is available to students in 29 US states, 4 Canadian provinces, and a wide range of other countries. PI graduates must meet all of the standard admissions requirements for the respective schools.

www.urshancollege.org • www.ohiochristian.edu • www.gatsonline.org



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