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STILL FINDING
PURPOSE

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Persecution or Pandemics

By F. Joe Ellis

Over the past two years, I've often wondered how the early Church would have reacted to this current pandemic. Obviously, there's no real way to know for sure. What we do know, however, is that scriptural accounts show how they handled persecution.

Luke records one of the most sobering accounts the day Stephen the Deacon was stoned to death. The Bible referred to Stephen as **a man full of faith and of the Holy Ghost** (Acts 6:5, KJV). It also says he was **a man full of faith and power and that he did great wonders and miracles among the people** (Acts 6:8, KJV). The tragic moment of his death released a fury of persecution that hit the Church like an explosion.

Acts 8:1 (NLT) — *Saul was one of the witnesses, and he agreed completely with the killing of Stephen. A great wave of persecution began that day, sweeping over the church in Jerusalem; and all the believers except the apostles were scattered through the regions of Judea and Samaria.*

Acts 8:3 — *But Saul was going everywhere to destroy the church. He went from house to house, dragging out both men and women to throw them into prison.*

I can only imagine the level of fear that swept through the entire Church once word got out. However, verse 4 reads like a response from another story:

Acts 8:4 — **But the believers who were scattered preached the Good News about Jesus wherever they went.**

How could they have reacted the way they did? They did not hide in isolation or fear. Wherever they went, they preached the “Good News” about Jesus. What incredible courage and boldness!

One thing is obviously clear: they understood they were the Church. They also understood their purpose as the Church! Regardless of whether we are facing persecution or pandemics, we must know our purpose as the Church and do it.

I read a sign on the door of a business recently that said this: *“I can't control the wind. But I can adjust my sails.”*

Purpose Institute has both a mission and mandate from God to partner with pastors and leaders throughout the world. We do that by providing curriculum and systems that will enable them to train and equip workers for their local mission.

Apostolic training is a serious matter. Because of that, Purpose Institute is doing everything we can to facilitate Apostolic training anywhere in the world for anyone who desires it.

Persecution or pandemics, world harvest in these last days is totally dependent upon how intentional the Church is in training and equipping workers. The biblical evidence of how the first century Church handled persecution is clear. How about us?

Apostolic training continues to be the Church's most effective tool for propagating the gospel and making disciples. Purpose Institute remains committed to provide curriculum and systems to local pastors and leaders—enabling them to provide the training necessary to advance their local mission.

Persecution or pandemics do not exempt the Church from its God-called mission and purpose. Adjust your sails if necessary to navigate the winds you cannot control. However, keep moving forward toward your purpose! Apostolic training must continue! Together we CAN fulfill the vision and mission we've all been called to, until Jesus comes!

PURPOSE INSTITUTE STATISTICS

2020-2021 Annual Statistics

PI had 134 campuses in 16 nations and 28 U.S. States. 87 of those campuses were “standard” and 47 were “mission” campuses.



817 students were enrolled in courses. 651 of those students were enrolled in “standard” campuses, and 166 were enrolled in “mission” campuses.



258 instructors were teaching courses.

NEW: PI Online Campus

By James Littles

All disciples who have followed Christ for any period of time know they must remain flexible and open to seasons of change. God’s mission remains the same, but how He sends His people to fulfill that mission often changes. Even a casual reading of Acts shows how the first generation of believers had to be open to new things such as ordination of deacons, addition of Gentiles, and sending missionaries.

PI exists to make Apostolic training available anywhere in the world. The PI directors feel God is now calling PI to the next level of mission faithfulness to make training available to men and women who live too far from a PI campus or whose schedule prevents them from dedicating a Friday and Saturday each month to attend live classes.

PI holds to its belief that a local campus, with live students and instructors, is the best method for developing Apostolic men and women for ministry. The personal relationship and shared local context cannot be replicated through distributed education models, given the nature of the Holy Spirit’s work in and through gathered people. We expect those who have access to a local campus will choose to commit to learning with others over the convenience of studying at home. Those without such access, however, still need opportunities to discover their purpose and develop ministry skills.

In keeping with PI’s quest to root contemporary discipleship practices in the biblical text, the first step required a pilot project as part of considering

the cost of the “wall”. This act of stewardship happened in the Fall 2021 semester with 11 people from a wide range of demographics accepting the invitation to participate in an online Introduction to the Word of God/Pentateuch course. I developed the course with the assistance of our educational consultant, Dan Littles. The pilot project provided the opportunity to adjust strategies between lessons as we applied contemporary best practices in distributed learning. Participants in the course provided valuable feedback both during the time of study and in a survey at the end.

The PI directors prayerfully considered the findings of the pilot project, cost analysis, timeline variables, and potential instructors at their next meeting. After two days of deliberation, they decided to start the online campus the Fall 2022 semester. The founding body of instructors, drawing from PI campuses from across the US and Canada, will meet at the PI Summit in March to begin developing their courses. Content for all courses will be completed by July to provide time for the material to be formatted in PI’s Canvas website.

The online campus will offer one course each month. Students will complete one lesson per week by reading, viewing videos, interacting with peers and instructor, and completing projects and quizzes as designed by the instructor. Students will need to register for each semester of courses at the beginning of the semester in accordance with PI policy. Here are the first two semester of courses.

Semester 1		Instructor
1101	Introduction to the Word of God/Pentateuch	James Littles
1305	The Importance of Apostolic Doctrine	Steve Schobert
1401	Apostolic Patterns and Methods I	Robert Olphin
1602	Leadership I	Akil Thompson

Semester 2		Instructor
2202	The Life and Ministry of Christ	Lisa Taylor
2402	Apostolic Patterns and Methods II	Tony McCall
2501	Ministry of the Apostles I	Scott Grant
2701	Guest Instructor (Pastoral Studies - Pastoral Care)	James Littles

PI seeks to live out its mission to help others discover purpose and develop ministry skills. In this case, PI is modeling a response to the call to take its mission into a new dimension. We covet the prayers of the extended PI community as we take this step of faith.

Purpose in a Pandemic

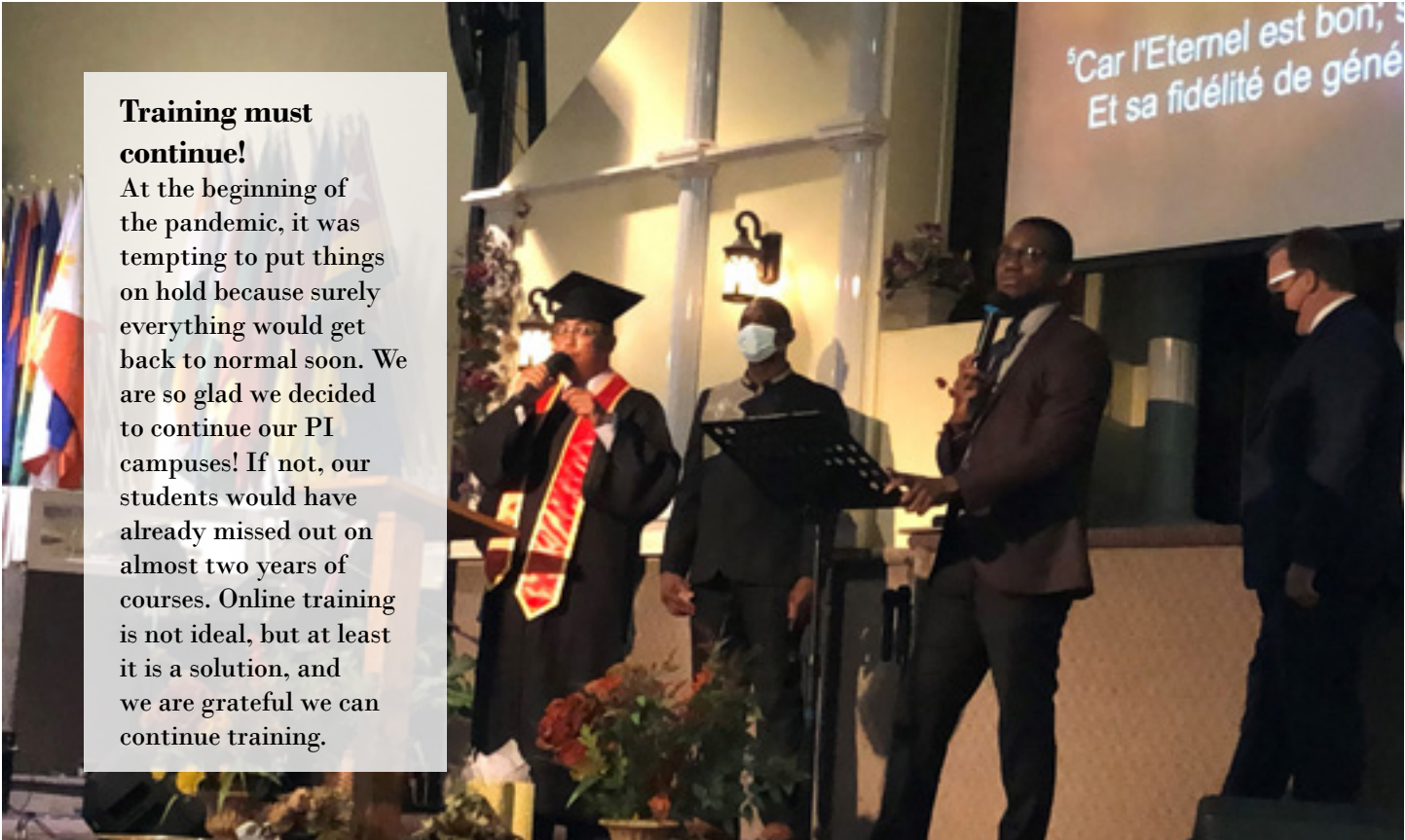
By Scott and Liane Grant

The Covid-19 pandemic has affected all PI campuses around the world, especially here in Quebec, Canada. At the end of 2021, we are under restrictions as severe as they were at the beginning of the pandemic, with a nightly curfew and all churches, restaurants and public spaces closed. When they do reopen, a vaccine passport will be required to enter.

It has been almost two years of ups and downs with changing regulations. We held part of the Spring 2020 semester online, and during the summer hoped to return to campus. That was not allowed, so classes and graduation were both online. Things opened up somewhat the next summer and we were able to have a live 2021 graduation with a limited audience, registration, masks and no handshaking.



In Fall 2021, we were finally back in the classroom wearing masks, but the first weekend caused a Covid breakout among the students, that spread to two churches which then had to be shut down for two weeks. With severe restrictions again implemented, we will be back online for Spring 2022. Throughout this frustrating process, we have learned some valuable things.



Training must continue!
At the beginning of the pandemic, it was tempting to put things on hold because surely everything would get back to normal soon. We are so glad we decided to continue our PI campuses! If not, our students would have already missed out on almost two years of courses. Online training is not ideal, but at least it is a solution, and we are grateful we can continue training.

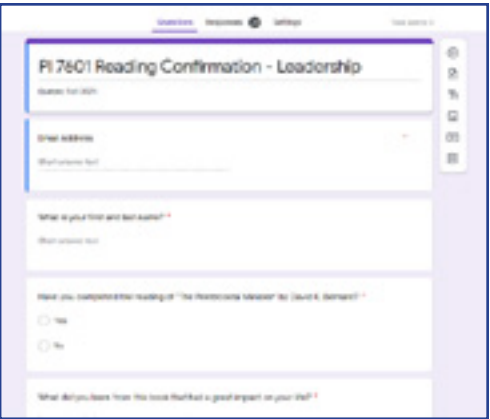


Lifelong Learning
Just as we expect our students to always be learning, as PI campus staff we had to learn a lot of new things. Not the least of these was how to use Zoom effectively! Our instructors learned to make classes engaging and encourage interaction by having students read scriptures, answer and ask questions, use icon reactions and make comments in the chat section. Keeping our video cameras on allowed us to see everyone face to face. We encouraged everyone to activate their microphone before and after class, and during breaks, to have some fellowship time. We learned how to use a PowerPoint background, spotlight the interpreter and speaker, and many more interesting things... all of which we will use in other ministry efforts. No learning is ever wasted.

Unexpected technological benefits
We could no longer collect paper essays and tests, so we used technology to improve our process. Our instructors use the “Notes” section while inputting grades, to give feedback to the students and include a specific scripture chosen to encourage each student. We converted the PI exams into Google Forms that can be completed on a phone, tablet or computer.

Instructors benefit from the fact that these exams are self-grading, and students appreciate being able to see their exam grades immediately.

Only God knows exactly what is going on behind the scenes and how much longer the pandemic will last, but our priority is to continue training and to ask Him for grace as we adapt to the challenges we are faced with. There can be purpose in a pandemic!



LIST OF GRADUATES

Foundational Diploma in Ministerial Studies

Perez, Irene California, Stockton Spanish
Vivas, Heidi California, Stockton Spanish
Olsen, Juana California, Stockton Spanish
Lopez Jr., Roberto California, Stockton Spanish
Lopez, Ezequiel California, Stockton Spanish
Flores, Fanny California, Stockton Spanish
Bernardino, James Canada, Quebec, Montreal (NDG) - English
Bernardino, Abren-Toby Canada, Quebec, Montreal (NDG) - English
Conje, Nathaniel Canada, Quebec, Montreal (NDG) - English
Essomba, Patrick Canada, Quebec, Montreal (St. Laurent) - Français
Noubissi, Audrey Canada, Quebec, Montreal (St. Laurent) - Français
Koffi, Kan Canada, Quebec, Montreal (St. Laurent) - Français
Loho, Patrick Koamivi Canada, Quebec, Trois-Rivières - Français
Tchymanga, Divine Canada, Quebec, Trois-Rivières - Français
Galan, Andres Florida, Ft. Myers
Galan, Martha Florida, Ft. Myers
Lungaro, Rachel Florida, Pensacola
Nero, Brandon Florida, Pensacola
Carter, Jessie Florida, Tallahassee
Harvey, Alisha Florida, Tallahassee
Harvey, Bryce Florida, Tallahassee
Hill, Cecilia Iowa, Tipton (Eastern IA)
Escobia, Jones Malaysia, Sabah (International)
Gonzales, Maria Carmen Malaysia, Sabah (International)
McRae, Betty Maryland, Baltimore
Thompson, Sean Maryland, Baltimore
Thompson, Tyhisia Maryland, Baltimore
Shea, Michelle Maryland, Baltimore
McRae, Raymond Maryland, Baltimore
Saul, Danielle Maryland, Baltimore
Davis, Elizabeth Massachusetts / RI, Tiverton
Hill, Easton Massachusetts / RI, Tiverton
Kwakumey, Doreen Massachusetts / RI, Tiverton
Maggert, Hunter Michigan, Midland
Knapp, Tyrus Michigan, Troy
Tarnaski, Joni Michigan, Troy
Truscott, Karen Minnesota, Duluth
Remington, Sarah Minnesota, Duluth
King, Troy Minnesota, Twin Cities
Sherman, Joshua New Hampshire / Vermont, St. Johnsbury
Varnum, Charlotte Ohio, Cincinnati
Abatangelo, Tabitha Ohio, Stow
Landon, Amanda Ohio, Upper Sandusky
Landon, Robert Ohio, Upper Sandusky
Minor, Amy Ohio, Upper Sandusky
Plunk, Zane Oklahoma, Tulsa
Long, Jeffery Oklahoma, Tulsa
Watkins, Norma Oregon, Albany
Starr, Caleb Oregon, Albany
Starr, Hannah Oregon, Albany
Starr, Destini Oregon, Albany
Brock, Roxanne Oregon, Albany
Brock, Dallas Oregon, Albany
Watkins , Maurice Oregon, Albany

Ellis, John Oregon, Albany
Carr, Tina Oregon, Albany
Kelly, Angela Oregon, Albany
Sargeant, Titus Oregon, Albany
Kellett, Rachael Pennsylvania, Selinsgrove
Shroyer, Dustin Pennsylvania, Somerset
Whiteside , James Pennsylvania, Somerset
Dovalles, Enyer Texas, Garland
White, Tamara Texas, Garland
Steinhauer, Joel Texas, La Ward
Steinhauer, Barbara Texas, La Ward
Svatek, Lance Texas, La Ward
Svatek, Audrey Texas, La Ward
Steinhauer, Joel Texas, La Ward
Stafford, Joy Texas, La Ward
Stafford, James Texas, La Ward
Sisk, Joshua Texas, La Ward
Stains, Millard Texas, La Ward
Mayba, Svetlana Ukraine, Kamianske
Sharov, Anton Ukraine, Kamianske
Zuz, Vladimir Ukraine, Kiev
Primakov, Boris Ukraine, Kiev
Timoshenko, Anatoly Ukraine, Kiev
Primakova, Eva Ukraine, Kiev
Tomyeva, Yana Ukraine, Kiev
Mihailovskiy, Kirill Ukraine, Odesa
Marinova, Iren Ukraine, Odesa
Marinov, Ivan Ukraine, Odesa
Ivanchenko, Sergey Ukraine, Odesa
Ivanchenko, Uliya Ukraine, Odesa
Ivanchenko, Kate Ukraine, Odesa
Ivanchenko, Anna Ukraine, Odesa
Karpovich, Sergey Ukraine, Odesa
Milchev, Valera Ukraine, Odesa
Nefiduk, Sergey Ukraine, Odesa
Choban, Daniil Ukraine, Odesa
Minton, Clayton West Virginia, Clarksburg
Sandy, Cayla West Virginia, Clarksburg
Colombo, Caleb West Virginia, Clarksburg
Calderon , Jose Wisconsin, Almas (Spanish)
Pena, Michell Wisconsin, Appleton
Wuhrman, Nathan Wisconsin, Appleton
French, Abraham Wisconsin, Appleton
Ewer, Cameron Wisconsin, Eau Claire
Unterschuetz, Philip Wisconsin, Eau Claire
Arcand, Lisa Wisconsin, Green Bay
Arcand, Jesse Wisconsin, Green Bay
Leone, Jessica Wisconsin, Madison
Leone, Matthew Wisconsin, Madison
Matt, Brandon Wisconsin, Madison
Oschmann, Corey Wisconsin, Oak Creek
Glodoski, Dana Wisconsin, Oak Creek
Carthran, Brian Wisconsin, Oak Creek

Advanced Diploma in Ministerial Studies

McCafferty, Belinda Alabama, Athens
Miller, Donna Alabama, Athens
De Villa, Joshua-Ivan Canada, Quebec, Montreal (NDG) - English
Dantiste, Melouse Canada, Quebec, Montreal (St. Laurent) - Français
Avila, Alexandra Canada, Quebec, Montreal (St. Laurent) - Français
Rendon, Leonardo Canada, Quebec, Montreal (St. Laurent) - Français
Swinton, Sam Florida, Clearwater
Levins, Seth Florida, Pensacola
Adanhounmè, Emilienne GSN Geneva, CH
Ripamonti, Karina GSN Geneva, CH
Hill, Candise Maryland, Baltimore
Shutes , Kaitlyn Michigan, Flint
Kittle, Gary Michigan, Flint
Gomez, Joseph Michigan, Troy
Gomez, Amie Michigan, Troy
Partida, Susan Michigan, Troy
Griggs, Tammy New Hampshire / Vermont, St. Johnsbury
Smith, Jason New York, Old Westbury
Laidlaw, Dorothy New York, Old Westbury
Dipadova , Robert New York, Old Westbury
Rapaglia, Karla New York, Old Westbury
Smith, Jasmin New York, Old Westbury
Fesler, Estephany New York, Old Westbury
Rodriguez, Karla New York, Old Westbury
Fesler, Ernest New York, Old Westbury
Rose, Angela New York, Old Westbury
Abatangelo, Mike Ohio, Canton (HQ)
Crilley, Seth Ohio, Canton (HQ)
Jellison, Guy Ohio, Canton (HQ)
Brown, William Ohio, Cincinnati
Roberts, William Ohio, Perry
Price, Bobby Oklahoma, Oklahoma City
Dry, Jesse Oklahoma, Tulsa
Dry, Teresa Oklahoma, Tulsa
Toland, William Texas, Garland
Bumper, Renell Texas, Garland
Bumper, Jimmy Texas, Garland
Reed, Marie Texas, Garland
Stafford, Allyson Texas, La Ward
Soliz, Mariah Texas, La Ward
Sanchez, Christine Texas, La Ward
Sanchez, Enrique Texas, La Ward
Romo, John Texas, La Ward
Soliz, Jonathon Texas, La Ward
Patterson, Thomas Texas, La Ward
Patterson, Brandy Texas, La Ward

Tomyeva, Veronika Ukraine, Kiev
Sholovei, Artem Ukraine, Kiev
Yavorenko, Maxim Ukraine, Kiev
Primakov, Vlad Ukraine, Kiev
Renicza, Dmitriy Ukraine, Odesa
Fedyaeva, Olga Ukraine, Odesa
Mills, Renee Washington, Vancouver
Crouse, Amy Washington, Vancouver
Sandy, John West Virginia, Clarksburg
Joseph, Kieran West Virginia, Clarksburg
Fought, Ashley West Virginia, Clarksburg
Sandy, Zachary West Virginia, Clarksburg
Loya, Abraham Wisconsin, Almas (Spanish)
Loya, Janie Wisconsin, Almas (Spanish)
Camacho, Luz Wisconsin, Almas (Spanish)
Hernandez, Gerardo Wisconsin, Almas (Spanish)
Rozo, David Wisconsin, Almas (Spanish)
Flores , Merari Wisconsin, Almas (Spanish)
Valarezo, Zarita Wisconsin, Almas (Spanish)
Carranza, David Wisconsin, Almas (Spanish)
Ortiz , Francisco Wisconsin, Almas (Spanish)
Patraca, Alfonso Wisconsin, Almas (Spanish)
Arvizu de González, Irene Wisconsin, Almas (Spanish)
Honkanen, Emma-Lee Wisconsin, Appleton
Beddoe, Aaron Wisconsin, Appleton
Woodman, Sheila Wisconsin, Eau Claire
Von Haden, Eugene Wisconsin, Eau Claire
Seidl, John Wisconsin, Madison
Stokes, Dawn Wisconsin, Madison
Figueroa, Caleb Wisconsin, Oak Creek
Carthran, Brian Wisconsin, Oak Creek
Gorniak, Matthew Wisconsin, Oak Creek
Maas, Aaron Wisconsin, Oak Creek
Fracassi, Uriah Wisconsin, Oak Creek
Carpenter, Sharyne 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.

See the colleges' websites for admissions information:

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





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