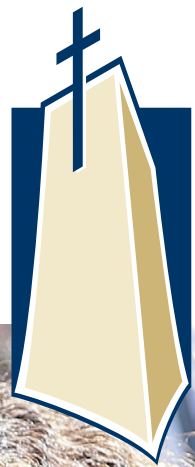


THE JOURNEY

2017 GRACE BIBLE COLLEGE



Life Together





FROM THE PRESIDENT

How many times have you witnessed something really spectacular and thought or said to someone else, “I wish ‘so-and-so’ was here?” So often our associations define us. We have friends and acquaintances we are close to because of our mutual interests or because we have had common experiences. Yet, it is interesting that our American idealism has a strong pull toward what is called *rugged individualism*. We feel the tension of these two forces constantly in our daily lives. One force screams out, “You can do it, you don’t need anybody else!” while the other quietly states, “If only I had someone to help me or to go through this with me!” Western culture is not the world’s majority culture in terms of raw population numbers, but it is certainly the loudest and is influential to the point of promoting personal progress and individual success. In stark contrast, the majority of peoples of the world define all things of value by the collective inclusion of their society. Value and honor is ascribed in these cultures by inclusion within a group of people, while here in the west, it must be *earned* independently. Our culture also believes that “peer pressure” is an issue that is normally associated with teenagers or young people, and when they mature, they will act more independently and excel. (Studies have actually shown how dramatically we imitate others throughout our lives.)

In Scripture, we find that God calls all mankind to depend upon Him. He also enables individuals so that they can effectively serve others. As we search through the Old and New Testaments, we find that God raised up individuals - against the odds - to carry out His plan for each new dispensation and time. However, He always emphasized *leading* others toward serving God. All the godly attributes which we are to exercise in our spiritual growth are actually only observed in our relationships and community — not in isolation (see Galatians 5:22-23; Romans 5:3-5; and II Peter 1:5-8). Even the gifts given to us by the Holy Spirit are clearly given for the benefit of others (Romans 12:3-8).

God’s intention is that we live, grow, serve, and reach out together. This *life together* shapes and forms us and brings identity both as a child of God and as a member of His family (I Corinthians 12:12-13). This unity is formed in the midst of God’s great diversity in mankind. Embracing the reality of our need for others and living it out opens doors for growth in God’s way and for His glory (Ephesians 4:14-16).

This is our theme at Grace Bible College this year — *life together*. We believe that relationships are vitally important and no one was ever meant to attempt life alone! You will appreciate this edition of the Journey Magazine with its articles about GBC doing *life together*. Pastor Pat McGillicuddy’s article will speak to this topic in a biblical manner as well.

Ken B. Kempter, President



4 STATE OF THE COLLEGE



8 LIFE TOGETHER



16 MINISTRY FOCUSED

A LEGACY OF FAITH | 06

HOMECOMING | 11

ATHLETICS | 14

GRADUATION | 18

ACADEMIC HONORS | 22

TRAVELING IN ISRAEL | 24

THE DUBLIN EXPERIENCE | 25



STUDIO ~~STUDY~~ SESSION

Grace Bible College Bachelor of Music in Worship Arts

God has given you a gift and a calling. Grace Bible College can show you how to turn your passion into a career and mission. Your degree allows you to concentrate in Music, Worship, Media, Youth Ministry, Women's Ministry, or Pastoral Ministry. Graduate with your Bachelor of Music in Worship Arts and pursue your future as a Worship Leader, Director of Technology, Professional Musician, Studio Recording Artist, Songwriter, Private Instructor, or any number of other options.

gbc.col.edu/worshiparts

STATE OF THE COLLEGE

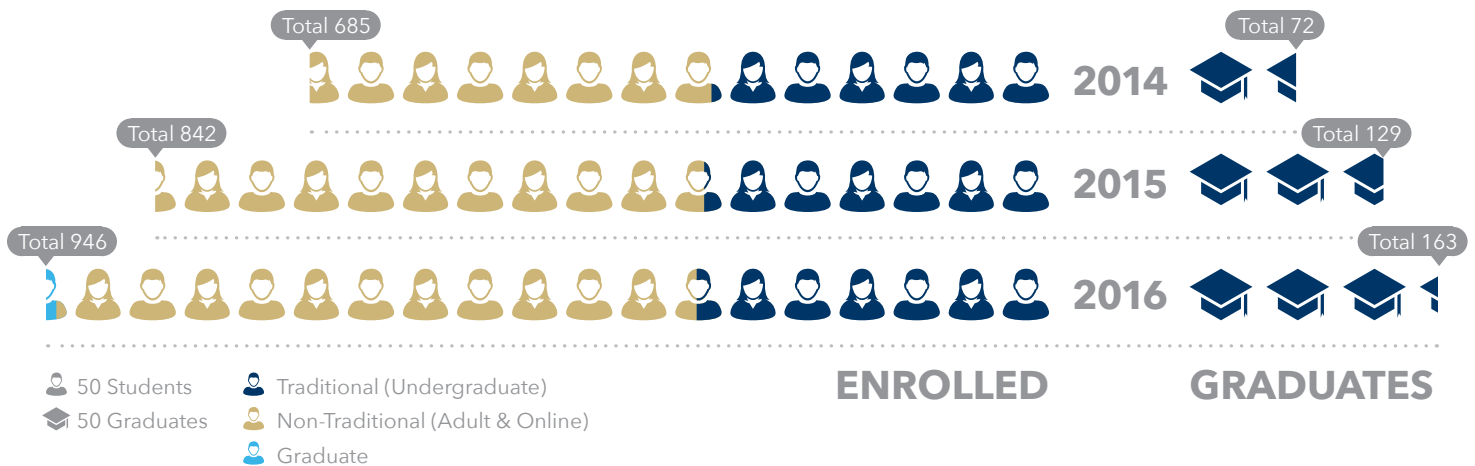
President Ken B. Kemper

PRAISE THE LORD for the mighty way He has worked on behalf of Grace Bible College. We are in our 78th year as an institution! God's work continues to be just as vitally important today as it was when our founders began the evening Bible institute in Milwaukee so many years ago. We have grown from a Bible institute to a day school; then progressed from a Bible college to a fully-accredited four year college offering multiple degree tracks all built upon a solid Bible core. Through all of these changes, God has continually led the Board of the College to emphasize our unique Grace doctrinal statement as well as a biblical permeation and ministry focus. These attributes are the first three of our four stated core values. The fourth core value is transformational relationships. This has always been a strength—our personal and caring educational environment makes us who we are.

In the 2016 edition of the Grace Bible College Journey Magazine, my update spoke of the near completion of our 2016 Vision: *to be a College of excellence with 1,000 diverse students who serve Christ*. The graphics below show our growth in number of students in our three academic programs along with the increase in the number of graduates who live out our mission statement: *Graduating Godly Individuals Prepared To Serve Christ In Church And Society*.

CORE VALUES

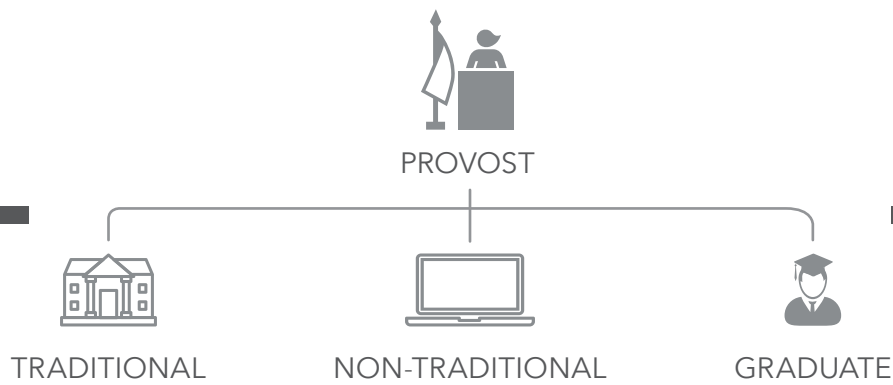
-  BIBLE-CENTERED
-  GRACE THEOLOGY
-  MINISTRY FOCUSED
-  TRANSFORMATIONAL RELATIONSHIPS



IT IS ALL ABOUT STUDENTS

These graphics are not just about the numbers. Each number represents students! Each student is very important, and is a meaningful investment of faculty time and effort, staff ministry, financial partner dollars, and a product of personal biblical education. We have worked very hard to develop the College in order to grow the number of graduates who can bring influence and impact for Christ into the many arenas of need; specifically, churches, schools, work places, social services, and neighborhoods. We understand the reality that *the next generation needs to be equipped to minister effectively to a changing society which does not often respond to the workers and methods of the past generations*. We cannot fail to continue to educate and equip new ministers for our needy world. Every generation must be committed to the unchanging Word of God, the Gospel, and methods of ministry which are effective and relevant to the culture in which they serve.

As God has given us greater responsibility, we have strategically sought out quality individuals who desire to serve Christ at Grace and fulfill the mission of the College by investing in students through our educational programs. I am amazed at how successfully our faculty have gone on to advanced degrees, and our staff is full of such competent and caring individuals who fervently serve Christ. The leadership of Grace Bible College has adjusted our structure to match the needs as well as the personnel of the College to enable each one to be most effective and grow in leadership capacity.



DEVELOPING COLLEGE STRUCTURE AND FORM

Our College has adjusted and changed to enable us to carry out three unique academic programs simultaneously, each with different educational philosophies aimed at student learning. We have a new graduate program aimed at post graduate studies. Dr. Mat Lovrin acts as the Dean of that program while he teaches in both the traditional undergraduate and master's classes. We have an adult education (non-traditional) program which has over 600 students who take classes (one at a time) online or one night a week on campus. The Dean of this program is Dr. Amie Anderson. The academic advisors, registrars, and recruiters all work together toward the success of these adult students. The traditional undergraduate program runs daily classes on campus and has over 300 students. Some students are dually enrolled while still in high school. The Dean of this program is Dr. Tim Rumley. All of the Deans leading these programs are under the leadership of Chief Academic Officer and Provost, Dr. Kim Pilieci.

Our faculty may teach in any one, or all, of these programs according to their subject discipline or advanced degree. All of our degrees have program learning objectives. Each individual course comprising those degrees also has learning objectives used to measure the success of learning—the result of good teaching. As you can see, this is a much more complex structure than we previously had in place. To operate and lead an organization of this caliber has necessitated services and professionals which were not part of the College in the past.

A GLIMPSE TOWARD THE FUTURE OF THE COLLEGE

The future is exciting as we seek God's leading. Our vision for the coming years is captured in the following statement:

Grace will be a vibrant Biblical University exalting Jesus Christ, preparing culturally intelligent students for diverse careers in the global marketplace.

This statement represents the direction and focus of the College as we move toward 2020 and beyond. The emphasis on excellence is displayed in the word “*university*.” The Bible-centered education is clearly evidenced by the use of the word “*biblical*” and by the phrase “*exalting Jesus Christ*” which speaks to our ministry focus. There is a stated emphasis on “*cultural intelligence*” so as to prepare students for the rapidly changing world of diverse people which we desire to become part of the Body of Christ. “*Diverse careers*” includes professional ministry tracks, as well as the needed ministry emphasis in professional careers which will increase our witness in a secular world. The “*global marketplace*” phrase emphasizes taking the Gospel into every work, home, and global region of the world. Programs of cross-cultural ministry continue to focus on the world as well as local people needing the grace of God. The vision implies growth and progress by the word “*vibrant*.” This means that facilities, technologies, aesthetics, and talent will continue to need to be addressed in the coming years to attract and produce graduates who will be God's ministers to our changing world.

GRACE BY ANY OTHER NAME IS STILL GRACE

As the College approaches the move toward becoming a university, we have embarked upon a somewhat sacred topic. The name Grace Bible College was given to the College in 1961 after moving to Wyoming, Michigan and finding the originally proposed name of Michigan Bible College was not able to be used. Before the location change, the College was known as Milwaukee Bible College. Prior to that, it was called Milwaukee Bible Institute. Now, the Board has formed a special task force to examine the issue of the College name, and to work with as many College partners as possible to solicit thoughts and views. There will also be studies done on the impact of the present name, and other name suggestions will be submitted to the Board of Directors for their deliberation. *The core values and focus of the College will not change. The doctrinal statement of the College will not change, and the mission of the College will not change.* We are asking God to direct our steps as this emerging university attempts to be vibrant in the days to come. We covet your prayers for God's leading and direction for the College to be true to its mission, theological distinction, and to also continue to impact lives for Christ in the days ahead.





A LEGACY OF FAITH

THE LIFE AND MINISTRY OF PRESIDENT BRUCE KEMPER

Bruce Kemper, Grace Bible College's fourth president, went home to be with the Lord on February 2, 2017. The Lord Jesus summed up the whole law with two commandments, love God, love others. That is exactly how Bruce Kemper lived his life. Bruce had a profound love for God and trust in God.

He was born in San Mateo, California on April 27, 1937, the eldest of two sons born to Ernest Lee and Alice Rose Wynstra Kemper. He is survived by his younger brother, Deane Alwyn Kemper. Their father suffered with ALS (Lou Gehrig's disease) which took his life in 1945, when Bruce was just 8 years old. The night his father died was the night he made the decision to invite the Lord Jesus into his life.

Because of their father's illness, Bruce and Deane were raised for many years by their Grandma and Grandpa Wynstra. They moved back with their mom when Bruce was in junior high. Bruce was a three sport athlete for most of his school years, but his real love was baseball. He played second base for San Mateo High School in the early 1950s, playing against other Bay Area greats such as John Madden, John Robinson, Jim Fregosi, and Dick Stewart. His soft hands and strong arm caught the attention of the Chicago White Sox, who ultimately did not draft him because Bruce had decided to study for ministry and possibly become a missionary.

He attended Moody Bible Institute in Chicago, where he went with the hope of flying planes for Mission Aviation Fellowship. But those limited spots in Moody's program were filled, and Bruce enrolled in the Christian education program instead, where he met the intelligent and lovely Judith Ann Wardell.

Bruce and Judi married in 1958, and after graduating from Moody they moved to Seattle, Washington, where he attended Seattle Pacific

College and resumed playing baseball. While continuing his schooling, Bruce and Judi became the custodians at Emmanuel Tabernacle, where he also served under and learned from Dr. Lloyd Peterson. They lived in a small apartment in the church, which served as their compensation for their custodial duties.

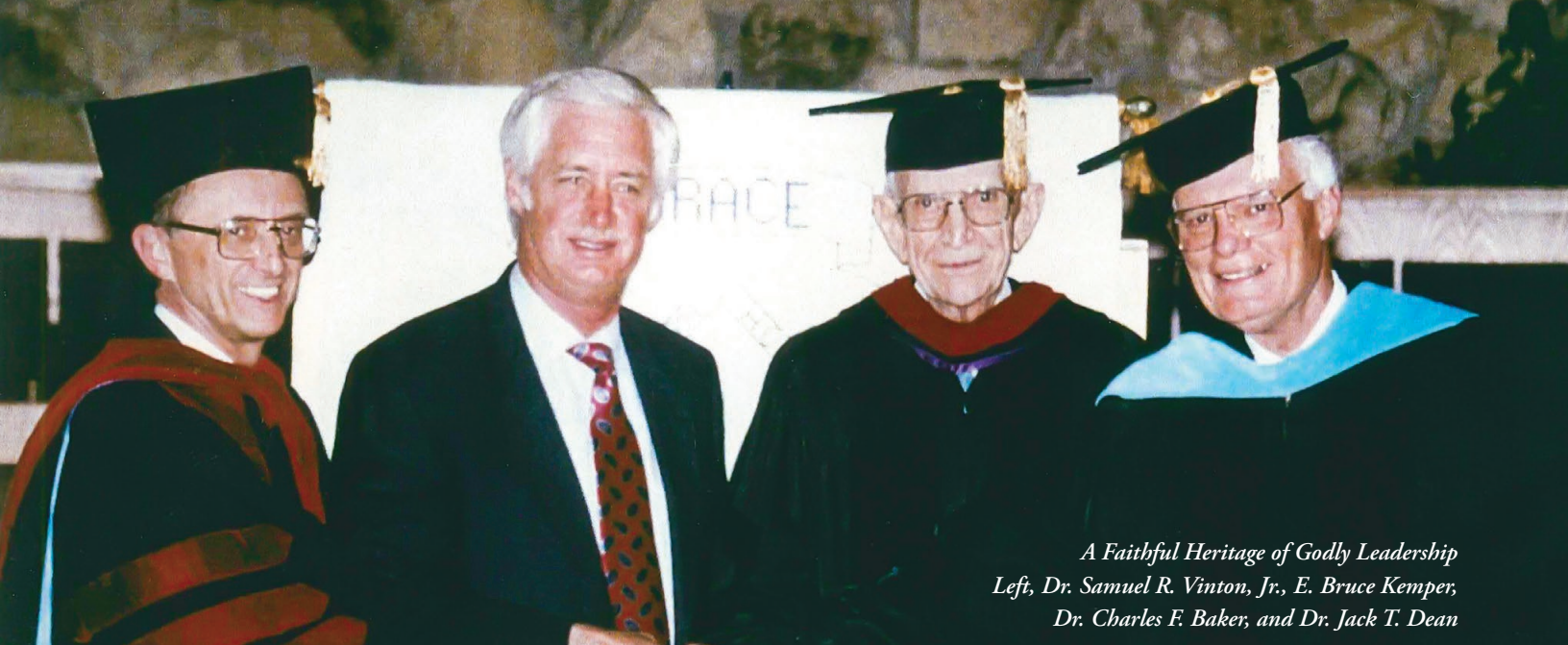
In the meantime, Bruce and Judi had four children: Katherine Lee was born in June 1959, Keith Allen, 11 months later in 1960, Kenneth Bruce in 1962, and Kris David in 1964. All four of their children love the Lord and serve Him in full-time ministry, on church, ministry, and college boards, and leading ministries in their churches.

PASTORAL MINISTRY

The first stop in their life of ministry began at Emmanuel Tabernacle working with the college group. Then, in 1959, Bruce was hired as the youth pastor. He served as youth pastor and later the Christian education director of both Emmanuel and then the newly formed Berean Bible Church until Bruce and Judi moved to accept his first pastorate in Spokane in 1966.

The Berean Bible Church in Spokane started as a small group of families meeting in a funeral home and grew to nearly 400 at the time he left there in 1974. Bruce served as Pastor of Grace Bible Church in Anaheim, California, from 1974 to 1977. He pastored the Grace Bible Church in Port Orchard, Washington, from 1977 to 1991. Camping and the great outdoors were always an important part of Bruce's ministries. He directed several camps and led numerous backpack trips, where he would introduce high school students to the joys of hiking, living in nature, cooking over a campfire, and appreciating the God of creation.

During his time as a pastor, he was privileged to work with and



*A Faithful Heritage of Godly Leadership
Left, Dr. Samuel R. Vinton, Jr., E. Bruce Kemper,
Dr. Charles F. Baker, and Dr. Jack T. Dean*

mentor many other ministers, including Craig MacDonald, Sherwood Sage, Wes Goodnough, Tim Hall, Jesse Johnson, Dan Kramer, Tim Heath, Ted Pestor, Cal Bodeutsch, Steve Shadley, Linda (Groeneveld) Holton, and Dan Rachoy.

In 1991, he was called to serve as President of Grace Bible College until his retirement at the end of 2002.

GRACE BIBLE COLLEGE MINISTRY

While at GBC, he continued to influence and challenge the lives of a generation of young ministers. The list of those serving in churches and as missionaries from his time at the College is probably longer than we know. Bruce led the College through some challenging times when the enrollment had dipped, and the continuance of the ministry was at risk. His leadership solidified the work and grew the College during his twelve years as president, and he and his wife Judi were staunch supporters of the College until his passing. His legacy at GBC is one of fervor for, and the strengthening of, the pastoral program.

MISSIONS MINISTRY

Until the day he died, Bruce faithfully served his Lord. In addition to his many paid positions, he served on several boards, committees, and councils, including the Alpine Boys Ranch with his lifelong friend Bob Renberg, and the Mission Boards of Bethesda and Grace Ministries International, often traveling abroad as an ambassador and encourager of the missionaries he served.

Bruce's heart for missions was evident as he faithfully attended 3 to 4 board meetings 3 to 4 times a year; always corresponded with missionaries, and kept up to date with missionaries and their ministries so he could pray for them very specifically. He spent a combined total of 47 years dedicated to the missionaries of Bethesda and GMI! Bruce left a legacy

with the missionaries of Grace Ministries International. He impacted the lives of many of those serving on various fields around the world.

Bruce's son, Ken shared these comments on Facebook about the passing of his father:

"Lost my hero today to God's presence. What an incredible moment that must have been when Dad got to see Jesus and those who beat him there. He probably said, 'What a great day for the race!' – 'the human race!' He saw his dad who died when he was 8 and his mom and others."

One of Bruce's favorite songs was "One of These Days" by FFH. The chorus reads:

*One of these days
I'm going to see the hand that took the nails for me
One of these days
I'm going to hold the key to the mansion built for me*

*One these days
I'm going to walk the streets of gold that were paved for me
One of these days
I'm going to see my Savior face to face
One of these days*

We rejoice in the knowledge that Bruce is seeing His Savior face-to-face. We are grateful for his faithful, imperfect, humble servant's heart, his Godly example, his ability to always encourage, his laugh that filled the room, and for the joy his influence has left on each of our hearts.

Bruce will be missed. His legacy will not be forgotten.

Life Together

Pat McGillicuddy



When I was young, I had a group of friends who did everything together. We rode our bikes to school, played basketball, went to the beach, and even got into trouble together! We were there for each other in the good times and the bad times.



Later when I was in college, there was a song that would always bring this group of friends to my mind. It was by Geoff Moore and the Distance, called *“Life Together.”* The lyrics said ***“Together we live, together we walk, together we stand, divided we fall, when you are weak I will be strong, when I fall back won’t you pull me along?”*** I have come to realize that these words are not just essential for a good group of friends, but also for the church.

In I Corinthians 12, Paul uses very similar language when referring to the church. Some in the church try to do life alone, thinking they don’t need anyone else to make it in this difficult world. Others try to do life together, but instead of God’s way they try the world’s way: living on selfish ambition and the patterns of the world. Paul, through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, uses the illustration of the church as a body, one that is dependent on itself to make it through this life together.

MEMBERSHIP CARDS?

“For we were all baptized by one Spirit so as to form one body...” (I Corinthians 12:13a). There are many deep theological topics that can be discussed with just this one half verse, but there is one detail that I think specifically helps us to understand this idea of life together. This Holy Spirit baptism is essential to us being in the Body of Christ. It is the way God allows us to be part of this body, and it is the identifying marker for the members of the Body of Christ. While Israel had the very external physical marking of circumcision, the Body of Christ seems to have the very internal, invisible marking of the baptism of the Holy Spirit. While I think it would be great if Christians received some kind of definite mark to show others that they are saved, this does not exist. We live in an age of faith, not visible signs.

The world in which we live gives us opportunity to join various groups and clubs. You might pay to become a member of your local gym, or you might fill out some information to join a wholesale club. Evidence of your “belonging” comes in the form of a card with your picture and information on it. This membership card gets you “into the club,” and it shows others around you that you are a member. When you enter this world, you become part of a family, and really have no choice in the matter. You are born to a mother and father, you receive a birth certificate, and if there is any doubt of who your parents truly are, you can even prove your relationship through DNA testing.

Throughout the ages Christians have seemed to be starved for some way to show others our “Christian Membership Card.” This leads to a

faith that is signified by many more works and less and less faith. Some use their church membership as that “sign,” or even better – become a deacon or an elder. Others produce baptismal certificates to show when and where they were baptized. Those are just the “do’s”, but there is also a list of “don’ts” as well! Christians never: drink, smoke, play cards, listen to rock and roll music, go to “R” rated movies, use foul language, or do any other thing that seems socially unacceptable for Christians to do at the time.

Remember, the marker of the Body of Christ is not a list of do’s and don’ts. Rather, it is being marked by the Holy Spirit instead. Paul gives us a list of what living life by the Holy Spirit should look like, by listing the fruit of the Spirit in Galatians 5. Notice that these are not so much visible things that one can mark, but instead we are left with these internal things which are not easily measurable. They come to the surface in the difficult times. Our “membership card” shows joy, peace, patience and kindness to those around us.

WHO ARE THE STARTERS?

The first year I coached high school girls’ basketball, I remember making a mistake, at least in my players’ eyes. The day before the first game as I was preparing them, one girl raised her hand and asked, “Who are the starters?” It had never crossed my mind that they needed to know who was starting. I knew, and planned to tell them at the game, but didn’t want them to be distracted beforehand. I realized that this information was very important to them. They thought some of the players were more important than others. It was time for the “there is no small role” speech. You can imagine how that went!

In the church it is common to think in the same manner. Some may say the important work of the church is done by the pastors, missionaries, teachers, and elders. The rest are just there along for the ride. In I Corinthians 12, Paul makes it clear that there is no first place or “starters” in the Body of Christ. Jesus Christ is the Head, and the all the rest of us are an important part of the Body.

CONTINUED ►

Paul says, "...whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free." These are two very important classifications. The difference between Jew and Gentile was the big split of the church in Paul's day. We know that the mystery God gave to Paul was the equality of Jews and Gentiles, but of course this did not come to fruition without problems. We see several cases where the Jews wanted the Gentiles to follow some of their ways before they could be in the church. Whether it was circumcision, baptism, or dietary laws, the Jews held the Gentiles as lesser Christians, and even in some cases, as "not saved." The second big difference in the early church was the economic class - "slave or free." The rich should not be placed in a higher position than the poor. This is still applicable for us today! The church should not rank members based on any social or economic status, but we often fall into this trap. We rate one another based on outward appearances: who gives the most money, dresses the best, knows and sings all the right songs, or talks the Christian talk. This has always been the problem, I Samuel 16:7 states that man looks at the outward appearance but God looks at the heart. All of us have the same status in the church, we all have equal importance, but different roles.

DIFFERENT SHADES OF ENCOURAGEMENT

In I Corinthians 12:25-26, Paul ends the section on the Body of Christ with a discussion of what this might look like. Each part should be concerned with the other parts equally. Paul gives two obvious examples - of suffering and rejoicing together. These examples should be natural and do not seem to be difficult to follow. We all love to share good news, and to celebrate that good news with one another is often fun. It may be a graduation party, wedding, or even a celebration of the birth of a new baby, but whatever it is there will not be a shortage of people that want to celebrate together.

Even suffering together seems to happen normally. Several years ago when my grandfather passed away, I flew to Florida and stayed with my family for the funeral. One day there was a knock at the door, and an old family friend stopped by with a casserole. What better way to encourage someone in a time of mourning than to bring them food. Unfortunately, there is nothing that pulls together a family like sick-

ness, death, or hardship. This role may be more uncomfortable, and we often are at a loss for words when in these situations, but it just comes naturally to put an arm around or give an ear to someone who is grieving and suffering.

The more difficult situation of encouragement is when we have to point out mistakes or flaws in others. How would your body handle it if your leg was broken but you didn't know it? What a silly question! It's easy to see that the rest of your body would suffer because of the leg thinking it was fine when it was really broken. The book of I Corinthians details many problems within the church of Corinth: sexual sin, division, following dietary laws, proper communion, and even spiritual gifts. The church was not just having these problems, but it had no idea how to handle them. In I Corinthians 5:1-2, Paul calls out a sinner who is sinning and the church is flaunting it! The Bible is full of passages that talk about correction and rebuking, but as "family members," we get very uncomfortable doing this. So instead, we let the sin go without correction. The Body suffers and sometimes even dies because of this. We must be willing to stand against actions that fall short of God's holy standard - not out of anger or vengeance - but in the spirit of correcting love. Just as we would clean out a wound or put a bandage on a sore, we need to do this with the body as well.

CONCLUSION

My group of friends from my youth is no more. We all live in different parts of the country with our own families and friends. That group of friends was temporary, something that I enjoyed for that stage of my life. The Body of Christ is a permanent relationship, and we can't cancel our membership! It will not always be easy and comfortable, but if we are going to live life together, we need to understand it is not for our own gain or success, but for Him who called us to be members - the children of God.

Pat McGillicuddy is the Assistant Professor of Bible and Theology at Grace Bible College



2016 Homecoming

Homecoming is always a great time of celebration at GBC! Each October, alumni, family, and friends join us on campus for activities designed to celebrate our community. Charley Young ('75) spoke for a special Homecoming chapel on October 14, and a banquet, 5K "Tiger Dash," Soup and Chili Cook-off, plus several athletic events rounded out the weekend.

One highlight of the weekend is the recognition of our Alumni of the Year. We were blessed to honor four couples who exemplify the "heart" of GBC and its mission: Graduating Godly Individuals Prepared To Serve Christ In Church And Society. In many ways, these couples are just "very ordinary people." They have lived "ordinary" lives: raising their families, working, and serving. Even so, they have impacted many others because they live and serve with a heart like that of their Heavenly Father. We are thrilled to be able to present them here, and recognize them for their faithfulness to the Lord!



Honored

CHARLEY AND JAN YOUNG



Charley ('75) and Jan ('72) have always had a heart for serving others! They have ministered in churches in Oregon, Michigan, and New York. Charley also served for a time as program director at Grace Youth Camp (now known as Grace Adventures), and the entire family (including son, Jon and daughter, Katie) served in the Philippines as missionaries.

"We praise the Lord for the coworkers they have been with us in the ministry of Christ. What a blessing they have been to us and many others!"

John and Mary Lou Gowdy
Coworkers at Grace Youth Camp

"Both Charley and Jan are all about reflecting who Christ is to them - their reality of life."

John Spooner
Former GBC classmate and longtime friend

THOMAS AND JEAN FOULKES



Tom ('49) and Jean ('48) have been faithfully serving the Lord together for over 65 years! They continue to have a passion for sharing God's love and truth with everyone they meet. Tom and Jean have served in pastoral ministry, but have also been involved as laypeople teaching Sunday School, leading worship, and serving in youth ministry. Additionally, Tom has served as a board member, and has been an advocate for Gideons International. Tom and Jean have four children, eight grandchildren, and thirteen great-grandchildren.

"The Foulkes are a committed and faithful couple to the church and have a desire for everyone they meet to know the love of Christ."

Gary Spykerman
Pastor, Parkside Bible Church

"My parent's example of their love for God and His church and the team partnership they had in serving made such an impact on my husband and me."

Cheryl Foulkes Tooke
Daughter

DAVE AND JOY RACHOY



Dave ('82) and Joy ('69) Rachoy approach life and ministry with great compassion and joy. Both of them have spent their lives devoted to sharing God's Word, and caring for the needs of their congregations. They have served in Post Falls, Idaho at Mountain View Bible Church for over 25 years. They are a great team, and Joy has often remarked about how lucky she is to be married to the world's greatest pastor!

"Dave and Joy have been very close friends of ours for close to 24 years. We love them dearly and have been blessed tremendously by the love, laughter, and friendship we have shared. They have selflessly shown Christ's love to us as missionaries in Tanzania for the past 14 years in more ways than we can express - practically, emotionally and spiritually."

Mike and Terese Benton
Friends/former missionaries to Tanzania Africa

"Dave has a heart for marginalized and underprivileged people....he always drifts to the humble and needy."

Dan and Sharon Denk
Brother-in-law and Sister/sister-in-law to Rachoy

Alumni

RICK AND TERRI VELTING

Rick ('70) and Terri ('68) Velting have left a lasting impact on those they have met – and on many they have not met! Rick is a partner at Concord Management, and has served on the boards of many organizations, including Mel Trotter Ministries. Terri has been involved as a leader at Bible Study Fellowship for many years, and has a deep love for God’s Word, and a desire to share it with others. Rick’s faithful leadership as Chair of the Grace Bible College Board has been instrumental and vital to the growth of the institution, allowing GBC to thrive and expand as God blesses. Their love for their Heavenly Father, family, friends, church, and ministries is easily seen by those around them.



“Rick and Terri have been a wonderful example of what it means to serve God in the joys of life and its challenges. They have taught us about perseverance and dedication to the cause of Christ. They have demonstrated their love for others and desire to see others grow.”

Tom and Nancy Spaman
Neighbors/friends

“My dad has always modeled what a godly husband and father should be, for which I am tremendously grateful. My mom has always been an amazing spiritual leader in our family and has made a huge impact on my life in that matter. To see her love for God and commitment to serving Him is amazing, and her love for God shows in everything she does.”

Rodney Velting
Son

GO BEYOND >>>
your Bachelor's Degree

Our Master of Arts in Ministry degree prepares you to go beyond in your ministry.

APPLY FREE TODAY
888-79GRACE
gbcol.edu/graduateprograms



We want to cover the globe in Certified Tiger T-shirts! Tell us why you’re proud to be a Certified Tiger, and we’ll send you an authentic Certified Tiger T-shirt (GBC Alumni only!)

Email me at jpriolo@gbcol.edu or message me on Facebook!





Debbie Pekel

Debbie Pekel has been a starter and key contributor on the Grace Tigers women's soccer team for the past four years. After battling a serious injury to end her junior season, she came back as a senior to earn First Team All-American and Regional Player of the Year honors while leading the team to a runner-up finish in Division II NCCAA. She leaves Grace as one of the best in the program's young history, currently holding the career and single-season school records for most goals, assists, and points. She received First Team All-Region honors all four of her years at Grace, and she has been named a captain for the last three years. Debbie also played basketball for at Grace from 2013-2015.

Aside from her accomplishments as an athlete, Debbie has been a prime example of using athletics as a platform to represent Jesus Christ. Debbie went above and beyond to use soccer to make an impact at a home game this past October, as she was an integral part in organizing an event that raised over \$1,300 for breast cancer awareness.

Drew Smith

Drew Smith has been the starting goalkeeper for the Grace Tigers men's soccer team since his freshman season in 2013. In his first season, he earned First-Team All-Region honors.

In addition to his impact on the soccer field, Drew has made it a point to make an impact on campus, as he has been very involved in community and creating transformational relationships throughout his time at Grace Bible College. He currently spends time out of the classroom working in the enrollment office, sharing his experience with potential students and their families on tours of the campus. He has also served as a Residence Assistant and as Student Government President during his time on campus. Drew will certainly be missed by GBC on the field and off of the field, leaving a very positive mark throughout his years as a Tiger.

One of Drew's biggest fans may be his soccer coach, who had nothing but great things to say about his four-year goalkeeper. "Drew has been a consummate professional," commented Grace Head Coach Dustin Buchanan. "He is the type of person who is comfortable and thrives in big moments. The larger the stage, the better he will be. I have been blessed to have a person and player with such high character and playing ability."



WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE EXPERIENCE AS AN ATHLETE AT GBC?

Debbie

My favorite experience has been the traveling to different states and overnight stays in hotels. I've never been able to travel much in my life, but at GBC I have had the ability to travel to so many places just to play a basketball or soccer game! We, as athletes, are honestly pretty spoiled. Some of the best trips have been going to Tennessee, Kentucky, Pennsylvania and most recently Florida!

Drew

My favorite experience has been the relationships I have built. Every year has provided times where I have been able to develop relationships with my teammates that otherwise I would have not had. Traveling with the team was some of the greatest times in my college career of developing relationships.

WHAT IS THE MOST ESSENTIAL LIFE LESSON YOU LEARNED, OR YOUR MAIN AREA OF GROWTH THROUGHOUT YOUR TIME AT GBC?

I've learned that participating in sports cannot be my identity. If one's identity is rooted in their sport and their performance, it leads to a dead end filled with emptiness. I learned first-hand that no matter how well I performed, I felt empty and was never being filled. Now that my identity is rooted in Christ and what He has done for me, I am never empty and am always being filled by the Holy Spirit. I am now able to enjoy the fullness of being a student-athlete!

The most important lesson that I have learned at GBC is my identity in Christ. Everything that we do should be done in order to bring Him glory. GBC has allowed me to develop what that means in all areas of my life and how I can best live that out. Even though we do not always have the answers, we know that they are found through our pursuit of Christ-likeness.

ANYTHING ELSE YOU'D LIKE TO ADD ABOUT YOUR TIME AS A GBC ATHLETE?

I've really enjoyed being an athlete here. Participating in a sport helps you grow in so many ways. I've had to learn and live by time management skills to juggle every aspect of my life. I had the opportunity to be a leader on the field and challenge my leadership in all areas of my life. I've been able to be on my first soccer team where we are rooted in God and out there to glorify Him - that's never been the case for me growing up in public school. Being a student-athlete here has so many benefits and I'm so grateful for my four years!

Athletics were such an important part of my college career. They have provided many lessons that I will use in any path I take after college. The teammates, the coaches, and all others that I have encountered while an athlete at GBC have made a great impact on my life. I thank them all for sometimes pushing me further than I knew I could go and for becoming like family (which is our soccer team's motto)!

WHAT ARE YOUR PLANS AFTER GRADUATION?

My plan originally was to move down to Florida and find work there. However, my realistic goal is to stay here in Grand Rapids and find a job that will give me experience in the mentoring/counseling sphere. After a couple years of experience, I'll most likely pursue my master's degree.

After graduation I plan to pursue a career in hospitality management. I love serving people and I like taking care of guests. Using both my business management degree and my religious education degree, I plan to try to find a position that allows me to pursue that career.



One on One

Grace Bible College is

MINISTRY FOCUSED



Campus Connection

Every student is involved in a ministry of their own choice to gain practical experience by applying classroom concepts to real world ministry, to develop the habit and joy of serving, to grow in skills and talents as they minister, and to follow the example of Christ.

Many of these ministries are focused within the walls of the church, but other ministries are reaching out into the community of Wyoming and Grand Rapids, Michigan. It is exciting to share with you about the ways our students are impacting their world for Jesus Christ both on and off our campus.

ONE ON ONE MINISTRY TO HOMELESS

One of our students desired to make a difference in the lives of the homeless. Last summer, she spent her birthday giving food to people in downtown Grand Rapids; this winter, she organized a clothing and blanket drive and distributed those as well. She feels that she is giving back as Christ gave to her - and does not want any recognition for what she is doing. Her heart for others and her love for Christ shines through her efforts.

CAMPUS CONNECTION

Campus Connection is an on-campus ministry of Grace Bible College done

through a partnership with Urban Family Ministries. Every Monday and Tuesday evening, students spend time with children and adolescents from urban Grand Rapids neighborhoods. They share a meal, play games, and build relationships. GBC students help them with homework then teach a short Bible lesson. This program is designed to help introduce urban youth to college life in the hope that they will begin to see it as a tangible, attainable possibility for their own future. At the same time, Grace Bible College students develop relationships with and minister to students from diverse backgrounds.

TAKEOVER

GBC Takeover is designed to be a blessing to the churches, including the students' ministry leaders and the pastor. This ministry is a traveling team of pastoral, youth ministry, and worship arts students who go into area churches to "take over" the youth ministry for a night. Our student leaders take over all the aspects of the night. The night begins with an introduction and ice breaker games. This is followed by a time of worship, and a biblical challenge with small group questions. The end of the night involves more games, awesome snacks, and ends with a group photo. Our students are growing. They are learning how to serve in

the local church and they have been an encouragement to each other this year. Mark Carroll and Rick Pilieci meet weekly with the team and serve every other week on Sunday nights. The team currently includes Brandon Martin, Hunter Smith, Anthony Thompson, Elaine Schultz, Hailey Petty, Erik Kutch-en, and Brian Chesebro.

AFTERSHOCK

Aftershock is a ministry devoted to serving the homeless of Grand Rapids. It was created and is run entirely by GBC students. Several times a month, students gather to make sandwiches, pack lunches and care packages (including hygiene products, hats and gloves, etc.) to bring to homeless people near downtown Grand Rapids.

Senior student, Hailey Petty says, "Each time we go out we see new and old faces. We try to meet both the physical and spiritual needs that are brought to our attention. One of the best parts about this ministry is get-

ting to know others, build friendships with them, and eventually introduce them to Christ. This is a long process as it takes time to build trust. However, it is worth every minute of work that we put into it! This ministry impacts those that we serve, but it also impacts the students that are serving on this team. We learn how to be there for someone else, to listen effectively, and to love others regardless of what they are facing or struggling with. We have walked alongside many people struggling with addictions or circumstances, and have watched them both crumble and overcome what they are going through. It is a privilege to become friends with those that we meet and become a part of their lives - to cry with them, rejoice with them, and be involved in their lives."

HUMAN TRAFFICKING

This ministry was organized by Kate Shellenbarger, a sophomore student at GBC. Kate recognized that this problem was occurring right here in

the Wyoming community, and is actively making a difference. She began working with the local Wyoming Police Department about a year ago, and is learning about the ways to recognize someone who is caught in trafficking, and how to help them. Many who are trapped in human trafficking are everyday people who are just like you and me. They are despondent because they see no way out. One of the best ways to help them is simply to provide rescue information in a format that the victim will be able to "pocket" without being noticed, and then use later to call for help if possible.

Kate and her student team raised enough funds to purchase over 4,000 bars of soap and lip balm, and each piece was labeled with human trafficking rescue resource information. Just prior to their Christmas break, Kate, students, and four police officers went to over 40 hotels and motels in Kent County, giving these toiletries to hotel staff to place in their rooms.



Takeover



Aftershock



Human Trafficking



Graduation

As each year passes, more and more students are graduating from Grace Bible College as godly individuals who are prepared to serve Christ in their church and in society. Last spring, our annual festivities celebrating the 2016 graduates began with a lovely banquet at Stonewater Country Club on the evening of April 29. Family and friends gathered to share a delicious meal, hear testimonies from students, and enjoy a time of fellowship together.

On the morning of April 30, 163 graduates were awarded their diplomas at Rush Creek Bible Church at the GBC commencement ceremony. Students who graduated with Honor and High Honor were recognized by the Chief Academic Officer and Provost, Dr. Kim Pilioci. In addition, several special awards are given each year in honor of outstanding men of God who were connected with Grace Bible College. The *C.F. Baker Biblical Studies Award* was given to Lisse Schuerman. The *H.B. Prince Homiletics Award* was presented to Lucas Williams. The *T.R. Huston Christian Service Award* was awarded to Anna Lange. Kali LaHaie and Mary Pryer were both presented with the *Vernon H. Stromberg Worship Arts Award*. The *William L. Rigg Youth Ministry Award* was given to Kimberlee Holstad.

Two graduates, Jennifer Hodo and Kimberlee Holstad, delivered the commencement address. Portions of their speeches are highlighted here for your encouragement and enjoyment.

Be Strong & Courageous

For the past years, we have dedicated our lives to studying the Word of God and have trained to serve the Kingdom of God. Today, we celebrate the completion of our degrees. This moment in our lives reminds me of the story of Joshua. God told Joshua to take the city of Jericho. Before Joshua led the Children of Israel into the Promised Land, the Lord fortified and encouraged him. The Lord told Joshua, *“Be strong and courageous because you will lead these people to inherit the land I swore to their ancestors to give them”* (Joshua 1:6). I pray that today you are inspired and accept the call to act.

When God sent Joshua to the Promised Land, he gave him provision of the land, protection, and encouragement. We have been called to complete a mission similar to that of Joshua. The Lord has called us to take the lost to the “promised land of salvation.” The Lord will keep his hand of protection over you. God is telling us to be strong and courageous. Our battle is for the people who are lost on the streets. The Lord has equipped us with the most powerful weapon to fight this battle: His Word.

We are called to transform lives and present the gospel of Jesus Christ to the world. I want to encourage you with a story about a life that was transformed by the power of God and His love. Once there was a young girl who had an artistic passion. She loved art and had dreams of using her talent, and at 10 years of age, she decided to become a landscape architect. But, she had a dark secret. By the time she was in middle school, she began dealing with anger and sadness. Eventually, this anger grew to severe rage, and her sadness transformed into depression. At the age of 18, she received an academic scholarship to Iowa State University. She majored in landscape architecture, and was on her way to becoming the woman she dreamed of being. Even with all of her dreams coming to fruition, she was depressed and had a void in her heart. Her depression increased, she felt lost, and began having suicidal thoughts. Several doctors diagnosed her as schizophrenic and bipolar. By the time she was 19, she began seeing a counselor, taking anti-depressants, as well as anxiety and antipsychotic medications.

One day, she met a powerful woman of God who lived in her dorm. She was clothed in the Word of God. She led this young lady to the Lord. Receiving Christ changed her life, but her battle wasn't over. God wanted to take the pain she had tried to suppress for so long. Pain followed her every day and suicidal thoughts became actual attempts of suicide. When she was 20, the Lord laid on her heart to leave school. She did not want to do this, because it meant she would be giving up her dreams and aspirations. The Lord told her he was going to free her from her pain if she were obedient. After several weeks of wrestling with this, she finally left school and went back home with her family.

Back home, she felt the Lord prompting her to go to church. When she attended, she was met with the warm and loving presence of the Lord and began attending on a regular basis. One day while attending a women's conference, the Lord told her to stand up and testify that she was healed. Despite her reluctance, she stood up to testify, and she felt the stronghold break. She was completely healed and no longer had a desire to die or harm herself. The depression was gone, and she did not use or need medication! God's Word was true! The power of the Holy Spirit and the love of God touched her and released her from the battle for her life. Neither doctors nor medication healed her, but God did!

Studying, reading, and mentoring by other leaders helped her grow in spiritual maturity. She was able to maintain a life of consecration and devotion because others were able to reach out and pour into her life.


Today, I would like to introduce her to you. I was that young lady. Many of you may have a similar story of how the power of God has transformed your life. Our transformation occurred because of the witnessing and the prayers of men and women who obediently answered God's call.

We are called to be like iron because we are to sharpen the Body of Christ. The Word of God tells us, *“The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds.”* (II Corinthians 10:4)

Just like Joshua, we are generals in the army of the Lord. You are a mighty warrior ready for battle and we are waging war against the enemy. When Joshua arrived at the enemy camp he stood firm, vigilant, and fearless. We are called to march forth into this world with the Sword of the Spirit, the Breastplate of Righteousness, the Belt of Truth, the Shield of Faith, Helmet of Salvation, and our feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the Gospel of Peace (Ephesians 6:14-17).

Our battle begins now! Grace Bible College's mission is to graduate Godly Individuals Prepared to Serve Christ in Church and Society. This mission is not completed just because we are graduating; the mission is accomplished once we present the Gospel of Christ to the World.

This is a formal invitation to pick up your sword and go out into the world. Can you reach the broken hearted, the hurting, and those who are rejected? Can you accept the prostitute and the drug dealer? Can you teach every child from every nation? Remember to be like Joshua and be bold. Be brave. Be strong and courageous.

 Jennifer Hodo

Intentional Living

There are beautiful moments in our lives where words don't seem to express the full effect they have on our lives. These moments have moved and shaped us to become the people we are today. It is in those moments of beauty that we sense a Being greater than ourselves, and a purpose that we can only have through Him. These moments come in casual conversation over coffee as a friend speaks the truth we need in our lives, or through a drive to work where the world seems to slow for a moment, or by the words of a professor who remembers who you are and details of what you're going through. Perhaps it can be through the stillness of a lakefront sunrise where your calling is confirmed. Beautiful moments such as these have all happened to me while at GBC. I came to further my education, but I am leaving with a deep set purpose for my life that was only a seed when I started. ***What if these small, beautiful moments in our lives are really what we're going to take away from our experience at Grace?*** Think about your time here and draw out those moments you will take with you. Chances are they are those small moments of beauty and peace.

GBC has come to mean so much to me in so many very different ways. Faculty and staff were more like role models and friends than just teachers; students became best friends who are with me for the life journey ahead; and classes became places where I learned skills - not just knowledge - and grew in my overwhelming love of the Father and of humanity itself. It has taught me so much, but looking back, ***I can see that most of all, GBC has taught me to live intentionally in all of the circumstances that I'm going to face.***

Jennifer spoke on Joshua and how we can have the leadership that Joshua had in the nation of Israel. Joshua lived intentionally because of his relationship with God. Likewise, Jesus Christ has come to the earth to die on the cross and save us from our death because of sin--He wants us to have a relationship with Him! If we have chosen to enter into this relationship with Him, we have the Holy Spirit living inside us and He empowers us to become these leaders in the world that Jennifer was talking about. ***In my life, living intentionally has come to mean being authentic, being "response-able," and being an active observer.***

I remember coming to the GBC community for the first time. As freshmen, we went to Grace Adventures to grow in our unity as a class. It was awkward and uncomfortable and no one knew what to say or how to act. We said some stupid things and had a lot of nervous laughter, but by the end of the weekend we had the beginning of some beautiful friendships. ***Our time at Grace Adventures began to challenge us to***

be authentic with one another. God has given us the Body of Believers so that we can live in community - a community that involves conviction and encouragement. Hebrews 3:12-14 says, "*See to it, brothers and sisters, that none of you has a sinful, unbelieving heart that turns away from the living God. But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called 'Today,' so that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness. We have come to share in Christ, if indeed we hold our original conviction firmly to the very end.*"

I have learned what it means to be honest with other believers. Sometimes we need to wear our emotions on our sleeves because God has called us to pray and encourage one another. Life will bring with it many hardships, but my dear brothers and sisters, we are not alone in life. I have friends that God has given to me through Grace as do you, and these are the people we can call upon to lift us up when times are hard and to rejoice with us when times are good. ***Be authentic, therefore, because the world would have you be silent and alone.***

Living intentionally means responding differently. I heard once that we are "response-able" for the actions of others. I know what you're thinking, that doesn't make sense...we can't control other people. You're absolutely right, so let me say that again. We are ***response ABLE*** for other's actions, meaning we are able to respond to people's actions however we want -- but what if we responded in a seemingly opposite way than what is commonly expected? Isn't this the Christian life? ***Turning our cheek, loving our enemies, praying for those who persecute us?*** I'm a youth ministry major, and I have heard over and over again that a student won't care how much you know, unless they know how much you care. Truthfully, the way we respond does show people the truth of our hearts - whether we care for people or whether we condemn them. We can't show someone the truth of Christ, unless they know we love them where they're at. Matthew 5:43-46 says, "*You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. If you love those who love you, what reward will you get?"*

Today's world is hurting and people are being led astray by all forms of lies. It is easy to be stirred up by what is going on, but God has given us a spirit of peace, and amid the trials we can stand firm and extend love when it would seem justifiable, perhaps even beneficial, to extend condemnation.




Living intentionally means being an active observer. Loving camping ministry the way I do – and I really do because there’s nothing quite like it – I have had the privilege of leading a number of teambuilding activities. These activities vary in difficulty and type along with the amount of participation needed. Sometimes as the leader I would observe, while other times I would join the group and participate. Being an **active observer** means that you are seeking to understand a group or individual at their core, while also doing the activity alongside of them. We can choose to be passive observers where we merely sit back to watch the action, or we can get up, get focused, and do the task at hand with people.

Many of you may think that your degree is the prize and that you’ve “made it!” I would challenge you that your degree is the just the initiative, not an end goal. You have just made a huge step forward in your life, and I’m honored to be standing here with all of you to receive the reward for our hard work and dedication. But if that’s all this is, then we’ve missed the point! Instead, if we become active observers where we are neither only active nor only observing, we become dynamic individuals. **With Christ as our focus and our identity, we become dynamic, unstoppable people.** Hebrews 12:1 says, *“Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us.”*

We have a race to run, and I’ve never been more thankful to have run the course of this stage of my life with you. But, our race isn’t over yet, and once again we stand at a starting point for the rest of our lives. What we do from here on out, through the countless small moments, is what really matters in the face of eternity. We can live intentionally with the purpose and calling that God has given to us. It is this intentionality that marks who we are and **“whose”** we are. *“So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.”* (Colossians 2:6-7)

Blessings, my fellow students, graduates, and dear brothers and sisters. May you live-intentionally and be a reflection of the God who is present in you and may His glory be shown forth in whatever you do.

 Kimberlee Holstad



Jennifer Hodo



Kimberlee Holstad

ACADEMIC HONORS

DEAN'S LIST

TRADITIONAL EDUCATION

Mandy M. Achterhof, *Walkerville, MI*
Taylor S. Achterhoff, *Jenison, MI*
Benjamin D. Anderson,
Frankenmuth, MI
Deanna N. Bazan, *Holland, MI*
Autumn G. Befus,
San Antonio de Belen, Costa Rica
Elenrae L. Befus,
San Antonio de Belen, Costa Rica
Abigail L. Bickler, *Waukesha, WI*
Andrea F. Bohjanen, *Kalamazoo, MI*
Jared S. Bradford, *Sparta, MI*
Daniel I. Burkey, *Hudsonville, MI*
Emily D. Cross, *Muskegon, MI*
Kristi J. Duty, *Clyde Township, MI*
John P. Ermatinger, *Wyoming, MI*
Holly R. Ferguson, *Kent City, MI*
Katlynn R. France, *Whitehall, MI*
Grant J. Garrison, *Paw Paw, MI*
Robin N. Gould, *Whitehall, MI*
Adam R. Hartwig, *Augusta, MI*
Taitum J. Henderson, *Lansing, MI*
Breanna R. Heneveld, *Hamilton, MI*
Cody S. Hennings, *Whitmore Lake, MI*
Benjamin N. Hoffmeister,
Grandville, MI
Sydney J. Jacobson, *Wyoming, MI*
Brenna L. Johnston, *Grayling, MI*
Michelle H. Kamps, *Wyoming, MI*
Sarah A. Kobrak, *Ludington, MI*
Caitlin N. Krueger, *Jenison, MI*
Amy L. Leszinske, *Ravenna, MI*
Brennan C. Malley, *Hamilton, MI*
Bailey M. Mines, *Muskegon, MI*
Rebecca S. Moore, *Jenison, MI*
Austin A. Olson, *Coral, MI*
Allison M. Parker, *Wyoming, MI*
Natalie M. Parker, *Wyoming, MI*
Deborah A. Pikel, *Muskegon, MI*
Alexandra R. Pelley, *Livonia, MI*
Meagan J. Pifer, *West Olive, MI*
Nicholas R. Pilieci, *Wyoming, MI*
Trent N. Ramos, *Holland, MI*
Tasha R. Reed, *Santa Cruz, Bolivia*
Holly B. Renberg, *Norton Shores, MI*
Ian M. Renwick, *Wyoming, MI*
Jaclynn R. Rumenapp, *Richmond, MI*
David G. Schrock, *Kalamazoo, MI*
Marlae M. Sloothaak, *Caledonia, MI*
Stafford A. Smith, *Petoskey, MI*
Christian P. Storms, *Jenison, MI*
David P. Stout, *Grand Rapids, MI*
Miranda N. Stout, *Grand Rapids, MI*
Ashley J. Stratmeyer, *Wayland, MI*

Carson M. Straube, *Kalamazoo, MI*
Nathanael W. Striebel, *Chicago Ridge, IL*
Megan N. Suarez, *Grand Rapids, MI*
Skylar L. Thomas, *Wyoming, MI*
Landon C. Townsend, *Jenison, MI*
Christopher M. VanderWeide,
Zeeland, MI
Moses E. Van Koevering,
Hudsonville, MI
Anna L. Veldink, *Hudsonville, MI*
Bradley J. Webb, *Hudsonville, MI*
Aaron J. Wiens, *Brookfield, WI*
Kayla A. Winnie, *Mt. Pleasant, MI*
Kathryn E. Yanik, *Port Huron, MI*

ADULT EDUCATION

Yvonne Adams, *Harrisburg, PA*
James Alexander, *Mt. Vernon, OH*
Curtis Anderson, *El Dorado, KS*
Gregory Anderson, *Bloomington, IN*
Christopher Arnold, *Orlando, FL*
Eugene Bare, *Lake Placid, FL*
Kelly Beene, *Comstock Park, MI*
Cyle Boogaard, *Allendale, MI*
Larry Brabson, Jr., *Canton, OH*
John Brack, *Mcdonough, GA*
LaCharles Bradley, *Beaumont, TX*
Darrell Brandt, *Pago Pago, HI*
Kellie Brown, *Bonneau, SC*
Sherif Brown, *Rockledge, FL*
Sherisa Brown, *Rockledge, FL*
Angela Burn, *Barstow, CA*
Stephen Burrow, *Van Wert, OH*
Michael Carter, *Lamesa, TX*
Charlene Causey, *Jenks, OK*
Jana Cole, *Sellersburg, IN*
Sara Conway, *Whitesville, KY*
Brandon Crenshaw, *San Antonio, TX*
Matthew Dahm, *Wyoming, MI*
Stephanie Davis, *Bristol, VA*
Adrian Diaz, *Victorville, CA*
Nathan Dilliner, *Sesser, IL*
Benjamin DiMaggio, *Salmon, ID*
Constance Dixon, *Mckinney, TX*
Joann Ellis, *Tampa, FL*
Ronnie Evans, *Valdosta, GA*
Rachel Faber, *Jenison, MI*
Jody Ferguson, *Kent City, MI*
Courtney Fields, *Montgomery, IN*
Phillip Floyd, *Nolanville, TX*
Edwina Gabriel, *Grand Rapids, MI*
Rosalie Gasser, *Payne, OH*
Brad Gillespie, *Wahiawa, HI*
Kristy Gillfillan, *Mt Victory, OH*
Helen Gilliam, *Daleville, AL*
Sandra Gilliam, *Philladelphia, PA*
Avis Grant, *St. Louis, MO*

Kevin Greene, *Lucasville, OH*
Tricia Grotenhuis, *Grand Rapids, MI*
Tyler Hahn, *Fair Oaks Ranch, TX*
Zane Hall, *La Porte City, IA*
Donald Hargett, Jr., *Beaver City, NE*
Melanie Harrell, *Watha, NC*
Monique Harris, *Elizabeth, NJ*
Casey Heller, *Olney, IL*
Don Henson, *South Haven, MS*
Melissa Hines, *Muskegon, MI*
Jennifer Hodo, *South Sioux City, NE*
Michael Holcomb, *Alvada, OH*
Karlee Horton, *Hattiesville, AR*
William Horton, *Mantua, NJ*
Charlene Hubbardadams, *Westland, MI*
Rose Huizenga, *Allegan, MI*
Lena James, *Mcdonough, GA*
Lawrence Johnston, *Little River, SC*
Regina Jones, *Chataula, GA*
Rose Jones, *Lafayette, LA*
Jasmine Jordan, *Rockledge, FL*
Zachary Kergel,
Andrews Air Force Base, MD
Jennifer Kikta, *Indianapolis, IN*
Achilles Kirkikis, *Clio, MI*
Erika Kryger, *Belmont, MI*
Melissa Labieniec, *Southington, CT*
Anthony Lange, *Saint Johns, MI*
Benjamin Lenardson,
Oklahoma City, OK
Christopher Lerma, *Big Bear City, CA*
Kristy Lloyd-Tangermann,
Lawndale, CA
Kohl Long, *Beaufort, SC*
Eleazar Lopez, Jr., *Kentwood, MI*
Sidney Lovell, *Basco, IL*
Lilibate Luhanga, *Sandy Springs, GA*
Holly MacDonald, *Mt. Clemens, MI*
Keegan Macloude-Lafreniere,
Clarksville, TN
Heather Marshall, *Titusville, FL*
Allen Martin, *Broken Arrow, OK*
Shara Massey-Bixler, *Pine Bluff, AR*
Michael Matthew, *Mendon, MI*
Aneysa Matthews, *Corinth, MS*
Michael Matthews, *Washington, PA*
Joseph Mayuyo, *Hawthorne, CA*
Corey McCoy, *Kissimmee, FL*
Mitchell McElhenney, *Columbus, MS*
Jordan Mears, *Lansing, MI*
Justin Metiva, *Bloomsdale, MO*
Charlene Miller, *Gibsonburg, OH*
Gladyes Montgomery, *Tar Heel, NC*
Lauren Montgomery, *East Lansing, MI*
Beth Moore, *Harker Heights, TX*
Paula Moore, *Anniston, AL*
Tajjanae Nelson, *Rockledge, FL*

LaShunda Nickles, *Houston, TX*
Alyssia Ocasio, *Grand Rapids, MI*
William Parsons, *Walker, MI*
Joanna Phelps, *San Tan Valley, AZ*
Nichols Phelps, *San Tan Valley, AZ*
Esther Pomerantz, *Accord, NY*
Matthew Powell, *North Platte, NE*
Nadine Price, *Melbourne, FL*
Jason Pugh, *Alto, MI*
Kateri Rang, *Rochester Hills, MI*
Benjamin Reed, *Rochester, NY*
Kenneth Reed, *Sterling Heights, MI*
Stephanie Reeder, *Grand Rapids, MI*
Brian Rester, *Clinton, MS*
Margaret Revels, *Columbus, GA*
Brandi Riffel, *Brownsburg, IN*
Joshua Ritchie, *Fort Wayne, IN*
Frances Robinson, *Darlington, SC*
Edward Rodriguez,
Fort Lauderdale, FL
Ricardo Rosas, *Oxford, OH*
Victoria Rossi, *Saint Joseph, MI*
James Russell, *Grand Rapids, MI*
Pedro Sanchez, *Kent City, MI*
Kindra Santander, *Longmont, CO*
Austin Schild, *Hamilton, MI*
Cedric Schofield, *Hephzibah, GA*
Tara Serrano, *Whitewater, WI*
Andrea Shadd, *Chicago, IL*
Kathryn Shepard,
Oklahoma City, OK
Alan Shrom, *Pottsville, PA*
Helene Smith, *Peoria, IL*
Joel Smith, *Indianapolis, IN*
Charles Spradley, *Florence, TX*
Kelly Springer, *Holland, MI*
Eric Stahel, *Cedar Springs, MI*
Rebecca Taylor, *Sequim, WA*
Ryan Taylor, *Conklin, MI*
Africa Tette, *Wyoming, MI*
Derek Thomas, *Auburn, AL*
Brittiany Tillett, *Stanford, KY*
Donna Torrado, *Bloomfield, NJ*
Ludwing Torres, *Chino Hills, CA*
Patricia Turner, *Grand Rapids, MI*
Raymond Vliet, *Flint, MI*
Tirrell Walker, *Grandville, MI*
Danielle Waning, *Wausau, WI*
Lakrisa Wardsworth, *Houston, TX*
Christopher Weed, *Plainfield, CT*
Johnnie Wheeler, *Clarksville, TN*
Brianna Wieringa, *Plumtree, NC*
Angela Williams, *Conyers, GA*
Eunice Williams, *Converse, TX*
Bill Winchester, *Valley Falls, KS*
Donna Wright, *Jackson, NJ*
Gayla Yocum-Stucky, *Albany, OR*



PRESIDENT'S LIST

TRADITIONAL EDUCATION

Atemlefac Gerald Asong,
Kumba, Cameroon

Caryn A. Baker, *Byron Center, MI*

Gabrijel Baric, *Grand Rapids, MI*

Leah M. Befus, *Wyoming, MI*

Paige E. Clark, *Manton, MI*

Nathan M. Conroy, *Zeeland, MI*

Elizabeth H. Goff-Sterbroock,
Wyoming, MI

Timothy S. Hoffmeister, *Grandville, MI*

Mark G. Hucklebury, *Coral, MI*

Alexandra G. Lorenz, *Byron Center, MI*

Sean N. Martin, *Wittenberg, WI*

McKenzie R. McCord, *Cadillac, MI*

Alexandra D. North, *Byron Center, MI*

Ethan A. Partridge,
Cambridge, Ontario, Canada

Lauren E. Peterson, *Comstock Park, MI*

Evan A. Przybysz, *Wyoming, MI*

Adam C. Rayner, *Muskegon, MI*

Jewel F. Ro, *Hudsonville, MI*

Rachel N. Roth, *Jenison, MI*

Adam M. Shultz, *Gobles, MI*

Samantha J. Smith, *Hamilton, MI*

Rachel E. Stevens, *Shoreline, WA*

ADULT EDUCATION

Leeann Alexander, *Whitehall, MI*

Faith Arrington, *Cadillac, MI*

Jonathan Barsness, *St. Bonifacius, MN*

John Blazer, *Waynesville, NC*

Nicole Bostick, *Slidell, LA*

Amber Brace, *Warren, MI*

Kenneth Bradford, *Plattsmouth, NE*

Noreen Brill, *Benton, WI*

Corey Brooks, *Claremont, NC*

Amber Burns, *Auburn, AL*

Matthew Burton, *White Pine, TN*

Pamela Colon, *Gonic, NH*

Lauren Cranmer, *East Alton, IL*

Loren Crannell, *Duck Creek Village, UT*

Lesa Deter, *Perrysville, OH*

Kevin Dood, *Grand Rapids, MI*

Lynette Duquette, *Chicopee, MA*

Patricia Estes, *Carthage, IL*

Carolyn Evans, *Parker, CO*

Hannah Falk, *Grass Lake, MI*

Jonathan Garcia, *Indianapolis, IN*

Joli Gracon, *Shaker Heights, OH*

Sarah Beth Herman, *San Tan Valley, AZ*

Kylie Hernandez, *Waterford, MI*

Gerald Hill, *Fort Worth, TX*

Jay Hundstad, *Superior, NE*

James Jackson, *Bonaire, GA*

Roger Janesheski, *Niles, MI*

Lydia Johnson, *North Chesterfield, VA*

Gayle King, *Willoughby, OH*

Lorrie Knell, *York, PA*

Gregory Knight, *Bellevue, NE*

David Kuikstra, *Kentwood, MI*

Melissa Law, *Aliquippa, PA*

Fredrick Lockhart, *Decatur, TX*

Anita Lopez, *Spring, TX*

Holly Madden, *Willard, MO*

Mary Mayfield, *Visalia, CA*

Nathan Medlin, *Ladson, SC*

Jason Moore, *Harker Heights, TX*

Marcus Morgan, *Lansing, MI*

Kimberly Nielsen, *Willow Street, PA*

Ronald Pander, *Johnson City, TN*

Judah Pearl, *Leas River, IL*

Jonathan Pierce, *Cleveland, TN*

John Preston, *Waynesburg, KY*

James Rainey, *Aurora, MO*

Michelle Reese, *Ashland, IL*

Jennifer Reynolds, *Camdenton, MO*

Gentry Rhoades, *Williamsburg, KY*

Sierra Ricketts, *Union Bridge, MD*

Todd Riemersma, *Grand Haven, MI*

Nelson Riley, *North Vernon, IN*

Dennis Roach, *Grand Rapids, MI*

Katina Robinson, *Pike Road, AL*

John Rokos, Jr., *Traverse City, MI*

Nikita Rooks, *Lewiston, NC*

Robert Sexton, *Sheboygan, WI*

Misty Shafer, *Anderson, MO*

Scott Slaven, *Arvada, CO*

Beverly Smith, *Swanton, OH*

Edward Smith, *Stanwood, WA*

Case Stevenson, *Loveland, CO*

Diane Stoner, *Centre Hall, PA*

Vicki Strobel, *Holland, MI*

Abigail Taylor, *Grant, MI*

Matthew Walker, *Portsmouth, VA*

Tammy Watts, *Hickory, NC*

Amy West, *Huntsville, TX*

Arnetirious Wilkins,
Grand Rapids, MI

Ronald Williams, *Conyers, GA*

Terry Wilson, *Lake, MI*

Raymond Winstead,
Wichita Falls, TX

Lisa Worthley, *Oconomowoc, WI*

Caleb Zahl, *Wausau, WI*

Traveling *in Israel*

with Grace Bible College

In May, I will be leading my eighth trip to Israel since 2005. I only had fourteen people on my first trip, the latest trip will have thirty-five people, including Grace Bible College students and a few alumni and family. We will leave May 1, 2017 and will tour important sites in Israel as well as spend two days in Jordan to visit Petra.

I am often asked about my favorite place to visit in Israel. I always find this very difficult to answer since every place we visit is exciting! First, I personally enjoy visiting the Negev, the southern desert of Israel. For some reason I resonate with the subtle beauty of the desert and I am deeply attached to several of the ancient sites there. For example, early one morning we hiked in En-Gedi, the place where David hid from King Saul (1 Samuel 24). It is very easy to see why David would come to this particular beautiful place while living in the otherwise inhospitable desert near the Dead Sea. We usually visit the city of Arad, an archaeological site which is excavated in some places to the Canaanite period but is famous for its citadel dating to the Solomonic period. The citadel has a small temple built on the analogy of the Temple in Jerusalem which is likely one of the “high places” shut down by Hezekiah or Josiah. It absolutely amazes me to imagine Israelites making sacrifices on the altar in this temple.

Second, in the 2015 tour we walked from the top of the Mount of Olives down to the traditional site of the Garden of Gethsemane. Virtually every Christian tour of Israel takes this walk, but this year we crossed the street and walked down into the Kidron Valley, past the Tomb of Absalom and back up the opposite side of the Kidron to visit the City of David excavations. The excavations just outside the Old City of Jerusalem have uncovered paving stones near the Pool of Siloam (John 9:6-7) which appear to lead all the way up the hill to the Temple steps on the southern end of the Temple Mount. Excavations at the Pool of Siloam are ongoing and I look forward to re-visiting this location in 2017. Although this was a long hike, it was exactly the route visitors to Jerusalem coming from the south-

east of the city would have made in the first century, including Jesus himself.

Third, although some of the sites in Galilee tend to be touristy, I find it extremely humbling to visit the Sea of Galilee since so much of Jesus’s ministry took place around the lake. On our most recent trip, we arrived at Capernaum just after the lunch hour, before the large tour busses started arriving. We were able to visit the large fifth century synagogue and explore the village in peace before walking out to the edge of the lake. We read from Mark’s Gospel and talked about those stories while standing in the very place where they occurred. This was one of the most “teachable moments” I have experienced in my life as an educator.

Finally, I find our time of worship at the Garden Tomb to be a refreshing spiritual experience. This is a small garden just outside the Old City of Jerusalem which overlooks Gordon’s Calvary, a suggested location for the crucifixion of Jesus. Inside the garden is a small tomb dating to the first century. After visiting this tomb, we gather in the quiet of the garden for a time of worship and communion. Of all of the places in Israel, the Garden Tomb is the most evangelical. The guides are clear the site may not be Jesus’s tomb and they have always emphasized the fact the tomb is empty because Jesus has indeed risen from the dead.

A Grace Bible College Israel tour is a different from the typical “pilgrim” tour. We visit sites of interest for biblical studies as well as important archaeological sites. The goal of the trip is to give our students some familiarity with the sites and locations in which biblical events occurred. For example, the students will spend time living at Tamar, an archaeological site deep in the Negev. Tamar gives the students a mini-history of Israel from the Canaanite period, through the kingdom of Israel, the Edomite occupation, and the Roman period when the site collected tolls from merchants on the spice route and in to the Turkish period. There is even an old British mandate jail and a modern Israeli military shelter on the site. ■

I highly recommend this trip to anyone who desires to really experience the origin of their Christian faith, to take an incredible adventure back 2,000 years ago and relive the very significant sites captured in the Bible.



If you are interested in traveling to Israel with GBC on an upcoming tour, please contact me (Phillip Long plong@gbcoll.edu). You can view photographs and commentary from previous GBC trips at readingacts.com/israel-trips.



The Dublin Experience



The Dublin Experience is a ministry-based educational course that occurs between fall and spring semester for GBC students. In January, thirteen students plus faculty members Dr. Scott Shaw and Dr. Mark Carroll traveled to Dublin, Ireland, to serve in partnership with the Dublin Christian Mission. The days were filled with ministry and with visits to academic and historical sites highlighting Ireland's rich faith and cultural past (including a day trip to Belfast). A lecture on Irish faith history at Ireland Bible Institute gave the students greater contextual awareness and appreciation for the history, culture, and ultimately, the people they would be serving.

Prior to leaving for Ireland, students attended a lecture led by Drs. Shaw and Carroll on Irish culture, history, and travel details. Students were also provided *Ireland: A Short History* (Joseph Coohill, 2014) as a foundational textbook on Irish history and culture from prehistory to the modern era. This helped the students prepare for the trip prior to leaving the United States.

The European cobblestone streets and the buildings, with their age and character, emanated with a sense of history. This was apparent to students when we visited the two major Dublin cathedrals, St. Patrick's Cathedral and Christ Church Cathedral, where we attended the daily prayer service. One of our students, Lauren Olsen, was able to publicly read Scripture for the service. Students quickly observed the vast difference between the buildings in Ireland, which have been standing for over a thousand years in some cases, in comparison with the newness of mainstream American architecture. One student remarked that the history came alive in the buildings and on the ancient streets.

Most days in Ireland, students were led on a walking tour of the city, including parks such as St. Stephen's Green, as well as historical sites of importance. Some of these sites included the Famine Memorial Statue (commemorating the Irish Potato Famine, 1845-1850), statues of writers James Joyce and Oscar Wilde, and the famous Georgian doors. Dublin Castle, Dublinia Viking Museum and the aforementioned cathedrals were visited, informing students of the country's storied Celtic, Viking, and British Tudor past leading up to modern independence. The Chester Beatty Library, Trinity College (and the famous Book of Kells), the

Titanic Museum (in Belfast), Kilmainham Gaol (jail), and Collins Barracks/National Museum also provided historical context which enabled them to better understand the modern Irish. The meals were planned to facilitate a rich learning experience for students, with traditional Irish cuisine, including fish and chips, Irish lamb stew, shepherd's pie, and even black pudding (blood sausage)... and of course lots of potatoes!!!

We had the opportunity to worship at Shankill Bible Church, where Dr. Shaw brought the morning message. The students participated by providing personal introductions and more about their major and hometown. Following the service, the church members provided a generous meal that was a highlight of the trip. After church, the afternoon was spent at Bray Head mountain, providing all an opportunity to enjoy God's beautiful creation on edge of the Irish Sea.

One of the greatest aspects about the trip was the personal ministry engagement in partnership with the Dublin Christian Mission. Many of the staff and volunteers serve those with a history of drug abuse, homelessness, and crime. They desire to serve others still trapped in that lifestyle, praying that they will come to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ. Students were able to work directly with the homeless population and those struggling with addictions during street outreach, work in the meal and clothing ministry, and also encourage the staff and volunteers who serve the people of Dublin. Dr. Carroll facilitated some painting at Chancery Place (Dublin Christian Mission) in preparation for their growing youth ministry program.

Students were able to go out for evening street outreach in collaboration with mission staff to serve food, coffee, and tea, and to pray with the willing. Students gained cultural ministry perspective by ministering to people struggling with addictions and homelessness. We were reminded of Jesus' words in Matthew 25:37-40 saying, "Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?' The King will reply, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.'"

CONTINUED ►



In Ireland, I was able to volunteer in three different ministries. I enjoyed all of the different ministries, however, the youth ministry was by far my favorite. I was really able to interact with the children and get to know them better. It felt amazing to know that I had really made an impact on those kids, even if it was just for a short time. Seeing the views of what God had created was breathtaking and something that I will never forget. I never realized how intense and rich the history of Ireland was. The Dublin Experience was an unforgettable experience that has just sparked my excitement to go and explore the entire world more. I hope I am able to go on more mission and tourist trips to many other countries during my lifetime.

ALEX PELLEY



Today I witnessed the reward of stepping out of my comfort zone and into new experiences. The past few hours I spent my time in fellowship with a group of homeless individuals. Together we ate, we talked much, but we laughed more. Today I truly realized the cruelty in stereotyping the homeless community. Talking to strangers can be intimidating or scary, especially when you feel that you have minimal things in common to talk about. However, today I was overwhelmed with joy as I engaged in conversation. Each day God is offering us an opportunity to make a difference in someone's life. Don't ignore it. Act on it. Because today, the difference was made in my life and in this moment I've fallen more in love with my Savior.

BAILEY MINES

A LIVING MEMORIAL

A lasting legacy remains when you honor a loved one or friend with a memorial gift. Your gift to Grace Bible College becomes a living tribute to their memory, and it will powerfully impact the next generation as they are learning how to transform their world for Jesus Christ. We praise God for the lasting legacy provided by these donors during 2016:

DICK WALKER

Betty Barber
Richard and Rachel Berglund
Ilene Bultema
Larry Charrier
Carol Lenger
James and Lois Lowden
Michael and Jennette Miling
David and Joni Mills
Phil and Kathy Munoa
William Smith
Janet Strokosch
William and Gloria Velting
James and Joyce Webb

PAUL REED

Steven and Linda Clapper
Judy Rozema

BRYCE AND CHAR TOWNLEY

Susan Riggs Ells

LILA CORNELL

Bill and Jan Groeneveld



DO I REALLY NEED A WILL?

The Answer is a Resounding **YES!**

If you die without a will, the State already has one prepared for you. That is why it is so important for Christians to begin thinking about this important decision.

GET A WILL.

Many Christian families do not want the government to decide where their children or hard-earned assets go. They want to decide who will care for their children. Others are motivated by the realization that they worked long and hard for the money God blessed them with, and they are not comfortable with the government getting the final say in how those resources should be divided up.

REDUCE/ELIMINATE UNNECESSARY TAXES AND COURT COSTS.

Most Christian families want to eliminate all unnecessary costs and taxes that could instead be redeployed for family needs and ministry interests. They also want to avoid the unnecessary heartache, cost, delays, and guardianship issues that many families who did not have a will can face. Some basic planning in advance assures these families that they are doing the best they can with what God has given them.

IT IS GOOD STEWARDSHIP.

Many Christians approach making a will as an offering to God. They desire to honor the Lord with everything He's given them - before and after they die. When they realize that most of what He's given them is in the form of assets other than cash (such as their home, life insurance, retirement funds, property, etc.), they decide to make a will as part of their worship to God. An important part of that worship is to leave an enduring testimony for their children and grandchildren about their biblical values and priorities, such as providing well for their family, as well as for the ministries they loved – such as Grace Bible College.

We welcome the opportunity to meet you and discuss effective stewardship that allows you to maximize your giving. You may also go to plannedgiving@gbcol.edu and view the video which will walk you through designing your will. For further information, please contact Steve Hilbrands at 616-822-6860 or shilbrands@gbcol.edu.

Notify us and become a member of our Legacy Society and we will recognize your decision with an attractive set of beverage coasters.



1011 Aldon Street SW
Grand Rapids, MI 49509

gbcoll.edu

Address Service Request

NonProfit Org
US Postage
PAID
Grand Rapids, MI
Permit #130

UPCOMING EVENTS - 2017



APRIL 29

Graduation & Commencement



MAY 4

National Day of Prayer



JUNE 28

Whitecaps Fundraising Event



AUGUST 21

GBC Golf Classic



OCTOBER 13-14

Homecoming Weekend



DECEMBER 1

Gloria 2017