Works of Grace

GRACE COVENANT INTERNATIONAL October 2026

Conduits into Confluence!







A confluence is the point where two or more rivers, streams, or bodies of water flow together to form a single, larger stream. Jesus said: ***"Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them." By this he meant the Spirit,…"*** **John 7:38-39** As believers we are conduits of Holy Spirit referred to in Scripture as a river or stream. He flows within us with His sanctifying power to make us more like Jesus, ***"from one degree of glory to another."*** **II Cor. 3:18** Jesus also flows through us to serve others and impact our surroundings for the Kingdom of God. Kingdom impact is multiplied when we come into connection with others.

GCI Executive Ministry Director Marquis Harris brought a powerful message about Holy Spirit's leading: "Open Doors, Divine Orchestrations." The Board of Ministry and Executive Board unanimously approved Marquis as the next Ministry Director of GCI following affirmation at our GCI Conference-March 2027.

This becomes the confluence where we flow together led by the Spirit. You can do more together than you can by yourself. Flowing together for the Cause of Christ provides a context for mutual support and encouragement. It's a flow of refreshment and renewal. It is the environment where ***"iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another."*** **(Pro. 27:17)** So the confluence is also refining. We make one another better. Our GCI West Coast Ministry Conference was held in August at LifePoint Church in Oakdale, CA. It was refreshing, renewing and refining in the Holy Spirit. We appreciate all who attended and all who hosted our group in various ways. We will continue to make investments in relationships to flow together for His Kingdom and Glory!

WONDERFUL NEW DEVELOPMENTS



Marquis and Family

This is Marquis with wife, Makayla,and children: Simone, Jaiden, and Gracelyn as they attended our GCI World Conference 2026 in the Dominican Republic in April. Marquis has served as our GCI Executive Ministry Director for the past two years. As mentioned, he was unanimously approved by our GCI boards to be our next Ministry Director in March of 2027 with the affirmation of our GCI conference.

With that affirmation, Marquis will take the baton from our current Ministry Director Dallas Elder. He is the founder of GCI and has served full-time in the position for 30 years. In March, Dallas will step down from that position. He will work part-time for the remainder of 2027 to serve and support in various ways. We are grateful for all the churches, mission works and ministries of our GCI Ministry Family. We look forward to all that the Lord has for us in our future.!



Congrats and Blessings!

She was like, so bummed. She had a wonderful announcement to make at our GCI West Coast Conference in August.
Kayla Lawmaster serves as a missionary to the deaf in Mexico.

She drove up from Ensenada, through California to Washington, visiting supporters along the way. Her plan was to make our conference in Oakdale, CA on the way back through. However, her car broke down in Washington. She missed the conference and was so sad. God graciously provided for her car repair and she made our Ministry Leaders Retreat. It was there she flashed the rock to our group of leaders. Kayla was engaged to Gibran on July 25. Woot! Woot!

GCI-West African Conference







Our conference was held at our missions facility in Accra, Ghana. "The theme for the conference was 'Prepare the Way of the Lord'. Lori was our keynote speaker and Holy Spirit gave her some powerful teachings. Ebere and Alexander brought words almost exactly the same as Lori's. Holy Spirit truly wants us to hear the message! Rob closed us off with a teaching on the soon coming of Jesus. We were impacted mightily in our spirits and look forward to seeing how Holy Spirit will work through all of us." ~Rob & Lori Mangus-Ghana

Rob and Lori hosted the conference with our GCI West African leaders from five nations. Leaders from three of those nations are pictured here: Pastor Ebere-Nigeria, Pastor Alexander-Liberia and Pastor Sonte-Togo. Pastor Roland from Benin was unable to attend due to having malaria. Our Ghana pastors were in attendance. Pastor Julius (Ghana) was commissioned.

Nepal-Serving the Devastated





On August 26, 2026 a catastrophic flood ripped through Nepal near Tibet. To date it is estimated that over 6,700 people and missing and there have been 1,451 deaths. GCI Missionaries Antonio and Graciela Chavez have ministered in Nepal for over 25 years. They have ministered in the effected area and know people there. It is four hours from where they live in Katmandu. In September, VisionVestors raised $5,000 for their relief effort to the flood victims. You can see them serving the people in October with these supplies. The need is great. We are raising another $5,000 to help with victims with basic needs, emotional and spiritual support, in the love of Christ. You can help.

***To give by mail,** make check payable to VisionVestors, designate "Nepal Flood Relief" in the memo line.

***To give online,** click the link below, follow the prompts, and in "Your Message" designate "Nepal Flood Relief."

https://grace-covenant-international.raiselysite.com/



Each year our world-wide GCI Ministry Family sets aside November 1-21 to humble ourselves before the Lord through prayer and fasting. It's a dedicated time to seek His Face and His Presence with all your heart. This year we offer ourselves as a vessel into the Potter's hands for His shaping and to be made useful in the hand of the Master.

Go to our GCI website and download the 21-day Prayer and Fasting Guide. God will greatly use this time in your life.

"A Vessel in the Master's Hand"

By Dallas Elder

I resonate with the imagery, that as believers we are clay in the hands of the Potter. We are a vessel being formed for service for the Master. Have you thought much about who God created you to be and how He wants to use you? Sometimes I think we take all the responsibility to make ourselves usable. While we do have our part in the matter, the fuller truth is God created us individually in His Divine Design. For instance, you did not get to choose your physical features. You didn't get to choose your personality; whether you're an extrovert or introvert; artsy or analytical. You also didn't get to choose your spiritual gift mix. I was trained in the Meyers-Briggs Personality Profile Test. I used it extensively in pastoral counselling. I also used the Motivational Spiritual Gift Test. Research indicates there are correlations. We have all been created with a "gift personality" to serve the Kingdom.

Here is the biblical reference for the Motivational Gifts. ***"For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. 6 We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully."*** **Romans 12:4-8** In using these tests over the years, I saw a correlation between personalities and their spiritual gifts. In other words, you have been created with a "psychological personality" that connects with your "gift personality" that gets activated when you receive and grow in the Holy Spirit. This is God's intentional creative design for you. It's in your spiritual DNA. This is the intended shape of your vessel for your service in the Body of Christ. God made you for this purpose. There is actually research on this correlation. DR. Reginald Johnson, whom I met at Asbury Seminary, did his doctoral thesis on this correlation. His research became a book: *Your Personality and the Spiritual Life.*

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GCI Ministry Conference 2027
March 2-5 in Platte City, MO
Make your plans now to attend.

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It explores how individual personality traits interact with and shapes a person's spiritual journey. Your were created with Divine Design! As we are saved and filled with Holy Spirit, God begins the "point and process" of sanctification to make us more like Jesus in character, bearing the Fruit of the Spirit **(Gal 5:22-25).**

"We have to remember the primary role of the Spirit in our lives: to make us like Jesus. Everything He does is to conform us into the image of the Son of God, Jesus the Christ.. He works in and through us to make us in behavior what we are by position in Christ. This is His primary assignment." ~Bill Johnson -*The Holy Spirit*

Holy Spirit also grows us up in our God-ordained gifting to serve like Jesus in His Church and the world. You have your created purpose. As you continue to submit yourself to the Lord through your spiritual disciplines: worship, prayer, Scripture reading, fasting, etc., you continually present yourself into the hands of the Potter for Him to shape you into His chosen vessel.

"This is the word that came to Jeremiah from the Lord: "Go down to the potter's house, and there I will give you my message." So I went down to the potter's house, and I saw him working at the wheel. But the pot he was shaping from the clay was marred in his hands; so the potter formed it into another pot, shaping it as seemed best to him." **Jer. 18:1-4**

Let's combine this passage with:
"***In a large house there are articles not only of gold and silver, but also of wood and clay; some are for special purposes and some for common use. Those who cleanse themselves from the latter will be instruments for special purposes, made holy, useful to the Master and prepared to do any good work."*** **II Tim. 2:20-21** Our yielding to the Potter enables us to be made a useful vessel for the Master.

"To effectively achieve His ends, God has provided not only a community to get the job done, but also special abilities known as spiritual gifts. Those gifts enable us to minister beyond our levels of natural competence and ability in order to meet the needs of the Church."
~George Barna -*The Second Coming of the Church*

So here is the truth of *"Conduits into Confluence."* As we are filled and flowing in the Spirit, useful in the Master's hand, we individually contribute and collectively impact the world for Jesus Christ. We can also keep growing in relationship with God and are further shaped for greater capacity for His Spirit. Our continual yielding to the Potter enables our greater usefulness in the hand of the Master.

"We were designed to host God, and that interaction with Him is meant to be one of the ways we experience His endless goodness and find our reason for being."
~Bill Johnson –*The Holy Spirit*

We were all created with Divine Intention and Purpose. Through our unique redeemed personality, growth in Christ and our spiritual gift mix, God uses us to uniquely serve His Purpose in this world. That looks differently for each one of us. It is an exercise in futility to measure ourselves next to other servants of Christ, or allow ourselves to be measured by others. We each have a unique script authored by our Creator. Our Father does not measure us next to His other children. We all have equal value as we make our individual faithful contributions. It is by His Design. Don't allow the accuser to tell you differently. Remember, he is "***the accuser of the brothers and sisters…."*** **Rev. 12:10** At the end of the day, you can only be you in Christ Jesus. However, you can only be fully you in Christ Jesus as you continue to yield yourself to the Potter and be useful in the Master's hand. You will continue to grow in closeness with the Father and in effectiveness in His service. It's what you were uniquely created to be. This is your ultimate life fulfillment in Christ. Don't allow yourself to settle for less. Be all that you were meant to be in Christ Jesus. Your consistent times with God enable your intimacy and shaping with Him to continue to evolve. It's a lifetime journey. You have to consistently "be" in His Presence to "become" fully you. And, fully used in the Master's hand.

"The Holy Spirit lives in me for my sake. But He comes on me for the sake of others, to release the Spirit to them. The same Spirit that anoints me for ministry, comforts and directs me for life. When He rests on me, it is always to bring transformation to my surroundings."
~Bill Johnson -*The Holy Spirit*

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