

# Works of Grace

GRACE COVENANT INTERNATIONAL

February/March 2025

## ENGAGING & EXPANDING Apostolic Family!



“Teach us to number our days that we may gain a heart of wisdom.” Psalm 90:12

**M**any across our ministry family joined with a good number of first time guests to share in our GCI Ministry Conference 2025. As always, it was a precious time in His Presence. Our connections continue to deepen community across our group. Our conference theme was: “Teach to Number our Days.” Every year we hear the declarations, “This was the best conference yet!” It is indicative of our enriching environment of our diversity, transparency and oneness in Christ. One of our principle objectives is to: “Exemplify the Kingdom of God through biblical equality within our ministry family, the Body of Christ and the unredeemed world.” Through the years, we have seen this vision-value forming and blooming. It is now fully manifesting before our eyes. This is the Kingdom of Christ! It is beautifully reflected in this cross-section of our ministry family. Our final session on Friday morning began with worship, then a “Glory dance” by Makayla Harris. Pastor Buddy Collins brought a message: “*Daily Carry the Glory.*” As per usual, we shared communion.

We asked the ministry leaders of the Executive Board to pray individual blessings on all who desired one. Then an unexpected thing happened. Our NEX GEN leaders requested the opportunity to honor and bless our ‘senior’ leaders. They thanked them for all the words of encouragement, counsel, prayers and genuine support they invested in the younger generation through the years. They presented them cards containing personal notes. What a lovely expression of honor! Then the Joshua Generation prayed blessings on the Moses Generation (pictured). There was more than a tear or two shed. We are totally grateful to God for the unity, affirmation and authenticity in our beautifully diverse ministry family. We are so thankful for all who have prayed and served through the years in GCI to bring us to this point. This is the God-Dream come true. This is the Vision fulfilled. This is the Kingdom! The Lord has led us to the Promise Land. As fathers and mothers, brothers and sisters, sons and daughters, generations in Christ, let us possess and prosper in the Promise Land!

# Embracing Our Laborers in New Fields

*Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field." MT 9:37-38*



Kayla Lawmaster, GCI Missionary to the Deaf in Mexico successfully completed her first year with GCI. She has raised her fulltime support. PTL! We affirmed and commissioned her as a minister in GCI. We also commissioned Kim and Guido Orellana (pictured with daughter Sofia) as GCI Missionaries to Ecuador. Their mission is working with the Ecuadorian Government to provide faith-based training for foster care workers and spiritually encourage churches. We whole-heartedly welcome these new additions into our ministry family.



Dallas Elder and Kevin Clancey met Thomas Omenta (Kenya) at Eric Roberts' house in McCleary, Washington. Eric works with Thomas in doing Bible translation into tribal dialects in East Africa through Wycliffe Associates. We commissioned Thomas and welcomed him into our GCI family. He will serve in church planting and training ministry leaders in Kenya and beyond. He has a wife and three children.



## ***GCI-Peru Conference-Iquitos***

Our Ministry Team of Bill and Marie Eddy-Spain, Tyler, Callie and James Franca, Hannah Hoose-Dominican Republic, Marquis and Simone Harris, Geony Rucker and Dallas Elder-USA joined with other from the DR to attend our conference in Iquitos, Peru. The event was wonderfully hosted by Apostles Pedro and Amalia Urcia. GCI ministry leaders from across Peru joined with us. God poured out His grace and power upon us! Amazon River in view.



The theme of the conference was *Linaje Escogido* (Chosen Lineage) from I Peter 2:9-10. There were powerful messages and times of ministry. Our GCI NEX GEN leaders preached it up! In our final evening service, Pastor Pedro called these individuals to the front (see photo above). He individually and specifically prophesied over them. People he was not familiar with received personal, confirming words from the Father. Deeper anointing was released. They were elevated into new levels of ministry.

## New Church Plant



At the start of January 2025, Marquis & Makayla Harris planted Mission 418 (four-eighteen) Church in Kansas City, MO. Led by the Holy Spirit, they established this work as a mission-focused church for mission-focused hearts inspired by the model presented in Luke 4:18: ***“The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free,...”*** We know how desperate this world is in need of hope, healing, and freedom. That is the aim of this new work rising up in South Kansas City. In its current stage, they meet on Sunday mornings in their home for fellowship gatherings. These gatherings serve as an intentional space to share a meal, build connection, and embrace the model of family discipleship, centered in the Word, prayer, and worship. Since January, several families have come to receive and be blessed by this work. Please pray for us as the Lord continues to expand this work beyond the walls of their home into the surrounding community.

## First Nations Day of Honor

Fran O'Brien  
White Buffalo  
Ministries



Fran is a Kiowa-Apache from Oklahoma. In March, she and Lisa Smith (Zion-Glory Ministries) co-sponsored the First Nations Day of Honor in Olathe, Kansas. Twenty six tribes were represented. They honored Native women and men leaders. They shared about their history, challenges and contributions to our nation. God is unifying and awakening the tribes.

## In View of the Promise Land

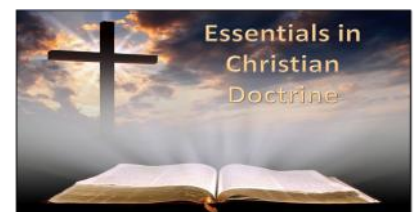
By Dallas Elder

Thomas Omenta of Kenya came to our GCI Conference and shared this story. “A man plants a mango tree. He digs the ground, plants the seed, waters and cares for it. Slowly the tree begins to grow. It takes considerable time to grow. He may not live long enough to enjoy its shade or eat of its fruit. However, his faithfulness provides shade and fruit for those who come after him.” People he may never know, will benefit from his faithful work. The Kingdom of God is a continuum. It flows from one generation to the next. We faithfully build the foundation or do our part to plant and cultivate in our season. Others come after us and benefit from our faithfulness.

***“Then the Lord said to him (Moses), “This is the land I promised on oath to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob when I said, “I will give it to your descendants.” I have let you see it with your eyes, but you will not cross over into it.” ...Moses was a hundred and twenty years old when he died, yet his eyes were not weak nor his strength gone.” (Dt 34:4, 7)*** Moses was an amazing leader. The Lord knew him “face to face.” God used him to do incredible signs and wonders to lead Israel out of captivity in Egypt. He has his own place in biblical history. ***“For no one has ever shown the mighty power or performed the awesome deeds that Moses did in the sight of Israel.” (Dt 34:12)*** God sovereignly chose Israel, powerfully delivered them from captivity and offered them the Promise Land. They rebelled and refused to enter it and possess the land. It was their lack of faith. The consequence was to wander in the wilderness for 40 years and then expire. Moses and Aaron forfeited their opportunity as well. ***“Because you both broke faith with me in the presence of the Israelites at the waters of Meribah Kadesh in the Desert of Zin and because you did not uphold my holiness among the Israelites. Therefore, you will see the land from a distance; you will not enter the land I am giving to the people of Israel.” (Dt 32:51-52)*** It seemed like a small thing. Israel was thirsty for water. God told Moses and Aaron to speak to the rock (Numbers 20). But instead, they hit the rock with their staff. Water gushed from the rock. That was what they did the time before. This time God told them to speak to the rock. God said, “You didn’t do what I said. You broke faith. You didn’t reverence Me before the people.” *Continued >>>*

## MSI Zoom Ministry Training Course

Get encouraged and equipped in your serving. We are offering our Zoom course “Essentials in Christian Doctrine” taught by Dallas Elder. The dates are Saturdays, April 26, May 3 & 10 (9am-12:30pm (CT)). Contact us or go to [www.MSIgc.com](http://www.MSIgc.com) to register and pay online.



## GRACE COVENANT INTERNATIONAL

PO BOX 588 PLATTE CITY, MO 64079  
Phone: (816) 431-6217  
Email: [GC@GraCov.com](mailto:GC@GraCov.com)



The result was, Moses didn't get to enter the Promise Land and could only view it from afar. Our choices have consequences. As leaders, trusting God and honoring Him before His people is essential to lead them into the Promise Land. And, for us to possess it for ourselves. The Scripture has numerous references pointing to the Moses Generation and saying "Learn from their mistakes." Sometimes, people have put all of the emphasis on the Joshua Generation. They possessed the Promise Land. Remember it was God's intention that the Moses Generation would position the Joshua Generation, and both prosper in the Promise Land. God has His standards for His People and even higher standards for His Leaders. ***"You know that we who teach will be judged more strictly."*** (JS 3:1) Leaders don't always get it right. Know this fact: Moses received the Covenant of the Law from the Lord that became the righteous foundation of Israel in the Promise Land and for successive generations. Millions of people have sat under the shade of that tree and eaten of its fruit including the Church of Jesus Christ.

Fast forward to the New Testament. Take a look at what the Apostle Peter says. ***"But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy."*** (I Peter 2:9-10) Peter points back to the reference of Israel and its preliminary Kingdom significance. He underscores the NT Church, the Kingdom of Christ. Jesus brought us the Covenant of Grace!

I'm an old church planter. I've witnessed the Lord gathering a group of people together, a flock to follow Christ. I've labored to pray, corral, pastor and lead those sheep. I've driven the enemy away who came to scatter and devour the flock. With God's help, I fed the flock, led the flock and cared for the flock. Through His faithfulness, I've seen with my own eyes, ***"People who were not a people, become the people of God."*** They became a loving, supportive family in Christ Jesus. They became committed to Jesus and each other. It was an incredible work of God!

Over last three decades, I've had the Kingdom assignment

of gathering a group of pastors, missionaries and ministry leaders into Grace Covenant International. I've marveled at how God has formed a diverse group of people into a ministry family, genuinely committed to Him and to each other. It is a beautiful reflection of His Heart and His Kingdom. I've been so humbled and honored to serve in this assignment. The vision spoken 30 years ago has been manifested. I was blessed to plant the seed, and along with other leaders cultivate it, water it and watch it grow. I am so blessed to have opportunity and longevity to see next generation ministry leaders emerge to benefit from its shade and eat of its fruit to the Glory of God. I'm absolutely grateful to have served with leaders of our Moses Generation and now joining with our Joshua Generation. Pastor Mary McDonald of Holsey Chapel-St. Joseph, MO and a part of our GCI Prayer Team, prophesied over me a couple years ago. She said: "You will not view the Promise Land from afar. You will enter the Promise Land with those whom you've led." That prophecy is fulfilled at this present time. So harken Moses and Joshua Generations, we are locking arms and crossing the River together to possess and prosper in the Kingdom. We will take our places in the Promise Land. It's a glorious moment in time!

I'm identifying with the song: *Older I Get* by Alan Jackson.

**The older I get, The truer it is.**

**It's the people you love, not the money and stuff  
That makes you rich.**

**The older I get. The fewer friends I have.**

**But you don't need a lot when the ones that you got  
Have always got your back.**

**The older I get, The longer I pray.**

**I don't know why, I guess that I've  
Got more to say.**

**And the older I get, The more thankful I feel**

**For the life I've had, and all the life I'm living still.**

For many years I prayed, "God, I want to be clay in your hands. Form me into your vessel. Fill me to be poured out for your Kingdom and glory." Now I pray, "Lord, I'm your pen. Use me to write Your Story. With my last dribble of ink, scribe Your Signature, 'In the Name of Jesus Christ.'"

Platte City, MO 64079

PO Box 588

*Grace Covenant International*