

Works of Grace

GRACE COVENANT INTERNATIONAL

May 2026



The theme of our Grace Covenant International World Conference was: “Running the Race/Passing the Baton.” It was based on **Hebrews 12:1-2**: *“Let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith.”* In our journey with Jesus we all have a calling, a specific purpose, a *“race marked out for us.”* We are all following Jesus the Pacesetter on the specific course that He has marked out for us. The Apostle Paul uses the same analogy in his final farewell letter (II Timothy), which he wrote to his “dear son.” Paul is in a Roman prison and believes his *“time of departure is near.”* In the future, he would be martyred, beheaded under the order of King Nero. Paul writes, *“I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.”* **II Tim. 4:7** The Apostle Paul did not just run the race of faith and service for God. He positioned others to carry on the works of ministry. He appointed and positioned his son in the Lord, Timothy, to be Pastor of the Church at Ephesus, which Paul had planted. He appointed and positioned his dear son in the faith, Titus, in Crete to: *“put in order what was left unfinished and to appoint elders in every town as I directed you.”* **Titus 1:5**

We are called to the race marked out for us in Christ with faithfulness. It is also important that we position those called in the emerging generation to receive the baton and carry on the works of ministry that have been established. Running your race well includes having a vision and making investments in those who can receive the baton from your hand. They will run the race marked out for them. They will further build on the foundations that have been laid by the previous generations. This is the Kingdom Continuum. Ministry Director Dallas Elder and Executive Ministry Director Marquis Harris illustrated passing the baton. Pictured above are our beautiful folks who attended our World Conference.

NEW LIFE ADVENTURES!

THAILAND BOUND!

At our GCI World Conference in the Dominican Republic in April, we were able to commission Allann and Stephy Moroni as GCI missionaries. We had previously licensed them as they were making their transition into GCI. At our World Conference, Stephy was in attendance. Allan was home in Spain with the kids, Olivia and Mateo. We took this opportunity and to pray over them. We did a Zoom call to Allann. It was 6:30pm in the DR and 12:30am in Spain.

We are blessed to have them as a formal part of our GCI Family. They have served in the North of Spain ministering to trafficked girls. Stephy makes connections over coffee conversations. Allann directs a girls soccer ministry. Now the Lord has called them to serve in similar ways in Thailand. It is the number one nation in the world for human trafficking. They will transition to Thailand in 2027.



Marquis Harris, Missionary Bill Eddy-Spain, Dallas Elder and Missionary Guido Orellana-Ecuador, prayed over Allann and Stephy.



Congrats and Blessings to Braily and Hannah ❤️



In mid-April, Missionary to the Dominican Republic Hannah Hoose, married Braily Poche. They had been dating over the past year. On April 21, the first night of our World Conference, Pastor Dallas and Connie Elder called them forward to recognize their marriage and pray over them. DR Missionaries Tyler and Callie France, with whom Hannah serves, translated. Pastor Dallas said, "Hannah, you have been my daughter in the faith, now Braily you are my son in the faith." We are grateful to have Braily as part of our family!



Pastors Chrissie and Buddy Collins of The Bridge Church-Lake Wales, FL prayed over Hannah, her marriage and her ministry.



VV-CA ABSOLUTELY ROCKS!

BIG SHOUT-OUT to our VisionVestors group in the Oakdale, CA area led by Vic Marchini. The heart of this team and their serving is off the charts. They plan and carry out a number of significant fundraisers to support service projects in their community and a number in Grace Covenant International. As an arm of GCI, VisionVestors “Meets Practical Needs in the Love of Christ!” We offer compassion projects throughout the year, which individuals and groups can support. Nobody does it better than these folks right here! Recently, I (Dallas Elder) had the opportunity to share with these precious people about our accomplishments, and presented our new projects. Because of their prosperous fundraising efforts, they joyfully contributed funding for Bibles and church planting in Benin and Togo, medical supplies toward orphan care in Ecuador and teaching materials for prison ministries in Paraguay.

Well done my VV friends! You are blessed to be a blessing!



First Nations Day of Honor

Fran Obrien of White Buffalo Ministries, Lisa Smith and their team sponsored this event to honor Native leaders from North America. Fran recognized and honored Dallas Elder as her apostle and GCI as her ministry covering. It was a powerful, unifying gathering of tribes and peoples. Senator Sam Brownback-Kansas was a keynote speaker among the Native leaders.

“Running the Race/ Passing the Baton”

By Dallas Elder

II Timothy was the last letter that the Apostle Paul wrote. He is in prison in Rome and in the coming months will be martyred. Note that he references the journey of faith and Kingdom calling in a similar way. **“For I am already being poured out like a drink offering, and the time for my departure is near. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day—and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing.”** II Timothy 4:6-8

At this juncture, Paul is looking back over 30 years of ministry as an apostle. He has led mission teams, planted churches, encouraged and instructed the church, raised up ministry leaders and positioned them in the works. Over those 30 years, he has endured persecution, life threats, floggings, beatings, being stoned and shipwrecked. There were the imprisonments. There was the “thorn in the flesh,” a messenger of Satan that God allowed to keep Paul humble. There were all of these worldly oppositions and afflictions. Then, there were the accusations and oppositions that he received from the churches that he planted. “You’re not a real apostle. You have no spiritual authority. You don’t carry the mandate of God.”

Paul says, **“Besides everything else, I face daily the pressure of my concern for all the churches.”** II Cor. 11:28

Oh yeah, there is that: the weight of those who are under our ministry care. People who have never been a pastor, minister or missionary can’t really understand this concern and pressure. It’s the burden and weight that the shepherd carries for his or her sheep. It is similar to the concern that a parent carries for the welfare of their children. **“God told Paul, my grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.”** II Cor. 12:9

Continued next page>>>

GCI West Coast Ministry Conference August 10-11

LifePoint Church-Oakdale, CA
Make your plans to attend!
There is no cost for the conference.

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Paul made comparisons to an athlete regarding his journey of ministry service. I have fought the good fight. I have run the race. I have kept the faith. I'm nearing the finish line of completing my Kingdom assignment.

And please know this: the Apostle Paul didn't just run the race. He positioned others to take the baton, to run their race for the Kingdom. This is the Kingdom Continuum. It is a relay race. One generation faithfully runs its race and prepares the next generation to take the baton. They position them to run their race for the Kingdom and Glory of God. For this to happen, it has to be a priority and you have to be intentional.

The Lord Jesus did that. It was a primary focus. In His ministry, he preached at times to thousands. He taught the people the Word of God. He healed the sick, delivered the tormented, showed compassion to all people. His ministry impacted His generation. However, the enduring aspect of the ministry of Jesus was that He chose 12 guys that He intentionally invested in for three years. How did He choose them? He spent all night in prayer asking God, "Who are your called ones to carry this Kingdom ministry into the next generation?" Who are the leaders in whom you want me to invest in these last years of my calling? Who are the ones that you want me to position to receive the baton and continue this race for the Kingdom in their generation. You can keep doing all the ministry stuff, preach the Gospel, teach the Word, pray for people, meet physical needs and feed the poor. Then you come to the end of your race and there is no one to take the baton. You had a one generation ministry. You've had Kingdom impact, but there will not be Kingdom continuation of the ministry into the next generation. There is no one to receive the baton.

When I was in high school I was on the track team. My event was being a member of the 4 by 400 meter relay. So I ran my leg of the race and then handed off the baton to the next guy, who ran his leg of the race and then passed on the baton, and so on. We all worked and practiced individually to run our best portion of the race. We also practiced on the equally important passing the baton. You have to practice positioning. You have to work on anticipation, sequence and stride and ultimately placing of the baton in the next man's hand. Personally, you can have a record setting heat,

then fumble the handoff and your team finishes last. The end result wasn't just about your individual race, success was about the transition into the next person's hand.

It takes place in ministry. You have to be intentional in positioning, practice and passing the baton. Jesus did that with His Apostles. Through the power and the anointing of the Holy Spirit, they birthed the Church of Jesus Christ. **Acts 17:6 "These men have turned the world upside down."** However, it would have never happened, without prayer for God's Divine selection and personal, intentional investment that Jesus made in their lives. He positioned the next generation of leadership.

The Apostle Paul did the same thing. There are two obvious examples, Timothy and Titus. Note his language at the beginning of each letter to them.

I Timothy 1:2 "To Timothy my true son in the faith."

II Timothy 1:2 "To Timothy, my dear son."

Titus 1:4 "To Titus, my true son in our common faith."

Paul placed Timothy as an Apostolic Pastor of the church which Paul planted in Ephesus. The books of first and second Timothy are his encouragement and instructions on how to lead the church well, and to develop other leaders for the future.

II Timothy (Paul's farewell letter to his son) 2:1-2 **"You then, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust reliable, (faithful) people who will be qualified to teach others."** He positioned Timothy to receive the baton and he's instructing Timothy to position others. So the relay can continue.

Paul's instructions to Titus (1:5) **"The reason I left you in Crete was that you might put in order what was left unfinished and appoint elders in every town as I directed you."** He instructed Titus on the qualifications of ministry elders. What does this mean in real time? It's the passing of the baton. Paul positioned Titus to complete the work he left unfinished. Then he coached him up to do so. He positioned him to run the race marked out for him. He instructed him to identify, instruct and equip other ministry leaders.

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