



*A theological education pathway for  
Churches of Christ around the world.*

## GCS News - August 2022

*Updating our sponsors, informing our current students,  
and reaching out for others to partner with us.*

*Copies available at the [GCS website](#)*

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### **GCS and Church Partnerships**

Those reading this newsletter know some of the work of GCS – our mission to help church leaders all around the world increase in knowledge and skills

through a partnership with churches and Harding School of Theology. My name is Caleb Dillinger, and recently I was brought on board as Director of Development to help increase the ways in which we partner with churches!

The newest method has been the establishment of various partnership tiers. We believe in the power of prayer, and we want every church connected to GCS students to be praying for the success in education and the growth of their spiritual lives. We don't trivialize prayer; it is powerful and effective, just as James 5 declares.

But those with financial blessings have a unique opportunity to accompany their prayers with donations. Understandably, many churches can't afford the roughly \$5,000 a year it takes to support a student's education. That's one of the reasons we've created this tier structure for support!

After the first tier of praying church partners, we have a group called "1213" churches, based on Romans 12:13, where Paul writes, "Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality." There is no donation too small when it comes to assisting GCS students. They sometimes need additional support for technological needs (we've all experienced phone or computer problems!) or situational needs (one month their income just isn't enough), or even setbacks in life (circumstances beyond their control putting them in a tough educational and financial spot). Churches in the 1213 group will be called upon to assist, and any donation from those funds will go to immediate needs.

And of course, we need yearly contributions to support the educational journey of GCS students earning their degree from HST. Some churches are blessed to give \$5,000 yearly. Others need to partner with one or more churches! We've focused on the concept of sister churches like Laodicea and Colossae from the Bible as a model for churches to mutually join in the same ministry. And because of all our supporting churches, we are blessed with online connections, up to five local congregations can connect to sponsor students!

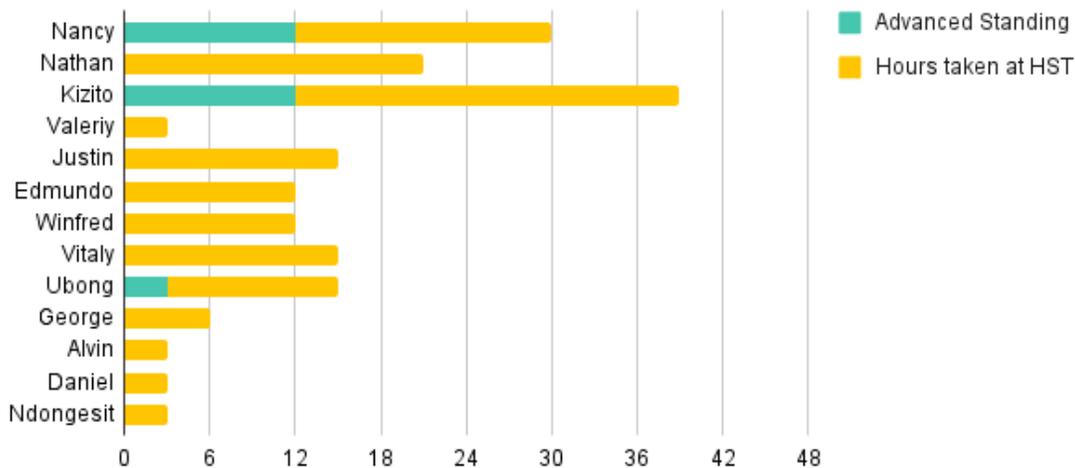
As you read these newsletters, I am convinced that you'll see the multitude of reasons for supporting GCS. My hope in sharing these tiers is that now you'll know the paths available to your church in joining our ministry. So, keep reading, keep praying, and keep your hearts open to any calling from the Lord.

-- Caleb Dillinger

If interested in partnering or sponsoring in anyway, email Caleb at [cdillinger@harding.edu](mailto:cdillinger@harding.edu).

## **Student Updates**

## Student Progress



This graph shows each GCS student progressing toward completion of the 48 hour MACM degree.

- **Nancy Wu Won** of Australia studied Global Evangelism with Alan Howell. She reported “I liked learning about how God’s story is our story and how our whole evangelistic endeavor is rooted in the Godhead so we can partner with God to contextualize the gospel for those we meet. I loved hearing how the church works together to bring Christ to those we meet and that it’s a team effort to reach the lost. I also liked learning about how Christ’s example helps us in our dealings with others.”
- **Kizito Jasper** of Nigeria took Seminar in the Synoptic Gospels. He says, “I spent a whole semester looking at the Synoptic Gospels and it was really mind blowing as to the information gleaned from this course which has impacted positively my understanding of the synoptic Gospels.”
- **Justin Smith** of Switzerland completed Biblical Preaching with Matt Love and Advanced Theological Research with Jessica Holland. He said, “I found the practical resources for preaching very helpful and came away from the class with many tools and readings I will use myself and recommend to others. In Advanced Theological Research, we were introduced to the staff and facilities of the HST library and learned how to properly conduct theological research and how to best use the resources available to us on campus and online.”
- **Edmundo Lopez** of Bolivia took Advanced Theological Research with Jessica Holland. He reported, "The material was extensive and required a lot of time to assimilate correctly...I am more confident when doing research and have a solid grasp of what will be expected from me in the courses to come. Also, I have noticed that I can do much better research

for preaching, greatly accelerating the time it takes while improving on the quality.

- **Winfred Sackey** of Ghana completed Global Evangelism with Alan Howell. He reported “The study was exciting and challenging as it stretched my imagination to the limit...Consequently, I have been able to write out a strategic mission proposal for an area wide (multiple congregations in the city) where I live... The proposal is aimed at reaching out with into an ethno-linguistic area of our country where the few existing small churches are struggling to survive and to meaningful impact the communities for Christ. He reported learning to apply new perspectives in his context through studying Biblical foundations of global Christian missions, developing a mind for global missions, exploring missions team building, gaining a better appreciation for short term missions as well as planning and equipping those participants, and gaining greater awareness of the challenges of mission interventions.
- **Vitaly Samodin** of Ukraine took Congregational Leadership with Dr. Steve Cloer. He reported, “The professor taught us how to develop new ministries. Thanks to this class, we were able to start a new outreach to displaced families in Slovakia. We were not afraid to experiment and try something new. I am really grateful for the opportunity to not only learn how to implement changes in a church, but also to get hands-on experience and impact the lives of people who need Jesus.”
- **Ubong Okorie** of Nigeria completed Congregational Leadership with Dr. Steve Cloer. He said, “The course has provided biblical principles for applications in our local leadership with the vision of always bowing to the mission of God in our quests to resolving tensions in the church.”
- **George Danquah** of Nigeria was registered in Roles and Relationships in Ministry with Professor Bland. He reflected on his experience stating, “The course really kept me humbled and strengthened with deep spiritual insights...I also learnt about the need to keep growing spiritually by following and committing to spiritual disciplines suitable for personal growth and progress in ministry." He learned pragmatic conflict resolution techniques to facilitate reconciliation so that the church can continue bearing fruit.
- **Alvin Tjipto** of Australia completed his first class at HST, Global Evangelism with Dr. Allan Howell. He stated, “I’ve learned much about key cultural aspects to be considered when one thinks about evangelism work, I’ve learned that being responsible in global evangelism could start with my neighbor instead of traveling halfway round the world, I’ve also learned of the strengths and weaknesses of a sending church and how

we could approach missions work with a different mindset for both short and long term.”

- **Daniel Rodriguez** of Honduras completed Galatians and Romans with Dr. Richard Oster. He said, “This opportunity gifted me a piece of more profound information about those letters and I learned a lot teaching some of the topics that I could receive during the class. I loved the readings, the classes, and the experience of learning with other brothers in different parts of the world.”
- **Ndongesit Effeh** of Nigeria completed Congregational Leadership with Dr. Cloer. He stated, “The course was both motivational and sobering as it charged me to be more mission minded in my duties as a church leader, and revealed the extent to which most of our congregational leaderships have shifted from the core identity and mission of the church.”

We wish all of our students a prosperous and successful semester. We are glad to be part of how they are honing their Bible study and ministry skills!



Map of student locations: 1 in Honduras, 1 in Bolivia, 2 in Ghana, 3 in Nigeria, 1 in Switzerland, 2 in Ukraine, 1 in Singapore, and 3 in Australia.

We are expecting 4 new students in August 2022 from Singapore, Australia, Ghana, and Mexico.



# Student Spotlight

## *Kizito Jasper*

Kizito Jasper currently lives in his home country of Nigeria, while being a student at Harding School of Theology (HST). He is also an instructor at Western Nigeria Christian College (WNCC) in the School of Biblical Studies, a preacher for a congregation in a small nearby village, a college alumni and church relations officer, and a spiritual life director for WNCC. He's passionate about God's calling to teach and preach the gospel. He specifically enjoys teaching Biblical Hebrew, Wisdom Literature, Introduction to the Old Testament, and Old Testament Theology.



Early in Kizito's childhood his parents converted from a Catholic church to a local church of Christ, where his faith was shaped and he developed a love for the gospel that grew in depth as he grew in stature. At age 16 he committed his life to Christ and was baptized, leading him down the path to where he is today.

Throughout his life Kizito has experienced God's provision and calling. Originally, he dreamed of becoming a medical doctor. However, God closed that door when he was not accepted into medical school, and opened the door for him to attend WNCC. God has also continued to work in his life through others' encouragement and support as he pursues his degree to continue developing his skills in ministering and teaching. He expressed how privileged he feels getting to experience God's use of him to bless and minister to the lives of those around him, as he shares Jesus using the training he's been receiving. After completing a degree at the Bible college, Kizito decided to pursue a Masters to continue his biblical education. He applied first to Oxford University, and when he was not admitted, God again opened doors. God used the president of the African Christian School Foundation to introduce Kizito to GCS and HST, where he is pursuing a Masters in Old Testament. While the journey to earn this degree initially started with the goal of filling a need at WNCC it has developed into a passion for him.

Kizito shared how his time at HST has been such an incredible blessing to his ministry in Nigeria. The first course he took at HST was Spiritual Formation and Character Development with Dr. Mark Powell. He specially voiced how this course

helped shape him to be more foundationally like Christ and to have a character that resembles Jesus in every area of his life. Using what he gained from this class, he uses scriptures such as Romans 8 to charge his students to transform themselves to be like Christ and to identify how they've lived by the Spirit each week. His studies at HST are continuing to refine his ability to minister to his students and his church as a professor and a preacher.

Kizito also expressed his dreams for his local congregation and the church community. Kizito's vision for the faith and conviction of the congregations in Nigeria spurs on his work. Due to the poverty of the local believers, there are many challenges that can often interfere with their ministry. Kizito focuses his time on strengthening their conviction and resolve in how they face these difficulties each day, and to disciple them to become missionaries in their own neighborhoods. Currently, the local congregation members travel in from surrounding villages to attend church. He hopes that his time working to disciple these members from various villages will help them to establish their own local church communities in their own village. Creating congregations in each of those surrounding villages with current local believers will help in their outreach to their own villages in ways that are currently stifled by each member having to travel such long distances to attend church.

Kizito says "A big thank you to my sponsors. I could not have done it without your support. It's a good way to spend your money to help people who are in their communities, to continue in ministry while studying at HST. It's a good work sponsors are doing." To prospective students, he says "It will be a time well spent. HST is a fine place."

Through the course of earning his degree, his studies have required much dedication, that has reaped clear rewards for God's kingdom. The support he has received from GCS staff and sponsors has been invaluable. Specifically, he is thankful to the GCS staff who have supported him through frequent check-ins, prayers, and aid in the shipping of books for his studies.

Kizito will finish his last semester at HST this fall 2022. Moving forward, he plans to apply and begin working on a PhD to further his knowledge and to continue to grow as he lives out his passion of making disciples for Jesus, and establishing God's kingdom more in his home country of Nigeria.

-- Heather Hollingsworth

## **Financial Report**

*GCS Financial Report for the first half of 2022*

### **Income:**

Our January 1 to July 1, 2022 income was \$52,976.20 from nine different

donors. All of our sponsors contribute funds toward the education of the GCS students. In addition, GCS asks each student to contribute or raise \$2,600 toward their program. The nine donors during the first six months of 2022 include administrative, sponsors and some student contributions. Most of our donors contribute their funds in August of each year. Two new sponsors joined the GCS partnership in the first half of the year. Welcome!

### **Expenses:**

The expenses for the six months January to June 2022 amounted to \$33,534.75. We supported students in twelve classes at HST including three students for the Advanced Theological Research. This one-week class required the students to come to Memphis. GCS provides funding for those trips. Our two overseeing congregations, along with another church in Australia, take care of all the administrative costs. All of the funds from donors sponsoring students go directly to support the students in their studies.

## **Invitation to be a Sponsor**

GCS has a deep concern that each sponsored national leader complete their graduate program. Central to our support is having a sponsoring church or donor for each student. We want people in the GCS orbit to be praying for the students and for their concerns. Matching a student with a donor or congregation is important.

Currently we have more students than sponsors. Would you consider helping us identify sponsors? If you could help in any of the following areas, please contact Harold Shank.

- I know of a congregation which might be interested and am willing to provide you with an introduction.
- A friend of mine loves to pray and I could connect the two of you together.
- The congregation where I attend might well be interested. Let me contact one of the leaders and get back to you.

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## **GCS Overseeing Congregations**

**Eastside Church of Christ**, 916 South Douglas Blvd, Midwest City, OK 73130  
([www.eastsidechurchofchrist.info](http://www.eastsidechurchofchrist.info)).

Their elders include Sam Brandon, Ricky Bugher, Ron Cannefax, and David Walton.

**Belmore Road Church of Christ**, 100 Rostrevor Parade, Mont Albert North, Victoria 3129, Australia ([www.belmoreroadchurch.org.au](http://www.belmoreroadchurch.org.au)).

Their elders are Charles Hooi, Benny Tabalujan, and David Tabe.

GCS is actively seeking additional students and sponsors. Students are urged to consult the GCS website: [www.gcspathway.org](http://www.gcspathway.org) for how to engage with GCS. They can also email John Coffey ([jcoffey@harding.edu](mailto:jcoffey@harding.edu)) or Harold Shank ([drharoldshank@gmail.com](mailto:drharoldshank@gmail.com)).

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## Message to Potential Students

GCS seeks students from around the globe who live outside the US, who have an accredited bachelor's degree, and have the full recommendation of their local congregation. The process of being accepted by GCS and enrolling in a US school takes about four months. Students who attend HST can do all their work online (high speed internet is required), but must take the course Advanced Theological Research on site in Memphis. GCS pays the student's expenses for this Memphis trip.

The total cost of an accredited graduate degree in Bible or ministry is about \$50,000. HST provides a generous scholarship, GCS donors give \$5,000 per year for five years, and the student is required to contribute \$2,600 toward their degree.

For more information: visit [www.gcspathway.org](http://www.gcspathway.org) or email us at [gcspathwayinfo@gmail.com](mailto:gcspathwayinfo@gmail.com)

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or go to the GCS landing page on the HST website: <https://hst.edu/gcspathway/>  
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