

March 2017

GBC Graduates 20 Students

India - On February 26, 20 young people were graduated from Grace Bible College in front of many friends, family and local churches and ministries who have, through the years, shown their support for GBC and the students. Ten graduates received a one-year Certificate of Theology, a foundation for a future in trades, business, nursing and teaching. Ten received their Bachelor of Theology, a three-year degree, which has prepared them for ministry among their own people. Please pray for these graduates and for their next steps in school and ministry.



In the last three years the GBC two-acre campus has undergone dramatic new changes morphing from three small trees to a campus teeming with life using new dorms, a chapel, dining hall, and recently, the newly completed library and classroom building (see Page 2).

This campus has enabled us to expand the number of students and increase the quality of their educational experience. The graduates expressed not only how grateful and excited they were to receive their diplomas, but each one also said they would greatly miss the fellowship and especially, the beauty and feeling of home they feel on the campus.

We praise God for this milestone and also want to express special thanks to our generous donors who sponsor these students. It is through your faithful prayers and financial sponsorships that lives are being trained and changed. Thank you!



Dr. Phil Bairrington, guest lecturer, delivers a prayer before commencement begins. Above, John and Dee Cook congratulate and deliver diplomas to members of this year's class.

THE LIAISON

Library and Classroom Building Nears Completion as Books Sail to India!

India - The brand new library and classroom building is almost completed! This beautiful building stands out as a wonderful, vibrant center to draw the students in for learning and studying. The faculty and students of Grace Bible College already love the spacious classrooms, and the library is bright and inviting, ready for shelves and books! The dedication ceremony took place on Sunday, February 26.



Right, GBC students and faculty gather in front of the newly completed library and classroom building. Below, Principal Pramod Tantarpaale and the Cooks cut the symbolic ribbon.



The library books, which were sorted and catalogued in California last month (see our website for blogs), are due to arrive on campus by late March. Please help us celebrate this milestone in preparing resources for the students to use for many years to come! Thank you to each one who has prayed, given so generously with financial gifts and worked on the GBC Library Cataloging Project, as well as so many who donated thousands of books. Praise God that only one year ago we were groundbreaking and now this building is being used!

Next steps: The installation of the lights, fans and painting of the building exterior. Another critical step is to seal the roof before the June monsoons.

Funds needed: The completion of the building and expenses of preparing and shipping the books was \$22,000. Next we will be looking at the furnishings. To donate, go to www.IndigenousMinistries.org. Thank you very much!

GBC Winter Teaching Module



Dr. Phil Barrington uses weather systems to develop concepts

India - An easy-to-remember outline of Romans that actually makes sense? Spiders, bees, weather systems and dangling world globes? Energetic, practical insights on Christian living? Fresh insight on the Ten Commandments? Who wouldn't sit spell bound through these lectures!

Thanks to Dr. Craig Miller, Pastor of Grace Baptist Church, Cedarville, Ohio, Dr. Phil Barrington, scientist with the California Department of Fish and Game, Dr. Dan Iles, IM staff, and Dr. John Cook, IM CEO.



Students enjoy some levity during class

The GBC faculty enjoyed a teaching break and the students sat enthralled day after day. We are deeply grateful to each one for investing in the lives of the faculty and students. Their rave reviews are still coming in!

A Blessed Time with Beautiful in India

Central India - You've probably never seen so many colors in one room as when women in India get together! We were privileged to have Kathy Miller, Grace Baptist, Cedarville, Ohio, join our team of teachers last month in our women's conferences. I also loved having Linda Iles once again on our teaching team. Sarah Rieger (IM staff) and her sister Katie helped the women make a beautiful beaded bracelet from a kit designed by Jennifer Cunningham (BI staff) and assembled by volunteers.



The women laughed about and shared their newly-made creations. Their joy lit up the room!

The women really enjoyed the time together in the Word and in fellowship. The bracelet craft was especially appreciated and brought the women together, as you can see in the picture!

Beautiful's winter theme in India and the Middle East is "Waking up to the Power of God in my Life." We're exploring how God's power CAN change us, how He guides and gives us wisdom in the exact areas women need help in daily! Special thanks to our Beautiful Partners who pray and donate so these conferences and ministry are possible; you are helping national women with a critically needed ministry! In March I'm working in Iraq with refugees where we've started a literacy program with Yazidi and Christian women, focusing on widows and young women - a critical-need work!

How would you like to KNOW you're making a difference? Go to www.BeautifulInternational.org and check out what is going on. It's easy to get involved and become a Beautiful Partner. - Dee A. Cook



Every month Beautiful focuses on a special theme. Last month we explored True Love, the love only God can give us. This month we're examining fear; sources of fear and how to overcome it. Follow Beautiful's Facebook page to read these short, inspirational messages. Search for "Beautiful International Women's Ministry."

Thank you for your continued prayers and financial support! We would be honored for you to join us and become a vital Beautiful Partner in 2017 with your prayers and gifts. Contact us for a presentation to your group.



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TRANSFORMED LIVES



Esmerelda uses her new-found skills

Philippines - This is the goal of IM Southeast Asia; transformed lives physically, economically and spiritually.

Two parents stand out as models for the scavenger community. Esmeralda is a mother of six. Prior to the skills and entrepreneurship training programs she attended, she could only afford to buy an egg or two per day to feed her family. Now that she is a manager/hairstylist, she is able to give each of them an egg for breakfast.

The children are better nourished and able to attend school regularly.

Angel and his four children were abandoned by his wife. He accepted Christ and is now actively involved in church. He took part in the ministry's Skills Development Training Program and, as a result, has a steady income as a hair stylist. Along with supporting his children, he occasionally has the ability to give money to a family, friend or neighbor in need because he knows, "I was once there with nothing to feed my family."



Angel leads a Bible study in his community

To help more adults like Esmerelda and Angel learn new skills and lead productive and inspiring lives, visit www.IndigenousMinistries.org and select Southeast Asia in the drop-down menu.

International Upcoming Calendar of Events

March - IM team ministry in Iraq is holding meetings for refugees, working with church plants, expanding ministry to refugees and launching the Yazidi Child Sponsorship Program. See page 3 for Beautiful International's events.

Please pray that hearts would be transformed by the Word of God and for successful ministry

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