



/2020

ANNUAL

# ANNUAL REPORT



PROGRESS THROUGH **PANDEMIC**





“

*“your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.”*

”



Dear friend of The Grace Institute,

My guess is that you have read, heard, or even prayed this portion of the Lord's Prayer. It's part of a larger prayer in Matthew 6 when Jesus taught his disciples to pray. God's will being done here on *earth as it is in heaven* is the trajectory for the kingdom of God. Now we might wonder, "what is God's will specifically for my life?" That's a conversation for another day, but what we do know clearly is that God wants broken things to be put back together in Christ (Ephesians 1:9-10). As you look around the world, something that is obviously broken is the world's neglect of truth. At times, this neglect is due to a hard and rebellious heart. But at other times, it's because there's limited access to all that is good, right, and true found in God's word.

The goal of The Grace Institute, from the beginning, has been to advance God's kingdom by unifying people from all walks of life to God's word and His truth. We feel that God's truth is necessary for life, and that's why we work so hard to help people engage with it. This is not a kingdom task that can be put on hold even during a pandemic.

The progress of God's kingdom has always been in the midst of various hardships and struggles. In fact, it seems to progress the most during those times that aren't so easy. During persecution, plague, or political insecurities, the kingdom of God has always made progress to bring glory to the King by exposing His truth to the nations.

TGI has been the recipient of God's grace this year. He has allowed us to continue to participate in His kingdom work. Even during the pandemic, progress was made in our kingdom efforts in so many ways. In the following pages, our hope is that you will be encouraged by the "progress during pandemic." You will see a healthy international staff, a new African initiative with great potential, different learning platforms that were developed, and much more. We have been blessed, and our prayer is that we can be a blessing (Gen. 12:2) so that what is here on earth will be a better reflection of heaven.

In our offices and during our staff meetings, we often take time to recognize and pray for all of you who are about to read this annual report. Some of you are ministry partners who do similar work or complement our ministry in some way. Others reading this are financial partners. We know that this effort doesn't occur because of our 8 staff members. Your involvement is a true help. So as you read, please be encouraged in the part that you play.

Even during the difficult year of 2020, we look back on it with gratitude. And as we look to 2021, we possess an excited anticipation. To God be the glory.



Will Savell  
President

# Table of CONTENTS

- 05** Who We are
- 07** TGI Initiatives
- 08** Blaze Initiative
- 12** Teleios Initiative
- 19** Freedom Initiative
- 23** Special Projects
- 24** Testimonies
- 26** Staff
- 31** Giving information

....



# WHO WE ARE

## The Mission:

Our mission is to train, equip, prepare, and resource church leaders throughout the world for Christian ministry.

## We do this through:

- Biblical Education
- Contextualized Delivery Systems
- Transformational Learning Communities

## Purpose Areas

1. *A Faithful Response to God's Leading:* We desire to always go before God for guidance and never try to box Him in. A ministry characterized by faith and obedience, even when things don't match our human senses, is an essential part to this ministry.
2. *Non-Denominational Labels:* While maintaining strong theological convictions, we are committed to and embrace the necessity of working with, through, and among other Christians from various denominations.
3. *A Primary Focus on Biblical Education:* Our fundamental goal and commitment is the spreading of doctrinally sound Biblical and theological education.
4. *A Secondary Focus to Meet Holistic Needs:* We understand that there are times where our partnering ministries need support in other areas than Biblical education. In efforts to strengthen our work in those ministries, we will try to help meet some of the physical and emotional needs of a community.
5. *Flexibility to Meet Theological Needs:* Since no country or region is exactly the same, we desire to be sensitive to context by helping students in their prospective areas receive Biblical education that applies to their context.
6. *A Commitment to Collaborate:* We believe that more can be done when the Church works together. In all that we are part of, we desire to work alongside of ministries who possess an understanding and/or a skill that will benefit those who we are serving.
7. *Theological Education Without Causing Financial Burdens:* Because we have been blessed with the access to Biblical and theological education and other resources, we desire to be a blessing to others.

# THREE INITIATIVES



*"Therefore, let us be grateful for receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, and thus let us offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe, for our God is a consuming fire." -Hebrews 12:28-29*

**The Blaze initiative** is The Grace Institute's local and regional discipleship effort for laity, elder, or pastor training that occurs through learning communities. These studies are meant to help the student integrate deep Biblical truths with everyday life in the Kingdom of God.



*"Him we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ." -Colossians 1:28*

**The Teleios Initiative** is The Grace Institute's Spanish efforts to help provide a way for participants to integrate what is seen in the videos and their study manual with their personal life experiences - all within a transformational learning community. The group is enriched in their understanding of the Kingdom of God and its implications for the environment in which they are located.



*"I will walk about in freedom, for I have sought out your precepts. -Psalm 119:45*

**The Freedom Initiative** is The Grace Institute's effort in East Africa to help pastors and church leaders embrace the true freedom that only comes through a submission to God's word and precepts.






Blaze is an initiative in English that typically uses excellent Biblical and theological materials from partner ministries. Courses we select are then created into the Blaze format. This format includes separating each lesson into short segments. Discussion and application questions are then added to correspond to each of the Blaze lessons. The transcripts and questions are then created into a workbook that can be either published or used digitally.

Once the workbook is complete, we create corresponding videos using our ministry partner's content. After basic editing, it is then uploaded to Youtube or our digital platform.



Our primary content comes from our ministry partner [Thirdmill](#). 

2020 Courses from Thirdmill:

He Gave Us Prophets

The Book of Samuel

The Book of Joshua

The Book of Revelation

Paul's Prison Epistles

The Heart of Paul's Theology

The Book of Hebrews

The Prophetic Wisdom of Hosea

## Videos

All of our videos can be found on our



 **YouTube** channel - @BlazeTGI

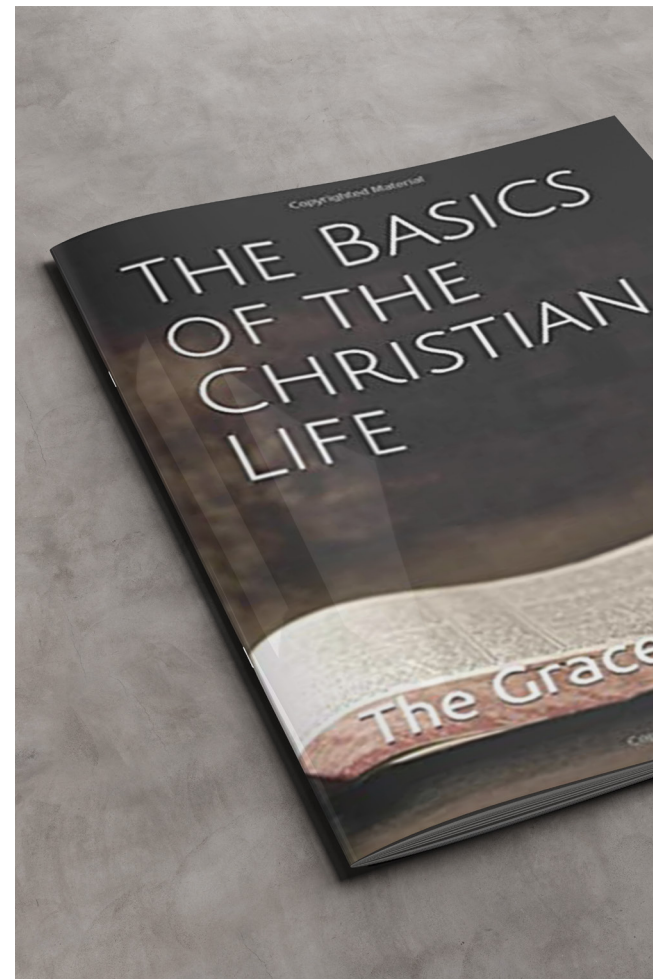


## TGI Original

Due to need, we created the Basics of the Christian Life course. The course consists of 10 lessons in plain language to reach those Christian leaders who also might be new believers.

Any original course requires writing the script, film, edit, and production of both video and workbook.

[Video Playlist](#) 



## App and Platform

An Android and iOS App have been developed in 2020 that will allow students to have the Blaze courses both at home and on the go. The App will also correspond to an online platform. Groups, such as Bible Schools or churches, can create groups with a unique group ID. They can then host that group by selecting which courses they want their students to participate in. Other features will also be available that will make this App and platform both user friendly and robust. The App and platform should be launched by January 1, 2021.





## Distribution

Zoom Groups: Since the beginning of the pandemic in March, we utilized the Zoom platform to offer courses. Since March, three courses have been offered:

The Book of Revelation

The Book of Hebrews

Kingdom, Covenants, and Canon of the Old Testament

In this Zoom format, the group meets for 1.5 hours. They discuss in a large group setting, watch a video, and break into small groups for application. Each student has the opportunity to purchase a workbook to enrich their learning.

To date, 55 different participants have participated in a course.

## In Memoriam

Alan Schlesinger

January 18th, 1948 – August 7th, 2020

“In Christ”

*In Christ*





# TELEIOS


espacios de interacción bíblica

## Production

Teleios is The Grace Institute's initiative for Spanish speakers. Below are the courses we made into the Teleios format. This format includes separating each Third-mill lesson into shorter segments. This creates more lessons that then require more questions for discussion and application. This all goes into a workbook that requires professional proofreading, at times editing, and formatting. These workbooks are then sent to publishing or uploaded to a desired digital platform.

Once the workbook is complete, we create corresponding videos. This requires video editing of the existing content. After each lesson is complete, it is then uploaded to any desired platform.



Thirdmill  continues to be the bulk of the content that we offer.

## 2020 Courses from Thirdmill

El Libro de Apocalipsis

Reino, Pactos Y Canon del Antiguo Testamento

La Epistola de Santiago

Padre Abraham

El Carazon de la Teologia de Pablo

El Libro de Hebreos

El Libro de los Hechos

El Reino y el Pacto en el Nuevo Testamento

El Nos Dio Profetas

El Nos Dis Las Escrituras

Course from Discipling Nations Alliance 

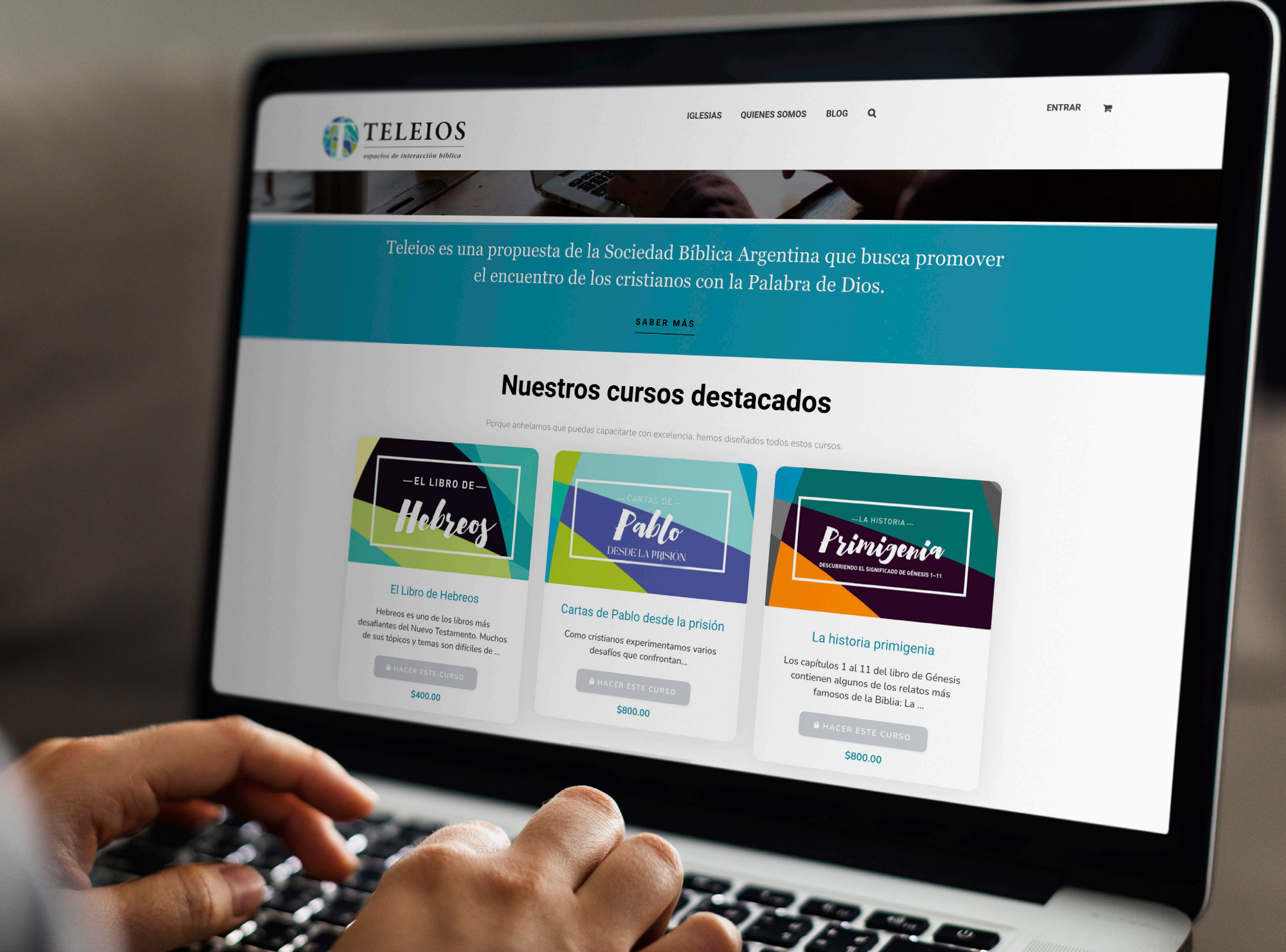
Biblical Introduction to the Cosmovation

Sample Workbook Covers

Platform with Video Samples 







## Other Resources

To help our facilitators serve their groups the best that they can, we have created “facilitator guides” that provides step-by-step instructions on how to develop the dynamics of the course, both online and in person.


Along with the facilitator guides, we also have created answer keys to provide the student extra insight as they are completing the lesson’s discussion and application questions.

## App and Platform

An Android and iOS App have been developed in 2020 that will allow students to have the Teleios courses both at home and on the go. The App will also correspond to an online platform. Groups, such as Bible Schools, Seminaries or churches can create groups with a unique group ID. They can then host that group by selecting which courses they want their students to participate in. Other features will also be available that will make this App and platform both user friendly and robust. The App and platform should be launched by January 1, 2021

## Teleios Distribution

2020 has been both great and difficult for Teleios in the area of distribution. Teleios has been heavily tied into various Bible Societies. For the majority of 2020 it was owned by the Argentine Bible Society. Bible Societies are known for their distribution, but this distribution was in the area of books. When COVID hit, much of that distribution came to a halt. These countries do not have Amazon or FedEx, and so they depend on Promotors from the Bible Societies to deliver to them. Almost immediately, our groups from 2019 ended because no one could physically meet.

Within a month, we were able to provide our partner Bible Societies a **Teleios platform**  that housed a digital copy of the workbook, the videos, and the discussion questions.

Because physical distribution was and is still suffering in Latin American countries, we have concentrated on building a good LATAM staff, becoming expert consultants, utilizing Zoom, and helping Bible Societies learn how to provide Teleios virtually.

At the beginning of the year, we had thousands of participants. The good was that



there were many participants. The bad was that these participants all came from only a few larger groups. When March came around, those students were forced to quit meeting.

By April, we adjusted and our new strategy began. The bad to this was that we were starting with only a small number of participants compared to what we had. The good was that these participants were all leaders of many various ministries and in multiple countries. They began studying via Zoom and being consulted via Zoom to learn how to implement Teleios virtually. This has set us up for large future growth. Since our updated model, we have reached 556 leaders in 5 countries in Latin America.

## **Teleios Brand**

In late 2020, The Grace Institute acquired ownership of the Teleios brand for everywhere outside of Argentina. Inside Argentina, we are still supporting their effort. For outside Argentina, we are allowed to work beyond the traditional Bible Society. This will help us serve our former contacts in various Latin American countries and also expand to the U.S.



# Feedback and personal testimonies

## HONDURAS

Courses: La Epístola de Santiago, Apocalipsis.

Dora Molina Arriaga, from Marcala La Paz: “I’m grateful to God for the opportunity of being part of a Teleios course of study. I received a lot from it, beyond imagination. I had decided not to be part of it at first, but I did not know what I would have missed if I didn’t.”

## ARGENTINA

Courses: La Epístola de Santiago, El libro de Hebreos, Los Evangelios

Daniel Miño, from Buenos Aires “My experience with TELEIOS was amazing. The study of James brought me closer to the book with a different perspective, and it gave me a lot of new information to go with my Bible reading time.”

## BOLIVIA

Course: El Libro de Hebreos

“I’m helping in some groups as a facilitator. We have had 4 groups, each with twenty pastors. We’re so happy because the pastors are asking us to take more courses, so we will be starting the study of the book of James mid-December.”

## ECUADOR

Courses: La Epístola de Santiago

Angye Mecías: “Each class with Teleios has been an encounter with the Lord’s Word, clear and practical. It has been a great, enriching experience. I thank the Lord for this ministry, and for giving me the opportunity to keep on learning His Word.”

## URUGUAY

Courses: La Epístola de Santiago, Cartas de Pablo desde la Prisión, El Libro de Hebreos, Los Evangelios

Edhit Vicente Severo, from Montevideo: “Personally, both of the courses I’ve taken have been uplifting. I look forward to learning more. God asks us to prepare, and the help we get with TELEIOS moves us towards that.”



## Production

The Freedom initiative is The Grace Institute's effort in East Africa that creatively uses the content of ministry partners to fit the context of the pastors and church leaders that we serve. To produce these courses for our East African students, a different process takes place than Blaze and Teleios. Based on the Blaze course sections, an outline is created that emphasizes Bible verses and main themes. A lot of blank space is left for the student to write out the Scripture and also answer questions about the main themes. Much care is taken in these outlines not to use words that are untranslatable. After the outline is created, they are sent to a translator.

Based on the Blaze sections, videos are recorded. Our Director of Curriculum teaches the lesson in his own words and our Director of African Initiatives translates. Also, based on questions received from the students, informal videos are made to respond and then stored in a database for future use.

All of our content for East Africa is created by Thirdmill. Current courses in 2020.

Kingdom, Covenants, and Canon of the Old Testament  
Primeval History

The Start of God's People (Multiple Courses: Father Abraham, Jacob and Joseph, and The Exodus)

He Gave Us Prophets

[Video Sample](#)







WOMAN FREEDOM



# Freedom Distribution

Freedom Groups: When the lessons are translated, they are sent to different groups throughout Uganda. The students have time to work through them. Then, each Saturday, the groups all “meet” at a certain time via WhatsApp. They are provided the video for the week. They watch the video and then begin sending questions to our Director of African Initiatives. The Director, if he doesn’t know the answer or doesn’t have a video in the database, asks the Director of Curriculum. This Director, in real-time, records an answer to send back to the students.

## Sample Video

As of today there are 10 Freedom Groups participating through WhatsApp. 8 more groups have expressed interest and will begin soon. Also, In February 2021, the Director of African Initiatives will be traveling to Tanzania to speak to over 1,000 pastors who are interested in ongoing study in the Freedom initiative.

Virtual Conferences – In two of the special projects (Kagavu and Luwero), a virtual conference was provided that mimicked past teaching conferences. The two pastoral group spent months studying the required pre-work. Then, through Zoom, a generator, hotspots, a lot of data, speakers, computer, and projector, we provided over 9 hours of teaching on The Start of God’s People. These pastors had never experienced the Internet or communication in this way. During the conferences, the were also provided the normal meal.

# KRS ordination Patrick

This summer, we approached the Kingdom Restoration Society about ordaining Patrick Kibirige, our Director of African Initiatives. Typically, the requirements demand a formal education. After some talks, we agreed on an educational plan for Patrick. Josh Warren, our Director of Curriculum, is mentoring him through this process. After two to three years of education, along with his ministry experience, he will be able to be ordained in the KRS. This is significant because TGI will have a model for an uneducated minister (considering formal education) to have a pathway to a recognized ordination.



# SPECIAL PROJECTS

Special projects hold a special place in the DNA of The Grace Institute. Whereas we have a normal way of distributing Biblical resources through various digital platforms, special projects require more creative thought and resources. Typically, those students in our special projects live in a context where the Internet isn't readily available. Sometimes electricity is spotty. Other times, they might be in life situations where they have to study under unusual circumstances. Whatever the case, we want people to engage with God's truth, and so we're committed to these projects.

- Calvary Rescue Mission, Memphis, TN
- Salvation Army, Memphis, TN
- TV Station, Ecuador
- Churches in Vulnerable Area, Ecuador
- Canelones Prison, Uruguay
- Addiction Rehabilitation Center, Uruguay
- Pastor Enrolled in Thirdmill Seminary, Costa Rica
- Pastoral group, Kagavu Village, Uganda
- Pastoral group, Luwero, Uganda
- Pastoral group, Sembabule, Uganda

Special Projects Being Formed:

- Iganga District
- Local Prisoners and Church Leaders Gulu
- Northern Uganda Ntungamo
- Western Uganda



“I am a student at TGI Uganda. I thank God for TGI. Through their studies I've understood God more.”

-Pastor Joseph, Kagavu, Uganda

“I am a student here at TGI Uganda. TGI is such a blessing to us. We got Bibles from them and right now I can study my own Bible.”

– Pastor Moses, Luwero, Uganda

“I am thankful to God for TGI, I've learnt much about the Old Testament and I got to know that all Scripture is breathed by God.”

-Betty, Kagavu, Uganda

“TGI has helped me to seek the Lord's face and prepare myself before teaching a sermon.”

-Pastor Elias, Uganda

“The Blaze courses have been so beneficial in furthering my understanding of both the Old and New Testament books. I've studied the Bible for years, but the content of these courses go far beyond what I've learned up to now. I'm truly grateful for this study and the community of people I get to learn alongside with.”

-Lauren Cox, Maryland, USA

# Testimonies

“TELEIOS’ courses have been such a blessing and so helpful for me. It gave us a broader understanding of the Scriptures. We’re grateful for the opportunity to study the Word online with TELEIOS, being from a small town, and surpassing all geographical distances.”

-Miriam Ortiz, Argentina.

“First, I want to thank God, TELEIOS and the Bible Society. It has been a time of growth. During this year with the pandemic, we’ve been able to renew and strengthen ourselves, thanks to the virtual platform from the safety and comfort of our homes. Each lesson was an opportunity to get closer to the Good News and to our Savior. Thank you.”

- Luz María Long, Colonia, Uruguay.

# Testimonios

# STAFF

Below are the staff who are committed to TGI's mission throughout the world. Outside of these staff, there is a significant amount of contracted labor who also believe in TGI's mission. These other support staff function as promoters, editors, proofreaders, etc.

This past year has provided us a great opportunity to grow together as a staff. This can be difficult since we are all from different parts of the world and speak different languages. However, the Lord has blessed us in this area. We each value the other's work and initiative and want it to succeed. This happens through regular communication between the Directors. Also, each month the entire staff meets via Zoom in a translated staff meeting.





**Adrian Toledo**

Technologies Director - LATAM



**Alejandro Barrios**

Productions Director - LATAM



**Elaine Savell**  
Member Care



**Josh Warren**  
Director of Curriculum





**Marcos Buzzelli**

Director of Latin American Initiatives



**Miguel Buzzelli**

Project Director - LATAM





**Patrick Kibirige**

Director of African Initiatives



**Will Savell**

President

# HOW TO SUPPORT THE GRACE INSTITUTE



## Cash / Checks

Thank you for your partnership with The Grace Institute. We are a recognized 501c3 with a tax-exempt status. If you desire to write a check, please make it out to:

The Grace Institute  
P.O. Box 382635  
Germantown, TN 38183

A tax deductible receipt will be issued.


## Credit / Debit

If interested in giving via credit or debit card, click this link. 

If this is a recurring donation, please note that option. An immediate receipt will be given.

\*\*Note that you will be redirected to MightyCause, our fund manager. If giving a recurring donation, you'll be asked to register. If you don't want to register via Facebook or Google, it gives you the option of registering with with the "use your email" option.

# Unique Gifts

To provide more giving solutions for our donors we have opened a Single Charity Fund at the **WiseHeart Foundation**  in Memphis, TN. In addition to offering Donor Advised Funds, WiseHeart is set up to receive gifts of publicly traded stock on our behalf as well as non-liquid gifts like real estate or privately held stocks.



