



# END OF THE YEAR NEWSLETTER

2021

# » Dear friends of The Grace Institute,

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As 2021 wraps up, the staff has been considering I Peter 5:6-11. In these verses, Peter talks about the mighty hand of God and the dominion of Jesus. This is all set in the context of the suffering being experienced by the brotherhood throughout the world. In that light, Peter gives the mandate to “Humble yourselves.”

Many who are reading this as an individual or a ministry representative have really felt “under the mighty hand of God” this year. His hand can be heavy at times. And at other times that same hand lifts us to a place of restoration, confirmation, strength, and establishment. Most of us have experienced both weight and exaltation throughout 2021.

Therefore, we think it is good, as we reflect on this past year’s work, to humbly reflect on it and know that it always has been and always will be God’s work that we are privileged to be a small part of.

We hope this report serves as personal encouragement to you as you reflect upon your own year.

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# TELEIOS

These are our Special Projects:

**Uruguay**

- Canelones Prison

**Ecuador**

- Rural Areas – Guayas

- Asomavision (TV channel)



In the second half of this year, we have been prayerfully and actively seeking to expand our reach by looking at new ministry partners. One of them is a ministry called Timothy 2. After they finished with their traditional training, we took some of their groups in El Salvador and Colombia to continue their studies using Teleios. We are also excited about continuing our conversations with other potential partners to join the effort in 2022.

Another accomplishment of this year has been the release of the Teleios App and Learning platform. These platforms house all of the Thirdmill courses that have been modified for our ministry needs. The LatamTeam has also managed the creation of the Blaze App and Platform. We have been able to release 5 new courses that provide pastors and leaders with 59 weeks of Bible study. As we speak, the Latam team is working on TGI's Basics of the Christian Life course. They are translating and producing it in Spanish.

**This year we served in the countries of:**

-  Argentina
-  Uruguay
-  Ecuador
-  Honduras
-  Peru
-  Bolivia
-  Colombia
-  El Salvador

This year, we are grateful that the Lord has allowed us to serve 756 pastors and church leaders in 8 different countries.



This year, we continued our courses on Zoom which included participants from multiple states. We offered via Zoom a winter, summer, and fall course. These courses were offered on our newly developed Blaze app and learning platform. We are thankful that, to date, we have had a little over 100 unique participants. Many of these have returned for multiple courses and have made Blaze a part of their regular study.

As in the other initiatives, Blaze also participates in special projects that consist of people who live in more difficult circumstances and typically would not be considered pastors or leaders. However, they have a strong desire to learn who God is and His word. This year we served:

- **Salvation Army**
- **Moriah House**
- **Calvary Rescue Mission**

In these locations, they studied TGI's The Basics of the Christian Life course.

Not having anyone specifically on staff who concentrates on the Blaze initiative, we're proud of its effect on people.

For this year, Blaze has served approximately 200 individuals from multiple states and who find themselves in different areas and stages of life.





## Freedom has been the biggest shock of 2021.

In Uganda, Covid restricted meetings. Thankfully our Director of Curriculum, Josh, was able to provide in-person instruction in February before everything closed. After in-person groups were cancelled, we once again committed to virtual conferences.

This year, we were able to bring Patrick Kibirige onto the staff as the Director of East African Initiatives. This was significant because he was able to move around the country despite the Covid restrictions.

He was able to continue meeting with the many groups in Uganda and even begin new groups on the Kalangala island in Lake Victoria. Currently there are 415 students in 7 districts.

The Lord also provided a great opportunity in Tanzania through Rainbow Presbyterian Church in Alabama. Through their ongoing work, they introduced us to Joseph Lacha. Joseph is now representing the Freedom Initiative in Tanzania.

Throughout the year, Patrick had the opportunity to visit Tanzania and attend conferences with almost 1000 potential students. Since then, we've agreed to work in Tanzania, have the Freedom materials translated into Swahili, provide distribution equipment, and begin the process.

Currently there are 440 students in 3 districts – and a line of pastors waiting.



We are thankful that the Lord has allowed us to work with 855 pastors in East Africa. Because the number is large, we are actively working on providing a strong infrastructure to meet the needs of the pastors. Therefore, we have begun and will continue to prepare for a Facilitator's Training event in the second half of next year.





## Quantitative

When it comes to numbers, it's always difficult to be 100% accurate – especially when quantifying students who are always coming and going. But to our best knowledge, in 2021 we helped **1,811 Christian pastors and leaders** engage with and study Biblical resources.

This took place in **11 countries** and multiple states and provinces.

## Qualitative

This year, we have enjoyed receiving feedback from many of those who have participated in the studies. We are always receiving testimonies of pastors and leaders who are being transformed as they learn new things about God.

Just like most companies, ministries, organizations, and even families, we have experienced our fair share of challenges this year. These challenges have caused us to adapt and find new ways to provide Biblical education to those who are able to meet in learning communities.

The Lord, even in the midst of international political and social turmoil, displayed His faithfulness and dominion in all things. We are thankful to serve Him and His people throughout the world by helping them interact with Biblical resources.

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# Final Words

We are also thankful to work with ministry partners like you. The team is not only what you see on the website. The team extends to all of you who faithfully give time, money, prayers, and efforts to The Grace Institute.

As always, we are grateful for you and look forward to moving together into our 10th year of ministry.

We praise a sovereign God who allowed us to serve who He called to be part of our ministry. We thank Him for His continual faithfulness.

