

# Encourage

Inspiration for IPHC Leaders

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# By Generosity We Shall Stand

Isaiah 32 gives us deep insight into the true meaning of generosity. We need these truths today.



BY DOUG  
BEACHAM

**DOUG BEACHAM** is the presiding bishop of the IPHC. He has served in various roles in the church including Georgia Conference Superintendent, executive director of Church Education Ministries, and executive director of World Missions Ministries. You can follow Bishop Beacham on [Facebook](#) or Twitter [@DougBeacham](#).

**I** continue to reflect on the theme, “What is the Holy Spirit teaching us in the year 2020?” We live with the COVID-19 pandemic, and in the United States we face a contentious election year. We are also inundated by the voices of lament, demands and violence related to historic racial tensions. It is easy for us to feel overwhelmed, discouraged, confused and frightened.

I also find myself also reflecting on what the Holy Spirit has spoken to the IPHC. We must remember we are “A Place of Hope and a People of Promise.” We are called to live by the power of the Holy Spirit, and we believe our seven core values reflect such a life. We are also called to face the future with a vision and hope called Arise 2033.

There is an interesting word used in Isaiah 32:5, 8. It’s the Hebrew word *nadib*, which is translated “liberal” in the King James Version and “generous” in the New King James Version. The Brown-Driver-Briggs Hebrew and English Lexicon also defines it as “honorable, noble.”

As a noun it means “free-will offering, voluntariness,” (Exodus 35:29; Psalm 110:3). My heart has been stirred as I have studied Isaiah 32 and the use of this word. In light of our core value of *generosity*, here are some thoughts as we live in these difficult times, preparing for a different future.

## **1. God calls us to be sensitive to the needs of others.**

Isaiah 32 contrasts leaders who reign in righteousness and justice (see 32:1-4 and 16-20), with those who live foolishly by neglect and abuse of the poor (32:5-7). There is a strong rebuke against “women who are at ease” (32:9, 11),

reminding us that complacency and self-comfort can hinder us from caring for the suffering and marginalized.

Failure to love a neighbor is a failure to discern God's love for all people. Jesus is calling us to discern how our congregations live as Places of Hope, and how we live as People of Promise.

## 2. Only the Holy Spirit can make us caring and generous.

Isaiah understood that repentance and change could only come by the activity of the Holy Spirit. This is why he said, "Until the Spirit is poured upon us from on high," (32:15). I hear a global cry for the Holy Spirit "to do it again." It's a cry for the IPHC "to Arise in Prayer!"

We are desperate for a move of God that breaks down the walls of division. I am convinced that Satan's greatest tools in this day are shame and division. We must heed the apostle Paul's admonition in 2 Corinthians 2:11, "for we are not ignorant of his (Satan's) devices."

## 3. The Holy Spirit will cause us to take the gospel to the poor.

When the Holy Spirit "is poured upon us," revealed truth leads to confession and repentance. The Spirit who was upon Jesus in Luke 4:16-21, fulfilling Isaiah 61:1-2, is the divine mandate for us "to preach the gospel to the poor; . . . to heal

the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set a liberty those who are oppressed; to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord." Is it possible that this difficult 2020 is actually a breakthrough time for "the acceptable year of the Lord"? My answer: Yes!

## 4. True generosity is so

**much more than giving money.** Isaiah 32:8 informs us that in contrast to the foolish, "a generous man devises generous things, and by generosity he shall stand." Often this year I have remarked that generosity is about more than money. Generosity includes our time and attention. Earlier I referenced Exodus 35:29 and Psalm 110:3, both of which use the Hebrew word used in Isaiah 32:5, 8.

Exodus 35:29 refers to the freewill offerings made by the Israelites in the wilderness as they gave for the construction of the tabernacle. Remember that these same Israelites had been oppressed as slaves in Egypt and their wealth was restricted to flocks and herds (Exodus 12:32). Their expanded wealth came as a divine gift as they plundered the Egyptians following the Passover (Exodus 12:35, 36).

Moses did not demand or manipulate that they give their wealth for the tabernacle. Rather, he appealed to hearts touched by the deliverance of God (Exodus 32:5-29). The "building" of a place where God dwells is not accomplished by coercion, but by grace that produces a willing heart.

This is part of the background of Paul's teaching in Ephesians 2:22 that "you are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit." The inclusion of all that is reflected in divine grace (a theme in Ephesians) and manifested in the unity of diverse peoples, languages and cultures that "grows into a holy temple in the Lord," is one that arises from

transformed and willing hearts.

This is more than generously giving a love offering for a local church building fund—though that is certainly important. It is a willing heart that generously gives for the living stones that constitute the body of Christ around the world—open hearts of hope and the promises of God (see 1

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*A place of hope. A people of promise.*

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Peter 2:4-10).

Psalms 110 is a psalm centered on the Messiah's triumph over all enemies, and the fulfillment of Melchizedek's blessing on Abraham (110:1, 2, 4). In between is the reality that "in the day of (the Messiah's) power, in the beauties of holiness," God's people "shall be volunteers" (110:3). It's the word "volunteers" that is the connection to generosity in Isaiah 32.

It is imperative that we remember this is far more than volunteering to work with children, or to be an usher in our local congregation, as important as that is. We need willing hearts that are prepared to be engaged in the Messiah's work of establishing His righteous and just kingdom in the earth. Jesus does this as the fulfillment of Melchizedek, giving His blessing to all who, like Abraham, live by faith.

The pandemic remains a serious global threat, and we must not minimize it. But it is also time for us to look to the future, trusting that by the Holy Spirit the IPHC will devise generous things—and by generosity we shall stand! □





# GENEROSITY

## Is Transforming North India

God has used sacrificial giving to spread the gospel throughout my nation.



BY ROSALINE  
JOHN

**ROSALINE JOHN** is an ordained minister with the IPHC's North India Conference. She serves as pastor of the Divya Aashray PH Church, along with her husband, Michael, in Varanasi, India. Rosaline has a Master's Degree in Public Administration from the Madras University in Chennai, and a Master of Divinity from Southern Asia Bible College in Bangalore. She is the first Indian woman to be ordained by the IPHC in India. She and her husband have one daughter, Shaanvi Jessica, who just graduated from high school.

**W**hat is generosity? Winston Churchill once said: "We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give." We will not fully comprehend the full meaning of generosity unless we have been a recipient of it, or unless we have allowed generosity to flow out of our lives.

Generosity is a divine attribute. It flows from the heart and character of God the Father, who gave His only Son. It overwhelms us when we think of God the Son when He generously poured out His love for us on the Cross. It renews us and empowers us when we stand in awe of God the Spirit, when He generously allows His river to flow through us!

Generosity is going that "extra mile" when you don't need to. It is casting the only "two coins" into the box when you don't have to. It is showing kindness to the "stranger on the road" when it's not expected of you. Generosity is not an act but an attitude!

When we give generously we see a great harvest in God's kingdom. He uses our generous giving to multiply and manifest His glory in this world. When we give to build God's kingdom, it is like throwing a little stone in the water. The stone remains in that one place, but the ripples it creates reach far and wide!

I have seen the true impact of generosity as we watched God bless our ministry in North India. The IPHC in North India is celebrating its centenary this year, so it is the perfect time to look back in thanksgiving at what God has done through the generous giving of His people.

A man named John Turner landed in India with his young wife in 1921



and sowed the seeds of the gospel in North India. Missionaries from United States poured out their lives generously to grow churches. God's people from the United States irrigated this insignificant sapling to grow with their prayers and continuous sacrificial giving.

Now, after 100 years, we have spread all over North India and beyond. Today there are hundreds of organized local congregations and more than 1,000 house churches. Thousands of people have been touched and transformed; yet because India has more than a billion people, the task is still huge.

The city of Varanasi is situated on the banks of the river Ganges, which is revered by Hindus. God sent my husband, Michael John, to this city on a cold winter day in 2001. Back then he was full of uncertainty. Now, in 2020, we can hardly believe what God had accomplished in response to obedience.

The first few years of our ministry seemed discouraging.

We saw little or no results. Sometimes it was like sowing on dry ground and waiting for rain! But God opened up a little spring that broke out on the dry ground and began to flow until it became a river.

God gave Michael a vision of God's river flooding the city and the surrounding areas. In 2003, we started the church in our rented apartment when I was pregnant with our daughter. But we believed God would bring people. We fasted during the weekdays and prayed that God would fulfill His promises.

The numbers kept growing, and the church moved from our rented house to a school, and then to another believer's house. More and more people were healed and set free from the powers of darkness. Eventually Dr. John and Evelyn Letteiri sent a generous donation to purchase the land so we could construct a small prayer room in 2010.

During the intervening years God led us to plant house churches in local

villages. Rev. Van and Jane Bloss were sent by God to generously give so this movement could grow. This was the beginning of a new era in IPHC ministry in India, and the results were unbelievable. Hundreds of people were drawn to Christ.

Village after village heard the good news of salvation in Jesus! Today, Divya Aashray—which means “Divine Shelter”—is truly a place of hope for the hundreds of believers who worship every week.

During a visit to our church, Bishop Talmadge Gardner, Executive Director of IPHC World Missions, felt God wanted to build a sanctuary for Divya Aashray. To fulfill this vision, God prompted the IPHC's Wing Kwong Church in Hong Kong, and the Golden West Conference, to give generously.

Our new sanctuary was dedicated in 2016. It can seat more than 1000 people, and the training center houses

100 delegates. Today hundreds of Indians are worshipping Jesus in this sanctuary because of God's generous people. And there are now hundreds of house churches in and around Varanasi!

As we began visiting villages we realized the availability of clean drinking water was a major problem. This was an urgent need, because the lack of clean water was causing the spread of disease. We thank God that Rev. and Mrs. Van

Bloss, along with the IPHC's People to People Ministries, raised support for this water project. So far we have installed more than 200 wells in needy areas.

Many IPHC pastors in North India have similar stories to tell. We have churches in remote tribal areas of Jharkhand and Bihar where there are no paved roads. Yet the gospel is spreading. Hundreds of congregations are still

in need of a simple block building where



The Divya Aashray congregation in Varanasi has grown exponentially in 19 years.



Many leaders have been trained for ministry at the Divya Aashray church.

the people can gather for worship. Some meet in houses, and some listen to God's Word under shade of leaves. But the Lord is raising the Indian church to give to missionary work.

In 2019, through the Building Together Project, we were able to build 11 new church buildings! Six more buildings are under construction this year. A new era is dawning for the IPHC in India, as God is raising up a new generation who are truly a “People of Promise”!

In addition, thousands of children have been able to attend school through the People to People ministry. Many of the sponsored children are now serving as pastors and leaders in IPHC North India, including my husband.

We continue to celebrate God's faithfulness. He has provided for every need in the mission fields through thousands of faithful people who have stepped forward to give and see God's Kingdom extended in this part of the world.

The task is still huge. Millions have yet to hear. The harvest is ripe. We are called to join hands together for the completion of the great commission. And the generosity of God's people is making this possible. □

“Today hundreds of Indians are worshipping Jesus in this sanctuary because of God's generous people. And there are now hundreds of house churches in and around Varanasi!”





# ¿HABLAS ESPAÑOL?

## Build a Bridge to Your Hispanic Neighbors

The number of Hispanics is increasing in this country.  
Don't miss this opportunity to reach a harvest.



BY LUIS  
AVILA

Born in San Jose, Costa Rica, **LUIS AVILA** served there for 11 years as a pastor and national leader of the IPHC. He also served as a missionary and founder of the IPHC in Guatemala for almost 7 years. In 1997 he moved to Greenville, North Carolina, where he served as a pastor. From 2004 to 2013 he served as Director of Hispanic Ministry for the IPHC's North Carolina Conference. He holds a Doctorate in Ministry from The Christian University. He currently serves as the IPHC's National Director of Hispanic Ministries and INCaM. Dr. Avila and his wife, Lilliana, live in Oklahoma City, and they have three children and five grandchildren.

**W**hile I served as a missionary in Guatemala, the Lord put a desire in my heart to come to the United States to serve the Hispanic community. While I was praying about that, I received a call from the late David Wood, pastor at the First PH Church in Greenville, North Carolina. Pastor Wood told me on the phone: "The Lord has spoken to me about reaching the Hispanic community in my city."

I know we already have the Great Commission of Jesus, so we don't need anyone to tell us that we should reach a specific group of people with the gospel. The Holy Spirit wants us to share Christ with everyone. But I believe that IPHC churches must be reminded that we are called to reach Hispanics.

It is so important for pastors to build bridges with Hispanic people, wherever they are. The Latino population in the United States is exploding. Did you know, for example:

- Hispanics make up 16.7 percent of the national population, or around 52 million people.
- The state with the largest percentage of Hispanics and Latinos is New Mexico at 47 percent. The state with the largest Hispanic and Latino population overall is California with over 14 million Hispanics and Latinos.
- The U.S. cities with the largest Hispanic populations are (starting with the largest) Miami, Fla.; San Jose, Calif.; San Diego, Calif.; El Paso, Texas; Dallas, Texas; Phoenix, Ariz.; Chicago, Ill.; San Antonio, Texas; Houston, Texas; Los Angeles, Calif.; and New York, N.Y.



But how do we reach these vast numbers of people, many of whom have only recently come to this country? Hispanics are very open to a deep level of relationships and community. They want to connect and belong. We have a ripe mission field right here!

Today more than 60 percent of Hispanics in the United States speak English very well, so communication is not as much of a challenge as it used to be. Yet we are also called to reach those who are not fluent in English or who do not speak it at all.

I want to suggest a number of things IPHC pastors can do to close the gap and reach Hispanics with the gospel. We must build bridges and create unity, especially in this divisive time in our nation's history. Some of my suggestions will require extra effort, but the hard work will prove worthwhile. Please consider how your church can reach this strategic mission field.

### **1. Become aware of your**

**Hispanic neighbors.** Some of us are so busy we aren't conscious of who lives around us. There are Hispanics living in your city, county and neighborhood. Find out where they live; then begin praying for them and looking for opportunities to build relationships.

### **2. Teach your people that God**

**loves all ethnic groups.** The Book of Acts clearly shows us that the church cannot be racist—or afraid of foreigners. God has called us to love all people. Show your congregation that your local area is a mission field.

### **3. Invite Hispanics to come to your services.**

Find a good interpreter and offer translation in your main services from English to Spanish. You should invest in headsets so all services can be translated. Make Hispanic visitors feel welcome. Help them to know the layout of your church building and what programs and events you offer.

### **4. Always advertise in English and Spanish.**

When you host events, let Spanish-speakers know you care about them. Be prepared by asking volunteer translators to help.

### **5. Build relationships with Hispanic pastors in your area.**

Find out if there are ways you can

partner with them. Invite them to prayer events and make them aware of any other important events in the city that are organized by local ministers. Don't leave Hispanic pastors out, just because of cultural or language barriers!

### **6. Involve Hispanics in your**

**church leadership team.** When you empower Hispanics in this way, they will be able to effectively reach their community better. And their input will help you become a better leader.

“Hispanics are very open to a deep level of relationships and community. They want to connect and belong. We have a ripe mission field right here!”

WELCOME

### **7. Open your church building to plant a Hispanic church.**

You don't have to do all the church-planting work yourself. Build strong relationships with Hispanic leaders in your community and help them reach their own. Clarify all the privileges and responsibilities of using your building, and define how they are going to be a part of your church.

### **8. Connect with local Hispanic organizations.**

Find out all the organizations in your city that are

working with the Hispanic community, whether they are providing immigration services, job training or financial help. Find out how you can become a support to them. By networking in this way, your church will become known as the church that cares about Hispanics!

### **9. Don't just live in your church bubble.**

If Hispanic pastors organize prayer events in your city, try to participate and make yourself available to these types of events. If you receive an invitation to pray or preach, do not turn down the invitation unless the Lord says something different to you. Don't be isolated!

**10. Be generous.** If you distribute food, clothing or school supplies to your community, don't forget to include Hispanics. Make promotional signs in English and Spanish. Have translators standing by.

### **11. When Hispanic ministry leaders gather, join them.**

It means a lot when you attend an event sponsored by a Hispanic pastor. It says you care! And make sure they know you are praying for their success.

### **12. Offer helpful training for Hispanic people.**

Many new immigrants need training on how to buy a house, how to get a job or how to navigate the immigration process. Find a knowledgeable speaker from your city and invite people to participate. Use these events to minister to the community and build relationships. Those who attend will be much more open to visiting your church on a Sunday.

The list is endless of what we can do for Hispanic people in your area. My best advice is to seek the Lord, ask Him what He wants you to do in the Hispanic community and then move forward. The Lord will water every seed that is planted. He will bring a harvest.

Years ago Pastor David Wood told me: “The Lord spoke to me that I have to reach out the Hispanic community in my city.” Perhaps the Lord is sharing this message with you, as well. You can be an instrument to build strong bridges. □





# God Is Still Working, Even During a Pandemic

This year has been discouraging in many ways.  
But there are glimmers of hope everywhere.



BY J. LEE  
GRADY

J. LEE GRADY is an author, traveling minister and former editor of *Charisma* magazine. Author of several books including *10 Lies the Church Tells Women* and *Set My Heart on Fire*, Lee leads The Mordecai Project—a missionary organization that focuses on bringing the healing of Christ to women who are abused and marginalized. Lee has been ordained in the IPHC since 2000, and he and his wife, Deborah, live in LaGrange, Georgia. You can learn more about his ministry at [leegrady.com](http://leegrady.com).

On a Sunday in mid-August, a young preacher named Nickson Ngwira stood in front of his small congregation in the village of Mpamba, Malawi, and taught the people a song in their Chichewa language. Nobody knew the words because they were all new converts to Christianity.

They sang: “Palibe ofana naye ndi Yesu / Sazapezekanso.” It means: “There is no one like Jesus / There is no one like Him.”

Nickson, who is 32, moved to this village in July. His home church in Mzuzu, 20 miles away, could only afford to give him \$25 to help him plant the new Pentecostal Holiness congregation. But in a month Nickson led 51 people to Jesus. He is now discipling them in spite of the challenges of the coronavirus pandemic. And more new people are also coming to the church.

“I came here to be a voice for Jesus to these people so they can become a part of the family of God,” Nickson told me. “The people are suffering so much because they don’t know Christ.”

Before the pandemic hit, this area near the shores of Lake Malawi was already suffering from family breakdown and a rise in AIDS infections. Many young people dropped out of school because they lack money for school fees. When COVID-19 hit, people began starving because they weren’t allowed to work.

Witchcraft is also a serious problem. Recently Nickson met with a woman who had previously been involved in sorcery. He had to cast a demon out of her.



I met Nickson four years ago during a trip to Mzuzu, where he was serving as a worship leader for his church. He went to the IPHC's Bible college in Eldoret, Kenya, for two years and then sensed the call to Mpamba. He is trusting God to meet his needs because the cost to rent a small room is more than he receives in support.

On a recent Sunday when he took up the offering in his new church, the total given was 680 Malawian kwacha. That's less than one U.S. dollar.

These challenges may seem overwhelming to people in the United States. After all, we received stimulus checks from our government during the pandemic. But Nickson always has a smile on his face when he texts me photos from Malawi. And he probably doesn't even realize his church is growing faster than most churches in the world.

And what is most exciting to me is that Nickson's church in Mpamba is not the only one that was started from his home base in Mzuzu. Tony and Charity Mkamanga, who are gifted leaders in the IPHC in Malawi, have been training leaders for years. They recently sent four more young pastors into unreached areas of Malawi to begin churches.

"Despite the coronavirus we thank God that He is helping us to reach more places with the gospel," said Charity Mkamanga, who leads discipleship programs in the IPHC in her country.

I love to hear testimonies from people like Nickson Ngwira because they remind me that the Holy Spirit is still working today—just as He did in the book of Acts—and that the challenges we are facing during this global pandemic can't stop the spread of the gospel.



"The pandemic will soon end, we will take our masks off, flights will resume, the global economy will start humming again, churches will reopen and we will discover that even in the darkest days of 2020 God was at work."

I meet so many Americans who are depressed because they listen to the mainstream media for hours each day. The constant barrage of negative news—about COVID-19 deaths, violent protests and constant bickering about politics—is triggering anxiety and causing insomnia. The media's dishonest manipulation of news is creating a mental health crisis that is more serious than the coronavirus itself.

Sometimes Christians are as guilty as secular journalists of creating a toxic atmosphere of negativity. I can't count how many times people have sent me emails and videos about the latest conspiracy theory, or a certain pastor's doom and gloom dreams or

prophecies. It's no wonder some believers are throwing up their hands and saying they hope Jesus returns

before 2020 ends.

I have a prediction. We will live through 2020. Life will go on. The pandemic will soon end, we will take our masks off, flights will resume, the global economy will start humming again, churches will reopen and we will discover that even in the darkest days of 2020 God was at work.

The Bible is not a pessimistic book. It tells us that God loves us so much He sent Jesus to forgive sinners, overcome death and throw the devil into hell. It also tells us that Jesus gave us a global mission to take the message of salvation to every nation and that the Holy Spirit will empower us to finish that task.

That doesn't mean we won't struggle. We will face ups and downs, hardships, persecution and every other form of spiritual resistance. But nothing will stop God's work. The gospel will continue spreading in spite of pandemics, natural disasters, wars, political turmoil, financial collapse, Marxist movements, church scandals and dangerous heresies.

Jesus told us His kingdom is like a seed that grows so large it "becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and nest in its branches" (Matt. 13:32b, NASB). The growth may be slow. But no matter what the media says, nothing will stop this kingdom from increasing. No matter how dark it gets, the light will come. Open your eyes, and you'll see glimmers of hope everywhere. □



A song of hope: Nickson Ngwira (far left, and inset) leads his new congregation in worship in Mpamba, Malawi.





# At Holmes Bible College, Faculty Members Are True Mentors

A graduate of Holmes Bible College shares how teachers and staff members shaped him for ministry.

Laborers for the harvest: 2020 graduates from Holmes Bible College.



BY ZACHARY  
TOMLINSON

**ZACHARY TOMLINSON** is the lead pastor of Easley First Pentecostal Holiness Church in Easley, South Carolina. He graduated from Holmes Bible College this year with a Bachelors of Science in Christian Ministry. He plans to pursue his Master's degree in the near future.

**W**hen I arrived on the campus of Holmes Bible College in the fall of 2016, I was only 19 and I hardly knew anything about the Bible. I just wanted to have fun. But I also knew Holmes was where I needed to be.

Honestly, during my first few days there I wondered why I had enrolled. I was tempted to leave, but God placed so many amazing people in my life there I couldn't quit. I began to make lifelong friendships with the other guys on the campus. We all loved to go out and have a good time, but we also knew when to be serious and seek the Lord.

My favorite memories of that first semester were the prayer meetings, which were usually held outside. One time we marched around the campus praying, and then after the march we began to pray and prophesy over each other.

We saw many miracles happen as a result of those prayer times. Money began to flow in so that the school could build a new student center and a new dormitory. After those experiences I never thought about leaving again. I was so amazed by what God was doing in me that I just wanted more.

I began to get more involved with things at the school and I got closer to the staff and faculty there as well. President James Leggett—the former General Superintendent of the IPHC—was the president of Holmes my first year there. I was quite intimidated by him at first!



Bishop Leggett would often stop me in the hallway and ask me how I was enjoying the school. At other times he would invite me into his office so we could chat. Other teachers would do the same, and I always came out of these conversations knowing more about loving God and answering His call.

I saw so many of the teachers at Holmes make personal sacrifices so students could grow deeper in their understanding of the gospel. The faculty took the school's motto, "Living for Others," to a whole new level.

Every day I saw people who made so many great sacrifices to be at Holmes, not only teachers but students as well. Some of the students were the same age as my parents, and they were much more faithful to God than I was. Yet this taught me that God can use absolutely anybody—no matter their age, gender, race or social status.

When I came to Holmes I had very little knowledge of the Bible. I knew Genesis was first and Revelation was last, and somewhere in between there was Jesus! In my classes I loved taking everything in. There was so much that I had never known before, and it was amazing to see the Bible come to life.

Before arriving at Holmes I had always considered the Old Testament to be boring. I never knew there were so many connections to the New Testament, and how Jesus is mentioned in almost every single book of the Old Testament. The Scriptures came alive for me!

Every class had its own way of being my favorite, but there was one class that stood out. That was Rev. Stacy Watford's class on the Gospel of John. His teaching style is simple yet so profound.

Rev. Watford made the fourth gospel come alive by connecting it to the Old Testament, and by showing us that the book's true purpose was so that we might believe. He continues to pour into my life even after graduation.

When I first came to Holmes I assumed I would be a missionary. That's because I had heard so many amazing stories from missionaries. Although I have been on two mission trips so far, and will go on many more, I now know that my true calling is to be a pastor.

Holmes helped me realize that pastoral ministry is my calling. The

"I saw so many of the teachers at Holmes make personal sacrifices so students could grow deeper in their understanding of the gospel."

teachers at Holmes not only teach the Bible but they teach you about how to discover your purpose in life. They do this through teaching, counseling, coaching and so many other ways.

No matter what area of ministry you go into, if you go to Holmes you will learn how to live for others. You will learn the meaning of true servanthood. Serving is the school's motto, and they continue to stay true to it. Serving is the most vital part of ministry, whether you are a pastor, missionary, evangelist, teacher, worship leader, or youth pastor.

During my time at Holmes I learned many spiritual disciplines that I will continue to practice for the rest of my life. One of those is a quiet hour with God. I was not a big fan of the idea at first, seeing that I would have to wake up extra early. I soon realized the importance of spending the first moments of my day with God.

I began to hear so much from the Lord during these times, and if I ever had any questions I could talk to our amazing dean of men, Derek Zellers. Many times I would come to him, or other teachers, with questions. They always tried to help me. Staff members at Holmes will stop everything they are doing to encourage a student.

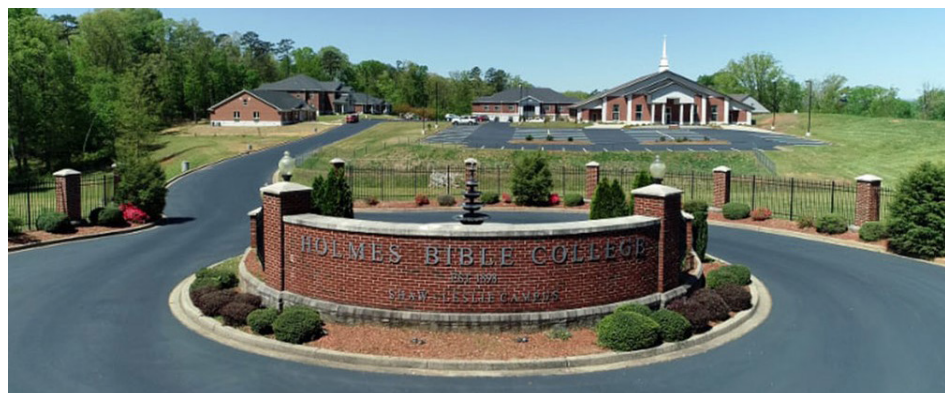
In my senior year I was asked to be an interim pastor of a small church in Easley, South Carolina, about 30 minutes from the school. I was terrified by the prospects of that challenge. So I had a talk with the school's current president, Chris Thompson. He reassured me that I had been taught all I needed to know to preach the gospel.

As I began the assignment at the church, President Thompson continued to mentor me. He invested a lot of time in me. In January of this year, I became the full-time pastor of the church. That would have never happened if the leaders at Holmes had not helped shape my life.

President Thompson continues to pour into my life personally. He is always there with an encouraging word, a word of wisdom, a prayer of peace and a hand of help if I need it. Holmes is not just another school. It's a place where many young leaders are formed.

In this time when the IPHC is celebrating our core value of generosity, I pray you will consider investing in the mission of Holmes Bible College. Your gift—whether it is designated for building improvements, new facilities or scholarships, will help to release a new generation of ministers.

You can learn more about the school's mission, or make a donation, at [holmescollege.publishpath.com](http://holmescollege.publishpath.com). □



A launching pad for leaders: The Holmes campus in Greenville, South Carolina.





# HOLMES BIBLE COLLEGE

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