

# Great Commission United

## Update

08-15-2023



Greeting Chaplains and fellow Saints,

### OUR NEW WEBSITE:

Hope this epistle is finding you well and moving forward in your gifts and callings for the Kingdom! The hour we are in is most dire and all hands are needed for the harvest ahead. With that said, our website has been totally revamped and updated. Please take time to go to: [www.gcuacademy.com](http://www.gcuacademy.com) and “take a look”, please search for your name to be sure we have you listed as an active chaplain. We lost about 100 names in the transfer from the old site.

The new site is much easier to navigate especially on a smart phone. A lot easier to renew and keep up with what is happening with chaplaincy. Applications for classes can be filled out on the app with ease and we are excited to see it working well. Also, our Chaplain Application is fully available to fill out on the website, so no more paper applications are needed. Here is a link to apply for Chaplaincy:

<https://gcuacademy.com/apply-for-chaplaincy/>

Continuing education is still every Thursday evening at 7pm EST (*That is 6pm for Central Time Zone*). The call-in number for the classes is: 339-207-8754. There is no access code, and all are welcome to attend class. We encourage all chaplains to attend at least two continuing classes a year to keep fresh in updated revelations and workings of the Kingdom. **(To replay a previous recorded message dial: 605-313-6247 then access code 267997# you will be prompted to enter the recorded message number).**

If you are seeking any ministry growth solutions such as updating your website, please contact Richard at Perfect Your Success [www.perfectyoursuccess.com](http://www.perfectyoursuccess.com) He is a Kingdom business developer and he built the new website re-designed the GCU Logo with an extremely high level of excellence. You can also call him at 717-810-6000.

## **House of Restoration (GCU Training and Discipleship home):**

It has been almost two years since we embarked on our first build project. Trusting Abba for every dollar to come in. With the finished project in sight, we press on in prayer to finish this much needed home and training center. To be able to house and train chaplains and ministers from around the world, this discipleship home will be a great tool for the Kingdom. To be able to spend days with our new ministers and get to know them personally, will build lasting Kingdom friendships for the troubled days ahead. The house will also be available for local training and discipleship. Ministers that come in from out of the area will have a safe place to come and be restored.

### **What is still needed:**

Well and septic, plumbing and electric to be finished, painting and trim, flooring, appliances, heating unit, final grading, and driveway.

Please continue to pray that the rest of the funds come in soon so we can button the house up for another winter.

Our hearts desire is to be in before winter and prepare for classes in the spring and summer for 2024.



(Side of House of Restoration)



(Loft over the Kitchen / Office and Library)



(Back of House of Restoration)

**Our deepest gratitude for all who have sown into this project, so many have given deeply, and it is our prayer that Abba blesses you beyond measure for your hearts giving and obedience!**

### **Training Update:**

Exciting news: our First Responder Chaplaincy Certification classes will be starting soon. There is an additional cost for this certification, but the training is second to none! Critical incident training, death notification training, situational observation training, first responder training, trauma debriefing, and much more. Please note that you must be a Senior Chaplain to take this course and have gone through a background check due to the seriousness of the service being offered to those who serve us and those being rescued out of the sex slave trade.



Apostle Hodge and Sheriff Chaplain Ky Rassmussen / Oshkosh Wisconsin July 2023

**Your Directors will be keeping you updated monthly on ministry opportunities that may become available to you as the LORD has need of us!**

**Promoting chaplaincy through your influences:**

It has always been preferred to train chaplains in person yet the need for chaplains in this hour is great. Our mission is to follow the mandate given us by Father GOD and that is to raise HIM an army! We are in the process of starting a campaign to make the ministry known to the rest of the world, this is why we need you! If you know of any pastors or ministers that would like their congregation to have credentialing, please let us know. Our heart is the great commission and unity is the goal amongst the Body of Christ! To assist pastors in this area is one of our most favorite ministries.

**Fundraising effort for Executive Administrator:**

We have hired for the first time an experienced and qualified Executive Administrator. Senior Chaplain Emily Oesterling will be taking over all administrative duties for the ministry and will be available soon to all chaplains in any area needed.

Chaplain Emily will be raising her own salary with the help of our executive council as well as reaching out to those who believe in what Abba has called us to do. A campaign brochure is being professionally developed so we can get the message of chaplaincy out to the masses and be an introduction to those who the LORD leads us to for support. Chaplain Emily has an extensive gifting in administration as well as intercession. She wants to serve and can not wait to meet with many of you soon.



**Senior Chaplain / Executive Administrator**

**Emily Oesterling**

The financial needs of any ministry can be daunting. Yet to be a ministry of excellence, it takes the gifts of the body to become one! We are not a ministry that asks for finances often, only if we believe the need is real and the LORDS will to be done. It is still the LORDS responsibility to provide (If it is the LORDS will, it is the LORDS bill), But we also know that we have a responsibility to share the burden with the Body of Christ so that they can either labor with us or pray into what matter of need we have. Sometimes it just takes a word from someone to another that the LORD has need so that what has already been prepared in their heart to give will now know where it is to go so that the great commission is advanced throughout the world.

### **GCU Aviation update:**

As many of you know, we have an aviation component to the ministry through Mission Air Support Services (MASS), and Pilots for Christ International Michigan Chapter. Under the leadership of our Vice President and Aviation Director Terry Montambo, we have secured a few airplanes to assist us with getting boots on the ground and supplies flown into various locations who have need. Currently in the Hanger is a Stensen, a Cessna 182, and a Cessna 210 (still waiting to fly back from Texas). The acquiring of airplanes was prophesied over the ministry 7 years ago and has been coming to fruition over the last two years. The airplanes are a great tool in rescuing sex trafficked victims, disaster relief, Chaplaincy Training abroad, and delivering of much needed supplies to areas hard to reach by car. Some exciting news may be right around the corner but that is for another time.



**Pilot Terry Montambo (lower), Pilots for Christ Michigan Logo (upper left) Stensen Airplane in flight over Freemont airport, Michigan during Pilots for Christ's 2023 Aviation Boot Camp (10 GCU Chaplains were involved)**

## **Aviation Boot Camp and EAA Airshow in Oshkosh, Wisconsin:**

This last July, Great Commission United Chaplains participated in two amazing events. The second week of July, 10 of our chaplains found themselves in Fremont Michigan at the hanger of Pilots for Christ International, Michigan Chapter. Pilots for Christ Directors Tim and Lori Layne (also GCU chaplains) again hosted their 4<sup>th</sup> Aviation Bootcamp for youth ages 8 to 17. The youth fly all week as well as learn valuable biblical lessons from the teachings and chaplain counselors. Our chaplains not only assisted with counseling but food service, and pilots. This year was the most successful year yet, with 120 youth who flew everyday and heard the good news of the gospel of Christ Jesus. This year was special in that we decided to do baptisms at the end of camp. With new converts and those wishing to be baptized for the first time we saw 8 total! Was the highlight of the week.



**Youth getting ready to fly at Aviation Boot Camp 2023**

GCU partners with Pilots for Christ by providing; “In flight Chaplains.” Chaplains can fly on mercy flights that are given at no charge to those in desperate need of travel either to the hospital or family emergency. The need is great, and we are honored to partner with Pilots for Christ International in these lifesaving and soul saving flights. Mission Air Support Services under the direction of our Vice President Terry Montambo and his lovely bride Executive Council Debbie keep GCU up in the air so we can provide boots on the ground service as we are called!

**We are coming to San Angelo Texas soon so be ready Chaplains!**

**Oshkosh where everything is looking up!**

Another year under our belt at the annual EAA airshow in Oshkosh, Wisconsin. For five years now, GCU has been serving in directing traffic from off the highway into the campground which becomes the worlds largest campground as well as the worlds busiest airport for one week. In the past, there have been disgruntled volunteers who just don’t understand the nature of greeting very tired and weary travelers from a far-off place. This is where GCU came in. We actually serve a missions organization (MASA) that serves mission aviation ministries that carry those like us into all the world with the gospel of Christ Jesus as well as medical aid and resources. By serving EAA we in turn serve those who bring the good news into all the world through aviation.

After watching us chaplains greeting weary travelers and putting a smile on many a face, EAA turned over a few years ago the entire traffic directing program to GCU, called Ramp Management. Our team camps next to the entrance and works several shifts assuring travelers safely enter the campground and register before heading to their campsite. We earn hours which in turn provides MASA (Mission Aviation Support Association) with free campsites so that they can feed and take care of over 150 missionary pilots and their organizations.

This year was special because we were finally able to turn the ramp management over to MASA who will train local churches and residents on the work, we have been blessed to be apart of for these last 5 years. We as GCU will continue to promote to our chaplains the opportunity to serve at EAA without all the grueling hours required. To meet and eat with these amazing heroes of the faith is indeed a great blessing as well as seeing the airshows which are every day.



**The Ramp at EAA Oshkosh, Wisconsin**

### **GCU Missions Worldwide:**

GCU has been involved in missions for many years, we are so blessed to partner with ministers around the globe. As many of you know, we are in Nigeria under the direction of our Nigerian Director Christie Desaro, Uganda under the direction of Apostle Steve Busulwa, Kenya under the direction of Apostle Christopher Bera, and Congo under the leadership and direction of Apostle Daniel Dede Deleon. Our overseeing International Director Apostle Ben Culbertson has his hands full we would say, but he is up to the challenge.

Victory Biker Church International has now three chapters in the UK and growing, Apostle BMAN is continuing with the vision given to plant biker discipleship churches throughout the world. We are excited to support this great vision. Please check out our website under alliance ministries and get ahold of this unique ministry that ministers to the hard core of society with the love of Jesus!

Apostle Hodge is still traveling globally with unique Holy Spirit assignments. Several assignments are in prayer currently to include missions' trip to Uzbekistan, Tunisia, Kenya, Uganda, Malta, Macedonia, and Italy.

A very special missions work being headed up by Chaplain Tracy Hagood of Michigan has endeavored with her husband Larry to assist Apostle Christopher Bera and his son Mike with their orphanage called House of Esther. Below is the need and we at GCU encourage those of you called to this type of ministry to contact our sister Chaplain Tracy at the number below.

## **HOUSE OF ESTHER MINISTRY UPDATE**

### **WEBUYE, KENYA**

#### **CALLING ALL CHAPLAINS!!!**

**JAMES 1:27 – Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.**

**When we became chaplains, for many of us it was a “beginning” of unknowns. For myself, I am a Registered nurse who loves the Lord and wanted to serve HIM but did not have a clear idea of what that would even look like. I tried to equip myself for HIS work and leaned into the HOLY SPIRIT to lead me. God is so good, and certainly has a good sense of humor never in a million years would I have even dreamed of being used to build into an orphanage halfway around the world. But it is clear as a bell, this is the place HE chose for me and my husband Larry to serve.**

**If this resonates, and you have a heart for missions/children/widows/widowers then this is YOUR ministry!**

**HOUSE OF ESTHER is a small private orphanage located in Webeye Kenya. It is run by Apostle Chris Bera and his son Mike Bera. We have approximately 30 children currently that we support. Larry and I have been supporting the children / orphanage for the last 2 ½ years. We help provide food, school supplies, uniforms, tuition, clothing, and feminine pads as well as occasional medical care. Two years ago, we were able to put in a new well for them. Now they have fresh clean water to drink. We have secured a plot of land and have architectural plans to build a new home for the children.**

**We are planning on a mission visit in Jan – Feb 2024. We will plan for approximately 10 days (about 1 and a half weeks) for this mission trip. This is what we have planned:**

- 1. DEDICATION OF THE BUILDING SITE TO FATHER GOD. We will be declaring to the earth, exercising our dominion, and calling forth the resources required to build this home, in Jesus mighty name.**
- 2. CELEBRATING BIRTHDAYS with the children. A bakery made cake along with lots of playing and fun.**
- 3. ASSESSING GARDEN NEEDS**
- 4. ASSESSING MEDICAL NEEDS**

5. **ASSESSING EDUCATIONAL NEEDS**
6. **And... much more as we are on the ground to serve.**

**We will pour out the love of Christ on these children, the widows, and widowers. These children, some are incredibly young, have no parents and no home. Building this home is heavy on our hearts and no doubt has been laid on our hearts by the FATHER.**

#### **WHAT WE NEED:**

1. **We are putting together a TEAM to go to Kenya in Jan/Feb 2024. If you are called to be part of this life changing KINGDOM work, please reach out to myself or Apostle Hodge. See contacts at the end.**
2. **We would like a few men to be able to go and help construct a fence around part of the property and around the garden area.**
3. **Financial support:**
  - a. **Food – monthly (Currently I send \$1000 / month and it barely gets them by. We need others to come along side.**
  - b. **School Uniforms at the beginning of the school year. This usually equates to 50.00 - 60.00 dollars per child.**
  - c. **Tuition: The secondary school students are charged \$300 per year to attend school. This is where so many drop out, and we know that this only perpetuates poverty and lack. It is imperative for us to keep these children in school and that they graduate. School also provides them with a hot meal during the day, which is especially important.**
  - d. **Feminine products (Pads) - \$50 / month**
  - e. **Shoes / Jackets – they are starting to enter the rainy season where it cools down. The children have nothing but used clothes that are handed down and need some fresh clothes.**

**I am inviting you to join us in living James 1:27. God has laid on our hearts to care for and build into these children's lives. We are to be the hands, arms, and feet of Jesus Christ. Please reach out to me if you would like to join us or have any questions.**

**Chaplain Tracy Hagood- 859-816-9384**

[Tracyhagood47@yahoo.com](mailto:Tracyhagood47@yahoo.com)





Current home

New well provided by donors

Supplies being provided

Proposed new building

Please consider praying for this project, we have known the Beras' for many years, and they are truly a Kingdom ministry, meeting the real needs of their community. Come join us on our trip this next year, you will not be disappointed.

### **GCU Directors:**

**Executive Administrator: Emily Oesterling – 561-951-8962**

**S. E. regional director and overseer: Apostle Alonzo Curry – 313-996-9057**

**Florida Director: Vic Lewis – 352-942-1535**

**Alabama Directors: William and Brenda Matthews – 313-244-1804**

**Midwest Director: Bonnie Lillich – 913-424-5236**

**Texas Director: Cathy Brown – 325-212-4283**

**First Responder Director: Mike Feehan – 616-795-1553**

**International Director: Benjamin Culbertson – [activebible@btinternet.com](mailto:activebible@btinternet.com)**

**Aviation Director: Terry Montambo -231-740-6651**

### **Keep us informed:**

Please keep us informed and drop us a line in a Word doc format, we would like to host you on our next newsletter. As the LORD allows, we are hoping to have our first convention next year to celebrate all our chaplains, provide some up-to-date training, and have some very important fellowship as we greet and meet our fellow workers in the harvest.

If you have any suggestions for a place to host our convention, please email or call our office at: [exec@gcuacademy.com](mailto:exec@gcuacademy.com) or call 888-428-0098

**Until our next newsletter, may the LORD richly bless you all and keep you in all HIS way for the coming of our KING, LORD JESUS CHRIST - Amen**