

Free Ministry Training News

Eternally Grateful for CLI

Gena McCown Shares Her Inspirational Testimony



Several years ago, I attended a women's conference and felt the Lord was calling me to return back to school, specifically to enter into a seminary program. As I looked at my options, the seminary programs for distance learners were typically two year programs completed after your four year university degree.

In order for me to enter their program, I first had to complete my original college degree, which was put on hold when we had our second daughter. I became very discouraged.

It was then I received an email from a friend about

CLI. When I looked through the certifications and class options that CLI offered, I was very impressed. I decided that while I was waiting to finish my college degree, working on some certifications would be beneficial.

I enrolled and began my first set of classes. The best part was the donation based model that CLI uses for certification programs. It meant that I could pay what we could afford, as I moved through the courses.

As I progressed, the quality of education that I was receiving grew more and more evident. The courses

are comprehensive, yet easy to follow along. This self paced program is another benefit that CLI offers not only to bi-vocational or distance learners, but also lends itself to the students who enter the program in foreign countries around the world.

Within the first year of my enrollment, CLI opened up the Degree Program and I signed up immediately! This was an answer to prayer that would allow me to pursue a ministry DEGREE without having to travel to my original college. I was even able to transfer my college credits to CLI; the registrar's office was exceedingly helpful in ensuring all my applicable credits were accounted for.

I am drawing closer to the end of the Bachelor of Divinity Degree, and I am excited at the opportunities it will open up for me in ministry work. Bible Literacy has been declining and we are responsible for teaching the Word of God to others.

Due to my years of ministry experience and my newfound training through CLI, I was given an opportunity to share my passion for Women's Ministry with CLI students by writing a course on Women's Ministry. I am also more prepared for my personal ministry endeavors, and working as a freelance writer for various publications for women in the church or ministry field.

I am eternally grateful for the blessing of CLI in my life, and I eagerly share their program with others whom I encounter. Thank you!

Why I Support Christian Leaders Institute

By J.R. Gork



**Q. How did you find out about CLI?
A. I learned about Christian Leaders Institute through Doug Van Oss in mid-2014. Doug was, and continues to be, very enthusiastic about CLI. He personally introduced me to Henry Reyenga. Henry and I developed a fast**

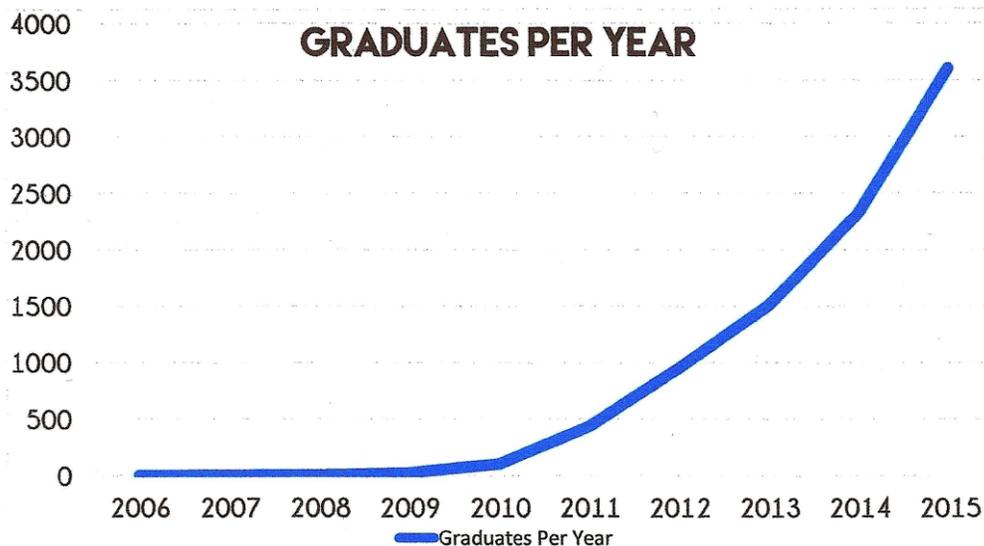
friendship. We meet for breakfast each Tuesday, along with a group of other Christian men, where we prayerfully reflect on our life journeys and our faith development. We also assist each other with our quest to be more impactful with our respective God given gifts and talents.

**Q. Why do you financially support it?
A. My wife and I financially support Christian Leaders Institute because quality Christian education/ training is one of the key components to reconnecting the world back to God; faith and action are also vital components. CLI offers this**

high quality Christian education at an affordable cost; it is free! Now we need to inspire the graduates of CLI to take action, which will help grow their faith!

Q. What do you hope it accomplishes in the next 10 years?

A. Over the next 10 years, I am praying that God uses CLI as a vehicle to rejuvenate Christianity in the United States, Europe and the rest of the world. The Internet has enabled CLI to flourish. I would like to see CLI continue teaching and promoting the idea that each of us has valuable gifts and talents. Similarly, we also have a responsibility to God to develop and share our gifts and talents. The more successfully we accomplish this task, the more that we are able to be a blessing to God, our neighbor, and our enemies. But, this dream will not happen on its own. It requires us all to grow our faith and take action; this window of opportunity will not stay open long. God is counting on us!



God Calls Two Leaders in Surprising Ways



Eric and Carol de Guzman serve God in Thailand, a country where Buddhism reigns. But that's not where either of them imagined themselves in their youth.

Eric grew up in a Christian family in the Philippines and gave his life to Christ at a youth camp. He lived a normal Christian life up to graduation. When he graduated, he was approached by some people who were recruiting people to work in Australia. He jumped at the chance to work in this much wealthier country.

Imagine his surprise when he found himself not in Australia, but Thailand. The people who recruited him were illegal recruiters, telling people they would go to the stronger economy of Australia but taking them instead to another third world country. Now Eric was alone with no family, in a country where he didn't even speak the language!

But Eric recalls God's hand even in that dark hour. God provided friends who helped Eric adapt to the Thai culture and to get work. As he communicated with his new friends and learned the Thai language, Eric also learned that he had a gift for teaching – and he discovered an intense love for the Thai people!

During this time, God was preparing a partner for

him in his ministry. Carol, who gave her life to Christ and was baptized at the age of 16, found her calling in the aftermath of a broken relationship.

Carol discovered her passion for missions while attending training at the Asian Center for Missions (ACM). After a missions exposure trip to Mongolia, Carol quit her job to devote herself to missions full time. She then served full time with Intercessor for the Philippines, where she met her future brother-in-law and sister-in-law, who were also missionaries with ACM. It was through them that she met Eric de Guzman.

The first few years of marriage were tough for Carol as she adjusted to life in Thailand. But the Lord was with them, and they were able to serve in leadership positions at their church. Eric serves as a worship leader and Carol is involved in intercession and administrative activities for the Filipino fellowship part of the church. They also served as youth leaders for a year.

But spreading the gospel of Christ in a culture steeped in Buddhism is challenging. Christianity is hindered as pastors struggle over what to say about things like immorality and behavior that goes against God's standards. Many Christians are more motivated by fear of what might happen if they sought to change the culture than by the desire to share the gospel of Christ. Eric and Carol have a deep passion for the Thai people, and they want to change that.

They knew they needed more in-depth training to equip them for the challenges ahead. But as they looked at Bible colleges and seminaries, they found only obstacles. Debt. Relocation. Large tuition. Huge time commitments. Then, after praying fervently for God's provision, they came across CLI. There they found no obstacles. No huge debts or tuition. No enormous time commitments. Just free ministry training available through a simple Internet connection.

Christian Leaders Institute is “Transformative”

Leading Missiologist Dr. Craig Van Gelder endorses CLI



Dr. Craig Van Gelder has been studying missiology for over 20 years. He obtained his PhD in missiology in 1982, served as Calvin Seminary’s professor of domestic missiology from 1988-1998, and now serves as professor emeritus of congregational mission at Luther Seminary in St. Paul, Minnesota.

As a leader in missiology, Dr. Van Gelder has studied everything that missions groups and churches are doing to advance the gospel nationally and worldwide. He even consults with churches regarding organizational change and strategic planning.

He is also a member of several networks focused on various aspects of missiology. These include the American Society of Missiology, the Gospel and Our Culture Network, the Society for Scientific Study of Religion, and the Urban Affairs Association.

Dr. Van Gelder also authored, co-authored, and co-edited several books on missiology.

In short, if anyone knows missiology, it’s Dr. Craig Van Gelder. And when Reverend Henry Reyenga of Christian Leaders Institute showed him our courses, he saw something impressive.

But not just impressive: transformative. In a Multiplication Ministries convention, Dr. Van Gelder addressed members of this international church planting organization and encouraged them to check out Christian Leaders Institute. Because, he said, what CLI is doing is transformative.

In just under a minute of his speech time, Dr. Van Gelder laid out a powerful endorsement for CLI. He labeled CLI a trendsetter in missiology. He said that our model of ministry would transform the future of missions. He added that our free, high quality curriculum would be very influential in years to come.

We are grateful to Dr. Van Gelder for his unsolicited endorsement of Christian Leaders Institute. His encouraging words concerning our mission and its effectiveness will help us reach our goal of 100,000 trained leaders by 2020. And the confident endorsement of America’s leading missiologist means a lot to us.

To watch Dr. Van Gelder’s endorsement of Christian Leaders Institute online, go to <https://www.christianleadersinstitute.org/bible-school/dr-craig-van-gelder-endorsed-christian-leaders-institute>.

We pray that the Lord will continue to use CLI to further His mission across the globe, raising up leaders in every nation for the glory of God.

Christian Leaders Institute is devoted to raising up revival leaders around the world. Our prayer is that we will always be able to continue offering crucial training to these leaders without burdening them financially

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