

[View this email in your browser](#)



Global Christian Studies

Providing a theological education pathway for Churches of Christ around the world

GCS News – August 2024

Updating our sponsors, informing our current students, and reaching out for others to partner with us.

In this newsletter:

- Harding School of Theology moves to Searcy, AR
- Financial Update: New cost of tuition at HST
- Meet the HST staff
- Student Progress
 - Student Progress Graph
 - Student Progress Updates
- Student Spotlight: David Lopez
- GCS Graduate News
 - Graduate Update: Kizito Jasper
 - Upcoming Graduate: Nancy Wu Won
- GCS Staff Updates
- Thank You to Dr. Harold Hazelip
- Invitation to be a Sponsor
- GCS Supporting Congregations
- Message to Potential Students

Harding School of Theology moves to Searcy, AR

GCS partners with Harding School of Theology to offer foreign students a Master of Arts in Christian Ministry while they minister in their own communities. This past year brought significant changes for both GCS and HST, including staff changes at GCS and HST's relocation from Memphis, Tennessee, to Searcy, Arkansas, in August 2024.

HST, one of the first programs in Churches of Christ to offer graduate and doctoral programs, started as a Harding University program in 1952. It moved to Memphis in 1958 due to growth and remained there for 66 years before relocating to Searcy.

The heart of HST remains true to its motto, “Deeper Faith, Higher Standards.” The mission of HST is to build Christian leaders through immersive coursework and academic rigor. Through this extensive training, students are equipped to pour into their respective communities and beyond.

Dr. Monte Cox, dean of the College of Bible at Harding University, is eager to witness HST’s mission and Harding’s culture come together. “In the relocation, our commitment is to continue that same tradition of academic rigor,” says Cox. “That is what we are trying to inculcate in our students. We are hopeful that students will see that a graduate degree in theology is now more accessible and affordable.”

Dr. Peter Rice, the newly appointed dean, shares what HST offers to students now and in the future. “HST prepares students for ministry, which often takes the form of a concrete career: as congregational ministers, missionaries, chaplains, teachers, and other professionals,” says Rice. “We train students in practical skills like sermon delivery and also help hone them in less measurable but indispensable ways, like clear thinking and spiritual formation. The relocation of HST to Searcy has allowed us to provide more cost-effective theological education for more students, expanding our reach and reducing students’ financial burden. I’m excited to be part of a talented, collaborative team that shares the common goal of preparing ministers for service.”

GCS is proud to continue to partner with HST. With lower tuition rates, GCS can provide more financial assistance to prospective students. The new GCS staff will support collaborative efforts with HST and embrace these changes with courage.

-Hannah Diles, GCS Director of Marketing

Financial Update: New cost of tuition at HST

Harding School of Theology has reopened in Searcy, Arkansas, in August 2024, with a new campus, staff faculty, and a new cost structure. All of these elements are significant for Global Christian Studies.

The cost of the Master of Arts in Christian Ministry for the typical Global Christian Studies Student will now be about \$10,000. In Memphis, the cost was closer to \$50,000. The \$10,000 includes the \$100 per hour tuition cost, assorted course and semester fees, and the trip to the US for the Advanced Theological Research class. These figures are based on what we know from before the program starts in Arkansas so the final numbers may vary.

GCS provides funding for its students. Each student is asked to contribute up to \$1,000 of the program cost. The students are asked to contribute a portion to verify their seriousness about the program.

We will be writing to all our donors to explain how the new cost structure affects their gifts. We hope all our supporters will maintain their past giving level, which will allow them and us to support more students.

Donors who have been giving **\$5,000 per year for 5 years** (for a total of \$25,000) will now be able to sponsor two students (\$10,000 per student) and a part of a third student or contribute to the GCS overhead (\$5,000).

Donors who give **\$1000 per year** will be linked with another donor to fully support one student (\$1,000 per year each for two donors times 5 years=\$10,000).

The new financial structure promises to greatly expand the work of Global Christian Studies and enable us to help train church leaders globally to be as well-equipped as American missionaries who do excellent work.

- Harold Shank, Director of GCS

Meet the HST Faculty!



Steve Cloer, B.A., M.Div., D.Min.
Associate Professor of Ministry



Peter Rice, B.S., M.Div., Ph.D.
Associate Professor of New Testament



Lance R. Hawley, B.A., M.Div., M.A., Ph.D.
Associate Professor of Old Testament



Matthew D. Love, B.A., M.Div., Ph.D.
candidate
Instructor of Preaching and Ministry



Jeff Peterson, B.A., M.A., M.Div., Ph.D.
Professor of New Testament



Keith Stanglin, B.A., M.Div., Ph.D.
Professor of Historical Theology



Whitney Hammes, B.M.E., MSLS
Assistant Professor
Theological Librarian

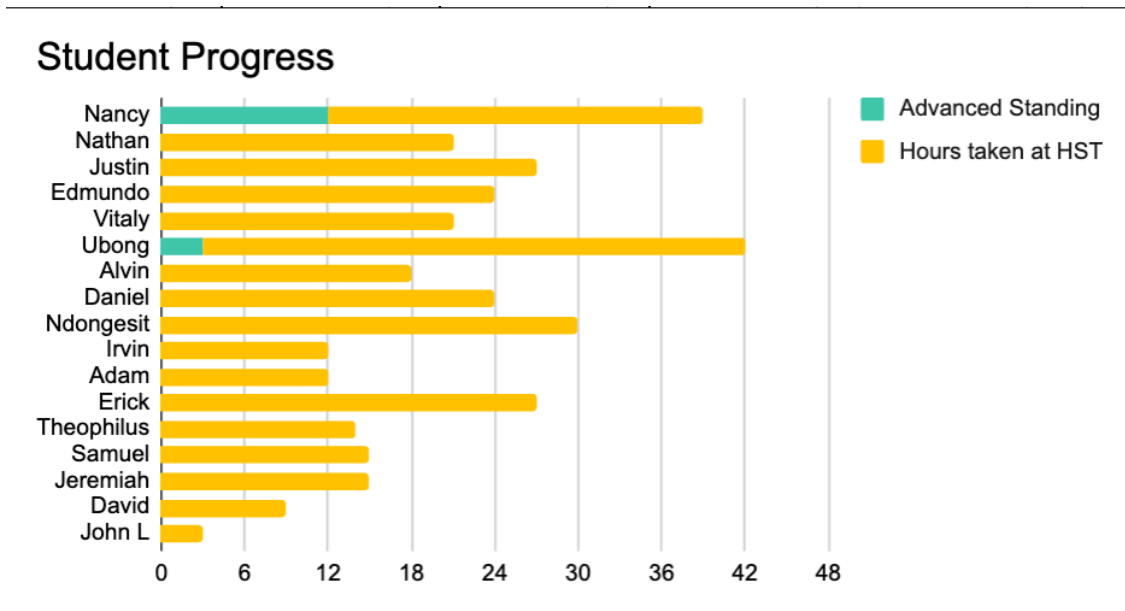


Christopher Jackson
Admissions Counselor
cjackso2@harding.edu



Monte Cox, Ph.D.
Dean of the College of Bible & Ministry

GCS Student Progress



This graph shows each GCS student progressing toward completion of the 48 hour MACM degree.

- **Alvin Tjipo** of Australia finished Advanced Introduction to Old Testament. He comments “This is perhaps the first class that really opened my eyes to the depth and richness of the bible that we have...I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for the continued support and prayers as I continue to undertake my studies. The benefits are manifold in all areas of my life and I hope that it will continue that way.”
- **Nancy Wu Won** of Australia has one more class to complete before she graduates. She shares, “I have enrolled to study the book of Isaiah in the Fall 2024. I only have one further course to complete before I am awarded the MACM. Thanks be to God and for you all who have prayed and supported me over the past 6 years as I continued to study. It’s like a marathon. I’m so grateful to have God as my running partner. Lord willing, I hope to serve in women’s ministry with my degree.”
- **Theophilus Gyan** of Ghana studied Biblical Preaching. He states, “It was a very insightful and fun class to attend. During the semester I was reminded of the need for preachers to study the word and sharpen our skills. The concept of the central idea of the sermon and its importance is one thing that was also stressed in the class, and I have been putting it into practice.”
- **Erick Rodriguez Sosa** of Mexico completed two courses in the spring, Biblical Preaching and Old Testament Survey. He claims, “Both courses were awesome. The preaching class

helped me to better perform my sermons at church and the OT Survey class gave me a better understanding and appreciation of the Old Testament. This degree is helping me to fulfill my God's call to ministry in Mexico in many ways. Working as a senior minister, Harding equips me to develop personal spiritual rhythms to have a deeper relationship with God and provides the necessary tools to perform ministry in the best possible ways."

- **Daniel Rodriguez** of Honduras completed Advanced Interpretation of the New Testament. On his experience in the classroom, he says, "It was a tremendous blessing and a valuable learning experience. I received an "A" in that class, and I truly feel it was a significant chapter in my education."
- **Edmundo Lopez Bobeda** of Bolivia studied Biblical Preaching. He states, "This course was an excellent resource to learn how to do expository preaching and practice it. I appreciated the techniques and the practice that we obtained from the course. I want to take this opportunity to thank you for allowing me to grow my knowledge of the Lord and improve my skills to serve him better. This program has produced a lot of growth for me as a Christian and I hope to be able to use the new skills I gain to better serve in my congregation."
- **David Lopez** of Colombia completed Leading Churches in Missions. He shares, "This course, in particular, prompted me to reflect on and investigate the mistakes I've made in the past while leading a church. It equipped me with new strategies and tools that are already proving beneficial to my ministry in Colombia. The lessons and practices I've learned are helping me better guide and inspire my congregation to actively participate in God's mission."
- **Irwin Wan** of Singapore studied Advanced Introduction to the Old Testament. He shares, "In this class, we explored critical and theological approaches to the Old Testament through a study of the Torah. The class involved readings and discussion of critical issues, such as the formation of the Hebrew Bible, biblical historiography, Ancient Near Eastern backgrounds, and theological themes, such as creation, covenant, and holiness."
- **John Lim** of Singapore took Advanced Introduction to the Old Testament. He shares, "Academically, it was invigorating to be back in theological academia after a three-year break from my undergraduate days. I loved the rigor of being back in the books, reviewing notes, and the discipline of writing. Each time I sit down to study or watch the recorded lectures takes me into a mental space that is refreshingly different from the rhythms of full-time ministry."
- **Ndongesit Effeh** of Nigeria took two courses: Advanced New Testament Exegesis and Seminar in Synoptic Gospels. He states, "These courses have been instrumental in deepening my understanding of the New Testament and the life of Jesus Christ. The exegesis course equipped me with advanced skills in interpreting scripture, while the

Seminar on Synoptic Gospels provided valuable insights into the historical and cultural context of Jesus' ministry.”

- **Jeremiah Niyekinye** of Ghana took Advanced Introduction to the Old Testament. He observes, “In this course, I acquired knowledge of critical approaches to Old Testament books and particular passages within those books. I also gained the skill of exegesis Old Testament texts, interpreting them in the light of Ancient Near Eastern context. The course was very helpful in appreciating God’s creative and redemptive work.”
- **Samuel Nyamavor** of Ghana completed Advanced Introduction to the Old Testament. On the class he comments, “One significant lesson from the "Advanced Introduction to the Old Testament" was how to perform mark-ups and pay closer attention to the biblical text during textual criticisms. Prof. Hawley's expertise in the Old Testament is excellent, and his approach to explaining difficult questions made the class not only inspiring but also very insightful.”
- **Ubong Okorie** of Nigeria took Old Testament Survey. He comments on his experience in class, “My Old Testament survey course with Dr. Hawley was great. He did not only teach from a Christian Perspective but as an expert. Some of the Old Testament themes are becoming very regular in my sermons. I thank God for the opportunity to study at HST via the GCS. I'm so happy for you all.”
- **Justin Smith** of Switzerland studied Galatians and Romans. He is celebrating four years with GCS, sharing, “Thank you so very much for supporting me this semester as I continue my studies for a Master of Arts in Christian Ministry with Global Christian Studies. I have now been in the program for four years, and have had many opportunities to apply what I am learning in my teaching and the everyday ministry for the church. Being able to study ministry and Scripture at a graduate level is a true blessing.”

Student Spotlight: David Lopez

David Lopez currently lives in Bucaramanga, Colombia with his wife Julie. David and Julie are an exemplary case of God doing great things in Latin America. David is originally from El Salvador, and he met his wife, who is from Honduras, while studying at Baxter Institute in Tegucigalpa. After graduation, they joined four other families in 2012, creating a mission team to plant churches in Colombia. David and Julie had to play the waiting game apart, though. David graduated in 2010, after which he went back to El Salvador to wait for the rest of the missions team to come together. Julie stayed back in Honduras. It wasn't until May 2012 that David made his way to Colombia, now an engaged man. Seven months later, in Honduras with their families present, Julie and David were able to get married, and in January they went together to Colombia.

They initially planted a church in Bogota, the capital of Colombia, whose metropolitan area numbers about 11 million people. After almost ten years, David and his wife left to plan a new church in a different area of Colombia with two other families. The initial church plant went well, and they felt the congregation needed room to grow without them. All of the initial missionaries left for other ministry projects: three of those families remain in Colombia and the church has come out strong on the other side of COVID. The new church plant is in Bucaramanga, a city of about half a million people. It is a beautiful city surrounded by amazing wonders of God's creation. David couldn't deny one of his favorite aspects of the new church plant was being close to many natural areas. They have been there for two and a half years and are very excited to see what God is doing among them.

David has a passion for the church. Outside of his work for the church, his passion is reflected in his initiative to continue learning and equipping himself for kingdom work. Besides certificate programs, he also enrolled in a Masters in Practical Theology program offered by RIB, a network of Bible Institutes across Latin America that have created the program to develop leaders within the Restoration Movement. David just finished the program during the summer of 2024! Jonathan Hanegan, one of his professors, mentioned how David was a joy to have in class, "David is one of those students who makes teaching so rewarding."

David is very thankful for the ways HST has been shaping him. He is extremely appreciative of the depth of each one of the courses he has taken so far. For example, David has taken Homiletics twice, at Baxter and RIB, but taking it at HST with Dr. Bland was a whole new experience. He felt Dr. Bland gave him the tools and foundation to understand the theory, practice, and spirit of preaching in a way that sets him up for years of continual growth in ministry.

One of the major challenges David and his team faced were the cultural differences between Colombia and Central America. Their methods and styles of outreach and evangelism were ineffective, and the team had to readjust over the years. David said his worldview was transformed after taking Dr. Cloer's course Leading Churches in Mission. Before, his ministry efforts were about finding the right answers. Hard work would yield proper solutions. Now, David is excited about letting God be the protagonist of his mission. He says he feels equipped to recognize what God is already doing among them and to participate in God's kingdom project. He is excited to be a part of what God is doing in Colombia.

Now that he has taken Advanced Theological Research, David's imagination of what is possible has broadened immensely. He is excited to see what he will be capable of after having access to so many resources. He cannot wait to see what his life and ministry will look like after three years of study. David is a great example of the high value of GCS's partnership with HST. Though he has

studied continuously since 2007, David experienced a turning point in 2023 because of the empowering classes offered through HST.

- John Campos, GCS Associate Director for Student Affairs

GCS Graduate News



Graduate Update: Kizito Jasper

We wish a warm congratulations to Kizito Jasper on the announcement of his engagement. The wedding is going to take place on September 14, 2024. He shares, “My fiancée is a Christian sister who has a specialty in health sciences, and she will be a help-meet for me in my ministry.”

Kizito was the first GCS graduate. He is now working towards his doctorate in Old Testament at University of the Free State in South Africa.



Upcoming Graduate: Nancy Wu Won

Nancy Wu Won, who is on track to become our second graduate, planned to visit HST in spring 2024 to walk across the stage. Due to the weather in Houston, she missed the graduation ceremony. The HST faculty did some "post graduation" events to give her a sense of completion. She will complete the MACM in fall 2024 – congratulations Nancy! We are cheering you on!

GCS Staff Updates

The expansion of Global Christian Studies relies on the administrative work of the GCS staff. The staff is dedicated to finding, enrolling and supporting qualified students from around the world, securing donors and sponsors, working with the two overseeing congregations, coordinating with the administrative staff and faculty of Harding School of Theology, and letting people know about the work of GCS.

The GCS staff members all work part-time about 10-15 hours per month. John, Hannah, and Scott joined GCS in May 2024, replacing John Coffey and Heather Hollingsworth. The staff and their areas of work include the following:

John Campos—Associate Director for Student Affairs in Latin America and Asia Pacific

Hannah Diles—Director of Marketing

Scott McFarland—Associate Director for Student Affairs in Europe and Africa

Caleb Dillinger—Director of Advancement

Harold Shank—Executive Director

Hannah earned her BA in English and Theological Studies in May 2024 from Harding University. She originally hails from Columbia, Tennessee. She serves full-time for Harding University Communications and Marketing (UCM) where she works in project management and media. Hannah writes, “My experience working at UCM has taught me the importance of communication, collaboration, and accountability. I am always willing to learn new skills and

take on challenges to further my professional development.” Hannah lives in Searcy, AR.

John has served in missions in Buenos Aires, Argentina, and also ministered in Mandeville, LA and Gainesville, TX. He is fluent in Portuguese, Spanish, and English. Currently, John is working on the MDiv at Harding School of Theology and works with the White Station Church of Christ. John said he is involved in teaching two courses per year at the Bible Institute in Buenos Aires (IBICA). John and his family live in Memphis, TN.

Scott preached for the Woodsfield Church of Christ in Woodsfield, OH, from 2017-2024 and now works with the Ohio Army National Guard. He has a BA in Bible from Ohio Valley University and an MDiv from Harding School of Theology. From 2010-2016, Scott served as the youth and family minister at the Marysville, OH, Church of Christ. Scott and his family live in Woodsfield, OH.

Caleb has preached for the Northland Church of Christ in Columbus, OH, since 2018. He has a BA from Ohio Valley University and an MDiv from Harding School of Theology. Caleb has been Director of Advancement at GCS since 2022 and has been responsible for expanding the sponsor base. Caleb and his family live in Columbus, OH.

Harold has been the Director of GCS since its inception in 2018. In addition to leading GCS, he serves as the national spokesperson for Christian childcare at Network 127, consults with Agape Child and Family Services in Memphis, and writes for Truth for Today. He is an elder at Memorial Road Church of Christ in Oklahoma City. Harold and Sally live in Edmond, OK.

- Harold Shank, Director of Global Christian Studies



Dr. Harold Shank

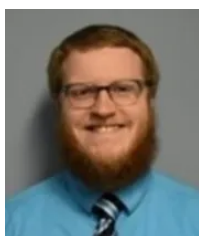
Director of GCS



Scott McFarland

Associate Director for Student Affairs

Europe, Africa



Caleb Dillinger

Director of Advancement

John Campos

Associate Director for Student Affairs

Latin America, Asia, South Pacific

**Hannah Diles**

Director of Marketing

Note on Dr. Hazelip's Donation

Global Christian Studies has received a generous gift in honor of Dr. Harold Hazelip. Dr. Hazelip was the long-term dean of Harding School of Theology. We join with the donors in showing honor to his memory.

- Harold Shank, Director of GCS

Invitation to be a Sponsor

GCS has a deep concern that each sponsored student completes their graduate program. Central to our support is having a sponsoring church or donor for each student. We want people in the GCS orbit to be praying for the students and for their concerns.

We are seeking sponsors to support our students through prayers, encouragement, financial aid, and building connections. Would you consider helping us identify sponsors? If you could help in any of the following areas, please contact Harold Shank. For example, you might say:

- I know of a congregation that might be interested and am willing to provide you with an introduction.
 - A friend of mine loves to pray and I could connect the two of you together.
 - The congregation where I attend might be interested. Let me contact one of the leaders and get back to you.
-

GCS Overseeing Congregations

Eastside Church of Christ, 916 South Douglas Blvd, Midwest City, OK 73130
(www.eastsidechurchofchrist.info).

Their elders include Sam Brandon, Ricky Bugher, Ron Cannefax, and David Walton.

Belmore Road Church of Christ, 100 Rostrevor Parade, Mont Albert North, Victoria 3150,
Australia (www.belmoreroadchurch.org.au).

Their elders are Charles Hooi, Benny Tabalujan, David Tabe, and James Chan.

GCS is actively seeking additional students and sponsors. Students are urged to consult the GCS website (gcspathway.org) for how to engage with GCS. Prospective students can also reach the team by emailing John Campos (jcampos@harding.edu) or Scott McFarland (samcfarland16@gmail.com). Potential sponsors should write Harold Shank (drharoldshank@gmail.com) or Caleb Dillinger (calebjdillinger@gmail.com).

Message to Potential Students

GCS seeks students from around the globe who live outside the US, have an accredited bachelor's degree, and have the full recommendation of their local congregation. The process of being accepted by GCS and enrolling in a US school takes about four months. Students who attend HST can do all their work online (high speed internet is required) and can take the course Advanced Theological Research on site in Searcy. GCS pays the student's expenses for this Memphis trip.

For more information: visit www.gcspathway.org or email us at gcspathwayinfo@gmail.com

Find out more

Copyright © 2024 Global Christian Studies, All rights reserved.

Our mailing address is: gcspathwayinfo@gmail.com

Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).

This email was sent to <<Email Address>>

[why did I get this?](#) [unsubscribe from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)
Global Christian Studies · 35 Jordan Ln · North Windham, CT 06256-1218 · USA

