

CHARIS[®] WORLD OUTREACH

Changing lives by establishing Bible schools throughout the world

DISCIPLES MAKING DISCIPLES



“Witnessing a life change is worth it!”

Discipleship. It's what Charis Bible College is all about and what directors Grady and Yvonne O'Brien have spent their lives pursuing.

“It wasn't one of those instant ‘aha’ moments,” Yvonne says when asked how she came to know the Lord. “The Holy Spirit wooed me over time, and I started going to a Bible study. And that's when I really found out about what it meant to have a relationship with God.”

Throughout the Bible study, Yvonne was discipled and developed an appetite for the Word. When she and her husband finally heard Andrew, something clicked. “He was

very practical, very down to earth, very easy to understand,” Yvonne says. “I really liked his style of teaching.” Andrew wasn't like other television ministers the O'Briens had heard. And when Andrew mentioned Charis, Yvonne said to her husband, “I'd go to that guy's school.”

A year later, they did.

What they heard from Andrew and the other teachers at Charis was life-transforming. Growing up with an inaccurate view of God, Yvonne had lived without confidence, thinking that God would judge her. But that all changed when she heard Andrew's teaching *The*

True Nature of God. “I always believed in God,” she says. “I just didn't know that He was . . . a good Father.”

As Yvonne and Grady continued in the Word, a desire rose in their hearts to pursue ministry. In 2003, after Grady's graduation from Charis Woodland Park, the couple moved their family to England. There, Yvonne finished Charis, and the two were ordained. “We wanted to go to Ireland, where I was born, and bring the Good News back there,” Yvonne says.

For six years, the O'Briens

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First graduating class of Charis Naples

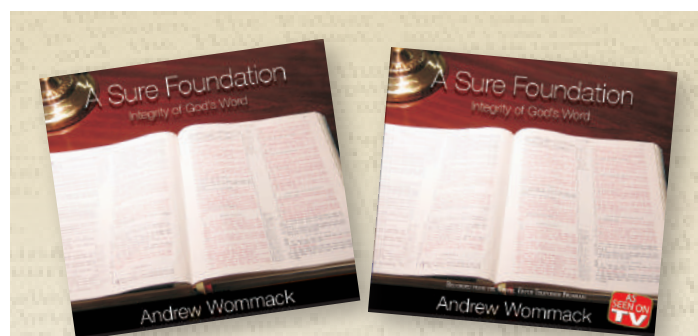
worked in Ireland, helping to establish a Charis campus in Belfast. But as their children grew, the Lord began changing the desires of their hearts. In 2010, they moved back to the States. “We were praying a lot and seeking the Lord about our next step,” Yvonne recalls. “Grady kept talking to me about going down and checking out Miami.”

Eventually the O’Briens settled in South Florida and began Charis campuses in the Miami and Naples areas. Though it wasn’t easy, Yvonne and Grady knew they were doing what God had called them to do: disciple His people.

“It’s really awesome what’s going on here, but it’s also challenging,” Yvonne admits. “[We wonder], *Are we impacting the world?*” But as they have watched each student’s life change under the Word, they know they are. For the O’Briens, it’s not about numbers; it’s about the *one*. “If you [went somewhere] just for one person, . . . and that person’s life was really, really changed, then it was worth it.”

Many of the O’Briens’ students come from different walks of life, even different nations. After being discipled at Charis, these students go out into the world or return to their home communities to share with others what they’ve learned. “To see all kinds of people from all walks of life and all different backgrounds . . . get up and share a powerful testimony about how God’s impacted them, that really blesses me,” Yvonne says. “To see somebody go from being self-focused to being Christ-focused . . . is the pinnacle.”

There is nothing like witnessing a life change. It’s one of the greatest joys there is, and it’s why the O’Briens have dedicated almost fifteen years of their lives to the work that Charis is doing. Thank you for sending them. Your partnership with *Charis Bible College World Outreach* makes stories like theirs possible!



A Sure Foundation

God’s Word must be the foundation of everything a Christian believes. When it’s not - when we doubt His Word - the foundation of our faith cracks. In Andrew’s *A Sure Foundation* teaching, learn how God’s Word is the incorruptible seed of His kingdom, intended to combat unbelief and produce a life of stability and fruitfulness. This teaching is available in CD and As-Seen-on-TV DVD formats. Establish your footing on the firm foundation of God’s Word and start experiencing life as God intended!

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