

WORLD OUTREACH

TRAINING LEADERS. TRANSFORMING LIVES. IMPACTING NATIONS.



Worship taking place at Charis Minneapolis

MORE THAN A BIBLE COLLEGE

“Turn this off. This is *heresy!*”

You probably wouldn’t guess that these words once came from a Charis Bible College director, Lori Balma, when her husband, Ken, first introduced her to Andrew’s teaching. Why did Lori say to turn it off? “Because we were so steeped in religious doctrine that taught Christianity was based on our performance,” she explains.

But in her heart she heard, “Turn this back on.” Perhaps without fully knowing why at the time, she obeyed that inner voice of the Holy Spirit, and she and her husband began renewing their minds to the truths of God’s Word. “I’d take it one teaspoon

at a time,” Lori says. “And I’d digest it, then I’d take another teaspoon, until I understood the true nature of God.”

The Balmas’ newfound understanding led to enrolling at Charis. While sitting in first-year courses, Lori received a word from God. “We were sitting in one of Wendell Parr’s Holy Spirit classes in our first year,” she shares. “I knew the Holy Spirit spoke to me that we were going to bring this message back to Minneapolis. I ran up to Wendell—this brand-new first-year student—‘Wendell, Wendell! God just told me we’re going to open a school in Minneapolis.’ He literally

patted me on the head and said, ‘Honey, just make it through first year.’”

And so the Balmas did. After graduating from their second year, the desire to start a school back home had not dwindled, but now they were equipped to do it. They knew that what they had experienced was not only for the aspiring minister. “Charis is not just for people who feel like they have a call into full-time ministry,” Lori says. “It’s not *about* that,” Ken interjects. However, many who hear “Charis Bible College” might mistake it for solely a ministry training school. The Balmas counter that misconception! “It’s about knowing the nature of God,”



Directors Ken and Lori Balma

Lori says. Ken elaborates, "It's about understanding what the Word says but also knowing who *you* are in that Word. Your identity in Christ and what's been given to you changes *everything*."

Today, Lori and Ken oversee Charis Minneapolis, helping students understand the truths that changed the way the Balmas see God. Lori really wants to help people to know that Charis has much more to offer than they might realise. "It is important for people to see that investing in themselves through Charis is the best investment they will ever make. They will see changes in their health. They will see changes in their finances. They will see changes in their relationships with others. They will see

changes in their emotions, in how they view the world. We want to encourage people to not see Charis as just some religious thing that people do but as a life-changing experience for every believer."

Word is getting out about Charis Minneapolis, and now Lori and Ken are stewarding an additional location in Lake Elmo, Minnesota. Between the two campuses, they have around seventy-five students! Regional Directors Tom and Charlene Heinig praised the Balmas for the success they're seeing. "Lori and Ken are amazing directors," Tom says. "Lori's marketing background really shines through; she has amazing ideas. I would say they're probably some of the best, most organised directors that I've seen."

When you think of Charis, imagine more than a Bible college, because Charis is more! At Charis, you can *become* more. "Thank you to all the people who partner with *World Outreach* and make Charis possible throughout the world," Lori expresses. "They're part of being world-changers. Even if they've never gone to Charis, even if they've never set foot in a Charis classroom, their partnerships are changing lives."

If you are not currently a *World Outreach Partner*, consider becoming one today at awme.net/WorldOutreach

TESTIMONY:

When our daughter Ashely was born, we were told she had an unusually loud heart murmur caused by a prolapsed mitral valve. We took her to the elders in our church for prayer, and one particular elder said to me, "Now she is healed. I want you to remember that." So every time a doctor would mention how loud her murmur was, I would just thank God in remembrance of her healing. About two years ago, Ashely went in for her regular exam, and her doctor said she wanted her to get further testing from a cardiologist. Ashely is a Charis graduate, and we had agreed to believe God for her healing. When she returned from the cardiologist, he said her leakage had increased significantly and that it would be wise to have surgery before she sustained permanent heart damage. Our family, Charis students, the alumni group, and our regional team kept praying for and encouraging her. During pre-surgery tests, the doctor saw nothing to indicate any problems. He said the murmur was now at a mild to moderate level and he was cancelling the surgery! We know she is healed and will never need heart surgery!

—Kleist W. Rhodes, Charis Raleigh-Durham third-year program coordinator

**ATTEND
CHARIS BIBLE
COLLEGE FROM
ANYWHERE
ON AN iPad!**

- eCharis is the entire collection of first-year courses pre-loaded on an iPad.
- No internet connection required!
- Find out more at eCharis.net



**To register, go to
CharisDay.org**