

WORLD OUTREACH

TRAINING LEADERS. TRANSFORMING LIVES. IMPACTING NATIONS.



CHARIS STUDENTS ON THE FRONT LINES

This is war. A war not for the body of mankind but for its soul, and at the frontlines of this great battle are Christians bringing the Gospel to everyone they meet. Charis students are at the forefront of this great commission. How does a group of strangers go from being classmates at Bible College to a family ready for whatever God has called them to do? Terry and Melanie Hull are the directors of Charis Bible College Orlando, one of the fastest growing schools in the nation. Even with its rapid growth, Charis Orlando has been able to make every meeting, every outreach, and every class feel like a close family enjoying the bounty of God. How do they do this you might ask? They looked to the early church for guidance.

Becoming the early church.

Terry and Melanie took a page from the first-century church to keep their students connected. “Our Saturdays are like the book of Acts,” Melanie starts. “We may not be able to meet every single day, but when we do, we’re eating together, we’re praying together, we’re encouraging each other.” In a world where people choose separation and distance, Charis and its students have chosen unity through Christ. Walking forward without fear into each other’s little worlds, bringing love and the Gospel.

An active family.

Wanting to expand this way of thinking, the Hulls have many graduates that volunteer, enabling them to remain as active members

of the Charis family. Graduates have the unique opportunity to volunteer and disciple current Charis students. “We tell them there’s four main benefits of becoming a volunteer after they graduate,” Terry explains. “You get to stay connected. You get to be involved with discipleship on the grassroots level with students that are going through Charis at the time. You get a continuing education with administrative access to the online classes, old and new. Finally, you get to develop your leadership skills because you’ll be leading a group.”

Terry elaborates on the details, saying, “They’ll go out and meet with a small group of eight, ten, or even fifteen students. They have

a small-group discussion on their classes and prayer time and ministry time. Then they come back and report to us . . . That's kind of the thing that's helped to keep our campus feeling like a family: the small groups and the people that lead them. They're more of a blessing than I ever knew they would be."

Miracles within the ranks.

This community that has been built is a blessing that has spilled over into miracles manifested right in their midst. Tragically last year, one student endured one of the worst things any woman may endure - she lost her baby in a miscarriage. But God intervened. Being filled with the Holy Spirit, her classmates surrounded her and her husband with prayer and support. Today, she is pregnant with a beautiful baby girl at full term.

But that's not all, a student's wife was miraculously healed while on her deathbed. "We had one of our volunteers whose wife was in the hospital with COVID-19, about to die," Terry recalls. "She couldn't breathe or talk or do hardly anything. But the husband got a

word from the Lord and started speaking the Word to his wife. And within two days, she walked out of the hospital completely healed. The nurses walked in, saying, 'What are you doing?' She was standing up, walking around. Miraculous"

Building leaders.

The power of God is indescribably powerful; it's being sent out and expanded to the four corners of the earth *through* us, His sons and daughters, the family of God. These Charis students are seeing the power of the Lord present when they take on that mantle and become the army of God ministering to the world around them. One great example was this year's Gospel Truth Conference in Orlando. "Saturday after the conference, we spent two or three hours just going over student testimonies," Melanie says. "Scoliosis being healed, back's straightening, broken hearts being mended, people getting saved, people being baptised in the Holy Spirit... These guys, they have the same Holy Spirit as their leaders. They can pray with you. They can believe with

you just as much as we can . . . Our student body is more connected than I have seen in a lot of churches."

Now the multitude of those who believed were of one heart and one soul; neither did anyone say that any of the things he possessed was his own, but they had all things in common. [33] And with great power the apostles gave witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And great grace was upon them all. Acts 4:32-33, New King James Version

What God is doing through Charis Orlando - taking strangers and turning them into family - is all a part of what Charis does - training leaders, transforming lives, and impacting nations. You are a vital part of making that possible. On behalf of those of you reaching out through your monthly support, thank you!

If you are not currently a *Charis World Outreach Partner*, join us today. You will be helping us go as far and as deep with the Gospel as possible!

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