

WORLD OUTREACH

TRAINING LEADERS. TRANSFORMING LIVES. IMPACTING NATIONS.

“Not everybody can come to Charis Colorado, but maybe we can bring the school to you.”

— Mark Bassett, former Co-Director of Charis Chicago

Charis Bible College Chicago: The Blueprint for Expansion

“Not everybody can come to Charis Colorado, but maybe we can bring the school to you.”

— Mark Bassett, former Co-Director of Charis Chicago

The Body of Christ is a worldwide network of believers in Jesus who share a common faith and a common purpose. With campuses around the globe, Charis Bible College reflects the global church. While many students may not attend Charis in Colorado, we reach far and deep into many parts of the United States and the world.

Before Charis established stateside campuses outside of Colorado, it expanded internationally. Mark and Tenese Bassett, former Co-Directors of Charis Chicago, recognised the demand for Charis' reach to broaden in America, so they stepped out in faith to start the first U.S. campus outside of Colorado.

Their journey toward establishing Charis Chicago was challenging, but it provided opportunities for God to demonstrate his faithfulness.

Getting the campus off the ground was an all-consuming commitment. This intense period of sowing time and energy yielded a harvest—the blueprint for the first stateside Charis campus and each one that followed.

Though she was physically exhausted, Tenese found renewed strength in the ongoing fulfilment of her God-given dream, which she wrote down during her second year at Charis.

“I had written ‘Charis in a box,’” Tenese said. “To take this teaching and put all the infrastructure—the administrative component,

the business part of it—all together in a box that any graduate could pick up and take to any city ... and start a Charis Bible College.”

Charis Chicago Couldn't Fail

When the Bassetts set out to establish Charis Chicago, the World Outreach partner base did not yet exist, but Mark, too, knew he received a word from the Lord.

He said, “My heart was saying, ‘This can't fail because this is the Lord.’”

Though the task seemed daunting, the Bassetts persevered by focusing on where their strength and resources came from—the Lord. They put to practice the training they received at Charis, which laid the foundation from which to successfully launch this faith venture.

"You know, we'd been sitting under this teaching and in this environment and having our faith exercised and growing even as students," Tenese shared. "I think our faith was at a point to make that leap."

Mark noted that God's faithfulness sustained them. They were always able to pay rent and keep the lights on through the development period.

Blueprints with God's Fingerprints

With the help of the Holy Spirit, Tenese and Mark wanted to recreate in Charis Chicago the same environment of faith and discipleship they had experienced themselves as Charis students.

"I remember talking to myself, 'Oh, I'm going to so miss the Charis culture and that environment [that we had in Colorado]," Mark said.

"And the Holy Spirit goes, 'You're going to recreate that here in Chicago,'" Tenese added.

What allowed the same anointing to flow through Charis Chicago? Tenese explained it this way: "Every seed produces after its kind. That was really all we wanted to do. We kept thinking, *What did we experience in Colorado?* And that was our blueprint."

The proof of the Holy Spirit's guidance was in the results.

"I just saw how the unity of our students grew as the year went on," Mark said. "There was such a unity and a care for one another. We had a pastor's wife visit the school, and after the meeting, she said, 'I've never been in an environment like this before—where there's such unity and love....'"

CBC on a CD-ROM

It took nearly three years to establish the foundation of Charis Chicago. During that time, Tenese diligently documented the process. She never forgot the vision the Lord gave her. She loaded the practical steps she was taking onto CD-ROMs that were then distributed and blessed many directors with the God-given blueprint for new Charis campuses.

For the twenty years following the launch of Charis Chicago, this campus has served as the foundation for each following U.S. campus.

Mark is grateful to have served as a part of that foundation.

He said, "I'm very thankful. There's a satisfaction to see it still going.... That's always a great honour that God would believe in us enough to allow us to do that."

Special Message and Invitation

Tenese says to you, our partners, "I just think of the changed lives—the marriages that have been saved, the children who have been snatched back from the gates of hell. We had students who were suicidal who were set free, and pastors and missionaries who were raised up into the ministry!"

Your financial support not only helps us establish stateside schools like Charis Chicago, but it supports our works all over the world. World Outreach trains the graduates of the Charis Third-Year Global Training School to open AWM offices and Charis campuses around the world.

Andrew Wommack Ministries and Charis Bible College currently have 18 AWM offices, 29 international Charis campuses, and 21 stateside Charis campuses, beyond our main campus in Woodland Park. Our campuses are training 7,858 students worldwide!

If you are not a partner with Charis World Outreach, we ask you to join us. Together we will reach more and more people who need to hear the life-changing message of grace and faith!

Visit awme.net/worldoutreach and help to bring the incredible good news of the Gospel to the nations.

