

WORLD OUTREACH

TRAINING LEADERS. TRANSFORMING LIVES. IMPACTING NATIONS.



New Charis New Jersey classroom

WE COULD HAVE PLAYED IT SAFE

*But where sin increased,
grace increased all the more.*

Romans 5:20, NIV

We could have surveyed the country for the most Christian-dense populations, bought real estate near all the megachurches, and started Charis locations in every conservative region of the Bible Belt.

But God's best doesn't come in our comfort zone; it comes in our calling.

"This is probably the most liberal area in the United States of America," Joe Fortunato said about starting a Charis school in New Jersey, "[but] we're the salt of the earth, and we're going to preserve that area."

The Word That Changed Everything

Joe's journey to become a Charis Director began in 2018. Though Joe was already a full-time pastor, husband, and grandparent, the Holy Spirit revealed to his wife that things would get even busier.

Joe explained, "She said, 'I was praying this morning, and God said you're going to be moving to Colorado this year—and for the Third-Year Program.'" He continued, "It just started the ball rolling to get out of my comfort zone, and I actually moved to Colorado."

Whilst in Colorado, Joe pastored his church by flying home on weekends or delivering his sermons via Zoom. Though a seasoned

minister, Joe stayed teachable and absorbed all he could in our Global Training School. Joe shared, "I've been in ministry for probably twenty-five to thirty years. It's the best training I've ever had in my whole life!"

After finishing his training, Joe got the green light to bring Charis Bible College to New Jersey. When he opened the school in the township of Cherry Hill on 27th August 2022, students poured in from all over.

There are students from Delaware, Pennsylvania, southern New Jersey—where the school is located—Central Jersey, and even North Jersey. Joe described these thirty-four students as "a mix of all kinds of people from various backgrounds."

Planted in a Place of Influence

Positioned within a one-hundred-mile radius of both New York City and Baltimore, and less than ten miles from Philadelphia, Joe aims to raise up mature believers who will bring Jesus into some of the most influential regions of the United States.

According to Joe, “The New York television market is the number one television market in the United States by far. And then number four is Philadelphia.” Joe exclaimed, “How good is God that He puts a Charis Bible College with Andrew’s vision right there in the middle where it’s going to affect this whole area!”

To our friends and partners, we want to say thank you. Through your continued support of Charis Bible College, the message of God’s unconditional love and grace has now gained a foothold in one of the most liberal areas of our country.

As these students take this message of God’s love and grace to their neighbourhoods, churches, and jobs, we expect to see greater miracles and breakthroughs than we’ve ever seen before.

As for the liberal agenda that has affected the surrounding area, God has a plan for that too.

Joe commented, “Where sin abounds, grace does that much more abound. And when I thought about it, the word ‘grace’ in Greek is *charis*.” Joe added, “The Lord just spoke to me prophetically that this is going to be a really fruitful, growing school in this area.”

Invitation to Join Us in Reaching Far and Deep with the Gospel

AWM and Charis have twenty offices and thirty campuses internationally, and twenty-one stateside campuses beyond our headquarters in Colorado. Our campuses are training nearly eight thousand students worldwide.

If you are not yet a partner with Charis World Outreach, we invite you to go to **awme.net/WorldOutreach** and join us in reaching more people who need to hear the life-changing message of grace and faith!

Quotations have been edited for length and clarity.



Joe Fortunato teaching at
Charis New Jersey