

**REPORT TO THE FELLOWSHIP COUNCIL OF
THE FELLOWSHIP OF GRACE BRETHREN CHURCHES
FROM GRACE COLLEGE AND GRACE THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY**

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This report is presented at the request of the Fellowship Council and provides information regarding how Grace Schools, Inc. (Grace College and Grace Theological Seminary) supports and pursues the *GrowGoLead* vision of the FGBC. As a cooperating organization that has voluntarily chosen to associate with the FGBC, the institution is committed to this vision within the sphere of its incorporated activity as an accredited Christian higher education institution and its stated mission: "Grace is an evangelical Christian community of higher education which applies biblical values in strengthening character, sharpening competence, and preparing for service."

"Grow"

As indicated in reports to the Council in prior years, evangelistic efforts develop through a number of initiatives that are pursued during each academic year. These initiatives are aimed at encouraging students and staff to be involved in settings that provide engagement with those who have not come to faith in Christ. These types of settings include ministry teams sent out locally and regionally from campus, the Halloween alternative called FunFest (this year an event for the general public and a special one for employees of a local business; approximately 1,200 community members attended this student-led evangelistic initiative), and Heart of the Holidays (a food and clothing distribution to needy families with whom the gospel is shared).

During this 2005-1006 academic year we put a special emphasis on service to others as a means of staying in touch with non-Christians. Students and staff alike have been engaged in a number of these initiatives. In August 2005 about 170 student leaders plus staff spent a day doing service projects scattered through our county. At the end of the day a rally was held to which those served were invited to hear about God. The Grace College Baseball Team traveled to Port Charlotte, FL, to prepare for the upcoming season and to help hurricane victims. They partnered with InterFaith. The Grace College Brass traveled to Florida to give concerts and do a benefit for a Christian school (Port Charlotte) damaged by a hurricane. During the fall semester several trips were made by employees (representatives from faculty, staff, and administration participated) to the Gulf Coast region to help hurricane victims. These efforts were scattered over a two-month period. At the end of November the money normally spent on the annual Employee Christmas Dinner was instead committed to a service project with Combined Community Services to help needy individuals complete their GED. This project also provides employees an opportunity to sign up as mentors with families serviced by Combined Community Services. This relationship covers the entire 2006 year. Our institutional goal through these efforts is to create opportunities where employees and students learn ways of engaging non-Christians. Another student and staff led initiative

of service and engagement of others is scheduled for spring break, likely among our nation's marginalized people.

Additional outreach settings include internships, intercollegiate sports team ministries, sports camps, tutoring experiences, service on community and regional boards, consulting work, service clubs, and professional organizations.

Two other initiatives related to "growing" are noteworthy. One is campus prayer meetings where non-Christians are routinely prayed for, asking for God to sensitize their heart and for us to be bold with our faith. The other is the training given to students engaged in business internships (specifically the *Orthopaedic Scholars Institute*), encouraging and teaching them how to live out their faith in the workplace so that their life makes a difference for Christ and for the company where they serve.

Every year there are conversions reported about the spread of the gospel through these and other means.

"Go"

The regular academic rhythm from year to year provides opportunity for broadening the global vision of students. Sometimes this happens through courses and programs. In particular the course "Global Perspectives" helps students develop an appreciation for other cultures and encourages ministry and service engagement with those outside their comfort zone. One requirement of this course is that college students must spend at least ten days within another culture. Every student who is graduated from Grace College must complete this requirement. Furthermore, a number of students take intercultural ministry courses. Often these courses are populated with students seriously considering ministry service.

A number of students, of course, are studying modern languages. Those majoring in a language must spend one year abroad studying the language in a target culture and those minoring must spend at least one semester. Currently there are 38 students majoring in a modern language, 26 students minoring, and additional 117 students taking at least two years of a language.

Short-term ministry and intercultural trips give students an opportunity to exercise their ministry muscle by encountering other cultures and sensing a small part of what it might mean to live out their faith in such settings. One example of such a trip is the Grace Chamber Singers and Ensemble traveling to Mexico City to give concerts and work with Grace Brethren International Missions.

As reported to you previously, a campus-driven Latino initiative continues developing and networking throughout our county. This effort has developed opportunities within the county's school systems (including elementary, middle, and secondary schools), the

Kosciusko County Community Foundation, Sus Amigos, the proposed Dream Act in the U.S. Congress, and the Bowen Center (a mental and social center).

This year a number of individuals have helped students and employees understand more of other regions of the world through guest lectures, the Conference on Mission, international students, students for whom English is a second language, and faculty members from a culture outside the United States.

“Lead”

Leadership development at Grace College and Seminary includes professional ministry leadership and ministry leadership beyond. The arts and sciences undergraduate education sends leaders out into various careers. In these latter cases we want those graduates to do ministry as they do their career work. Unfortunately this type of service is sometimes discounted in evangelical circles. What was reported to the Fellowship Council last year regarding ‘millennials’ (eco-boomers’) bears repeating this year.

These graduating ‘millennials’ (‘eco-boomers’) are often thirsty for ministry service but are less and less drawn to what is viewed by them as traditional, low-risk, or ‘out-of-touch-with-life’ ministry opportunities. This is a pattern that is not going away. Because of this we are working hard as a campus to understand and engage these students. This is a critically important issue, and we encourage a similar effort of engagement across the spectrum of the FGBC. This (reality) is partly behind the issues of more traditional churches unable to connect with ‘millennials’ as ministry leaders.

The seminary worked with FGBC personnel to provide educational services at the Equip ’05 Conference. The results were encouraging for Grace as 60 plus participants took courses. Additionally the seminary learned new information about how to serve the FGBC leadership needs better.

The *Center for Character and Leadership Development* continues its effective service in the college. Between 175 to 200 students participate. The *Orthopaedic Scholars Institute* on the Grace campus continues preparing students regarding how to live out their Christian faith in the workplace. Additionally the *Prison Education Program*, serving 260 students, continues its discipleship program, educating and helping inmates prepare for their release and for living out the Christian life both inside and outside prison.

The seminary continues its background work for on-line education. A faculty member is moving toward the end of his Ph.D. program in on-line education at Capella University. Just recently the go-ahead was giving to begin developing a business plan for on-line education. This is necessary in order for the seminary to complete its due diligence regarding this type of educational delivery system. Individuals from both inside and outside the institution will participant.

Institutional Background Information

The total 2005-2006 institutional enrollment is 1,390 students, a record enrollment in the history of Grace. As an institution Grace carries on five major educational endeavors: The arts and sciences undergraduate on-campus college (891), the prison education program (260), the masters programs in counseling (37), the seminary [202 (68 masters, 42 distance education, 68 Equip '05 and 24 doctors)], and educational ministries and services (examples are ministry teams; tutoring of P-12 students; *Latino Initiative*; *Reneker Museum*, *Mount Memorial Art Gallery*; *American Lyceum Lecture Series*; *MasterWorks Festival*; conferences and seminars; and camps).

The 165-acre campus has more than twenty buildings totaling nearly 500,000 sq. ft. of space. A major new facility is planned for the near future, the Orthopaedic Capital Center, a 60,000 sq. ft. multi-use building (capacity for speaking and concert events is 2,700; will house college chapel; has smaller meeting rooms with capacities ranging from 35 to 200; can host small trade shows; can host regional corporation meetings; will provide for intercollegiate sports; will house the Institute for Enterprise Development). Approximately \$7.3 million has been raised toward the \$8.8 million structure. Our fundraising has been chasing cost for the past year, especially because of the rapidly accelerating cost of materials due to the Gulf Coast hurricanes. Phase I of the project is completed; we are hopeful that starting Phase II will be possible before too long. In addition there is an outdoor athletic field (Miller Field) that provides intercollegiate baseball, softball, tennis, and soccer facilities. Morgan Library houses 160,000 volumes plus a microfiche collection, archives, an online data retrieval system, and special collections including the papers of American evangelist, Billy Sunday, and a manuscript collection (will be a part of a national display in Charlotte, NC). The library is also part of a nation-wide interlibrary loan system and is networked to data bases providing more than 19,000 full-text periodical titles.

The college and seminary are regionally accredited by The Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools (Chicago). Grace Theological Seminary is an associate member and is in process to become a full member of the Association of Theological Schools, the accrediting body for theological accreditation in the United States and Canada. Additionally the seminary has been approved by the Ohio Board of Regents to offer a master of ministry degree program in Columbus, OH. We are awaiting final approval from The Higher Learning Commission to offer this program.

Specialized accreditation is also held by the following programs.

- Business International Assembly for Collegiate Business Education
- Music National Association of Schools of Music
- Social Work Council of Social Work Education
- Teacher Education National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education
- MA in Counseling Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs

Grace is a member of the Alpha Chi National Honor Society, the smaller college equivalent of Phi Beta Kappa. Furthermore, Grace also belongs to a number of education associations: Council of Christian Colleges and Universities, Independent Colleges of Indiana, Independent Colleges of Indiana Foundation, Indiana Commission for Higher Education, National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities, and Council of Independent Colleges. Regarding intercollegiate athletics Grace belongs to the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics, the Mid-Central College Conference, and the National Christian College Athletic Association.

Currently Grace employs 186 full-time, 118 part-time, and 276 student employees, a total of 580.

Outline of Oral Presentation Topics at Fellowship Council Meeting

Information on the following topics will be presented during the oral presentation regarding Grace College and Seminary at the Fellowship Council meeting: Corporate direction of Grace; program development; facility development; and leadership development.