



EQUIPPING THE CALLED

CARIBBEAN GRADUATE SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

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Dear Friend:

The Caribbean Graduate School (CGST) family is praying for you! Yes, our hearts go out to all our ministry partners as together we face the uncertainties of the COVID19 pandemic and the impending election results in the USA. We pray all is well with you, your family and friends and wish you all divine coverage. Please join us in celebrating the inauguration of our first female president and the conferral of degrees on our 2020 graduating class! The attached invitation to the online Presidential Installation and Commencement Ceremony of the Caribbean Graduate School of Theology (CGST) awaits your response.

CGST is now in its 34th year of operation, and we have reason to be encouraged with what is happening at this time. Despite the challenges of the past few years, the school continues to train leaders to serve the Caribbean church and the broader society. Graduates of the CGST are scattered throughout the Caribbean region serving the Lord in a variety of capacities such as pastors, leaders of denominations, heads of theological schools, professors, guidance counselors in schools, marriage and family counsellors.

A very encouraging accomplishment of this 34th year is the fact that CGST is being led by one of its own graduates. At the conclusion of the last academic year, the Board of Governors of CGST appointed Dr. Vivienne Kerr, a graduate of the class of 2000 as CGST's sixth President. Dr. Kerr who earned her doctorate from Nova Southeastern University on the basis of the Masters of Arts in Counselling Psychology she earned at CGST, stepped into this role with contagious enthusiasm, pledging, with God's help, to make the CGST, the "School of Choice" of the Caribbean region.

When it was shared with the students the tuition they would have paid for a similar course at a school elsewhere, one of them exclaimed: "Thank God for CGST!" We share this anecdote with you because it is both humbling and exciting. Humbling because professors can participate in their training for ministry from anywhere in the world! Excited by the knowledge that the Graduate School's programmes are now fully online, making it possible for an even greater number of students, from around the Caribbean and the world, to access a biblically based, high quality, and spiritually sensitive training as they prepare to answer God's call on their lives.

Perhaps, you may be surprised that this letter takes such a positive tone at these difficult times. Has CGST somehow found a way to be immune from the problems that plague higher education the world over? Of course not! While there are daunting challenges that confront it we have tangible evidence of God's gracious hands on the ministry, which can only be faced with the fervent prayers and support of God's people like you.

One critical area of need is **scholarship** for many students, especially those who are graduating on 28th November in preparation for ministry. This has always been a problem but COVID-19 has exacerbated it. The economic downturn caused by the pandemic has made it extremely difficult for students to pay their tuition, as some of them have lost their jobs.

Another urgent need is the upgrade of the school's educational **technology** platform. Because of COVID 19, face to face learning has been restricted. The programmes had to be moved quickly online, but to improve the quality of delivery the existing technological infrastructure needs to be significantly overhauled and strengthened.

To address these needs, we are trusting God for the provision of \$50,000 for the last quarter of this year. Would you join us in prayer for the supply of this need? I know that times are hard, but as God enables you, would you prayerfully consider making a gift to the school toward this need? The entire CGST family, board, staff, faculty and students would be immensely grateful for your support. Your tax-exempt contributions may be sent to:

Overseas Council
Check Memo: CGST Matthew 28
United World Mission,
PO Box 602002,
Charlotte, NC 28260-2002

Address:

205 Regency Executive Park Dr, Suite 430
Charlotte, NC 28217

info@overseas.org.

Sincerely,
CARIBBEAN GRADUATE SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY



Vivienne Kerr, EdD, *President*

Date