

WHAT'S NEW AT MANNA U



A PUBLICATION OF MANNA UNIVERSITY



Spring
2023



KINGDOM IMPACT

A MISSION BIGGER THAN OURSELVES

Written by Stefanie Ertel

It all began approximately 28 years ago when Dr. Steven Crowther developed relationships with Latin American Christian leaders. Then, Dr. Crowther started to train leaders to help equip the growing churches across Latin America. Many of these relationships grew and developed into more and more connections across various countries. One of his many dreams was to offer accredited Manna University classes in Spanish to further educate, equip, and empower leaders throughout Latin America. We are excited that Manna University has officially launched online courses 100% in Spanish in the spring of 2023. Students from the United States, Mexico, and Colombia are currently in these courses. These students are enrolled in our Certificate in Church Leadership program and will be able to receive their certificate with all of their classes entirely in Spanish.

We are so excited to be able to partner with other churches and partner schools across the globe! All of this has been made possible by many of you! Through your prayers, donations, and work here at Manna U, you are impacting the Kingdom of God worldwide!

Educar. Equipar. Empoderar. (Educate. Equip. Empower.)

8

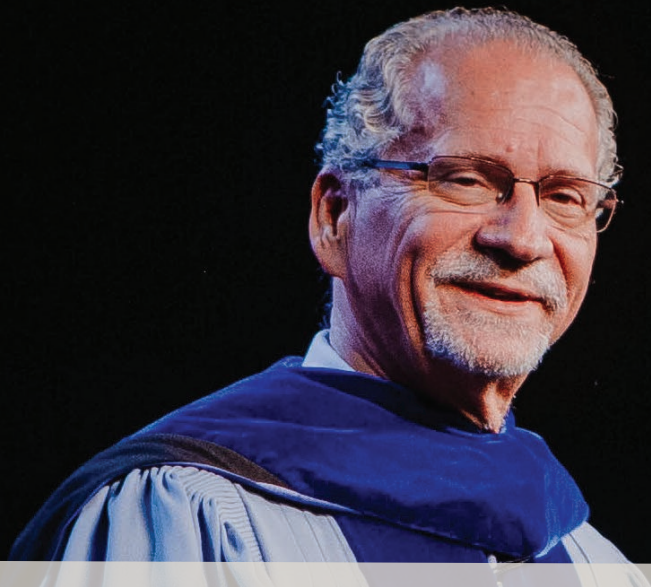
SITES ACROSS THE U.S.

2

INTERNATIONAL
MENTORING CENTERS

50+

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS



A LEGACY THAT CONTINUES TO INSPIRE

Dr. Steven Crowther, Former President of Manna University

Written by Stefanie Ertel

2022 was a year full of challenges, changes, and celebrations. On April 22, 2023, it will be one year since our leader, pioneer, and president, Dr. Steven Crowther, went to be with his Lord and Savior. He was a servant leader, always uplifting all around him and passionately focused on advancing the Kingdom of God. Some of you were personally impacted by him. Some of you may have heard of him through others or his books or articles, or even from his leadership during the record-breaking speed of Manna University's accreditation.

In 2022 many of the changes at Manna University originated from Dr. Crowther. He was a great leader and visionary; he knew where Manna U was going and pursued that passionately. He regularly said our plan was, "Oh, God help us." Still, he was strategic and wise as he would set up this University for the future, even through the last months of his life. Many changes came as Interim President Ron McBride and incoming President Dr. Carlo Serrano had to quickly take on leadership roles that were not expected to be needed for some time. Together these two men have honored Dr. Crowther's memory and legacy.

Still, we celebrate what God is doing through Manna University! We celebrate the record-breaking numbers, the new launch of 100% Spanish courses online for national and international students, and much more! We celebrate the life of Dr. Crowther, the impact he made, and most of all, the way God used him during the time he was with us! He put his family first—he was a faithful life partner and a role model to his physical and spiritual family. Even now, his life continues to be an example to follow. His impact will continue to inspire many!

"Dr. Crowther is such an inspiration...it is evident that your hard work and dedication is the reason why Manna University is where it is today." - Portia McFarlane

"Dr. Crowther encouraged me to pursue a Ph.D. and mentored me every step of the way. He gave me my first job in higher education. He was a father and a friend to me. There's no Dr. Serrano without Dr. Steve Crowther." - Dr. Carlo Serrano

"I once told Dr. Crowther he was one of a handful of men with whom I would gladly charge the gates of hell with a water pistol. Dr. Crowther was a man of power and I'm grateful to have been his student." - Chris Fletcher

MANNA UNIVERSITY'S 13TH ANNUAL

DR. STEVEN CROWTHER MEMORIAL

GOLF TOURNAMENT

MARCH 24TH | GATES FOUR GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB

"Dr. Crowther embodied an adventurous life with Jesus. He humbly and faithfully modeled sacrificial service and kingdom advancement." - James Sharp

"Dr. Crowther hasn't just changed the lives of individuals; he is changing families and generations with his influence... His impact on this world will echo through the ages." - Jess Paschall

"Dr. Crowther was my mentor, my teacher, my boss, the one who saw my calling. He showed me with his example what it was like to be a servant leader who was effective. He taught me that you can lead well while loving the people you lead." - Rebecca Allup

"There are men that know an extraordinary degree about God and then there are men that know God extraordinarily. Dr. Crowther was a unique leader of both camps." - Christian Mason



STUDENT LIFE

11

STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS

300+

ALUMNI

6

FUNDED
STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS



RAISING THE BAR THROUGHOUT THE YEARS: 2017-2023

YEAR	SUMMER ENROLLMENT	FALL ENROLLMENT	SPRING ENROLLMENT	ANNUAL ENROLLMENT	PERCENT CHANGE
2022-2023	119	239	259	340	+8%
2021-2022	103	234	210	315	+4%
2020-2021	133	213	223	302	+21%
2019-2020	81	176	185	249	+30%
2018-2019	71	157	140	191	+7%
2017-2018	48	145	139	178	-

STUDENT IMPACT

MOM OF FOUR TAKES ON HIGHER EDUCATION

Written by Paul Devine



Lisa with her husband, Derek and their four children

Lisa Blanton is extremely thankful to have found her place at Manna University. "I have been loving every minute of it," she gushes. "I am learning what I want to learn about. I want to know more about God, His Kingdom, and how to be a disciple."

After years in the healthcare field, God opened a door for a job as an aide at a junior high and Blanton loved it. That job led her to consider more schooling to be credentialed as a teacher. After months of research into other schools, Blanton decided to investigate Manna U and the school's relationship with her local church Beltway Baptist in Abilene, Texas. "Everyone was amazing; it has been a huge, huge blessing."

Blanton has seen the difference in every interaction with the school. "Everyone's hearts are so genuine. They want you to get out of it what Jesus wants you to get out of it. They want what is best for you."

Lisa and her husband Derek have four children: Abriana (19), Brook (12), Lauren (9) and Noah (7). Blanton also has epilepsy, which sometimes affects her cognitive abilities. She notes that Manna U has worked hard to help her manage her learning challenges. She was a bit nervous going into her first in-person class. Her instructor, Than Brown, approached her and assured her she was in the right place. Blanton said Brown modeled how she would like to live her life. "He went out of his way to make sure each student had what they needed," she recalls. "It was inspiring."

“Everyone’s hearts are so genuine. They want you to get out of it what Jesus wants you to get out of it. They want what is best for you.”

Blanton followed her daughter Abriana to Manna U and is currently enjoying taking Old Testament Survey with her. Blanton is not sure what the future holds for her. However, her Manna U degree will open a door to a teaching credential program in her public system. For now, she is enjoying the process. When asked what she would say to someone considering attending Manna U, Blanton was all in. "I would say go for it. You cannot have a bad experience."



ADVANCING THE KINGDOM OF GOD

MAKE AN IMPACT TODAY

Your gift will help make an immediate impact on our city and everywhere our students go with what they've learned at Manna U.

If you have any questions regarding how to become an active donor, please contact Dr. Carlo Serrano at cserrano@manna.edu



ONLINE

Head over to this link, www.manna.edu/giving and select where you would like your kingdom investment to go.

You can also scan this QR Code with your smartphone for more information on how to make an impact today!



CHECK

Checks can be sent by mail to our secure mailbox:
Manna University
Attn: Bookkeeper's Office
439 Westwood Shopping Center PMB 106
Fayetteville, NC 28314

ALUMNI IMPACT

WALKING OUT THE CALL

Written by Michael Krieg

Jefferson Bullock thought he was only committing to a one-year internship; little did he know he would finish at Manna University with his Masters in Christian Leadership. In 2015, Bullock was encouraged to join the Experience College Internship for the Fall semester. He intended to move on immediately after that to a music college. Nevertheless, the call of God for vocational ministry was impressed upon him during his time in the internship, so he continued with what was then Grace College of Divinity.

During his time at the former GCD, Bullock fell in love with the educational component of his training. "It was preparing me for the practical parts of ministry," he shared. While he was hitting the books, he was simultaneously involved in ministry. Reading for school and reading for the development of the church became conflated. There was a diminished separation of his efforts for church and education because, at Manna University, there was a seamless blending of the two.

One of his favorite skills he has acquired as a student is his newfound ability to research and consume large amounts of information and synthesize it at an advanced pace. The simple but powerful impact of higher-level reading and enhanced comprehension have since helped him greatly in his career.

Jefferson, along with his wife Kayla, are now both new hires at Vous Church in Miami, Florida. Bullock acts as the Operations and Location Development Coordinator. Managing teams, helping with the church's growth track, and executing the operational side of events are just a few things his job requires. One very exciting part of Jefferson's job is his role in the operations of a brand-new location the church opened up in Miami's Design District. The potential for this site is immense. On opening day, 355 people showed up to hear the Word of God, even though the space only had 200 chairs.

Manna University has been a key part in shaping Bullock not only for what he would do in the future but was also directly impacting his life while he was a student. Still young, he has plans to optimize his opportunities with Vous Church. After gaining more life and ministry experience, he eventually intends to return to formal education to advance to the next level of his calling.



JEFFERSON BULLOCK
theExperience Alumnus

“It was preparing me for the practical parts of ministry.”



Jefferson Bullock speaking
at Manna Church High Point

2023-2024 PRAYER POINTS

- For our students and their families to thrive in every way: spiritually, mentally, physically, emotionally, and financially.
- That God would increase our students and send mission-focused people to Manna University, whether they be students, faculty, staff, or donors.
- That God would foster international relationships and partnerships in places throughout Latin America, Rwanda, and everywhere else God has called Manna U to operate.
- That God would increase our scholarship monies and donations so that Manna U can educate, equip and empower more students.
- May doors open in the Fayetteville/Fort Bragg region outside the Manna Church oikos so that we may share the opportunities offered at Manna University to educate, equip, and empower the body of Christ in our area.



MANNA
UNIVERSITY

OUR MISSION

Manna University is a biblical higher education institution dedicated to educating, equipping, and empowering emerging leaders to change the world.

OUR VISION

We exist to advance the Kingdom of God through biblical higher education – Everywhere.



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