



MINISTRY IN THE MARKETPLACE

Alumni Highlight, Twila Mason

Manna U Alumna Twila Mason has been busy after graduating with her Bachelor of Arts in Christian Leadership in 2021. After bouncing between different career paths, Twila ultimately felt the call to the public school system. When asked how Manna U equipped her for her current role, Twila highlighted some of her favorite courses. "World Religions was one of my favorites," she admitted. Even through teaching her Kindergarten class, Twila encounters many different belief systems and backgrounds. "With all the students you have to make accommodations for, it's good to have background knowledge from a biblical



perspective." By simply being present in the public school system, Twila is able to bring the Holy Spirit into the lives of her students and their families, regardless of their spiritual background. As a Manna University Alumna, Twila loyally pursues the goal to educate, equip, and empower the next generation of leaders.



Twila leading worship at Manna Church



Doctoral Graduates of 2023



WHAT'S NEW AT MANNA U

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

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MANNA U LATIN AMERICA IS BORN!

Student Highlight | Carlos Ordonez

Carlos Ordonez Vargas served 18 years in the Army, mostly in Special Forces, rising through the ranks to Master Sergeant, Team Leader, and eventually an Instructor. Vargas desired a military career but sensed God had another call on his life. When the Army sent him to a psychiatric hospital, he took it as a sign from the Lord. "I survived a lot of death. I am a walking pure miracle of God. God is the only one that could have saved me from the things I survived," Vargas explains. Vargas had been coping with PTSD as well as some bodily injuries for several years before taking medical retirement in 2019.

God had been working on Vargas' next mission for decades. "I view myself through the story of Cornelius," Vargas explains, referring to a Roman soldier in Acts 10-11. "I had been looking to know who this God was, and to know Him and have a relationship with Him." In 2012, Farid Awad, an Army Chaplain, and former Manna University professor, spent a year studying the book of Romans with Vargas. "It was Farid giving me a biblical Gospel that really turned my life around. I understood how much of a sinner I was and what the consequences were," Vargas recalls. "From that moment, my life changed significantly." As his Army career ended, he began working toward a degree at Manna U. "I have nothing but great things to say about all the professors," he remarked with great enthusiasm. Vargas still had numerous physical and psychological struggles, but Manna U was committed to his success. "As long as I maintained communication, the instructors were always extremely helpful, even praying for me. It has been nothing but a blessing." When asked about a favorite class or instructor, Vargas had trouble choosing. "I love reading the Bible...and I needed to find the right way of studying it, so Hermeneutics gave me that. It really transformed the way I read the Bible."


Even after a year of studying with Farid Awad, Vargas found more from his Manna U course Book of Romans. "It wasn't until I took that course that everything just fit so perfectly," Vargas notes. He credits the Kingdom of God course with helping him see where he fits in God's ultimate plan, giving him clarity for how to approach other courses. During the time he was meeting with Awad, Vargas and his wife Esperanza formulated a plan to start an orphanage near her family in Aguascalientes Mexico, where unwanted children are routinely abandoned. They soon discovered, however, that God's plan was for the spiritually orphaned people.





Vargas has since been working to build up a house church in Mexico started by Esperanza's family and is slowly changing minds and hearts. "We were presenting the Bible, they were taking it through their own interpretation rather than what the Bible actually says." To help address this concern, Vargas has spearheaded a move by Manna U to help him bring the Gospel to the unreached in Latin America. "Having Latin American students at Manna U has been so fulfilling. Manna U has been part of the help in discipling them," Vargas explains. Manna U Latin America now has 25 students in Mexico and Colombia with Carlos serving as a Teaching Assistant in several of the classes. Vargas feels a clear call to the work in Mexico. He spends up to three months per year in Mexico and stays connected remotely as he is able. Vargas, of the Manna U Class of 2023, shares a word of advice for current and future Manna U students. "Let God be God. God uses Manna U so beautifully. He reveals Himself through the instructors themselves and the materials we use. For me that is all I wanted, to know more of who God is. I just wanted to know the God I had been chasing for all my life."


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