



TUMI Denver

Spring/Summer 2020

Serving Christ Jesus
Connecting With My Partners

I love my job! I could not do this without the prayers and financial support of you my partners.

We are in strange times. When thinking about all the changes we've had to make during the COVID-19 pandemic restrictions, I think of Proverbs 19:21: *"Many are the plans in a person's heart, but it is the LORD's purpose that prevails."* (NIV 2011) That is a fact that no one person or circumstance can change. He is sovereign.

In March, we learned that all prisons were closed to outside programs. We do not have any way to be in contact with our TUMI students at either the men's or women's prisons. We pray that the Lord is using our TUMI students and grads to take the Light—the Gospel of Jesus Christ—into the darkness. They are well-equipped as Christian leaders and can give testimony of their personal journey in knowing Christ. In fact, the Chaplain at the men's prison tells me that two TUMI grads have offered to lead the TUMI class until the prisons open up for volunteers to come in. That's what I'm talking about!

Praise the Lord for the invention of telephones and online meeting applications—Zoom and Meet.Google!! In spite of being restricted to staying alone in my condo for these months, I have been blessed to continue my ministry with

The Urban Ministry Institute (TUMI) and with the church-plant team at Grace of the Lord Fellowship (Grace church) in Aurora (also see <https://graceofthelord.church/leaders/>).

In January, I started a new TUMI class at Grace church. Our pastor, CJ Counts, welcomes the TUMI program to build up Christian Leadership in the church. We currently have five students. After only one completed module (semester) and into our second module, we are already seeing a good return on investment as our students step up and ask CJ where they can be used in our church. Also see **TUMI Student Focus**.

As part of the Grace church leadership team, I also lead the Sunday morning adult Bible study. We are studying the "Experiencing God" Bible study by Henry Blackaby. This is a great study with a church-wide, spiritual growth emphasis. I've led this study many times in the past and selected it with the hope that we would come to understand how to experience God as a church and it would help us to better function as the body of Christ. It's been such a blessing to watch that happen.



Back row my brother Tom and sister Jan; front row my Mom and me

Even with the COVID pandemic, we have been able to help empower a released inmate that was a TUMI student at one of our men's prisons. See **Incarceration to Incorporation (I2I)** on page 2.

We are so thankful for the financial help our TUMI students and partners provided for our TUMI students in India during this COVID pandemic. See Mike Dicke's **TUMI International** report on page 2.

As I write this newsletter, my precious 93-year-old-mother is in hospice. On June 3, she had a heart attack, and it's been one thing after the other. We feel so fortunate that the hospital let us kids stay with her in her room before they moved her to hospice. I got to hug her and tell her over and over how much I loved her. It was a gift from the Lord. Now we wait on Him to take her home.

Your Servant-in Christ,
Chaplain Kris Briggs

And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, ... teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you."
Matthew 28:18-28 (ESV)

TUMI Denver



The Urban Ministry Institute (TUMI) Capstone Program, a ministry of World Impact, is a seminary-level biblical curriculum which is being used effectively to equip ministry leaders who might not otherwise have access to a biblical education. The 16 modules provide the most essential knowledge and skills for effective ministry and church leadership, making it an excellent tool to prepare students to be ministers of the gospel of Christ.

We are now taking applications for the next module at several Denver Metro locations.
Contact me at 303-956-7898 for locations, days, and times.

TUMI Student Focus

Being a new TUMI student is "scary" for most of my students. Either they have not been in school for years or their school years were not a good experience and challenging. My job is to walk alongside the students and find a way they can overcome that fear and turn it into discovering how they can be successful. I often find myself saying "We'll find a way to make this happen." I look forward to that light that eventually comes on in their eyes letting me know they are walking close with the Lord and excited to keep on their TUMI Christian leadership journey.

Mary and Annissa

Mary is a beautiful 80-year-old whom I thought was much younger. She is married to Lee and has four adult children. For over 50 years, **Mary** has been a Christian leader in the church—in children's ministry, women's ministry, and more.

Currently, **Mary** is mostly blind due to macular degeneration and is confined to a wheel chair because of spinal degeneration. She also has other medical issues to deal with. When I first met Mary a year ago, she was experiencing some depression over increased loss of sight, because shots in her eyes were no longer working.

At the TUMI Information Night at Grace church, **Mary** came up to me and shared she was interested in participating in the TUMI program. She knew that would be a challenge, but I assured her "We'll find a way to make this happen." (I was prepared to read all the required reading to her if I had to.)

Annissa is a lovely, vibrant 52-year old. As a new Christian, she is on the recovery path after being an addict since her teens and has been sober for over a year.

Annissa was divorced but is now happily remarried to her husband. She shines when she talks about her three adult sons and a granddaughter.

I first met **Annissa** as a guest at the Grace church Thanksgiving Dinner while seated at the table next to her table. She shared that Pastor CJ led the Celebrate Recovery program where she was involved. As we talked, I felt inspired to share about the TUMI program we were starting at Grace church, and she expressed an interest in learning about it. I also invited her to visit Grace church, which she did the next Sunday.

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Incarceration to Incorporation (I2I)



TUMI's Incarceration to Incorporation (I2I) program was developed to help TUMI leaders empower prisoners upon their release—such as connecting them to friendly churches where they can attend and serve, organizations that provide housing and job training/placement, and TUMI class locations to complete the TUMI program.

The COVID-19 pandemic restrictions have hampered our holding a TUMI I2I information "Onisimus Workshop" for Denver area churches and prison ministries. In the meantime, check out this 5-minute video by Don Allsman, former World Impact Vice President, and Cathy Allsman, former World Impact Incarceration Ministries Specialist, that explains the program: <https://vimeo.com/433146074>

Despite this COVID pandemic, two TUMI students from the men's prison where I work have been blessed by the I2I program in San Diego, CA. I thank Jesus for Rev. Rich Esselstrom who is the TUMI I2I contact.

- In May, a released prisoner/TUMI student arrived in San Diego and immediately contacted World Impact who put him in touch with Rich. Rich meets for coffee with the TUMI student (who lives only 5 blocks away). He reports that the student is back into taking TUMI classes and is involved in a great church where he attends Celebrate Recovery.
- Last year, I shared how Rich was able to help another released prisoner/TUMI student finish his last two TUMI modules and then graduate in July 2019. Rich stays in contact with this TUMI grad and reports he is doing well and is very involved with his home church. In May 2020, the TUMI grad was able to rent a nice apartment after Rich provided a personal reference letter for him.

We are hearing that the I2I workshop will be available online through World Impact in September. If you or your church would like to know more about the I2I program, contact me at 303-956-7898.

TUMI Student Focus (continued)

In January, both **Mary and Annissa** started our new TUMI Capstone Program at Grace church. During the first TUMI class, **Annissa** shared her hesitancy to take TUMI, because school in her youth had been a difficult challenge for her. **Mary** shared her concerns with keeping up with the class requirements because of her blindness.

Annissa, upon hearing Mary's concern, offered to read the required readings (about 20 hours a week) to Mary, because it would ensure she would finish all the readings. They also became study partners—studying for quizzes, memory verses, finals, and more. Both women are excellent students.

Out of their TUMI study partnership, I have also watched these two women become close friends. Mary is Annissa's "Titus woman" (older woman mentoring the younger woman), and Annissa enjoys Mary's wisdom as a Christian woman and hearing about her faithful journey with the Lord.

Praise and Prayer Requests

- Praising the Lord for our new TUMI program at Grace of the Lord Bible Fellowship in Aurora and already seeing the fruits as our students plug into areas they can serve in the church—even delivering food boxes and supplies to Aurora neighbors during the COVID pandemic.
- Praising the Lord for money gifts from our TUMI students and partners in an effort to help our TUMI students in India.
- Praising the Lord for more time with Mom (in hospice) as she calmly waits for the Lord to take her to her eternal home.
- Prayer to raise my needed financial support for 2020.
- Prayer for our TUMI students in the prisons during this COVID pandemic and for them to minister the Gospel of Christ to their prison neighbors.
- Prayer for our TUMI/Prison Fellowship and prison staff relations when we are able to take TUMI back into the prisons.
- Prayer for Pastor John Le Palmier's successful travel to Denver from Cape Town and his planned conference for Congolese and suburban churches in the Denver area.
- Continued prayer for our TUMI Denver outreach.

TUMI International

THANK YOU for help feeding TUMI students in India!! On April 7, I got a text message from Mike Dicke, TUMI Denver Field Representative. He was asking for help with a message about Philemon, a long-time TUMI team member in India who works with Mike and Mary to take the TUMI program into local villages.

"Hi. I got a note from Philemon in India. Some TUMI students there have no food and no way to work with the [COVID-19] shut-down. If you know of anyone that would want to send them a little money, let me know. A few dollars buys a lot of rice."

I sent out an email to all the current TUMI students and grads, TUMI/Prison Fellowship mentors, and various TUMI partners asking—if they had the means—to help our friends in India.

We are so blessed to report that through your money gifts, we were able to feed TUMI students in two India locations:

- Philemon was able to feed 27 TUMI students for 21 days in India. We were also able to send a follow-up amount to assist in this effort.
- Sudipta was able to feed starving students in Kolkata.

Online TUMI classes in Assam, India

Mike shares that James, the TUMI mentor in Assam is conducting TUMI classes online via Zoom.

South African TUMI mentor coming to Denver

Plans are being made for John Le Palmier from Cape Town, South Africa to visit Denver in November. Pastor Le Palmier is a TUMI mentor in Samora Michelle, a township settlement formerly a "shanty town." While here, Pastor Le Palmier will observe TUMI classes and activities in the Denver metropolitan area. He also plans to lead a conference for Congolese and suburban churches. Please pray for this event.

If you or your church would like to sponsor the cost of TUMI curriculum for international TUMI students, please contact me at 303-956-7898.

This newsletter is a publication of World Impact/TUMI Denver. You have received this newsletter because you are a supporter or a participant in this ministry. Thank you for your contributions! Please forward this newsletter to a friend.



Chaplain Kris Briggs

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Mail to: World Impact, P.O. Box 80507, City of Industry, CA 91716*

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Your gift is income tax deductible. You will receive a receipt along with our warmest thanks!

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Thank you for partnering with me—your prayers and financial support—as together we serve Jesus Christ in Denver, in Colorado, in prisons, and around the world.

To make a one-time or monthly donation toward my support, please do one of the following:

- **Complete the above pledge card** and send it directly to our office in City of Industry, CA. Please make your check payable to **World Impact**, and on the check Memo line write **Support for Kristin Briggs**.

- **Set up a donation online.**
 1. To begin, visit the World Impact donation website at <https://worldimpact.org/>, and click **DONATE**. (Or visit my.worldimpact.org and click **Online Giving**.)
 2. On the **Donation Amount** area in the **Search Staff or Ministry** box, type **Briggs**. My name "Briggs, Kris" appears.
 3. In the \$ box next to my name **Briggs, Kris**, type the amount you are donating to my support account.
 4. If you want your donation to be monthly support, click the checkbox next to **Make this a recurring gift?**, and follow the instructions.
 5. Complete the **Contact Information** area.
 6. Complete the **Payment Information** area.
 7. Click **Next** and follow the instructions.

Contact me at 303-956-7898 if you have any questions.

Thank you and God bless you,

Kris ☺