



Ambassador
Nurturing the life of the Institute

Ambassador Update

Institute for Discipleship

Ambassadors nurture the life of the Institute for Discipleship through their prayers, advocacy, and financial support, advancing the Kingdom of God worldwide.

August 2023: Impact

Dear fellow Ambassadors,

We all want to make a positive impact. How and where and when to make the biggest and best impact with our time and resources is a challenge. In this newsletter you will be informed of some of the ways the IFD has lived out the desire to make an impact in the lives of others.

I hope you will take pride in these examples and know that when you support the Institute you are supporting work that makes an impact.

Thank you for nurturing our ability to make an impact,

Every donor, leader, and participant helps us grow!

Steve Wilke
Executive Director

P.S. We are progressing toward our goal of having 100 ambassadors!



New Study App Now Available to Public

The new BeADisciple Study App is now available for download and beta testing by the general public. In development for more than two years, the app is expected to have an impact on personal Bible study for persons around the world.



BeADisciple Study App

"During the alpha phase last year, we learned that people can have a meaningful faith building experience with a study in which folks participate on an app from their phone," says Steve Wilke, executive director of the Institute for Discipleship. "They can live in different places from each other, even in different countries and grow in love of God and neighbor."

For more information, click [here](#).

Campaign for App Funding Surpasses Half a Million Dollars

Your gifts and those of dozens of additional donors have led to successful completion of a fundraising campaign that will support the BeADisciple Study App.

In April of this year the Institute board had approved a \$500,000 fund raising goal to be met by June 30, 2023. The campaign was launched by a matching gift of \$250,000 from Bishop Richard B. Wilke, and on June 30 the final tally for the campaign was \$547,162.78.

These gifts made it possible for the BeADisciple Study App to be launched on August 1 without much lingering debt. This was important so that the cost to participate in the studies will reflect the cost of providing the app-based small group experience without the need to repay the development costs, and we are grateful for each of your contributions.

Bishop Scholars Begin 26th Year at SC

Bishop Scholars have now been part of the Southwestern College community for a quarter of a century, and the 26th year of enrollments see a 'second-generation' student.

Capra Hanguana took part in Moundbuilding ceremonies, arriving in Winfield from Mozambique with the support of former Bishop Scholar Alexandre Macassane.



More than 100 students from all parts of the globe have graduated from Southwestern College through the Bishop Scholars program. The financial aid is available to students interested in attending Southwestern who have ties to

the Methodist Church, are from outside the United States, or bring a global perspective to the campus, are involved in their local ministry, and wish to participate in an SC service learning or worship outreach program.

The Bishop Scholars program is a result of the efforts of Bishop Richard Wilke and were started shortly after he became the Bishop in Residence at Southwestern College. The program began officially in the fall of 1997 when the first Bishop Scholars enrolled on campus.

BeADisciple Strengthens Certified Lay Ministry Program

Many congregations today are in need of well-trained lay leadership, with easy access to affordable resources to equip them for ministry. The IFD is pleased to announce that we have strengthened our commitment to high-quality training for Certified Lay Ministry candidates with a newly revised program. Highlights include an all-new instructor team with a wealth of ministry experience, along with updated content and an emphasis on instructor engagement in all courses. These improvements will lead to trained laity who are primed for effective ministry and ready to make an even greater impact in their areas of service.

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