

### **What was one highlight of GRTS Connect for you?**

“The greatest thing about GRTS Connect was the professor; second was the other students. I can still hear the professor’s voice in my head talking about the big C church and grappling with certain issues.”

“I greatly enjoyed the content of the class as well as the opportunity to live in community while taking the class.”

“The highlight of GRTS Connect was the community that we formed. We were learning and growing and being challenged by the professors and speakers at every turn. The others in GRTS Connect and I found friendship and enjoyment inside of those challenges. In terms of a specific event or activity, I would say that the highlight was the classroom. It was fun and informative and provided an opportunity to reflect on ideas and activities in and outside of the class.”

### **What difficulties/struggles did you face in GRTS Connect?**

“The week was incredibly intense. The material of the class stretched both my mind and my heart, and the fast pace and full schedule were physically exhausting.”

“I personally did not have any struggles or face any difficulties over the class or the comprehension of the course material.”

“GRTS Connect is graduate level study, and the information that is passed on as well as the expectation that the professors and speakers had for us was on a whole different level than what I had experienced on the undergraduate side. Spiritually I was challenged to look differently at the work and the mission of God in the world. I don’t think that I am exaggerating when I say that every one of us contemplated full surrender to long term missions as a vocation at some time during GRTS Connect. Some of us have even used the information and guidance received in the program to fulfill that calling in our lives.”

### **What were some of the benefits to you by enrolling in GRTS Connect?**

“The class helped to open my eyes to several different global perspectives and provided many different points to ponder. It also allowed me to develop friendships with students from my university through the class.”

“GRTS Connect continues to impact my life today. The professor has been and continues to be a blessing in my life. I still find myself quoting him and using his word phrases in papers and in life two years later. GRTS Connect motivated me to touch the world for Jesus Christ and to be his light and salt at all times and in all places. For me crossing cultures does not have to mean a trip across a border or an ocean but crossing one’s own personal culture into someone else’s culture, differing from me in age, gender, national origin, ethnicity, sexual orientation, religion, or denomination.”

“The benefits I gained from taking GRTS Connect are too numerous to mention. A few include lifelong friends with whom I still talk, email, and spend time, an increased understanding of the mission of God and the mission of the Church in the world, a deeper conviction to fulfill the great commission with strong biblical foundations, and a head full of unforgettable memories that I will treasure for all of my life. Also I received both undergraduate and graduate credit.”

### **What did you think about the professor who taught your GRTS Connect course?**

“I enjoyed the professor’s teaching style as well as his personable nature through the class.”

“My GRTS Connect professor is world class. There have been few people that have impressed me more. He is an excellent example of Christian service and leadership. In the week of GRTS Connect he opened up his mind to us and taught us well, he opened up his home to us and served us food, he opened up his world to us and introduced us to his friends, and he opened up his heart to us and loved us. His wife and kids are awesome as well.”

“My GRTS Connect professor is AMAZING. He still is a part of my life even though I am not longer a student of his, but yet he still teaches me things. He has shown me his love and compassion, and for that I am ever thankful. Looking back I can see how the Lord used the professor to encourage me to pursue an M.Div., and continue within my research, and challenge the church and society.”

### **What did you think about the course content?**

“I thought the material was very beneficial to examine. It exposed me to new perspectives as well as challenged me to reconsider old perspectives in regards to missions. It also helped to establish a framework to approach the topic of missions.”

“And I learned that sometimes there is not a perfect right answer and that an issue can be straddled.”

“The course content was world class as well. Each of the lessons were planned perfectly to instruct and challenge. It was more than just information download. It was interactive and fun but applicable and relevant. GRTS has a set of professors that offered the best they had and left us wanting more. This course and the information presented has changed the way I approach short and long term missions, and how I approach God. WORLD CLASS!!!!”

### **Did you make any new friends that week?**

“Yes, I did. I developed friendships with a couple other students who attended the same university and enjoyed getting together with those girls throughout my senior year.”

“God connected every one of those chosen for this class for a purpose. We all realized the uniqueness and blessings that would develop almost immediately. We spent every second together and loved it. We have facebook groups that keep us informed of each other’s lives and many of us talk on the phone and spend time with one other on a regular basis. We have used the friendships to bless each others’ ministries and lives. So, yes, I made many friends that week. Whenever I see someone from GRTS Connect, we have a special connection that cannot be explained.”

“As a result of GRTS Connect, I have friendships that are close. Even though we are not close physically, we are brothers and sisters in Christ and are there for each other at anytime of the day.”