

FIND **YOUR** PLACE

IMPACT INTERVIEWS CAMPUSDAYS2017

Enjoy these testimonies in the words of those who experienced amazing transformations. Find out how Charis Bible College changed their lives and why they partnered with this ministry. We know you'll be inspired by these latest Impact Interviews!



Cole Van Der Velden – Edmonton, Canada

Are you a Charis student?

I'm a Third-Year student in the Creative Arts School.

Tell us about yourself.

I was a competitive figure skater. I spent about nine years competing regionally and went to the national championships five times. I was the provincial champion in Alberta several times. In the discipline of pairs, I competed at Canada Winter Games, and we won the silver medal.

How did you hear about Andrew?

I first heard about Andrew through my father. He had heard Andrew on TV, and he would share some of the *Healing Journeys* and the teachings with me. I had a part-time job mowing grass at an estate property, so I would stick my earmuffs on and stick my headphones on under my earmuffs. I would listen to Andrew's teaching for hours while I was mowing grass.

Tell us the story of how you came to Charis.

I decided to go to the University of Alberta in Edmonton, and I didn't really know exactly what I wanted to do. But I felt this expectation on me to go to university. After

my first year, I was kind of, like, directionless. I said, "I'm going to take a year off and seek the Lord and figure out where He wants me." In that time, having listened to Andrew, and with the encouragement of my father, I decided to apply for Charis Bible College. And I got accepted.

"It's okay to just rest where I am in the Lord and understand my identity is in Christ and not in all the things that I do."

What has been your experience in Charis's Creative Arts School?

I've seen a lot of personal growth. I've been pulled out of my shell and pulled out of my comfort zone. Some areas in my life that I had really struggled with prior to coming to Charis, like pride and self-centeredness, have been completely slain in the Creative Arts School. There's no place for any of that in the team environment, in the family that we are in the Creative Arts School. I don't have to be perfect all the time, and I don't have to always be the best. Coming from the figure-skating background, I have such a competitive nature. It's okay to just rest where I am in the Lord and understand my identity is in Christ and not in all the things that I do.

Was there a particular course at Charis that you enjoyed?

Andrew's course The Making of a Minister was one of my favorites. He went through the lives of Moses, Joseph, and David. He showed how the calling of God on their lives always preceded them actually stepping into their ministries. That was really encouraging to me.

Would you like to say anything to Andrew?

Thank you so much, Andrew, for everything that you've meant to my life and to my family's lives. Your teaching has absolutely transformed everything about my life and eternity for us. We understand the grace message now. Thank you so much for that. I know that there is going to be a great harvest in your life because of the things that you have planted.



Amy McClain – Lihue, HI

Where are you from? Tell us about yourself.

I am from Hawaii. I live on the island of Kauai, specifically in Lihue. I love to volunteer, and I am a full-time student at Charis Bible College. I was a flight attendant in the past.

How did you first encounter Andrew's teaching?

The first introduction that I had to Andrew was through a roommate I had in Hawaii. She told me that she was a Charis student in the online program. She shared some of the teachings, and I was very interested. I listened to probably ten messages before I came to Charis.

How has Andrew's teaching impacted you?

I have grown in my relationship with God because of the teaching *The True Nature of God*. God is the same today as yesterday, and that has really helped me relate to Him better. I didn't understand that I had a problem with legalism. When we were studying *The True Nature of God*, I was really asking God to give me understanding and to

teach my heart. It was like the legalism glasses came off, and I was able to see! It just gave me so much freedom. I started to see Jesus and His heart, and it just changed something in me. It changed my relationship with Him, and it opened me up to a loving, close sweetness with Him. And when I go share the Gospel with people, I am more confident as I approach them and share how the Word has impacted my life.

What does partnership with Andrew Wommack Ministries mean to you?

I'm supporting the vision that Andrew has for this school. He wants people to learn and have an understanding of a relationship with God and what the Word of God means. He wants to impact lives. I also want to be a part of the missions program here [at Charis] and support it. Part of my partnership is to impact other countries or places. And I feel that this school, with the outreaches that we do, the missions, and the different extension schools, just really embodies that. I just really wanted to be a part of that as a partner.

Is there anything else you would like to say?

I want to thank both Andrew and Jamie. It's meant so much to me to be discipled and to have a place to come to that has such good teachings and gives me foundational truth. I can relate to God through His Word based on His truth, and discipleship just means so much to me.



Alisha Clingan – Seattle, WA

What year student are you at Charis?

I'm a full-time student at Charis in second year.

What is your occupation?

I have been cleaning houses for over a year now.

How did you become acquainted with Andrew Wommack?

I came to know Andrew and the ministry through my pastors in Seattle. They have been going to the *Ministers' Conference* for quite a few years now.

What teaching of Andrew's has impacted you?

One teaching that really changed my thinking and my relationship with God is *A Better Way to Pray*. I grew up in church praying, and I knew it was powerful. But I didn't really understand why we pray and exactly how. Hearing that teaching in school changed my relationship with God into a more intimate relationship. Realizing that praying is simply communication with God opened up a whole new world to me.

Why did you decide to come to Charis?

I remember in high school that I knew I was coming here. God showed me that I needed to cut off some relationships. And at that time, I felt really lonely. I knew a lot of people, but I really lacked godly relationships. When I came here for *Campus Days*, I had this peace come over me, and I knew this was where I was supposed to be. There are a handful of friends for life that I know God is going to keep together for the

"When I came here for Campus Days, I had this peace come over me, and I knew this was where I was supposed to be."

kingdom. He's putting our visions together for the kingdom and making them bigger than we can even imagine.

Share what's been great about your Charis experience.

Being in this environment at Charis, with these teachings that are just so rich and full of the Word, has changed me so much. Being able to sit here four hours a day and the influence of the body that's here has really changed my life.

Which Third-Year school will you be doing?

I'm going to be going to Worship School. That's always been a passion of mine. I know I'm going to learn the things that I need for the calling that God has for me.

What would you say to someone who is considering Charis?

I think coming to Charis is one of the best decisions you can ever make. Now I can say that I have a really personal and intimate relationship with God that's going to sustain me for the rest of my life. It is worth more than the world to me.

Would you like to say anything to Andrew?

Mr. Wommack, I just want to thank you so much for everything you've done. You've really inspired me and empowered me to go out and do what God has called me to do.

Rebeka van de Brug – Florissant, CO

Tell us about yourself.

My dad is Swiss, my mom is Ethiopian, and my husband is Dutch. We came from the Netherlands together.

How did you learn about Charis?

I got this huge desire to know and seek God more. I knew he wanted me to go to a Bible college, but at that time, my life looked completely different. I said, "Lord, I'll go to a Bible college, but I want You to lead me to the one I should go to." Exactly when I prayed that prayer, friends David and Judith Forgoston—Charis graduates—called me and said, "We're invited to this open day at this Bible college. Do you want to come and join?" All day long, my mouth was open. I kept thinking, *Why hasn't anyone told me this before?* It was so amazing, and my heart just jumped up and clicked.

How has Charis impacted your life?

Charis has been incredibly impactful in my life. I was a mess before I came to Andrew's ministry and the school. The Lord led me to Charis in Switzerland. They only had it one day a week, but it was so powerful. He told me to go to Holland where they had the full-time school, and He provided me a home. During this time, it was like the whole world had turned against me. But God said, "No, I want you to go." Since then, my life, my heart, and my walk with God have changed completely.

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Have you been healed or had a significant life change through one of Andrew's teachings?

I kept asking God to give me the revelation of His righteousness in me, and someone led me to Andrew's teaching *The Power of the Cross*. It just clicked, and I understood that Jesus had done it all for me. Later, my husband and I were in an auto accident. [While still in the car], I called Charis to pray for him, and in that moment, a car pulled over. A woman came out of the car, and she looked at me with a smile on her face like she knew me. Then she started to pray for my husband, and suddenly he started breathing again. When I closed the phone and looked up to say thank you to the woman, she was gone. My husband was in and out of consciousness, and he just kept talking about the love of God. The doctors were saying, "This is impossible." They did a scan of his head and said that all the places that were hit were all gone. He needed a stitch, but you couldn't tell.

What does partnership with Andrew Wommack Ministries mean to you?

We really believe and have experienced the law of sowing and reaping. God opened my eyes to sowing into a ministry that I believe in and can see the hand of God working in. That has been so wonderful. It has opened our financial life in such a way that we are being blessed.

Would you like to say anything to Andrew?

We gave up a lot to be able to be attending your school, but what we've gotten in return is of so much more worth. We thank you so much for all that you do.



Tannera Garvin – Woodland Park, CO

Where are you from, and what is your occupation?

I am from Fort Worth, Texas. I have the great honor of being able to work at *Charis Bible College World Outreach* as the international administrator.

Please tell us more about your experience working at Charis.

I love how Charis's Media School is able to be a part of my position at *Charis World Outreach*. When we're going into a new location, like Hong Kong, Italy, and Scotland, we create a video that shares the vision of *Charis World Outreach*. I'm able to work with the tools and the programming that I learned at Media School and develop those videos, and one of my absolute favorite things to do is to cast the vision of *Charis World Outreach* through video.

What was Charis's Media School like?

I learned all of the skill sets that I needed in Media School to establish my own business. With everything I learned, I was able to get my LLC, start my own business, and begin working with missionaries whom I already had a connection with.

What would you tell students who are considering the Media School?

If you have any desire to see Hollywood changed, to see the TV industry changed, and to be able to see marketing and the way marketing is done changed, I encourage

you to be a part of that change and join the Media School. You will get the practical training that you need to go into the workplace and into that field to see that field change and glorify the Lord.

Share some important things students learn during their first two years at Charis.

You learn how much God loves you. You learn to trust God. You learn your value and the plans God has for you. And you discover your destiny. When you step into the Third-Year Program, you can finalize and get the practical skill set you need to actually start living out all of your dreams and desires.

"It was completely healed, and it doesn't even look like it's ever been broken!"

Do you have a healing testimony to share?

One day I was walking and slipped on some ice, and *crack* went my ankle. The x-rays showed that my ankle had actually shattered. The doctors highly encouraged surgery, but I let them know that surgery was not the desired plan. They began to tell me it would take a few months and that I'd have to go through all these different cast positioning things. I began to trust the Word, that God wants me well and has already paid for it on the cross. I began speaking to my ankle like they teach us to do at Charis and also in the Healing School. I began to tell the bones to come together. When the doctor showed me the x-rays again, she was just amazed. She said, "This never happens." While all the bones were still in pieces, they were all perfectly aligned where they needed to be, and they were no longer just shattered and kind of hanging around everywhere. She said, "We still recommend surgery. You need surgery." After that, I went back home and spent another week just praying. Then I went to Healing School. I remember thinking, *I'm going to walk today*. I crutched up to the front and had them pray for me. I told the people who were praying for me, "Okay, I'm ready to walk on this." I immediately started walking, and while they were praying for me, I began to feel my ankle get hot. I started walking on it, felt it pop, and from that point on, it was completely healed. I did end up going back to the doctor. It was completely healed, and it doesn't even look like it's ever been broken!

Would you like to say anything to Andrew?

Thank you, Andrew. I would never have known my value and my worth or understood my capabilities if it was not for your message. You just completely blessed my socks off!





Danielle Prindle – Holland, MI

What is your occupation?

I am a waitress at a Brazilian restaurant in Colorado Springs.

How did you come into contact with Andrew's teaching?

It was through a small group that two Charis grads—Fred and Lori Snyder—had started. They began teaching *Spirit, Soul & Body*. They introduced me to Andrew's teaching, and I was blown away by the revelation that he had on *You've Already Got It!* It opened me up instantly to the teaching, and it was amazing. The things we sometimes strive for, we already have in Christ, and that was just amazing for me to understand.

What is your favorite teaching of Andrew's, and how has it impacted you?

One of my favorite teachings would be *The True Nature of God*. I struggled a little bit with understanding exactly who God was and what He wanted from me. Andrew's teaching is straight from the Word, and it teaches us who God is, His nature, and how He loves us with this unconditional love. No matter how far you go, no matter what you do, He's not condemning you. He's not mad at you. To hear it solidified in the Word is so moving and impactful.

"No matter how far you go, no matter what you do, He's not condemning you. He's not mad at you."

What has been your experience going to Charis?

It's taught me what a relationship with God looks like. I can sit under the Word, and that has been tremendous. You come here, and you soak in the Word. Then you go home, and you spend time with Him, be in His presence. Charis is what the body of Christ is supposed to feel like. It's what it's supposed to be like. It's amazing.

What would you say to someone considering coming to Charis?

Come to Charis if you want to grow in your relationship with God or if you want answers to the questions that you have about His nature, healing, prosperity—any question that you have. Come here and just dive into His Word.

Would you like to say anything to Andrew?

Thank you, Andrew, for your faithfulness in what God has called you to do. Thank you for watering that seed that God put inside your heart and staying faithful to what He called you to do.





Bren Wilson – Woodland Park, CO

Where are you from? Tell us about yourself.

I'm from North Carolina. I've been at most of the camp meetings. That's how I got interested in wanting to know more. I taught [school] for twenty-two years.

How did you become acquainted with Andrew Wommack?

I became acquainted with Andrew on television. There was a lot of resistance on my part in the beginning because of religion and legalism, and I am still being healed from religion. But the more I listened to the grace message, the more it gave me a sense of confidence. I knew that God loved me. The last straw for me was John 13:34-35, which says that you shall know Jesus's disciples by the love they show for each other. I began to look around, and I wasn't experiencing that love in the church. That opened me up to hear what Andrew had to say.

What is your favorite teaching of Andrew's, and how has it impacted you?

Harnessing Your Emotions is my favorite teaching of Andrew's. It spoke to me personally. I was in an abusive marriage, and my emotions were not where they needed to be. I listened to Andrew, and he showed me in the Bible that God wouldn't ask us to do something that we are not capable of doing. I began to accept that I can control my emotions, and that helped me a lot.

What does partnership with Andrew Wommack Ministries mean to you?

I've heard his teachings about finances, and they helped me realize that I really have to plant seeds in an organization that has blessed me and is making a mark in the world. I want to be a part of it. It can't be just all talk. It needs to be about me moving forward, stepping out in faith, and putting my money where my mouth is.

Would you like to say anything to Andrew?

Thank you so much, Andrew, for all that I have learned. It's been really life-transforming, and my whole lifestyle has changed. I've stepped out in faith; I've given up the lifestyle that I was living in North Carolina to come here. I can say that even through all the hardships, it's been well worth it. I just thank you so much because if you had not been obedient to your calling, then I don't think any of this would have happened. I just can't tell you how grateful I am.



Verbal testimonies have been transcribed and edited for length and clarity.

