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The Donations of Many Provide Education for Future Ministry

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THE DONATIONS OF MANY PROVIDE EDUCATION FOR FUTURE MISSIONARY

BY BETHANY PRIEST '20

Global missions has always been the plan for Priscila (Pri) Gonzalez '18, a nursing major with a cross-cultural minor from Quito, Ecuador. The way there hasn't always been clear or simple, yet the Lord has provided through the generous, and sometimes unexpected, gifts of donors to ensure this future missionary gets on the field.

Pri was born into a missionary family and, while she wanted to find her own place in ministry, she always imagined she would follow her parents' example. Her parents, Daniel and Ana Gonzalez, met while attending Palabra de Vida Argentina, or Word of Life Argentina, a Bible and missions preparatory institute that is part of Word of Life Fellowship.

"Most little girls want to be a princess; I wanted to be a missionary," said Pri. "My plan was always to go to Word of Life Argentina, do the four-year program, and go straight into missions, but God's plan was slightly different than mine."

Pri visited Word of Life Bible Institute (WOLBI) in New York her junior year of high school and became

convinced she was meant to study there. Her dad needed a little more time accepting that God wanted his little girl to move thousands of miles from home, but he came around to the idea, and Pri applied and was accepted. However, even though the Gonzalez family received reduced tuition as Word of Life missionaries, the cost was still out of reach.

Then Pri received her financial aid package from Word of Life. The paperwork revealed the expected WOLBI staff scholarship, equivalent to 70 percent of tuition, but there was something else: the remaining 30 percent was paid in full by an anonymous donor. One person's generosity allowed Pri to attend WOLBI in New York, which set her up for God's next amazing provision.

While Pri studied in New York, intending to enter missions after the two-year program, she was introduced to Cedarville University. A close relationship between Cedarville and WOLBI meant a number of faculty, including Cedarville president Dr. Thomas White, taught Pri's classes. "I didn't really want to go to college, but God started moving my heart," she explained.

Though her mom was not a nurse, Pri saw how her care for people's physical hurts was a powerful opportunity to express the love of Jesus. When a family in Michigan invited Pri to live with them between her first and second year at WOLBI, it looked like God was opening a door for her to stay in the U.S. and attend nursing school.

She applied to schools in Michigan, but she also applied to Cedarville. Pri was guaranteed scholarships at Cedarville as an international student and WOLBI

transfer student, but the remaining cost was still beyond what her family could support.

As Cedarville's orientation weekend came closer, Pri resigned herself to leaving New York and heading home. Her plane ticket to Argentina seemed like tangible proof that nursing school wasn't God's plan for her after all. Or so she thought.

On the Saturday of Cedarville's orientation weekend, Pri returned to the Word of Life campus after being without cell reception for a few hours. Her phone was flooded with missed calls from the Dean of Women.

"I called her back, freaking out, and she said, 'Pri, I have a family here that wants to pay for your school. How much money do you need?'" Pri said. "I went to my student account, looked up the number, and gave it to her. She called me back and said 'The family wants to pay for that. Pack up your bags and go to school.'"

Three days later, the day before classes began, Pri arrived at Cedarville enrolled as a nursing student. The anonymous family's donation, combined with several other scholarships and grants, made it possible.

God continues to show that Cedarville is exactly where He wants her to be. The list of grants, scholarships, and other contributions has grown every year, showing how the faithfulness of God's people, regardless

the size of their contribution, is used by the Lord to accomplish His purposes.

"God has opened doors that were sealed shut," said Pri. "God has me here, so what's a little money? It seems like a lot to me, but what is it to God?"

During spring break this year, Pri led a Cedarville team on a 10-day missions trip to her home country of Ecuador. The students were welcomed into mountain community public schools to lead vacation Bible school (VBS) and share the Gospel. Plans are underway to bring VBS and a medical clinic to a remote part of Ecuador in summer 2019. Combining children's ministry with her nursing skills is Pri's long-term missions goal.

Pri has learned a valuable truth in her time at Cedarville so far: "God will provide. He'll open doors. Even though it's not my plan at all, His plan will be perfect in every way, and He is preparing me for something bigger than I can imagine."

To accomplish His plan, God used people who have faithfully and generously given, whether big or small. "Something that you would think of as a small scholarship can be huge. College was a dream, something we would never be able to afford," Pri explained. "Even a hundred dollars, for a missionary kid, can make a difference."

Bethany Priest '20 is a student Public Relations writer for Cedarville University.

KURIGERS' LASTING GIFT TO CEDARVILLE



This year, Cedarville was blessed with the largest estate gift in University history. Roger and Charlotte Kuriger designated a majority of their estate to Cedarville, a bequest totaling \$3.1 million. The monies have been designated to create the endowed Roger and Charlotte Kuriger Scholarship Fund, which will benefit students preparing for careers in advanced practice nursing or accounting. The Kurigers, who had been faithful but modest supporters of Cedarville over the years, have in this final gift made a difference in the lives of students seeking an education marked by excellence and grounded in biblical truth. We thank Roger and Charlotte for making Cedarville part of their estate planning, and we encourage you to seek the Lord for how Cedarville might be part of your legacy as well. Join a growing number of individuals who have named Cedarville University in their will or estate plan. For more about our gift planning resources or PhilanthroCorp's estate planning services, contact Albert Grunenwald, Associate Vice President for Development, at 937-766-8600 or agrunenwald@cedarville.edu.

By investing in scholarships, you are an integral part of transforming lives — like Pri's — for vocational distinction and Gospel impact.

Give now at cedarville.edu/giving