gift of missions

BY MAEGAN DOCKERY



The Baptist Student Union (BSU) Advancement Fund aids Baptist collegiate ministries on college campuses across the country and in areas where local Baptist congregations are not able to support Baptist student ministries.

This grant was recently awarded to the Baptist Convention of New England. Collegiate director Andy Haynes said the funds would be used "to support our 10:2 intern program, which provides recent graduates and seminary students support to serve in campus ministry on a campus in New England."

When you give to the BSU Advancement Fund, you make ministry possible. In 2022, Lissy Sandoval received the grant as a stipend for her internship at the University of Massachusetts Lowell. "Through my ministry on campus, I have been able to teach multiple women to become faithful disciple makers who are committed to the work of discipleship in our local church," she explained. "This pipeline has developed into a strong group of women alumni, some who now volunteer with our campus ministry and others who disciple students they meet on Sundays and women in their community or workplaces."

Because of this grant, Lissy is able to focus on working with more women to build relationships with them and help them come to know Christ.

"One of my favorite stories is of a girl named Carla," Lissy said. "Carla grew up going to church but did not know what it meant to be a disciple of Jesus who makes disciples. In her junior year of college, she began to read the Bible with Taylor, who comes from a Buddhist

background. Through this time together, Taylor became a follower of Jesus. Taylor then joined our disciple-making group and began to share the gospel with her friends and read Scripture with others. She continues to grow and be a fruitful member of our church. As for Carla, seeing the transformation that happened in Taylor, she became even more passionate about sharing the gospel. She is now one of our rising leaders who leverages her life both in her vocation and as a volunteer to continue to make disciples."

Because someone gave to the BSU Advancement Fund, this story is possible. Because believers found their missions passion through collegiate ministry, Lissy is able to continue her ministry and disciple more and more women just like Carla.

"My goal in ministry is to raise up more Carlas," shared Lissy. "I want to raise up women who get a vision of disciple making and leverage their lives and their gifts to serve the Lord faithfully."

As more people see the difference being made in New England and all over the world through collegiate ministry, we pray others will find their missions passion through the BSU Advancement Fund so even more college students will come to know Christ. "The BSU Advancement Fund grant was honestly an answer to prayer at a time I wasn't sure I'd be able to continue in full-time ministry," said Lissy. "I am truly grateful for the support you've provided and for your prayers."

Visit wmufoundation.com/local-ministries to learn more about the BSU Advancement Fund and to give a one-time or monthly gift.