



***pastoral leadership***  
INSTITUTE

**online convenient ... ministry-focused**

### *Testimonials from PLI Students and Graduates ...*

I plodded through PLI taking just one course per quarter. Although I looked forward to finishing, when I reached the end, I was oddly reflective. You see, I owe a lot to PLI. There was personal encouragement and motivation from Greg and Diana, sixteen new relationships with equally dedicated and very patient eProfs, and friendships with dozens of other students. The course material was relevant and practical. I have more confidence now knowing that my ministry is conducted within a framework of whole biblical truth. I have been exposed to knowledge and wisdom from some of our greatest thinkers. That has made me all the more curious to learn more. Thank you, PLI, for helping fulfill my dreams for ministry.

-- Gene Deverick, Indiana, graduate



PLI has definitely played a key role in my walk with God and the journey He has chosen for me. With PLI I found that a family that came along with the education. Although I hit a spiritual storm in my personal life that meant dropping out of the program for a season, the people in PLI did not drop out of my life. Their prayer support and timely words of encouragement as I struggled through this difficult time proved to me that PLI is more than just learning the Bible; it's about caring about the things of God. What I've learned has already been useful in my ministry, and I pray that God will allow me to resume my education soon. PLI has taught me to care about people like Jesus did. People don't care how much you know until they know how much you care.

-- Marshall Hoberecht, Kansas, student



I want to thank everyone for all their hard-work—the eProfs, my coach, financial donors, Greg, and Diana. PLI has been such a blessing to me. It has provided me with QUALITY education and training while incorporating QUALITY application through the internship. This year I have faced many "opportunities to grow" and spiritual attacks in preparing to follow God's calling. The prayers the PLI family offered on my behalf throughout this year have been felt and deeply appreciated. The financial assistance I received -- God's provision through your generosity -- has allowed me to continue being equipped for every good work. I am grateful for each person who has played a part in my PLI experience and development.

-- Ricky Hull, Michigan, graduate

The program has challenged me in many ways and given me the needed experience for successful ministry. What a great tool for preparing God's men for God's ministry!

-- Joe Forest, Nebraska, student

When God called me to share His gospel, I needed a way to get to the next level. At forty-three years of age, going to college full-time for four years (or more) did not seem to be an option. With a wife and two great teenage children, totally rearranging our lives would have been disastrous. PLI was created with me in mind. I praise God for allowing the Missionary Church to be proactive in their training of pastors rather than reactive.

-- Mike Van Cleave, Arkansas, graduate



PLI has been such a blessing for me, allowing me the education I needed to prepare for ministry. I also made many lifelong friendships with other "cyber students" as we met each week in our chat room classes. PLI is a top-notch program with top-notch staff.

-- Tom Burgett, Michigan, graduate



The "icing on the cake" with PLI has been the personal relationships developed along the way. PLI eProfs are phenomenal; we share thoughts and seek answers to hard questions in group chats and one-on-one e-mail; but the wonderful camaraderie I have enjoyed with PLI classmates of such eclectic backgrounds is beyond words. I love them all. One classmate has become as close as any family member could ever be, proving that personal connections are not sacrificed with online learning. At times the online format even affords more intimacy – baring hearts and souls – than one usually finds in the traditional classroom setting. Each PLI classmate holds a special place in my heart, my family of God.

-- Joe Himes, Pennsylvania, graduate & eProf



I found the eProfs very knowledgeable, the courses top-notch, and the community warm and encouraging. PLI is an *effective* and *vital* conduit to usher the next wave of pastors and ministers up to the frontline of battle...and I'm glad to be a part of it.

-- Jim Dover, Arkansas, graduate



I really enjoyed my time in PLI classes. I met many new friends and some really great eProfs. Every one was a great source of information and encouragement. Classes were demanding and the work hard, but well worth the effort.

-- Bob Heath, Virginia, graduate

I have seen so much growth in my life as a direct result of my time spent with PLI. It has given me a confidence that has allowed me to become a teacher and elder in my church. Although I am not yet a licensed pastor, I truly have a pastor's heart for the people God has allowed me to minister to, and I know that is because of PLI.

-- Mark Resor, Indiana, student



We are so thankful to PLI for the education that has equipped us with the tools we needed for the ministry God has called us to. As parents of five children, we knew that going back to college would have been nearly impossible (time and finances), so PLI was a gift from God – convenient and affordable, equipping both of us without requiring us to leave the mission field in which we were already working.

-- John & Annette Eastis, Washington, graduates



After two years of PLI classes I can thankfully say that because of my studies, I better understand God's Word. Consequently, I am a better teacher and preacher. Thanks to all who support PLI! Your generosity, hard work, and prayer are reaping priceless Kingdom rewards in my church now and wherever the Lord leads me in the future.

-- Adam Koehler, Indiana, student



I really appreciated my PLI class experiences. The class work challenged me to grow and helped provide greater clarity in my own spiritual development. Often we focus on the end result – reaching a goal; but some of the greatest growth and blessing happens while we're in process, during the preparation times in life.

-- Rod McQuillin, Ohio, student



As for PLI's systematic theology class, I LOVED IT. It was hard, challenging and informative. I learned so much. There was no room for slacking or laziness; but as far as I am concerned, there is no other way to learn theology. What really sealed the deal for me was that my pastor/coach was impressed with the material we were covering when we met weekly to discuss the material. He was so impressed that he has been promoting PLI as a result. When it comes to studying God, I do not expect to understand it all; but I do want to be stretched to my full capacity.

-- Ben Keller, Indiana, student

Thanks to all eProfs, fellow students, and donors for giving time, energy, and resources over the past few years. PLI has impacted my life in so many ways. Not only have I been equipped to serve Christ more effectively, but I've also built great relationships within the PLI family. Although I've finished my courses, I know the friends I've made at PLI will last a lifetime. Thanks for everything!!

-- Eddie Rivera, Washington, graduate



I can't say enough how valuable PLI has been for me. The eProf was incredible, the material was immediately relevant to my situation, and don't even get me started on Logos ... that program is worth its weight in gold. I am so thankful for the work that God is doing through PLI! I absolutely LOVE PLI and have recommended it several times.

-- Adam Lockhart, Michigan, student



I would like to thank MCUSA for providing PLI. It has been an invaluable resource for me. One of the better experiences in education I have had.

-- David Thompson, Tennessee, graduate



I have to tell you that PLI was more than just a challenge, it was darn right hard! I've been to college, but PLI was outside anything I'd ever experienced in learning. I believe it's the way of the future for ministry. Seminary life may be a thing of the past in the next few decades. I feel that I gained more knowledge and wisdom in the four years of PLI training than I would of gotten from a seminary. Also, PLI has allowed me to still work with the people that God has called me with to reach with the gospel and to keep my family life intact. No tie, no suit, just jeans, tee shirt and tennies are my garb of choice.

-- Jim Bennett, Michigan, graduate



PLI has impacted my life immensely, and I will always remain a part of PLI and contribute to its further progress and development in whatever way I can by the grace of God. I will miss the chats, my eProfs, and mates. Even though we may keep in touch by e-mail, "that class thing" will be missing. There is joy in class. I love PLI.

-- Nana Couffie, Austria, student

## *from PLI eProfs, Coaches, and Friends ...*

I like the availability, accessibility, and avenue of ministry PLI has opened to men who otherwise might be excluded from the grandest call known to man: preaching Christ and Him crucified.

-- Tom Murphy, Dir of Dev & Communication  
Missionary Church, Inc.



A chat room eliminates the in-grown biases that we all bring to classroom settings. Not knowing what someone looks like, how they talk, or what their "desk-side" demeanor is can be a very positive thing because it strips away the external and leaves us with each other in Christ alone. A PLI chat room, I have found, is exceptionally authentic... even more so than a traditional classroom.

As a result of this authenticity, I have found PLI students to be much more willing to bare their souls and share from the depths of their hearts than students in traditional classrooms. In fact, I have found that PLI students forge closer interpersonal connections too. PLI students may not see each other in the flesh, but they see each other in the heart on a very deep level.

PLI students can immediately apply what they are learning within their communities, their churches and their families. PLI allows a student to take the action items from the classroom and immediately jump into the fray.

-- Steve Ganger, Indiana, eProf



I was at first skeptical of the PLI program, but have found that the end result has allowed God to produce a respectable, worthy minister of the Gospel who is equipped to do the work of ministry. The local ministry experience [PLI's internship] is vital to the character building of the student.

-- Larry Salsbury, Michigan, Coach



I really enjoy the chat format. I've taught online for [another Christian university], and it is more of a "discussion board" approach that requires daily login, but very little "live" interaction. I really enjoy the "real time" interaction of PLI's chat room more! I think it creates more of a sense of the classroom experience as well. I love doing this! What a privilege to learn together with these guys!

-- Dr. Stan Buck, Indiana, eProf

I think PLI is a great program. In fact, I would be inclined at many points to choose it over a four-year college program because it is ministry-oriented along with the academics. Although I have a seminary degree, at some points I feel that PLI does a better job of preparing people for ministry than my own seminary experience did.

-- Anonymous, Oregon, coach



PLI students learn from a variety of approaches – from textbooks (cognitive), assignments (practical), chat room interaction (emotional). They also learn from the coach who oversees their practical ministry and serves as a mentor for them (relational). Even as a university lecturer, with regular classroom time with the students, I cannot go into the field with every student. But every PLI student has a mentor/coach who can go into the field with him or her.

-- Dr. Wayne Allen, Indiana, eProf



Wow! When I was in college we never had to do those things [that are required in PLI's internship]. We took the college courses, but had no practical experience. You are doing a good job training our pastors.

-- Jim Keller, Michigan, District Superintendent



I'm really excited about the kind of men and women PLI is surfacing and the commitment I see to reaching the lost in non-traditional ways. [PLI] students are concerned for the church to continue to be relevant in a changing culture.

-- Terry Linhart, Indiana, eProf



When we finished our last chat, it was hard to believe it had gone by so fast. For me it was a blessing to share in the lives of these men -- both in and outside the class. (I was privileged to meet one in person to talk.) Once again, the process seems to have proven its functionality and effectiveness. Thanks for the chance to be a part.

-- Jeff Kephart, Ohio, eProf