

FOLLOWING A PATH OF SERVICE

Lydia Imhoff, Class of 2004

“I never expected to become a missionary. I thought that was for super spiritual people and super bold people!”

As Lydia looks back at the thirteen years since she graduated from Bear Creek, she marvels at how God has led her from earning a biology degree from Seattle Pacific University to working with VIDApasionada, a Christian church in Madrid, Spain.

When Lydia graduated from college, she went to work for EarthCorps, a non-profit organization that utilizes volunteers to plant trees, build trails, and preserve the environment. She soon realized that she found more joy in working with the people than with the environment, so she accepted a position at L’Arche, caring for people with disabilities. When some friends invited her to come to Madrid and help with their ministry, she jumped at the chance. “I knew their ministry, and how they connected with people through teaching English and in other activities, in order to share the love of Jesus with them,” Lydia states.



Lydia Imhoff (green blouse) with her husband, Warren, and friends in Madrid

She soon began coordinating the children’s ministry in the church, as well as supporting other ministries, and leading English clubs with the affiliated non-profit. Much of her work involves building relationships and encouraging people to search for God. “It doesn’t feel like work though, when we go out for breakfast, or go hiking together, or go to a concert,” she comments. “A lot of the things I love the most are also the biggest challenges! I love stretching my skills to be creative with the kids, train the teachers, and create systems to make kids church sustainable.”

On her second day in Madrid, nearly two years ago, Lydia accompanied the teen group from the church on an outing. On March 4 this year, she married the leader of that group, Warren Flores, and they continue to work together in the ministry. While she misses her family, friends, and cheddar cheese, Lydia and Warren intend to remain in Spain, although, she notes, “We are open to moving to other countries if we feel that is where we can best serve.”

Being a missionary and far from home comes with challenges, Lydia notes, “But in the end, I didn’t come here to be comfortable. I came here to serve people. In Seattle, I really experienced God’s love changing my life, which made it easy to tell my story to other people. And I’ve learned that we can all share the love of God wherever we are, whether we are at home or on the other side of the world.”





STAY CONNECTED

The Bear Creek School Alumni and Parents of Alumni Leadership Committees have fun events planned throughout the upcoming year where you can reconnect with friends and find out what's new at Bear Creek. We hope you will join us for some or all of these activities. In addition, we love to have alumni and parents of alumni come to any of our many drama or musical performances or athletics events. Check the calendar on tbcs.org for up-to-the-minute dates, times, and locations.

PARENTS OF ALUMNI FALL GATHERING

Friday, September 22, 6:00 p.m.—9:00 p.m.
Woodhouse Winery, Woodinville

GREEN & GOLD NIGHT

Tuesday, November 21, 5:00 p.m.—8:30 p.m.
Bear Creek Gym

ALL ALUMNI FALL GATHERING

Wednesday, November 22, 5:00 p.m.—7:00 p.m.
Flatstick Pub, Kirkland

HOMECOMING BASKETBALL GAMES

Friday, December 15, 4:30 p.m.—9:00 p.m.
Bear Creek Gym

SPRING SERVICE PROJECT AND BRUNCH

Alumni and Parents of Alumni
Saturday, March 3, 10:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m.
Marilyn R. Nagel Commons, Upper School

ALUMNI VS. STUDENTS ANNUAL SOCCER GAME

Saturday, June 16, 10:00 a.m.—12:30 p.m.
Owens Field

CLASS OF 2008 TEN YEAR ALUMNI REUNION

July - date and location TBD

Please be sure to update your email and home address, so you will receive invitations and more details. Go to www.tbcs.org/alumni to submit your current information. If you are interested in serving on a committee, or helping to organize programs for alumni or parents of alumni, please contact Lori Lee, Alumni Relations Manager, at 425-898-1720 ext. 324 or lori.lee@tbcs.org.

As she looks back at how Bear Creek shaped her, Lydia reflects on the importance of the relationships that she formed here. “They have been a great encouragement through college and even now! My teachers showed me what it means to be passionate about your subject and about your students, and I hope I can carry that forward with my students. And the fact that we could learn about God in every class really helped me see how God is in every part of our lives.”

“Of course, I am eternally indebted to Sra. Llanos for teaching me Spanish—I never realized I would be speaking it every day! And even though I am not working in biology, when Mrs. Dunn taught us to look at the world with wonderment, it extended to every subject, and to people also. When I can look at people from other cultures with openness and curiosity, rather than judgment, it opens a door for a relationship.”

Lydia embodies the wisdom, compassion, and courage of our alumni, boldly following the path that God has laid out for her.