

- Personal Details

Kristen Lucas Smith was born and raised in Los Angeles, California. Her father is from Honduras and her mother is African-American. She used this cultural advantage to not only learn how to read, write and speak Spanish but it became her passion. She and her husband are guardians of 3 children who were abused by a family member.

- Educational Background

Kristen received her High School diploma from West Covina High School. She received her Bachelor's of Arts Degree from California State University of Los Angeles with a major in Spanish Literature.

- Professional/Ministerial Experience

Seven years ago she started her own business, Project L.U.C.A.S., Inc. (Languages Unifying Community and Success), where her vision is to bridge the language gap in businesses, education, and churches and empower individuals to learn a second language. She felt the greater need to teach Spanish to children in homeschooling and adults in Occupational Spanish in an ever-growing community of Spanish speakers.

- Intention to Pursue Another Academic Degree

She is currently working on her Masters degree in Christian Leadership and plans on going further to get her PhD in the Spanish Language.

- Ministerial Affirmation / Ordination / Credentials

She was ordained a minister of the Gospel in 2011 and works alongside her husband who is the Senior Pastor of Destiny Christian Center.

- Teaching Experience

She has taught elementary (Maple Elementary), middle (Merryhill), high school (Connecting Waters Charter) and Occupational Spanish to full-time employees of Big Valley Ford, Wells Fargo and UC Davis. She also taught English to adult migrant workers through Sacramento State University and Hispanic employees of Simpson StrongTie (a welding company in Stockton).

- Courses Taught

She has taught Spanish and English (ESL) to all ages.

- Qualified Courses to Teach

The course I am qualified to teach the Spanish Language (Levels 1beg.,2inter.,3adv.).

- Honors and Awards

In 2009, the Sacramento Observer newspaper featured Kristen in the top 30 under 30 in Sacramento who are business entrepreneurs who use their talent to help the community.

- International Missions

She has taught English to children in Honduras (her home country). She also dedicated a year of service to mission work with Project Hospitality in Staten Island, New York. She also led youth girls on a mission trip to Mexico to build homes for needy families.

- Professional References

She has a close personal and business relationship with the Spanos family of Stockton, CA. Michael and Helen Spanos have partnered with her to teach private tutoring to their children for 5 years and they also donate Christmas food baskets to Destiny Christian Center's Toy Giveaway Outreach.

- Personal Skills, Strengths and Passions

Kristen's passion and love for the Spanish community has opened doors for traveling across the world to make a difference.

- Hobbies and Interests

She currently enjoys bike riding and spending time with her family.

- Community Service

She feeds the homeless once a month with Ambassadors of Christ. She also does many food, toy and clothing outreaches with her church to bring hope and love to her community. She also has partnered with PACT (People and Congregations Together) to bring a solution to the problem of high crime and violence in the city of Stockton. She participates with her husband in night walks with PACT, to establish relationships with neighbors in high crime/gang areas by interpreting for the Spanish community.

- Current Participation in the Local Church

She is an active member of Destiny Christian Center and serves as a co-pastor with her husband. She is the leader of the prayer team for DCC and the hospitality ministry. Also is the Cohort advisor for both Stockton and So. Sacramento cohort and utilizes her time advising, tutoring and mentoring the students who are apart of SUM.

