



From the desk of Paul R. Madson: July 2018

Global Training Network

Training Leaders, Transforming Lives

Field Update from Zambia and Zimbabwe



Top photo: The entire group of 99 pastors and leaders we provided training for in Lusaka, Zambia.
Next photo: Lisa is shown here with two of the women's ministry leaders that she was privileged to get to know during the training time.

As I write this, Lisa and I are in southern Africa (Zambia & Zimbabwe) with a team from GTN where we have been training Pastors and their wives, key ministry leaders and school administrators / teachers. Carl Green, Scott Countryman and I have trained just over 300 pastors in four separate training events in the cities of Ndola, Lusaka and Livingstone (Zambia) – as well as in the city of Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe.

I had the privilege to teach on “*Pastoral Lessons Learned from 35+ Years in Ministry Leadership.*” The response from the pastors was warm and well-received. I’m always amazed at how common our experience is as humans across nations and cultures – all of us fallen and broken, yet made in God’s image and therefore possessing dignity.

Simultaneous to our training, Lisa, Patsy Green and Bonnie Kotler trained over 300 pastors wives and key women’s ministry leaders in all four cities.

While Lisa and I were involved in training pastors and their wives, Larry Green and Steve Abrahamson (two top school administrators in the USA) were training over 140 administrators and school teachers from Zambia and Zimbabwe. *(continued)*



Almost all of these pastors and ministry leaders have had no formal biblical, theological or ministry training. GTN has been their “Bible school.” When we finished the trainings in all four cities, we passed out certificates of completion.

As each graduate came up to receive their certificate, there was a look of quiet gratitude and joy etched on their face. Fellow pastors and friends were taking photos and recording this special moment on video.

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Charles, one of the pastors from Livingstone, told me afterward that he is so grateful for GTN’s training over the years because it has taught him how to preach and teach verse-by-verse through books of the Bible. Prior to receiving our training, he would jump from one subject to another randomly from week to week. This left him frustrated, wondering what he should preach each Sunday.

Charles (pictured top left) said that since he has begun to preach expositionally, his whole congregation has changed – they have now become excited about learning what Scripture has to say within its original context, while applying it to their current cultural setting.

Now Charles feels like his congregation is truly maturing and growing strong in their faith as they grow strong in God’s Word.

The doors for training pastors and leaders throughout the Majority World continue to open at an exponential rate. While on this trip alone, invitations came to train several groups of pastors and leaders in Namibia and Mozambique.



As we enter our 15th year as a ministry, we look back upon God’s grace in allowing us the privilege and opportunity to have trained over 270,000 pastors and leaders in 76 countries. Our staff of over 125 serve faithfully and tirelessly in some of *the hardest places in the world.*

You have been part of this journey with us! Without your partnership, we could not have done all of this ministry globally. As Scripture says, “*one plants, one waters... but God causes the growth.*” (1 Cor. 3:6-7)

As we look to the next 15 years, our prayer is that God will do “*far more than we could ever dare ask or imagine*” – all for His honor and His glory and the advancement of His Kingdom globally!

We’re so grateful for partners like you, who are generously contributing to the strengthening of God’s Church worldwide. Thank you!



Introducing Don and Paula Wagner

Don and Paula Wagner were raised in St. Louis, married in 1986, and have three adult children. They have served as missionaries in Kenya, India, Greece, Central America, Zambia, and the USA since 1994.

Don studied linguistics at the Summer Institute of Linguistics in Dallas, TX to prepare him to serve as a Linguistic Computer Consultant with Wycliffe Bible Translators (WBT). Don and Paula served with WBT for 8 years during which time they lived in Nairobi, Kenya. Paula worked homeschooling their three children and caring for their house and family. Don served to train Kenyan and expatriate Bible translators how to use the computer and Bible translation software to speed the task of Bible Translation.

Don answered a call to seminary in 2002. He graduated from Covenant Theological Seminary (CTS) with a Masters in Theological Studies. Paula continued to homeschool their children while Don was in seminary and also worked at the public library and served as the church librarian. Don was ordained as a preaching and teaching elder in 2003 and has continued to serve the Church in various leadership and teaching roles for children's, youth, and adult ministries in the local church in the various places they have lived around the world.

Since graduating from CTS, Don has served as a team leader for church planting and a theological educator in Asia and Central America. The Wagners joined the EFCA mission board, ReachGlobal (RG), in 2012. Don served with RG as co-director of the International Bible Institutes of Central America providing biblical and theological education for pastors and church leaders throughout Central America. This was challenging work as more than



1000 pastors and church leaders responded to the opportunity to receive biblically grounded, theological education. While living in Central America, Paula developed and facilitated teaching Bible stories and related crafts for children living in slum areas of Central America. She also supported other missionaries in their ministries with children.

In response to invitations from pastors in South America, Africa, and Asia to expand the network of Bible institutes globally, Don and Paula joined with Global Training Network in June of 2018. They continue serving the Lord together with a deep desire to equip pastors and church leaders around the world, helping them to rightly handle the Word of God.

Don and Paula are passionate about evangelism, personal discipleship, and mentoring others to equip them to continue the process of discipling and teaching others prescribed for us in 2 Timothy 2:2.

Quotable Quote

“When success is our goal, it is hard to resist the temptation to preach an easy gospel, which attracts everybody and offends nobody, but ends up being a ‘different gospel’ and not Jesus’.

— Juan Stam



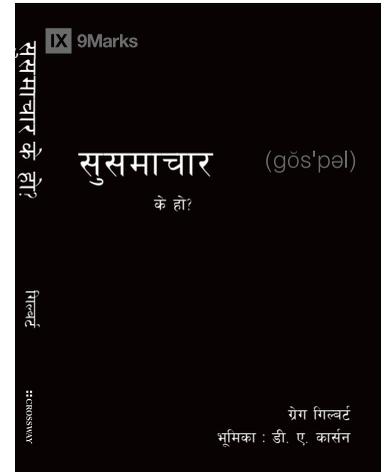
Update from the President

I wanted to thank those of you who have partnered with us to expand our *Project Equip Nepali Pastors*. **Through your generosity, we've reached the \$20,000 matching grant goal!** Praise God! We are incredibly grateful for your prayers and commitment to seeing Nepali pastors and Christian leaders equipped with biblical and theological training.

One exciting aspect of our work in Nepal has been the translation of the excellent book *What is the Gospel?* by Greg Gilbert (part of the 9Marks series). This translation project has been the fruit of our partnership with The Gospel Coalition International Outreach.

Translation of this book into Nepali is nearing completion, and we are thrilled to be able to begin the distribution of this great resource among our national partners.

Once again, thank you for your heart to see pastors and leaders given tools for the head, hands and heart in the nation of Nepal, and around the world!



For His Glory,

Paul R. Madson
Founder and President
2 Timothy 2:2



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Training the Untrained to Reach the Unreached