



From the desk of Paul R. Madson: December 2018

Global Training Network

Training Leaders, Transforming Lives

Snapshots From The Field



Learning that Leads to Transformation

From John Lasley in Uganda

Pastor Roy in Uganda is a bright young man who is hungry to learn the Word of God. At the end of the week of training, **he handed us a handwritten letter (unsolicited) describing what he had learned.** Here are a few of the things he listed:

- I learned that **the Word of God is the only authority** I have as a leader. It is above all man-made rules and traditions.
- I also learned that **whatever I want my church members to do or learn, I should do it first**, not forgetting that my personal relationship with God is more important than ministry work.
- I learned that whatever I have been taught is not mine alone, but I have to **teach it to others** (to mentor and seek mentorships). 2 Timothy 2:2
- I have learned to **be accountable in every area** of my life and ministry.
- I have learned that I **need to prepare sermons well**, ahead of time, and comprehensively.
- I used to think that the problems in my life are from the devil and I would pray that God would take them away. But now, **I know that God uses them to change me...** as per scriptures Deuteronomy 8:2 and Romans 8:28.



Digging into the Word

From Joel Madson in Cambodia

Our goal for this training is to teach through the book of Ephesians while demonstrating and teaching good Bible study skills. This idea came out of a request from last year's trip, where the pastors asked for us to teach through a book of the Bible. This day exceeded my expectations! Our team of three did a great job unpacking the Word.

The feedback was overwhelming! This group of 45+ pastors and leaders, participated in discussion, eagerly dug into the Word and listened intently.



Hope and Healing in Christ

From Rick and Kathy Ragan in Central Africa

29 Sudanese refugee ministry leaders and families came for healing and training. Hours were spent discussing questions such as, "where is God in evil and suffering", listening to their painful experiences, helping them apply scripture to their deep pain, and training them to do the same for others.

The last afternoon ended with smiles, laughter, singing and testimonies. Their journey is not over, but they have hope and healing in Christ.



Breaking through barriers in Rajasthan

From Patricia Niednagel in India

As I began this conference, with the women having never experienced anything like it before, I knew that only God could break through their reserve and self-doubt. As I asked people to pray, I saw miracles unfolding...

The women became engaged in the teaching, interacting, asking questions. Then yesterday, one of the illiterate women asked to share one of the teachings in front of the group. This is unheard of in Rajasthan, as village women are never allowed to share in front of anyone. It was powerful!



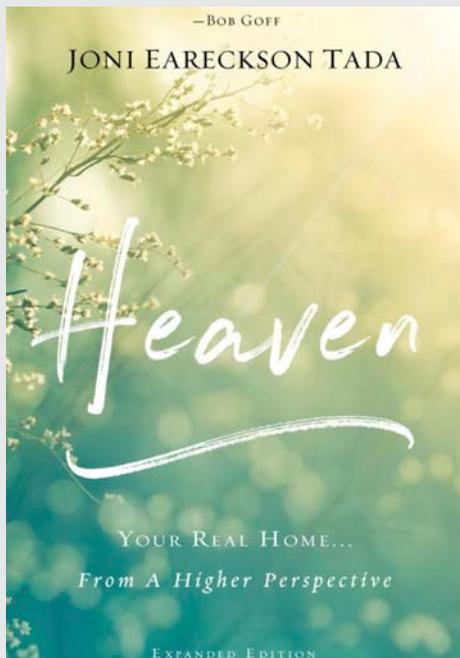
Now *that* is a well worn Bible.

From Carl Green in Liberia

The pastor pictured above participated in a recent training in Ganta, Liberia. In addition to the GTN training, God provided the team with a great opportunity to share on public radio:

"One morning we (Carl, Rick Rodriguez and Glenn Miller) walked to a secular radio station in Monrovia where we were interviewed and able to share about our upcoming trainings in the two Liberian towns. We were expecting a 2-3 minute radio rush job, but were on the air for 30 minutes without any commercial interruptions."

Recommended Book



Heaven: Your Real Home... From a Higher Perspective

By Joni Eareckson Tada

From the book description: “For the past twenty-five years, Heaven has inspired us to live well on earth even as we long for eternity. Drawing on Scripture, Joni Eareckson Tada answers the deepest questions of our hearts about what heaven will be like, who we will see there, and who we will be there.

This updated and expanded edition of Joni’s classic brings a new understanding of what heaven is, along with new mysteries and hopes. Now in her late 60s, Joni is much closer to heaven than she was when she first wrote the book in her mid-40s. And she says, “*I will soon—soon! — hear His voice, look into His eyes, and feel His embrace. And He will say, ‘Welcome home, Joni.’*” It is from this vantage point that Joni now speaks about how we can live for Jesus as we look forward to our real home.

As a quadriplegic for fifty years, Joni has also endured cancer and extreme ongoing pain. She doesn’t speak lightly when she reminds us that, “*God knows the precise tools to use in your life to cut, facet, cleanse, and refine the diamond that is your eternal soul.... Every good thing that God has ever given you will last for all eternity—including the best part of every affliction.*”

At the end of each chapter in this updated book, Joni includes additional reflections that speak to where she is now, higher up on the hill of perspective. She calls these thoughts *Climbing Higher*, and that’s her invitation to all who make this journey with her.

Key Scripture

“She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.’ All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: ‘Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel’ (which means, God with us).”

- Matthew 1:21–23 ESV

Quotable Quote

“We have tried to make God in our image, and because we have made Him in our image, we think we can explain everything He is supposed to do. If you can explain everything about God, it really isn’t God.”

- A.W. Tozer

President's Address

As we come to the close of another year, I'm reminded again of God's goodness to allow us the privilege of partnering together in this global work.

We would not have been able to train over 270,000 pastors and leaders in 76 countries over the past 15 years without **faithful partners like you**. *Thank you!*

Looking ahead to 2019, it's exciting to think about all that we believe God wants to accomplish through GTN in the coming year.

Our goal is to see God provide \$450,000 by the end of this year in order to help us expand our training ministry to more pastors in more places over the next 12 months.

Like most ministries and mission organizations, we depend on year-end special gifts for a large portion of our annual ministry budget.

Matching Gift Opportunity

If the Lord would lead you to give a special year-end gift, **it will be doubled up to \$75,000**. Thank you in advance for your kind and gracious consideration of this request. *(to give, simply use the enclosed response card or visit www.globaltrainingnetwork.org/give)*

By God's Grace and for His Glory,



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



*Paul & Lisa,
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