



From the desk of Paul R. Madson: November 2017

Global Training Network

Training Leaders, Transforming Lives

Influencing the Influencers

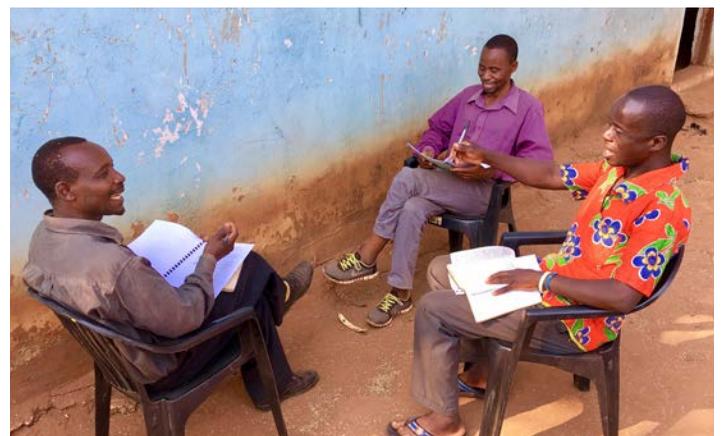
By Training the Untrained & Encouraging the Discouraged

I recently returned home from a four country trip to Africa - visiting Malawi, Zambia, Zimbabwe and South Africa. My main goal was to interview recipients of GTN's training. I heard story after story of lives and churches gradually being transformed through a deeper understanding of God's Word. Here are a few photos from my trip. Thank you for praying!



The Outdoor Classroom

GTN Staff members, Dr. Bob and Eileen Edmondson, provided training one day outside under a big tree. This outdoor setting is more common throughout the Majority World than most westerners realize. It resembles the culture and ministry style of Jesus far more than our modern structures.



Time for Personal Reflection

Three pastors from Malawi found a spot in the shade to sit together and talk through the discussion points from the day's training. This is a common practice in all of our training - breaking into small groups to discuss, digest and apply what they are learning.



A Joyful Spirit

Malawi is ranked by the World Bank as one of the 5 poorest countries on earth... AND YET they worship with the biggest smiles and the most joyful spirits. Their passion for Jesus is infectious!



The Graduates

The group of Christian leaders and pastors (pictured above along with some of their families) completed GTN's 3-year training program with Dr. Bob and Eileen Edmondson. They are proudly displaying the certificate indicating the completion of these courses.



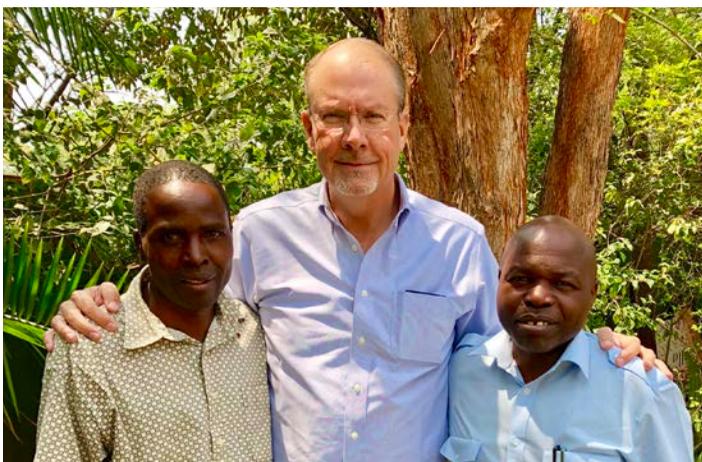
The Smile Says It All

GTN staff member, Dr. Bob Edmondson, hands out the official certificate of completion to one of our graduates.



Can you imagine?

I had an incredible time with this group of pastors while I was in Malawi. They are a handful of the 121 pastors who received a week of training this summer from GTN Staff member Scott Countryman. All 121 pastors have less than an 8th grade education - with no biblical or theological training. *The average person involved in a weekly church bible study in America knows more about the Bible than they do.* Can you imagine?



A Biblical Understanding of Counseling

Pictured at left with me are Pastor Godfrey and Pastor Wellington, whom I met with in Zimbabwe. They have received training from GTN Staff members Rick and Kathy Ragan, and expressed the profound impact that the Ragan's training (specifically on the subject of counseling) has made in their own lives, their families, as well as their pastoral ministry.

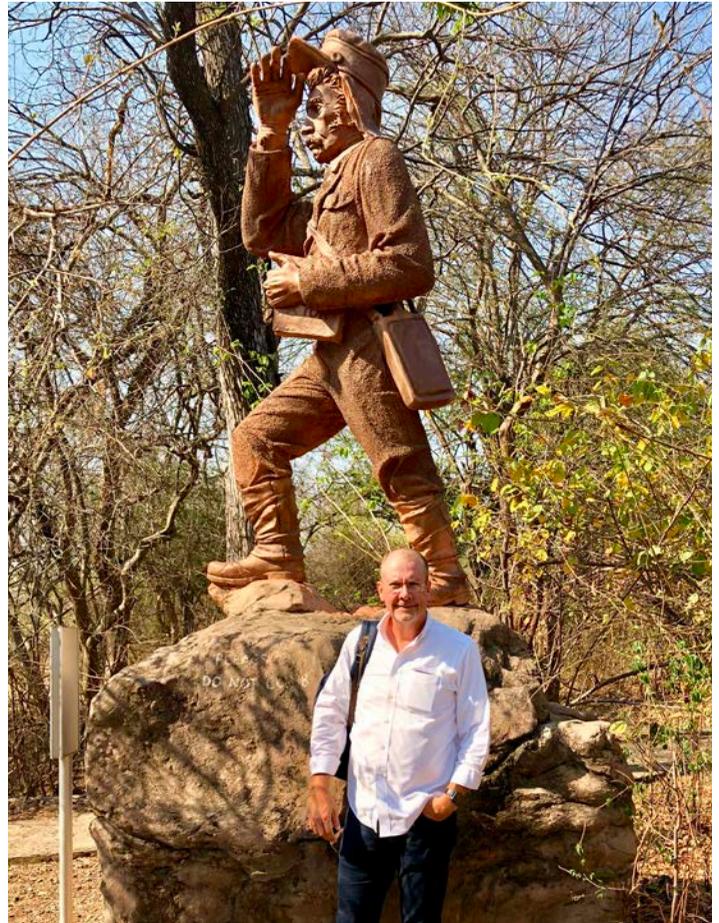


Insightful Interviews

I had the privilege of spending time and getting to know these pastors in Lusaka, Zambia who received GTN's training over the last few years.

Dr. Livingstone, I presume?

I also visited the city of Livingstone, Zambia (named after the famed medical doctor, pioneer, explorer, missionary pioneer from Scotland - Dr. David Livingstone). GTN has done significant work there over the last several years. In addition to my meetings, I enjoyed visiting the statue of Dr. Livingstone and reflecting on his impact in this region of Africa.



A Heart for Church Planting

The photo at left shows another amazing man of God that I had the privilege to meet with, Pastor Andrew Kasongo (or Bishop K, as he is called in Zambia). He planted his church 20 years ago and it has grown to over 300 people WHILE also planting 19 other churches, sending people out from their own flock. I was able to preach at Bishop K's church one Sunday morning. The worship team (pictured above) was just as vibrant in their singing as the colors they are wearing. It was a great service!

President's Address

As I spent the last few weeks in four different African countries, I was reminded again of the value (both short term and long term) of “influencing the influencers.” Throughout the Majority World, pastors are typically some of the most influential people within their communities. When you influence a pastor, you also influence everyone under their ministry.

How does GTN “influence the influencers?” Primarily by “training the untrained” and “encouraging the discouraged.”

Our mission statement since our inception almost 14 years ago has been:

GTN exists to equip and encourage indigenous church planters, pastors and Christian leaders throughout the Majority World.

The two key words are “equip” (or train) and “encourage.” We not only *train* indigenous pastors around the world, we are also there to *encourage* them. A pastor can be well trained, but still very discouraged. Part of our purpose is to “breathe wind into the sails of the hearts” of these dear pastors. Many of them come to our training on the verge of quitting. Our prayer is always that they would walk away with a renewed enthusiasm, joy and commitment to their high calling.

Thank you again for your prayers, investment and involvement in this ministry! You truly are “partners” and are a strategic part of all that we do in 74 countries around the world.



By God's Grace and for His Glory,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul R. Madson".

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



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