



A building in Nepal displays significant structural damage from the 2015 earthquake.

From the desk of Paul R. Madson: September 2017

# Global Training Network

Training Leaders, Transforming Lives

## Nepal: Laying Solid Foundations for a Lifetime of Ministry



**Pictured above:** Each Nepali pastor was given a set of study books on Romans as part of the training process, including titles from Tim Keller and Kay Arthur. **Below:** Pastors actively participating in their inductive study of Romans. Photos by Dan Smythe



A building's foundation, while critical, is easily forgotten in comparison to the rest of the building. When looking at real estate, no one admires a foundation. It is the element least thought of until there is a crisis, such as an earthquake. And yet, as soon as that crisis hits, everyone's thoughts and hopes rest on the foundation. Will it hold? Is it strong enough? Will this building last or will it crumble to pieces?

The same goes for investment in a spiritual foundation, one formed from undistracted and heart-transforming study of God's Word. "Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth," was Paul's counsel to the young pastor Timothy (2 Timothy 2:15 ESV).

GTN staff member Dan Smythe has begun mentoring a group of Nepali pastors in this very concept since January. The tremendous book of Romans has been the focus of their study, as Dan points out that it has the unique ability to guide leaders into the central truths about God and the Gospel (see diagram).

Dan writes, "It was a powerful time of digging into the text of Paul's vital letter and then discovering the gospel truths upon which to build a lifetime of ministry."

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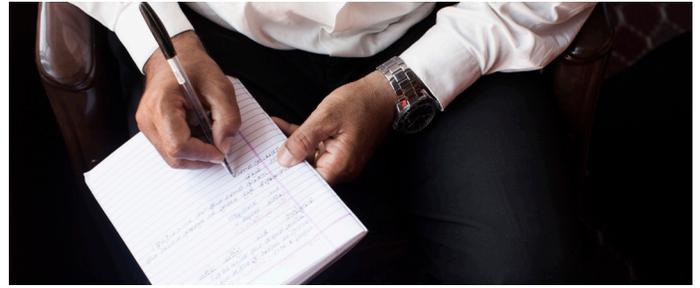
## Laying Foundations (continued)

L.B. Chaudhary, one of the pastors who travels from the highlands of Nepal in order to attend the training, has been particularly impacted.

Dan describes him this way: *“L.B. is a man who demonstrates a big heart for God and people, as well as a great hunger to grow in God’s Word.”*

*“He commented at the end of our week of digging into the initial chapters of Romans that he now has so many questions answered in regard to the character of God and Christ, and the meaning of salvation by grace through faith in Christ Jesus.”*

*“It was truly an eye-opening experience for LB as he engaged in Bible Study of a depth unknown to him in the past. I can hardly wait to return to take these men into the next section of Romans!”*



Dan adds: *“All of these men will be passing the training on to not only the people in the churches where they serve, but also to other leaders who don’t speak / read / write English as these men do. These are the ‘point-men’ for how our training multiplies on to others!”*

Please join me in praying that the spiritual foundations of these Nepali pastors would be strong and effective for lifelong ministry!

## Introducing Rick and Debbie Seltzer



Rick and Debbie live in Yuma, Arizona, where Rick served as Senior Pastor for 22 years in a dynamic church with a global reach. Partnering with the people of Grace Bible Fellowship, Rick and Debbie have been blessed to see God bring about much fruit from their missions ministry. Their church sent out 35 short-term mission teams, had a book published in Sri Lanka, and established a ministry in Jordan to Syrian Refugees. Rick has served in various countries while pastoring at Grace including Guatemala, Sri Lanka, UAE, Rwanda, Mexico, and ministry to Native American populations, all of which involved training of indigenous leaders. Prior to Grace, Rick and Debbie served in 4 different churches from Texas to Arizona for almost 18 years.

Rick is a graduate of Pacific Coast Baptist Bible College (BA) and Liberty University (M. Div. in Pastoral Ministries). Debbie has her Teaching degree (BS) from Liberty University and has been a teacher in Arizona for 15 years. She decided to retire and help support teaching around the world with GTN in 2017.

Rick and Debbie were married in June of 1981 and have three grown children who are all serving the Lord. They also fostered two young ladies for 3 ½ years, whom they consider to be their children as well.

Rick and Debbie are passionate about empowering people and churches to move forward in discipleship and leadership skills so that the Kingdom of God moves forward around the world with power. They are thrilled to be a part of the GTN team and this adventure forward for the Glory of God!

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## Recommended Book



### **Blind Spots: Becoming a Courageous, Compassionate, and Commissioned Church**

**By Collin Hansen**

From the book description: *“What if our differences became opportunities? The world needs bold, united followers of Jesus. It needs you and me to understand and appreciate the contributions of our brothers and sisters in faith. However, too often, our blind spots lead to divisions and disagreements, preventing God’s people from testifying to his grace with one voice.*”

*“In this provocative book, Collin Hansen helps us view our differences as opportunities to more effectively engage a needy world with the love of Christ. Highlighting the diversity of thought, experience, and personality that God has given to his people, Blind Spots lays the foundation for a new generation of Christians eager to cultivate a courageous, compassionate, and commissioned church.”*

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## Key Scripture

*“Yet this I call to mind and therefore I have hope:  
Because of the Lord’s great love we are not consumed,  
for his compassions never fail.  
They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.  
I say to myself, ‘The Lord is my portion; therefore I will wait for him.’  
The Lord is good to those whose hope is in him, to the one who seeks him;  
it is good to wait quietly for the salvation of the Lord.”*

- **Lamentations 3:21-26 (NIV)**

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## Quotable Quote

*“There is a way of telling the gospel that makes people say, ‘I don’t believe it’s true, but I wish it were.’ You have to get to the beauty of it, and then go back to the reasons for it. Only then, when you show that it takes more faith to doubt it than to believe it; when the things you see out there in the world are better explained by the Christian account of things than the secular account of things; and when they experience a community in which they actually do see Christianity embodied, in healthy Christian lives and solid Christian community, that many will believe.”*

- **Dr. Timothy Keller**

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## President's Address

As we head into the Fall (often referred to as the “season of harvest”) I’m reminded again of God’s gracious faithfulness throughout life. This encompasses the theme of a favorite hymn, “Great is Thy Faithfulness.” The second verse reminds us of God’s faithfulness through all the seasons of life:

*Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,  
Sun, moon and stars in their courses above,  
Join with all nature in manifold witness  
To Thy great faithfulness, mercy and love.*

And then the well-known refrain...

*Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness!  
Morning by morning new mercies I see;  
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided—  
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!*

One of the ways we reflect God’s glory is when we demonstrate faithfulness in Christ’s service. Thank you for your prayers and gracious partnership through the ministry of Global Training Network.

May this Fall season bring reminders of God’s great and gracious faithfulness to you!



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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