

September
2020

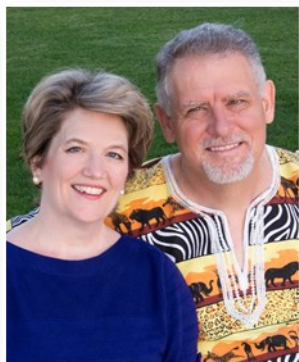


GLOBAL TRAINING
NETWORK

Our Praises and Prayer Requests



- Praise God for two successful online training events.
- Praise God for the improving coronavirus picture.
- Praise God for His provision for our need.
- Please pray that we will be able to train in Rwanda and Malawi this fall.
- Please pray for our ongoing online training events.
- Please pray for Christians suffering persecution in Nepal.
- Please pray for the health and safety of students in Rwanda, Malawi, Philippines, and Myanmar.




The Cumulative Effect of Training Leaders

Believe it or not, Eileen and I have been training international Christian leaders now for more than 11 years. Recently we looked back at some of the statistics which have been amassed since we began in 2009. These numbers represent the work our students have done carrying out their self-designed application plans. I am amazed at what God has done through them after each of these courses. Since 2009 we have worked with 2136 individual pastors and leaders, most of them repeatedly. We have taught on a wide variety of subjects. However, we have only been able to keep statistics for students taking our Timothy courses due to the subject matter and nature of students' application plans. Further, statistics can only capture some of what these students do. So, our Timothy students provide only a *partial picture* of the effect of training international leaders. Still, these students have...

- led at least 4407 people to Christ,
- planted 26 churches (that we know of),

- and launched 91 house churches (that we know of).
- In addition, 102 of our Timothy students have completed all six Timothy courses and have received Advanced Trainer Certificates. These students are now trainers themselves, and are multiplying the work by passing on their skills to new groups of leaders.

These numbers are dynamic. They continue to multiply in ways we cannot possibly track. More than 4400 new souls are evangelizing others, starting with their own families. These 117 churches meeting publicly and in homes are also multiplying new believers as they grow. Our trainees are training others who are bearing their own fruit! This is the growing fruit of pastoral training. Many of you pray regularly for us. These are the answers to your prayers! Many of you give regularly in support of our work. This is the return on your investment! We are humbled by what God has done. We are very thankful to Him and to you. 

Building Unlikely Bridges

I got more than I expected! Last month we wrote about our efforts to train international leaders online. I've conducted two such courses since then. Both turned out better than expected. Our first course involved leaders in Butwal, Nepal. The course was scheduled outside normal working hours for Nepalis. As a result, there were 56 participants, approximately double the number in a typical 'in-person' class. Our course dealt with pastoral skills. It was a great week with a great group of leaders, but still more was to come!

Our second class involved English speaking leaders from nine countries including Tanzania, Rwanda, Uganda, Myanmar, Philippines, Nepal, India, Bangladesh, and the U.S. Eight time zones were represented. We started the class at 4:00 AM each morning, Phoenix time. The subject was Pastoral Care. GTN colleague John Lasley assisted me. Twenty-one students registered. Actual participation varied, but was lower. *(Continued on page 2)*



Looking Forward to 2021



I confess that I will be staying up until midnight on New Year's eve, not just to welcome 2021, but to make sure 2020 actually leaves. Eileen and I are already pumped for the new year! That may explain why we have already developed tentative ministry goals for 2021. I plan to keep sharing these goals with you this fall and winter. One area involves new curricula for our training events. Often we conduct "one-shot" single-day training events as a preliminary to more extensive training programs in a given area. I have various materials suitable for such occasions. Our first goal here is to develop/discover new 'one-shot' curricula dealing with subjects like Biblical world view, and the Bible as a story, etc. Our second goal in this area is to edit some of our current material such as our curriculum on Christian Apologetics. We want use simpler language instead of technical terms unique to apologetics which do not translate well into other languages. (Some such terms don't even translate well into English!) This 'unseen' work is necessary to a vibrant and growing training ministry. More of our 2021 goals next month. ∞

Building Unlikely Bridges (Cont'd)

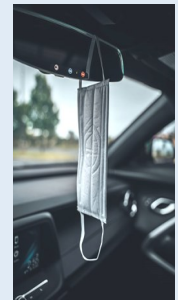
The interaction and insights of these godly leaders amazed me. First, this is the most diverse group with which I have ever worked. The class included men and women from wildly different cultural backgrounds. They live in countries variously dominated by Buddhism, Hinduism, Animism, or Catholicism. Their ministries are also vastly different, including everything from small group coordination, to general pastoral ministry, to children's ministry, to evangelism, to rescuing girls from sex trafficking. Yet, in spite of all of this, we have a common language and, more importantly, a common bond in Christ. We met as brothers and sisters. I was



blessed both by the way the students expressed wise insights on various issues and amazed at the appreciation expressed for those insights by others in the group. Toward the end of the week, I asked permission from each of them to

share their contact information with the whole class. My aim was that they would network and encourage one another. They enthusiastically agreed! Bridges have been built between students in different cultures all over the world. This thrills me beyond words! As a bonus, I was able to present an Advance Trainer Certificate to one of our students who has now completed all of the Timothy Training Courses. Others will follow. We plan to gather again in three months with the same group for our second TLT class, this time dealing with Christian Stewardship. I can't wait! ∞

Our Itinerary



- September: Nepal Online Training (tentative)
- Oct 18-24: Rwanda (tentative)
- November: Malawi (tentative)
- Nov 30-Dec 4: International Online Training
- January: Myanmar (tentative)
- January: Philippines (tentative)

Ministry Partnership

Your financial partnership is essential as we carry out our God given ministry. Please follow the instructions below or on the enclosed response card (US mail version).

"Not that I seek the gift, but I seek the fruit that abounds to your account... And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus." (Philippians 4:17, 19)

You may give online at:

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