

July 2023

GLOBAL TRAINING
NETWORK

Our Itinerary

August 3-26: Philippine
MinistrySept 17: Floris Baptist
Church, Floris, IowaSept 28-Oct 29: Rwanda
MinistryNov 30-Dec 16: Nepal
Ministry

Putting Things Into Perspective

A popular story was first told by Chuck Swindoll in his book, Growing Strong in the Seasons of Life. It was about a college aged daughter who wrote to her father to say, "I'm planning to quit school. I'm failing most of my classes anyway. I'm going to move in with my boyfriend, Rufus. I think I might be pregnant." On the reverse side of the page she continued, "Dad, I want you to know that everything I just wrote is false. None of it is true. But, Dad, what is true is that I got a 'C' in Western Civilization and, also, I need more money for expenses." Often bad news isn't so bad when put into perspective.

Today information is everywhere, but perspective is hard to find. We don't need more knowledge. We DO need to put what we know into some kind of framework—to assign information its

correct level of importance (or non-importance). For example, many people exaggerate the significance of news. I heard someone suggest that the economy is so bad our entire system could collapse. Do they not remember the financial crisis of 2007-2008 or the double digit inflation, interest rates, and unemployment of the late 1970s? How about the great depression of the 1930s? Somehow we survived all these things. *That perspective* helps us not get too distressed about our current economic pains.

On the other hand we, often don't assign enough importance to things. Today children are being physically mutilated under the euphemistic guise of "gender affirming care." These are the kinds of atrocities one associates with Nazi medical experimentation. It is pure evil being visited upon innocent



Why We Do What We Do

Recently, after speaking in a church service, a man referenced our travel to distant time zones and semi-permanent jet lag and asked, "How do you keep up this schedule?" Actually, the "How" question is not as important as the "Why" question. There are important reasons why we travel to distant countries to train pastors and Christian leaders. **Where there is no revelation, people cast off restraint, but blessed is the one who heeds wisdom's instruction** (Prov 29:18).

All over the world there are large communities of Christians being led by pastors and teachers who lack the most basic training in the Bible and do not know how to shepherd their people.

"Where there is no revelation, the people cast off restraint..." One result of uninformed pastoral leadership is that believers fall prey to cults and other false teachings which are *rampant*. The prosperity gospel may be the most pervasive heresy out there, but there are many others. How can your pastor protect you from false teaching if he doesn't recognize it himself? Without proper pastoral teaching people wander like sheep without a shepherd. However, when pastors can articulate the elements of the gospel and the essential doctrines of Christianity, their people start to recognize faux gospels for what they are. A trained leader can protect his flock. That is why we do what we do.




Putting Things Into Perspective (cont'd)

children who are deliberately misguided by an unholy (but lucrative) ideology. How can this happen with barely a whimper of moral indignation from most Americans? Have we grown so callous that we are no longer capable of outrage? Seeing this in its *proper perspective* should make you weep for our culture.

Even in small matters affecting only ourselves and our families, none of us sees things with perfect clarity or perspective. If we did, we would have far less friction in our homes and a lot more trust in God.

This brings me to the main point: Only God sees things with perfect clarity. **Great is our Lord, and abundant in power; his understanding is beyond measure (Psalm 147:5).** This is the *omniscience* of God. He has intimate knowledge of any and every event small and large in the past, present, and future.

Moreover, He sees not only all actual events, but also all possible events. He has infinite and perfect knowledge of ... everything. Thus, He has **perfect perspective**.

God has assured us that as believers the more we have fellowship with Christ the more we are transformed into His image (2 Cor 3:18). This means that the more we see of Christ in God's Word, the more we learn to think as Christ thinks, to value what He values, to love what He loves and hate what He hates. The closer we get to our God, the more of His perspective we will share. Since our world makes less sense every day, we really need this perspective. There is only one place where it can be found. 



Our Praises & Prayer Requests




- Praise God my sister Linda gave a clear confession of faith in Jesus before leaving us on June 22.
- Praise God we are in our new home and ministry base in Ottumwa, Iowa.
- Praise God for new opportunities to share our ministry here in the Midwest.
- Please continue to pray for the planning of our August ministry in Philippines.
- Please pray for the planning of our autumn ministries in Rwanda and Nepal.
- Please pray for us as we seek a home church here in Ottumwa.

Why We Do What We Do (cont'd)

There is another reason. When leaders are trained, they often begin to accomplish great things for God! *"...but blessed is the one who heeds wisdom's instruction."* Recently we told you of a Muslim woman led to Christ by one of our students in Iraq who is now proclaiming the true gospel, making disciples



and baptizing them right under the noses of ISIS. Her story is not unique. This week one of my colleagues reported that a group of recent graduates of his discipleship classes began using his materials to make other disciples. Within a few months, they led 77 people to Christ and baptized them all on the same day. Our own records indicate that so far this year, our students have won a total of 567 souls to Christ. Thus, training leaders helps to protect people from false gospels, and it also helps to make them effective communicators of the true gospel. When someone asks, "How do you do this?" The most honest answer is, "I don't really know how. I only know why." These things are why we do what we do.

Our heartfelt gratitude goes out to all of our supporting partners. Thank you for helping us do what we do! 

Ministry Partnership

Your financial partnership is essential as we carry out our God given ministry.
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