

July 2024

PRESIDENTS LETTER



Dear Partners,

I have recently returned from a trip to Madagascar and wanted to share a brief story of impact with you. Along with our Africa Field Representative Dr. Nathan Chiroma, and Najo Salama our coordinator for Madagascar we were pleased to inaugurate a ministry training center in the central mountainous region of Madagascar.

One day after training had concluded and we were walking back to the hotel, I noticed one of our students, an elderly man in his mid 70's walking ahead of us barefooted. Unbeknownst to us he had been walking back and forth from the training sessions barefooted each day. The hunger of this elderly pastor to receive training and grow in his knowledge of God's Word both humbled and inspired me. Yet, this hunger is evident everywhere we go. Upon leaving Madagascar, I visited Kenya where we opened another ministry training center in Kisumu. Again, scores of students hungry to be trained filled the room until it was standing room only.

This trip reminded me that there is a mighty force of indigenous leaders across the Global South longing to be equipped and empowered to fulfill the Great Commission in their communities. The Alliance on Church Multiplication predicts that by the year 2030 the number of untrained pastors across the Global South will double. Therefore, it is imperative that we ramp up our efforts to equip and empower as many leaders as possible. I'm so grateful ITEM is on the frontlines of this work.

In my last newsletter I told you about our partnership with Re-forma and how we have now been enabled to effectively evaluate our training program through a list of 37 outcomes every pastor should be able to demonstrate upon completion of our program.

“ITEM’s training is the most in-depth I’ve received. Not only has it impacted me but my church is improved.”
Pastor Peter Karnplay, Liberia

We are currently in the process of editing and updating our curriculum to better incorporate these outcomes.

We have also adopted the name Ministry Training Centers (MTC's) to refer to each of our training sites. Of course, each of our MTC's remain mobile, but the new name helps us to reinforce our mission while also giving us a common language. Over the next few newsletters, I look forward to sharing more exciting objectives for ITEM's future.

Of course, we could not do any of this without your faithful partnership and support. I truly believe that the work we are doing is the most important work in the world. For we are shaping the few who shape the many.

I leave you with a quote from Henry Martyn the great missionary to India, "The spirit of Christ is the spirit of missions. The nearer we get to Him, the more intensely missionary we become." May you draw nearer to Christ and may His mission capture more of your heart.

Thank you for standing with us in this most critical mission.

Yours for the Harvest,

Chris McMillan

