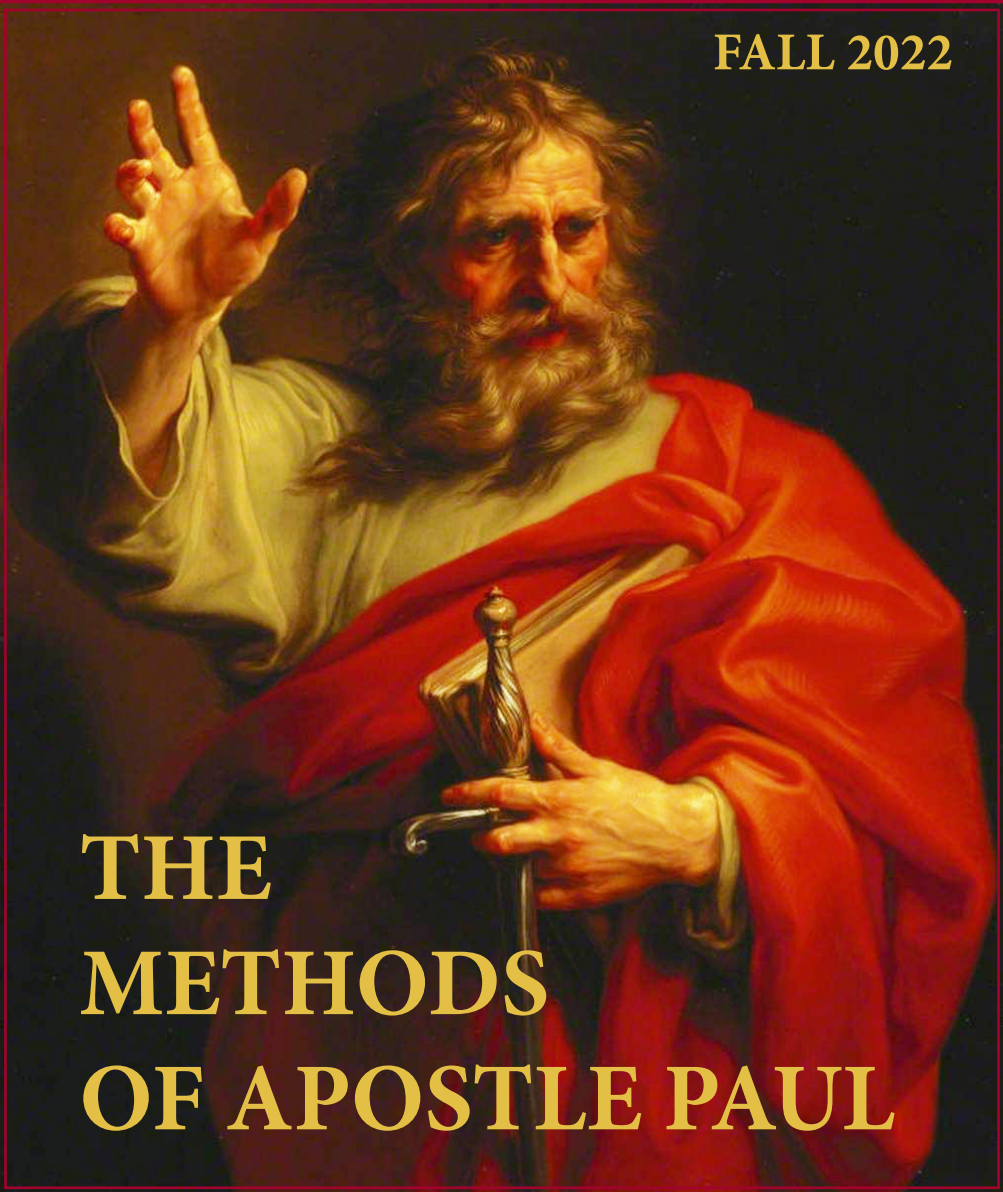


# INTERNATIONAL

THINGS  
TO COME  
MISSION

# Harvest

FALL 2022



## THE METHODS OF APOSTLE PAUL

*Saint Paul* by Pompeo Batoni 1708-1787

Director Perspectives	2	12	Redirection: East Africa
Paul's Troas Strategy	4	15	Taiwan to Vietnam
Training Missionaries	9	19	How Can I Help?





# MISSIONARY METHODS

*Ben Anderson, International Director*

In 1912 English missionary Roland Allen published the foundational missiological text *Missionary Methods: St. Paul's or Ours?* Based on a detailed study of Apostle Paul's ten years of church planting, Allen concluded that modern missions must emulate the methodology used by Paul. The motto of Things to Come Mission reflects Allen's research:

***Preparing People for Christ's Return through the Methods of Apostle Paul***

The Spring 2022 *International Harvest* discussed "Preparing People for Christ's Return" while this issue looks into "the Methods of Apostle Paul." Allen made the bold statement, "Since the Apostle [Paul], no other has discovered or practiced methods for the propagation of the Gospel better than his." Apostle Paul preached a message of grace for the Gentiles—the message of reconciliation—which continues to be our message. However, we must also consider how the apostle to the Gentiles succeeded in his ministry. We believe that not only was Paul's message revealed by God, but his methodology of reaching the unreached was also God-given. In this issue an article on the Troas Strategy explains how the Holy Spirit showed Paul the best method of mission.

Paul was an evangelist—and he always formed a local church among the new believers. Of his 13 letters, nine were written to local churches. After detailing his ministry suffering Paul concluded, "Besides everything else, I face daily the pressure of my concern for all the churches" (2 Cor. 11:28). Paul taught that the Christian life takes place within the framework of the local church. The members of the Body of Christ are to function together as one. The reciprocal commands such as "love one another" and "bear one another's burdens" can only be accomplished through participation in a local congregation. Kenyan pastor John Kariuki once told me, "I am third generation Grace!" It was his local Mianya Grace Bible Church which had sustained his family through three generations and the generations to come.

Roland Allen insisted that Western missionaries must not plant Western churches on foreign soil. Rather, churches must be indigenous, demonstrating the key actions of self-governing, self-supporting and self-propagating. Only by planting viable, local churches was Paul free to take the gospel of grace to the next region. At the end of ten years he confidently stated, "There is no more place for me to work in these regions" (Rom. 15:23).

Mission requires intentional ministry among those without the opportunity to hear the gospel. Because resources are limited, mission must be performed with an efficient and godly methodology. The TCM Constitution reflects our commitment to Paul's methodology.

By "indigenous" we mean: the Mission will not maintain any established national church. Our responsibility will be to establish national churches with national pastors that are sustained by nationals. ... TCM will not maintain established indigenous churches.

By releasing the ministry to the local churches, TCM will continue to focus our resources on the next unreached people—those whom Apostle Paul calls "the regions beyond" where Christ is unknown. ❖

# BUILDING A LEADERSHIP CULTURE

*Timothy Board, Development Director*

*"The things which you learned and received  
and heard and saw in me, these do,  
and the God of peace will be with you."*

Philippians 4:9 NKJV



Twenty years ago this fall, Joe Watkins first taught the *Missions and Church-Planting* class at Berean Bible Institute. This TCM pioneer missionary to the Philippines was a legend in the eyes of those of us in his class and he eventually became our friend. He challenged us to be Pauline in our *doctrinal foundation and practical application*. For example, Pastor Watkins had us open our Bibles to the above text and instructed us to circle the two-letter word "do." This exercise was meant to solidify in our minds the importance of being balanced in ministry by living "according to the methods of Apostle Paul." God's people must therefore initiate decisive action to build a leadership culture at home, at church, and in the community to raise up a new generation of pastors, missionaries, and Christian leaders to serve God wherever He leads (2 Tim.2:2; 3:10-11).

**1. Building a Leadership Culture AT HOME** – Eph.6:4 cf. Pr.24:3-4. God's design is for the Christian worldview to be built upon a biblical foundation from the ground up rather than being imposed upon our progeny from the top down. As they own what they believe and why they believe it through Christ-centered spiritual disciplines in the morning, such as consistent Bible reading, prayer journaling, and Scripture memorization, truth becomes internalized by Holy Spirit power. Evening spiritual disciplines are also significant as families prioritize mealtimes around the table, discuss the highlights of their day and world events, and champion what the saints of old called "Family Worship" where Dad leads in singing praise to God, biblical instruction, and prayer. Topping off the week, building a leadership culture at home culminates with the corporate worship of God's people in the local church as the pillar and ground of doctrinal truth in every community.

**2. Building a Leadership Culture AT CHURCH** – 2 Tim.3:16-4:5. Christ-centered congregational singing, verse-by-verse expositional preaching, and intergenerational relationships are the hallmarks of what it takes to build a leadership culture in the local church. Theologically robust music that is God-focused and singable is at the center of corporate worship thus preparing the hearts of God's people for the sermon. Pastors should champion the old-fashioned Berean spirit of Acts 17:11 which emphasizes the importance of the congregation being avid students of Scripture by actively encouraging people to bring their Bibles to church and having them open during the sermon as the Word of God is boldly preached and a biblical text is systematically expounded every week. According to God's Word and the testimony of Church history, the worship service is a communal experience where old and young gather to praise God for who He is and what He has done and therefore mutually encourage one another in the faith.

**3. Building a Leadership Culture IN THE COMMUNITY** – Phil.2:12-16.

Redemptive relationships are needed in this secularized world and the ancient Christian virtue of hospitality is a counter-cultural

(continued on page 17)



# THE TROAS STRATEGY: PAUL'S METHOD FOR REACHING THE WORLD

by Ben Anderson, TCM International Director



When Apostle Paul boarded the ship in Troas, the world would never be the same. Paul was bringing the gospel to Europe, from where it would be sent to the ends of the earth. Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners. Apostle Paul brought Jesus to the world.

In 2003 when I was approached by the Things to Come Mission board to consider the Executive Director position my initial thought was, "No way!" My calling was to be a cross-cultural missionary preaching the gospel in the regions beyond. After 14 years of applications and rejections, our Grace Bible Church in Kenya had been registered and incorporated. Sitting in an office in Indianapolis seemed like a huge step backward. I told the President I would pray about it for three months before my final answer.

Those three months turned out to be formative for my directorship in TCM. I had already developed many concepts about mission while studying missiology at the School of World Mission at Fuller Theological Seminary. My professor Dean Gilliland had written, "[Apostle Paul was] the most effective cross-cultural missionary the church has ever seen," in his *Pauline Theology and Mission Practice*. I spent long hours reading Acts and Paul's epistles to understand the methodology he used in his Gentile mission. If I was to give up my first calling to cross-cultural mission, then I wanted to direct TCM with a clear vision and Biblical strategy.

Paul was indeed the apostle to the Gentiles (Rom. 11:13), but he would need a God-given strategy to accomplish his great calling. The Holy Spirit taught Paul the new strategy during his second missionary journey.

Paul's first missionary journey began in Acts 13 when he was set apart and sent out by the Antioch church under the command of the Holy Spirit. Barnabas and John Mark joined Paul in ministering across the island of Cyprus before sailing north to the mainland. They then traveled through the area which can generally be called Galatia. Paul's first journey was close to his hometown of Tarsus, with the farthest city just 225 miles from Tarsus.

The second missionary journey had a rather inauspicious beginning. Initially it was not planned as a missionary journey at all, with Paul telling Barnabas, "Let us go back and visit the believers in all the towns where we preached the word of the Lord and see how they are doing." That purpose is in stark contrast to Paul's later statements that his ambition was to preach where Christ was not known. Paul and Barnabas had a major split over John Mark before the journey even began. Yet, both of these men were committed to God's calling. They each chose a trainee and set out, Barnabas and John Mark to their home island of Cyprus while Paul and Silas traveled through the mainland regions of Syria and Cilicia.

Just like the first journey, the Holy Spirit intervened to show God's purpose. The key passage is Acts 16:6-12:



*Paul and his companions traveled throughout the region of Phrygia and Galatia, having been kept by the Holy Spirit from preaching the word in the province of Asia. When they came to the border of Mysia, they tried to enter Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus would not allow them to. So they passed by Mysia and went down to Troas. During the night Paul had a vision of a man of Macedonia standing and begging him, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." After Paul had seen the vision, we got ready at once to leave for Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them. From Troas we put out to sea and sailed straight for Samothrace, and the next day we went on to Neapolis. From there we traveled to Philippi, a Roman colony and the leading city of that district of Macedonia. And we stayed there several days.*

Most startling is that after a successful ministry the Holy Spirit told Paul, "No!" twice in rapid succession. He was prevented from entering Asia and then Bithynia—lands full of pagan Gentiles. God wanted Paul to take the gospel far from his home city and to be strategic about his ministry. So, Paul was guided to the far corner of the Asian continent to a city called Troas. Faced with the obstacle of the Aegean Sea, Paul received a vision from the Holy Spirit in which a man from Macedonia urged Paul to come over.

After the vision, Paul and his companions became very purposeful in their travels. Phrases such as "they got ready at once" and "sailed straight to Samothrace." They traveled intentionally and rapidly to Philippi, a leading city of Macedonia. Upon reaching Philippi they stayed several days, reaching Lydia—the first European believer in Jesus Christ

Five "firsts" take place in the events surrounding Troas.

1. First time the Holy Spirit prevented Paul from doing ministry.
2. First people group God told Paul to target.
3. First urgent missionary journey.
4. First preaching of the gospel in Europe.
5. First journey of the Biblical author Luke with Paul.

The ministry of Paul after Troas reveals five major principles.

### **Principle #1: GO BOLDLY TO THE REGIONS BEYOND**

After the geographically near first missionary journey and the plan to simply visit existing churches and believers on the second journey, the Holy Spirit pushed Paul to take the gospel farther than it had ever gone—even to another continent. In hindsight we know that Europe became strategic in proclaiming the gospel of Christ, producing missionary statesmen such as William Carey and Hudson Taylor.

Paul subsequently emphasized this principle in his epistles, "Neither do

we go beyond our limits by boasting of work done by others. Our hope is that, as your faith continues to grow, our sphere of activity among you will greatly expand, so that we can preach the gospel in the regions beyond you. For we do not want to boast about work already done in someone else's territory" (2 Cor. 10:15–16).





## Principle #2: USE BUSINESS IN MISSION

Because Paul's first journey did not take him beyond familiar areas—Barnabas and John Mark were from Cyprus and Paul already knew Timothy and his family in Lystra—he did not have to be so concerned about raising support for himself and his companions. However, when he sailed from Troas to Europe, the supply line back home was stretched thin. He was now doing “cold contact” evangelism and church planting. It is when Paul reached Corinth on his second journey that we learn that he was a tentmaker. “There he met a Jew named Aquila, a native of Pontus, who had recently come from Italy with his wife Priscilla, because Claudius had ordered all Jews to leave Rome. Paul went to see them, and because he was a tentmaker as they were, he stayed and worked with them” (Acts 18:2–3).

Paul's business of tentmaking had several benefits. He made the acquaintance of Priscilla and Aquila who became valuable partners in his ministry. They in turn introduced Paul to Apollos, who became a great preacher of grace. Paul was able to meet people in the community such as customers and employees. Lydia was a businesswoman and it is likely Paul met her through his own business. Of course,



the business also supplied the needs of the missionary team. “You yourselves know that these hands of mine have supplied my own needs and the needs of my companions” (Acts 20:34). Business gave Paul connections and credibility among the people. In modern times, business is often essential for obtaining a visa to remain in a country.

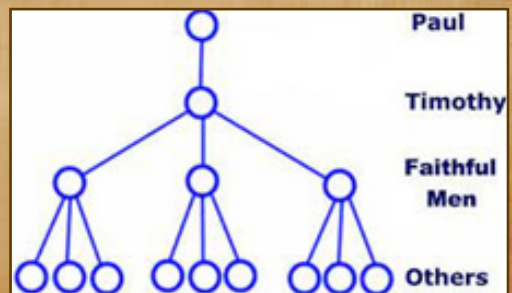
## Principle #3: CONCENTRATE ON STRATEGIC CITIES USING THE HUB & SPOKE MODEL

A fascinating statement in Acts says, “[Apostle Paul] took the disciples with him and had discussions daily in the lecture hall of Tyrannus. This went on for two years, so that all the Jews and Greeks who lived in the province of Asia heard the word of the Lord.” Since Paul was lecturing daily in Ephesus, the capital of Asia, he was not traveling in the province. He trained 12 faithful men in the capital and then turned evangelism and church planting over to them.

Paul believed that the missionary work in an area would come to an end. “But now that there is no more place for me to work in these regions, and since I have been longing for many years to visit you, I plan to do so when I go to Spain.” The region Paul was speaking of was about 1500 miles long—and he had trained faithful men to work in that region. Paul told the Corinthians that he hoped their faith would grow so that he could leave them and minister in the next region (2 Cor. 10:15–16).

## Principle #4: DEVELOP RAPID, REPRODUCIBLE TRAINING

A key principle Paul learned through the Troas Strategy was training others so as to multiply himself. In Acts 16 the Holy Spirit forbid Paul from entering Asia. Yet in Acts 19, everyone in Asia heard the word of the Lord through 12 disciples Paul trained for two years in the capital Ephesus. Two years was



even shorter than the three years Jesus was with his disciples. This rapid training reflects an urgency requiring a discipleship model in which the mentor lives and ministers with his trainees. The trainees must then be capable of teaching the learned truth to their own trainees.

**Principle #5: PARTNER WITH RESOURCEFUL PEOPLE**

In 2 Timothy 2:2 Paul tells Timothy, “And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable people who will also be qualified to teach others.” There are two qualifications for those believers whom Timothy should train: 1) trustworthy and 2) willing and able to teach others. These are people with personal “resources” which can help the gospel to spread. Epaphras was an example of a resourceful person. Paul tells the Colossians, “You learned it from Epaphras, our dear fellow servant, who is a faithful minister of Christ on our behalf,” (Col. 1:7). Epaphras had valuable contacts in the Asian cities of Colossae, Laodicea and Hierapolis, leading to churches being planted in those cities.

Paul planted churches from Acts 13 to 20, covering the years 46 to 57 AD. In Acts 21 he was arrested in Jerusalem and was never again free to plant churches, although he wrote seven of his 13 letters while in chains. A study of Paul’s church planting years reveals **Five Stages of Field Development** based on the **Troas Strategy**

**Stage One: TARGET**

Ministry must be intentional rather than random. When Paul left Troas, he knew exactly where he was headed, and he did not stop until he reached the leading city of Philippi. TCM has developed a focus on countries and “unreached” peoples who do not have the opportunity to hear the gospel. For example, since 2007 TCM has targeted all five of the unreached Theravada Buddhist countries of Southeast Asia.



**Stage Two: PLANT**

When a group of people believe in Jesus Christ, they need a place to worship God and fellowship together. Churches consist of people who are interdependent upon each other—thus the concept of the “Body of Christ” introduced by Paul. TCM focuses on church planting in every field. In the Philippines, for example, there are now over 550 churches with 200 ongoing church plants. Indonesia and Kenya each have around 70 Grace churches with more being planted every year.





## Stage Three: TRAIN

While church planting is ongoing, believers must be trained to lead and participate in the church. The goal is to train indigenous leaders who will be capable of taking over the ministry. TCM has consistently organized Bible schools on every field. Kenya, for example, has five types of training for believers in different situations: Kenya Grace Bible Institute, Grace Pastoral Training, Bi-Vocational Training, Kenya Grace School of Ministry and Berean Grace School of Ministry.



## Stage Four: RELEASE

Paul learned to train leaders and then turn the work over to them. In TCM we have fields with no missionaries, such as the Philippines and Indonesia, where the work has been handed over to national leaders. These countries have reached the Release Stage of the Troas Strategy and no longer require foreign missionaries to lead them.



## Stage Five: PARTNER

After the ministry on a field is released, TCM challenges that field to advance to the Partner Stage of the Troas Strategy. In the Partner Stage the churches and members in that country become partners with TCM in targeting the next unreached people. TCM is excited to partner with the Philippines Grace churches which are now providing 75% of our missionary force and providing partial support and training for their missionaries.



By now you have noticed that the Troas Strategy is cyclical. The Strategy is a Pauline method to reach the entire world for Christ. One-third of the world's eight billion people remain unreached. They have never heard the good news of Jesus and they will not hear unless a missionary goes to them. Let us reach them with "the methods of the Apostle Paul." ❖



# TRAINING MISSIONARIES

*by James Bermejo, TCM Team Cambodia missionary*



As Grace believers, we are given the privilege to participate in what God is doing in the world today. **Personally**, we are empowered to continue to follow Christ and grow in our faith and knowledge (Colossians 2:6-7). **Locally**, we are to engage other believers for fellowship, worship and discipleship as the Body of Christ (Hebrews 10:25 & 1 Thess. 5:11). **Globally**, we are encouraged to bring His gospel to the regions beyond as His ambassadors (2 Corinthians 10:16 & 5:20).

Agape and I felt the call for missions while we were still singles; but as a married couple, we made the decision to serve God in a cross-cultural setting during the 2014 Southeast Asia Grace Conference in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Part of our preparation was **SEPARATION TRANSITION**:

1. Geographical separation from our families and friends
2. Ministerial separation from the local church that we pioneered and served for 8 years
3. Financial separation from my career job

**SPECIAL TRAINING** is one of the most important preparations for serving God cross-culturally. The Apostle Paul, after his conversion in Acts 9, did not go out immediately for full-time missionary work. He first spent significant time receiving direct revelations from Jesus (Galatians 1:11-12, 15-18) and gaining the essential experience of being part of a local church's leadership (Acts 11:25-26; 13:1-4).

In 2015, Agape and I attended the first batch of **Grace Theological Center for Missions (GTCM)** – TCM's training school for missionary candidates. The program consists of two months of intensive learning.

Consequently, we needed to give up our weekday ministry schedules in the local church where we were serving and delegate it to our local leaders and members. I also had to resign from my career job since the company I was working with didn't allow a 2-month leave of absence. Joining GTCM's special training taught us to fully trust God's plan and provision.



There were 15 of us who attended the first batch of GTCM training. One subject is taught every week, Mondays through Fridays, from morning until late afternoon, with several reading assignments and reaction papers to work on in the evenings. Agape and I stayed in one house together with 2 other couples. The other trainees stayed in a different place. During our training, we paid for our food, while the rest of the expenses were shouldered by TCM. We were each assigned a special task every week, and teamed up with others for cooking, cleaning and marketing schedules. These were some of the most enjoyable parts of the training.



We thought we already knew all about church ministry, church planting and evangelism because of our several years of ministry experience in the Philippines. When we attended the GTCM training, we began to understand the difference between sharing the gospel with our own countrymen and sharing the gospel with other nationalities in a different country. When we share the gospel of salvation with another Filipino, we can speak to them in the same language, and almost everyone already has an idea about God and the Bible. We usually call this outreach ministry evangelism. But when we share the gospel with someone of another nationality in a different country, with a different language and culture, it requires a lot more prayer and preparation. This kind of outreach is part of the mission work that missionaries do in the mission field. By attending GTCM, we learned that special preparation and special training, like learning the language and culture, are essential so that we can really share the gospel in a way that the unreached people in the mission field can relate to and understand.



Our GTCM training and several years of experience in the mission field have helped us a lot in terms of progressively understanding the value of acknowledging and accepting the differences in cultures and languages, and that the gospel, when shared, needs to be *contextualized* so that the unreached people in the mission field can, at least in a way, relate to

it from their way of life or belief. The word *contextualization* in missions is a term we first learned through GTCM training and then applied in the mission field.

*Theology of Missions, History of Missions, Missionary Life, and Missionary Leadership and Partnership* are some of the subjects taught at GTCM. I highly recommend these topics to be reviewed by missionaries who are already in the field as a refresher course, and to be taken or studied by those who sense the call for cross-cultural mission work before going to the mission field.

TCM asked us to participate in GTCM's Batch 2 (2017), Batch 3 (2018) and Batch 4 (2022) trainings as instructors. Agape has taught the subjects *Missionary Life* and *History of Missions*, while I have been tasked to teach *Contextualized Evangelism and Cross-Cultural Church Planting* for the past 3 batches of trainees. The subject I taught covers cross-cultural evangelism, evangelistic methods, indigenous church planting movements, church multiplication concepts and church planting principles in another culture. Emphasis was also placed on developing national leaders through cross-cultural mentoring and discipleship. The course also addressed organizing the local church and incorporating them into a national church.



GTCM follows the methods of the Apostle Paul in his approach to mission. In Acts 19:8-10, Paul took his disciples with him and had discussions daily in the lecture



hall of Tyrannus for two years which resulted in all the Jews and Greeks who lived in the province of Asia hearing the word of the Lord. It would be impossible for the Apostle Paul to visit each village in the province of Asia while doing Bible studies daily at the lecture hall of Tyrannus in a span of two years. But with the SPECIAL TRAINING he was doing with his disciples, they would then help him preach the gospel and plant local churches, which could certainly result in all the people living in the province of Asia hearing the word of the Lord. TCM is doing the same thing through GTCM—training and equipping missionary candidates and then sending and supporting missionaries in the mission field.

God's desire is to declare His glory among the nations (Psalm 96:3). That will become evident when unreached peoples who once worshiped idols are now serving and worshiping the true and the living God (1 Thess. 1:9). With God's grace, let's make more of this happen! ❖

## A SONG FOR THE NATIONS

*By Julia Liles-Hong using words from GTCM Batch 4 Classmates*

We are the generation of ones who choose to Go,  
We cannot resist the Holy Spirit's call, we cannot say "No."  
The Lord is my guide and will remain by my side,  
So I will not fear, but face the Regions Beyond  
So listen to this plea as we sing our song.  
You call us to give from willing hearts that your love found,  
From darkness to glory we must Go and tell your story.  
Sharing your Light with the lost, we will go at any cost.

Oh Father God help us to reach the Nations all around.  
God teach us to reach out, raising up churches from the ground.  
God asks us the question; "Who will go, who will I send?"  
I answer; "My life for You." On that, you can depend.

God desires soldiers to prepare for the fight,  
Building bridges of Love, doing what is right,  
To face the hard battle and trust in His grace,  
Knowing that we can win this race.  
With our sons and daughters we choose to sacrifice and pledge to serve,  
Ordinary Christians fulfilling your Word.

This perishing world is in denial but we have a ministry to reconcile,  
To restore the separated and introduce the Christ this world hated.  
There will be a day converted hearts rejoice;  
May I be in that chorus as they lift a united voice.  
To sing of the reason for the hope that we have,  
By faith lead us Lord, in the power of your sword.  
Jesus saves, He rescues—this battle we can win,  
To surrender and share with passion, providing freedom from sin.  
Building communities through channels of blessing.  
Merciful Lord we know we must go far  
To be 'finishers' of this mission, for we know man's condition.  
For your mission I will go, for the unreached to believe,  
When His love in their language is preached, I know we will succeed.



# FOLLOWING APOSTLE PAUL: OBEYING THE SPIRIT'S REDIRECTION

*by Roland & Beverly Improso, Team East Africa missionaries*

The idea of serving as missionaries in Africa was something that never crossed our minds. Our plan, even during our missionary training at *Grace Theological Center for Mission* (GTCM), was to do mission work in Taiwan. Needless to say, our plan did not materialize. Our first visa application for Taiwan was denied. Just at the time we applied again, the COVID 19 pandemic struck the world and—like most countries—Taiwan shut its borders. Taiwan's borders remained closed even after other countries started to open. Obviously, we could not wait indefinitely, and by that time, our only concern was to be able to go to the mission field. Because of this, when the TCM leadership advised us to think about working in Uganda, a TCM field where there is a great need and an opportunity, we prayerfully considered it.



Although Taiwan has a special place in our hearts, we are willing to follow the Lord wherever He may lead. We believe in the Proverbs 19:21 statement: "Many are plans in a person's heart, but it is the LORD'S purpose that prevails." We might not fully understand God's redirection, but we know that He has a reason for it. Paul also experienced redirection in ministry in Acts 16:6-9, when the Holy Spirit did not allow him to preach in the province of Asia or enter Bithynia. Later on, he realized that God was calling him to go to Macedonia and bring the gospel to

Europe. This redirection in Paul's ministry helped the gospel spread quickly in the Roman empire. We realized that, just like Paul, we needed to embrace our change of assignment heartily, since it is still for the furtherance of the gospel.

It was a blessing to have been given the chance to have an orientation to East Africa for roughly six months in Kenya. There, we experienced what it's like to be a missionary firsthand. We adapted to various things, including a foreign culture, language, and cuisine. We



witnessed how an African Grace organization works. There, we learned the value of perseverance, flexibility and patience. Kenyans have a different concept of time to which we needed to adjust. In order for us to understand their way of life and how they do things, we had to put our shoes in their shoes. We immersed ourselves in the Kenyan culture as if we would stay there forever. That experience helped us appreciate our redirection





and the value of cross-cultural ministry. Additionally, it helped us look forward to serving in Uganda. We were excited to apply the things we'd learned in Kenya in Uganda.

The Kenya field is already in the *Release* stage of the *Troas Strategy*. There has been a significant expansion of the ministry and currently, there are over forty churches and growing. There is a thriving Bible school, and a number of



training centers for the Grace Pastoral Training program. Recently, the board of Grace Bible Church–Kenya approved the creation of a *Church Planting and Mission Department* which aims to improve its church planting activities and someday enter the *Partner* stage of the *Troas Strategy* by sending Kenyans to serve in other countries of East Africa and beyond.

In contrast, the Uganda field is still in the *Plant-Train* stage of the *Troas Strategy*. Only two Grace churches exist and there are not many national workers. Most of them have day jobs that they use to support their families and ministries. Indeed, there's a lot of work that has to be done here.



At the moment, we're conducting in-depth Bible and theology classes with the leaders and members of the church. Additionally, we are providing training in ministry-related skills, such as an evangelism seminar and training for Sunday school teachers. We believe that these activities will help achieve our vision for the ministry of our national Grace organization, *Abounding Grace Church*. We desire that in the near future AGC would become a

church planting organization. In order to achieve that, we have to put a lot of effort into training the nationals. Our vision is to plant reproducing churches in key cities in Uganda and establish training centers to equip workers for ministry.

Initially, since the Uganda field is still in the *Plant-Train* stage, we're planning to revive the Bible study in Entebbe, which has the potential to become a church. We're also considering an outreach in the area where the sponsoring organization for our work permit is based. In all of these endeavors, we envision following Paul's methods in planting a church as shown in Acts 14:21-23. These methods include preaching the gospel, making disciples, training the disciples, appointing



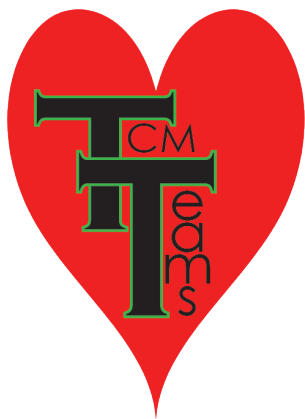


leaders, and commending the work to the Lord.

While the work in Kenya and Uganda are in different stages of the *Troas Strategy*, Grace believers in both countries share the same passion for the lost and love for the Grace message. With such qualities, we believe that the ministry in East Africa has a great future. We're glad that God redirected us here, where we can serve now as missionaries. It is a great privilege to be part of God's mission in proclaiming the message of reconciliation in the regions beyond. Indeed, when one accepts God's redirection, he or she will have more opportunities to share the gospel of salvation. The same thing happened with Paul, and he shared about it in 2 Corinthians 2:12 which says: "Furthermore, when I came to Troas to preach Christ's gospel, a door was opened to me by the Lord." ❖

## TCM TEAMS

*A cooperative alliance among worldwide Grace believers to promote the rapid spread of the gospel in the least evangelized nations.*



TCM follows Paul's method of recruiting ministry partners from the regions where he had established churches, training and mentoring them, and then sending them out as missionaries. TCM Teams are made up of spiritually qualified missionaries from TCM fields in the *Partner* stage of the *Troas Strategy*. These non-American TCM "Team missionaries" are Bible school graduates with extensive experience in church ministry, who have completed GTCM mission training.

TCM Team missionaries do the same mission work as other TCM missionaries; the difference is that TCM-USA and the TCM *Partner* field "team" up to send and financially support Team missionaries. TCM-USA raises a set percentage of Team missionaries' support, and they raise the remainder from their home country. The Team concept combines readily available Christian manpower from TCM *Partner* fields with resources from Grace believers worldwide. TCM currently has 6 Teams serving in Cambodia, East Africa, East Timor, Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam.

### WHY SUPPORT TCM TEAMS?

- **Wise Stewardship:** TCM Teams benefit from the lower cost of living in many foreign countries.
- **Rapid Deployment:** Potential Team missionaries can be deployed to a strategic country within six months.
- **Experienced Ministers:** Applicants with proven ministry skills and theological training are selected by the TCM board and trained for cross-cultural ministry.
- **Maximum Ministry:** Without the need for extensive deputation travel, Team missionaries can live nearly full time on the assigned field.
- **Encouragement and Accountability:** Team missionaries are accountable to each other while encouraging those who are facing challenges.
- **Coordinated Teamwork:** The Team will continue to minister in its assigned country even if an individual missionary returns home. New missionaries will be recruited to replace departing missionaries.



# FROM TAIWAN TO VIETNAM

by Vincent Quiñones, Team Vietnam

*For this is what the Lord has commanded us: "I have made you a light for the Gentiles, that you may bring salvation to the ends of the earth.*

*Acts 13:47*

There are several things I said I never wanted to do:

- To wait for more than two years—praying and preparing—to leave for the mission field.
- To learn difficult languages, first Mandarin then Vietnamese.
- To leave Team Taiwan and be a missionary in a Communist country.

All these things happened one by one. I have now learned never to say never. In September 2018, we were accepted as TCM missionaries and assigned to Team Taiwan along with Roland and Beverly Improso. A survey trip to Taiwan in Spring 2019, together with Roland and our International Director, Ben Anderson, fueled our desire and preparations to serve there. However, visa obstacles followed by pandemic lockdowns thwarted those plans. In February 2022 TCM approved our redirection from Taiwan to Vietnam. The heart of the Quiñones family is for unreached people, because lost people matter to God and so matter to us, whether they are Vietnamese or Taiwanese.

Shirley and I value involving our kids in our decisions. When we had a family meeting to discuss the redirection, our firstborn, Verse, asked, "Why Vietnam?" We explained to him that Taiwan was still closed to new foreigners, and there was a need in Vietnam after the loss of our brother Jimmy Escobar. We had a long conversation, talking honestly about our feelings and fears because we all knew Vietnam is a Communist country. But, as I explained to them, wherever we are, we will eventually die. It doesn't matter if we're in Taiwan, in Vietnam, or in the Philippines, we will die, so don't be afraid. Our purpose in Vietnam is to share the message of Grace so people there can have eternal life. We all agreed and started praying and connecting with those who could help us get to Vietnam.

## VISA TO STAY

The first week of March 2022, I received a call from a friend in Thailand who recommended me to a school in Vietnam. I contacted the owner of the school, and we agreed on the details of a contract for Shirley and me to teach there. We submitted all our papers for the visa application with the help of our sponsor, the school in Hanoi. Within one month all the necessary documents had been approved and released.

The excitement and fear continued as we endured more than 30 minutes of questioning by the Philippines Immigration prior to our departure. Praise the Lord we passed! Heat and humidity greeted us as we stepped off the plane and set foot at Ho Chi Minh International Airport. It was May 23, 2022, the day of our first arrival in Vietnam as a family. From Ho Chi Minh





International Airport we transferred to the domestic airport for the flight to our final destination—Hanoi. Our teammate Joy Escobar was there waiting to pick us up and bring us to our apartment.



When I retell the story of our arrival, listeners are often surprised to hear what we endured in our first week. Even I myself wonder why we didn't despair, get angry, or resent being in Hanoi. Simple communication to call for Grab transportation (similar to Uber) and trying to buy furnishings for our apartment without knowing the language was overwhelming, the food was strange to our taste, and we all got sick.

Despite these difficulties, we fell in love with Hanoi, the scooters, traffic, rice, culture, language, and people. Moreover, what sustained us during that first horrific week and the many trials and tests over the following months was our strong sense of God's call to preach the message of Grace to the lost people of Vietnam.



## LIFE AND MINISTRY IN VIETNAM

For us as family, life in Vietnam is very different from the Philippines. Major adjustments are required in all aspects of life in terms of food, weather, lifestyle, and language. But praise the Lord, we are trained, prepared, and willing to immerse ourselves fully in this culture in order to really accomplish our purpose for being in this mission field.

To me, the transition from Taiwan to Vietnam presented a paradigm shift in ministry and mission. It is now our role to preach the message of Grace to lost people in a Communist country with a culture that is very different from our Filipino culture. I cannot say it is easy or hard—I would rather say it is challenging.



The challenges are communication, learning our way around, determining how best to execute our purpose, and most especially, the right timing to start a Grace church or TCM ministry. The Lord has enabled us to connect with the locals, to be involved in existing Christian ministries, to teach children about the Word of God, to preach on Sundays and, at the same time, study the Vietnamese language in order to advance our ministry.





## FAMILY MOMENTS



As husband and wife, Shirley and I work together to build a strong bond of trust, commitment, teamwork, and love as we engage in this ministry with our children. Being a family means being there for each other. We intentionally spend valuable time every Sunday attending the children's Sunday service at Hanoi International Fellowship for Verse and Sveinn. In the afternoon we attend the local Vietnamese Sunday service. Having daily prayer and

devotions, and especially family meetings every Saturday morning with our children makes them feel like they belong.

Monday to Friday our kids attend the school where Shirley and I teach. Tuesday and Wednesday are our language study days. Sometimes we spend time with the kids playing and painting to make them feel special. It also reduces stress as it makes us happy and contented to be with our loved ones.



## METHODS OF PAUL TO GROW A WORK



We are using Apostle Paul's strategy for reaching the Vietnamese. This is TCM's *Troas Strategy*. In our situation, we are in the initial *Target* stage, so we are focused on intentional engagement with the local people. To do that, we must learn the language, connect with the local people, and fellowship with our contacts. God wants all people to be saved. (1 Tim. 2:3-4) ❖

## BE THE ONE, SEE THE ONE, SHARE THE ONE.

*(Building a Leadership Culture, continued from page 3)*

habit that advances the gospel in the community. Everyday life is filled with opportunities to encourage people in their spiritual lives by putting gospel tracts into their hands and therefore invoking the name of the Lord Jesus Christ for at least one time in their hearing that day. Western civilization is becoming more of a post-Christian society and, like pagan cultures of old, with no foundational knowledge of the Christian worldview (Acts 17:16-34). The progressive trends of a world in rebellion against the Creator present manifold opportunities to be salt and light as ambassadors for Christ. Building a leadership culture in the community through hospitality, evangelism & missions, and the comprehensive relevance of the biblical worldview renders our stewardship responsibility increasingly urgent every day. ❖



## FOLLOWING ON



### **EUNICE HEATH,**

featured in our Spring issue, passed into the presence of the Lord on June 22 at age 99. Eunice and her husband, Bill, were among TCM's pioneer missionaries to the Philippines, where they actively served for 18 years in Bible training ministries. They left a missionary legacy, not only to their Filipino students, but also to their children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren who continue to be active in mission work.



#### **Magazine of Things to Come Mission, Inc.**

Volume 61, Number 2, Fall 2022

*International Harvest* is the official magazine of Things to Come Mission published two times per year from the headquarters in Indianapolis, Indiana, USA. Circulation is 5,000. The publication is without charge. Costs are covered by donations to the General Fund.

**Mail:** PO Box 127  
Beech Grove, IN 46107

**Phone:** (317) 783-0300

**Email:** [tcm@tcmusa.org](mailto:tcm@tcmusa.org)

**Website:** [www.tcmusa.org](http://www.tcmusa.org)

**Editors:** Valerie Wynalda & Staff

#### **Board Members**

- John Harris, President (Altoona, PA)
- David Kinhead, Vice President (Phoenix, AZ)
- Timothy Board, Secretary (Indianapolis, IN)
- Jim Tollar, Treasurer (Delavan, WI)
- Jeff Bertram, Member (Alpha, KY)
- Nathan Bullock, Member (Cornelia, GA)
- Don Hosfeld, Member (Nokomis, FL)

#### **Directors**

- Jim Tollar, Executive Director
- Ben Anderson, International Director
- Timothy Board, Development Director
- Valerie Wynalda, Office Administrator

**Things to Come Mission** prepares people for Jesus Christ's return through the methods of the Apostle Paul by sending missionaries to evangelize, plant churches and train leaders worldwide. Our financial support comes from free will gifts of churches and individuals. Things to Come Mission will disburse gifts as they are designated. When a project is complete, TCM will disburse the gifts in a manner consistent with its mission statement and purpose. As a 501(c)3 tax exempt organization, TCM issues tax-deductible receipts for all donations.

## IN MEMORY



### **JESSIE EASTERLY**

Tyler & Amanda Palmer

### **JIMMY ESCOBAR**

TCM-USA

### **DONALD & VANECE FILLMORE**

Gary & Karen Aday

### **EUNICE HEATH**

Heath Family

Alex R. Pierce

Joanne Pierce

Pauline Watkins

Valerie Anderson Wynalda

### **ADA MASON**

Ada Mason Estate

### **CHARLES BROCK REWIS**

Donald & Norma Rewis

### **PAUL RICHMOND**

Aileen Richmond

### **RUTH RICKERBY**

V. Gayle Griffin

Philip & Normalene Kline

Olive Jean Smith

### **JOE WATKINS**

Thomas & Janith Upshaw

# HOW CAN I HELP?

## KGBI KITCHEN & DINING HALL



Training is an integral part of the *Troas Strategy*. Kenya Grace Bible Institute (KGBI) trains ministers and missionaries who will spread the Grace message in Kenya and beyond. KGBI is also the headquarters of TCM's work in East Africa and hosts national and international conferences. A kitchen and dining hall will enable KGBI

to accommodate more students in training programs as well as conference guests. The initial \$10,000, donated in memory of Jesse Palmer Easterly, is completing Phase 1: foundation, slab, plumbing, and kitchen walls & roof.

**Need:** \$6100 to complete Phase 2: columns, electrical work, dining hall, and all finishing work. **Designate Donations:** KGBI Kitchen & Dining Hall

## CARING FOR GUIMBAS

Mel and Freda Guimba have served with Team Laos since 2011. In October Freda was diagnosed with advanced kidney disease, potentially requiring regular dialysis or a kidney transplant. The Guimbas have returned to the Philippines for additional testing and treatment. Their financial support only provides enough to cover their typical monthly expenses. Although medical treatment is less expensive in the Philippines, it will still be a costly prospect for them in addition to finding a place to live and setting up housekeeping.



**Need:** Unspecified—give as the Lord leads. **Designate Donations:** Guimba

## PROJECT ABBA



Get excited about giving toward a great cause this Christmas! This isn't just about giving clothes and toys to needy kids in North Brazil. It's about offering them the best present ever—the gift of eternal life through Jesus Christ! With your donations we'll shop till we drop then take the gifts and the message of Jesus to big celebrations with kids in our church neighborhoods. In the New Year we minister to these kids and their families through our local churches as you pray for us.

**Need:** \$10 per child **Designate Donations:** Project ABBA



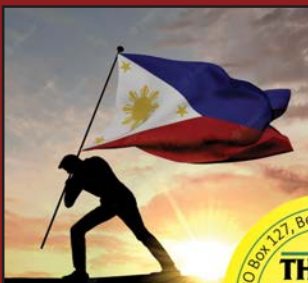
NONPROFIT  
ORGANIZATION  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
PERMIT NO. 9057



International Harvest



[www.tcmusa.org](http://www.tcmusa.org) • [tcm@tcmusa.org](mailto:tcm@tcmusa.org) • (317) 783-0300  
PO Box 127, Beech Grove, IN 46107



Crown Regency Hotel  
Cebu City, Philippines

# Southeast Asia

## GRACE CONFERENCE

May 25-29, 2023



**\$195**

4 nights hotel  
meals & snacks  
conference facilities  
airport to hotel  
Cebu City Tour

**URGENT MISSION**

### Redeeming the Time

"Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is."