



Photo by Meera Pankhania

GLOBAL TRAINING NETWORK

Humility: The Unexpected Source of Joy

From the desk of Paul R. Madson / March 2023

Snapshots from the Field



Expect the Unexpected

INDIA

After completing a recent training with women leaders in India, staff members Patricia Niednagel and Sandra Bauer received an outpouring of positive feedback and comments on life change. Patricia said that many came not knowing what to expect, but left with a whole new foundation for their lives, based upon Scripture. One leader, Ramina, wrote: *"I have never been in a meeting like this in my whole life. I feel excited to make disciples."*



Truly Indescribable

NEPAL

Staff member Bob Edmondson recently began a training on Systematic Theology to a group of pastors and leaders in Nepal, and wrote: *"The same spirit of wonder prevails as I describe the attributes of God. He is so vastly different from the Hindu gods worshipped everywhere in Nepal that our students are profoundly affected by biblical descriptions of God's true nature. Already there have been some tears and some great feedback."*

KEY SCRIPTURE

“The Lord does not delay his promise, as some understand delay, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish but all to come to repentance.”

- 2 Peter 3:9

QUOTABLE QUOTE

“I ask you neither for health nor for sickness, for life nor for death; but that you may dispose of my health and my sickness, my life and my death, for your glory...”

“You alone know what is expedient for me; you are the sovereign master; do with me according to your will.

Give to me, or take away from me, only conform my will to yours. I know but one thing, Lord, that it is good to follow you...”

- **Blaise Pascal**

(French mathematician, physicist, inventor, philosopher, and writer)

Introducing Dr. Curt and Dr. Becka Wagner

Curt and Becka have been married since 1978 and have raised three boys. Curt and Becka met in college when both were small group leaders in InterVarsity Christian Fellowship.



After college, they were married, and Curt attended Dallas

Theological Seminary (and graduated in 1982) while Becka continued working as an RN. Curt was part of a pastoral intern program in Manlius, NY for a few years before his first pastorate in Georgetown, CT for 8 years and then in Mansfield, OH for 15 years.

Since his time in seminary, Curt served as a chaplain first in the Army National Guard and then the Air National Guard. He served in the Ohio Air National Guard for 25 years and retired in 2020 with 39 years of total service.

During his military career, he completed several active-duty deployments to Germany, France, Guam, the Air Force Mortuary Affairs Center in Dover, Delaware, and assisted in the Hurricane Katrina response.

Curt earned a Th.M. from Dallas Seminary and a D.Min. from Trinity Evangelical Divinity School. Because of his pastoral experience and military ministry, he has a great passion to use his knowledge and experience to train and mentor pastors globally.

Becka took time off from her practice as an RN to raise three sons and minister with Curt as a pastor's wife. She later taught nursing in several universities and currently teaches nursing at Cedarville University.

Becka has a Master's in Nursing Education and a Doctor of Education from Liberty University. She has a great passion to teach and encourage women leaders globally.

Curt and Becka live in Jamestown, Ohio and have three sons, three wonderful daughters-in-law and six grandchildren. They enjoy traveling together and spending time with their families.

Join us in welcoming Curt and Becka to the GTN family!



Update from the President

What a joy and privilege it was last month to host our annual **All-Staff Leadership Gathering** in Scottsdale, Arizona.

We welcomed over 130 of our staff from all over the U.S. and abroad for a rich time of learning, sharing best practices, and fellowship. I love our staff and appreciate them deeply!

In my President's Address this year, I highlighted the crucial role that humility plays in our service for Christ globally. My main point centered on this thought:

Humble people are grateful people. And grateful people tend to be joyful people. They regularly express gratitude and thanks. Why? Because they understand—and have applied—the Gospel of God's unmerited grace to their hearts.

By contrast, proud people tend to grumble and complain as they go through life. Why? Because they think they deserve better from God and live with an attitude of entitlement.

Scripture makes it clear that all of us, at best, deserve hell. Anything we receive from God other than hell (which we deserve) is grace.

An oft-used phrase during my time as a pastor was, *"God is God, and we are not. It's all about Him, not us. He gets all the glory!"*

This thought is rooted in two Scripture passages that I have leaned on throughout my ministry years:



We were honored to have Dr. Darryl DelHousaye as our keynote speaker. Dr. DelHousaye is the President Emeritus of Phoenix Seminary, and also served as senior pastor of Scottsdale Bible Church for over 25 years. His rich biblical insight on shepherding was a blessing to receive.



My President's Address included an emphasis on four goals that I hope continue to shape us as a ministry: Humility, Perseverance, Stretching Ourselves and Intentional Learning.

Update From the President... continued

"I planted, Apollos watered, but God caused the growth. So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything. But only God who makes things grow."

(1 Corinthians 3:6-8)

"What do you have that you did not receive? Then why do you boast as if you had not received it?"

(1 Corinthians 4:7)

To sum it up, humility produces joy. Pride and arrogance flatten joy. Our world needs to see humble Christians who exude joy as part of the fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23).

Jesus said in John 15, *"I have told you these things so that my joy may be in you and your joy may be complete"* (v. 11).

I'm grateful for a community of staff members who understand and live in light of the good news of the gospel of God's grace in all things.

Pray for our staff as they travel to some of the hardest and most impoverished places around the globe to bring quality biblical and theological training to indigenous pastors and leaders in need.

Lisa and I just want to thank you for praying for us! We are so grateful for your faithful partnership through your prayers. We always need them and deeply appreciate your faithful intercession.

You play a vital part in all that God is doing through Global Training Network around the world!

By God's grace and for His glory,



Paul R. Madson
Founder / President
Philippians 1:21



Dr. Jim Baugh, GTN's Executive Director of Staff Development, interviewed staff members John and Beth Lasley during one portion of the Leadership Gathering. Attendees had 9 workshop options to choose from this year, on a variety of different topics.



Dr. Hud McWilliams, GTN's Executive Director of Soul Care, led an additional two-day workshop. In order to keep running the race of faith and serving others with joy, we need to be continually refreshed by the truth of Scripture and its application to our lives and hearts.

Thank you!