

Pastor to Pastor TRAINING NETWORKS



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P2P Director Gary Bulley presenting P2P diploma to Pastor Vitelio Cruz in San Salvador

New Education Partners Swell P2P Credibility

A diploma means a great deal to nearly all of the thousands of pastors we train. A diploma from an accredited theological seminary or Bible college means the world. Most of these dedicated men and women never dreamed that graduating from a seminary or Bible college would be remotely possible. Thanks to the P2P team and partners, that dream is becoming a reality for many pastors around the world.

P2P has been approached by two institutions to provide a Certificate of Pastoral Ministry to graduating pastors in their respective countries. The Argentinian Baptist Seminary and the Baptist University in Cali Columbia are now partners with P2P to provide training for pastors in their countries. The program will be presented by both P2P and the partner institution.

Both the Argentinian Baptist Seminary and the Baptist University in Cali have examined our program, courses, and organization; and feel confident we can work together to train pastors who would likely otherwise not receive training. We will continue to utilize our materials and process; however, we will have the weight of these partners behind us as we work in these areas. This is huge for P2P as it lends instant credibility in these countries. It also means that graduates will be graduating with a diploma from these institutions, which would otherwise be inaccessible to most pastors.

P2P has also been approached by the Guatemalan Baptist Seminary and one of the seven major North American Southern Baptist seminaries about a partnership as well. These discussions are just beginning, but we are hopeful that God will lead us to work together. We are also hopeful this trend of partnering with legitimate theological institutions will continue. We can help each other in so many ways. We can help them reach pastors who lack the ability to attend seminary due to funds, location, life situation, or education level; they can likewise help us with credibility, promotion, and access to more potential students. It is truly a win-win partnership.

Partnering with theological educators is not new for P2P. A Pentecostal seminary named *El Sembrador (the Sower)* in San Salvador, El Salvador, which has over 600 students, now exclusively uses our materials and process. The regional training center for the *Central American Mission Church* in Horconcitos Honduras likewise uses our courses for their training program. As we serve pastors in various parts of the world, people are taking notice. It is encouraging for us to know they not only like what they see, but want to partner with us to strengthen pastors and churches... and we couldn't be more excited.

Full Speed Ahead in Honduras

It has been a long time coming as COVID disrupted our training in Honduras for more than eighteen months, but pastors and leaders from Tutule, San Jose, Horconcitos, and Ilama will all be graduating this Fall. P2P leaders were naturally concerned when travel shut down around the world. Would we continue to see the same enthusiasm we saw prior to COVID? The answer was

a resounding yes. Students have been eagerly awaiting our return and were relieved when we picked up where we left off. P2P leaders were also relieved to be eagerly received by students hungry for more classes and to finish the program.



Our latest class in Ilama Honduras in late June of this year. Pastors and leaders learned Applied Church History. Most said it was their favorite course of all!

What is even more encouraging are the leaders who now want to begin their own P2P schools. With the assistance of our Honduran Coordinator Luis Vega and our Central American Coordinator Ed Nerio, Pastor Salvador Hernandez in Ilama plans to begin his own school in order to train more pastors. Likewise, pastors Omar Jimenez and Matias Hernandez in Horconcitos will begin new P2P locations teaching others. We also plan on using selected graduates to teach in our upcoming new locations in southern Honduras that will begin in 2022.



P2P Director Gary Bulley with Ilama church leader Salvador Hernandez and his family.



The pastors in Horconcitos after our latest course earlier this year. National Coordinator Luis Vega is seated second from right. Pastor and leader Matias Hernandez is seated second from left in the yellow shirt. Pastor and leader Omar Jimenez is standing in the blue shirt on the far left. These men and those like them will take P2P to Honduras.

This is exactly how we pray every location will respond once they finish the program. We have nearly twice as many locations taught exclusively by nationals than we teach using American pastors. This is intentional because so many still need to be trained. The number of pastors needing training in Honduras well exceeds ninety percent. When we enter a country, it is our goal for every willing pastor in that country to receive training. We know that we cannot accomplish this goal using solely American instructors. To reach our goal, we must multiply. We desire to train pastors and leaders who will in turn train others. Only in this way can

we train all who need to be trained. We have seen this dynamic in other countries, now we are watching it unfold in Honduras.

The Fight and Flight of Pastors, by Scott Bosier

****Article Disclaimer****

Now I am aware that if you are reading this newsletter, you are probably already supporting P2P Training Networks either financially or with prayer, or both — and for this both Gary and I, along with our team of national coordinators and translators are so very grateful. We are honored by your trust, your encouragement through prayer and giving, and by your love for pastors...from deep hearts full of gratitude we all say to you — thank you. Please keep reading! This is not an advertisement for P2P, but an encouragement for your local pastor!

You remember hearing about it in high school biology right? When an animal is threatened it faces two instinctive responses: 1) FIGHT — Is this threat bigger than me? Does this threat have the ability to harm my pack/heard/flock? Can I win? -OR- 2) FLIGHT — Can I outrun this threat? Is escape the better option for the pack/heard/flock? Can safety be found elsewhere? This response is typically made within seconds and can mean life or death out in the wild...but what happens when pastors ponder this question with regard to their livelihood and the livelihood of their flock and family day in, day out, sometimes for weeks, months or years?

AMERICA'S PASTORS ON THEIR FUTURE IN FULL-TIME MINISTRY — 2021 Barna

Have you given real, serious consideration to quitting being in full-time ministry within the last year?

● Yes ● No

2021|Jan



2021|Oct

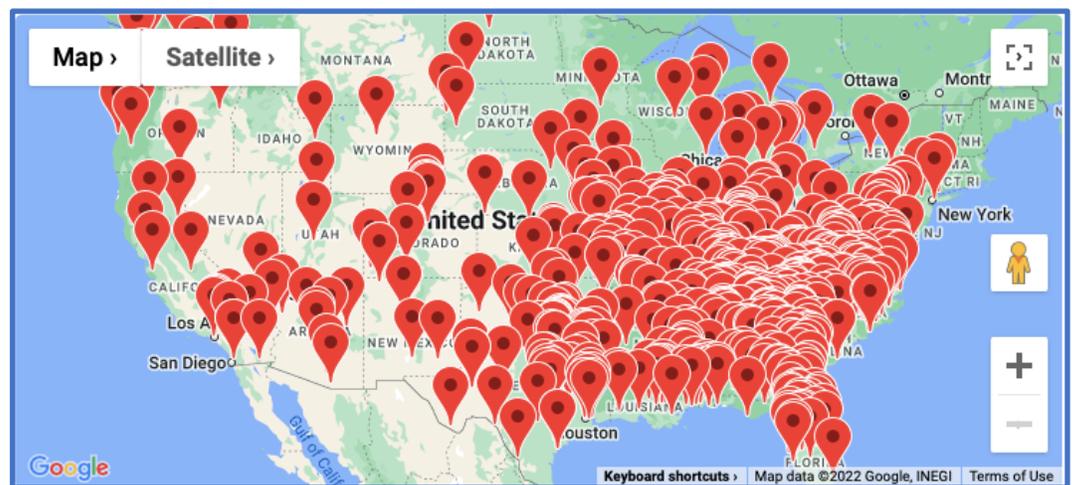


n=413 U.S. Protestant pastors; January 22–27, 2021.

n=507 U.S. Protestant pastors; October 12–28, 2021. | Source: Barna Group | [Download image](#)

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We all know that the **ordinary** stress and strain of ministry has always made being a pastor a hard job. And in this sense, there really is “nothing new under the sun.” Paul describes this to the believers in Corinth by sharing his daunting list of struggles — beaten, stoned, shipwrecked, etc. — then concludes with this, *“Besides everything else, I face daily the pressure of my concern for all the churches. Who is weak, and I do not feel weak? Who is led into sin, and I do not inwardly burn?”* (2 Cor. 11:28-29) But pile on top of that the **extra-ordinary** stress and strain from the shifting cultural, economic, political, medical, denominational, technological changes (this list is growing with *unprecedented rapidity* in all of these categories) and pastors are feeling the pressure of **FIGHT** or **FLIGHT** in ministry in America and around the world. Just take a look at the current ministry openings map on SBC.net



At **P2P Training Networks**, we believe that the best opportunity for keeping pastors in the **FIGHT** and way from **FLIGHT** is Biblical training. When a pastor is equipped for battle with the Word of God, they are much more likely to keep going when the pressures of ministry increase. What allows a soldier to keep moving forward when bullets and bombs are flashing all around them in battle? They default to their Basic Training. When 90% of pastors around the world lack formal Biblical training, what will their default be? Now we are certain that education is not the only answer. But it is the best starting place. As we equip national pastors with the Word of God **and trust them to teach others**, we are placing the “sword of the Spirit” in the hands of an army of leaders who can now **FIGHT** the good fight of faith side by side.

But **P2P** is more than just education and training. On my most recent trip to Peru, a pastor approached my translator, Emanuel, and asked if he could speak with me after the class for about ten minutes. This is not uncommon, so of course we stayed after to talk. While I cannot share the details of what this pastor shared... suffice it to say, what he was dealing with was enough for any minister to run — he was ready for **FLIGHT**. Praise God, we were able to listen and pray for this pastor — *“Who is weak, and I do not feel weak?”* — we could feel his pain and help carry the burden with him. With tears in his eyes, that pastor knew he was not alone in the **FIGHT**. We are not just trainers but encouragers. Recently, another pastor in Honduras shared openly during the Discipleship course of a struggle with a brother in his church. Although he was frustrated and discouraged with the



situation, we were able to share Biblical approaches to help him consider other ways to deal with this struggle. This time the whole group benefited from the counsel, as others nodded in agreement, I am certain many of them had faced similar struggles with their congregants. By modeling this type of counseling and encouragement, we are training these pastors to be counselors and encouragers to one another.

But what about pastors in America? What can help them stay in the **FIGHT** and resist the **FLIGHT**? How can I help? What are you asking from me? I’m glad you asked... It goes without saying, do what you have been doing...pray for your pastor and encourage them. Speak words of encouragement to them, their spouse and their children. Support them financially and be ready to listen and help them bear their burdens. But can I also encourage you to recommend that your pastor take a **FLIGHT** to one of the countries that **P2P** serves and encourage them to train other pastors. When I was serving as a senior pastor and went with P2P to train pastors — my church’s investment in sending me to train other pastors did the following:

1) **It affirmed their trust in me as a teacher and a leader.** I may have been questioning my effectiveness, fruitfulness and leadership skills... but when people supported me financially to go train others, it was like receiving a stamp of approval. I felt affirmed and encouraged.

2) **I was encouraged to see the faithfulness of other pastors.** In America, it is easy for pastors to compare themselves with other pastors and their congregations. Discouragement often creates discontentment. But seeing the humble circumstances that non-first-world countries experience reoriented my thinking and helped me see the faithfulness of others in their circumstances. What an encouragement.



3) **I had renewed zeal and passion for my own community.** Although the travel and teaching schedule can be physically and spiritually demanding...after some rest from the trip, I was always more passionate to teach and preach, more patient with people, and more zealous for the Lord and his kingdom.

In short, when I took **FLIGHT** to train pastors, it kept me in the **FIGHT!** I am positive that my ten years as senior pastor would have ended much sooner if I had not been a part of **P2P**. So, don't just pray for and encourage your pastor...commit to sending your pastor on mission to train other pastors "who will be able to train others." (2 Tim. 2:2) You will be glad you did, and you will help keep your pastor in the good **FIGHT**.

Support P2P

We are a faith-based ministry that relies entirely on the generosity of our partners and friends for support. We believe we can change the world by training leaders in thousands of communities around the globe to lead healthy and vibrant churches. As we train pastors and leaders who in turn train other pastors and leaders, tens of thousands, if not hundreds of thousands of communities will know the light of the gospel and the goodness of God's Kingdom. If you would like to support this vital pastor training ministry, you can send your tax-deductible donations to:

P2P Networks
9 Lake Sydney Drive
Dawsonville, GA 30534

Or you can give through our website at: <https://www.p2pnetworks.org/donate/>

Check us out at:

P2Pnetworks.org

We are a kingdom first ministry. We are delighted to share our process and materials with anyone seeking to build God's Kingdom through training leaders. We are eager to assist and mentor those with a similar faith and heart for the nations. We ask nothing in return but faithfulness. If you have an existing mission partnership and believe God is calling you to train leaders, please contact us. We will do all we can to help.

Contact Gary Bulley at
garybulley@gmail.com

Our 12 Courses Typically taught over 2 years

1. Theology of God
2. Theology of Salvation
3. Theology of the Church
4. Hermeneutics
5. Old Testament
6. New Testament
7. Applied Church History
8. Pastoral Ministry
9. Missions/Church Planting
10. Discipleship
11. Evangelism
12. Preaching

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