

Pastor to Pastor TRAINING NETWORKS



ISSUE NO 21 | Summer 2023

What We Do, When We Aren't Doing What We Do...

By P2P Training Strategist Scott Bosier



Pastor Alexis Gibbons

P2P training is contagious! This is because God's Word is contagious, and a passion for God's Word begets a passion for God's Word.

I want to introduce you to Pastor Alexis Gibbons. I met Pastor Alexis this year in Guatemala when I was keynote speaker for a Pastor's Conference. This is not our typical teaching environment...normally we teach pastors one of 12 courses in theology and pastoral ministry, approximately 12 hours over two days, and usually in at least two locations. I was now teaching 3 sessions a day over the course of 4 days with about 100 pastors from Guatemala, Mexico, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, and El Salvador. We stayed at the same retreat center, eating meals together, worshipping together, and learning together.

Pastor Alexis is from Costa Rica and is bilingual (speaking fluent Spanish and English). He is a missionary to the Dominican Republic and has been working in both El Salvador and Guatemala. Pastor Alexis is a church planter in the DR (and in the US as well!) and was invited to attend the conference. Turns out, I would be sharing living quarters with Pastor Alexis and my translator Pastor Ed Nerio (our Central American coordinator for P2P). We had lots of time to talk about P2P and ministry over the week together, and Pastor Alexis was able to hear some of our Discipleship course material as it was a focus of the conference. Pastor Ed would speak with Pastor Alexis at length about P2P in EL Salvador and what it has meant to the pastors there. It was clear that Pastor Alexis was interested in hearing more. As we said our goodbyes, Pastor Alexis asked if I would let

him know if we would be teaching any of the courses soon, and that he would like to sit through the actual classes to hear more.



Scott left, Alexis right, and one of our Cusco students in the center

Fast forward to May. As I was heading to Peru to teach classes in Cusco, we discovered that we had no translator! We almost had to cancel and reschedule. I called Pastor Ed to see if any of his translators were available. No. There was not enough time to get a visa for Peru. However, Pastor Ed knew that Pastor Alexis was still in El Salvador. It was a long shot, but he would ask if Alexis was available. Yes! Available and willing to come! Pastor Alexis served well as my translator, and was well received by the pastors as he translated and ministered to them.

Alright...now for the meaning of the title for this article: *What We Do, When We Aren't Doing What We Do*. Most of you have received the newsletters, Facebook posts, etc., often with a picture of all the pastors and leaders we have just finished teaching. We send you these, because this is part of the fruit of your giving — many you are investing in P2P so we can **train pastors**. But don't forget the rest of it — **who will then train other pastors!** What we do, when we are not on the field training pastors is connecting other pastors to the ministry of

training pastors! Many of these pastors are US based and are sent by their church congregations. We even have churches that have taken on the responsibility of training a nation (like our partnerships in Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, and Sierra Leone). But our goal has always been **to raise up national leaders** in each of these countries to do the work. Pastors like Pastor Ed in El Salvador, Pastor Julio in Peru, Pastor Lebbie in Sierra Leone... and like Pastor Alexis.

Pastor Alexis just finished teaching the Missions and Church Planting course on behalf of P2P in Cusco, Peru! He sees the vision, he understands the need, and he has caught the passion to train pastors who will in turn train more pastors.



Pastor Alexis teaching Missions and Church Planting in Cusco, Peru

All this to say that passion is contagious! We find that as we invest in pastors: teaching, equipping, and releasing; many become passionate advocates for teaching others. Giving to P2P is so much more than trips and travel expenses...so much more than training materials and food...your giving empowers those who have no resources to minister in ways they could never imagine. Through your giving you are raising up a generation of national leaders who are now **able to train others**. Thank you for your investment in us, in them, and in the Gospel. Finally, please continue to pray that God raises up an army of these pastors around the world to join Gary and I on this mission!

Scott

Is it a Hat Trick?... Is it a Turkey?... No. It's P2P!

Scoring three goals in one game in soccer is called a hat trick. Rolling three consecutive strikes in bowling is called a turkey. I am not sure what it is called when we start new training programs in three different countries in three consecutive months: Argentina in May, Panama in June, and Honduras in July. Alright, my wife Cindy came up with the corny title, but this is quite an accomplishment for us, and one we have never done before. Furthermore, two of these countries are new for P2P. In the past three months we have grown from 39 active locations to 45 active locations, if you count the 2 new locations Ed Nerio and his team are starting in El Salvador.

Argentina

Argentina is a new country for us and promises great potential. We are co-sponsoring our program with the Argentinian Baptist Seminary and have started in one location in Comodoro, which is in southern Argentina. This is about as far south as you can go in the world before you run out of people. Our coordinator is a fun loving and faithful pastor named Roberto Warton. We are teaching two courses each trip and Pastor Warton is teaching in three additional locations. Our reception in Comodoro was incredibly strong and we feel like the sky is the limit in Argentina.



There is so much wind in Comodoro, there are warning signs. Pastor Warton is having a hard time just holding on



Argentians love to eat. I am sure this is the biggest hamburger I have ever had. It is the size of my face

Second, I observed that people in Comodoro have three basic food groups: meat, sugar, and mayonnaise. There is lots of meat, lots of candy, and a gallon of mayonnaise on every table-which they put on everything.

Finally, harsh environments produce warm people. I don't believe I have had a better reception anywhere. We shared a lot of meals in different homes. People were open, gracious, and grateful. It was a great privilege to spend time with all of them.

I do have some interesting observation about Comodoro. First, I am convinced it is the windiest place on earth. We experienced 70 MPH wind gusts on several days during my stay. When I commented on the wind, locals told me, "That's nothing, it gets way worse than this."



Our group in Comodoro included pastors from several denominations. They love working together for the kingdom

Panama

Panama is likewise a new country for P2P. Our partnership with the Panama Baptist Convention could not have started better. We taught our Pastoral Ministry course in Panama City and in Aguadulce. Both locations were very well attended and received the full support of the convention. The presidents and vice presidents of both the convention and pastor's associations were in attendance.



Gary with several convention leaders
Omar is just to my right

Panamanian leaders are hoping to begin lots of new churches, and were stymied regarding how to train leaders for these churches. They completely embraced P2P, and are now insisting that all their pastors and potential church planters receive the training. Our coordinator is the former convention president named Omar Penaloza. Omar did a great job bringing everyone together, and leaders are already talking about multiplying locations.

Honduras

We just graduated four locations in Honduras and are quickly starting three more. In July, I helped start two new programs in the Santa Barbara region in the cities of San Nicolas and La Arada. Both groups are Pentecostal and few pastors have had any training, much less formal training. Both schools are second generation as well, which means that at least one half of the courses will be taught by graduates from the prior class.



We taught Theology of God in both communities and were well received. We had approximately 35 people in each location and the various pastors and leaders can't wait for the next course.

I was particularly impressed with the city of San Nicolas, which is to be expected when you are named after jolly ole St. Nick. The town has the most beautiful city park, and the entire park is covered by the largest and most beautiful tree I have ever seen. San Nicolas was tranquil and inviting. Everyone comes out in the evenings, most to the park. Children are playing, couples holding hands, and people getting ice cream. We also met several persons of peace. One lady had us pray over a new business and the town reporter put a 20-minute interview with us on his web page, which apparently everyone reads. Our instructors will love teaching in San Nicolas.

Our location in La Arada is also interesting. We are in a church 20 minutes outside of town and down a dirt road for about 5 miles. People still came from all over, mostly in the backs of pickups. Many walked as well. It is refreshing to see such hunger for God's Word and ministry training.



Our Honduran coordinator Luis Vega about 20 feet in front of the grand tree in the city park

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
533 Ledford Rd
Dillard, GA 30537



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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