

# Pastor to Pastor | TRAINING NETWORKS



ISSUE NO 19 | Winter 2023



*Students in San Salvador, El Salvador in Preaching Class*

## **The Wild and Incredible Impact of Training Pastors**

Everywhere you look, people are engaged in missions. It really is amazing to see all of the cool things many thousands of American churches are doing around the world: feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, drilling wells, providing vaccines, giving away glasses, running medical clinics, building churches, teaching sustainable farming, running sports camps, providing VBS, leading crusades, teaching English, starting churches, and many other activities all while sharing the gospel and leading people to Jesus. The American church is arguably the most actively missional church in the history of the world. Our impact is substantial and will not be fully known until we reach heaven.

In the mix of all this mission activity, some are training pastors and leaders. People think, ‘*That’s nice, way to go.*’ Yet, in the minds of many, it’s not as exciting or tangible as other mission efforts: such the adrenaline of seeing hundreds respond to the gospel at a crusade, the shared joy of

the look on a child's face when glasses help them see for the very first time, or the satisfaction of joining an inaugural worship service in a church building you helped build. These are precious moments that cannot help but inspire our hearts and souls. As wonderful and necessary as these efforts are, I would argue that training pastors and leaders is the most vital, and carries the most potential for exponentially greater strategic impact. I encourage you to consider the following:

## Empowerment

Everywhere we go, pastors and leaders tell us they have been praying for someone to teach them to lead. Church leaders in various countries marvel at the knowledge, skill, and ministry abilities of the American Christians who serve them. We embark on their communities with resources, experience, and enthusiasm. These encounters with Americans are generally highly anticipated and almost always bolster the local churches involved. Local Christians often feel they cannot do what the Americans do. In fact, many of these churches become dependent on Americans and conclude they cannot advance without the assistance of Americans. They simply lack the knowledge, expertise, and resources necessary. Such dependence is often an unforeseen and unwelcome result of our efforts.



The reason pastors and leaders often tell us they have been praying for us to come is they want to know how to do the things we do. They want to know how to preach, teach, evangelize, disciple, serve their communities, and start churches. They see our fruit and desire to bear such fruit of their own. They want to lead and significantly impact God's kingdom. Pastor training teaches good theology and ministry principles. It teaches the fundamentals of preaching, discipleship, evangelism, and missions; then it teaches how to practically implement a sermon, a discipleship strategy, an evangelism strategy, a ministry strategy, and a mission's strategy. This is incredibly empowering for local leaders, as most greatly desire to be more effective in their calling. In short, we are teaching them to fish, rather than simply giving them a fish.

## Multiplication

Much of our mission efforts result in addition: we add souls to the kingdom during an evangelistic event or we add a church through our mission efforts. Such addition is important and not to be diminished. Pastor training works differently as it results in multiplication. An American pastor will train on average 100 pastors during a typical teaching trip. Thus, rather than a single evangelistic event, we now have 100 churches implementing an evangelistic strategy. For example, if your church set out to start churches in El Salvador, how many churches could you start? You may be able to start one or two, a valuable endeavor, and that would require remarkable effort and resources. P2P graduates have started over 50 churches in El Salvador alone. This occurred because we empowered local pastors and leaders to start contextual and indigenous churches not dependent on American resources.

In addition to multiplying our evangelistic, ministry, and mission efforts, pastor training also multiplies itself resulting in exponential fruit. The goal of P2P is to train every willing pastor in every country we serve. We cannot do this with American pastors alone. Thus, we identify, empower, and release local leaders to train others. We currently operate 38 teaching locations using American pastors. However, when you add locations led by our graduates and national leaders, we can identify nearly 100 locations. So, when an American pastor teaches evangelism to 100 pastors, he knows those 100 pastors will train others, who will in turn train others. We have no idea how far God is going to take our initial efforts.

## Sustainability

Much of our mission work is with unreached or underreached peoples. People are saved or churches started. However, if leaders are not trained the work stalls, may regress, or even disappear. It is not unusual for Americans to invest considerable people and financial resources leading people to Christ, starting a church, or building a church building only to come back a year or two later to find it is as if they had never been there. Training leaders ensures the work not only continues, but that it advances.

## Advancement

Our ultimate goal with most all mission effort is to begin something that grows and takes on a life of its own. We desire our efforts to result in continued kingdom expansion. The only way to build on our kingdom efforts overseas is to ensure that locals can not only sustain what we have started, but build on what we have started. This is why it is imperative that we include local leaders in our efforts and empower them to do the things we do: preach, teach, evangelize, disciple, and engage in ministry and missions.



Missiologist Nathan Shenk likens Paul's missionary activities to starting fires that he would leave in the hands of local leaders to fan the flames and pour more fuel on the fire until the whole region was ablaze with the gospel. This should likewise be the goal of our mission efforts. Can we start fires that ultimately result in a whole region being ablaze with the gospel? This is what

training pastors and leaders is all about. Like actual fires, some will sputter and go out. However, many of the fires grow and get out of control. They spread from pastor to pastor and church to church in wild and uncontrollable ways. P2P training has sparked theology movements, preaching movements, evangelism movements, discipleship movements, ministry movements, and church starting movements. This comes as we emulate the greatest human missionary of all, the Apostle Paul.

*2 Timothy 2:2 - The things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others.*

## Conclusion

There are many other reasons training pastors and leaders is vital. Among many other benefits, it leads to theological integrity and healthy biblical teaching, it encourages and builds up pastors and leaders, and it provides a biblical and practical foundation for ministry. However, the benefits we mention in this article reveal why training pastors and leaders must be a top priority. Through quality biblical training, we empower local pastors and leaders, we multiply kingdom work, and we sustain and advance our other mission efforts. This is why when asking national leaders around the world what is most needed for the church in their country, the majority answer with training pastors and leaders. We at P2P likewise believe there is no greater way to invest in God's kingdom than by training pastors and leaders. Training others to train others exponentially multiplies our kingdom investment in unimaginable ways.

## A Great Opportunity

Pastor to Pastor Training Networks was an incredible opportunity for me, as a Pastor, to share with other Pastors the theological and ministry training I was fortunate to have received. Many of the Pastors and Church leaders I came in contact with were in need of equipping and P2P was a good way for us to meet. P2P gave them a chance to study and hear ideas that they could take back to their churches and use for ministry. I saw local Pastors connecting with one another and I had the chance to be a part of the multiplication of healthier churches in



their local context. What a joy to lead and take theological training to other Pastors who may not have yet had access to such instruction. I would recommend it to any pastor as an opportunity to go on mission, train other pastors, and ignite their own churches with the excitement of seeing stronger pastors and congregations internationally.

Dr Cameron Ford – Green Acres Baptist Church in Athens Georgia

## P2P — Moving in Step with God

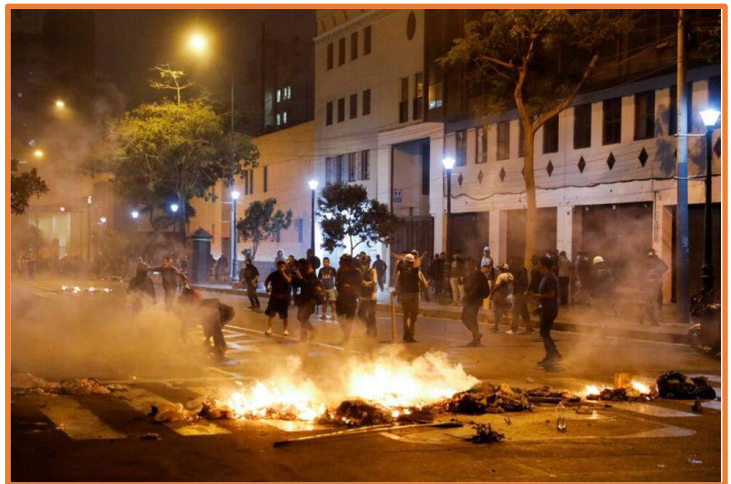
*Paul and his companions traveled throughout the region of Phrygia and Galatia, **having been kept by the Holy Spirit from preaching the word in the province of Asia.** When they came to the border of Mysia, they tried to enter Bithynia, but **the Spirit of Jesus would not allow them to.** So they passed 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.” — Acts 16:6-10*

Doesn't it seem odd that the Holy Spirit would prevent the preaching of God's Word? Does the Holy Spirit close down opportunities to enter countries that desperately need the Gospel?

Over the last year at P2P, I have seen God open doors wide in order for pastors to be able to receive critical training in the Word of God so that they might be fully equipped and able to teach others. I have also watched as God has closed down thriving opportunities, and shut the door to potential partnerships in advancing the Kingdom of God.

While we were celebrating Christmas and the coming New Year, Peru was plunged into violence as their president sought to dissolve congress in a bid to avoid impeachment. Instead, his cabinet defected and the police and military are now supporting the vice president as the head of state. But the people have been stirred up to violence, and are charging the government, senate, police and military with corruption and are insisting on the reinstatement of the deposed president.

The country is divided. There is a lockdown, a curfew, and over 50 people have died in clashes with police and military. At P2P, we were hoping to finish teaching in the Cusco and Ayacucho regions this year and open new schools in new territories...but it would seem we have been prevented by the Holy Spirit. So far, our team in Peru is safe and trying to ride out the storm...but please continue to pray for Peru, for Pastor Julio, Emanuel, and all our faithful students. But, even as one door in Peru has closed for the moment, God has opened the way to teach and lead in new areas. A new partnership with *E3 Volunteers* and the *Baptist Convention in El Salvador* (a door that was previously closed to us) has begun! We look forward to what God is doing here in El Salvador as the Holy Spirit leads the way. An amazing partnership in Columbia began last year and continues to morph into an amazing movement for training pastors. We look toward new territory in Argentina this year as well and expect that God has already set the stage for pastors to replicate by teaching others there!



*Violent protests are still raging in Peru, one of our most active countries for training pastors.*

Open and closed doors can be frustrating, but the key is to pivot and move **as the Holy Spirit leads**. I am so blessed to be a part of P2P, an organization that is strategic in its planning, but also reliant upon the leadership of the Holy Spirit. As the Holy Spirit opens and closes doors, we must remain obedient when God says, *“You cannot go there right now...I need you somewhere else.”* I’m grateful to work together with leaders who — **when we see the vision God gives us** (*Acts 16:10*) — “get ready at once” and go where the Holy Spirit leads.



*In December, the first class (Spiritual Formation) being taught in El Salvador to a new group of students in a new partnership with E3 and the Baptist Convention in El Salvador.*

Please continue to pray for the leaders at P2P — Gary, myself, Ed Nerio (Our Central American Coordinator), Julio Rojas Flores (Our Peruvian and South American Coordinator), Luis Vega (Our Honduran Coordinator), Tamba Lebbie (Our Sierra Leone Coordinator) and all our interpreters. Don’t forget to pray for our church partners Bryan Edenfield and Aaron Land who train in Costa Rica and the Dominican Republic. Pray for us to listen always for the Holy Spirit’s leading and for God’s provision for us. We see visions of “Macedonian” leaders everywhere in need of training that we can provide. I will be heading to Honduras next month to teach the last class and hold a graduation ceremony for our two locations there. What’s after that? We’ll see what door opens up! Thank you for your prayers and your support for P2P. We could not do this without you. May the grace of God, the unity of the Holy Spirit, and the peace of Christ reign over you and your family this year and always, until He returns...amen.

Scott Bosier – P2P Training Strategist

## 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**

## P2P – Pastor to Pastor Training Networks

Director: Gary Bulley – [gary@P2Pnetworks.org](mailto:gary@P2Pnetworks.org), 678.447.1939