

Equipping Church Leaders Around the World

- ▶ Building Bridges.....p3
- Building Spirituality on God's Word.....p5
- Building Churches from the Inside Outp9
- Reporting Back.....p12

Building Bridges

What is p2?

p2
The front page of a newspaper contains headlines and breaking stories. Likewise, God's initial work in us is a "front page," life-changing event. Page Two represents the successive, day-to-day work that follows an initial work of God, however that work and unique journey transpire.

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▶ You stand at the edge of a chasm looking at the river far below and wonder how you will build a bridge to the distant other side. You've never built a bridge, but you have been called for the task and you want to do it. Everyone in your village gathers behind you, expectantly waiting, watching with hope, and ready to listen. No one shouts, "I'm qualified, let me do it instead!" Your entire village desperately needs a bridge for today, for tomorrow, and actually for eternity.

Wait a minute! What bridge will serve forever?
Ask a pastor. He or she knows. They stand in front of their congregations every day, building bridges to Jesus and God's eternal family for everyone who will come.

Many pastors, in fact the majority around the world, do the work without formal training. But their lack of experience and skill does not stop them from building. They've heard their call and they won't walk away from the One who gave it.

Pastors know the bridge-building plan is in the Bible. That's a good thing, but some still have challenges.

- There are pastors who don't have a full Bible.
- Some don't have a Bible in a clear and accurate translation.
- Many need a study Bible or other resources that assist them to understand and teach God's Word.

More difficult matters arise. Some pastors are called into ministry without formal training and little or no prospect for education. Fortunately these Christians are responding, even though untrained.

Entire villages desperately need a bridge for today, for tomorrow, and actually for eternity.



We are equipping one pastor after another with resources and training so they build the bridges people need for meeting and following Jesus.

They seek God's inspiration and guidance for leading the people in their churches.

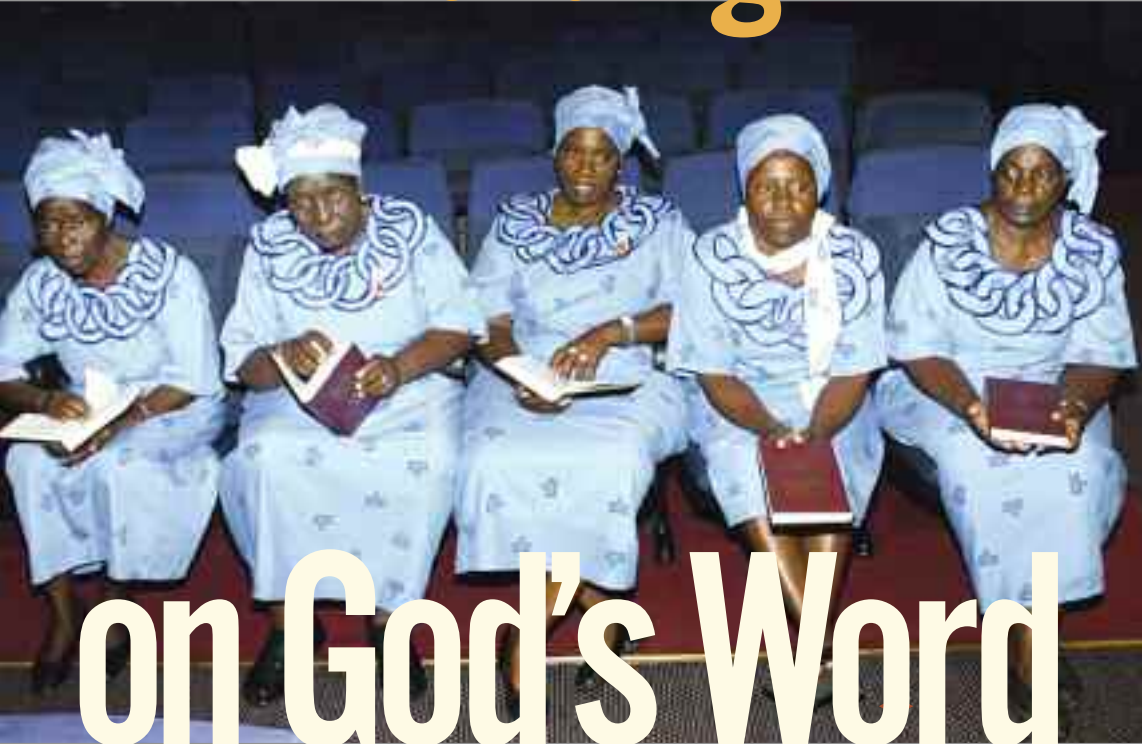
International Bible Society (IBS) is familiar with the challenges pastors encounter. Our staff knows what Bible-based church ministry should look like around the world. Our people and ministry allies are out there assisting pastors who experience problems and need training. And fortunately, in most places, the pastors admit they need help and look for it. This helps us meet their needs.

We are responding with programs that equip church leaders with Bibles, study resources, and

training. These major initiatives combine translation, publishing, and multi-level distribution for a complete start-to-finish program. A down-to-earth look at the needs pastors experience and how IBS meets them unfolds on the following pages.

Take a look. See how IBS helps a denomination in Africa, and comes alongside 500 pastors within a day's travel of a city in Mexico. We are equipping one pastor after another with resources and training so they build the bridges people need for meeting and following Jesus. ♦

Building



on God's Word

► “Decline in true spirituality always tracks back to some form of Bible illiteracy. And Bible illiteracy tracks back to a decline in solid teaching and preaching. However, we see our way back to deeper spirituality through the Back 2 the Bible pastor training initiative of IBS.”

The Reverend Angelo Scheepers’ perspective captures how he is leading every church in his denomination to regain a reputation for solid expository teaching and preaching so they may be healthier churches. Scheepers is the General Secretary of the Baptist Union of South Africa.

Baptist Union pastors clearly see where the South Africa General Secretary is going, and

they want to follow. The Reverend Malvory Peffer, Pastor of Parkside Baptist Church in East London, South Africa, said, “Our churches are independent and running different programs. Some leaders came from backgrounds where accurate Bible teaching was not a priority. We need to bring the emphasis of preaching back to the Bible. The denomination is losing effectiveness because we are not all on the same page.” That’s actually the pages of Scripture—God’s manual for life and vitality in the Church, His Body of believers.

Make no mistake. It’s a challenge to move an entire denomination, nation, continent, or world of churches to vitality. The roadblocks

are weak devotion to Scripture and limited Bible training among pastors and other church leaders.

Wambura Kimunyu, IBS-STL Area Director for Africa, has described Christianity in her region as “a mile wide and an inch deep.” The phrase is familiar and true, for Africa and around the world.

In Africa the river is growing wider. People are coming to the Lord and churches are growing larger. The spiritual depth that is needed will only be gained through *biblical teaching*—which comes through *biblical training* for the leaders. Training is what pastors need.

Scheepers is confident he’s found a way to help the pastors he oversees begin receiving the training they need. It’s called Back 2 the Bible. We shorten it to B2B.

He says, “B2B works really well for Africa by empowering leaders, and at a low cost!” Part of the success is in what the program does *not* try to do. It doesn’t pull pastors away from their families and congregations for extended study leave, since most can’t take that kind of time anyway. It doesn’t require pastors to persevere through drawn-out correspondence or Internet courses because most don’t have the time for that either. It doesn’t cost a lot, which is good because pastors can’t often afford training anyway.



In Africa the river is growing wider.



Back 2 the Bible: B2B



► Many church leaders in Africa do not have formal training to understand and teach the Bible. As a result, teaching in churches that people assume is based on the Bible is too often watered down by secular ideas or not solidly biblical.

The Back 2 the Bible (B2B) seminar of IBS helps to correct this situation by empowering church leaders to elevate Scripture as the basis for faith and life, teaching them to understand its meaning, present the message of every passage, and explain how to apply that message in everyday life. Furthermore, we prepare pastors to train others for doing the same so entire congregations are built upon the Word of God.

Seminars have been held in regional centers in South Africa, Uganda, and Ethiopia with prospects for expansion in these countries and elsewhere in sub-Saharan Africa.

The program builds the capacity of pastors to:

- Own the need and responsibility for excellent Bible preaching,
- Understand how Bible preaching leads to salvation,
- Include the components of good preaching,
- Apply a simple plan to get teaching right week after week, and
- Engage their congregations in Bible-based ministry.

Every person attending receives:

- Seminar notes in a manual, and
- A study Bible or other Scripture materials for effective study.





About the program, Scheepers said, “Its genius is its simplicity. B2B can train a group of pastors in two days and send each one back to reproduce the training very inexpensively and easily.” He concluded, “That says it all about the value of B2B for the pastors!” But two pastors of Baptist Union churches had more to say.

Peffer expounded from his experience. “B2B brings the program to where we are—spiritually and practically.” Rural pastors may have to travel, but usually not far to a nearby city. But even Peffer, who traveled hundreds of miles for B2B, repeated the trip and brought two others from his church to gain even more from a second experience with the B2B seminar.

“It concisely and constructively trains us in a short period of time.”

Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.

**2 Timothy 2:15
TNIV**

Another pastor, the Reverend Martin Fortuin of the Gelvandale Baptist Church in Port Elizabeth, South Africa, added, “The remarkable thing about B2B is it concisely and constructively trains us in a short period of time. The fact is, we do not find it easy to attend expensive and lengthy conferences or be away from our congregations for long. B2B is inexpensive, manageable, and short.”

Just to expand, we asked Fortuin if B2B works. His reply was definitive. “YES it is working! B2B is biblical training made easy. It catches the attention immediately. It cements us for speaking and preaching biblically so we don’t shy away from saying, “Thus saith the Lord of Hosts.” Cementing his point further, Fortuin said, “Unless the Word of God is preached, preachers become useless and a fraud. B2B plays a pivotal role ensuring Christ is lifted up by Bible teachers and preachers.”

Scheepers backed up the pastors from a denominational perspective. “We love the biblical approach to the Bible.” He chuckled, asked us to excuse the pun, and then launched into more affirmation. “You’re using the Bible to develop pastors as equippers of their people! Pastors are taking the training back to their churches where they teach Sunday school teachers, cell group leaders, and Bible study teachers how to help migrate the whole congregation back to God’s Word.

“We would not have taken the initiative in asking you to cover South Africa with B2B seminars so all our pastors can attend if after our first experience we were not certain it was so highly successful. B2B accelerates our national campaign to reverse the trend away from Sunday school programs and Bible teaching. This is the way back to God; can one ask for more? The Bible is God’s tool for transformation. That’s what Christianity is all about—changed lives that glorify the Lord! It is wonderful to see a Christian

ministry like IBS promoting quality Bible teaching so practically.”

IBS is pressing ahead to help establish churches on Jesus Christ revealed through His Word. We have the prompting of Scripture, considerable success to date, North American pastors and churches supporting the program, and the gratitude of African pastors pushing us on.



“Thank you for this wonderful training to equip us for better service. We pledge to use these skills in winning lives for Christ and teaching our congregations. None of us leaves this place the same as we came. May the Lord bless you in building the capacity of Christian leaders in the pearl of Africa.”

Pastor, Uganda





Building Churches from the Inside Out

► Media reporters surround the man in the hotel lobby, asking questions and getting answers for their stories in tomorrow's press.

About 500 others—pastors, church leaders, and seminary students—some who drove as much as 10 hours to be there, walk by quickly hoping to get seats in the conference center. They know a hundred or more people have not been allowed in because there is no space.

Who is this man? A celebrity, a president, a musician? None of the above. He's a Bible translator, teacher, and pastor who is well known for his seminar called *Actualización Pastoral* or Updating our Understanding of the Bible.

Since 1978, IBS-STL's Dr. Luciano Jaramillo has presented this seminar more than 172 times in 101 different cities in Latin America, the Caribbean, the U.S., and Canada. He offers training that is biblically sound and desperately sought. This particular *Actualización Pastoral* seminar was at a hotel in Mérida, Yucatán, Mexico.

Reporters gained information about the event, the speaker, religion, the Bible, and religious groups—all newsworthy topics.

Pastors came to learn how to build up their churches from the inside by more effectively teaching the Bible.

Everyone got what they came for.

He's a Bible translator, teacher, and pastor who is well known for his seminar called *Actualización Pastoral*.



Media reports appeared on television and in newspapers. Some reporters even stayed for the seminar wanting to hear more.

The pastors learned three steps to enrich their personal faith and life and help them lead their congregations.

The first step, and the most academic (graduate-level seminary students attend for credit hours), was for understanding the inspiration of Scripture and how the Bible has been translated. This stepping-stone is somewhat novel for pastoral training. One attendee, Pastor Aguilar, reflected on it, concluding, "The conference was great teaching. I learned a lot about the process for translating the Bible." Now, he is confident about helping people understand the merits and demerits of the translations they use and equipping them to discover a Bible version that may have greater impact on their lives. It's not about praising a translation, but recognizing how versions are distinct, and that more recent translations may help us know Christ better and follow Him more closely.

Everyone got what they came for.

Those who already knew that familiar-but-dated versions no longer communicate with today's generation welcomed the academic reinforcement of their assessment.

That's where Pastor Adibe de la Cruz was. He had already crossed that bridge and selected IBS-STL's *Nueva Versión Internacional (NVI)* because, in his words, "It relates to our new way of speaking." It helps his sermons and teaching communicate with the people. Communication is essential to build churches from the inside.

Miguel Diaz Solana gained clarity about Bible versions at the conference and adopted a translation better for him. He explained, "There

Three Steps to Proclaiming God's Word

► *Actualización Pastoral* helps pastors extend the spiritual awakening that spread throughout Latin America during the past century. The seminar helps pastors make the most of the religious freedom, access to Bibles, increasing literacy, new translations of Scripture, and evangelistic programs that have promoted revival. It equips pastors for leading the people in their congregations and communities to Jesus, engaging them in the life of their church, establishing them in faith, and empowering them to also proclaim God's Word in their communities. The result is changed lives through the power of God's Word.

We believe this happens through *Actualización Pastoral* because of God's work through Dr. Jaramillo over 29 years of teaching pastors this three-step path.

- 1 **Realize** what the Bible is and how it has been translated for us to understand.
- 2 **Use** good study methods that support teaching the truth of Scripture.
- 3 **Relate** biblical truths so people apply them and lives change.

Lives changed by God through His Word—that's the destination and its worth repeating. *Actualización Pastoral* empowers pastors to lead their people into change, whether they have formal training or not. That's why pastors travel 10 hours and wait in line to attend. And when the seminar is finished, the pastors ask for more. ♦





are people who do not have this knowledge and are afraid to use a new version." He was among them until he made the change at the conference to the *NVI*. He was very complimentary toward the *NVI*. We appreciate that. He also said the conference was so valuable we should charge admission. We're not taking that advice.

Actualización Pastoral is a non-profit ministry of IBS and has always been offered at no charge. We will continue, one city after another, helping pastors understand the value of using quality Bible versions so they encounter God more powerfully and teach His Word more effectively.

Selecting a quality Bible translation strengthens the second step Dr. Jaramillo presented. He taught skills for effective study. His teaching was practical and inspirational so

His teaching was practical and inspirational.

pastors, whether seminary trained or not, could understand and apply the plan when they returned home.

Pastor Vasquez spoke for most, saying, "I was very pleased with the exposition of the Bible and the [study] techniques taught."

Now some training seminars would end here, trusting the pastors to take the instruction and put it to work. But this is not where *Actualización Pastoral* concludes.

Dr. Jaramillo's third step equipped the pastors to connect the message of Scripture directly with the lives of the people they serve. This leads to changed lives. We know when pastors truly embrace this step because we see the people tracking in the pastor's footprints as they follow the Lord together.

This is where churches really get built up from the inside out. It is also the step that is the least academic, the most practical, and the most critical.

The practical is usually taught best through examples. Dr. Jaramillo shared from his wealth of experience to help the pastors understand how to live among the people they serve so they lead well and are followed closely. Pastor Sanguino told us it was in this step that she learned to use Scripture to teach the people following in her tracks.

That is the heart of *Actualización Pastoral*—equipping pastors to live and walk among the people, always keeping eyes, ears, and hearts open to know when to reach out to hold and lead the people, while using their other hand to open the Word and point the people to its truths.

We are grateful for the opportunities we've had in the past and will have in the future to come alongside pastors so they more clearly understand the value of God's Word, the help of recent translations, how to study the Bible, and how to connect God's message for the people they serve.

REPORTING BACK

Responding to Youth in Crisis

► Four days after the April 16 tragedy at Virginia Tech (VT), IBS sent 6,788 Scriptures to Campus Crusade for Christ at VT for ministry to students affected by the crisis. Our materials included six different Scripture products for youth and adults; two were specifically for kids because so many families with young children were affected.

Campus Crusade made these Scriptures available to the 600 students attending its end-of-year event. Lisa Highfield, a Campus Crusade staffer at VT, described the situation. "We encouraged the students to help themselves to the Scriptures. They did, most taking at least a copy of each title. We could see the students longed for godly resolution and





perspectives on what happened. They were asking, ‘What do I do now?’ There was a measure of desperation in the air. Students wanted direction to move ahead with the Lord.”

Direction is in God’s Word. Now, it’s in the students’ hands. We fully expect they’ve shared God’s message in conversations, e-mail, and text messages, Internet networks, and by passing the books to others. These days, school is starting up and the students will have more opportunities to talk about God’s work in their lives through His Word. Campus Crusade still has Scripture tools on hand for continued distribution.

We saw God’s hand preparing the way for our response. John Uffelmann of Colorado Springs, himself a VT alumnus, voluntarily transported the Scriptures from Colorado Springs to Blacksburg, Virginia. He arrived just before the Campus Crusade event so the Scriptures could be distributed.

Uffelmann shared with *Page Two* an e-mail from Highfield that reflects the importance of his part. “Thank you, thank you, thank you for sacrificing your time, energy, and comfort to come across the country with a van full of books. Our students’ arms were filled with books as they left our weekly meeting. We were overwhelmed by your willingness and your sacrifice. You are a blessing to our students and ministered to them greatly.” ◆



He arrived just before the Campus Crusade event so the Scriptures could be distributed.

Resourcing Alliance Ministries

► Book of Hope aims to distribute 5.25 million copies of God’s Word to young people in Russia and Ukraine. IBS is assisting behind the scenes as the critical partner providing the Words of hope in Scripture.

Our Russian New Testament supplies the core message in 1.5 million Book of Hope booklets that have already been delivered to children and youth in Russia and Ukraine. The age-graded editions are interactive and highly engaging for children and youth.

Book of Hope ministry teams are trained volunteers from local churches who present God’s

Word in school classrooms, assemblies, and public events. Their programs include skits, music, drama, animated story telling, plus interaction with the audience and time to give out God’s Word. Team members encourage church attendance in locations where churches exist. Churches grow wherever Book of Hope is involved.

However, Russian Bible-teaching churches are few and far between. Where churches are absent or not making spiritual impact, Book of Hope launches Bible study clubs. Churches often emerge from these clubs. ◆

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Legacy (leg·a·cy) - something that is handed down or remains from a previous generation or time.

Life Legacies

▶ God's Word—From the Hands of Few to the Hearts of Many

Many people think planned giving is only for those in retirement! However, there are many vehicles to help you establish *your* legacy before retirement. IBS-STL Planned Giving offers giving opportunities to help you support your favorite ministries—and practice good stewardship.

Jonathan Call
Director, Planned Giving

Give Now, Decide Later...

Bob and Nancy are working professionals who are financially blessed and are careful stewards of the resources God has provided them. They research where to give and then give generously.

During a visit with their tax accountant, they learned they would benefit by making additional charitable contributions. They had little time before the end of the year to research meaningful gifts, but they still wanted the tax benefits.

While visiting our website at ibsgiftplanning.org, Bob and Nancy learned that IBS-STL's Donor Advised Fund (DAF) could meet their needs.

They called our Planned Giving Office for more information. Bob and Nancy learned

they could establish a DAF with their initial gift of \$10,000. They would receive a charitable deduction for the full amount, and could take their time to determine where they would like their gift(s) to go. The funds earn interest until Bob and Nancy decide where to distribute them, which can be to any Christian ministry. There is no minimum balance, and they can contribute additional funds at any time.

Bob and Nancy used the DAF to their advantage. This and other giving opportunities are available through IBS-STL Planned Giving. Are you using sound financial resources to help establish *your* legacy of stewardship? Allow us to assist you. Call our Planned Giving Office at 1-800-448-0456 or visit ibsgiftplanning.org. ♦

▶ P.P.S.

It is a huge privilege to serve as the Global President/CEO of IBS-STL. I was appointed to this role by International Bible Society and Send The Light when the two organizations merged to more effectively advance God's Kingdom through translating, publishing, and distributing the Bible and other associated Christian resources.

We take our calling very seriously as obedience to God's direction. There is great need and appetite for the products and training we provide, especially by pastors who share the light of God's Word with the world.

Our programs to equip leaders go beyond the scope highlighted in this issue of *Page Two*. In Africa and throughout Asia, IBS introduces church leaders to Scripture resources designed to help them to teach so that the children can relate better to Jesus and the Bible. We do similar training for pastors reaching people affected by crisis or disaster. Churches in Europe use our Scripture materials and training to present the gospel to immigrants and their descendants.

Pastors proclaim the gospel, establish people in faith, and build the Church on biblical truths. Every step is critical. Our ministry programs equip church leaders for each step. We will not rest; there is so much more to do! Many more pastors need and want our resources that equip them for each of these steps. We invite you to join IBS-STL by partnering with us through prayer and financial support so our equipping leaders programs may expand to even further advance God's Kingdom on earth.



Sincerely,

Keith Danby
Global President/CEO
IBS-STL



President's PostScript





Nonprofit Org.
US Postage
PAID
CPC Mail

Who Is IBS?

► International Bible Society (IBS) merged with Send The Light (STL) to form IBS-STL Global—an efficient and effective ministry with nearly 250 years of combined experience in translation, publishing, and distribution. IBS-STL now delivers more Bibles and Christian resources into the hands of more people, in more countries. We are the translation sponsor and copyright holder of the *New International Version*®, *New International Reader's Version*®, and *Today's New International Version*® of the Bible. ◆

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Look for our children's outreach
issue this winter.