

Tri-M GLOBAL

J O U R N A L



FALL 2026 Issue

Remembering Our Roots



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How did I Become a Part of
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From the Director...

One of the most encouraging things about serving with Tri-M Global is realizing that we rarely know how far a week of teaching will eventually reach.

A Tri-M teacher may travel to another part of the world, spend a week teaching pastors and ministry leaders, and then return home. From our perspective, the module is finished. But the real measure of the ministry is what happens afterward—when a pastor returns to his church, when a leader teaches someone else what he has learned, and when biblical truth reaches people the original teacher will never meet.

That idea of multiplication has been part of Tri-M from the beginning. In this issue of the *Tri-M Journal*, we begin with a conversation with Tri-M's founder, Dr. David Haag. Reflecting on more than three decades of ministry, David describes the circumstances that gave birth to Tri-M and the conviction that theological training should be taken to pastors and church leaders rather than requiring them to leave their ministries to receive it. When I asked him what success looks like for Tri-M, his answer captured the heart of the ministry: "Tri-M students teaching the people in their country, teaching what they've been taught."

The stories that follow show what this looks like in practice. They take us across continents, into churches and classrooms, and even into places marked by war and displacement. We meet men and women who received biblical training and carried it into their churches, families, communities, and ministries. The settings and circumstances differ, but a common pattern emerges: what is faithfully entrusted to one person does not stop with that person.

Paul instructed Timothy to entrust what he had received "to faithful men who will be able to teach others also" (2 Timothy 2:2). That pattern of multiplication remains central to Tri-M Global. Our goal is not simply to provide theological education where opportunities are limited. It is to equip pastors and ministry leaders who remain rooted in their churches and communities, applying what they learn and preparing others to do the same.

As you read this issue, I hope these stories give you a clearer picture of what God has done through Tri-M and the ministry He has called us to continue.

Dr. Jonathan McGinnis

Director, Tri-M Global



An Interview with Dr. David Haag

By: Dr. Jonathan McGinnis

The following interview between Dr. David Haag (Founder of Tri-M Global) and Dr. Jon McGinnis (Current Director of Tri-M Global) was on July 13th, 2026.

Jon: I'm sitting here with Dr. David Haag, and he is the founder of Tri-M Global. I want to begin by asking: How did you get started with both Ministry and Tri-M?

David: Well, in ministry in general, I started very early and focused on theological, biblical education, which is probably why I started Tri-M or was interested in the possibility of doing it. That was many, many decades ago. I'm 83, and I started in ministry when I was a pastor at 24. That's a long time ago. So, I have had a lot of experience, starting theological training programs in a couple of countries that have continued for decades.

When the world changed in 1989, 10 countries became free from communist control, and that was the impetus. Discovering that, two friends and I did a survey that we just put together ourselves, and went basically not knowing anyone. But a tenet of Tri-M that has developed in my experience is, "I being on the way, the Lord led me." You don't wait for a moment to begin.

When you just see an open door and go through it, you find out what the surprises are on the other side. And that's how we began. We went to



Hungary, and ended up in Romania. And Romania is the place where we started Tri-M.

Jon: Did you start in pastoral ministry or did you go straight into missions?

David: I started in pastoral ministry when I was in Bible college. Before I went on to graduate school, I was, well, that's when I was, I was 24 when I became a pastor of a small rural church, which was a great experience.

Jon: What led you to actually pursue the idea of Tri-M? What led you to pursue it?

David: Well, in 1989, 10 nations became free from communist control, and that was half a billion people. The Wall Street Journal had a feature that focused on the events of 1989 and what they might, it was called the year of the century, and there was still a decade of that century remaining, so that indicates the importance of it. Two friends of mine and I “felt led”, however you interpret that, and we applied that feeling by going through Yugoslavia, Hungary, and Romania. And just to take an aside here, we went to Romania, and we went to Romania because a Romanian had ended up in a church in southern Germany that was pastored by one of the three of us, and it was a long circuitous journey through Yugoslavia North and through Italy, and he ended up on the doorstep of this evangelical Baptist church. He remained there for two years until Romania opened up in 1989, December 25th. They established their freedom.

So, immediately, he went back, and he had such a great welcome and such security provided by that church that he maintained contact

with it. So that pastor, and another friend and I were the ones that came down.

We ended up in Romania and were royally treated by him. He took us to his village where his mother lived, and she gave us half a pig, and that doesn't happen all the time, and a really big cheese. So it was actually, through that young man, through his arduous and courageous escape, and he needed to escape because he knew that his name had been handed on to the security and that they would be coming to his door, and he had a wife and two children, and that's the story, and that's the beginning. He's the one that, totally unaware of anybody at the moment, created the context out of which Tri-M was given birth.

Jon: When you look at traditional missions, you go over, you learn a language, you stay there, you build within the culture, and this is established over several years. Tri-M does not follow that model. So was there something that gave you that desire or rationale for doing the modular training that Traian does?

David: I think it was basically common sense in that these countries needed many things: those 10 countries with newfound freedom, many others. One of the things that we feel that they still need the most is good training programs, and we felt like they should remain in the ministry that they were in and not have to leave that ministry and go for a period of training and then return and perhaps not have a ministry.

So we came up with the idea of being mobile. We would go to them, we would take the training to them, we would commit to them a four-year curriculum, 26 courses, twice a year going back, qualified teachers, degree people in the course material that they were going to be teaching, and that was something that was achieved quite easily. That was, and the

main reason we did that was that we didn't want them to leave their ministry, and they didn't want to leave their ministry, and ultimately, they didn't have to and still received training.

Jon: So really, it was based on common sense, but also the need that was there and the desire to keep them in their current locations.

David: Yes, exactly, and it was incredible how we discovered in every country that we implemented Tri-M. The story was the same. There were people doing ministry that hadn't really had the training to do ministry, which was a good thing. I mean, don't wait; if you can't get training, don't wait until you can. They were doing it, and we found them to be faithful men, and we had a tremendous success rate, people starting and continuing and graduating, and the graduations were always exciting events.

Jon: In this formation stage, what was your biggest hopes for that and maybe your biggest fears?

David: Well, the biggest hope was that they would duplicate what they had experienced, and that was one of the aspects designed in the training. In every class, in every gathering, there seems to be someone with noticeable leadership potential, and one of the things that we wanted to do was discover that person and build into his life the confidence, if necessary, that he could do what we were doing, and we found leaders in every group. There's always a leader or more than one, and just encouraging and providing them with guidance.

Jon: Within the modules themselves, there's a lot of logistics. There's a lot of things that you need to sort through. What were some of the biggest logistical issues, whether it's cultural challenges, of having on-site training with these pastors? What are some of the challenges there?

David: Well, I would say that we found minimal challenges because the Lord seemed always to give us connection with a leader or leaders, and a leader is someone who's leading someone, and so you got built into that individual a potential student body, and you've already discovered someone who has leadership capability, and they're everywhere. I mean, every group, there was someone or one. But with encouragement, and encouragement probably, they needed to be encouraged because they were not used to thinking of themselves as leaders, and if you came in from the outside, and you could all, every group has a leader or leaders, and some are good and some are better, but they're always good because they're respected by the other, and there is, in a group, the potential for that group to be duplicated from within, provided the right kind of encouragement and training, and we always committed four years, so we were going to know these people well. They were going to have an exposure to us.

It was lengthy, and you were going to spend a lot of time. For example, one ingredient of a module that we found that we didn't always do, but we found very, very beneficial when we did, one or two nights each week of a module, we would, after our meal in the evening, we would have everybody come back together, and we'd have a Q&A session, and in that context, the leader almost always, if we don't know him yet, we'd probably discover who he is then, and then if foreigners like us, if we ourselves tell someone in a developing country that we see leadership potential in them, that's how, that's powerful, and it makes them see something in themselves that they didn't perhaps know was there. It affects how others see them.

There is a risk, and that is making a mistake, and I'm not aware that we really ever made this mistake that was in any way devastating.

Jon: Tri-M has been in and out of some restricted access countries, some countries that are hostile to the gospel. How did you, or maybe it was several, but how did you determine whether we should go into a particular

country or an area knowing that things were hostile, knowing that you'd be putting teachers in danger

David: We didn't. We let the nationals do that, and if they felt that it was safe for us to come in and for them to be identified with us, we were inclined to accept that invitation. I say accept, even to encourage that invitation because that would put us in countries where the need for theological training was greatest, where it had been negated perhaps for decades.

So the answer is trust the nationals. Trust those people who live there. We were never arrested. We went into hiding a number of times, but we were never arrested.

Jon: How to try and expand? How did it go from one country, Romania, to where now we have influence over 20 different countries?

David: Well, that's a good question. The back end of the question is that all of the countries where Tri-M was implemented, while I was director for 25 years, all of the countries with two exceptions invited us. The two exceptions were (redacted) and (redacted), which I had personal interest in; I wanted to go there, so we did and could, and we had successful ministry. But we operated almost entirely on invitation, and a survey: we would initiate the survey, and in the context of doing the survey, almost always an invitation. Once people met us and trusted us, which they did, we were trustworthy, and there was this symbiosis, a trust that was established just through acquaintance and the fellowship of the Spirit of God.

Jon: We have also found that our generation of Tri-M teachers is now reaping the benefits of your generation. We are going to places where former students took classes, and now they want to have modules wherever they are.

Do you feel that the model has changed at all over the years? The idea of using these auxiliary teachers, do you personally see any change in that, or has it just grown?

David: I don't. The model that we came up with...I'm not sure that we came up with it...I think the circumstances somewhat described the model that would be effective, and we grasped that. Everywhere we went, we did a survey, and out of the survey, we hoped to become acquainted with the leaders, a leader or leaders of a group that might be interested in our training, and it wasn't hard. Just bringing people together and talking. They all had a common need. They all wanted to be trained. We had a common need...we wanted to train people, and that was our expertise, and that was our desire, and seldom did we sit down with a group like that and not come up with, this is when we start, and we started.

Jon: What's a story or two of an individual or a pastor or a leader whose lives, whose ministries have been changed because of Tri-M?

David: The first one that comes to mind is the first pastor with whom we had context, and that was a pastor in Oradea, Romania, and it was in December; well, it wasn't in December. December 25th was the end of the Ceaușescu era, Ceaușescu rule, because they put them to death on public TV, so after that, everything changed significantly, and we did a survey at the end of January, and we had been given this pastor's name and phone number, so he was our contact, and his name was Radev. I won't give you the rest of his name, but he was a remarkable individual, a pastor who led other pastors, who was regarded by them as a man of integrity and trust, and we were given his name by circuitous route, which would take a while to say, but I was given his phone number, and I knew the city he lived in, so my colleague and I drove into this town and drove around, the electricity was off, there was no street lights, everything was plunged in darkness, and we found a phone that worked, which was not a small thing. Nobody could believe that the first phone we tried worked, and I telephoned this pastor, and he said, you're close to where I live, and he said, I'll be there in a few minutes, and he spoke broken English, and he told us one reason why he had

come to the attention of people that suggested we might liaise with him. So we went to his house, and four rooms with a little hallway in the middle, and we started trying him in that house with six students, and that was the first module, and we continued, there was a large church in the town where he lived, Orania, Romania, the largest Baptist church in all of Eastern Europe was in that town, and they had very prominent pastors, one of whom was in exile in (*redacted*) because he was a target, but the co-pastor was there, and we met with him immediately, told him who we were and what we had come into his city to do, and he said, well, we'll, and I went into the north, if they envision theological training in the future, since they had all the potential for it, and he outlined already, and they were thinking ahead, seminary training for college graduates and Bible college training for those who weren't, and I said, well, as soon as you have that prepared and are ready to start, we will hand all of our students, their names, records, contact information over to you, and four and a half years later, we did just that, and we stopped in that country for about a decade until we were to go back in, but teach in a different place.

Jon: How have you seen 2 Timothy 2-2, the multiplication of that, how have you seen that personally expand throughout the life of Tri-M?

David: I've seen it work everywhere we've been. When someone teaching, someone learning something of value, imparting that to someone who doesn't know that thing of value, it's just the simplest and most functional concept I can conceive of, and we often said, we will teach one, and they would say, they came up with this at Romanians, first of all, we teach one and you teach however many, and by the end of the time in Romania, we were teaching hundreds of pastors, and the unique thing, the need in Romania was extreme because almost all of those whom we taught were pastors in multiple churches, just because it was either that or people not having a pastor, and so the multiplication was dramatic.

One of the pastors in this little group that we addressed in the very first module on that in Romania or anywhere, one of them was a bilingual pastor who went to 11 churches on a regular rotation, and I said we had six students and they pastored 70 churches, so when we taught six, the multiplication was there from the beginning more dramatically than we could have imagined, and they were all on circuits, and they knew that they weren't pastoring, but the alternative was for those people not to have any exposure to the gospel, and that was better than the alternative.

Jon: What, in your mind, does success look like for Tri-M?

David: Tri-M students teaching the people in their country, teaching what they've been taught.

Jon: How has working with national pastors changed your understanding of the global church?

David: Oh, well, it's become a whole lot more real than I thought of it as before, when you encounter people that believe basically what you believe, and those people do exist because they read the same Bible, maybe in a different language, but the words are the same, and so they're being taught by the Holy Spirit just like we are being taught by the Holy Spirit. There's a commonality there that is profound and deep, and if we can encourage them to do for others what we do for them, and they have the model.

I mean, they've lived through it. They see the ingredients for success are not onerous. There are not a multiplicity of things that you have to do. You need a teacher. I've done a fairly deep amount of study in the beginning of structured education, and one of the first colleges, universities, to be established was Pierre Lepetit-Poix, Peter at the Little Bridge in Paris. So he chose a spot, this bridge, and he occupied space, and he let it be known that he was there to teach people.

So the people came, they sat down, and all they had was a teacher and students and a place for them to meet. So that's how structured education began historically, such as I know it, and that's exactly what we were doing, and they were perfectly on point when they said, "This is all that you need." You can have so much more, some of which will be valuable, and some of which won't, will be onerous, but a teacher and a student and some place for them to sit down, and you can have a profound, you can have an extensive education, depending on who the teacher is, and the tendency of the student to pay attention.

Jon: What role did your background, your education, and all that play into the shaping of Tri-M?

David: Well, my background was in theological training. I had developed a Bible college in Colorado which was dying. It had three students, and when I left there, we had 80 students, and this is just two and a half years. This is the ministry that I left to go into Tri-M. We had 80 students. We had all of our curriculum.

We were recognized by the United States military to train veterans and receive the benefits, so that was a very good experience, and it just, it wasn't something that I had a lot of skill in. It's finding out what you needed to do, and in doing it, which is not bad.

My degrees are in theological education and other things, but I've studied that and teaching procedures, and when Tri-M began, we were living in Scotland, and I was the founding director of the Institute of Biblical Studies, which had gone on for 30 years, which was the model for Tri-M. We had teachers.

We had a place for them to meet. We had students, and that's basically all we had, and it was basically all you need. You can have so much more, but it doesn't necessarily mean that you're going to provide better training. The training quality is the individual who is behind the pulpit or sitting in the seat with an open Bible. We were in Scotland for 16 years.

Jon: What advice would you give young leaders or pastors, teachers, who feel innovative, who feel like they want to start a ministry like Tri-M?

David: I would say, gung ho. Everything, setting the triune God aside, as it were, we assume that a desire such as that would be originated by God through his Holy Spirit, not just something somebody wants to do because they would like to travel or something like that. Use the talents that you have, and usually, if you do that, those talents expand, and practice and application of them makes you better at it. But just pray and be bold.

Jon: Having heard a lot of your guys' stories and then experienced some myself, it's that some call it courage, and some call it a little crazy, but it's doing bold things for the gospel.

So on that note then, how has your faith been tested in working with Tri-M?

David: What comes immediately to mind is just knowing some of the students that I've taught and observed the faith. They have, under duress, under stress, in the context of poverty, they've just persevered. Some of them are exceptionally intelligent and really committed believers. I had one student in West Africa who spoke 11 languages and didn't think that much about it. There was a reason for each language that he spoke because of the ministry that he had, and he just learned those languages.

Now, he may have been gifted, but I don't know that he was, and he didn't think that he was. Do what you can, and from doing what you can, you can do more. You just grow with opportunity, I think, and be bold, trust God.

Jon: What excites you most about the next generation of Tri-M and where you see it heading?

David: Well, I think just from what I know where it's going, there are many, many, many, many places around the world where the opportunity is either very minimal or non-existent for theological training, and I don't think that we'll ever, in this life, exhaust the places where we could go.

One thing that I want to mention that we haven't yet is that pastors have wives, most of them do, and most of the pastors' wives have ministry, whether they think of it as ministry or not. Just being a pastor's wife gives you responsibility, but it also gives you opportunity. So we often provided training for pastors' wives, or they didn't have to be a pastor's wife, but most of them were, and our wives, like my wife, were just the ones who naturally suited to that. So team teaching, the husband and the wife, is something that we didn't do everywhere, but we did it in many places, and you can't imagine how much those women appreciated being acknowledged, and whether they thought they had a ministry or not, all of them did, just like a pastor's wife here.

Jon: If you were to share one piece of encouragement or key biblical truth with a current Tri-M missionary or someone who was considering joining Tri-M?

David: You could get discouraged being a Tri-M missionary, but you'd have to work at it, I think, because as I understand from our experience, and I understand from what I know is going on now, you're not scrambling around trying to find something to do. The need is great, and one of the beautiful things about that is that the people who aren't trained know and want to be trained, and for the most part, they're going to pay attention. They're going to do what you want them to do. You take advantage of the opportunity for training that comes to them, and depending upon their natural ability, some people are smarter than others, but they can go to the level of their capability. Student bodies that we've taught have been the context within which this

group of pastors have melded together and become brothers in ministry. Coming out of the end of Tri-M, they are equipped with, or can be equipped with, a body of like-minded people, contemporary people that you can, if you have a problem and want to talk to somebody, you probably have a dozen people that you might be able to access, and they know you, and they know the ministry. It's just, it creates a commonality.

People who train together, we all live together, we ate together, we sometimes slept on the floor together, and there is just a group of people with whom you identify and have access for encouragement and answers to the questions that you can't answer.

Jon: What about someone that is looking and considering Tri-M? Maybe he's a pastor in church right now, maybe he's in a time of transition, and we, as an organization, have acknowledged that this person is gifted, that this would probably be a good fit. What encouragement would you give to them?

David: I would say just don't hesitate. If you feel that this is what the Lord wants you to do, especially as you outlined, having access to Tri-M people already, you've got a group of people who can answer questions that you probably have and probably need to have answered.

It's not an easy ministry. You have to raise support, and that's not easy. You have to travel and fund that, and that's not easy. You have to live in other cultures and sleep on floors and eat interesting food.

There are so many, for the right kind of person, and I mean by that someone who has a degree of adventurous spirit and wanting to get out of the boat and walk on the water, this is an opportunity to do that with a payback that is immense. That's great.

Jon: Looking back over your life and your ministry, how has God's faithfulness shown up?

David: Profoundly and continually. Tri-M is a ministry that requires faith. You're starting out needing money. You're starting out needing encouragement. It's just a very challenging ministry. But experiencing what Tri-M enables you to experience is an education in itself, and it puts you in a very, very small class of people who have done something really worthwhile and adventurous.

If you're not adventurous, you don't want to get into this...unless you think you want to become adventurous, then go for it.

My Experience with Tri-M Global

By: Pastor Ron Berrus



I have had the joy of serving Christ in pastoral ministry for over 50 years. I have been familiar with Tri-M from its earlier days with EBM and then with Grace Global, as I have known 3 families serving with the mission for decades. It was a Tri-M missionary who, back in our freshman college days, disciplined me as a new believer on a secular college campus. God led him into missions and me into pastoral ministry. Another Tri-M missionary I had the joy of discipling when he and his wife were new believers in our first ministry. And the other family I have known since our early days of pastoral ministry as well. It was in 2015 that I was able to accept an invitation to serve as an adjunct teacher in the country of Mongolia. It was here that I finally understood the impact, strategy, and effectiveness of this marvelous ministry of discipling and training national leaders to reproduce.

The vision of taking training on-site into regions with little opportunity for training in doctrine and disciplines is amazingly effective. Again and again, I experienced in my 10 years of adjunct teaching the testimonies of national

leaders showing me how they had immediately taken what they had learned and incorporated it into their personal and local church ministries. It is so exciting to see how these leaders understand, embrace, and apply biblical truth in reproducing disciples and disciple-makers. There is no ministry I have seen that so rapidly grounds, equips, and expands disciple-makers while transferring the ongoing multiplication so that the future ministry is not dependent on outside funds or personnel. From day 1, the vision of national ownership of the ministry is in view. It is a true partnership between national Christian leaders and US based missionaries and adjunct teachers with the vision of transferring ownership and responsibility in the 10-12 year process on a given field.

The need for full-time missionaries and part-time adjunct teachers is real and ongoing. It is our daily prayer for God to raise up more laborers for today's white harvest fields, both full-time missionaries and adjunct teachers. Let me encourage you to explore this marvelous ministry! Our director, Jon McGinnis, is ready and eager to give you both insight and information, as well as potential opportunities to experience firsthand the work of Tri-M. How can God use you to partner with Tri-M to further the Great Commission now? Seek God's leading and get more information about Tri-M. Good decisions require good information, prayer, and wise counsel. Let me encourage you to begin the process!

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I Came with a Wife But Am Leaving With A Partner

By: Mrs. Cheryl Boisvert



In traveling for some years with my husband to Tri-M venues across Africa, I had the privilege of teaching classes of women in several places, bringing them over time to a Certificate of Completion through 8 courses. It was generally true that women from East, Central, and West Africa enjoyed learning and applying truth to their lives in a way they had never been challenged to do. The Bible knowledge and understanding across the board had the effect of increasing their individual confidence and sense of purpose as they began to comprehend God's love, realizing that He made them for a purpose. In cultures that frequently diminish the value of women, these women all began to walk straighter, with more peace and a willingness to be used by God.

In Tanzania, a small class of women completed the courses and would be taking part in the graduation ceremony. They all were marveling at their

white graduation gowns, and how God had enabled them- women who had never completed any schooling- to be able to accomplish this with His help. One woman sighed and said, “I have never graduated from anything before! We all look like the Holy Angels!”

A 50-year-old very poor widowed woman in Uganda told me that she never dreamed that God would even notice or care about a poor widow like her. But once she knew that He did, it freed her from the depression and despair she had been experiencing. Out of gratitude for His work in her life, she began using what she knows and has become one of a team of 4 women who travel with the local pastor’s wife to 3 other rural venues, teaching Tri-M classes as well as some health classes to the women in remote areas. She has joy and thankfulness that overflow- and the conviction to enable others to have the same.

In many of these places, there were assumptions by both pastors and their wives that the work of the ministry and comprehending the Scriptures primarily belonged to the purview of the men. A woman in southern Rwanda stood up in class one day and said to us that according to God’s word, the women there have “been found failures.” They thought that serving the Lord and reading God’s word was only for the men- that their job was to keep the household running and care for the children. This was a turning point for her. She and her husband later went on to assist other Tri-M missionaries, then later to become Tri-M teachers in their own right, responsible for certain venues.

In Liberia, after several modules where the women took God’s word to heart and began to go past cultural norms to minister to their husbands and families, and assist others in the church, a Pastor told my husband, “I came with a wife, but I am leaving with a partner.”

In every place, I saw Ephesians 4:12-16 worked out in the lives of men and

When the Student Becomes the Teacher

By: Dr. Doug Boisvert

I would like to introduce you to a pastor who has amazed me since the second time we met at a Tri-M training week. His name is Pastor J, and he is a South Sudanese Pastor. Through a number of contacts, Pastor J got in touch with a TRI-M colleague to invite us to visit his local area and fellowship of Churches. They had identified with a denominational group but were coming to some changing conclusions in their study of the Scriptures. It would be helpful to have some specific focus on how to accurately study and hear from God through His Word.

I had already started a new cohort in the newest country to be recognized in the world, but was excited to show Pastor J how we could assist them in forming their own training program following the TRI-M modular model. Tri-M was able to make two separate trips into that section of South Sudan, but then the civil war finally reached down into that Southern section. The active fighting shut down almost everything “normal.” I had little hope that we could return there or see Pastor J for a long while.

Much to my surprise, at the next training module at the very last place we were allowed to travel into, Pastor J showed up. He had made the long, dangerous journey of 32 hours, across much of the war-torn countryside, to sit in on our next teaching modules far from his home. He determined that if he could sit in on those 3 courses being taught, perhaps I could coach him to be able to take these courses back to continue the training that was started the previous year. He was elected to represent the Overseer and Churches “for the privilege of this trip.” I worked with Pastor J the entire last day to help him grasp the material of those 3 courses. I was not sure he got a hold

of even half of it, but he was determined to return and try to teach it to his co-pastors and Church Leaders.

Pastor J did this for 3 years, attending every course we were offering. I disciplined him and answered questions any time I was free, day and late into the night. This was not what I had planned the first two times I taught in his hometown. I would get intermittent communication from him describing what the training was like. They would gather on Monday, and if at any time they heard the fighting coming closer, they had to scatter. Some just left their Bibles and notes there, trusting they were coming back as soon as the fighting would pass that area. They might return in a day or 3 or a week. But all the Pastors/ students would show up again once there was no active fighting in that area. This pattern was repeated every time they would gather together for teaching. Some had to cross rebel and government lines, hoping they would be allowed to continue to the teaching site. One group had to wait 3 days in the “no-man’s land” between rebel and government forces until they were given permission to come back to the teaching site.

All of this took about 11 years to work through the courses we were able to pass on to Pastor J to graduate the first group. I did not know that he was the youngest and newest Pastor in their fellowship. So it was the work of God that their leadership and the Pastors coming to study under Pastor J designated him to teach. As they learned to study the Scriptures more thoroughly, other Pastors in the area were highly impressed with the way this group handled Scripture accurately and more fully than before. It attracted others to join this group who were becoming more distinctly and solidly Biblical. A new fellowship of Churches and those venturing out to plant biblically based Churches, but with no real functioning government, could not become officially recognized. That did not stop them, even though many Church Plants could not build buildings to meet in.

The war has not made much of a global headline, but is still ongoing in various places throughout South Sudan. But in the middle of the fiercest times, God established training using one determined South Sudanese pastor, as he was equipped with TRI-M courses and remote help when he could make a connection with me. He is still teaching and discipling others to teach alongside him. I thought that would seem enough for one man’s life. Yet I was wrong.

Last year the United Nations (U.N.) established refugee camps for the Northern Sudanese groups who were facing persecution within their Northern nation. Some of those camps were established in the nation of South Sudan, even with this animosity between the two nations that had been at war for years. They were divided by language, tribal distinctions, and religious affiliation. There are still very strong feelings towards the North Sudanese that caused such hardship and death in the South.

One of those Refugee camps was 6 hours by motorcycle from Pastor J’s home. Pastor J’s church was just enjoying a relative calm (meaning less active fighting in their area). The next thing I heard from him was that he was traveling up to this refugee camp with some food from their Church people to explore whether he could speak to these Muslim refugees about Jesus. Within months, he took 3 trips to the camp, saw a number of professions of faith, privately trusting Jesus. We did manage to get funds for him to purchase 100 Arabic Bibles to distribute at the camp, which were happily received by the refugees who had fled with nothing!

Pastor J has started discipling Church members not only from his Church but from 3 to 4 other Churches on how best to share the Gospel with North Sudanese (Muslims). He is also discipling the Refugee converts with a goal

of planting a Church within the refugee camp in the future. That would be a bold move for the new converts, but they are seeking the LORD's leading and have other South Sudanese churches showing increased interest. They are assisting by providing food for these overcrowded refugees in the name of Christ. It certainly has become a testimony of the love of Christ in the refugee camp that the unbelievers can not ignore and are showing great interest in how the ones their country punished for years are loving them in their time of great need. It is humbling to still encourage and be a resource for Pastor J, as God opens so many doors of opportunity beyond any of our expectations.

God has chosen one man whom I was able to discipline both in person and remotely over the years, who has multiplied and mobilized others in places no TRI-M Missionary would be able to travel. And he is only one example of the global reach of faithful men and women TRI-M is partnering with by God's grace. Join us in praying for Pastor J and his disciples in South and North Sudan.



How did I Become a Part of the Tri-M Team

By: Michael D.

It began in Costa Rica. I was a student in a GAP Program where we studied the Bible, served in ministry, and learned Spanish. What I thought was going to be just one year, where God would tell me what to do and I would return home and do it. God turned it into four years. After my first year, I served on staff, and one of my responsibilities was to serve in a ministry three hours north of San Jose, a little city called Santa Rosa. It was a church called Semillas de Vida that began as a little bible study and, by the time I arrived, was a small church. Our purpose was to assist with the kids and youth ministry.

Week in and week out, driving three hours there and three hours back, I saw God do really incredible things through Pastor Esteban. As he desired for the people from Santa Rosa, to behold the God of the Bible and walk in obedience to Him.

Each week I would help with the kids club Saturday morning, have a break for lunch, and in the afternoon have youth group. Using my broken Spanish, I developed a relationship with these kids. Then on Sundays, Esteban would preach as we gathered together to worship this awesome God.

As time went on, and Esteban's heart for shepherding his people grew, Semillas de Vida got the opportunity to host a Tri-M module. Teachers would come in from all over the United States and teach classes to expound the glories of the gospel.

God allowed me to sit in on some of these classes and learn myself. Listening to classes on Romans and Ecclesiology all while rubbing

shoulders with other people hungry to know God. Seeing people who live in a small town. People who are farmers, mechanics, and parents seeking to know God more deeply were truly edifying.

As time went on, I felt God leading me back home to pursue my Master’s of Divinity degree and ultimately serve as a Pastor in my hometown of Buffalo, New York.

Tri-M continued to have classes stationed in Santa Rosa for the leaders there, but also for pastors from surrounding villages. Not just pastors, but also kids who attended the youth group who were now young adults. Now they too were hungry to learn more and more about God and plunge into the riches of his grace towards us in Christ Jesus.

God was working on my heart over the years, trying to figure out my place. Thinking, “God, where would you have me?” “What is my role in the kingdom of God?” Having different doors close and a whole lot of waiting.

I kept thinking back to my own time of spiritual growth. The first big moment when I felt like God was pouring on the gasoline in my spiritual journey was my first year in Costa Rica. I was confronted with the God of the Bible. As teachers came and showed me from the pages of Scripture how holy, majestic, beautiful, omnipotent, gracious, kind, merciful, and a million other attributes He is, I was amazed. It was reminiscent of the Isaiah 6 scene where Isaiah saw the holiness of God, the brokenness of himself and those around him, and the need to share the message of Jesus.



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