



THE ITEM Impact

Strengthening churches by equipping pastors to be examples, equippers, and expositors.



Dr. Henry Johnson, President of Aaron's Palm and ITEM Associate has been intimately involved with ITEM's team in Tanzania for the past 4 years. See his report on page two.

May 2, 2017

Dear ITEM Partner,

Steve is currently in Africa conducting seminars in Cameroon and Madagascar, along with meeting our teams from Burundi and Rwanda. It is always exciting to pass on to you the progress that is being made as our Associates minister to our teams throughout Africa. But before we do that, we want to share another important development and ask for your help.

We often mention Dr. Nathan Chiroma. We introduced him to you in the newsletter a few months ago. Steve now refers to Nathan as his "special assistant." Nathan teaches at a seminary in Jos, Nigeria but finds time to network on ITEM's behalf, lead ITEM seminars, and is finishing up writing ITEM's mentoring syllabus.

Nathan has accepted another assignment. He will be representing Steve and ITEM at the "9 Marks International Intensive" in Washington, DC. "9 Marks" is a

ministry dedicated to helping churches develop healthiness based on nine essential "marks."

THE IFCA CONVENTION (JUNE)

Nathan will remain in the United States to attend an international youth workers' convention in Grand Rapids, MI, then will attend the IFCA National Convention with Steve at the end of June. Nathan will be introduced to the Convention as Steve's Special Assistant and given time to talk about ITEM's E-4 Church Strategy.

Nathan's expenses are outside of ITEM's normal expenditures, and we would like to ask that you prayerfully consider helping to cover his expenses. The flight, his involvement at the Intensive in DC, plus his expenses at the IFCA National will approach \$2000. Please use the enclosed envelope and return slip to send what you can to help meet this expense.

Another convention highlight will be the opportunity Steve will have to announce the re-starting of the ITEM Women's Ministry, which is now being led by Mrs. Karen Dunkin.

ASSOCIATE UPDATES

We are blessed to have a team of men serving with us as ITEM Associates. Jim Glasscock has been back in Uganda working with our Ugandan and Kenyan teams, helping them become effective Bible expositors so they can bring their own churches to maturity and help other pastors do the same.

Here is some of Jim's report. "Most said . . . that it (preaching expositively through books of the Bible) is helping them and their people understand the Word, and both the teacher and student are maturing. Several also said that their people are getting the hang

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of it. Those with Bibles are now studying ahead for next week's sermon, and those without Bibles want one so they can study ahead also."

Jim continued, "We then jumped into the Biblical Chronology quiz to measure their grasp of it. As expected, it was limited but I could see the dawn of comprehension breaking over the horizon as pieces of the puzzle began to slide into place when we went through the timeline. The exposition of Genesis 1-2 was eye-opening for many of them, as well. Eric said, 'I have had my eyes opened, and see it anew! I am flabbergasted!'"

Jim concluded, "Most of all, though, I am encouraged by the men in their preaching and by the reports from the men. Patrick (Sr) is still teaching 30 pastors, meeting two times a week. Those men are now applying exposition in their churches. Noah is teaching through Hebrews and sees that the people in his church are maturing to the point that they can discern between truth and falsehood. Patrick (Jr) is teaching through 2 Corinthians. He said his people are coming to understand the Scriptures. He is also meeting with other pastors to encourage them in exposition."

Dr. Henry Johnson, President and Founder of Aaron's Palm, has been the primary teacher and encourager of the team in Tanzania. They have completed 520 hours of classroom work over the past 3 years in preparation for conducting ITEM seminars and mentoring.

Henry, along with Pastor Dan Packer (Maine) taught the church history class recently. According to Henry's report, "One of the graduates shared at the end of things, 'Dr. Henry, I hope you will keep coming to establish and encourage us. We are so strengthened to learn of the courage of the men in church history that we never knew about. I feel like I am not alone but have examples of men who stood on the Word of God and preached it as God wrote it. We need you to continue to mentor us. I have been

drinking the fresh water of God's Word for the last 4 years. Don't forget us and please keep coming.'"

RIGHT ON SCHEDULE

In 2013 we began preparing approximately 60 men spread across ten countries to do the training that we, from the West, were doing up to that point. These men are completing their preparation. Your prayers and your financial gifts have been critical in their training. But the task is just starting. Very soon they will begin to launch their own training ministries and the 60 will soon become 600, then a thousand, then thousands of pastors who are becoming examples, equippers, and expositors with churches becoming strong and healthy as a result of the ITEM E-4 Church Strategy. Your prayers and financial support will be needed like never before. THANK YOU FOR STANDING WITH US! We believe, by God's grace, there are exciting days ahead!

ON THE HORIZON

- May 13-23** Nathan will be representing Steve at the 9 Marks International Intensive in Washington, DC
- June 26-30** Steve and Nathan at the IFCA National Convention, Kalamazoo, MI
- July 9** The first ITEM Golf Tournament
- July 11-Aug 2** Steve will be in DR Congo, Liberia (1st time), and Nigeria (Lagos for the 1st time)

You can go to:

<http://iteministries.org/?content=donate> to contribute towards Dr Chiroma's expenses while he represents ITEM in the US in a May and June. Thank you in advance!

By His grace,

The ITEM Team