

Ready for Launch!

Mentoring Set to Begin in Cameroon

In the eight years ITEM has been ministering in Cameroon, there has been incredible growth in the number of pastors being reached and trained. Pastor Joel Ngoh, the country coordinator, has raised up a team of native trainers who are eager to reach and impact as many pastors as possible.

So, it was no surprise that they were eager to begin mentoring pastors. So eager, in fact, that they tried to get started *before* their training in the mentoring program had even been completed!

This month, Dr. Nathan Chiroma and Dr. Steve Van Horn will travel to Cameroon to complete the mentor training (February 15-17), and help officially launch the mentoring program. Nathan serves as ITEM's Nigerian coordinator, an invaluable member of the training team, and is responsible for the development of the mentoring program and training curriculum.

The value of mentoring cannot be overstated. It provides a forum in which pastors can support one another as they implement the ministry practices provided in ITEM's training and a place where pastors can continue to learn from one another. And it is an essential component of transferring the benefits of pastoral training into positive impacts on African churches.

Cameroon will be one of the first countries to launch this new program, and will serve as a model as ITEM launches mentoring programs in each of the ten countries it currently ministers in. The Cameroon team is ready to launch, and it will be exciting to see the impact of this new aspect of ITEM's work.

What Is the E4 Strategy?

This year marks a significant step in ITEM's E4 strategy. Developed and fleshed out over the past few years, the plan will significantly expand the scope and impact of ITEM's work in Africa – transforming Churches by transforming pastors.

Named after Ephesians 4, the plan specifies the *kind of pastor* ITEM wants to help develop and the *quality of impact* ITEM wants to have on the churches those pastors serve. Want to learn more about the plan and the heart behind it? Check out the “E4 Church Strategy” and “Vision for 2018” videos on our YouTube channel: www.youtube.com/user/ITEMinistries.



On the Horizon...

January 25 - February 14 | Dr. Steve Van Horn travels to Uganda and Nigeria to train pastors and meet with ITEM's national training teams.

February 28 - March 10 | Dr. Steve Van Horn will preach and attend a conference in California.

March 15 - 30 | ITEM Associate Dr. Henry Johnson will travel to Tanzania to train pastors and meet with ITEM team.

April 9 - 19 | ITEM Associate Pastor Dan Packer travels to Burundi and Rwanda to train pastors and meet with ITEM teams.

Donor Focus | “It is an investment that gets the greatest return.” That’s what Dale and Melissa Bernhardt say about their faithful support of ITEM. We’re so grateful for the generous supporters who allow our ITEM team to travel, train, and support thriving Churches in Africa. Thank you!



Impact!

FEBRUARY 2018

INTERNATIONAL TRAINING & EQUIPPING MINISTRIES

Transforming Churches, one leader at a time

ITEM Impact!

| ITEM's national trainers recently conducted three seminars in Uganda (Munamba, Bungoma, and Masaka) on their own, reaching more than 150 pastors. This an important advance in ITEM's E4 strategy. |

| ITEM is distributing solar powered devices containing the Bible and curriculum in the local language. |

| With Oasis International, ITEM is working to get African Study Bibles in the hands of its trainers and all pastors entering in the mentoring program. |

| Translation work of critical ITEM materials is in full swing. Soon materials will be available in French, Swahili, Kinyarwanda, Kirundi, and Malagasy. |



Since its start in 2003, ITEM has focused on providing essential Biblical training to untrained African pastors. But years of experience have helped to sharpen the ministry's focus and redefine its ultimate aim: *to increase the health, vitality, and ministry impact of the local African church.*

Nearly 90% of African pastors are Biblically uneducated, and providing accessible training to African pastors remains ITEM's first and most urgent priority. In addition, ITEM has increased its support for pastors as they integrate training and tools into their ministries (mentoring program), and increased its investment in training women and youth leaders.

"It's not just the pastor that needs to be the focal point, but the church itself," says Dr. Tim Anderson, a professor of Bible and Theology at Corbin University. ITEM agrees, and is working to help develop thriving church ministries that impact the faith and lives of every person it ministers to.

Transforming Churches by
transforming pastors with
the transforming Word.



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