



INTERNATIONAL TRAINING & EQUIPPING MINISTRIES

7325 NE Imbrie Drive #265 ♦ Hillsboro, OR 97124 ♦ 503-648-ITEM

April 2020

Dear ITEM Partner,

The world is in a chaotic state right now. I'm 72 years old and I've never seen anything quite like this or at least not seen the 24/7 coverage the situation is getting. I am getting texts from some of our ITEM team members in Africa wanting to know our view. Is this Satan's doing? Is God punishing us? And I have videos that have been sent to me showing false teachers in Africa telling people they are protected by God and have nothing to worry about and another telling the people, "God told me that it will be over very soon."

Two ITEM Associates had trips affected by the virus. Dan Packer cancelled a trip to Burundi and Rwanda due to their governments cracking down on gatherings and travel. And Bill Williams, after being in Ghana for three days, made a quick exit and came home for the same reasons.

But the virus is not the only tragedy that has hit ITEM in the past several weeks. Pastor Michael Allen, our coordinator in Liberia, had been sick for a long time. Pictures showed him to be only a shell of a man. Because of his ailment they had to amputate one foot. Then a few days later he went home to be with the Lord. About the same time, a pastor in Burundi, who leads the church one of our team members attends, had a heart attack and died in the middle of his sermon. Cameroon has been in a political upheaval for months, as a rebel group in the English-speaking part wants to succeed and the French-speaking government will not allow it.

Whether it is the Covid 19 virus or premature deaths, the biblical answer is the same. In Genesis chapter 3, Adam and Eve disobeyed God's one prohibition and the result was sin and death entering the world. Romans 8:20-23 speaks to this:

For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay . . . For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. And not only the creation, but we ourselves . . . groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. (ESV)

But until that day comes, we should remember God's word to us in Psalm 46:8-10,

"Come, behold the works of the LORD, how he has brought desolations on the earth. He makes wars cease to the end of the earth; he breaks the bow and shatters the spear; he burns the chariots with fire. 'Be still, and know that I am God.' I will be exalted among the nations; I will be exalted in the earth!" (ESV)

He knew of these things from the beginning and remains solidly seated on His throne!

But amid the chaos and distractions, we are seeing ITEM's cause advance. Country teams are beginning the mentoring process and scores of pastors are now in mentoring groups, which are designed to lead them to become examples, equippers (disciplers), and Bible expositors. We now have 19 edited mentoring lessons with 3-4 more to come.

It appears that my next trip, which is/was to start on April 22, will be postponed. But this is allowing us to work on other projects.

Besides finishing up the mentoring syllabus, we are working on a Q&A book of questions we have been asked at seminars over the years. A friend went through years of reports I sent back and compiled about 100, 8.5x11 pages of questions and answers. We now have a table of contents and an index. We hope to have this published soon.

Another project we are working on is getting a book on sermon preparation and preaching, written by a pastor here locally, specifically for Africans, printed in Africa to have them available for our mentoring teams. Another is turning two papers I wrote, "Apostles, Prophets, Signs, Miracles, and Wonders Today," plus "Biblical Spiritual Warfare," into booklets that can be sold at our seminars in Africa.

Another new discovery is that we can put public domain PDF Bible commentaries, Bible Dictionaries, Bible Handbooks, and other relevant reading material on a flash drive, which then can be connected to a smartphone or tablet and then referenced when the pastor is preparing a sermon. At this point they are all in English, but that will provide study resources for at least half the pastors we work with.

I am excited about these new developments and want to thank you for your continued prayers and financial gifts. *If you are not currently supporting us with a monthly gift, please consider it. No monthly amount is too small. And if not a monthly gift, perhaps a special one-time gift at this time.* You can do so on our website: www.iteministries.com/give/

By His grace,
Steve

By His Grace,



DR. STEPHEN VAN HORN
President and Founder

ON THE HORIZON

- ...April 22 trip to Nigeria and Madagascar (most likely will cancelled)
- ...Wisdom concerning a potential trip at the end of May
- ...June 29-July 3 IFCA Intl National Convention in northern Kentucky
- ...July trip to Africa, Lord willing

PRAYER

- ...for the health and safety of our teams in Africa
- ...that the mentoring would be transforming the pastors and churches they lead
- ...for the ability of our supporters to continue with their support and even for new supporters to be added.