

## ADVANCING... Continued from page one

schools and organizations who have varying levels of interest. During his upcoming trip (June 19) ITEM President, Dr Steve Van Horn, will be the keynote speaker at an apologetics seminar being hosted by International Leadership University (formerly Nairobi International School of Theology) where Dr. Van Horn served as adjunct faculty 1998-2003.

As you can see, we are not sitting idle. Even during a worldwide pandemic, we are moving ITEM's frontlines forward. *We believe that when the pandemic restrictions are raised, we will be poised and ready to take major steps forward as we work diligently to see churches transformed one pastor at a time.*

We truly believe there are exciting days ahead.

To God Be the Glory,  
The ITEM Team

### On the Horizon...

- June 9 - 22: Steve and ITEM Associate, Henry Johnson, will be in Liberia meeting with the ITEM team and helping with a seminar in Nairobi, Kenya.
- June 19: Steve will be speaking to a group of pastors in Nairobi on the topic, "Apologetics in the Church."
- June 28 - July 2: Steve and ITEM COO, Chris McMillan will be attending the IFCA National Convention in Lincoln, NE
- August: Steve's next trip to Africa. Details are being worked out.

### Please Pray...

... for Steve and Henry's meeting with the Liberian team, that the team will be encouraged and the ITEM vision will be made clear and embraced.

... for the seminar in Kenya, that pastors will be challenged to become spiritual examples, equippers (disciplers), and Bible expositors (reading, explaining, and applying the text)

... for Steve's apologetics presentation to pastors in Kenya, that they would be convinced of the need and commit to working with us and Apologetics Kenya to develop an apologetics ministry

... that required Covid tests along the way will be on schedule and will be negative.

... that Steve and Henry will remain healthy.

### OUR MISSION:

**Transforming churches, one pastor at a time.**

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# View from the Frontlines

June 2021

## ADVANCING THE FRONTLINES

Dear ITEM Partner,

We are into our eighteenth year of ministry and continue to make advances and move our frontlines forward. These advancements will broaden and deepen ITEM's impact throughout Africa.

One advancement is the adding of a thirteenth country. Last month, Dr. Nathan Chiroma, ITEM's Director of Mentoring, and Dr. Chris McMillan, ITEM COO, were in Malawi presenting the Institute in the Foundations of Church Leadership (IFCL) there for the first time. It was highly successful.

We believe this is only the beginning of ITEM's presence in Malawi. We also believe we have discovered a potential country coordinator. As we continue to conduct additional seminars and mentoring there, a team will be formed and trained to train their fellow countrymen. Malawi may not be the end. We also have a contact with someone in Sierra Leone and a pastor here in the US who once served as a missionary there and is ready to help get started there when the time comes.

A second advancement is one we have been talking about. That is in the area of technology. With funds received specifically for technology at the end of last year, we have purchased Chromebooks and video projectors for our teams in Africa. The Chromebooks will be used by them to keep their own records and participate in video conferencing. The video projectors will be used in training situations and to project video conferencing images on a screen or wall.

Now we have someone researching inexpensive, rechargeable "point and shoot" cameras to use to take ministry related pictures to send back to us plus conference speakerphones to make it easier for larger groups to participate in a video conference. In the future, the video conferencing equipment can be used for virtual seminars.

A third advancement is in the area of youth ministry in Africa. This is taking on a different form. Instead of the classic youth ministry, we are trying to build it around apologetics, the preparing of pastors and others to answer the hard questions they are being asked.

ITEM is partnering with Eternal Impact, located near us in Oregon, to coordinate an effort to build an apologetics network in East Africa (Uganda, Rwanda, and Kenya right now). We are in touch with a few

So much more inside...

>> *First feedback from Malawi Seminar*

>> *Updates and Prayer requests from Kenya, Madagascar, Rwanda, and Tanzania*

>> *Prayer requests*

>> *Upcoming events*



# FIRST FEEDBACK FROM MALAWI SEMINAR

From Pastor Innocent Mugona, Malawi seminar host and coordinator

The teaching helped us in many ways:

First, the pastors are now able to preach following the steps of reading the passage, explaining it and applying it. Because of this type of preaching, a lot of people have been transformed and we thank God for such kind of teaching.

Second, since it is the first time to receive this kind of teaching, a lot of pastors now know their roles. Reports from the believers are showing much appreciation for their pastor's work.

Third, by practicing church discipline, I can see that the churches are completely changed and a lot of people are repenting and coming to our master, Jesus.

Several pastors are giving me reports that the teaching was so powerful that they now have a clear idea of where they need to be going (in ministry) and they are hungry to learn much from you (Chris McMillan) because your teaching is really helpful and a lot of people in the churches are being transformed. (Photography credits to Clark Media)



ITEM currently ministers to 12 African countries across central Africa – Liberia, Ghana, Nigeria, Cameroon, Republic of Congo, The Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Rwanda, Burundi, Uganda, Tanzania, Kenya, and Madagascar. In each of these countries, the Christian religion has flourished but biblical knowledge and pastoral training has lagged far behind. There are over 2 million untrained pastors in these 12 countries in need of ITEM.

# NEWS FROM AFRICA...

From Tom Ngoya, ITEM Team Member, Kenya

Greetings, rains are back with a lot of destruction. Homes and churches have been flooded for the past week. Pastor Peter Onyngo woke up to a flooded compound Nin Ahero, Kisumu. Nanga Baptist Church in Kisumu has never seen peace from last year's flooding. Now they are flooding again. There are children taking advantage of the floods by drinking the flooding water. Let's keep on praying for the affected and displaced families. We want to appeal for any relief support towards this cause.

Tom

- Note: In response, ITEM recently sent Tom \$500 to help with some of the needs created by the floods.



From Julien Mvemba, ITEM Coordinator, Madagascar

Due to government decisions our ministry has been mostly shut down. Universities, schools, and churches are closed so we can't have any seminars or mentoring sessions. Please pray for the team and for the pastor's protection. We hope to have seminary and mentoring soon. May God Bless you all.

Finally, our business climate has also been affected by the Coronavirus as tourists are not able to come to Madagascar. We also deal with confinement all week-end (Saturday and Sunday.) All companies have had to reduce their total numbers of employees and the economy is slow. Consequently our lives have become very hard. Our team members trust in God for their needs.

From Rwanda: A pastor involved in a mentoring group shared this.

ITEM's teachings are practical theology which makes the difference with other trainings we attended before. It is from ITEM we learn how to prepare and follow the context, for understanding more the true meaning of the word of God, then teaching the truth of God's word to our church members. Now we do not . . . use the Bible to speak what we want to the congregation. Rather we yield up to Bible guidance. It wasn't like that before.

From Tanzania: After a recent seminar

Pastor Samson Kissa: "I am really thankful for having attended seminars by ITEM. These trainings have changed my worldview, and my preaching ministry. Before coming to these seminars, I thought that preaching meant to use the word of God to create messages so as to attract people in the church. Most of the time I would read the bible then bring in stories which had no connection with the passage. When I attended the seminar, I realized that my work as pastor was that of the messenger, hence I started preaching the Word. More and more people started to come and growth rate was better than before and baptisms have increased as well.

