



# INTERNATIONAL TRAINING & EQUIPPING MINISTRIES

Transforming churches one pastor at a time

March 2022

Dear ITEM Partner,

The word for 2022 has been and will remain to be “expansion.” The expansion I am speaking of is the expansion of ITEM’s ministry in three different areas; the number of countries in which we are equipping pastors, a restarting of our women’s ministry, and beginning a ministry to youth using apologetics as a springboard. I want to update you on these three areas. I think you will be encouraged.

## **ADDING COUNTRIES**

Last year, Dr. Chris McMillan, ITEM VP, conducted an initial seminar in Malawi. He was accompanied by Dr. Nathan Chiroma, ITEM Director of Mentoring. Right after Easter they will be returning to Malawi to conduct ITEM’s second seminar in preparation for appointing a coordinator and the team around him.

Following that, Chris will be going to Zambia to meet up with a new contact there and talk about starting ITEM’s ministry in that country.

## **RESTARTING OUR WOMEN’S MINISTRY**

Ms. Karen Dunkin has had to take a step back from leading our Women’s Ministry due to personal health challenges and others within her family. Ms. Sandee Cnossen has stepped into the gap to help out. Sandee has been working on a curriculum and is ready to begin making trips. The roadblock, to date, has been that lack of another woman to travel with her. But that may be changing.

A young woman who has graduated from Frontier School of the Bible in Wyoming, heard about ITEM and more specifically, our Women’s Ministry. She has talked with Sandee and at this point, things sound very promising.

NOTE: If you are interested in helping build ITEM’s Women’s Ministry and would consider traveling to Africa with Sandee as a part of a team, let us know? Call or email.

## **BEGINNING OUR YOUTH MINISTRY**

As you probably know, a real interest of mine is apologetics, which is being able to defend Christianity’s truth claims with reasonable, rational answers. This is an area of ministry I have been looking into for the past several years and last year the Lord seemed to place upon my heart to use apologetics as a springboard to launch ITEM’s Youth Ministry.

In the past year, the Lord has connected me with two other groups that share the same vision. Apologetics Kenya, which is based in Nairobi, Kenya and Adventurous Apologetics (AA), a new ministry based in Oregon City, Oregon.

Ben Clifton, one of the founders of AA, has a vision of building an apologetics ministry in East Africa and already has a relatively large network of organizations he is in contact with. Some that I could mention you might know by name. One of them, of course, is Apologetics Kenya. Ben and I are working on plans to have an Apologetics Summit in Kampala, Uganda April 29-May 1. Our goal is to have various groups that are interested in apologetics get to know each other and share ideas about the way forward.

Following the Summit, he and I will travel to Ishaka, Uganda to spend three days with a group of students that he already knows. The topic? Apologetics!

## **New apologetics opportunities for me**

I am personally in between two classes that I am teaching virtually for Apologetics Kenya as a part of their “Certificate in Apologetics” program. Each class is two sessions, two hours each and is conducted virtually. Fortunately, they chose evening hours for themselves and 9AM for me!

The first class was *New Testament Survey and Apologetics*. Later in March I will be doing a second class. This one will be *Bible Interpretation and Apologetics*. I am considering setting up a virtual class with other interested individuals in Africa. Ben, AA, has a meeting each Saturday morning with people he is mentoring in apologetics.

## **TRANSITION UPDATE**

As we move through 2022 and into 2023, Chris and I will be meeting weekly as we slowly transition to his leadership of this ministry. I have every reason to believe it is going to be a smooth, seamless transition. A book I read a few years ago, entitled, *The Conviction to Lead* (Dr. Albert Mohler) had a chapter on transitions and leaving a legacy. He said that the most important to pass is *conviction*. I believe, by God’s grace, that goal is being accomplished. Our convictions include: A high view of God, the priority and sufficiency of Scripture, doctrinal clarity, a commitment to personal holiness, and to selecting spiritually qualified leadership. In recent years we have added the priorities of seeing churches transformed through the non-negotiable of expository preaching.

## **ON THE HORIZON**

- March 6: Steve will be updating a church in So Cal on ITEM’s ministry and preaching.
- March 9-11: Steve will be attending the Shepherds’ Conference in So Cal.
- March 17, 24: Steve will be teaching a virtual class on Bible Interpretation and Apologetics for Apologetics Kenya
- After Easter: Chris will be in Malawi for a seminar and then Zambia to discuss launching ITEM there.
- After Easter: Steve will be in Tanzania to meet with the ITEM team, Uganda for an Apologetics Summit and seminar, and Nigeria to meet with the ITEM team and evangelical leadership in Abuja and conducting a one-day seminar on Bible exposition.

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## **PRAYER**

...for a female traveling companion for Sandee Cnossen.

...for Chris and Steve as we plan our after-Easter trips and all that goes into planning them.

...for Chris as he continues to raise his support

...for me as I prepare the Bible Interpretation class for Apologetics Kenya

...for Ben as he puts together the details of our meetings in Uganda.

Thank you for your interest, concern, and prayers!

By His grace,



Dr. Stephen Van Horn  
Founder/President