

FELLOWSHIP NEWS



KING'S CROSS PARTNERS WITH TRAINING LEADERS INTERNATIONAL IN MONGOLIA

85% of evangelical churches around the world are led by pastors with little or no formal theological training, according to Training Leaders International (TLI). Mongolia is one of those places, and their church leaders represent the first generation of evangelical Christians. In October, Pastor Sam Andres, King's Cross Church, Defiance (Ohio), joined TLI staff to train 26 church leaders in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia.

King's Cross Church desires to plant healthy churches in their region and around the world, and Pastor Sam Andres possesses a missionary's vision for the world. When the opportunity to join TLI for a week presented, teaching Mongolian church leaders, they saw it as a perfect fit. Andres said, "We want to see healthy churches planted that are biblically rich and teaching the scriptures accurately, in this country and around the world. That's why we love TLI. They don't just plant churches. They plant healthy churches." During his week in Mongolia, Andres

taught TLI's curriculum for the gospel genre, using the Gospel of Mark.

Most Mongolians identify as Buddhist or non-religious while Christians represent only 2% of the population, so class discussion centers around questions like, "How would you teach this to your Buddhist neighbor?" Many of the trainees sacrificed time off of work and drove long distances to participate in the week-long training, a sacrifice that they will repeat 8 more times to learn the entire Bible. One trainee who ministers to Kazakhstan Muslims drove 30 hours. While in class, the trainees study from 7:30 a.m. to 9:30 p.m., listening to lectures and breaking down passages.

TLI provides 9 modules, from Genesis to Revelation that their staff teaches along with a trained pastor, seminary professor, or graduate student. As the students study the Bible in their own language, they learn principles that will help them teach it to their churches.



Creating Church Partnerships Through ZEC Ministries

In October, Rafieg, a businessman from Sudan, met the church planter he sponsors in southeast India. That connection, orchestrated by Northwoods Church, Peoria (Illinois), through Zion Evangelistic and Care Ministries (ZEC Ministries) was possible through a church planting investment initiative. They hope that this initiative will continue to grow at Northwoods and within FEC, since anyone can sponsor a church planter for a \$3,000, one-time investment.

Northwoods's relationship with ZEC Ministries began in 2011, and by 2013, ZEC Ministries had become an FEC partner. The ministry founders, Syam Babu and Esther Sunitha, began by reaching children in the greater Visakhapatnam district of Andhra Pradesh, but their ministry has grown to include training thousands of pastors.

Now, through Syam's leadership, new church planters are being identified and resourced through partnerships like the one with Northwoods. That partnership allows individuals or churches to invest \$3,000, providing a simple community structure for the new church and a short-term salary for the church planter.

On their October trip to India, the Northwoods team met 45 of the 54 sponsored pastors and visited 15 new locations where church planting is underway. On their visits, the team collects the plant's story and passes it back to individuals who have made investments. As a team member, Rafieg was able to meet the pastor he has partnered, visit his village, and hear an update firsthand.

FEC Prepares Church Planters Through TAP Team

Next year, two church planters will start the process of launching new churches in two new communities. But, these planters, Caleb Barrows and Tanner Smith, along with their sending churches and their coach, Jay Nickless, have been working behind the scenes for months going through an assessment, coaching, and a process that FEC developed called Target Analysis Process (TAP). All of these tools help ensure that each church plant has "the right person, with the right plan, in the right place" (Jay Nickless, FEC Church Planting Field Coordinator).

Based on Jesus's words, "Open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest" (John 4:35 NIV), TAP helps the planter discover where God is already at work drawing people to Himself. Over the past year, both Smith and Barrows have put together a TAP team to explore locations for planting. They each recruited 8-12 people who were committed to prayer and to the process. After gathering extensive data about each location and participating in community activities, the team determined the target community for a church.

In December, both Smith and Barrows will present their TAP team's decision to a panel for affirmation. Then they will begin putting together their launch teams. Through TAP, church planters have seen where God is at work. That connection will ensure greater success.

