



# GLOBAL TRAINING NETWORK

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*“God’s desire for ministry leaders is that we be...  
collaborators rather than competitors,  
complimenters rather than criticizers,  
connectors rather than complainers.”*

Dear Friends in Christ,

Friday, January 15, 2010

*“By this all men will know that you are my disciples, that you love one another.”  
(Jesus – John 13:35)*

*“But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining forward toward what is ahead.  
I press on...” (Philippians 3:13-14a)*

I think most of us would agree that 2009 is a year we would prefer to forget. *“Out with the old and good riddance,”* as many have said. As I look back upon 2009, I have equally divided emotions.

**On one hand**, 2009 was our best, most effective year ever in terms of training pastors throughout the developing world. More pastors trained in more places, on a deeper level than ever before in our history.

**On the other hand**, 2009 was by far the toughest year for fundraising in all of my 30 years of ministry.

I just read in a recent Christian publication that over 2,000 non-profits are expected to close their doors in 2009 and 2010. I also read that organizations like **Focus on the Family** (James Dobson) had to eliminate several hundred positions this past year due to the drop in funding.

**Family Life Ministries** (Campus Crusade for Christ – Dennis Rainey is the director) has gone through two rounds of layoffs in 2009 and instituted serious restrictions on which ministries will be funded in 2010. **World Vision** has had to do similar things. These are tough days for all ministries.

During the first two years of this massive recession (2008 and 2009) GTN fared pretty well. We had a certain amount of reserves and we adjusted spending to fit with the changing economy.

**As we approach 2010, we are facing a significant challenge that will stretch our faith as we learn to trust God for His provision for this ministry.** We have basically used all of our reserves over these past two years, and due to the fact that we fell quite a bit short of our year-end goal of \$150,000, we have had to significantly adjust our ministry plans for the coming year. The *good news* is that there is still hope in the coming months for God to turn things around (*with God there is always hope*)!

As most of you are aware, compared to virtually all other ministries our size, we operate on a *“shoe string budget.”* That’s why **for every \$50 given** over the past five years to GTN (for all purposes and all people – including travel, conference expenses, administration, bookkeeping, audits, personal support, etc.) **one pastor has received significant biblical training** throughout the developing world. This is also the reason why **for every fifty cents given** to GTN, **one person has been directly impacted** by the pastors that have received our training.

Our focus is *maximizing ministry* to **“front line indigenous pastors”** who so desperately need it in many of the poorest countries of the world.

I am confident that God is able to meet the needs that we are facing. Would you join Lisa and I in coming before the *“throne of grace”* and asking God for His mercy and grace *“to help us in our time of need”*? **(Hebrews 4:14-16).**

Never have I felt my need for God greater than I do these days. Never have I felt such dependence upon God's Spirit to accomplish His Work through me!

Along with this, never have Lisa and I realized so strongly that **we cannot do this ministry without other like-minded followers of Christ** who will stand with us *side-by-side, shoulder-to-shoulder, arm-in-arm*.

We need your help. We need your faithful **prayers** like never before. We need **volunteers** who could help us a few hours a week with some new projects that we are implementing this coming year. And if you are able, we need your generous **financial support**.

**Because this monthly newsletter goes out to many, many people across the United States** – some who are actively involved in supporting this ministry through their prayers and financial support and many who, as of now, are not. *Let me take a moment to ask those of you who have not, up to this point, become a partner with GTN.*

Would you consider one or more of these **three partnership opportunities**?

- Would you consider becoming a **prayer partner** with us?
- Would you consider serving Christ through **volunteering your time** a few hours a week to help us with some new ministry projects this coming year?
- Would you consider becoming a **financial partner** with us by giving a monthly gift of \$50, \$100 or \$150? Or maybe God would lay it upon your heart to give a special gift (of any size) at this time? All gifts are needed and are greatly appreciated!

**We have needs for all three of these areas.** I've enclosed a "**GTN Response Card**" that you can fill out and let us know of your desire to partner with us in one or more of these three areas. *Would you take a moment to fill this response card out and drop it in the mail in the enclosed pre-addressed envelope?*

In 2010 we are praying for God to provide the equivalent of 125 partners who could give approximately \$100 per month (\$1,200 per year). God has all different ways of providing for this need and so we trust Him to know the best way to put the various "pieces of the puzzle" together for His honor and His glory.

**Lisa and I can't thank you enough** for your faithful prayers and financial support, which have undergirded this ministry over the last several years! Your prayers are so valuable to us personally and to the ministry as a whole. Thank you for the sacrifices that you have made in taking time out of your busy schedule to intercede on behalf of GTN and for generously sharing of your financial resources to help train indigenous pastors throughout the developing world!

I truly believe that 2010 has the potential to be our most powerful and impacting year to date. Lisa and I continue to drop to our knees in humble submission to our gracious God who promises that we will "*receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.*" (**Hebrews 4:14-16**)

Working tirelessly, passionately and joyfully to spread the glory of God among the nations of the world,



**2 Timothy 2:2**

**P.S.** And would you please continue to pray in the days ahead for the rest of the **\$150,000** to come in through new monthly partners, special one-time gifts or through other avenues?