

# Newsletter

June 2024



## Global Training Update

### India - Hyderabad

Shepherds Global Classroom recently partnered with Kurios India (led by Timothy Muthyala) to provide training for 43 pastors/trainers who earned a Trainers Certificate after an intensive three-day conference. The trainers came from six states in India. In addition, we had delegates from Nepal and Bhutan, a country where Christian outreach is illegal.

#### Our three days of training covered several crucial areas:

Johnathan Arnold gave sessions on the importance of doctrine and theology for pastors. His session on “Theological Triage” was especially well received, as he helped the pastors understand the importance of focusing on the primary doctrines of the Christian faith.

Johnathan and Randall led the pastors through a day of teacher training, preparing them to teach the SGC courses in their local contexts.

After each pastor taught a section of the SGC course *Exploring the Old Testament*, we gave feedback on their teaching. It was encouraging to see the quality of teaching improve as the pastors began to incorporate advice given by those who taught early in the seminar.

We closed the meeting with a session in which the trainers developed a plan for opening training centers in their home areas.



Dr. Randall McElwain and SGC Global Trainer Johnathan Arnold with pastors at the SGC training event in Hyderabad, India.



## India - Aurangabad

Paul's Legacy (led by Bryan Elliott) is a humanitarian/evangelistic organization in the state of Maharashtra. Johnathan Arnold and Randall McElwain did training for a group of 20 pastors.

Our sessions were similar to the sessions in Hyderabad. Again, the pastors were very receptive and appreciative of the training. One of the pastors said, "I have pastored for many years, but I have never realized the importance of teaching my people. Now I understand that I must train them in what we believe as Christians."

Please pray that God will use these pastors to raise up a generation of strong leaders for the church in India.



SGC Global Trainer Johnathan Arnold conducting a training session with pastors at the SGC training event in Aurangabad, India.

## 2024 Numbers

6

SGC's Global Training team has conducted 6 global training events so far in 2024 - Pakistan, the Philippines, Peru, Alaska, and India (2 events).

142

The SGC website has been visited from 142 distinct countries so far in 2024.

150

On average, 150 courses are downloaded every day from the SGC website.

5,000

French is our most downloaded language with over 5,000 courses downloaded since April 2024.

3,448

The SGC app currently has 3,448 users in 142 countries.

5%

5% of our website traffic comes from India! This is the highest percentage from any 1 country.

**"I have pastored for many years, but I have never realized the importance of teaching my people."**

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L-R Glenn Gault, Emmanuel Sarfo, Suzie Sarfo, Nestor Lia, Ida Lia, John Adams Ankamah (Cote d'Ivoire, Africa)

# A Work In Africa

Glenn Gault  
Africa85 Director

In May of 2023, *africa85* made trips to Ghana and West Africa to help a group of pastors use Shepherds Global Classroom to train leaders for their churches and ministries. Rev. John Adams Ankamah and Rev. Emmanuel Sarfo had already used SGC before this seminar. Still, they found the training seminar so helpful that they thought of friends in neighboring countries who would also benefit. We kept in touch with them throughout the year, and were encouraged as they began organizing seminars in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire, and Atakpame, Togo.

On the 1st of May, I had the privilege of meeting with Rev. Ankamah and Rev. Sarfo in Abidjan. Rev. Nestor Lia and his wife, Ida, were gracious hosts and played a crucial role in organizing a two-day training seminar for about 30 church leaders. With their wealth of experience, Rev. Ankamah and Rev. Sarfo were effective teachers, sharing their journey with SGC in Ghana in a compelling way. The seminar was a collaborative effort that I was honored to be a part of. At the end of the seminar, four pastors expressed their interest in opening an SGC Bible school in Abidjan, a testament to the impact of our collective work.

From Abidjan, we flew to Lome, Togo, and traveled inland to Atakpame. There, Rev. Maxwell Dogbe, president of the local ministerial society, invited about 50 church leaders to a two-day seminar on how to use SGC to train themselves and the next generation of leaders for the Church. We were encouraged by Rev. Maxwell's organizational abilities and the respect he has earned among the pastors. We were also pleased that Rev. Prosper Sagbohan from the Republic of Benin was able to attend and is planning to share SGC with pastors in his country.

As I look back on this trip to West Africa, two things stand out to me. First is **the widespread need for systematic theological education in Africa**. The pastors we met agreed that Christianity is growing in Africa. However, they expressed deep fear that much of the growth is being wasted because pastors who do not understand the Bible fall into false doctrines, including a false prosperity gospel. The second takeaway was that **SGC is indeed a transferable training program that works well in Africa**. Rev. Ankamah and Rev. Sarfo have seen that SGC works for their churches. They attended a training seminar in 2023 to enhance their teaching skills, and then passed on what they learned to more than 70 other African leaders in 2024.

Looking forward, *africa85* plans to hold an SGC training seminar in Rwanda in June, attend an SGC graduation in Cameroon in August, and help with further teacher training and youth discipleship in Zambia in September. Besides these trips, we are helping pastors around the continent of Africa on an almost daily basis through the internet. Please pray for SGC and *africa85*. We especially request your prayer as we follow up on possible leads for helping pastors in predominantly Muslim countries in North Africa.



Ida & Nestor Lia (They organized and hosted the Cote d'Ivoire seminar. He is planning to start a Bible school with four other pastors.)

# From The President

I genuinely appreciate every opportunity we have been given this spring to tell the SGC story to congregations in Alabama, Indiana, Louisiana, Missouri, and Ohio. Witnessing how the Holy Spirit has challenged pastors and congregations to come alongside SGC through their prayers and financial support has been incredibly humbling. Thank you to all who have demonstrated such warm hospitality to Becky and me.

This month, we highlight the exciting work of three of our ministry partners—Africa85, Kurios India, and Paul's Legacy. I love what God is doing through these ministries, and there are many more we will tell you about in the coming months. We believe God is calling us, through our curriculum tools, to help launch locally governed, locally structured, and locally financed theological “classrooms” in every country in the world. Imagine it! It can happen! God will make it happen in time and for His glory!

Shepherds Global Classroom is clearly a vine of God's planting, and He is making it grow as each of us does his or her part. Thank you for doing your part this month as our team faithfully and tenaciously pursues SGC's 2024 goals.

For the sake of underserved pastors and Christian leaders,

## Tim Keep

Founder & President



## Would You Like To Partner With SGC?

### Schedule!

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