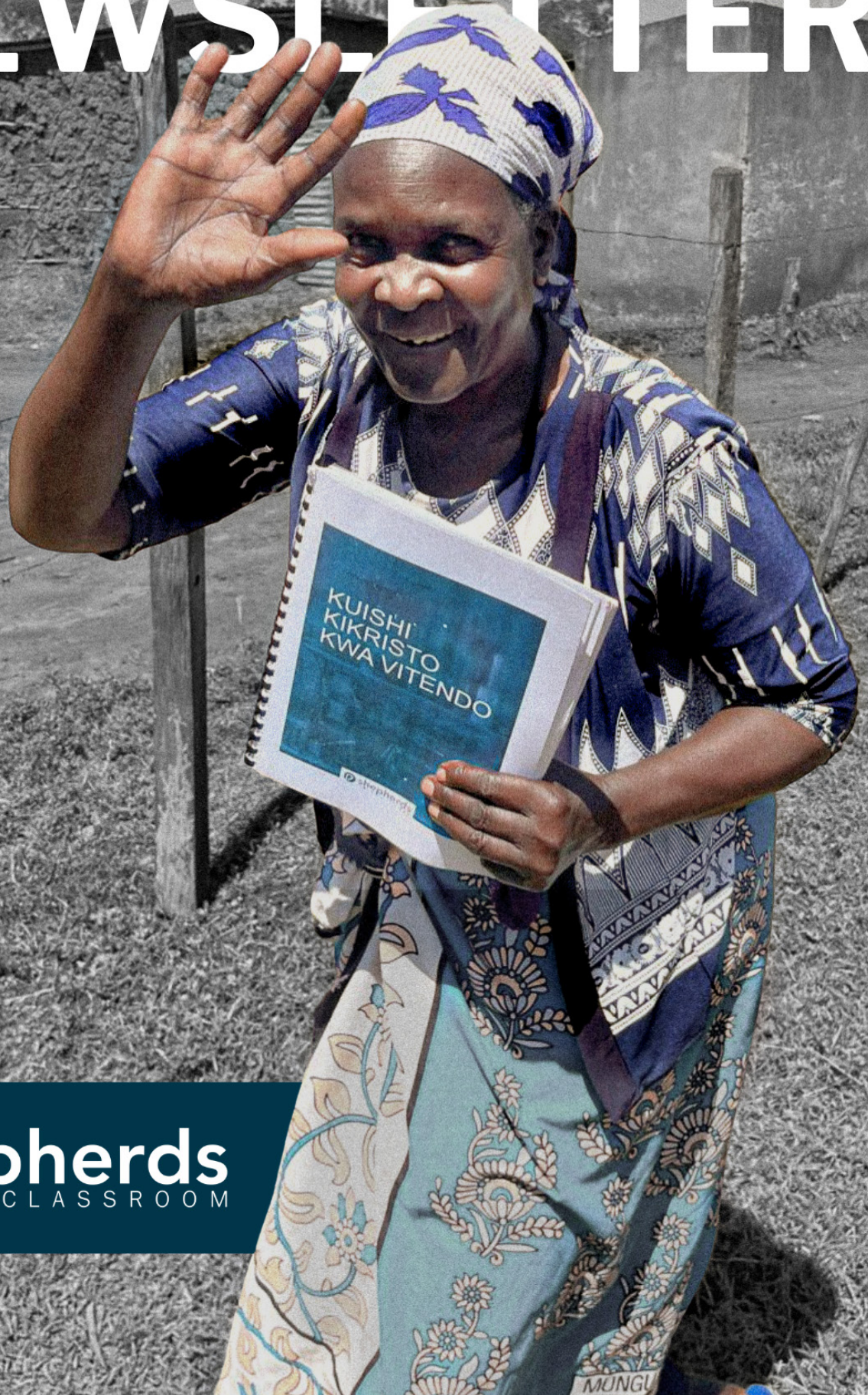


October 2024

# NEWSLETTER



# Training Pastor-Trainers in Rwanda & Kenya

Tim Keep  
Founder & President

Our global training team recently conducted training events in Rwanda and Kenya, two countries that provide good examples of the needs SGC seeks to meet.

The beautiful, clean, and rapidly developing country of Rwanda is in the process of rebuilding from a horrible bloodbath; in 1994, nearly a million Rwandans were brutally murdered in a nationwide genocide. In recent months, the Rwandan government has closed 10,000 churches because they identified them as not serving their communities well, because of the abuses of prosperity theology, and because their pastors aren't theologically trained.

In Rwanda, our team, led by Dr. Randall McElwain, was privileged to equip 35 influential spiritual leaders with free theological tools by which they will launch training centers and be able to equip and disciple others. These men and women are part of a robust spiritual rebuilding plan in Rwanda and are committed to multiplying grassroots training programs throughout the country. Key pastors from Uganda and Burundi were also present, and they shared the huge need for pastor training in their countries.

From Rwanda, our team traveled to Kitale, Kenya. Our joyful host, Mary, has been very effectively using SGC courses for training since January, but the area she is responsible for is just too vast for one program. Mary asked us to train seven teams of pastors and lay leaders from seven remote counties (Kenyan states) who will study all 20 SGC courses over the next 2-3 years. They will then launch satellite Bible schools in each of those seven counties.

This was such an exciting 16 days of training. In Rwanda and Kenya, we met pastors and lay leaders hungry and thirsty for the things of God. And while many of them are poor in terms of this world's goods, they are rich in love, joy, and faith! We believe that much fruit will come from Rwanda and Kenya in the days to come. Thank you for praying for us and supporting SGC's vital ministry to underserved pastors worldwide.



SGC Training Team (L-R) Tim Keep, Andrew Rickenbach, Dr. David Fry, Becky Keep, Dr. Randall McElwain, Katie Rickenbach



The SGC Global Training team with the leaders they trained in Kenya

# Does Teaching Really Matter?

**Dr. Randall McElwain**  
Director of Global Training

Africa is home to one of the greatest revival movements in church history. In 1900, only 9% of Africans were Christian. In 2020, approximately 50% of Africans professed Christianity. No other continent has seen more explosive growth in the last 100 years. However, Africa is also home to some of the most destructive heresies in modern times.

How can these two facts (a great revival movement AND tragic heresies) be reconciled? One factor in the spread of false doctrines has been a lack of sound biblical teaching for pastors. As revival swept across Africa, little attention was given to training pastors in sound doctrine. As a result, false doctrines spread like wildfire.

Some might say, **“Does sound teaching really matter? At least the church is growing, and people are being saved!”**

To get a biblical answer to the question, read the Epistle of Jude. At the end of his graphic description of how false teaching impacted churches in the first century, the apostle concluded, “It is these who cause divisions, worldly people, devoid of the Spirit” (Jude 19).

To get a practical answer to the question, visit Rwanda. Because of the 1994 Rwandan genocide, 65% of the population is 35 years of age or younger. Few older pastors guide and nurture young pastors. One young pastor told me, **“We ‘Timothys’ have no ‘Pauls’ to train us.”**

We found a similar situation in Kenya. Untrained pastors are ill-equipped to answer the questions their members are asking. They do not know how to guide believers to maturity. One pastor told me, **“We know how to make converts. We don’t know how to make disciples.”**

The good news is that these pastors have a deep hunger for training in right doctrine. In our two recent training events in these countries, we taught pastors from SGC’s *Christian Beliefs* course and trained them to teach the courses to others. In addition, Dr. David Fry gave lectures on “Why Doctrine Matters.” The pastors’ questions showed how hungry they are to understand and apply biblical doctrine. They realize the importance of establishing right doctrine in their churches.

Thank you for praying and giving so that SGC can help build an understanding of right doctrine among these hungry pastors who are part of a great revival in Africa.

## A Global Trainer’s Perspective

**Dr. David Fry**  
SGC Global Trainer

The week of training in Kitale, Kenya, has confirmed to me the importance of what SGC is doing. Seeing the courses in the hands of these teachers in training and seeing them teach each other in preparation for going back to their villages to teach others has been so rewarding. To be here, to hear their passion, to witness their excitement to learn...It’s a joy to be a part of it. It would be impossible for us missionaries to go to all the places these indigenous teacher-trainers will go, where God’s word will be taken.

I’m blessed to be an SGC Global Trainer. I’ve learned so much by being here, listening to the questions of these pastors and lay leaders, and watching how SGC training works in their culture. It’s broadening my understanding and my imagination of how God works. God is stretching me theologically because I’m having to answer questions and apply theological beliefs in circumstances I’ve never even dreamed of. It’s really life-changing.



Dr. David Fry & our host, Mary Vugutsa Kisaka



Dear Friends,

On September 28, 2024, we hosted our 4th annual Vision Dinner. The Lord blessed the evening, and we are truly grateful for the incredibly supportive community He has placed around us. On this night alone, \$88,040.00 was donated or pledged by our 105 guests and 10 sponsors/sponsoring organizations. Thank you! We're profoundly grateful for every investment made for underserved pastors around the world.

I also want to thank Rev. Troy Keaton, Joel Hood, Dr. Mike Avery, Dr. Steve Oliver, Dr. David Fry, and Dr. Randall McElwain for their presentations during the Vision Dinner and for lending their lives, their credibility, and their influence to SGC.

Above all, I want to thank the Lord for His continued favor on Shepherds Global Classroom. In our upcoming newsletter, we'll share specific information regarding the progress He's helped us make over the past 12 months. I can't wait to share it with you. Don't miss it!

## Tim Keep

Founder & President



Africa Recap  
Video



SGC Overview  
Video

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