

NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2025



Global Training in Peru

This summer, Dr. Randall McElwain traveled with Andry Leiva and David Martinez to conduct SGC training events in two cities of Peru. Both gatherings highlighted the urgent need for biblical training among pastors and leaders, as well as the impact that SGC courses can have.

Trujillo

In Trujillo, 34 leaders gathered; 20 of them were pastors. The event was hosted by Bishop Ivan Rojas and denominational leaders who are deeply concerned about the lack of training among their rural pastors. Although their seminary already uses some SGC courses, many pastors in remote areas do not have access. Out of this burden, leaders have launched the “John Wesley Academy,” designed to equip pastors, teachers, evangelists, and missionaries in a non-traditional format. SGC courses will play a central role in this new training initiative.

Pucallpa

The second event took place in Pucallpa, where 23 pastors and leaders came together from local communities. Some of them traveled up to 24 hours by boat on the Amazon River to attend. Their eagerness to learn was evident. One young



pastor shared, “We have the passion to serve, but we lack the tools. These courses give us the tools.” With resources now in hand, these leaders are better equipped to shepherd their congregations and strengthen their communities.

We are grateful for your prayers and support that make training events like these possible. God is using Shepherds Global Classroom to meet a critical need in Peru and around the world.

| We Are Going to Egypt

We're constantly amazed by the open doors the Lord is placing before us to serve his church. By the time you receive this newsletter, our team, led by Dr. Randall McElwain, should be on the ground in Egypt for the very first time. The Lord willing, we'll be conducting two Global Trainer events, one in Alexandria and one in Cairo.

Our first event will be in collaboration with Hope 4 All, led by a respected leader in Egypt, Dr. Radi (not using his full name out of safety concerns). Hope 4 All is "a ministry dedicated to equipping and empowering church leaders and ministers across Egypt, the Middle East, and North Africa, creating a ripple effect of faith and service within local churches throughout the region." The second training event will be with a network of pastors and pastoral trainers led by Pastor Shenouda (first name). Becky and I, along with missionaries Glenn and Stephanie Gault and Maricka Herrer from Africa85, are excited to participate.

When the Lord called us to this ministry in 2012, as we were taught under the shade of an East African tree, it was "for the sake of My body" that he called us. As the Lord spoke by His Spirit through the scriptures that beautiful morning in Mozambique, I already understood the need for biblical training among the indigenous pastors within our own connection of churches, but He lifted my eyes beyond them, to the vast numbers of untrained pastors everywhere longing for spiritual guidance. Jesus was saying, "I love my whole body, son! I'm asking you to serve them too. I want you to wash their feet too!" And that calling became in my heart a promise of blessing, a promise I constantly recall when the Lord presents us with opportunities like this one. Please pray for our team and each pastoral trainer participating in these events.

Tim Keep Sr.

Founder & President





Dr. Saji Lukos

Founder of Reaching India
Missions International

Get to Know Our Keynote Speaker

Saji was born into a nominal Christian home in Kerala, South India, and was led to Christ by a native evangelist at the age of 21. He and his lovely wife, Mony founded Reaching Indian Ministries International (RIMI), a powerful ministry consisting of 2,000 staff serving in South Asia, a major seminary, 30 leadership training centers, thousands of house churches, and many compassion and justice programs, including Mission India Hospital, Mission India Community College, English medium schools, and Mercy Homes for 2,000 orphaned or semi orphaned children. He is a humble servant of God with whom we are privileged to partner, and you will want to hear his challenge.

Vision Dinner 2025

Please consider supporting our annual Vision Dinner goal this year. This event has always been crucial to the mission of SGC, and I am confident that this year's dinner will be no exception. In addition to enjoying great food, the evening will be filled with storytelling, connection, and inspiration. I am thrilled to introduce our guest speaker, Dr. Saji Lukos, and you'll want to hear his powerful story. This event will provide an opportunity for each of us to take a financial step of faith to support untrained and underserved pastors.

We hope to see many of you in person on September 30. However, even if you cannot attend, would you consider making an additional gift to help us reach our Vision Dinner goal of \$201,000 and help us finish strong in 2025? This goal represents one-quarter of SGC's 2025 budget. It will be dedicated to translations, audio courses, and the publication of a new SGC course, "*A Theology of Suffering*" by Dr. McElwain. Your investment is a partnership that will make essential theological education accessible to a broader community of leaders around the world.

Help Us Reach Our **\$201,000** Vision Dinner Goal

- \$153,700 for translations
- \$18,000 to complete audio courses
- \$25,000 for the translation of our website into 6 additional languages
- \$4,300 to help fund our new course, "*A Theology of Suffering*"



Vision Dinner RSVP



Do You Know What A Franchise Is?

When I asked this question to our Liberian team, we had just opened our first ministry training institute, and it was training 30 students. I knew that most untrained pastors and potential pastors in the country could not come to one location. I used the franchise model to explain a way of making ministry training local everywhere.

McDonald's is an example of a franchise. It doesn't just mean that a business has many locations. A franchise is a way for locations of a business to be locally owned. A business person anywhere can sign a contract with the McDonald's corporation and open a restaurant. they sell McDonald's product and follow their operation manual, and the big yellow "M" is recognized by all who see it.

At Holiness Pilgrim Mission, we open remote training sites in Liberia with the franchise model. We post a sign for the *Shepherd Institute of Liberia* that also provides information about the local church. Sites are selected carefully. An established church hosts each site and partners with the other churches in the area. The primary teacher is usually a Bible institute graduate.

Our team at the central institute visits an opening site for an orientation day, then our national site coordinator and others make follow-up visits to provide ongoing training. The local institute manual now provided by SGC, was first developed for setting up sites in Liberia. Two years after remote sites were being opened in Liberia, we started in Ivory Coast. Later, Tanzania and Nigeria would be added. We have a total of 750 students studying at almost 50 sites in these African countries.

The franchise model in Africa is quite different from what HPM has done in Eastern Europe. The churches there use the courses in various ways and do not ask to use our name. Our representatives in Eastern Europe introduce the courses to churches, who then use them for discipleship, ministry team training, and equipping associate pastors. Perhaps most exciting is that churches are being started in small villages, now that it is possible to train someone onsite to pastor a new congregation. We have active representatives in Ukraine, Poland, Russia, Georgia, Belarus, and Moldova.

We believe that God has called us to extend the Gospel until the ends of the earth are reached. The best way we know to do that is to equip the church everywhere and raise workers to evangelize their communities and go as missionaries to the unreached.

Dr. Stephen Gibson

President of Holiness Pilgrim Mission

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