



“I believe that biblical training is essential, because it gives you the tools to help others.”

9.15.2026

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Biblical Training Matters

In a recent interview, Pastor Raúl Ramos shared about the impact that biblical training has had on his life and ministry. Raúl lives in San Gabriel, Mexico, with his wife, Olga, and their three children. He grew up in a Christian home and accepted Christ at 15. In his local church, he found a family, a group of people who walked with him through difficult seasons of life. Because of his love for the church, he began volunteering to teach children's Sunday school. During our conversation, Raúl reflected on that time and noted how little he understood about the Bible, God, and the gospel.

"I realized that I didn't really know how to read the Bible, how to study it, or how to teach it to others"

He began studying through the SGC courses, taught by Brennan Muir and Ezra Biblical Seminary, with a group in his hometown of San Gabriel. It did not take long for him to realize his need for deeper biblical training. Raúl stated, "When I took the course *Principles of Biblical Interpretation*... I realized that I didn't really know how to read the Bible, how to study it, or how to teach it to others." It was not a lack of love for God, or even a lack of desire to know Him, that hindered his effectiveness. Rather, it was a lack of biblical understanding. Raúl noted, "There was a passage about the seriousness of sin, the story of Achan in Joshua. I identified with Achan and understood that Christ had paid the price for that sin. That's when my perspective about myself and about God began to change."

Today, Raúl has completed twenty SGC courses and serves bi-vocationally as the assistant pastor of his local church while supporting his family through welding and carpentry. He has also played a vital role in translating SGC courses into Spanish, enabling countless others to receive the same biblical training that has transformed his own life and ministry.



"Through this training, I have grown greatly in my personal relationship with God. It has given me the desire to share the good news with others and to know that there is hope for the lost, just as there was for me."



Congratulations

Dr. Randall and Jun McElwain



From Dr. McElwain:

Psalm 30:5 promises, “Weeping may tarry for the night, but joy comes with the morning.” Life brings seasons of weeping. But today, I am thankful that God has given me unexpected joy.

On May 30th, Jun (pronounced June) and I were joined in marriage. We celebrated a small private wedding with our immediate family members attending. I look forward to a new season of life with a wonderful lady who loves God and who shares my passion to serve pastors and church leaders through Shepherds Global Classroom.

We are excited to congratulate Dr. Randall McElwain, SGC’s Director of Global Training, on his recent marriage to Jun. We rejoice with them as they begin this new chapter together and are grateful for God’s leading in their lives.

We are also thankful that both Dr. McElwain and Jun will continue serving with Shepherds Global Classroom. Jun serves SGC through her work as one of our translators, helping make biblical training available in Traditional Chinese.

Please join us in congratulating Randall and Jun and pray for God’s blessing on their marriage and ministry together.

A Powerful Missionary Force

President Tim Keep

Three and a half years ago, the Lord called Simon Kuman, a Papua New Guinean, and his team to proclaim the gospel among the 1,500 “high-risk” prisoners at Bomana, the largest prison in Papua New Guinea. The response has been remarkable. Many former murderers, rapists, thieves, and bank robbers have come to faith, and sixty of them have enrolled in a study program using Shepherds Global Classroom (SGC) curriculum.

Twenty students are now eligible for graduation in September, having completed all SGC courses, and fifteen more are on track to graduate in 2027. Simon writes, **“They are now leaders in studying God’s Word and have begun preaching to their fellow inmates. Prison guards have noticed the changes in their lives and allow them to lead morning and afternoon devotions in each of the high-risk cell blocks”**. Looking ahead, Simon and his team are prayerfully planning to expand their ministry to prisons across Papua New Guinea.

Today, nearly two-thirds of the global missionary force consists of indigenous pastors and missionaries, devoted, “near-culture” workers like Simon. While we sometimes lament that fewer men and women from the West are answering God’s call to missions, and while we continue to pray earnestly that God will raise up more missionaries from among our own sons and daughters, we also rejoice in what the Holy Spirit is doing through leaders like Simon.

These passionate, indigenous servants are key to reaching some of the world’s most inaccessible people groups. Through them, the gospel of the kingdom is being proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to all nations before Christ’s return (Matthew 24:14).

These are the leaders that Shepherds Global Classroom is honored to serve. Our mission is to equip them to fulfill their mission until all people know Jesus and His love.



What Happens When You Fund A New Translation?

- Leaders receive *free* access to trusted theological training in their own language.
- The global *church* is strengthened by sound doctrine.
- New *leaders* are raised up from within the community.
- Biblical *training* becomes locally led, locally sustained, and locally multiplied.

Help Us
Complete
Our Summer
Translation
Projects

This summer, we are trusting God for **\$50,000** to complete course translations and publications. Every gift matters, and designated giving options are available, including sponsoring a course in honor or memory of a loved one. Becky and I, along with our entire team, are deeply grateful for your partnership in this work.

A heartfelt thank you to those who have donated specifically for the A Theology of Suffering translation projects. Although not every translation is fully funded yet, we have received sufficient unspecified funds to keep moving forward!

— Tim Keep Sr.
Founder & President

Looking for a specific project to fund?

Tamil	2 Courses	\$3,510.74
Odia	1 Course	\$1,959.20
Tagalog	1 Course	\$3,023.30
Kinyarwanda	1 Course	\$1,523.16
Portuguese	1 Course	\$5,667.97
Luganda	1 Course	\$1,596.00
French	2 Courses	\$3,143.10

Adopt A Course Translation

Adopt one of the translation projects listed here, and help bring biblical training to pastors in a new language.

Dedications may be made in honor, memory, or recognition of a person.

So far, 2026 has been a year of strengthening Shepherds Global Classroom's translation work through new team members, better communication, and careful planning for the future. We are grateful for the Lord's help as translation work continues to grow in capacity and effectiveness.

This year, we have added five new members to our team, including two proofers and three project managers. Each hire has been strategic and has made a significant impact in helping our team work with greater efficiency.

We have also vetted and onboarded eight new translation teams and approved six new languages to begin translation: Armenian, Chichewa, Malayalam, Kannada, Marathi, and Khmer. At midyear, 138 translation projects are in motion, from initial translation to final corrections and publication. We hope to begin another 74 additional projects in the next six months.

A major focus this year has been connecting more regularly and deeply with our translators. Through video conversations, we are strengthening relationships as brothers and sisters in Christ and as coworkers in ministry. We now work with more than 65 translators and editors across 41 languages. In a recent meeting with one of our Armenian translators, she shared with us the quotes below.

Looking ahead this year, we are meeting with strategic partners, conducting surveys and praying for direction as we plan language projects for the next five years. By God's grace, this research will make it possible for SGC courses to be used immediately upon translation, and to reach a greater number of pastors and Christian leaders around the world.

Your Generosity at Work!

Jeffrey Albertson,
Translation Systems Manager

"When you do the translation process, you learn so much because you have to do your own research and study words and think about things you never thought would matter that much before."

“

Rubina Holton
Armenian Translator

"This has been changing my heart and it has been humbling me from many perspectives, from spiritual perspective and from the linguistic aspect..."

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*Scan to Save
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Details:

Date: September 15, 2026

Time: Networking: 5:30-6pm
Program: 6-8pm

Location: *The Metty Event Center*
11040 Kenwood Rd,
Blue Ash OH 45242



*Join us as we honor
the life and legacy of
Dr. Stephen Gibson*

Email: info@shepherdsglobal.org • Call: 513-982-1904 • We hope to see you there!





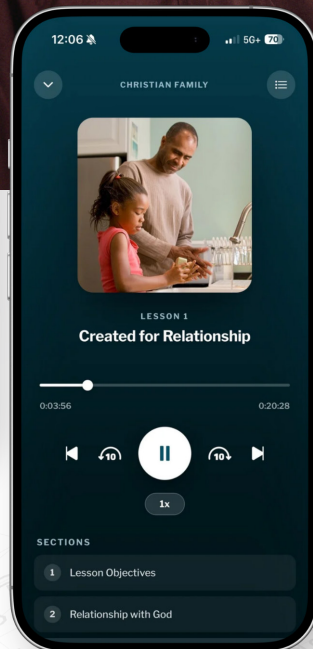
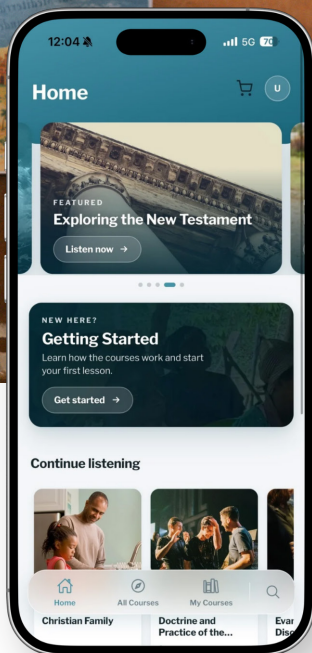
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