



INTERNATIONAL MISSIONS

DEEP AND WIDE: DIMENSIONS OF EQUIPPING

BY KIRK KAUFFELDT

Readers of *testimony* are well aware of the great work that PAOC International Missions is doing in the area of equipping in partnership with national churches we have established Bible colleges so that church leaders—pastors, evangelists, and missionaries—can be launched into the work of making disciples everywhere. This world has really been my entire life, starting at age five with my missionary parents to an isolated station outside of Kitwe, Zambia, in the late 1960s. That small Bible college became what is now Trans-Africa Theological College. Later, our family moved to Zimbabwe (then Rhodesia) to serve at Pentecostal College, now Pan Africa Christian College (Harare). I was 11 when, out of sheer curiosity, I sat in on my first course at PB. Wonderful Pentecostal pastors and church leaders have come out of those two schools, and I feel a sense of connection to each of them.

The PAOC continues to work in partnership with these colleges that focus on raising church leaders, as well as many other institutions around the world. As a mission we remain committed to institutional theological and ministry training. However, training is not the whole story—we are learning more about God’s plan for gospel transformation in all sectors of society, and we see the whole church take the whole gospel to the whole world.

In 1999, God opened doors for our family to serve at Pan Africa Christian University in Nairobi, Kenya. PAC University has a great program for raising quality church leaders, and we were excited to be part of the training continuum. One day, John Okello, a second-year student, came to my office. John shared how his concern for the street children in Kisumu had compelled him to go out to his rural community and care for many AIDS-affected orphans as he could so that they wouldn’t end up being exploited on the streets. What started as a handful of children in his own home we now know as Village of Hope Kenya. Today you will find a fine school, medical clinic, several churches, and a church. What makes John’s work transformative is his laser-like clarity about the fact that it is only the truth of the gospel that will bring about transformation and address a culture given to practices that allow AIDS to wreak havoc.

In a similar manner, Bethuel Kivuya shared his vision to reach an unreached people group of pygmies living deep in the forests of the Congo. He returned after an exploratory visit, and after sharing his stories and pictures, it was clear that his vision for holistic transformation had multiplied. His report was direct and specific. “These people need Jesus so that everything can change. It will take a church with a vision to become a station of hope in all the areas where brokenness needs to be replaced with completeness.” That ministry is now well established. Both John and Bethuel are great examples of how equipping can build capacity for leading social change as part of God’s redemptive work. There are many other students who have become living examples of the verse that is strategically placed on a sign at the front of the PACU campus: “Equipping the saints for the works of service that God has prepared in advance for them to do.”

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We continued training and equipping in Indonesia, serving as missionaries in a foundation established to transform young leaders.

holistic Christian education. New elementary and secondary schools were established in remote locations each year. The found very committed to staffing each school with well-trained Christian teachers. The Teachers College at Universitas Pelita H university where we served) graduates and places approximately 300 Christian teachers every year as part of this mission. These s Irene (pictured), are selected because they have a clear Christian testimony and a call to serve as a Christian teacher. Our investn lives through training, mentoring and sharing life together was richly rewarded. These schools are often in communities resista sometimes hostile to Christianity, but over and over we see the personal and social transformation that comes through the ser teacher-missionaries.

Another student, Ayu, met with us in great distress because she had been posted to a very remote and challenging school. As a girl she was quite certain she couldn't make it in the "backwards" village. We encouraged her and committed to visit and support as we could. We did visit and were so touched by the love she had come to have for her students and the community where she liv God had helped her to adjust to a very different way of living. She was so proud of the fact that she could now "haul water" all by because of her perseverance and the way God changed her heart, she had great impact in a dark place, an impact that went children in her class and touched the entire community.

We currently have the privilege of serving in Eastern Europe at LCC International University, a wonderful Christian university w from over 25 post-Soviet and Soviet countries. Unlike many Christian universities, the majority of our students do not have a Many are from Catholic or Orthodox backgrounds and are studying with us because they desire to do so in English at an ac institution. There are a significant number of Muslim students from locations like Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan and Albania who take Bible courses, join small groups and see the Christian faith lived out in love over the four years they are with us. Equipping in th redemptive relational evangelism. All of the faculty and staff are Christians who integrate faith and learning in the classroom, cr and caring community, and let students get close enough to see the grace of God lived out by their example. Together with the s are followers of Jesus, they are ministers of reconciliation.

God is at work in the world of equipping. He is raising leaders from the whole church for works of service that He has prepared in them to do. The call to make disciples is all-inclusive. Equipping for this purpose must continue to be Bible based and Spirit fill also find expression and opportunity in the broader scope of human experience. We are stewards of a gospel with power to trar dimensions of a needy world.

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