

Global iNSIGHT



March 2023

Multiplying Disciple Makers



IN PURSUIT OF 199 VILLAGES

Pastor Francis was born in Sierra Leone, a West African country that was plagued by a civil war in the 1990s and an Ebola epidemic recently. Although 77 percent of the population is Muslim, according to the State.org website, the Christian faith is legal, thus giving iTEE Global the opportunity to interact and train Pastor Francis.

Francis's own life story is one of amazing grace. He grew up in a Muslim family that was connected to witch doctors. But Francis was drawn to Christian churches. As a child, he would go to the mosque and attend church services. He became very interested to know Jesus. On March 27, 2010, he encountered the Lord's clear message of hope while at an outdoor revival. He then gave his life to Christ. He was with his friends. They were baptized and received Bibles. And his life was never the same.

In 2012, Francis began teaching Sunday School. With the help of a friend, he attended Bible College in Freetown, the capital city, and graduated with a diploma in Theology. More doors were opening for ministry. He was asked to teach a Bible study at one village when one of his friends declined the request and passed it on to him. Francis stepped in and started the Evangelism Movement. It was a self-funded endeavor. Soon another village was added on his map for ministry. Then he got involved in many more villages.

In 2016, Francis made a list of 199 remote villages where he wanted to preach the gospel, strengthen established churches, and plant new churches. In the years that followed, he lamented only being able to reach 69 of these villages. He continues to pursue the 199 villages to this day.

In This Issue

- pg. 1 - Student Profile
- pg. 2 - Student Profile Cont.
- pg. 3 - Missionary Profile
- pg. 4 - Course Feature
- pg. 4 - Ministry Opportunities



Francis is a young pastor, and needs more training in pastoral ministry, and in multiplying disciple-makers.

In 2021, iTEE Global connected with Francis. He was able to begin virtual classes in 2021. Through courses like the Gospel of Mark, he learned about the need to multiply disciple-makers. Francis wants to continue to preach the gospel in remote villages; this is not easy. He also wants to disciple new converts in these locations; and that is almost impossible. To reach many of these villages, Francis must walk several miles while carrying the materials. Then he has to navigate through communication barriers.

The official language in Sierra Leone is English, but there are 18 different languages spoken in these 199 villages. In remote locations, there is no electricity, nor any cell phone reception. The illiteracy rate is very high, posing another challenge that Francis has to face. With all these obstacles, he was discouraged and realized how hard it is to multiply disciple-makers.

According to Barna research, only 28 percent of U.S. Christians try to disciple anyone, even with the many resources available.

ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE!

After prayer and brainstorming to find solutions to help Francis, a key idea surfaced that had already been used by iTEE University with students with visual impairments. It could be possible for iTEE Global to provide voice recorded lessons. Class recordings and passages of Scripture can be placed on micro-SD cards or shared as files through apps.

In future trips, Francis should be able to walk into villages with a backpack full of these micro-SD cards. Francis will still need financial support and guidance in his pursuit to reach the 199 villages; but what a joy it is to be involved and for iTEE Global to work with him! Thank you, Lord!

Prayer Points

Please join us in prayer:

- For the efforts of iTEE Global missionaries and international leaders.
- To reach our goal this year to translate three courses in 10 languages, i.e. Russian, Burmese, and Urdu. This goal requires expertise and funding.
- For guidance in additional locations for ministry, i.e. Asia, Eurasia, and Haiti.
- For expansion of the ministry to people with disabilities, students and teachers.

WHEN JOY SHINES BRIGHTEST

Debbie Wood's life has always showcased Christ and the love He had extending to her. She is a joy to whomever she comes in contact with. She is married to Tom and they have two daughters, Allison and Meredith.



When serving as a journalist, Debbie wrote for Christian magazines like *Christianity Today*, *Christian Parenting*, and *Discipleship Journal*. In addition, she wrote and edited *Where God Builds Two Hearts a Home*, which is an in-depth marriage study. She was the Communications Director for the AD2000 and Beyond Movement. For 13 years, Debbie served as a teacher with Biblical Education by Extension (BEE) World. She trained students in locations like Myanmar, Ukraine, and China.

In 2015, after graduating with an MS in Education from the University of Hull in England, Debbie began serving full time with Internet Theological Education by Extension (iTEE) Global. Her major roles were as a Global Trainer, Facilitator, Curriculum Writer, and in Cross-Cultural Training.

UNUSUAL HEALTH CHALLENGES

In July 2018, everything stopped. Debbie was diagnosed with a large leiomyo-sarcoma (LMS) with spread throughout her body. Doctors told her that she did not have much time left to live. Debbie was at peace because her confidence has always been in God; and if she were to die, she would see Jesus.

Much prayer and encouragement were coming her way. After several biopsies, they found that the distant cancer was a slow-moving thyroid cancer. Through surgery, the sarcoma tumor was successfully removed and the thyroid cancer treated by radiation. She returned to traveling and teaching in Africa and India.

VICTORY OVER DEATH

A year later, the sarcoma cancer started spreading, so Debbie has had regular scans, surgeries and treatments. She is still traveling and training others, though, trusting God for strength. God promised in 2 Corinthians 12:9 (NIV), "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Debbie understands that the cancer could overwhelm her body at any point... But her joy shines brightly. Her life shows how one can live moment by moment, trusting God completely. This is a season of joy for her. She can verbalize how crises are opportunities to know God better. She prays and encourages people like Pastor Francis of Sierra Leone.

Please pray for Debbie's health and ability to continue serving with iTEE Global.

FOUNDATIONS OF CHRISTIAN MARRIAGE

The Foundations of Christian Marriage Course is one of the courses of iTEE University. The principles of marriage rely much on character and love. It is vital because marriage impacts multiple generations, for good or bad. The facilitators in this marriage course have seen incredible transformations in students' lives. In one of the activities, spouses are asked to list the Fruit of the Spirit they see in their spouse. Then, they have to indicate when they do not demonstrate that fruit in return. Recently, one of the students, though a pastor, put nothing. When asked why, he explained that 20 years earlier, he had paid a dowry for his wife. He said he loved his children, but no love existed between him and his wife. He saw his wife as part of his property. A facilitator directed him to Ephesians 5:25 (NIV): "Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her." She explained the importance of this passage of Scripture and challenged his thinking. The transformation that followed in this man was incredible. He began to live this Scripture with his wife and now is teaching other men in his church and village to love their wives. For the first time he truly was learning to love his wife.

About iTEE University

iTEE University delivers discipleship, pastoral, and leadership education. That is biblical, personal, transformational, transferable, practical, flexible, economical, and available 24/7.

All iTEE University courses include readings, discussions, life journals, and activities, which aim to help students grow in knowledge (Head), character (Heart), and skills for ministry (Hands). Certain courses emphasize to one of these areas.

iTEE Global Ministry Opportunities

Executive Administrator

Support iTEE Global ministry through event planning, calendars scheduling, coordination of activities, travel arrangements, and financial transactions.

Funding Development Administrator

Support iTEE Global to acquire the necessary funding, through writing grants, proposals, developing relationships with foundations and churches. To train on personal support raising.

End User Technical Support Analyst

Support staff and students in the use of computer tools and systems. Knowledge of Windows, Macintosh, Android, iOS, MS Office.

Contact: HRinfo@iteeg.org

SIGN UP TO RECEIVE THE NEWSLETTER:

Scan QR code or go to iteeg.org/gi_subscription.html

