

# Global iNSIGHT

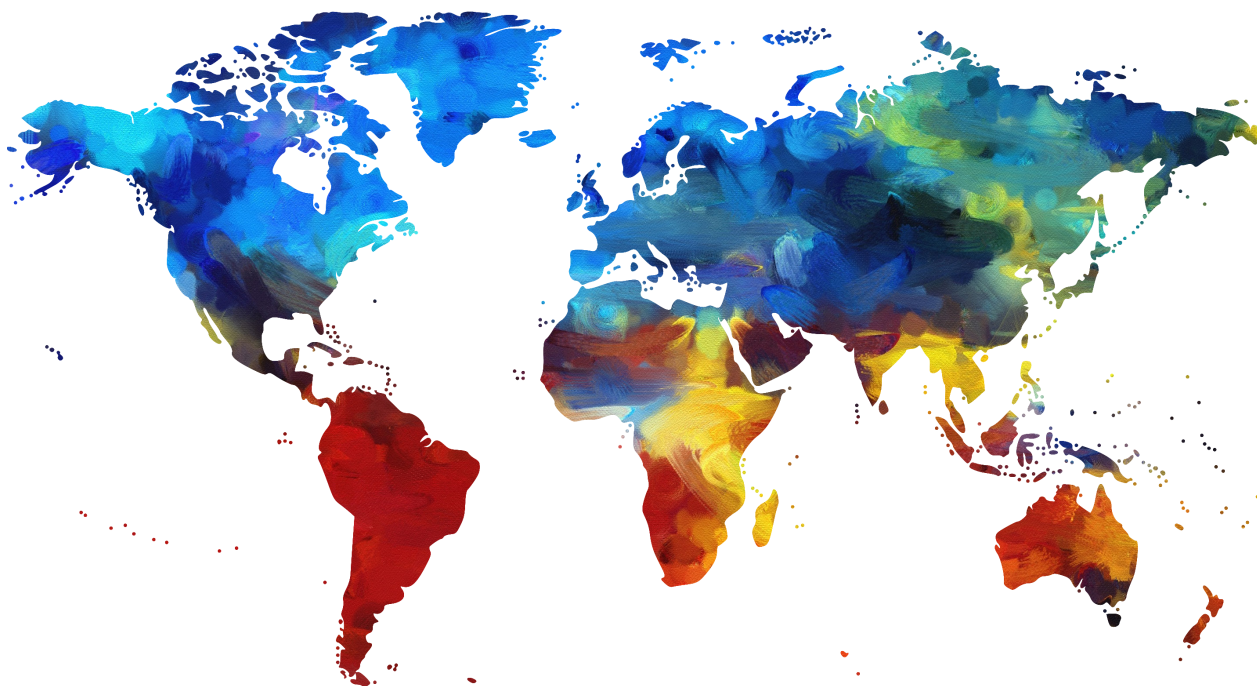
Multiplying Disciple Makers



January 2024

## A Prayer for the Nations

George Law



“Worthy are You, our Lord and our God, to receive glory and honor and power; for You created all things, and because of Your will they existed” (Rev. 4:11). You promised to Abraham that through his lineage all nations would be blessed (Gen. 12:3). And when Jesus, your promised son, took on human flesh to dwell with us, you appointed Him to lead the church. Jesus, our savior, Your begotten son, gave His life for the Church. Those across time and national boundaries who called on your name and believed in you are brought together into one body called the church. We are Your Church, the Bride of Christ. Created to bring glory and honor to you.

Since Your son Jesus loved the Church and gave himself for the church, kindle a flame deep in our hearts to love Your Church. Jesus loves the church and He loves its leaders. Should we not also, in obedience and honor of our Lord, love those You have loved? Oh, mighty Lord, open our eyes so that

we might see the millions of pastors with a lack of training in the Word of God. Cause us to spend ourselves to care of those whom Jesus has loved.

Just as You brought this world and all mankind into existence, You also breathed life into iTEE Global as Your tool to serve the church and its leaders. As we start this new year, grant grace to iTEE Global and its staff and strengthen us with Your power to fulfill the command Your son has given to us. “Go and make disciples of all nations!” Amen.

Dr. George Law, President, iTEE Global

### In This Issue

Teddy Torres.....	2
Encuentros GT.....	2
GPRO Panama City .....	3
Central America .....	3

# Growing Up in Guatemala

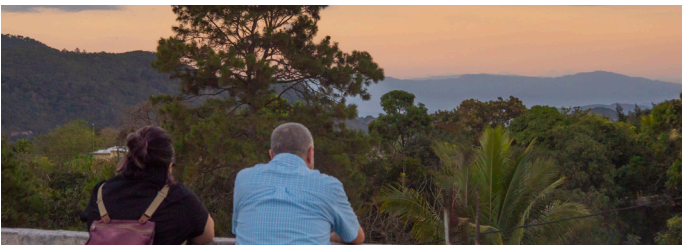


When Teddy Torres was growing up in Guatemala City, he wondered about the meaning and purpose of his life. He really loved and respected his mother, grandmother, and aunts who were raising him at the time. He

was also well provided for by his working middle-class family. In fact, he did not lack any food or resources. The problem was: He had no direction. He did not grow up in church, and his father was absent for most of his life. But thankfully, his Heavenly Father was never absent, even before Teddy recognized this truth.

Teddy was once given a Bible as a gift. He didn't think much about it at first. Then one day, he opened it and started reading Psalm 32. This psalm describes the groans and heaviness of life and shares how, amid sin and despair, God offers forgiveness and deliverance. To Teddy's amazement, the first time he attended a church, the pastor spoke from this same psalm. Surely, this was not a coincidence. Teddy then started to follow our God. It was the beginning of a spiritual pursuit and calling.

Teddy received a degree in administration from the State University in 1997. Then he completed a two-year English program at the same school. A career in business was ahead of him, but God had other plans. After marrying his wife, Candie, in 2003, they wanted to bring the Gospel to urban families. They felt called to serve communities through social programs, to show the love and transformation of Christ in tangible ways. At the time his son Marcos was born, Teddy graduated with a master's degree in theology from Central American Theological Seminary. Four years later, his daughter, Monserrat, was born.



At the time, in 2011, Teddy and his wife were planning vacations to different places in Guatemala. He explains, "We wanted to teach our children the beauties of God's creation." They also wanted to show them love and more so the love of God.



Meeting with families and gifts

## Birth of Encuentros GT in Guatemala

Teddy was fulfilled in his ministry. He worked with church ministries and nonprofits to provide training and development in high-risk urban areas. He shares that, "I was called to serve and empower urban leaders to work with their communities." Teddy did not want to water down his own ministry calling; but rather increase impact with easy access into communities. In 2018, after much prayer, Encuentros GT, a nonprofit organization, was born. Encuentros mean "encounter, coming together".

As a Consultant in Encuentros GT, Teddy was able to provide organizational development and leadership training for nonprofit leaders. Accessibility was still a problem. Around him, he would find individuals with a desire to become pastors and community leaders, but with not enough education, money and other resources needed to attend formal higher education. After connecting with iTEE Global, he realized that he shared the same vision. In 2021, he became a staff member of iTEE Global.

Teddy and his family live in Guatemala. He is the Latin America Ministry Director at iTEE Global, and a course Facilitator. He has served students in Guatemala and El Salvador. In November 2023, he and Candie participated in the GPRO Conference in Panama City, and joined a team of iTEE Global delegates to share ideas with over 800 participants.



Teddy & Candie at GPRO

Through Encuentros GT and iTEE Global, Teddy understands the importance of walking alongside others, intentionally allowing the students and facilitator to learn together. Leading from a place of servanthood is revolutionary. Now he knows how important it is for training to be accessible and affordable, so that even those in high-risk situations can become competent leaders, able to humbly teach the Bible with efficiency and certainty.

# Global Proclamation Commission for Trainers of Pastors (GPRO)

GPRO

The first Global Proclamation Congress (GPRO) happened in Bangkok, Thailand in 2016 and gathered over 2500 people from 101 countries. Seven years later, anticipation was high, leading up to the second GPRO Congress, which occurred on November 12-17, 2023, in Panama City, Panama. George Law and other iTEE Global staff members were eager to join hundreds of leaders working hard to multiply the quantity and quality of the training of pastors across the world. However, a last-minute hospitalization kept George and his wife, Linda, from being able to go.



Teddy, Elijah, Ben & Candie

This abrupt change posed definite challenges. It really required the power of Christ to work through a unified team of four, to make the overall event very beneficial; this happened in at least two ways. The first benefit was that the team realized how God led them in a similar direction to connect with



other ministries who train pastors and pastoral leaders. In one session, the GPRO Congress presented a list of core emphases needed in pastoral training, which happened to be part of most of the categories found in iTEE Global curriculum.

The second benefit was to interact with the other pastors and organizations in attendance. iTEE Global recognizes that we cannot singlehandedly meet the worldwide need of training and discipleship alone. We must partner with others. Throughout the congress, the team spoke with pastors from countries like Cuba, Nepal and the Democratic Republic of Congo. As Christ has said, the fields are truly ready to be harvested. Let's multiply disciple-makers among the harvesters!



## A Coat of Many Colors

Central America



Central America is extremely challenging in the area of pastors' training. Many pastoral leaders who need Bible and Ministry training live in various contexts and face different limitations. Like Joseph's coat of many colors, they come in separate groups. But they share one common thread: they

have limited access to Bible training and are trying their best to serve the body of Christ in their churches.

In Guatemala, one group lives in Garbage City. The garbage is processed by removing anything that can be sold and recycled. There are several churches there; however, some of the pastoral leaders do the scavenging, and some are poorly educated. In the rural countryside, pastors are from indigenous groups. They have little access to Bible training because of the distance from seminaries. In El Salvador, gang violence, poverty, and distance to residential schools limit many pastoral leaders from pursuing biblical education.

The well-known established denominations train their senior leaders but heavily rely on lay leaders to carry out the church's mission; yet those leaders lack training. One such denomination invited iTEE

Global to train their lay pastoral leaders to develop ministry skills and a foundation for understanding the Bible. Doors are opening in other parts of Central America, where some churches are facing persecution. iTEE Global adjusted its work in hardship areas where the Church is under pressure. Then there are those groups where pastors work full-time jobs and serve their churches as they can. They live in urban centers, have access to the Internet, and thus can access training online.



iTEEU Class, Guatemala 2022

Through all these challenges, iTEE Global is committed to serving each group to meet its needs.

Training is provided mainly by native-trained volunteer leaders, and they follow the Pauline model of 2 Timothy 2:2. The secret of delivering training to many diverse groups is that the courses are in Spanish, they are available in print and digitally, they are delivered face-to-face or online. By customizing the training to a degree, local teachers can provide training honed to adapt to local needs. For the coat of many colors in Central America, training solutions meet the needs of each group.



Training, El Salvador - 2022

## Prayer Points

### Please join us in prayer for:

The peace of Jerusalem. Psalm 122:6.

The iTEE Global donors, partners, staff, volunteers, and students to have a wonderful, peaceful and joyful start of the Year 2024 with family and friends.

Godly guidance throughout the year to do the will of the Father.

**Send your personal prayer requests for our staff to pray for you, [pray@iteeg.org](mailto:pray@iteeg.org)**

## December Ministry Opportunities

### Dean of Faculty

The Dean of Faculty oversees the training needs of all ITEE University trainers, and the assignment of facilitators to teaching courses.

### Translation Manager

The Translation Manager (TM) works primarily with each language translator team to help provide the resources needed for translating courses.

### Director of Partnership and Legal Support

The Director of Partnership and Legal Support ensures ITEE Global meets all legal obligations in its organizational activities and contractual partnerships and to handle any arbitration.

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