

In This Issue

A New Kind of Safari.....1
 iTEE Global Strategy.....2
 Pakistan: A Case Study.....3
 Prayer Requests, Opportunities.....4

Eager to Begin A New Kind of Safari



Standing tall in bright red clothing, holding long spears or vertically dancing up and down, the Maasai tribe of Kenya is one of the most famous tribes of Africa

Indeed, being able to see Maasai warriors is as much a highlight of many safaris as seeing a herd of elephants or a pack of lions. However, what is not well known—of which safaris will likely overlook—is that iTEE Global is now ready to multiply disciple-makers among this people group.

How this development is even possible is a wonderful testimony of God’s grace and faithfulness. While the gospel entered Africa in

the First Century through Philip’s bringing it to the Ethiopian eunuch, the Maasai were unable to learn about Jesus until the late 1800s or early 1900s. This long delay in introduction is despite the Maasai being a very spiritual people.



Over the centuries, they believed that their supreme deity, Enkai, is the creator of everything. Enkai resides in everything and controls nature, especially rain. The Maasai, who rely on rain for their existence as cattlemen, worshipped Enkai. They also believed that ruling spirits were found in the mountains and the trees. Hence, the Maasai built sacred sites for worship, for rituals, and to be one with nature.



In the middle of the 20th Century, some missionaries from Europe and North America connected with the Maasai tribe, learned their language of Maa and faithfully preached and

taught the gospel. Hundreds of churches were started. The pastoral care of teaching and preaching by these faithful missionaries continued into the 21st Century.

Sadly, though, many missionaries passed away, some returned to their home countries, and others retired. The churches were gradually left without prepared pastors. Maasai men and women did take on leadership roles within these churches—thank the Lord—but there was nowhere to go to receive Bible and ministry training. For decades, they carried on the best they could.

In 2021, iTEE Global’s Kenyan facilitators traveled to the Maasai leaders of one denomination. There, they met with many leaders who were eager to begin training with iTEE Global. There was only one problem. None of our teachers could teach in the Maa language, and very few of the Maasai leaders could study in English.



This training enables me to meet challenges as a Christian leader and follower of Jesus. It also prepares me with the spiritual capacity to train other effective disciples.

Johnstone Thumbi Wairiuko
Pastor, Massai Tribe Kenya

Together, the Maasai pastors and our team decided to train a small cohort of ten pastors out of the hundred churches in their denomination. As these pastors completed their English-based Bible training, they would commit themselves to training non-English-speaking pastors in other denominations and other Maa language churches.

Again, this eagerness was such a praise, but these first-generation pastors needed courses to teach in their native Maa language. In September 2023, Dr. George Law, the president of iTEE Global, visited and spoke with these ten pastors. They were praying and seeking a way to make training

available for those serving the other Maasai churches throughout Kenya and northern Tanzania.

Dr. Law took their plea for courses to be translated into Maa to North America. A family in the USA responded with delight and provided the funds to translate the first course—a course of 200+ pages—into the Maa language.

The translation of the Galatians course is now finished and will soon be printed for use by our first-generation leaders in the Maasai tribe.

ILGALATIA (Galatians)
Elimuto E Nkitengena (Course Introduction)
Ore tena kisuma nilo aitengena empelai natisiraka Paulo lgalatia...

We shout “Hallelujah!” and pray that God will continue what he has initiated, making the remaining 14 courses available in the Maa language. With these courses, many church leaders will have access to pastoral training and bring Christ’s love and power to the Maasai tribe. Thank you, Jesus.

iTEE Global’s Strategy

Worldwide, millions of pastoral leaders lack Bible education and ministry training. As a result, their churches exist in spiritual poverty. They have been ineffective in bringing life and light to their communities because without adequate training, members and church leaders themselves lack spiritual maturity. This situation is tragic, and it is why iTEE Global prayerfully and strategically works to make such education accessible across the world.

Obstacles block the global church from multiplying disciple-makers. A key obstacle relates to language. Whereas the vast majority of Bible colleges, seminaries use English as the primary medium of language, about 85% of the world population does not communicate in English. This is a problem! In places like Odisha state, India, there is no known theological textbook in the language of Odia, though 38 million Indians in Odisha speak Odia as their native language.

It is not that global Christian leadership training institutions do not want to teach in their native

languages. They simply lack tools to teach their students in any language but English. This situation repeats again and again across the nations, adding to the reasons behind this crisis. Most of the world's pastors and church leaders have no access to Bible training because they do not know English.

iTEE Global works diligently to remove the language barrier. We translate courses and train bilingual leaders. Courses such as Burmese in Myanmar and Urdu in Pakistan and some states in India are already available and used.

We are translating fifteen courses, the equivalent of a one-year full-time Bible training program, and making them available in thirty world-class languages. Hence, Bible training will become available to almost every pastoral leader on the face of the earth, since roughly 85% of the world's population will speak, read, and write in one of those thirty languages.

Pray with us that God would anoint this audacious global project for the sake of Christ's Church!

Pakistan: A Case Study



Pakistan is in Southern Asia, bordering India on the east, Iran and Afghanistan on the west, and China in the north. There are 4.2 million Christians in this devoutly Muslim nation, which may sound like a substantial number, but this is less than 2% in a country of 245 million people and 828 Unreached People Groups (UPGs). The only country with more UPGs is India.

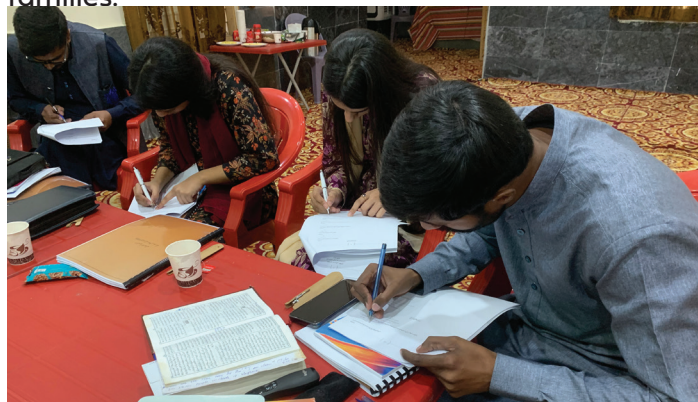
Many Pakistani Christians face intense persecution, often enduring discrimination and sometimes violence, even death. This is especially the case for Muslim Born Believers, but all Pakistani Christians suffer from institutionalized discrimination. Authorities reserve occupations deemed degrading—like those involving sewers or brick kiln—for Christians to do. Worse, Pakistan's blasphemy laws punish anyone accused of speaking against Islam or the Prophet Muhammad. No evidence is needed to validate accusations. The attacks in August 2023 when mobs burned Bibles, destroyed dozens of churches and attacked a hundred homes were in response to two believers accused of desecrating the Quran.



Belongings of Christians burned in Muslim rioting in Jaranwala, Pakistan on Aug. 16, 2023. (Morning Star News)

It is not surprising, then, that US missionaries cannot move to the country, and even if they could, the religious and cultural barriers would take years to overcome before missionaries could effectively evangelize the people. In addition, only 0.5% of Pakistanis know English, so the missionaries would need to learn the Urdu language as well. The Kingdom's door to reaching this nation passes to the small remnant of Pakistani believers, and sadly, few Pakistani believers have been discipled or theologically trained. To face such persecution without the full armor of God is beyond unfortunate. They desperately need our prayers.

As of this month, iTEE University has taught more than 200 Pakistani students. We are so thankful for these students. What a privilege it has been to befriend, disciple, and pray for them and their families.



However, until recently, these Pakistani students could only take courses in English. Since merely 0.5% of Pakistanis know English well enough to study in English, we have only been able to disciple such a small percentage of Pakistanis. Also, about half of the Pakistani people do not have access to the internet, so when considering the nation as a whole, that small percentage of impact is reduced yet again, leaving us—at most—of only being able to offer discipleship to 0.5% of the Pakistani people.

Thankfully, a few courses have now been translated into Urdu, and this trimester, we have 15 new Pakistani students who are studying in Urdu. This is exciting. Offering an online course in Urdu increases the potential percentage of people who can be trained by 1000%. When we make the Urdu training available in print form, we increase the potential of people trained by almost 3000%. In addition, our research shows that pastors who study in their own native language are 15 to 20% more likely to complete a course compared to students who study in English as a second language.

Once again, however, we know we have only begun. Many courses still need to be translated into Urdu, and putting these courses into print requires additional funding. These kinds of costs quickly compound. We serve an almighty God who can meet all these needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus, but realize we need to let the North American Church know of the challenge.



Teaching of several lessons from Major Bible Doctrines

"I enjoyed learning through iTEE University, especially about Eschatology. The printed manual of the Major Bible Doctrines course in Urdu is valuable as I teach my church in Pakistan. It's all very clear." - Student, Pakistan, 2024

Prayer Points

Pray that God would raise up dedicated and competent translators, editors, teachers, administrators, and prayer warriors to work with iTEE Global.

Pray that we complete translation in the first ten of thirty languages. Raising the funds needed is critical in completing this task.

Pray for James Southwick, our Global Translations Manager. He needs strength, grace, and wisdom to complete this historic task of making courses available in thirty languages.

Pray for a successful end-of-year Loaves and Fishes fundraising campaign.

We would love to pray for you, send your personal requests to: pray@iteeg.org

Ministry Opportunities

We have several opportunities for volunteer service with iTEE Global. Just as we aim to make education accessible for all, we welcome volunteers who are physically unable to leave their home due to physical disability. These opportunities of service include:

Online teachers who have a pastoral background.

Course development support staff able to use MS Word.

If you would like to know more about the need, please contact: HRinfo@iteeg.org

Global iNSIGHT in your e-mail:

https://iteeg.org/gi_subscription.html



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