

THE EVANGEL VOICE

THE CALL, THE PLAN & THE PURPOSE – 2024

In our November newsletter we shared how excited we were to once again return to the nation of Kenya after many years of prayer and a year long preparation for the first School of Practical Ministry (SOPM) in that country since 2009. The purpose of our trip was to impact the lives of 64 pastors through solid Biblical training as we guided them through Evangel's SOPM program. The impact of this training has already had a clear "ripple effect" on their lives. Reports indicate these men and women have taken what they learned back to the people they care for, and to the communities in which they live.

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In tangible terms, the power of God's Word is being manifest in fresh and dynamic ways in regions where these pastors are reaching out to those who don't know Christ. One example is a pastor who attended the SOPM program in Nov. and came away with a renewed desire to witness in her community. Every week since that training, she has visited a different primary school where she meets with the students and shares the love of Christ in very practical ways. (In Kenya, they still allow religious instruction on Fridays). Since November she has met with over 8,000 children. The potential for eternal impact on their lives is huge!

In early May our ministry partner in Kenya, John Kisamwa of Ray of Hope Ministries, will hold a meeting with all 64 pastors who experienced the SOPM training back in Nov. This will provide an opportunity for re-connection between these pastors; to hear how God has been working in them and through them, to share strategies for advancing the Gospel and to encourage one another in their individual journeys.

2024 - Our plan is to return to Kenya for a second straight year in August to train an additional 80 pastors. We also plan to certify 2 indigenous instructors along with 4-5 support staff who will then continue providing this powerful Biblical training in other regions of Kenya.

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a season of GROWTH



In most sections of the United States, we are in the middle of our spring season. Except for the experience of allergies and hailstones (if you live in Texas), the spring season is one of my favorites, as things that were once dormant or in a state of hibernation come back to life and begin a stage of accelerated growth.

I believe that is very applicable for the current season at Evangel. For 2024, we see new growth in several areas where God is opening doors to broaden the scope of this wonderful ministry. For example.....

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- > Evangel is currently in contact with new potential partners, which could pave the way for us to reach new regions and more people utilizing the School of Practical Ministry (SOPM) material.
 - > The establishment of a local leadership team in Kenya who will begin teaching the SOPM starting in 2025. These men will not only be able to continue training pastors along the coast of Kenya, but will very likely begin training in Nairobi, the capital of Kenya, within the next year as well.
- > Evangel is beginning to work on a new website and social media presence that will allow us to provide more timely information, sharing what God is doing with a larger audience.

Each time the School of Practical Ministry is taught, there is an opportunity for a pastor to have a fresh encounter with the Word, while also learning how they can immediately apply what they were taught in their ministry and their everyday lives. This is both moving and powerful. For we know the promise of the Lord, “so shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; it shall not return to Me void, but it shall accomplish what I please, and it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it” (Isaiah 55:11)!

As evidenced throughout this report, this season is truly an exciting time at Evangel, as we sense an acceleration in what God is doing through this ministry and the SOPM. As many of you know, this SOPM training is provided at no cost to the pastors, because they simply don’t have the resources to pay.

For those of you that partner with Evangel through prayer and financial donations – thank you! What we are allowed to do, is only possible because of you! If you do not already support Evangel, would you consider taking this opportunity to help us say YES to these men and women who are desperate for sound Biblical instruction?

Regardless of the season you find yourself in, I pray you will be “like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that brings forth its fruit in its season” (Psalm 1:3).

Blessings,

Steve Sill

Your Generosity Has Made This Possible!

- Evangel has trained over 1,600 pastors and leaders in 7 developing countries since 2009
- Over 2,000* churches have been started by graduates of the School of Practical Ministry (SOPM)
- SOPM graduates have created more than 4,000* community programs in the areas of :
Agriculture, Aids/HIV help, Education, Economic Development and more

(*Approximate numbers based on information provided by SOPM graduates)

Want Your Gift to be used for a Specific Need?

- > Sponsor a pastor for a gift of \$150. Evangel does not charge these men and women to take the SOPM program.
- > Your gift of \$100 or more will help us translate the SOPM material into Swahili and French for greater access.
- > Help with the cost of printing the SOPM Manuals in each country. These cost approx. \$12 ea. to print.

17th Annual Benefit Golf Tournament



O.K., we understand - right away this headline grabbed the attention of those who enjoy golf and for everyone else, your collective “yawn” was likely accompanied by a quick scan of the newsletter for something else to read.

But this is important, so please stay with us long enough for an explanation. In 2007, Evangel realized the need to raise additional funds for the work of the ministry. Board of Trustee member, Jim Hall, suggested a benefit golf tournament (because Jim loved golf). It was successful in a variety of ways, and we have made many great friends through this enjoyable outreach.

Now, in its 17th year, (we missed 2020) this tournament has become an important fund/friend raising event to assist with funds for our SOPM International training in developing nations. We often reach people who love golf, but are not very familiar with Evangel. Once they get introduced to the ministry, some end up donating to Evangel in other ways, due to what they learn by simply showing up to a golf tournament.

So, if you enjoy golf, please make plans to join us this year. If you don't play golf, you likely know others who do, and could pass this information along to them. They could also visit our web site: www.ets.edu and find information there. Here are the details:

Date: June 14th

Place: Packsaddle Ridge Golf Course, McGaheysville, Va

Time: 12:00 noon

Be looking for the new, freshly designed ETS Website coming soon.

Connect With Evangel



www.ets.edu



facebook.com/EvangelSeminaryVa



info@ets.edu

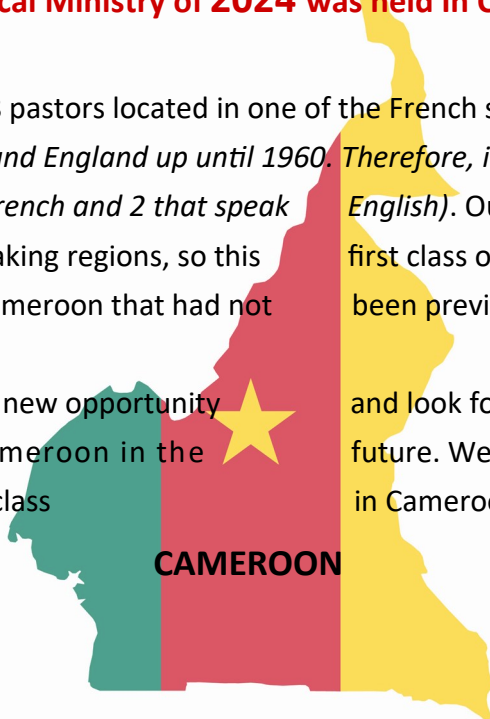
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The first School of Practical Ministry of 2024 was held In Cameroon at the end of February.

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This school included 38 pastors located in one of the French speaking regions. (*Cameroon was a colony of both France and England up until 1960. Therefore, it is divided into 10 semi-autonomous regions; 8 that speak French and 2 that speak English*). Our SOPM classes have primarily been held in the English speaking regions, so this first class of 2024 was significant because it impacted an area of Cameroon that had not been previously reached with this instruction.

We are excited for this new opportunity and look forward to more outreaches in these French regions of Cameroon in the future. We are also looking forward to holding at least one more SOPM class in Cameroon during 2024.



Another First

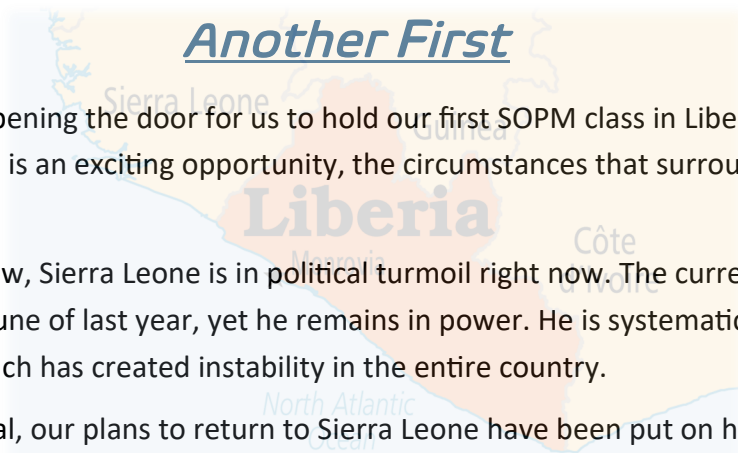
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God seems to be opening the door for us to hold our first SOPM class in Liberia before the end of the year. While this is an exciting opportunity, the circumstances that surround this are extremely difficult.

As some of you know, Sierra Leone is in political turmoil right now. The current president did not win re-election in June of last year, yet he remains in power. He is systematically trying to eliminate any opposition, which has created instability in the entire country.

Due to this upheaval, our plans to return to Sierra Leone have been put on hold for the remainder of 2024. In discussions with our ministry partner in Sierra Leone, we agreed that while the door to Sierra Leone is currently shut, the door to Liberia, which borders Sierra Leone to the south, is open.

Because our ministry partner also oversees churches in Liberia, we plan to utilize those contacts and move forward with a SOPM class in Monrovia, the capital of Liberia, in November. We are currently making plans for 80 pastors to participate! Please pray with us for this first time opportunity.



The Call: We could very easily substitute the word “Mandate” for “Call” because this training ministry is not something Evangel went looking for, it seemed to pursue us. This year, Evangel is Called to the nations of Kenya, Cameroon and Liberia. These pastors are hungry to learn and ready to respond!

The Plan: This year we could train over 200 pastors, the largest number in one year since we started.

The Purpose: These men and women are positively impacting their churches and communities in dynamic and significant ways; bringing Godly love and Kingdom principles to shine light in the darkness!