Dear Friends,

This fall, I wanted to write a personal letter to you in place of our regular newsletter. Here in the mountains of Virginia we will soon be treated to a spectacular show of God’s creative genius as trees begin turning a panorama of colors in preparation for their winter’s rest. However, unlike nature around us, at Evangel the pace of ministry is quickening. The last two months of 2015 and all of 2016 will be extraordinarily important as the 14-18-5 vision for the School of Practical Ministry (SOPM), as outlined in our summer newsletter, continues to unfold.

If you missed that newsletter, the 14-18-5 initiative in a nutshell refers to 14 Schools of Practical Ministry in 18 months in 5 countries. A few of the Schools have already been held (in Cameroon and Madagascar Africa) with more upcoming in Sierra Leone, Cameroon, Madagascar and Kenya. By the end of 2016, we will have trained approximately 1,000 pastors and leaders in developing nations! This represents a significant increase in our international training, which is all done at no cost to the students.

Evangel is slowly being transformed into an international ministry and therefore the needs of the ministry are changing as well. Later, I will share those needs, but let me briefly explain how we got here.

My dad, Dr. Bob Reichard, began Evangel Seminary in 1982. Over the years he wrote the material for all of the courses he taught. Today, thanks to his extraordinary talent, we have a remarkable library of these materials that can be used in a wide variety of ways for solid, Biblically sound instruction. In 2007, we adapted 8 of these course syllabi to create the School of Practical Ministry, Level I curriculum. This is what we not only teach here in the U.S., but also to pastors and leaders in developing nations.

We have a passion for training these pastors and leaders who often are like starving men and women being offered something nourishing to eat. For most, this will be the only Biblically based training they will ever receive. Almost to a person, they express deep gratitude for the instruction they have received. They also express how overwhelmed and blessed they are by the generosity of those who give to Evangel to help provide this training.

In a moment I will share how you can be part of this remarkable opportunity to help prepare these pastors and leaders for Biblically based, theologically sound ministry. But first, I want to give you a quick glimpse at portions of testimonies we have received from them:

*I had never received this kind of training in my life. One thing that really touched me about the training is that, I have never known the Holy Spirit and His power before this training in the way I now know him. I saw how the Holy Spirit is the only one we can really rely on especially in ministry and life.* (Cameroon)

From the President’s Desk
I have come to discover that Evangel Seminary is God sent for the Body in Sierra Leone, especially for men like me. I am privileged and honored to be one of the products of this noble commission and I will be forever grateful to God. I want to also appreciate the staff of Evangel for answering this wonderful call.

(Sierra Leone)

This training is anointed by God. My instructors have been living testimonies of God’s power, wisdom and love. The teaching has stirred up many things in my heart (about how God has called me to live).

(Madagascar)

I wish you could see every testimony we receive, but these few excepts provide a window into the importance of this program in the lives of these men and women. So what has happened since the 14-18-5 initiative began this summer? In August, we had the privilege of training 102 pastors and leaders in the island nation of Madagascar for the first time. In July, 35 pastors and leaders in Cameroon received their training from native Cameroon instructors who have been equipped and certified by Evangel to continue the program in that nation. Our goal is to create a self-sustaining work in each nation we are in.

In September, the president of the ministry we work with in Cameroon, Dr. Julius Esunge, wrote a letter to the Evangel family. He expressed deep gratitude for all of the SOPM training that had taken place in that nation since 2012. We were then shocked by his next statement; “...conservative estimates are that over 1 million individuals in Cameroon have been nourished in person during weekly teaching services and through radio programs thanks to the dedication of Dr. Reichard and the ETS family.”

You see, God is clearly in the multiplication business. Each pastor and leader who receives training is in turn passing that training along to others. This truly goes far beyond anything we ever imagined or even dreamed about. Only a sovereign, loving God could take a small seminary in Virginia and impact nations through the training that is freely offered to these pastors and leaders.

Because we don’t charge a fee for this course internationally, by the end of 2016 Evangel will have “gifted” over $406,000 worth of training in these developing nations. That is only possible because of support we receive from our family of friends like you! As you can see, this training is fruitful, so how can you help?

I would love to tell you that the 14-18-5 initiative was fully funded. Unfortunately we are behind where we need to be at this point for this initiative to continue moving forward. However, with your help, we can be sure that each of these SOPM schools have the materials and instructors needed. We ask that you pray about this and then respond as the Lord leads. (We have enclosed a response form for you to use).

Here are a few suggestions: To sponsor a pastor is $150. Maybe you could sponsor one or more! Become a 365 Partner with your gift of $1.00, $.75, or $.50 a day over the next 16 months. Make a gift in honor of or in memory of someone who has made a significant spiritual impact in your life. No matter the gift amount, I can assure you it will all be received with deep love and gratitude for your friendship!

Grace & Peace,

President, Evangel Seminary

P.S. Please let us here from you by Oct. 30th. You can also make a secure on-line donation at: www.ets.edu