



GLOBAL TRAINING NETWORK

# The Servant Heart of Steward Leaders

From the desk of Paul R. Madson / March 2024

## Update from the President

As I write this update, the month of February is winding down with its additional “leap year” day, and I’m enjoying a chance to look back on some meaningful highlights.

We just completed GTN’s **2024 All-Staff Leadership Gathering** in Scottsdale, Arizona. Over 130 of our (now) close to 200 staff gathered for encouragement, teaching, networking, and mutual ministry. It was a wonderfully rich time of fellowship and personal encouragement.

This year, it was our privilege to have **Dr. Hans Finzel** as our Keynote speaker. Hans is a well-known speaker and author, having written 10 books (translated into 20 languages) that have been widely read throughout the Christian world.

For 20 years, Hans served as president and CEO of World Venture, a global missions ministry with 650 staff members located in 70 countries worldwide.

Prior to his service as president, Hans and his wife,



Donna, spent ten years as missionaries in Eastern Europe, working with World Venture to train pastors behind the Iron Curtain. Hans has trained pastors and leaders on five continents.

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## Update from the President... *continued*

At our Gathering, he shared about the “**Top 10 Mistakes Leaders Make.**” He was a great blessing and encouragement to our entire staff team!

During the Saturday morning session, I was able to give my annual President’s Address, sharing **five themes** for the years ahead:

God desires for us to...

1. **Cooperate, not compete.**
2. **Be agents of grace everywhere we go.**
3. **Continue to be intentional about our personal growth.**
4. **Remember we are called to be ‘Steward’ Leaders.**
5. **Remember that we are playing the ‘long game’ – therefore, ‘pace yourself.’**

I’ll share more about these key themes in the months ahead.

It was **20 years ago this week** (February 2004) that Lisa and I sat on a rooftop in South Asia and sensed God’s call to give the second half of our lives to indigenous pastors and leaders globally.

By the grace of God, GTN has experienced 20 years straight of year-over-year growth. As we celebrate our 20th anniversary, we now have **almost 200 staff, involved in training pastors and leaders in 85 countries.** Additionally, GTN has provided training to over **330,000 pastors and leaders** throughout the Majority World (Asia, Africa, and Latin America).



I am genuinely humbled and grateful to be a part of this amazing group of ‘highly experienced, well-educated, entrepreneurial’ staff—who are also some of the most gracious, genuinely kind, cross-centered, and humble people I have ever had the privilege to work with.

As I reflect on our staff team, I’m reminded of **1 Corinthians 1:26-31**, where the Apostle Paul writes:

*“Brothers and sisters, think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth.*

*“But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. God chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things—and the things that are not—to nullify the things that are, so that no one may boast before him. It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God—that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption. Therefore, as it is written: ‘Let the one who boasts boast in the Lord.’”*

*(continued on page 3)*

Two decades ago, Lisa and I thought GTN would just be the two of us and we would be having a much 'quieter' second half of life after spending the first 25 years in very fast-paced pastoring and church planting. God had a different idea. **To God be all the glory!**

In the midst of celebrating our ministry growth, I remind our staff team regularly that we must never forget what the Apostle Paul wrote, again in 1 Corinthians:

*"I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God has been making it grow. So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow. The one who plants and the one who waters have one purpose, and they will each be rewarded according to their own labor" (1 Corinthians 3:6-8).*

As we celebrate what God has done over the past

20 years, we would not have been able to serve over 330,000 indigenous pastors and leaders in 85 countries **without your partnership in prayer and financial support.** On behalf of these dear pastors and leaders spread around the world, thank you!

As we look to the next 20 years, we entrust our faithful service into God's hands, who is able to "... *do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever! Amen*" (Ephesians 3:20-21).

By God's grace and for His glory,



**Paul R. Madson**  
Founder / President  
*Philippians 1:21*

## Legacy Corner: Multiple Ways to Give

### » Did you know that you can give appreciated stocks, bonds or mutual funds to GTN?

This not only makes a significant impact for the kingdom, but it can also be a wise tax move. When you donate these assets, you can:

- Get a charitable income tax deduction for the full market value of the gift.
- Avoid paying capital gains tax on the appreciation.
- Potentially lower your tax bill by avoiding the Medicare surtax on net investment income.
- Keep your cash flow intact since you're giving an asset, not cash.



You can also donate investments directly. Here are some options:

- **Outright Gift:** Transfer stocks or bonds directly to GTN.
- **Gift to a Donor Advised Fund (DAF):** Contribute investments to a DAF, which allows you to recommend grants to charities over time.

Remember, you can claim a charitable income tax deduction for the fair market value of the donated property if you itemize deductions on your tax return, subject to certain limits. For more information, contact GTN's office at (623) 217-3867 or [giving@gtn.org](mailto:giving@gtn.org).



*Photo by Isaac Howard*

## Introducing Isaac and Karen Howard

In 1976, Isaac and Karen met during a theater production and married two years later. In 1984, they moved to Washington to raise a family. They now have 3 adult children (Desiree, Heather, and Jacob) who are all married, and 10 grandchildren.

After 32 years with the United States Postal Service, Karen retired. Isaac spent 25 years as a firefighter and now works as an Industrial Safety Specialist and Rescue Technician.

Isaac and Karen are very active in their local church. They teach Sunday school; Karen acts and directs shows for VBS and the church Christmas programs, as well as being active in MOPS and leading in women's Bible Study. Isaac builds the sets for the shows and takes pictures and works on the church video team.

In the mid-1990's, Isaac began his involvement in missions. His first trip was with Haiti Medical Teams, where he was assigned the role of team photographer. His job was to photograph every team member and visually capture the look and feel of the community where they served.

Isaac then provided each team member with slides so they could share the story of God's work with their church, their supporters, and local civic organizations. His work has been published in various newspapers, magazines and countless newsletters.



In 2012, Isaac started traveling with GTN Vice President, Joel Madson. Since then, his photographs and videos have been used by many GTN staff members to help them tell their story of their ministry and the people they serve. Karen has also served on several trips, primarily teaching women. She also helps Isaac edit the photographs and produce the videos once they get back home.

Isaac feels that God has given him a gift, by capturing what God is doing around the world through photography. He would love nothing more than to use that gift to support those who are advancing God's Kingdom.

**Join me in welcoming Isaac and Karen to the GTN Staff Team!**