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GLOBAL TRAINING NETWORK **Grace / Glory / Good**

From the desk of Paul R. Madson / February 2024



The 3 E's: Highly Experienced, Well-Educated, Entrepreneurial

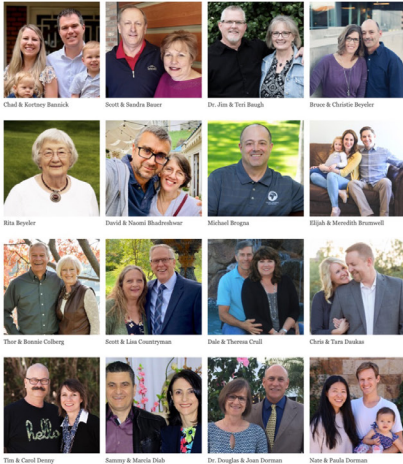


GTN exists by the *grace of God*, for the *glory of God*, and for the *good of Christian pastors and leaders globally*. The Apostle Paul asks the rhetorical question, “*What do you have that you did not receive?*” (1 Cor. 4:7). The answer? Nothing. All we have is a gift of God’s grace; therefore, He receives all the glory for all the good in our lives and ministries.

But there are also human elements that God has chosen to use to accomplish His will here on earth. For GTN, one of those human elements is our wonderful staff team.

I often tell people that what makes GTN unique is our highly experienced, well-educated, entrepreneurial staff (the three ‘E’s’). We now have over 90 staff ‘units’ (almost all couples) with another four to five couples soon to come on board. Over the past 20 years, God, in His providence, has chosen to fill our staff team primarily with “second-half-of-life” pastors and leaders—those primarily in their 40s and above.

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Chad & Audrey Simons, Scott & Sandra Brown, Dr. Jack & Teri Brown, Bruce & Christine Brown, Rita Boyler, David & Naomi Blackbourne, Michael Bragan, Elijah & Meredith Brunswell, Dale & Bonnie Colberg, Scott & Lisa Christman, Dale & Thomas Crill, Clark & Tara Dinkler, Tim & Carol Denny, Sonny & Marcia Deth, Dr. Douglas & Joan Dorman, Nate & Paula Dorman



Steve & Yvonne Hooper, Qing & Joan Johnson, Bead & Lisa Jolley, Bob & Nancy Jones, Jack & Carrie Kinade, Dr. Chip & Ann Kingery, Mark & Nancy Knitzer, Steve & Connie Lamon, John & Beth Lasky, Gabe Lane, Beth & Megan Lindley, Eric & Tracy Lindemuth, Dave & Kim Maddox, Paul & Lisa Madson, Joel & Kelly Madson, Dr. Hud & Nancy McWilliams



Everett & Beth Douglas, Ben & Hope DuBois, Mark & Elizabeth DuBois, Mike & Jill Robinson, Dr. Bob & Edna Edmondson, Miles & Terri Fagella, Dr. Larry & Patti Finch, Brian & Denise Gandy, Chuck & Andrea Gering, Dr. John & Trina Gillispie, Phil & Laura Gray, Carl & Patsy Green, Dr. Edward & Marion Gross, Stu & Emily H., Tyler & Sarah Hines, Bob & Sandy Hope

Update from the President... continued

With the advances in modern medicine over the last 100 years, healthcare has improved and lifespans have increased significantly.

As a matter of fact, the most recent studies show that, *“In the 21st century... people are living longer lives. If you are 60 right now, you have a roughly 50 percent chance of reaching 90. In other words, if you retire in your early or mid-60s, you can expect to have another 20 years before your mind and body begin their steepest decline.”* (August 2023 issue of [The Atlantic](#))

Obviously, everyone’s journey is different; much depends on a person’s genetics, lifestyle choices (healthy eating, regular exercise), and of course—and ultimately—the grace of God. None of us are guaranteed ‘health’ through our 90s. But if statistics hold true, many will reach 90 with a healthy body and mind. *How will you ‘steward’ those incredibly important years?*

J. Oswald Sanders, the brilliant missionary statesman, left his promising law practice in New Zealand to serve full-time in missions leadership, where he eventually became general director for Overseas Missionary Fel-

lowship (formerly China Inland Mission). Sanders lived to be 90 and stated when he was 89, *“I have written one book a year since I was 70.”* 19 books after the age of 70! Sanders believed in ‘stewarding’ his experience for God’s glory in his final decades.

Timothy Keller, former pastor of Redeemer Presbyterian Church in New York City, didn’t write his first book until he was 58. And then, he went on to write 29 more books in the next 14 years before the Lord called him home in 2023.

Parker Palmer writes, *“Old age is no time to hunker down unless disability demands it. Old is just another word for nothing left to lose, a time of life to take bigger risks on behalf of the common good”* (from [On The Brink of Everything](#)).

When a pastor or ministry leader has served on the front lines for 20-30 years, they have been able to blend the *theory* they learned in school with the actual *practice* of church or missions leadership.

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Dr. Will & Jackie Monda, Glenn & Stacy Miller, Alan & Valerie Stone, Dr. Linn & Sharon Martin, Percy & Myranda Malaba, Larry & Bego, Steve & Julie Nicholas, Patricia Nienhaug, Don Norton, Mike & Frances Ogle, Chris & Angella Olivares, Carl & Carolyn Palmer, Ed & Cheryl Pinner, Ching & Lonnie Potts, Phil & Anita Prosser, Mark & Gail Phillips-Strommen



Doug & Wendie Porey, Chris & Melody Powell, Jerry & Joann Poyer, Bob & Kelly Ragan, Gary & Sandy Ruck, Dr. Sus & Shaughn Rushing, Neil & Pam Saxon, Christopher & Heather Schwarzem, Rob & Debbie Solzer, Tom & Mary Lou Shedd, Richard & Joyce Spencer, Mike & Deb Stewart, Dr. Stephen & Edna Beymer, Steven & Richard Tabor, Scott & Robin Clark, Tabella Vanoverly



Bead & Carrie Vaughn, Doug & Abby Vines, Dr. Curt & Dr. Becca Wagner, Don & Paula Wagner, Richard & Kirby Walker, Tom & Martha Walsh, Jim & Cheryl Warner, Craig & Kathryn Weaver, Benjamin & Lora Wong, Bill & Chel Wright

And the ‘value add’ that many of these ministry leaders can bring to the global church—*where the need for pastoral and leadership training is most acute*—is enormous, to say the least.

As we begin this new year, I wanted to, **one**, recognize the quality staff team that God has assembled with in GTN for his glory and **two**, challenge all of us to *steward* our years in the greatest way possible so his Kingdom work can continue forward to the ends of the earth.

And finally, as we launch into 2024—specifically GTN’s 20th year as a global missions organization—I am humbled and grateful for God’s kindness.

I am specifically thankful for *your partnership* this past year. Lisa and I so appreciate your generosity in 2023—you helped launch GTN into 2024 with health and strength.

As I say so often, God calls some to *pray*, some to *give*, and some to *go*—and some to do a combination of all three. It is the beautiful symphony of these three parts working together that God uses to see His work accomplished around the world for His glory.

Thank you for the valued part you have played in making this global ministry all that God wants it to be.

May God richly bless you and your loved ones in this new year!

By God’s grace and for His glory,



Paul R. Madson
Founder / President
Philippians 1:21

A Legacy of Multiplication

» Give from your IRA this year or in the future

Did you know that giving from your IRA can fulfill part or all of your Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) for the year? This benefits individuals over age 73 who need only a portion of their IRA income and want to satisfy their RMD obligation.

The IRS will tax your heirs who inherit your IRA. They must exhaust the IRA within ten years, which could be a significant tax burden. Consider gifting your IRA to GTN and help loved ones in more tax-friendly ways.



» Give from your will, trust, or retirement plan

You can make an enormous difference during your lifetime without impacting your assets or cash flow.

If you include GTN in your will, trust, or as a beneficiary of your retirement plan, your legacy will live on in the multiplication of GTN’s training around the world.





Introducing Greg and Susan Buckles

In 2024, Greg and Susan embraced a new chapter in life by joining the staff of GTN. A University of Texas at Austin alumnus, Greg holds a Bachelor's degree in Music and a Master of Theology degree from Dallas Theological Seminary. Adding a friendly collegiate rivalry to their dynamic, Susan holds her own as a Baylor University alum equipped with a Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education.

Greg accepted Christ in college through the ministry of the Navigators. Post-college, Greg's path initially seemed to lead directly to missions, evidenced by a transformative 10-week ministry in Haiti. However, God had other designs. While teaching string instruments in a junior high school the following year, Greg met Susan, an English teacher. Their shared passion for education and faith intertwined, leading them to marry during his first semester at seminary.

Together, during seminary, they committed to serve ten weeks in El Salvador, ministering at Iglesia Nazaret alongside a Dallas Seminary team. Post-seminary, the couple founded Mansfield Bible Church (MBC) in 1986, nurturing its growth from two families to a congregation of over 500. This 36-year journey as lead pastor enriched Greg with invaluable insights into church planting and leadership which he eagerly shares with Majority World pastors.

Greg's last fourteen years of working at MBC have been marked by many international teaching opportunities to train indigenous pastors. Those include teaching at Word of Life Seminary in Brazil and creating and maintaining pastoral training for five years among the indigenous Quechua in the vicinity of Ecuador's Chimborazo Volcano.

His teaching engagements for the last three years have spanned from large-scale conferences in larger cities in



Tanzania to smaller sessions with pastors in remote locations.

Greg's aim in every opportunity is to empower pastors by teaching - including Doctrine, OT and NT Surveys, and Bible Study Methods.

Meanwhile, Susan's mission-driven spirit has flourished through her involvement with Samaritan's Purse. Her leadership in Operation Christmas Child propelled their church team at MBC to assemble over 2,800 gift boxes in 2023, reflecting her dedication to global outreach.

Now, Greg is poised to invest more of his time teaching indigenous pastors, fostering their growth, and helping to equip them in their pastoral ministries. Married since 1980, Greg and Susan's partnership in life and faith continues to flourish, blessed with a shared commitment to service.

*Join us in welcoming Greg and Susan
to the GTN family!*

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