



Harvesters is Opening the Way... Online

Covid-19 has swept across the globe bringing the world to a halt. As individuals, businesses and governments found creative ways to adapt, the world of missions was no different.

"We did not want to lose momentum," explained Herman Roodt, Harvesters Head of Training. "Our mandate to 'make disciples of all nations' remained, we only needed to find new ways." Harvesters was faced with an overwhelming task: to continue equipping leaders in a global pandemic.

A NEW PLATFORM

Before the onset of Covid-19 the strategy was to train and deploy Harvesters Licensed Trainers to travel to church plants and deliver training twice a year. As the world locked down, international travel (even national travel) became restricted and in many countries large groups could not gather. But local leaders were eager to carry on their training.

Harvesters Regional Directors decided to choose key leaders from the 53 countries where we are engaged and train them online as Indigenous Licensed Trainers. They aimed to keep momentum going wherever possible. The local church brings hope to the world and it needed to be effective and mobilised more than ever!

PRACTICAL PROBLEMS TO BE TACKLED

In a modern age of technology, it's important to remember that many of the communities where Harvesters is active do not have access to machines, electricity or internet. Local groups needed appropriate equipment that could support video conferencing and internet access that would be strong and reliable. Furthermore, in many locations the materials and live training needed to be translated. This was a large-scale project.

TRAINING GETS UNDERWAY

Herman's first indigenous training group of West and Central African leaders took place in February 2021. Herbie Venter, Regional Director for that area, selected around 15 key pastors. Additionally, over 100 students at various levels of Harvesters training joined in too. The 120 people were able to gather at Kinshasa in the Democratic Republic of Congo. "There is a deep hunger for training," reported Herman – as evidenced

by the number of participants. Harvesters provided modems, data and a video projector for the three-day training which was done with French interpreters from Cameroon.

"There was great excitement as the computer screen started to fill up with smiling faces glowing with anticipation," Herman recalls. "People from Cameroon, Ivory coast and the DRC, greeting each other with 'Bonjour Pasteur'."

A week later, training commenced with nine indigenous leaders from Southeast Asia and Northern Africa. This time all the participants understood English which made the training quicker and simpler. However, many of the pastors were from countries where Christians experience persecution and were risking a lot to take part. "I could clearly sense how these pastors were encouraged by seeing others from different countries who face similar challenges," explained Herman. "On screen in front of me I saw dear brothers who have suffered much and yet continue to serve the Lord with great zeal and joy."

Harvesters Ministries is proud to work with tremendously capable indigenous leaders around the world, equipping them to evangelise, disciple and plant churches. "They love the people of their regions and show a great eagerness," said Herman. "They've taken ownership and appreciate the trust and affirmation that they've received from Harvesters."

THE ONLINE TRAINING CONTINUES

It's not easy-going at times. There are very real issues around technology, power cuts, internet connections and translation delays. It requires patience from the participants and of course from Herman who teaches online for days at a time. But most importantly Harvesters pastors around the world feel supported, encouraged and connected. Although we look forward to once again being able to send Licenced Trainers to teach in person, we are thankful that we could continue to love and serve our Harvesters leaders in the midst of this crisis. ✉

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A JOYOUS Journey Delivering Bibles Around Lesotho

“How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news”
– Isaiah 52:7

In March this year a Harvesters team travelled for a week around the mountainous terrain of Lesotho and successfully delivered over 1,000 Bibles. The enthusiastic group of eight – who began their journey in South Africa – loaded up 1,080 Sotho-language Bibles and headed to the border. Harvesters currently has 127 churches planted in Lesotho and 98 pastors in training.

“Team Lesotho crossed the border this morning,” came the joyous report the following day. “We divided into three teams and will each visit two congregations today to hand out Bibles.”

LIFE-CHANGING BIBLES

On the first day, one of the groups met Joseph in the village of Mokhehle. He is passionate about sharing the Gospel and was delighted to receive a Bible in his native language from Harvesters Ministries. “I’m so grateful because I had no Bible to share with my friends,” said Joseph, who wants to become an evangelist. “I really thank God because I’m going to share with my friends and relatives who don’t know anything about Jesus. I’m going to preach the Word. This Bible is going to help me because I want to learn more about Jesus Christ.” Bibles provided by Harvesters are in the local language so people can more easily access and know the true Gospel.

Pastor Joshua and his wife Likhama of Ha Lesia Village were especially grateful to receive their native Sotho Bibles because they have had problems with false teachings misleading new converts in their area. Harvesters Ministries distributed 16 Bibles to the leaders and congregation members of their church who can now read the Word for themselves. We pray that the Truth will become known throughout their village.

Harvesters Ministries does not simply send out boxes of Bibles, we deliver them directly into the hands of our pastors, students and congregants. We share testimonies, pray together, discuss Jesus, and help people to read and study their new Bibles. Those precious moments – such as Team Lesotho member Steven teaching two local men how to use their new Bibles to lead others to Jesus – are important elements of every Bible placement trip.

THE IMPACT OF HARVESTERS MINISTRIES IN LESOTHO

On day two Team Lesotho was ready for their busy day ahead visiting 12 more Harvesters churches. In a rural village named Leribe is a local church that was planted by Pastor Kerabo. He has already planted three churches and has just completed his Phase C Harvesters training which covers homiletics and sermon preparation. He discussed with Francois Snyman, Harvesters’ country leader in



Thanks to faithful supporters like you, Bibles could be delivered to church members in rural Lesotho. Training could also be provided to the recipients of these Bibles.



Lesotho, the impact that the Harvesters programme has had. “The work of God has been made easier for us as pastors. We used to see the work and the harvest to be so complicated,” explains Kerabo. “But through these trainings I have learned that it is possible to win souls without any other worry of expenses and money and sound systems. I’m excited! The work of God is so great.”

Towards the end of the trip the team met Pastor Matuso, a dedicated pastor in the Mafeteng district who walks three hours each Sunday to meet with her congregation at the top of one of Lesotho’s mountains. “I have a passion of telling people about the Word of God,” she told the team, “because I have realised that people are being tortured by the devil. The Word of God is helping them to be free from the bondages.” Her church congregants received their own life-changing Bibles from Harvesters Ministries. We pray that the Truth will set them free.

Matuso, who has just finished Phase E studying the New Testament, has found the Harvesters training so useful. “It has equipped me with the knowledge that I didn’t have before,” she explained. “I have improved in many areas because of the books they have given to us. We learn how to preach, how to prepare a sermon and how to talk to people about the Word of God.”

Another leader in a remote village about 30km from the nearby town of Maseru also thanked the team for the Harvesters training. “The materials actually gave me strength,” he said. “They gave me courage to go from house to house to tell the people [about Jesus].” Travelling from Maseru every Saturday, this pastor preached faithfully in the surrounding townships that have no electricity or running water. The Lord was working through him and one of his churches now has 30 adults and 25 young people.

A SUCCESSFUL TRIP

Throughout their week, Team Lesotho travelled thousands of kilometres on bumpy dirt tracks and through some stormy weather to deliver 1,080 Bibles to 61 churches. “It was such a blessing to meet so many faithful children of God and equip them with God’s Word,” reflected André Jooste – Harvesters Bibles for Believers manager – upon the team’s return. “We pray that God’s Word will not return void.”

Thanks to your donations this Bible placement has changed the lives of over a thousand believers in Lesotho. It costs R300 to put a native-language Bible into the hands of our Harvesters brothers and sisters. Prayerfully consider giving an invaluable gift of a Bible today. 📖



When you partner with Harvesters, you are opening the way for the unreached to know Jesus. Recently, you also helped to deliver Bibles to church members in the mountainous Lesotho. Thank you for your gifts and prayers!



A Persecuted Man Perseveres

Pastor Treng* is a fearless leader in Vietnam. Amid increasing persecution for Christians in Southeast Asia, Treng remains passionate about sharing the Gospel. He led three families in his village to Christ and planted a house church. When the authorities found out about it, they used force to close it down. "I was beaten, and they confiscated my Bible... so no cell group," explained Treng, concerned not for himself but for his congregants.

Undeterred, Treng continued to evangelise. During a prayer walk in a neighbouring village he was severely beaten again and had his life threatened. So far, the faithful pastor has planted two churches and is in the process of planting a third. "God always opens the door for us," he testifies. "In the difficult Asia God blesses us."

For many church planters, saying yes to the call of Jesus is truly a life-or-death decision. Pray for Pastor Treng and believers in Southeast Asia.

*Name changed. 📧

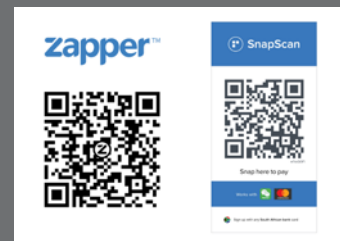
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Get in touch with Harvesters Ministries if you would like us to come and present the free Disciple Makers Course at your church.



Opening the Way