

Know therefore that the Lord thy God,  
he is God, the faithful God, which  
keepeth covenant and mercy with them  
that love him and keep his  
commandments to a thousand generations.



International Church Planters | Didache Institutes *October 2019*



After laboring in cross-cultural ministry for 15 years I have learned that the daily battle to rejoice in the gospel is critically important for the well-being of my own soul and the soundness of the ministry I lead. I collect verses that proclaim the gospel in a central place that I return to regularly. I hunt down resources that are dripping with gospel truths. And, whenever I have a one-time shot to teach or preach it inevitably comes back to the goodness of the gospel. A few weeks ago I led a retreat for Pueblo de Dios, a church I planted in 2010. Something amazing happened. In one session we read through a short summary of the gospel message together. As we read two men began to weep. Sob may be a better word. There were no lights, no music. No fancy presentations or gimmicks. It was just black ink on a white page. The power of the gospel message is transforming.

As I write these words, I am sitting in the middle of the Ecuadorian jungle. Two nights ago I went to a mission point where each week humble folks gather together under a house (it's on stilts) to worship God through singing, praying, and receiving the preaching of the Word. I had the privilege of preaching. (You can see a video of this meeting on our Facebook page). There were no pews or projectors. There were chickens running around our feet eating the insects attracted by the single lightbulb that provided light for us. I opened the Bible and preached the gospel from Deuteronomy 7:9 (above). They were disturbed to realize that they had not fulfilled their side of the pact. They had not loved God and kept his commandments. Jesus, however, did. He loved God perfectly and obeyed God perfectly. Jesus was righteous! Now for the breathtaking part. Our sin (past, present, future) was given to Christ on the cross; his righteousness (earned through perfect love and obedience to God) was given to us when we believed on Christ. Now, we are his children and there is no admixture of wrath in his heart toward us. This is true for all those who trust in Christ no matter your language, nationality, ethnicity, skin color, or economic status.

In Christ,

Ryan Bush

President, ICP | *Didache Institutes*

## ***“I did not rely on God’s Word to preach”*** by Jim Cordes

This was my first time to visit and teach in Kenya, and it did not disappoint. Being the fifth week of training, our focus for the week of courses was theology. Randy Williamson from West Helena BC taught Systematic Theology, which included the basics of theology such as the theology of God, Jesus, Scriptures. We discussed whether transplants and cremations are wrong. However, most theology books do not discuss everyday issues that pastors deal with in their churches. Therefore, Developing Theology takes the biblical principle of interpretation taught in hermeneutics during week 3 and applies them to developing theologies for these subjects. This class prepares them for relying on Scripture to provide biblical answers to their congregations in their own context.

How does the training we provide through Didache Institute affect the ministries of these pastors? Obadiah, one of the older students in Murang’a, has been in ministry for 20 years and is currently an assistant pastor at his church. He



explained to me that before training with us, “I only repeated the things I had heard from my pastor. I did not rely on God’s Word to preach.” Furthermore, his pastor’s daughter claims to be a prophetess who provides answers from God for a fee. Believers have transferred the pagan beliefs of witch doctors to prophets and prophetesses rather than abandoning the practice altogether. Before training with ICP, he promoted her work. Now, “When I am given the opportunity to preach, which is now often, I take the congregation straight to the truth of Scripture. I am slowly introducing the church to the sufficiency and authority of God’s Word as I preach.”

## ***Mark Your Calendars: ICP Donor’s Banquet to Honor Bill Williams***

You may remember that we postponed a special time of celebrating what the Lord has done through his servant, Bill Williams. The banquet was originally scheduled for January 26th, but those plans were derailed when Bill got the call for a lung transplant. We were thankful to the Lord for this change of plans!

Bill’s example of godliness and faithfulness over a lifetime are worthy of emulation and recognition. Thank you for helping us honor Bill Williams, our friend and co-laborer. **Please make plans to join us in Heber Springs on November 2nd, 2019.** The exact time and location will be forthcoming. A special offering will be taken at the banquet to be used to honor Bill’s legacy and perpetuate the work that he dedicated his final years of full-time ministry to.

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***We deliver sound teaching*** to faithful and teachable pastors and leaders through the Didache Institutes training initiative.

*Didache Institutes is characterized by intensive training, consistent mentoring, and high accountability. This approach requires an eighteen-month commitment by each student. The training cycle includes 6 modules (12 courses), which results in about 240 classroom hours. Each student completes twelve projects that correspond to each course.*

***WE STRIVE TO SERVE THEOLOGICALLY MALNOURISHED PASTORS AND LEADERS ACROSS THE GLOBE FOR THE HEALTH OF LOCAL CHURCHES AND THE GLORY OF GOD.***

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Our mission is to equip local pastors so that they may faithfully shepherd their flocks and plant new churches.