

# Training Leaders

Effective Christian leaders inspire faith in God. They mobilize the church for God's work in a broken world. They serve God and the Church in places where the needs are overwhelming and the resources limited.



In our complex and broken world, Christian leaders minister to men, women and children who desperately need to know that there's a God who loves and cares for them. People require assurance that they are valuable in God's eyes even when their experiences say otherwise. They long to know that there is hope in the midst of difficult circumstances. Leaders communicate the vision of God's new creation. They also do the hard work of implementing the vision: creating plans, managing budgets and displaying servant-heartedness in the midst of their work.

CBM is committed to equipping current and future church leaders all over the world to become agents of transformation in the communities where they serve. Together with our partners, we are helping to empower the Church of today and tomorrow to live out the gospel in both word and deed.

## EQUIPPING

CBM partners with seminaries around the world that offer quality education through strategically aligned curriculums. These seminaries provide sound theological teaching along with context-specific ministry training. Effective Christian leadership in places like Africa, Asia, the Middle East and Latin America calls for a person skilled in a variety of areas, including evangelism, teaching, discipleship training, church planting, caring for the sick, conflict resolution, peace building and reconciliation.

One of the greatest challenges for pastors in the different parts of the world where CBM works, is accessing education. It is usually difficult for them to find the opportunity and finances for education whether at a primary level or for advanced degrees. As many of those who are called to the pastorate come from disadvantaged backgrounds, CBM provides scholarships and assistance with various school-related fees. By alleviating this burden, aspiring leaders can concentrate on their studies in order to establish a solid foundation for fruitful and godly ministry.

Pastors play a vital role in their communities, yet many need further instruction to guide them as they develop as ministers. Continued

education helps pastors improve their own teaching and counselling skills, and gives them the training needed to mobilize lay leaders in their churches. It is not unusual to have pastors working full-time at a secular profession to supplement their income and support their own families. Impoverished communities have very little to offer in terms of financial support. CBM also provides those who are in key lay leadership roles with the opportunity to improve their skills through workshops and seminars on relevant topics related to ministry in the church and community.



*"Leaders who emerge from our seminaries face a society of political, economic and social injustice. It is our priority to ensure that they are properly equipped to address these issues with effective and sound leadership skills. As they prepare to respond to God's call in their lives, they have the potential to empower the local church and tackle pressing matters like food security, HIV and AIDS, health, caste, tribal and gender issues. A good leader can inspire community transformation and demonstrate the Gospel message of hope and healing to the many living in physical and spiritual poverty today."*

**Dr. Suraj Komaravalli**, India  
Team Leader

## ENGAGING

The role of a pastor is not an easy one. However, if you add on the unique challenges faced by pastors in the developing world, it becomes far more complex. In these contexts pastors are often burdened with the additional tasks of dealing with the everyday realities of poverty, hunger, disease, political instability, social divisions, gender issues and violence. A typical day for a pastor in these parts of the world may include visiting and caring for the poor, being a mediator in a conflict, teaching farmers improved farming methods and bringing people together to plan group development projects to improve their circumstances. The goal for many, is to minister to the spiritual and social welfare of individuals as well as entire communities. They help to restore human dignity so that people are empowered to change their living conditions and make their voices count.

There are many challenges associated with training the next generation of Christian leaders today. There is also vast potential. The Christian church has a unique message that proclaims grace that is given and not earned, stresses the dignity of human beings created in God's image, and issues a call to become disciples of Jesus. Discipleship and ministry includes involvement in peace and reconciliation ministries, journeying with refugees in the Middle East, helping the marginalized in Kenya, providing education around social and gender issues in India, and ministering to the unique people groups and rural populations in Bolivia. These are just some of the wide range of circumstances that pastors deal with in developing nations.

It is CBM's mandate to help leaders minister to the whole person. This includes meeting needs associated with hunger, health and education. However, none of these life-changing ministries are possible without well-trained and effective leaders to guide, implement and oversee programs. These dedicated men and women help the local church share the Gospel in word and deed, and respond with Christ's love to the needs of our time.

## MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Transform a leader, and you transform a community. Investing in leadership is one of the most strategic ways you can make a difference in our world. A host of possibilities open up when we train leaders. New churches are planted. Rural congregations become centres of community development. People with HIV and AIDS are shown compassion and support. Young people are equipped as disciples of Jesus. Congregations become places of social healing and reconciliation.

## CBM's COMMITMENT TO TRAINING LEADERS

Given the impact that training one leader has on the community, leadership development is one of CBM's most important strategic initiatives. CBM is involved in theological training and leadership development in a number of countries including India, Bolivia, Rwanda, Lebanon, Kenya, Congo, Cuba and Eastern Europe. Some examples of individual projects take the form of:

- **India:** Providing seminary training to students from India's lower caste families. Students receive instruction in theology and biblical studies in their mother tongue while doing internships at local congregations. They are thus exposed to the full orbit of pastoral ministry that includes addressing poverty as well as social and gender inequality, and the spiritual and psychological well being of church members.
- **Lebanon:** Providing Bible based seminary training that equips students to pastor, plant churches, work in youth, family and children's ministries as well as in the marketplace. Courses are structured to address context specific issues related to identity, community and following Christ in the midst of Islamic culture.
- **Bolivia:** Providing seminary students with theological education that includes extracurricular activities that focus on spiritual formation. Students are also encouraged to participate in community activities and social justice projects, which help them to live out their discipleship to Christ.
- **Eastern Europe:** Providing online training for youth leaders across Europe. Ministry mentors guide students through the online material. The program is available in seven languages and in 20 countries.
- **Rwanda:** Providing scholarships and financial support to a local Bible Institute in order to foster theological training for pastors. The program includes monitoring the curriculum and management of schools to ensure that the education provided will equip students for effective ministry.
- **Kenya:** Providing scholarships, computers and internet access to students so that they might have access to adequate resources to prepare them for ministry, life and work in the 21st century.

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In the event a particular project or program is oversubscribed or where local conditions prevent implementation, CBM will redirect your donation to where it is needed most.

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**CBM** *embracing a broken world  
through word & deed*