From: **Madson - GTN Prayer** gtnprayer@gmail.com
Subject: Fwd: God Is Transforming Lives in Ethiopia, Zambia, and Zimbabwe—And See What's Ahead in Cambodia!
Date: August 7, 2026 at 7:37 AM
To: Joel Madson joelmadson@gmail.com

GP

Joel and Kathy Madson

Global Training Network

Summer 2026 Newsletter

Hello, my friends! What a summer! Our nation marked 250 years of independence, baseball's All-Star Game in Philadelphia honored our freedom, and co-hosting the FIFA World Cup was a tremendous privilege.

Along with these historic events, our family made a wonderful summer memory of our own. My brother, two sisters, and I—along with our families from Arizona, Georgia, Oregon, and Washington—gathered in Bend, Oregon, for *the Madson Family Reunion.* We were thrilled to have nearly 50 family members—representing the first, second, and third generations! We enjoyed river rafting, swimming, bike riding, games, hikes, a museum, and, of course, lots of ice cream! It was pure joy to be together over those few days! Our parents would have been very pleased.



MAY 2026 - ETHIOPIA TRAINING

Team of 9, Training in 5 Cities and 1 Prison



Phil Paulsen Teaching on Leadership in Dila

Kathy and I are so thankful for God's call to bring the gospel to the nations. I spent most of May in Ethiopia with an incredible nine-member team, equipping pastors and leaders who were hungry to grow in God's Word. Under the leadership of Pastor Girma Desalegn, our trusted host and dear friend, we divided into smaller groups to provide training in five locations—Gondar, Dila City, Dila Prison, and Areca and Sodo. During those weeks, we taught, listened, encouraged, prayed, and fellowshipped with 452 pastors, leaders, and inmates. It was wonderful!



Teaching a Course on the "Shepherd Leader" in Gondar



Kerry Cruze with Pastors and Church Leaders in Sodo



Reed Jolly Teaching a Course on Theology in Areca

Enjoy the 2-Minute Video Below

Produced by Isaac Howard (CTN)

Produced by Isaac Howard (GTN)



Teaching God's Word in Dila Prison



One of the many highlights for me and my good friend Jesse, was spending a week teaching 22 inmates who had come to Christ in Dila Prison. Many have

week teaching 22 inmates who had come to Christ in Dila Prison. Many have dedicated their lives to making a difference after their release.

One of these men is *Bababyu (pictured below)*, a 29-year-old who is serving a 14-year prison sentence. While in prison, he surrendered his life to Christ, was baptized, and now serves as an elder in the prison church. When he is released in September, he plans to continue his theological training and become a pastor.



Bababyu thanked us for coming and said, "My family has rejected me, but you came a long way to be here." His story is a powerful testimony to the life-transforming power of the gospel. Jesus truly came to set the captives free! What a tremendous blessing it was to spend this week with these men!

Young People Say "Yes" to Jesus!





Joel preaching at a church in Dila, with Pastor Girma translating.

One evening in Dila City, I had the privilege of speaking to 150–200 college-aged young people who had gathered at a local church for a time of worship and teaching. I had not been feeling well that day and wondered how I would have the strength to preach. But as I stepped forward in faith, God took over, and I sensed that He was going to do something special.

I shared my testimony of hearing God's call to serve Him fully when I was 17 years old, after listening to a pastor speak about Daniel's refusal to conform to the world. Drawing from Romans 12:2, I challenged these young men and women to be transformed by the power of Christ to influence the world.





The Holy Spirit moved powerfully...and when I invited them to the alter to fully commit their lives to God, *almost the entire room came forward!* It was incredible to see so many eager, surrendered young people saying "yes" to Jesus! I prayed over them and left them with this final challenge, "Step out in faith, refuse to compromise, and become world-changers." Seeing God's Spirit stir their hearts was absolutely thrilling!

One of the young men at the church made **a short video clip** of the message I preached. *You can listen below.* I praise God for the privilege to serve Him!



June 2026 - Zambia & Zimbabwe Training

6 Villages, 48 Teaching Sessions, 6 Topics



In June, I traveled to Zambia and Zimbabwe to do training in in 6



locations (Lundazi, Zimba, Chipata, Lusaka, Mukini Village and Vic Falls) with my GTN colleagues Carl Green and Gary Rock. We trained 268 pastors and leaders and preached in four churches. The journey involved many long hours of travel (3 days to our first location), often over rough, dusty roads that tested our endurance. It was a small price to pay for the privilege of teaching and encouraging pastors who serve in remote areas, far from the spotlight.

Training in Lundazi



One of the most remote places we visit is Lundazi. I described the trip as the roughest ride I have ever taken—bone-jarring, body-bouncing, and back-breaking, with dust everywhere and potholes large enough to swallow a small car. Even so, the pastors are deeply grateful that we come. They leave encouraged and better equipped for ministry. The joy of being with these pastors is indescribable!





We gave each pastor in Lundazi a GTN polo shirt, and they were so happy to receive their special gift! *The shirts were made in Cambodia by the company owned by my good friend Bora Nao and cost just $6 each.* Bora was thrilled that we purchased them to bless the pastors in this remote area of Zambia.

When Culture Collides With Scripture



One of the greatest joys of my teaching trips is serving alongside national pastors. Recently, Bishop Charles—a Zambian pastor overseeing many churches—joined our team and taught a powerful session called "When Culture Collides with Scripture."

It was incredibly eye-opening. He discussed how certain tribal cultural practices, particularly marriage rituals and initiation rites in the villages, take advantage of, abuse, and marginalize women. These practices create significant obstacles to sharing the gospel in the villages. Hearing about all of this broke my heart.

Whenever our hearts break for what we see, God invites us to bring Christ into the situation. The local pastors and leaders repeatedly asked me, "Do you have resources to help us minister to villagers who have suffered trauma from these practices?" We were all deeply moved by the magnitude of this need and spent time praying together asking God for wisdom.





I returned home with a heavy burden to help. I am setting up a fund to provide Zambian churches with the resources they desperately need—such as books and teaching materials—to bring hope and healing to those suffering.

I invite you to partner with us! If you would like to participate by sending a gift to purchase resources, or if you simply want to learn more, please contact me at joelmadson@gmail.com. We would also appreciate your prayers for this. I know the pastors and leaders of Zambia will be so grateful.

What's Next for 2026?



September: GTN executive leadership meetings in Delaware and Fort Collins, Colorado.
October: Leading a team to Cambodia for three weeks of training.

As we prepare for the fall, our Cambodia trip represents a significant ministry and financial undertaking. During these three weeks, we plan to hold five pastors' conferences, five one-day gatherings to encourage and strengthen pastors, and a week of training for educators. Altogether, we hope to equip more than 700 pastors, leaders, and teachers. The Lord is doing an amazing work in Cambodia, and we are so grateful to be part of it!



The cost is approximately $40 per participant. Would you prayerfully consider investing in the lives and ministries of these men and women through a special gift? We would be so grateful for your partnership!

Kathy and I cannot thank you enough for your faithful prayers and partnership—you are an essential part of all God is accomplishing through this ministry! God is doing wonderful things around the world, and through GTN, we are seeing lasting fruit for His Kingdom.

In the words of the apostle Paul: "I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all, making my prayer with joy, because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now" (Philippians 1:3–5).

For His kingdom and His glory!

Joel

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Visit our Website

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