

FALL 2021 NEWSLETTER

# See Your Gifts in Action.



Big Things  
Happening in Maralal



Multiplying  
God's Kingdom



Christmas Preview  
Learn how you can get involved!

# A Message from the Executive Director

God has been doing big things through Global Disciples even though it has been a tough year. I am thrilled to share some of the milestones with you—especially because none of this would be possible without your prayers and generous partnership.

By God's grace, Global Disciples has been able to adapt and innovate during the COVID-19 pandemic. By taking a new approach during these unprecedented times and embracing online learning, we have shifted strategically in ways that will make it easier to multiply and scale up in the future. Over the past year, the number of Certified Trainers on our international staff has doubled!

Around the world, 52 Annual Equipping Events were held, the most ever held in a single year. At these events, more than 2,000 Program Directors received training and renewal, led by local or regional teams, independent from our North American staff. This independence is exactly what Global Disciples is all about.

We have begun training local worship leaders as new fellowships are established in least-reached areas. This is a great complement to the intercessory work being developed by our growing team of Regional Prayer Leaders.

In August, we also celebrated Paul and Ruthanne Wartman's amazing 10 years of developing leaders, teaching, and pastoring our Global team. We wish them well in their retirement and will do our utmost to carry on their great legacy. Paul has reassured me that our coffee dates are not going to finish any time soon!

**YOU are an important part of the Global Disciples Canada story! It's a story that over the years has had remarkable implications and we are so glad you are a part of it too.**

*Andre Lesur*

Andre Lesur  
Executive Director, Global Disciples Canada



## Past year by the numbers:

2x

Certified Trainers on our international staff

2,000

Program Directors received training and renewal

52

Annual Equipping Events

# Reach the world.

Join our community of monthly supporters! Your support will bring the hope of Jesus to least-reached people groups around the world.

To donate, visit [globaldisciples.ca](http://globaldisciples.ca)

*At Global Disciples, our Great Commission strategy is simple. We teach people how to become disciple-makers in areas least-reached by the Gospel, and we provide the tools they need to build an economically self-sustaining ministry within four years.*

It all starts with local church clusters. Several churches from a cluster choose a director to go through our Discipleship Mission Training program. That director learns to teach and equip disciple-makers by offering the same training to others within their church cluster.

Once a group of people has completed the Discipleship Mission Training, they go out into communities where Jesus Christ is unknown, and begin the work of evangelism and church planting.

It's amazing to see how quickly the community of Christ can grow.

A key factor in our training model is that it can be easily reproduced by participants. Disciple-makers can multiply quickly to produce a fellowship of believers who then grow the Body of Christ by planting new churches.

Through our on-the-field Leadership Training program, disciple-makers and their new church fellowships are matched with Christ-like leaders who offer spiritual support and ongoing mentorship.

In addition to leadership training, our disciple-makers are offered Small Business Training. By running small businesses, church planters have access to a much needed stream of locally-generated income to support God's work. It also gives them an easy way to become part of an unreached community.

Leadership programs are locally-funded from the beginning and discipleship-mission programs are

fully supported by local resources by their fourth year.

Once established, all of these programs are operated solely by on-the-ground, local churches. This local ownership promotes accountability, increases local partnerships and broadens engagement from within the community.

A cluster of churches can begin with any training program and add the others as they see success. When we see all three trainings working together, we also see significant and lasting multiplication and impact.

**Support from generous donors like you helps Global Disciples fund a percentage of start-up costs with each new local partnership. With your help, we can continue to share the Gospel with least-reached people in the remotest parts of Africa, Asia and Latin America.**

## Building a Fellowship of Believers

### Our Model of Multiplication

What begins with the training of one disciple-maker quickly grows exponentially...

4

This results in three new churches planted with an average of **25 new disciples** in each church

3

The group of 15 disciple-makers together reach **71 new disciples** while on outreach

2

That director **trains 15 disciple-makers** over one year

1

Global Disciples trains **1 church director**

A flexible and adaptive ministry has led to the salvation of 12 people.



# Hunger for the Gospel

## How God's Love is Spreading in Maralal

When the Covid-19 pandemic hit, believers around the world were forced to pause and re-evaluate what fellowship and ministry could look like during such unprecedented times.

In the small hillside market town of Maralal, northern Kenya, the story was no different. All public gatherings had been forbidden. Churches were closed. Missionary work and discipleship training were heavily impacted.

A director named Lucas had just completed the Discipleship Mission Training program and was ready to start training the next generation of disciple-makers. Unfortunately, he found himself stuck, at an impasse in his ministry due to the gathering restrictions.

Lucas felt an urge to engage in ministry. Rather than staying home and doing nothing, he connected with another nearby disciple-maker. They talked about the challenges they were facing and brainstormed ways that they could adapt their ministry amidst these restrictions.

Together, they decided to start reaching out to their neighbours one-on-one, in an informal ministry.

**Quickly, they noticed a stirring in the hearts of their neighbours—there was a real hunger for the Gospel.**

Lucas and his colleague started doing outreach, house by house. They shared the Gospel and prayed for the needs of the people.

More and more people started to request prayer, asking to be ministered to with the Word.

Those who were receiving this ministry were the Saburus, Trukanas and Kikuyus people groups, most of them being small scale farmers, pastoralists and business people.

**In such uncertain times, God's peace seemed to be the only real comfort.**

As restrictions eased off, people in need were able to visit the director in his home for prayers. They gathered in small numbers to hear testimonies of answered prayers and study the Word of God together.

This was yet another example that God's love cannot be held back. His peace and understanding can break through the most difficult circumstances. Through one person's informal ministry, more than 12 people dedicated their lives to Christ and a small fellowship started in Maralal.

**Even the smallest effort to share Christ's love can make a big difference—and it has a ripple effect.**

In Maralal, fellowship has become a source of hope and encouragement to the community. More small group fellowships are being organized to accommodate a growing need. More and more people are getting involved in intercessory prayer and God's presence is felt by many.



Maralal, Kenya is one of the least-reached areas in the world, but today, the message of Christ is spreading throughout the community.

As people continue to receive salvation, hope and faith in the goodness of the Lord is growing in Maralal. Glory be to God!

Please keep the director and his disciples in your prayers as they continue to adapt and expand their ministry. Your prayers and financial support are so needed and appreciated. Thank you for joining us to support God's work in remote locations like Maralal.

**There are so many more places like Maralal, where people are yearning for the peace that only God's salvation can bring. Your ongoing gifts help us in sharing the message of love and hope in Christ, "until the whole world knows."**

# From the Ends of the Earth We Still Hear Singing!

## A Field Update from Timothy Bentsch, Global Worship Specialist

In the midst of a turbulent time in our world, we made a conscious decision to continue to sing and worship, standing with one another in prayer and lifting our voices as one in praise to our God!

But at the same time, we were holding so much grief for humanity, for our Global Disciples community, for our loved ones. How do we sing when there is so much pain and hardship in this world, even beyond a pandemic?

While we enjoyed momentary freedom and relief in North America, the situation was drastically worsening in other parts of the world. One of our long-time Global Disciples leaders abroad was fighting for his life. We prayed fervently for him and many others, sending aid and scrambling to find oxygenators.

One of our Asia staff died at 34 years old from the effects of Covid. A number of program

directors have succumbed to the virus, and others have lost wives or husbands or parents. Many in southeast Asia are still losing loved ones as the Delta variant spreads.

However, we also witness a continuing wonder and miracle: "From the ends of the earth we still hear singing!" Followers of Jesus are suffering but they have not stopped giving thanks! They are praising God.

When I see the shining faith of sisters and brothers enduring hardship, I realize afresh that even in acute suffering, Jesus is enough. Amid our own disappointments and loss, we find strength and hope as we trust in His tender care, and we sing!

More than ever, it's time for us to rise above discouragement and suffering, and to gather together and sing, "Glory to the Righteous One!" We need to worship and praise our God with everything within us, so that our voices resound to the ends of the earth!

**Followers of Jesus  
are suffering but they  
have not stopped  
giving thanks! They are  
praising God.**



Giving online is quick and easy.

**Donate today to raise up more disciple-makers!**



Jesus said “Go and make disciples of all nations.”  
(Matthew 28:19)



This Christmas, share God’s love with those who have never heard the Gospel.  
**Please give generously.**

# Christmas is Coming!

## Celebrate God’s Greatest Gift with Us

Christmas is just around the corner. Naturally, this is a season to celebrate Jesus’ birth, God’s greatest gift to each one of us. But it is also an important season to consider the legacy that began when Jesus was born—a legacy we are all called to carry today.

Jesus left His home and came to earth to live among those who needed Him but did not yet know Him. Every day, He shared God’s love with those around Him. In a way, His birth was the first missionary act.

Throughout His entire life, Jesus modeled what He would later command of His disciples—“Go and make disciples of all nations” (Matthew 28:19). This is The Great Commission which we are still working to see realized today.

**This Christmas, one of the best ways we can celebrate God’s greatest gift is by following Jesus’ example.**

Global Disciples is working hard to bring the Gospel to every corner of the earth. The Good

News should be freely available and accessible to all. That’s why our training model has been designed to be locally owned and easily replicated. Ministry leaders and disciple-makers are being raised up within local communities to impact those around them, and bring the message of God’s love to the least-reached.

It is what Christmas is all about.

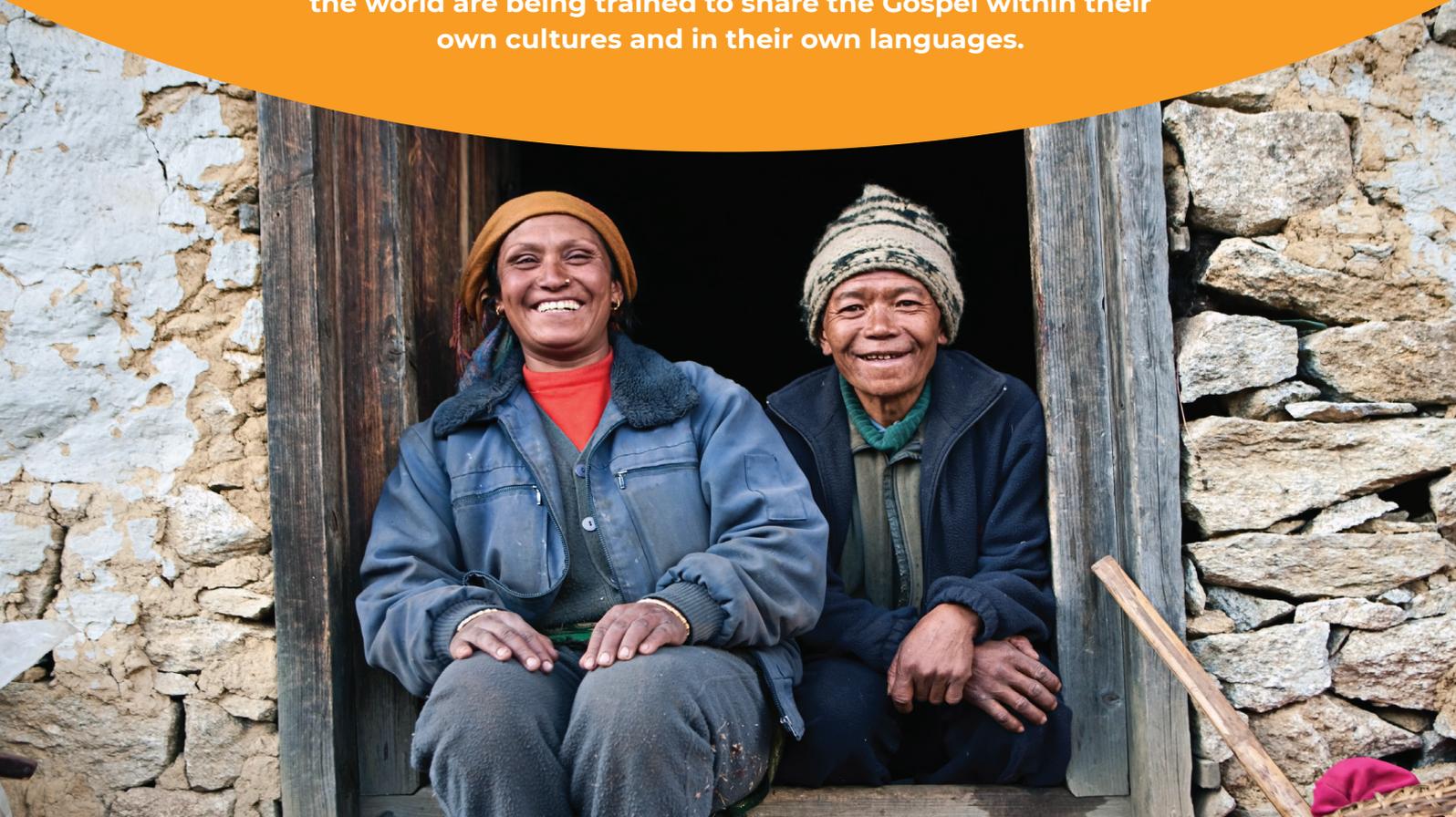
What greater way to honour the coming of Christ than to share the story of Jesus’ birth? Too many have never heard it before. The Christmas story reminds us that the Gospel is not for a select few. It’s for everyone: “*I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people*” (Luke 2:10).

**We invite you to celebrate the true meaning of the season by joining us. This Christmas, would you help share the gospel with everyone—including one third of people in the world who are unreached? Please give generously.**

THANK YOU!

# We Are So Grateful for Your Support.

Global Disciples Canada couldn't exist without support from our amazing family of donors. With your help, believers around the world are being trained to share the Gospel within their own cultures and in their own languages.



**Did you know  
that **one third of  
the world** have yet  
to hear the Gospel  
even once?**

Working in 62 countries throughout Asia, Africa and Latin America, Global Disciples has developed a model of training that is Christ-centered, discipleship-based and mission-focused. We provide training for *locally-sustained* and *reproduced* programs that develop disciple-makers, marketplace entrepreneurs and serving leaders. It's all thanks to your help.

**Thank you to all of our generous supporters. Your gifts help share the Gospel with the least-reached people around the world to fulfill Jesus' Great Commission.**

[globaldisciples.ca](http://globaldisciples.ca)