



May 2025

A Great Big THANK YOU!

The LEPC Rummage Sale Organizers would like to thank everyone who helped with this year's Rummage Sale! This not only included LEPC Church members, but neighbors, family members, friends and the Local Boy Scouts! With your help you made this **FINAL RUMMAGE SALE** a big success! With the proceeds the Church received, 25% goes to the mission work of the Church.

Please note, we will no longer be collecting sale items in the Church basement for future Sales. *Any questions, see Carol Griffen.*

And now for the rest of the story...

You may have thought the Rummage Sale has only been going on for 30 - 40 years, but looking back at Church records in 1916, it is mentioned that the Ladies Aid Society was having fund raisers, which included Rummages Sales, to help with the church expenses. And so they continued through the years, the first Sales being held in a store on Main St. in Mt. Morris. Eventually it was moved to the Leicester Town Hall and in 1979 it was moved to the Fellowship Hall at LEPC.

Over a century of faithfulness, hard work and fellowship helping to support the church and its missions!



The Boy Scouts from Troop #85 helped bring up from the Church basement, all the boxes of items to sell at the Rummage Sale. Their reward - a big Thank You and three kinds of ice cream and some other sweet goodies!

Photo by Pam Hull

1978, The last year the Rummage Sale was held at the Leicester Town Hall. Right, l-r: Marion Popp, Fran Hubbard, Heidi Roffe, Betty Wray, Thelma Stevens, Marcia Kellogg, Barbara Turner, Evelyn Douglass, Hazel Steurzebecher, ?, Theresa Loudin, Florence Minster.



L-r: Barbara Turner, Evelyn Douglass, T. Dennison, Marion Popp, Hazel Steurzebecher, Florence Minster. Sitting: Theresa Loudin and Shirley Matthews



Photo by
Shirley Matthews



Pastor David Missel

585-658-1197 Residence
djmguided1947@gmail.com
585-382-3311 Church

It is our desire to assist anyone who is seeking help, if possible, whether it be spiritual or otherwise. Please contact Pastor David or any Session Elder if you would like us to be of help.

When Pastor David is unavailable:

Pastor David is presently scheduling Fridays as his day off so matters of less urgency could be left on the church office answering device, or call one of the Ruling Elders:

George Briggs	585-382-3038
Patty Gregg	585-245-1311
Carol Griffen	585-382-3681
Shirley Matthews	585-382-3171
Cathy Mlyniec	585-322-6669
Leo Richardson	585-382-3153

(Clerk of Session)

Other Contacts

LEPC website:

www.seekinggodtogether.com

LEPC Email Address:

grichardson001@rochester.rr.com

LEPC Food Pantry:

(by appointment only)
585-245-3448

Sunshine Person:

Cathy Mlyniec
cmlyniec@gmail.com

The Heart of Worship

By Dr. David Jeremiah

My heart greatly rejoices, And with my song I will praise Him, Psalm 28:7

In *Meditations from a Prison Cell*, F. Olin Stockwell, one of the last missionaries to leave Communist China, wrote about his imprisonment at a center where the Communist leaders were indoctrinating young people in the Marxist ideology. Every afternoon and evening, the leaders would teach the young people and then set the teachings to music. China was singing herself into the Communist worldview, Stockwell wrote.

Everyone has had the experience of hearing a song on the radio or a hymn from childhood and being able to sing along by “heart.” While it’s our mind that remembers, we say “by heart” because of the emotional “hooks” these songs set in us. And it is from the emotional level – the level of the heart – that God wants us to worship Him as well as from the mind.

Some of the most heartfelt and theologically oriented worship in the Bible is found in the Psalms, the hymnbook of Israel. With the abundance of edifying Christian music available today in varying audio formats, there is no reason for the home and heart of every Christian not to be filled with worshipful songs.

Since God knows you “by heart,” make sure yours is a heart of rejoicing.

On a personal level, the Christian songs I have learned throughout my life often come to my mind throughout the day and night. To me, they are a reminder of God’s love, faithfulness and abiding presence. I hope you are experiencing the same assurance in your journey.

Sing to our coming King,
Pastor David

**Prayer for
Remembrance Day**

May Your Holy Spirit give us the courage to resist evil in all its forms and show us how to be peacemakers through prayer and action, lest we forget those who fought, suffered and died that we might have the freedom and peace we enjoy today. We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.



★ **HAPPY MEMORIAL DAY!** ★

Monthly Celebrations

May Birthdays

- 13 Shirley Matthews
- 13 Jackie Roffe
- 19 Joyce Fitzgerald
- 21 Mike Mallaber

Anniversaries: (none listed)

Liturgists Signup for May

For those who want to read scripture during Sunday worship, please remember to sign the "Volunteer" list on the Bulletin Board in Fellowship Hall. Thank you!

May God Bless!



Fatu Thoronka

We recently received a letter from Fatu Thoronka our EduNations Sponsored Student. She thanks us for our sponsorship.

She welcomes prayers for her education.

Prayer Shawl and Lap Robe Ministry

If you know of someone who has serious health problems and would find some encouragement, warmth and comfort from receiving a handmade shawl or lap robe, please contact Carole Missel.

LEPC Session Highlights of 4/17/2025

Sharing Life, Spiritual Focus and Prayers for the Church and Others we meet: Session members prayed in turn around the table in thanksgiving for God's guidance, protection, for the upcoming Zoom meeting, the current season of Lent, and made requests for wisdom for LEPC in a way that would be honoring to God and a blessing to all we come in contact with.

Guest: Mr. Cary Greenberg, LEPC's long time financial advisor, gave a presentation, via Zoom, to assure Session that as we look at the economy with our attention focused on the facts, and not according to reports that have underlying agendas, we can calmly assess the big picture of our financial situation. Since the stock market's existence, there have been ebbs and flows, but the stability overall should point us toward a bright financial future for the church.

Treasurer's Report: LEPC's annual financial records were reviewed by Mr. Rick Gifford, and he seemed confident they were in order. Carol Griffen remarked that the insurance premiums are made quarterly, and they have increased.

Pastor's Report: Pastor has attempted to reach several members of LEPC.

Missions: Session approved support for Jewish Voice Ministries. EduNations' Buffalo Event: "Fan the Flame" is scheduled for May 29, 2025, in Amherst. EduNations is offering a guided trip to Sierra Leone, preparing for their annual golf tournament fund raising event, and are pleased to report that the "Support the Teachers" Fund Drive exceeded their goal.

Food Pantry: Four requests for assistance each month, for the past three months.

Property: LEPC parking lot stripes are being monitored for quality. Session will purchase new tablecloths for Fellowship Hall.

The next Regular Session Meeting date was scheduled for 5/8/2025.

It's Spring! And Yes, the Grass is Growing!

It's time to start thinking of helping to keep the Church lawn in "tip top" shape as usual. Gene Gregg has put a Lawn Mowing Sign Up Sheet on the Memorial case at the back of the Sanctuary. Sign up there or talk to Gene and let him know when you will be able to help. The mower has had a "spring tuneup" and is ready to go!

Many THANKS to all those who helped last summer! The church is indeed blessed with such good workers!

LEPC Mission Statement:

We at Leicester Evangelical Presbyterian Church, confess Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior. We prayerfully seek to do His will through the power of the Holy Spirit in our worship, discipleship, ministry, mission, fellowship and continually strive to make this church one that glorifies God and is pleasing to Him.

And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose. — NKJV

God Turns Gloom into Good

Inspiration comes from:

Whatever Happens

by Robert J. Morgan

Last year during a speaking engagement in Tupelo, Mississippi, I checked out of my hotel and started my truck. It roared like a motorcycle with no muffler. During the night somebody had stolen my catalytic converter. I had to leave my truck behind, rent a car, deal with insurance, and send somebody back to fetch my truck. After all that, the vehicle still wasn't working right, so I left it at the dealership while on another trip.

When I returned, I used a ride-sharing app to take me to the dealership for my truck. As I sat in the back seat, I noticed a Bible in the seat pocket. I asked the young driver about it. He said it had belonged to his dear, departed aunt, and he liked to keep it close to remind him of her. I told him he should read it. I shared some verses I'd read that morning in my own Bible.

He listened with unusual interest, so I explained from Scripture how to have a relationship with God through Jesus Christ. By the time we got to the dealership, he wanted to pray, asking God for salvation — which he did.

That's when I understood why the Lord had allowed someone to steal my catalytic converter — it had set off a chain reaction that led to the young man's salvation.

Bad things happen all the time, but what if you knew that every gloomy thing would lead to glorious results under the guiding providence of God?

That's what Paul told the Philippians. They were distressed at all that had happened to him — the loss of his fourth missionary journey, his imprisonment in Caesarea, his shipwreck on Malta, and his looming trial in Rome. But Paul wasn't gloomy in the least. He said:

Now I want you to know, brothers and sisters, that what has happened to me has actually served to advance the gospel. As a result, it has become clear throughout the whole palace guard and to everyone else that I am in chains for Christ. And because of my chains, most of the brothers and sisters have become confident in the Lord and dare all the more to proclaim the gospel without fear. — Philippians 1:12–14

This is the Philippian version of Romans 8:28, which says, *And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose. — NKJV*

Problems can last a long time, but they can't last forever as God's promises do. We live in a world of catastrophes and calamities, and none of us knows what will happen next. Without God's oversight, our futures are like scraps of paper scattering in the wind. But under His oversight, they're like pages of hope indelibly written by grace. The Scriptures teach we have a God who turns problems inside out — all our perils and perplexities...

Bad things happen all the time, but what if you knew that every gloomy thing would lead to glorious results under the guiding providence of God?

In Christ, we have an ironclad, unfailing, all-encompassing, God-given guarantee that every single circumstance in life will sooner or later turn out well for those committed to Him.

Perhaps something has happened to you that has taken the wind

out of your sails, the bounce out of your step, the twinkle out of your eye, and the joy out of your heart.

Our circumstances must bow before Jesus. We may not be able to control them, and chaos may seem to reign. But the Savior who turned water into wine and death into life can bring about a mutation, a transfiguration, a reversal, an evolution of our circumstances. The Savior can turn our circumstances into His servants for the advancement of His kingdom.

This is part of redemption.

How did Paul's adversity serve to advance the gospel? In two ways. First, he was chained to soldiers twenty-four hours a day. He always seemed to be on good terms with the soldiers protecting him, and he shared his message with them. They were a captive audience — not only did he speak to them directly, but they heard his conversations with others and they listened as he prayed.

The imperial guard was made up of about ten thousand of Rome's best soldiers. They served under the direct command of Nero to protect him, to provide a police presence in Rome, and to do his bidding throughout the empire. Paul's converts among these soldiers took the gospel to far-flung regions he could never have gone himself.

What appeared to be Paul's tragedy was really God's strategy.

Second, Paul's circumstances had a bracing effect on the church. We can see how this works, can't we? When you read of the courage of a Christian facing persecution in an oppressive land — when they stand bravely for Christ despite threats and intimidations — doesn't it encourage you to be bolder and more outspoken in your faith?

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Gloomy thoughts come from the way we interpret the happenings of our lives. Paul knew that every single circumstance was under the providence, the sovereignty, and the control of Jesus Christ, who had turned an occupied tomb into an empty grave. He knew that everything worked together for the good of those who love God and are living according to His purposes. He could even see some of the benefits God was bringing about.

The things that happen to us have a divine way of actually turning out for our good and for the furtherance of the gospel. In His own way and time, the Lord reverses adversity, overrides misfortune, and dismantles the devil's schemes.

He will do this for you.

Written for Devotionals Daily by Robert J. Morgan, author of *Whatever Happens: How to Stand Firm in Your Faith When the World Is Falling Apart*.

Submitted by Carole Missel



Quilt made by Cathy Mlyniec



Photo by Carole Missel

Inspiration comes from:
Anne Neilson's Angels
by Anne Neilson

He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds. — Psalm 147:3

We were well into a three-year process of building a new home for our family in the early 2000s — a process that challenged me and caused me to draw near to God in a new way. After crossing hurdles regarding whether to build or not, with drawing and pricing the plans, and with laying the foundation, we were eager to begin framing the house. We continued seeking God's will in the process, and we pressed forward with construction. I was overjoyed to see the framing begin to shape our future home. Much to my dismay, when I visited our rapidly rising home, I found not-so-clean two-by-sixes and wood covered in knots — ugly wood that I argued surely couldn't build the strong house in which we were going to reside. I brought up my concerns with our builder. He simply told me, "Anne, the more knots there are in the timber, the stronger the wood is."

Along this process of building our home, and anytime I sought control or began to give in to my doubt, the Lord would nudge me and say, "Come back to Me." I couldn't have heard the words He spoke to my heart more deeply in

response to my builder's explanation. "The more knots are in our lives, the stronger we are."

I was reminded of every trial, every battle, and every victory that was a mark on my heart, creating a knot and strengthening my spirit. I was encouraged that the knotty beams holding our house upright were similar to the scars that Jesus used to mark me and hold my life upright.

He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds. — Psalm 147:3

Once I embraced the marred timber, we claimed it in the Lord's name, inscribing scripture on the framing. I was deeply moved when, as a final step to seal the inner framework of our home, our construction crew came in and covered the wood with white drywall, covering the marks with a clean slate, exactly the way Jesus covered my knots by hanging on the Cross. His blood that was shed was shed for me — all my knots, my sins, my scars.

His covering was His righteousness, and what a beautiful picture is that!

The word scar isn't typically associated with something positive. However, I see things differently now, and I've come to value those places in my own life that show up as scars. How can you see some of your own scars as symbols of strength or victory?

Dear God, I know that You have allowed me to walk through fire for Your purpose. Help me not to hide my scars from those battles, but instead wear them with confidence so that all who see me will see Your glory and the victory You promised me.

Excerpted with permission from *Anne Neilson's Angels* by Anne Neilson, copyright Anne Neilson Fine Art LLC.

Submitted by Carole Missel



Photo by George Briggs

Cedar of Lebanon, often mentioned in the Bible, e.g. Hosea 14:6-7, Psalm 104:16. This photo shows the male cones.

*“The trees of the Lord are well watered,
the cedars of Lebanon that he planted.*
Psalm 104:16 niv

*his young shoots will grow.
His splendor will be like an olive tree,
his fragrance like a cedar of Lebanon.
People will dwell again in his shade;
they will flourish like the grain,
they will blossom like the vine—
Israel’s fame will be like the wine of
Lebanon.* Hosea 14:6-7 niv

The Extraordinary Implications of John the Baptist

By Seth D. Postell

*“But what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I say to you, and one who is more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written, ‘**BEHOLD, I SEND MY MESSENGER AHEAD OF YOU, WHO WILL PREPARE YOUR WAY BEFORE YOU**’”*

- Luke 7:26-27.

John who had obviously grown discouraged in prison, sent messengers to ask if Yeshua was truly the “Expected One” (Luke 7:19). But because he started doubting Yeshua’s identity, he was also implicitly doubting himself. Was his decision to follow Yeshua worth all the struggles, isolation, and sacrifice?

It’s in this context of John’s self-doubt we must consider Yeshua’s affirming words about the Baptist. Yeshua quotes the first half of Malachi 3:1 about the coming of a special messenger and identifies this messenger as John: **“Behold, I am going to send My messenger, and he will clear the way before Me”** (Mal 3:1a; Mal 4:5-6 [3:23-24]). It is absolutely essential for us to grasp the implications of Yeshua’s interpretation of this prophecy in Malachi. **By testifying that John is this messenger from Malachi 3 who is greater than a prophet, he is also making a jaw-dropping claim about himself! For if John is that messenger, then Yeshua is the “Lord”** whose coming the messenger announces in the second half of the same verse:

“And the Lord, whom you seek, will suddenly come to His temple; and the messenger of the covenant, in whom you delight, behold, He is coming,” says the LORD of hosts” (Mal 3:1b).

Because Yeshua is the Lord who came from heaven to save us, then all the struggles, sacrifices, and

isolation we regularly deal with as Yeshua’s disciples are worth it, for who else has the words of eternal life (John 6:68-69)? When we doubt the Savior, we naturally will begin to doubt ourselves. But when we consider Yeshua’s biblical identity, we at once realize the incredible privilege it is to be his disciples, and we are reenergized to count the cost and pay any price.

“The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him so that we may also be glorified with Him. For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us” (Rom 8:16-18).

SETH D. POSTELL

Seth is happily married and has three children. His PhD is in Hebrew Bible, and he has served as the dean of ONE FOR ISRAEL Bible College in Netanya, Israel, since 2012.

OneforIsrael.org

Please Pray for Israel

– Pray for Israelis to look to God — and to find Him! Please read and pray Ezekiel 36 over their nation.

“And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.” (Ezekiel 36:26)

– Pray for broken hearts to be comforted and healed — both Jewish and Arab.

– Pray for unity to grow and strengthen between Jewish and Arab believers.

– Pray for protection, deliverance, and salvation.

– Pray that they would not be overcome with evil, but that they would overcome evil with good, that God may be glorified.

Voice of the Martyr's:
icommittoprayer.com

March 6, 2025 | India

**Pastor in “Land of Gods”
Delivered by the Living God**

A pastor named Hira Singh has used notoriety from being persecuted to share the gospel with even more people. In 2000, Hira Singh, who was formerly from a high-caste Hindu background, came to faith in Christ in Himachal Pradesh. This region is a North Indian state known as Dev Bhoomi (Land of Gods) and a prominent Hindu pilgrimage destination. In the early years of his Christian faith, Hira faced opposition from his family and community. However, in October 2023, when the village council summoned him, he faced serious persecution. Some people at the meeting attempted to kill him, but God miraculously delivered him. Since then, Hira has faced repeated threats and false allegations but continues to lead the church and share the gospel in adjacent villages. Because of the persecution incidents in October 2023, Hira gained popularity in local print and electronic media. Since then, he has publicly preached to anyone he meets.

March 27, 2025 | Central Asia

Young Christian Pressured by Family

Yasmina, a former Muslim, faces pressure from her family after placing her faith in Christ. When Yasmina and her husband first became followers of Christ, they stopped praying in the Islamic manner. Their Muslim family pressured the young couple to recant, even taking legal measures to try to annul their marriage. After several days of severe pressure, Yasmina's husband yielded and reverted to Islam, but Yasmina remained firm. The family then called three mullahs to the couple's home to convince Yasmina to change her stance. One of the mullahs insulted Jesus and suddenly became ill. He foamed at the mouth, had a seizure and was rushed to a hospital. As the family continues to pressure Yasmina, local church leaders request prayer for her safety and that she will persevere in her faith.

March 13, 2025 | Afghanistan

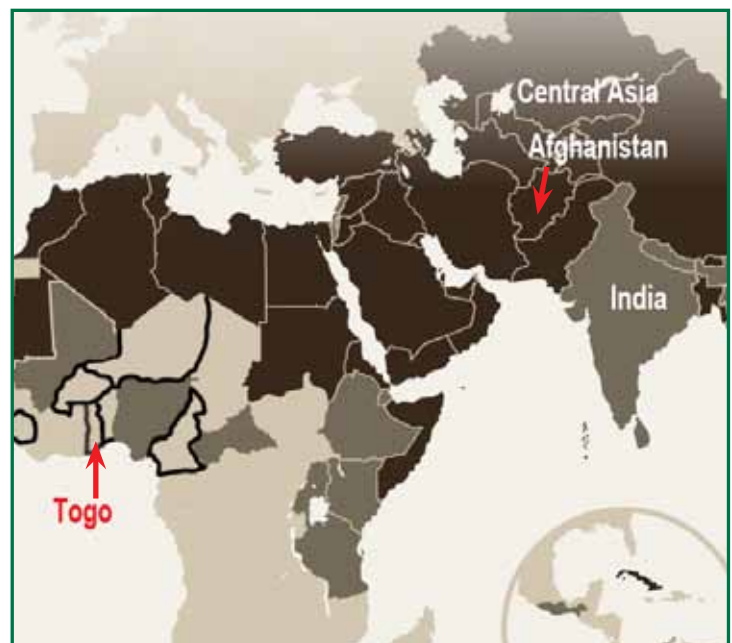
**Young Afghan Christian
Forcibly Married**

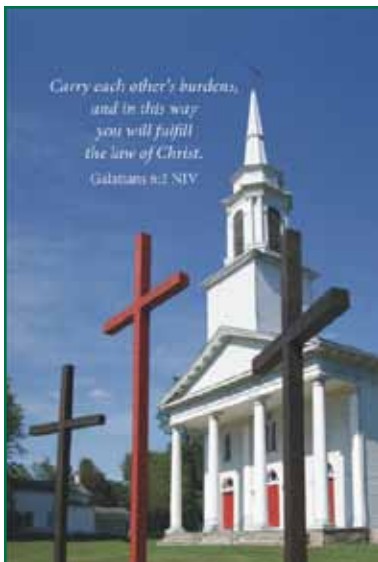
Mina, an Afghan Christian, was forced by her father to marry an abusive Muslim man because of her faith. The twenty-year-old became a follower of Christ after meeting some Christians online, and through her online community, she continued to grow in her faith. One day a neighbor overheard her worshipping God through an open window. The neighbor informed Mina's father, and he beat her severely. He then forced her to marry an older Muslim man. A front-line worker said that many women who convert from Islam regularly face five consequences: physical violence, psychological violence, sexual violence, forced marriage or abduction. Mina experienced three of those conditions. “Mina is still hurting,” said the front-line worker. “She is confused, but she is standing firm in her faith and has not recanted her faith in Jesus.” The front-line worker urged Christians to pray for her.

April 3, 2025 | Togo

**Pastors Targeted by
Islamists**

Several pastors in the north of Togo have been persecuted by Islamists, who sometimes cross over from neighboring countries to attack Christians. In April 2024, Islamists attacked a village where Pastor Gbendja Félidja was serving, killing five people. He fled at that time, but he returned during the summer. On Feb. 7, 2025, armed militants came to his house and shot and stabbed him to death. He left behind seven married adult children. In the same region of Togo, Pastor Patrice Kokouvi continues to minister despite ongoing threats for sharing the gospel with Muslims. For the past three years, villagers have continuously destroyed his crops, limiting his income and source of food. When asked if he had reported the destruction to the police, he said, “If I go to the court system, perhaps they [the villagers] will never want to know Jesus.” For their safety, Patrice has moved his family to the outskirts of the village.





EPCConnection

EPCConnection is the news and information service of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church, a denomination of Presbyterian, Reformed, Evangelical, and Missional congregations. To the glory of God, the EPC family aspires to be a global movement of congregations engaged together in God's mission through transformation, multiplication, and effective biblical leadership, embodying Jesus' love to our neighbors near and far.



To subscribe go to:
<https://epconnection.org>

Everyone is Welcome!

Sunday morning Worship

9:15 - 9:30 Prayer and Share
9:40 - 10:20 Berean Sunday School
10:30 - Traditional worship (Hymnals/piano)
Communion First Sunday of the month
Dish-to-Pass Luncheon 2nd Sunday of the month after church



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The Steeple Newsletter

is published monthly by the Leicester Evangelical Presbyterian Church, for the purpose of proclaiming that Jesus is Lord and that He is moving among his people here. Our intent is to keep the readers informed of church and local events, and provide information to stimulate and edify its readers.

For those who would like a printed version of the church newsletters, we keep the last 2 months' issues in the brochure rack, on the wall to your right, as you exit the sanctuary to Fellowship Hall.

Submission Deadline: The 3rd Sunday of the month.

Contact:

Sharon Richardson
srichardson002@rochester.rr.com
Leo Richardson
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Staying Connected: If anyone does not receive the Steeple Newsletter, participate in Prayer Chain Activations, receive church updates by e-mail, or has a change for the "Birthdays and Anniversaries" and wants to be included, please contact Leo Richardson.

Our Mission

The EPC exists to carry out the Great Commission of Jesus as a denomination of Presbyterian, Reformed, Evangelical, and Missional congregations.

Our Vision

To the glory of God, the EPC family aspires to embody and proclaim Jesus' love as a global movement of congregations engaged together in God's mission through transformation, multiplication, and effective biblical leadership.