



CULTIVATING HOPE AROUND THE WORLD

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Our MISSION



At The Manna Project, our ultimate goal is to reach the world with the gospel of Christ. We strive to accomplish this by training men to preach and equipping them with agricultural and vocational training. Once trained, they return to their villages to preach, being able to support themselves. We believe that preachers around the world need to be equipped with the ability to provide healthy food, shelter, good water, and education for their families.



It's hard to preach to the people when the money has ran out. Our desire is to help develop skills in our brethren so that they may provide for themselves, their families, and congregations. In many instances, these brethren are able to produce enough food and income to also benefit those in the community as well.

So often individual preachers and congregations are supported by brethren from the United States. Many well meaning congregations and Christians help to create a system that promotes pastoral leadership and is not self-sustaining.

At The Manna Project our funding goes to provide the facilities and training, **not** the students or local ministers. These men learn to rely upon the Lord, themselves, and **not** American supporters or benefactors. These men can continue to preach regardless of the state of the Church in America. We give these brethren the knowledge to preach and the skills to work!

Our HISTORY



2010 Gage traveled to Nepal to teach a course at the Nepal School of Biblical Studies. Gage began in Nepal to teach classes on agriculture to help the brethren. After talking with many Nepali preachers and their need to support themselves, the idea of The Manna Project was born.



2011 Gage began the research farm at Vidor, Texas to help pioneer ways to train brethren overseas to be self-sufficient through agriculture. The elders at the Vidor congregation took on oversight of the work.



2012-2013 Gage traveled to Cameroon, Haiti, and Tanzania to help train preachers in agricultural education. He was able to help many brethren and several other brotherhood works in the process. The Andrew Connally school in Arusha and Chimala benefited from the work that Gage was doing.



2014-2015 Gregg Knight was hired on full time to to teach and help oversee the work in Haiti. Much was done there to teach brethren hydroponics and other needed skills in agriculture production. The start of construction on the school building in Uganda was also begun.



2016 The Rwenzori School of Preacher opened in Uganda. This school continues to train students how to preach the Gospel in a traditional school setting. They also have a school farm that students maintain to gain the necessary experience in working to support themselves in their ministry.



2017 The Modelle School of Preaching was established to teach the brethren in Cameroon. This school would spend the next 5 years training men to preach and work in their local communities. Unfortunately, do to civil unrest and lack of adequate reporting this school was closed as of December 31, 2022. We continue to pray for these brethren and look forward to a time when the school may be reopened.



2018-2019 The Talawanda School of Preaching was started in Tanzania. This school continues to train men to preach and teach the Gospel of Christ, as well as, work the fields to produce food and income for their families and congregations. Maurice Gasper is the director and does great work in this capacity. During this time, Gage and his family lived full-time in Chimala helping develop a mission farm program.



2020-2021 Justin Hopkins was brought onboard to be our Director of Academics and oversee the school's curriculum. Gage moved to Oklahoma to work with the Wewoka congregation whose elders now oversee the work. The pandemic made travel problematic, but the work continued nonetheless.

2022-2023 Josh Robinson was hired full time to be the Director of Communications and Jon McCormack was also brought on to be a full time staff writer and curriculum creator. Trips began again to Nepal and Africa. New works and the Manna Project Resource Center: Jhapa were established in Nepal. Other works in Central America are also under serious consideration.

OUR BELIEFS

The Inspiration of Scripture

We believe in and teach the verbal, plenary inspiration of the Scriptures. It is our conviction that the entire Bible is God breathed (2 Tim. 3:16, 1 Cor. 2:13; Eph. 3:3-4; 1 Cor. 14:37, 2 Pet. 1:3; cf. Gal. 1:8,9; Rev. 22:18,19).

The Distinctive Nature of the Church

The church was built by Christ (Matt. 16:16-18), was purchased with His blood (Acts 20:28), and is that which He will save (Eph. 5:23-25). The New Testament teaches that the church is the singular body of Christ (Eph. 1:23; Col. 1:18), and that Christ is the head of that body with all authority (Eph 1:22, John 12:48).

The Worship of the Church

Our worship must be according to the word of God. The church is only authorized to use congregational singing without the use of mechanical instruments (Col. 3:16; Eph. 5:19). Having a choir replace the congregational singing is not authorized in the Scriptures. In addition, the New Testament teaches that men are to assume the leadership roles in the assembly (1 Tim. 2:8-15; 1 Cor. 14:34-35). We are to also partake of the Lords supper every Sunday (Matt. 26:26-29; Acts 20:7). We are only authorized to partake of the Lords supper in the same manner as Jesus did, which was instituted during the Passover (Matt. 26:17-18). We also are commanded to have prayers offered by faithful men during our worship to God (1 Tim. 2:8). We are commanded to give of our means every Sunday (1 Cor. 16:1-2) as a free will offering. It is also commanded that we have preaching every Sunday during our worship (Acts 20:7, 2 Tim. 4:2). Worship is to be conducted in a decent and orderly manner (1 Cor 14:33).

Fellowship

John instructed in 1 John 1:3-7 that we can only have fellowship with those who have fellowship with God. Those who have fellowship with God are those who are “walking in the light” (1 John 1:7). Thus, it is impossible for us to have unity with, or to offer fellowship to those who do not “obey His commandments” (1 Jn. 2:4, Eph. 5:8-17). We will not fellowship those who do not abide in all the teachings of Christ (2 John 9-11).

Marriage, Divorce, and Remarriage

The Bible teaches the following truths on this subject. If one marries another, while the first mate lives, he/she is guilty of adultery (Rom. 7:1ff). Fornication is the only exception Jesus offers to the above situations. If one's mate is sexually unfaithful, the innocent party has the right to divorce his/her mate and marry another (Matt. 19:9). We do not teach that the guilty party has the right to remarry. He (or she) forfeited their right when they were unfaithful. The so-called “Pauline privilege” of 1 Cor. 7:11-15 is not an additional reason to remarry. Paul is allowing one to leave his or her mate under an extreme circumstance, but does not provide an additional reason for remarriage.



OUR BELIEFS

Salvation, Grace, Works

The grounds for man's salvation is the blood of Christ, and God's grace is manifested by what He did for our salvation (Eph. 2:8-9). Therefore, it is God who determines to whom He extends His grace. He is not going to give His gift of grace to one who disregards His commands in the Gospel, or one who continues in sin (Rom. 6:1-2). God has given man His grace when he came to God through faith and obedience. Therefore, the acts of obedience that we do are not to merit or earn our salvation. Our works are done in order to demonstrate our faith and love (Jas. 2:14-26, John 14:15).



Baptism

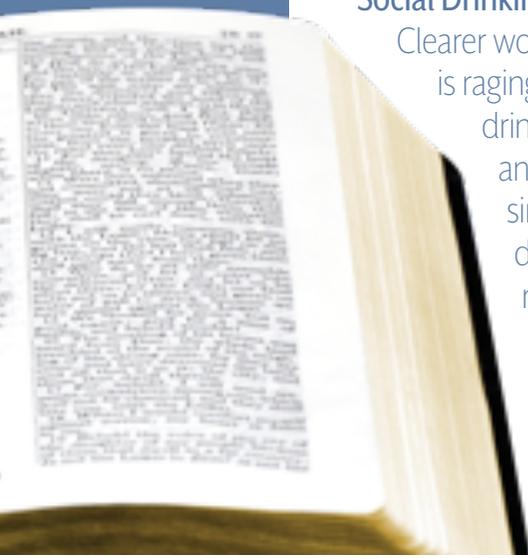
The Scriptures teach that one receives forgiveness of sins when he is baptized (Acts 2:38; 22:16). There is no other point in one's initial obedience where he/she receives forgiveness. Therefore, it is absolutely essential that one be baptized (immersed) to be saved. Otherwise his/her sins will not be forgiven. The Bible clearly teaches in Acts 8:12 that we must understand the authority (name) of Jesus and understand the essential nature of the Church (the kingdom) prior to baptism. While there are clearly other Biblical steps necessary (hear-Rom. 10:17; believe-Jn. 8:24; repent-Acts 2:38; confess-Rom. 10:9-10), it is when one emerges from the waters of baptism that he is united with Christ (Rom. 6:3-4; Gal 3:27), he is then added to the Lord's church (Acts 2:47)

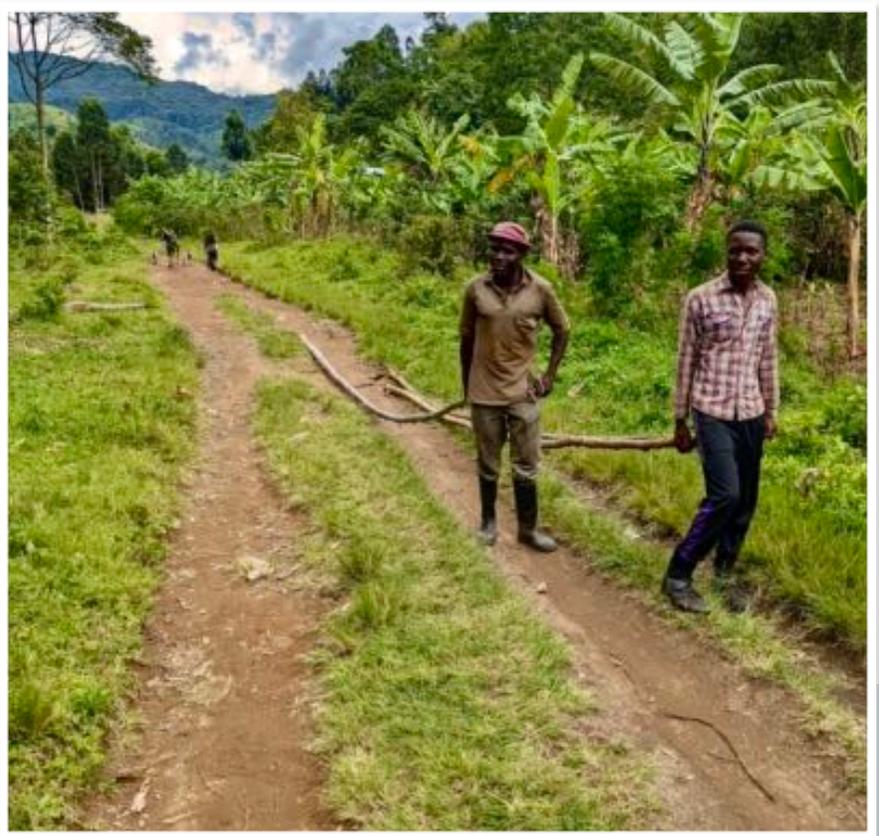
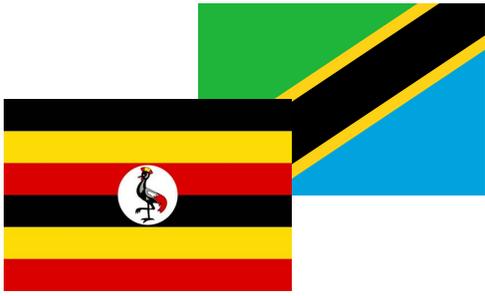
The Holy Spirit

The Bible clearly teaches that during the first century the Holy Spirit was very active in the lives of the Apostles and many of the Christians. The gift of the Holy Spirit was only able to be transferred to an individual by an apostle "laying hands" on them (Acts 8:18). Upon the death of the last of the Apostles, the gift was no longer able to be given. The Holy Spirit was for the main purpose of bringing comfort (John 14:16) and revealing truth (John 16:13). When truth had been revealed in its complete/perfect state then there was no more need for the Holy Spirit to be given (1 Cor. 13:10; Eph. 4:13). Today we are able to enjoy the completed product of the Holy Spirit every time we open our Bibles and read.

Social Drinking

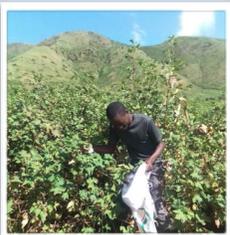
Clearer words cannot be spoken than those of Proverbs 20:1 "Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging: and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise." Many have tried to justify drinking without getting drunk using such scriptures as John 2 and Ephesians 5:18 and other New Testament verses. These attempts put our Savior in the position of sinning because Habakkuk 2:15 says that a Jew wasn't to give his neighbor strong drink to drink. If Jesus turned water to alcoholic wine then he not only gave his neighbor strong drink, but an entire wedding party! Furthermore, God is a consistent God. If alcohol caused mockery, rage, deception, and one to be a fool under the Old Testament, the principle still applies under the New Testament. Proverbs 23:31 says to not "look upon it when it is red, when it turns itself aright in the cup." If we can't look at it, how can we drink it?





AFRICA

The Manna Project has been working in Africa since 2012. We have established schools in three countries and maintain schools in Tanzania and Uganda. We have also partnered with brethren at Chimala, Arusha, and other works throughout the years. We love to help brethren be self-sufficient!

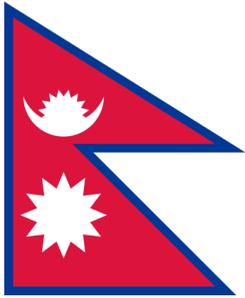


Rwenzori School of Preaching

RSOP-Our school in Uganda has been in operation since 2016 and does great work. Located in the mountains of Southern Uganda, it is perfectly located to serve the nation, as well as The D.R. Congo. As a traditional preaching school, we can house and train 20 brethren at a time. Classes run on a normal academic calendar and last 7 hours each day. In addition to standard Biblical curriculum, students spend 2 hours each day working the school farm. Students engage in weekly evangelistic efforts. In Uganda we have over 8 acres of ground that the school manages. RSOP has fields and gardens with crops such as vanilla, bananas, lemons, corn, cotton, and others. They also raise goats, chickens, ducks, and rabbits.

Talawanda School of Preaching

TWSOP-Our school in Tanzania has been in operation since 2018 and sets the example for what sustainable ministry training is. Talawanda is on the coastal plains of Tanzania, in an area that is dominated by Muslims and tribal religions. As a traditional preaching school, we can house and train 20 brethren and their families at a time. Talawanda uses the same curriculum and schedule as RSOP. They also evangelize locally. In Tanzania we have over 20 acres of ground that the school manages. They do gardens with crops such as peanuts, watermelons, cassava, corn, and others. They also raise goats, chickens, and rabbits. In addition to traditional livestock, they also have two aquaculture ponds for tilapia and catfish.



NEPAL



The Manna Project has been working in Nepal since 2010. We have a Resource Center, monthly seminars, and a curriculum plan. In 2015 we worked tirelessly for months to help the nation recover from the earthquake. Since then we continue to devote time and resources to this great nation.



Resource Center: Jhapa

In 2022 property was donated in Jhapa (SE Nepal), near the Indian border. This land and building were converted into a demo farm, Resource Center, and housing. The great location of this Center will allow us to train a multi-national group of students. On the farm we have developed several types of crops for comparison demonstrations. At the center we teach short courses year round. These classes range in duration from 1-4 weeks and cover a variety of topics. Many topics are Biblical in nature and designed to help both preachers and brethren. The vocational classes deal with things like agriculture principals, auto repair, and domestic production. All this so brethren can be self-sufficient in their work.

Congregational Education

For many years we have sponsored monthly seminars to promote growth with local ministers. We also work with World Video Bible School to provide a digital and mobile preaching school in a box. This is well received as many in remote villages can utilize this type of education. We also developed a 12 month curriculum to promote church growth, leadership and evangelism. Each month the local preachers or men can present pre-made lessons on elderships, deacons, leadership development, or evangelism. We have also worked with the House2House School of Evangelism to translate the "Back to the Bible" study series into Nepali for our brethren to use in converting their neighbors.

Our Approach to **EDUCATION**



Preaching Schools

We have a strong desire to teach men to preach the Gospel of Christ. Our schools are setup like traditional schools. These programs require two full years and cover a multitude of Bible and related subjects. Additionally, we have classes for all brethren so that they may grow in the faith (only men can graduate with a preaching certificate). Our schools are overseen by local directors who are sound in the faith. We also have a Director of Academics and staff writer to provide oversight and sound teaching material.



Resource Centers

In 2023 we started our first Resource Center in Nepal. These Centers differ from standard preaching schools in that only short courses are offered. These classes last 1-4 weeks and cover many subjects from the Bible to vocational material. Here we provide housing, classroom instruction and hands-on teaching. It is our goal to use these Centers as a means to train brethren to provide for themselves, make them strong in the faith, and help them reach others. We are currently developing plans for additional Resource Centers.



Curriculum, Material & Seminar Development

At the Manna Project, sound doctrine is at the heart of what we do. We have developed preaching school, vocational, and evangelistic material to aid our brethren in growth and development. We have created a series of correspondence courses to reach the Muslim community. Over 600 Islamic followers have been converted, many to become preachers. We have also translated the “Back to the Bible” series into Nepali. We also work with World Video Bible School to provide digital preaching material via wireless technology.

Our Approach to **VOCATIONAL TRAINING**



Agricultural Training

Since our beginning we have trained brethren overseas in the use of agriculture to produce food and income. We use traditional row/garden plotting to teach many growing techniques for native plants. When we develop these farms, we test the soil and use local seed when possible. We instruct on how to raise animals properly for food production. Something else we do when possible is introduce hydro/aquaponics for raising plants and fish for consumption and sale. These practices allow our brethren to provide for themselves.



Vocational Training

In addition to our agriculture training programs we teach many other vocational skills. Through conversations and investigation we see what skills are needed in what areas and seek to provide those. These trades are as relevant as possible to their culture, location, and economic situation. We plan to provide other vocational training such as: welding, construction and carpentry, sewing and tailoring, auto repair, and computer technology. We want to be as effective as possible in helping our brethren be self-supporting.



We Teach Them To Fish

Our goal with our agriculture and vocational training is to help ministers and members alike to become just like the Apostle Paul. Paul was a tent making preacher (Acts 18:3). He supported himself, those like Timothy who traveled with him, and many others (Acts 20:33-35). He truly understood the adage, “if you give a man a fish he will eat for a day, if you teach a man to fish he will eat for a lifetime.”

*The Manna Project is overseen by the
eldership of the Wewoka church of Christ*



Gage Coldwater

Director/Founder

Gage is the minister for the Wewoka church of Christ in Oklahoma. He is a graduate of the Memphis School of Preaching and has been involved in agriculture from an early age. Gage has traveled the world to help brethren in other nations. Sustainable mission work is his passion. He is married to Kelly and they have two children: Aurora and Pike.



Justin Hopkins

Director of Academics

Justin is the minister of the Itasca church of Christ in Texas and is a graduate of the Southwest School of Biblical Studies. He has a background in academia and is a prolific scholar of God's Word. Justin has served as an evangelist and loves souls. He is married to Leah and they have three sons: JD, Josiah, and Jonathan.



Josh Robinson

Director of Communications

Josh is a Deacon at the Arnold church of Christ in Missouri. He is a graduate of the Memphis School of Preaching. Josh spent many years in full-time ministry and has organized numerous mission works and has a background in agriculture. Josh is also experienced in video and media production. He is married to Laura Beth and they have two children: Katie and Ridge.



Gregg Knight

Eastern African Coordinator

Gregg is the minister at the Central church of Christ in Denison, TX. He is a graduate of the Brown Trail School of Preaching. Gregg has been preaching and teaching with The Manna Project since 2014. He has a deep love for people, gardening, and all things agriculture. He is married to Karen and they have two children: Landon and Megan.



Jon McCormack

Staff Writer/Curriculum

Jon is the minister for the Cass County church of Christ in Texas and is a graduate of the Southwest School of Biblical Studies. He has served over 20 years in local ministry. Jon conducts a weekly radio program and has served as an instructor at the Texas School of Preaching. He is married to Holly and they have three children: Lucy, Emma, and Noah.



Please Reach Out For Information Or To Donate!

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