

2013 Report of the Teachers Service Team

Prepared by Dr. G. Steve Kinnard, New York. January 21, 2014.

Team Meetings

A. First Meeting. The Teachers Service Team met three times in 2013. The first meeting was in March in Los Angeles. The following lists many of the ideas discussed at that meeting.

Ed Anton gave a report on his teaching ministry from the American Commonwealth Region (ACR). Ed has a team of teachers who are educating prospective ministry leaders in their Ministry Training Academy (MTA).

Ed also shared about his congregational teaching ministry. Ed and his team have prepared various resources that can be used both online and in classes to help mature the members of the church. These resources help ground members in the Bible. Ed has noticed a rise in the retention rate of their church since members have been using the material. The material can be found at <http://www.cwacademy.net/>.

Steve Staten presented material on conflict resolution. Steve shared concepts and theories that he has learned in his program at Lipscomb University.

Douglas Jacoby presented a brief history of the International Teachers Seminar (ITS) and the Biblical Study Tour (BTS). In 2013, Douglas revived the ITS with a trip to Greece and Turkey. The tour included a visit of Athens, Ephesus, Laodicea, and Colossae.

Kay McKean shared thoughts about the women's teaching ministry. Kay shared about how she had arrived at the role of teacher in her own life. Her goal as a Bible teacher is to promote Bible literacy and love of the Word.

Kay went on to give us a vision of how the women's teaching ministry can be enhanced. A study of 50 US churches reveals that 56% of the church members are women and 46% Women's ministry staff. That's pretty good. However, we don't have a developed "teacher" role for women.

Kay encouraged the teachers to:

(1) TAKE. Take input from the women in your ministries about the needs of the women. (2) GIVE. Give opportunities for women to teach. This requires planning (facilities, etc) and creativity. (3) GUIDE. Kay said, "We need your help. We need help finding the way to develop women's teaching ministry." (4) PLEASE. Present a paper by the Teachers' Service Committee on the need for women to teach at the congregational and ministry leadership levels. Help us, motivate us to find our place here. Sponsor women to become teachers.

Valdur Koha asked us to reconsider the topic of marriage, divorce, and remarriage. The teachers wrote a paper on this topic back in 2001. We discussed the need to update that paper.

There are three areas that ought to be considered in this paper. 1. What do we teach? What does the Bible say on this topic? We should be careful that we don't teach with an eye on counseling people. We should teach exactly what the Bible says and that's it. 2. What do we counsel? This is outside the biblical imperative, but an important area to consider. 3. What should our church policy be? People leave one of our churches and go to another church that teaches something different. What do we do when this happens?

Valdur Koha presented material about teaching development on a congregational level. In Boston there has been a focus to develop teachers on the congregational level for many years. Fred Faller spearheaded this effort in Boston.

What are the given assumptions: We need a conviction that teaching isn't just for fulltime staff people. Also, teaching and preaching are different. We need the leadership group of the local ministry to see the importance of this ministry.

Steve Kinnard presented material on developing teachers on a multi-congregational, international, and staff-training level. Steve is targeting teachers who can be trained to teach in MTAs on a regional level. He has focused on four regions: Africa, West Africa (English), French Africa, and the Caribbean. He asked the regional leaders of these areas to suggest teachers to be trained. At present there are 25 people being trained. Dr. Kinnard uses Web-Ex conferencing to dialogue with these prospective teachers.

Steve Staten asked, "How do we tell our story?" Steve thought about his own personal narrative in relation to the history of our movement. He asked all of us to explore our own narrative. Some might want to write their narrative for others to consider.

Gordon Ferguson presented a closing lesson on Paul. Gordon shared about Paul the teacher (1 Tim. 2:7; 2 Tim. 1:11). Like Paul, a teacher needs to be a multi-faceted person.

B. Second Meeting. Many of the teachers had time together in Brooklyn in September. We attended the International Leadership Conference. Although we did not a formal service team meeting at this conference, we were able to meet together and work on projects covered by our service team. Also, we were able to have great fellowship and exchange ideas about the teaching ministry.

C. Third Meeting. In October, eight of the fourteen members of the service team went on the International Teachers Seminar to Greece and Turkey. Douglas Jacoby did a phenomenal job leading this exciting event. Over 90 people attended the event, many who wish to become teachers. During the tour, we were able to take time to study the archaeology, geography, and textual material surrounding

several biblical sites. There also was time to exchange ideas about the teaching ministry.

D. 2014. In 2014, the Teachers Service Team will meet in Miami in March for a combined meeting with the evangelists and elders teams. Many of us will attend the International Leadership in Singapore in August. The team will meet before that seminar. We may also plan to meet one other time in 2014, although the date and location of that meeting has not been set.

Action Items for 2014

The Teachers Service Team has been asked to consider doing research and papers on the following topics:

1. Marriage, Divorce, and Remarriage
2. What does Paul mean by “believing” children?
3. The Poor and the Bible
4. How to settle disputes?
5. What is a creed?
6. Our hermeneutics
7. Present a paper from the Teachers’ Service Committee on the need for women to teach at the congregational and ministry leadership levels. Also, we were asked to sponsor women to become teachers.

In addition to these papers, we would like to:

1. Add another woman teacher to our group.
2. Add more international teachers to our group.
3. Develop an International Teachers Directory.
4. Develop a web site for the International Teaching Ministry.

Teachers Service Team Members

Steve Kinnard (chair), New York

Gordon Ferguson, Los Angeles

Edward J. Anton, Virginia Beach

Debra Anton, Virginia Beach
Kay McKean, Northern Virginia
Steve Brown, Atlanta
Steve Staten, Chicago
Valdur Koha, Boston
Fred Faller, Boston
Joey Harris, Macon, Georgia
Glenn Giles, Denver
Arturo Elizarraras, Mexico City
Rolan Monje, Manila
Douglas Jacoby, Atlanta
Reese Neyland, Los Angeles

Teachers Service Team Subcommittees

Teacher Development

Valdur Koha, chair
Steve Kinnard
Joey Harris
Gordon Ferguson
Rolan Monje
Reese Neyland

Congregational Teaching

Ed Anton, chair
Fred Faller
Douglas Jacoby
Joey Harris

Technology

Arturo Elizarraras, chair
Joey Harris

Accreditation

Glenn Giles, chair
Steve Kinnard

Disputable Matters and Hermeneutics

Steve Staten, chair

Douglas Jacoby

Joey Harris

Kay McKean

Women's Teaching Ministry

Kay McKean

Deb Anton

Biblical Response to Poverty

Steve Kinnard, chair

Steve Brown

Douglas Jacoby

International Teachers Seminar

Douglas Jacoby, chair

Steve Kinnard

Divorce and Remarriage, an examination

Valdur Koha, chair

Steve Kinnard