



Bringing
*learning &
ministry*
TOGETHER



What is Your *Vision*?

by Timothy Stoltzfus

“What is your vision as a leader?”

It was a typical sultry morning in Thailand, and my question rose above the busy hum of fans inside the IGo classroom. From the back row where he sat beside his wife, Ajay raised his hand in reply and answered, “God has given me the vision to start 500 churches in Nepal.”

From the back row on the other side, Savit raised his hand and in his beautiful, heavily accented English said, “I want to start 100 churches in Nepal.”

Prakas looked at me, his eyes filled with compassion and his mouth cratered by his trademark infectious smile. He spoke only broken English, but I strained and caught his words. “I want to help young people who are addicted to tobacco, drugs, and alcohol. Many wish to commit suicide and I want to take the gospel of Jesus to them.”

Isaac rose to his feet and without reservation gave his passionate answer, “My vision is to complete my

engineering degree and get a professional job so that I can support the work of our local mission. Things have changed in India, and it is very difficult for foreign ministries to send aid into our country. I want to earn a good income so that my people can support our own mission outreach and not be dependent on outside sources.”

Bhanu looked at me with unusual fervor and warmth splashed across his face. He was from India and worked with a local mission organization that targets rural villages where there are no known Christians and where Christ has never been preached. Gifted with IT knowledge, Bhanu’s vision is to produce high quality videos and photography to use in evangelization.

Kyaw gazed intently, his keen dark eyes reflecting the longings of his soul. Kyaw was from war-torn Myanmar, where he and his wife operate a small school for underprivileged and at-risk children. His

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vision is to provide a good education and introduce his students to Jesus.

I looked across the group of thirteen men and four women sitting in my classroom. It was Asian Bible School (ABS) at IGo and the earnest faces of these believers from Nepal, India, Myanmar, and Cambodia were turned toward me. These committed followers of Christ were from countries where few Christians lived and where many suffer for their faith. I looked into their intent eyes and was humbled. Many of these men were pastors—combined they were giving leadership to 150, maybe 200 churches. What could I teach them? They should be the ones teaching me.

During the three weeks we spent together, I learned to love each of these students. Many have become dear friends. They taught me how to make delicious, authentic Indian chai tea. The ladies came into our home and taught my wife and daughters how to cook Indian biryani and Nepali dal bhat. Together, we shared stories, sang songs, studied the Bible, and prayed for the unreached peoples in their lands for whom they have a deep burden to introduce to Christ. When the time came to say goodbye, we shed tears.

This year's Asian Bible School was the 12th for IGo. The vision of Asian Bible School is to serve the church in Asia by training and equipping their own people. Many false doctrines threaten the church throughout Asia, and IGo's vision is to provide sound biblical

teaching which will help believers build discernment and a foundation for faithful ministry.

We offered three classes this year—1 Corinthians, Kingdom Theology, and Biblical Leadership. On the last day, we sat in a circle in chapel, and students, teachers, and staff all shared what they learned from our three weeks together. The pastors were grateful for the rich, biblical teaching they had received and intended to share what they had learned with their congregations and other pastors. God's presence was real—He had blessed Asian Bible School and now these students were going back to the hard, unreached places of Asia.

Isaac went back to his university class, where there is only one other Christian among 800 students.

Anika went back to work amid the slums of Hyderabad, India. She is a pastor's wife who turned from Hindu gods to serve the living God. She has a deep burden to share Jesus with Indian women who are trapped in idol worship. With tear-filled eyes, she said, "Many of these women are desperate and lonely. They feel that no one cares, no one loves them." She is making a difference among the outcasts, the Untouchables, of India.

Mary also went back to a university classroom, where she will work towards a degree allowing her to work in rural, impoverished Indian villages where she wants to share the love of Jesus. Mary was desperately praying to hear from God at IGo. On one of the last days

ABS
2023



of class, God spoke to her directly through a verse in the book of Esther. With a radiant face, she expressed her joy and praise to God for answering her prayer.

What am I going back to? The answer lies in how I answer the question I posed to my class that morning: What is my vision? This question should echo in each of our minds. Vision has tremendous power—power to wholly possess me so that my actions are dictated

by its grip. Power to determine what I “go back to.” These dear students have clasped my hand and led me toward deeper, more passionate love for God—and toward greater obedience in taking Jesus to the nations still waiting.

Names of Asian Bible School students have been changed to protect their identity.

Transitions at IGo

It is with much appreciation and sadness that we say goodbye to **Rod and Janelle Musser**. Rod and Janelle joined IGo in the fall of 2015 and have both served unselfishly in their roles as Administrative Assistant and Secretary. Rod planned all the ministry trips and kept the building functioning, while Janelle kept things running smoothly in the office. Both worked with preciseness, accuracy, and dependability. There were many jobs behind the scenes that were completed by Rod and Janelle, to which we extend sincere appreciation. We are grateful that their next position will keep them around Chiang Mai, and we look forward to ongoing interaction. They will be under IGo working with Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) and Rod will serve as the Southeast Asia Representative for Christian Aid Ministries. IGo gives heartfelt appreciation to Rod and Janelle for all their work—for the students they have impacted and the difference they have made in many lives. We wish them God’s best in their endeavors ahead.

Alex & Victoria Coblentz moved to Thailand in August 2023 from Bay Tree, Alberta. Alex is transitioning into the Administrative Assistant position here at IGo where he will plan student ministry trips and oversee building maintenance. Alex previously served at Bald Eagle Wilderness Boys Camp in Mill Hall, PA, and has a great heart to disciple young people and to be active in global missions. We are excited for the enthusiasm, energy, and giftings which Alex and Victoria bring to the work of IGo. We give them a warm welcome and are so happy that they answered the call to fill this need and join the IGo team.

Julianna Stoltzfus moved from Watsonstown, PA, with her family to Thailand in 2021. Julianna is transitioning into the IGo Secretary position where she will take care of day-to-day office operations here at IGo. Previously, Julianna was employed as a photographer and graphic designer for several nonprofit ministries. We gratefully welcome Julianna and are excited for the gifts and creativity that she brings to our team. We know that God will use her life and skills to advance the work of IGo and to bless others.



Rod & Janelle Musser



Alex & Victoria Coblentz



Julianna Stoltzfus



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OUR MISSION

The purpose of IGo is to provide students with a cross-cultural setting in which mission work, Biblical teaching and personal discipleship can take place simultaneously.

We believe that it is more beneficial to be training missionaries overseas rather than in the affluent Western setting. IGo provides students with opportunities to travel and minister in Asia, with regular returns to the classroom for teaching and mentoring by instructors. The focus is not solely theoretical; instead it addresses the everyday issues a student experiences in ministry.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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