



Bringing
*learning &
ministry*
TOGETHER



And the *Word of God Increased*

by Michael Yoder, IGo Assistant Administrator

In my studying for the class the Acts of the Apostles, or perhaps more aptly worded, the Acts of Jesus and the Spirit, there has been a concept that has surfaced numerous times and caught my attention. Luke presents the Word of God as increasing (6:7), growing/multiplying (12:24), and prevailing (19:20). Alongside Peter, Paul, Barnabas, and others, we see God's Word alive, as another character, if you will, in the plot of the church's nativity.

God's Word is just as animated and potent today as it was in the infancy of the church. I have had to ask myself what the implications are of taking this view of God's Word. How does it affect my view of missions? How does it influence what I teach? Below are a few ideas:

It crystallizes my objectives

Here at IGo one of our goals is to provide Biblical training for young people who have an interest in missions. In the process of preparing lesson plans, developing objectives is always a good first step. But at the end of the day, what do I want these students to learn? How do I wade through the myriad of material that can easily overwhelm me? I find comfort in returning to the foundational truths of Scripture that provide the moorings I need.

It frees me from qualifying it

"The seed is the Word of God" (Lu. 8:11b). As sowers of seed, a.k.a. Christians, we have been given the task of spreading this Word to the

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farthest reaches of the globe. We want fertile soil, but no matter how hard we try, we cannot control the “increase”—that is God’s business (1 Cor. 3:6). There is something very freeing about this fact, especially to those of us, like myself, who like to see fast results.

It gives me sobriety in presenting it

2 Cor. 4:2 says, “*But (we) have renounced the hidden things of dishonesty, not walking in craftiness, nor handling the Word of God deceitfully;*” Paul here seems to be referencing those teachers in Corinth who were in it for personal gain. There is a healthy sense of reverence and care that I must have in teaching God’s Word, as well as a recognition that at times my motives may be misaligned. Will I allow this truth to humble me and keep me malleable in my presentation of the Word to others?

It brings multiplication

Acts 6:7 says, “*And the Word of God increased; and the number of the disciples multiplied in Jerusalem greatly; and a great company of the priests were obedient to the faith.*” In this passage we see how the Living Word increases, and ultimately leads to more disciples. The Word brings Life into the world as it reaches its listeners. This method worked then, and I would suggest that it is a model for missions today.

“And the Word of God increased” is a phrase that captures well the desire of our hearts in serving with IGo. Whether it be through discipling young people, sharing with our lost Buddhist neighbors, or praying that God will ignite fires of reaching the lost in the hearts of our students, ultimately, we want His Word to increase. We deeply desire His Truth to prevail in this dark corner of the globe. Please pray for the team here that we can, by His grace, be faithful to the Word of God. May His Word increase!

IGo First Semester 2022-2023

Back Row: Tina Miller, Kara Weaver, Brianna Martin, Mariah Troyer, Shea Amstutz, Jasney Nolt, Anila Penner, Krista Eshleman, Rhoda Jonthala, Bethany Troyer

Front Row: Dallas Helmuth, Yousaf Gharu, Shawn Glick, Travis Nolt





*First
Semester
2022-2023*



Welcome, *Derek Martin*

Derek came to IGo in 2021 as a student and attended both semesters. Toward the completion of his second semester, he was asked if he would consider returning and serving in the role of men's dean. Derek consented and returned to Chiang Mai in August 2022. Derek is from Bowmansville, PA, and is a member of Martindale Mennonite Church. We appreciate Derek's heart to follow the Lord, his sensitive ear to the voice of his Master, and his heart to see others passionately live for God.



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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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