



ITEC
develop | train | equip

JANUARY 2020 NEWSLETTER

Equipping Others, Both Here and There

by Jaime Saint

Every January we are given new beginnings and an opportunity to take a fresh look at the upcoming year. This year even gives us a fresh start on a new decade. What a unique opportunity to reflect on the previous decade and look ahead to the next one at ITEC.

Over the past few years, we have continued to examine our mission and how it can best be communicated. This led us to update our logo and branding last year. We weren't changing who we are but making sure we effectively communicate why we exist.

Looking back, ITEC has invested a lot of energy and effort into training curriculum, developing tools, and conducting training around the world. While we continue to focus on 'developing' and 'training,' we are excited to explore how we might teach and train mission-minded people in the US how to conduct their own trainings. We believe this focus on equipping others will be beneficial, both to those interested in sustainable short-term trips and to the believers receiving the training. In the past, we have primarily communicated about new tools we developed or recaps of ITEC training trips. However, in the coming years, we are looking forward to walking in-step with you, exploring how training Christ-followers might be an option for you or your church.

As we explore this idea of training trainers domestically, it may be helpful to share how ITEC was started in the first place: My Dad, Steve, founded ITEC after listening to the Waodani's request to learn how to do the things missionaries were doing for them. The Waodani wanted to learn how to provide medical and dental care, as well as to fly airplanes. My Dad wondered why the Waodani would need to learn these things if they were already provided through local missionaries.

The Great Omission book was written after wrestling through some very difficult questions relating to this request. My Dad realized that on short-term trips, we westerners have often brought a 'fix-it mindset' to the field. In doing this, we have forgotten to teach, encourage, and even learn from the indigenous believers we are aiming to help. This unintentionally created cycles of dependency and even perpetuated ideas that missionaries, or cross-cultural workers, are required to fix something in order to participate in Christ's Great Commission.

ITEC was formed in response to the Waodani believers asking my Dad to train them with tools to meet the needs of their community as a door opener to share the Gospel. My Dad responded to this request, although

even he had doubts that this concept could work. How would westerners react to taking the back seat and partnering with indigenous believers? Could we possibly teach indigenous people how to do what we have been doing for them?

In spite of these concerns, the ITEC team has continued to work towards accomplishing this mission and we've struggled, triumphed, made mistakes, and experienced successes on this path. As we have pressed on, it has been encouraging to see churches in the US catching this vision and believers overseas rejoicing at the new opportunities they will have for evangelism in their communities.



Teaching sterilization in Western Africa.

It is a natural progression for us to begin looking more formally at training trainers in the US. By sharing what we have learned, we can allow God to increase and multiply as He sees fit, and for His glory. This makes our team excited to embark on a new year and new decade with the same mission, but with new opportunities and challenges. During this new season, ITEC will be exploring more ways to promote the challenge the Waodani brought to my Dad in the mid-'90s. Their challenge started ITEC, and is the same challenge we continue to work through: "What would it look like to go and train, rather than go and do?"

We would love for you to join us in wrestling with this question. We have some ideas on what this may look like and hope to share some of those ideas as the year continues. Another great way to join the conversation is by listening to our new podcast, Mission Minded. In this podcast, we invite you to engage in discussions with mission-minded individuals we have interviewed. They come from diverse backgrounds and work all over the world. They will help us move this discussion forward from their broad base of knowledge and experience.

If you are reading this newsletter, you are a part of the extended ITEC team. We are so thankful for your prayer and financial support. You are a huge encouragement to us as we continue the work the Lord has called us to do. Thank you and Happy New Decade.

Mission Minded Podcast is Underway!

Our first three episodes of the new Mission Minded podcast are live!

We have interviewed ITEC executive director, Jaime Saint, and ITEC founder, Steve Saint, in these intro episodes. These interviews help set the groundwork for what's to come in the series.

Over the course of the coming weeks, we will have many guests in studio, ranging from missionaries on the field to non-profit leaders. We are excited for you to hear from this diverse group of people that will inform and challenge all of us.

You can watch the episodes on YouTube or our website blog. You can also subscribe to the audio podcast through Apple Podcasts, Google Podcasts, Spotify, and Podbean.

Scan the code or visit <http://bit.ly/mmepisode1> to listen to the first episode of the podcast. From that page, you can watch, listen and subscribe to Mission Minded through your preferred podcast platform.



Haitians Serving Haitians

In the country of Haiti, there is no shortage of challenges. Alongside these challenges, there is also a great deal of aid and relief work taking place. While these efforts are well-intentioned, Haiti has become increasingly dependent on outsiders.

Pastor Marc outlines a new vision for his nation. What if Haitians helped Haitians? His vision for this beautiful country, filled with people made in the image of God, is to see believers reaching out to their own people. The primary goal is for God to work through them so many may know the name of Jesus as the only way. But, along the way, these believers can love their neighbors and tend to the physical needs all around them.

This is the vision of ITEC. We develop tools and training systems, train and equip indigenous Christ-followers, and equip others to do the same. God has equipped us all uniquely to play a part in the Great Commission. Some people, like Pastor Marc, are 'plowing' and 'planting' in Haiti. Others, like you and me, can ask what skills, talents, and resources God has given us that we can pass on.

While monetary support often comes to mind, maybe the call is for you to get involved in many ways. Are you a mission pastor, skilled professional, or a teacher that loves the Lord? Have you ever participated in a short-term relief trip? Have you considered training on a future trip? If you answered yes to any of these questions, maybe God is calling you to explore this idea with us. Let's look at partnering with our brothers and sisters in Christ abroad so a short-term trip can produce long-term opportunities for the Gospel to go out.

Scan the code or visit <http://bit.ly/itechaiti> to watch the new video.



Upcoming Trips

Please join us in praying for these trips.

- East Africa - Jan 2020
I-FARM
- East Africa- Feb 2020
I-DENT, I-FIX
- Western Africa- Feb 2020
I-FARM, I-FIX
- Europe - Feb 2020
Conference
- Southern Asia - March 2020
I-MED
- Western Africa- March 2020
I-FARM
- East Africa - May 2020
I-DENT
- Southeast Asia - June 2020
I-FIX, I-MED & Physical Therapy

PLANNING STAGE

- Europe - October 2020
Trauma Counseling, I-FILM
- East Africa - Summer 2020
I-FILM, I-FIX, I-SEE

Please Pray

As you read this newsletter, our farming team is facilitating their first training in East Africa!

Please join us in praying for Dave and Matt as they implement the curriculum and practical farming knowledge they have worked so hard on over the past year. Pray also for the students to be receptive and see the evangelistic opportunities these new skills may bring.

352.465.4545
INFO@ITECUSA.ORG

itecusa.org

10575 SW 147TH CIRCLE
DUNNELLON, FL 34432

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