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YOUTH WITH A MISSION

BELT INFORMATION PACKET

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The Vision of BELT

The vision of BELT is to see communities and people groups transformed by the Word of God through empowering community and church leaders who already have a sphere of influence in their society but have limited access to Biblical training.

We do this by partnering with mission organizations (prioritizing Wycliffe Bible Translators) and indigenous churches to develop leaders through culturally relevant Bible training that teaches them to apply the Scriptures to every area of life and equips them to teach and influence others.

Our multinational teaching teams desire to work alongside local leaders and pastors who have a hunger for further Biblical instruction and have a desire to teach others what they have learned. We believe that these leaders will be deeply challenged in their own Christian lives as they study the Scriptures together. They will also be encouraged to continue to study and grow in confidence in teaching others in their own churches and communities.

Additionally, we aim to develop our team members through leadership training and encourage the involvement of sending churches in missions.

Further Description of BELT

BELT teaching teams conduct a series of three intensive Bible seminars called the Transformation Series. The first Seminar, *Transformation of the Heart*, is a Biblical survey of God and the Gospel Message, which is foundational for personal transformation and leadership. The second seminar, *Transformation of Character*, explores various areas of Christian character (spiritual victory, stewardship, relationships, prayer) as well as principles of leadership. The last of the three seminars, *Transformation of Society*, investigates the application of Biblical principles into every sphere of society, including the family, church, civil government, business and education.

The Transformation Series seminars are each conducted over a two to three week period and have to date been run on six continents in over 35 nations including Papua New Guinea, Vanuatu, Fiji, Bangladesh, Nepal, India, China, Mongolia, Nicaragua, Mexico, Brazil, Azerbaijan, Kyrgyzstan, Albania, Kenya and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

The goals for all three courses are to:

- 1) Multiply leaders who know God and His ways and are able to teach others.
- 2) Develop in the participants the ability to reason from the Bible in all areas of life.
- 3) Build confidence in the participants in reading and teaching the vernacular scriptures.
- 4) Build unity between church denominations.

The BELT seminars are conducted by multinational teams working alongside the local church and national translators to make the teaching as culturally relevant as possible and to meet the felt needs of the people. If possible, the New Testament or whole Bible should be available in the language of the participants for use during the course. Translated course outlines are given to the participants for each session. Practical application of the material taught and outreach opportunities are fundamental aspects of the course.

Most of the BELT team members will have had at least one to two years of Bible training as well as previous field experience and cross-cultural training. The BELT Team members cover their own expenses for travel to and from the location of the seminar. The mission organization or churches in the host nation where the seminar is held are asked to provide for some of the team's onsite expenses such as accommodation and local food/meals. In addition, the host provides for the cost of the venue where the course will be held as well as for teaching materials used in the course, and arranges for accommodation of the students.

Prerequisites for an Effective BELT Seminar

In order for a BELT seminar to be most effective, we have found the following factors to be key:

Each participant should own his/her own copy of the vernacular or mother-tongue New Testament prior to attending the seminar.

An invitation to do a seminar should come primarily from national Christians.

A interdenominational coordination committee or team providing oversight to the organization of the seminar should be established rather than a single individual from one denomination.

A desire for discipleship and/or Christian growth must be present in the potential participants.

Participants should be leaders who are already in a position of influence and who can teach and influence others with the material they have learned. This could include pastors, community leaders, women and youth leaders as well as emerging leaders. Ideally, some of these Christian leaders will be able to continue the discipleship process following the BELT seminar. We encourage cross-denominational involvement.

Those attending the seminar should have the ability to read the Scriptures so that they can: a) be fully involved in the seminar themselves and b) be able to open up the Scriptures to others.

The BELT teams should work closely with an established long-term ministry such as YWAM, Wycliffe, local agency and/or local church which has good relationships with church and community leaders and has a good grasp of the local language and culture.

A core group of at least one or two BELT team members from the first seminar should be present for following seminars to maintain the relational connection and flow of the

seminars. As much as possible, subsequent seminars should be attended by previous participants for the strengthening of existing relationships, for reinforcement of previous course material, and for successive instruction built upon preceding seminars.

Description of How BELT Seminars are Conducted

Seminars can be customized for the specific people group. These are suggested formats that have worked in previous BELT seminars.

Length of the seminars - BELT seminars are usually held for two to three weeks. This can be flexible to fit a given location. Although the seminar can be conducted in a minimum of ten class days or two weeks, we have found the extra days to be very beneficial in allowing more time for application of the material as well as elective classes and community workshops. Usually the class days will include sessions in the morning as well as an afternoon session, but in some locations classes have been conducted in the late afternoon and evenings only.

Format of the seminar - Worship times are led by nationals, as desired. Teaching material is presented through examining the Scriptures as well as through discussion groups, storying and other interactive, creative means. Translated outlines are either given to the participants at each session or given as a booklet at the beginning of the seminar.

Logistics of the seminar – Logistics and facilities are arranged by the local coordination committee. Due to the full daily schedule, usually a lunch meal is served. Food could be purchased, donated by each participant or various villages which could then be cooked by volunteers or hired cooks. Depending on how far participants have traveled, overnight accommodations may need to be made as well.

Application of the seminar - Participants are given assignments on the weekend to share the things they have learned with a small group of people. On the final weekend of the seminar, an outreach will be conducted in the local area where participants will be encouraged to go out in mixed teams to the community and various churches.

Projected Plan and Expectations for Facilitating a BELT team

Eight to twelve months prior to having a BELT seminar:

- Make contact with BELT regarding interest in having a BELT team come.

- Designate a local coordination committee or team to organize the seminar logistics.

 - Designate someone on the team to be the communication link for the BELT team.

- Set tentative dates for a course in conjunction with the BELT team.

- Provide brief background information as a resource for the BELT team (status of literacy, Bible distribution, churches in the language group, etc.) A BELT cultural survey is available with these and further questions.

- Make arrangements for housing, meals, and local transportation for the BELT team and communicate the approximate costs to the BELT team. (The BELT team is willing to meet all of their own costs of travel to the location of the seminar and some of their living expenses. But where possible, the host should provide for housing, some local food and local transport of team for the duration of their stay.)

Decide on how the course will be funded. (Cost of renting course facilities, course materials, meals for participants, etc. is the responsibility of the inviting agency.)
Send appropriate information on entry visas to the BELT team and provide sponsorship for visas (invitation letters if needed).

Two to four months prior to a BELT seminar:

Arrange the venue to hold the BELT seminar.
Make arrangements for meals, housing, etc. for seminar participants.
Decide on any appropriate fees for participants to help meet the costs of putting on the seminar.
Select appropriate interpreters (at least two) for BELT seminar instructors.
Translate the BELT outlines into the vernacular for participants prior to the course.
Send out invitations or some form of communication to the potential participants to invite them to the BELT seminar, giving them a brief description of the seminar, the dates and expectations of attendance. (A BELT brochure is available for advertising purposes.)

On BELT team's arrival in the country or language group:

Arrange for the team to be met and settled into housing.
Provide an orientation for the team to the culture, spiritual dynamics, history and background information about the local church(es) in the area, as well as basic language assistance.
Consult with the BELT team regarding the curriculum, outlines, and logistics to make any necessary adjustments.
Purchase the course materials for the participants (folders, outline copies, pens/pencils, etc.) if not already procured.

During the BELT seminar:

Coordinate logistics for meals, announcements, worship, outreach, graduation, etc.
Provide interpreters (at least two) for course instructors. If necessary, the BELT team will pay the appropriate wages for their services.
Obtain feedback from participants about the seminar (pace, content, relevance, etc) and provide this information and recommendations to the BELT instructors.

After the BELT seminar:

Provide an oral evaluation of the seminar and its effectiveness to the BELT team which is helpful in the on-going development of these courses.
Discuss future seminars with the BELT team. Tentative dates could be suggested, with further communication to follow.
Write a brief report to help in documenting the seminar.

BELT Seminar Supply List For Hosts

The hosting agency is responsible to supply the following materials:

For classroom

1. 1 large blackboard or whiteboard
2. 1 box white chalk or whiteboard markers
3. Some colored chalk (if possible)
4. 1 packet of general purpose white paper (A4 or letter size, approx. 500 sheets)

For each participant

1. A folder to protect and hold teaching outlines and handouts. (A typical folder is one made of cardboard or plastic. Some folders have paper fasteners already inside or separate fasteners that can be inserted to hold paper.)
2. Translated teaching outlines (approximately 30 sheets of paper). The photocopied outlines should have holes punched in them ready to be placed in the folder.
3. (Optional) Pen or pencil, exercise book.

Appendix A. List of Topics for the Transformation Series (3 Levels)

TRANSFORMATION OF THE HEART **Planting the Seeds of God and the Gospel**

LIST OF TOPICS:

GOD & The GOSPEL MESSAGE

1. Pursuing the Truth
2. The Greatness of God
3. The Goodness of God
4. Building Friendship with God
5. The Value and Design of People
6. God's Law of Love
7. The Root of Sin
8. The Destructiveness of Sin
9. The Kindness of God in Salvation
10. Salvation from Sin

OUTREACH

- Focus skill: Bible Storying
- The Command of Missions

SAMPLE WORKSHOPS (Customized Electives)

- The Father Heart of God
- The Marks of a Christian
- The Trinity
- Satan and His Strategies
- Old & New Testament Overview
- Foundations for a Strong Marriage
- Successful Parenting

TRANSFORMATION OF CHARACTER **Growing in the Christian Life and Leadership**

LIST OF TOPICS:

BIBLE CHARACTER & LEADERSHIP STUDIES

1. The Head, Heart and Hands of a Leader
2. The Bible Action Overview
3. Creation: Foundations for Knowing God

4. The First Fathers: Abraham (Faith / Lordship)
5. The Wilderness: Moses (Humility)
6. The Promised Land: Deborah (Women in Leadership)
7. The Kingdom of Israel: David (Wholeheartedness, Sexual Purity)
8. Judah's Exile in Babylon: Daniel (Integrity)
9. Jesus the Messiah: Jesus (Servant Leadership, Mentoring)
10. The Early Church: Peter (Christian Unity, Restoring a Fallen Leader)
11. The Early Church: Paul (Missions, Multiplication)

OUTREACH

- Focus skill: Teaching Bible Character Studies or Textual Messages
- Evangelism
- Using Audio Bible recordings

SAMPLE WORKSHOPS (Customized Electives)

- How to Study and Interpret the Bible
- Breaking Sinful Habits
- The Principles of Giving
- Faith and Finances
- Evangelism
- Spiritual Gifts
- Youth Ministry
- Foundations for a Strong Marriage
- Successful Parenting

TRANSFORMATION OF SOCIETY **Extending God's Ways to the World**

LIST OF TOPICS:

Main Lessons

1. Discipling a Nation
2. The First Fathers: Genesis Foundations
3. Egypt & The Wilderness: God Establishes a Righteous Nation (Pharaoh vs. Moses)
4. Deuteronomy Study: God's Purpose for Each Area of a Righteous Society
5. The Promised Land: Declining Character in Israel (Anarchy)
6. The Kingdom of Israel: The Fall of the Nation of Israel (Tyranny)
7. Judah's Exile and Return: Rebuilding a Broken Nation (Ezra & Nehemiah)
8. Jesus the Messiah: The Kingdom of God Begins
9. The Early Church: The Apostles Extend God's Ways in the World
10. Missions: Exploring Ways to Transform Your Community

OUTREACH

- Practical Project on Transforming the Community
- Focus skill: Topical Messages

SAMPLE WORKSHOPS (Customized Electives)

- How we got the Bible
- Overview of Cults
- Biblical Stewardship & Community Development
- Ideas for Micro-Business
- Foundations of Christian Education
- Redeeming Cultural Music and Art
- Types of Biblical Prophecy
- Foundations for a Strong Marriage
- Successful Parenting

Appendix B. Sample Teaching Schedule

THE GREATNESS OF GOD **(What God is like in His Nature)**

Lesson Summary

An accurate and Biblical understanding of the greatness of the triune God (who is spirit, everlasting, and personal) and His infinite abilities (of power, knowledge and presence) should not only inspire great wonder and humility in us, but also reverence for God as the Creator and Ruler of all things.

Key Bible Stories

- **God creates the world.** Gen 1:1-31
- **The crossing of the Red Sea.** Exodus 14:1-31
- **Jesus raises Lazarus from the dead.** John 11:1-48

A. God is exceedingly great

- We see God's greatness and goodness as He creates the earth as a home for people. Genesis 1:1-31
- The vastness of the universe shows that God is far greater than any person, ruler, nation or "god". Psalm 19:1-2; 33:6-9; Romans 1:20; Isaiah 40:12-31
- God is the only living God. It is foolish to worship man-made idols. Isaiah 44:6-24; 1 Kings 18:1-46

B. God's greatness (or nature) can be described further in the following ways:

1. **God is infinite** (unmeasurable) in His:
 - **Power:** God uses his power for creation (Genesis 1:1), for deliverance (Exodus 14:21-31; 15:6-11); for provision (Exodus 16:12-15, 17:1-6; Mark 6:33-44), for healing (John 11:1-48; Mark 5:25-34; Luke 6:17-19; 2 Kings 5:1-16) but also to bring about judgment and destruction (Exodus 7:1-5; 9:13-17; 10:7; Revelation 19:15).
 - **Knowledge:** God uses His great knowledge and intelligence for the benefit of others (i.e. wisdom). God's uncountable thoughts towards us are tender. Psalm 147:4-5, 139:1-6, 17-18; Jeremiah 29:11
 - **Presence:** God has access to everyone at the same time and nothing escapes His notice! Psalm 139:7-10; Hebrews 4:13; Jonah 1:3, 2:1; Gen 16:1-16, 21:9-20
2. **God is everlasting or eternal** – He has always existed and will always exist, having no beginning and no end. Rev. 4:8; 22:13; Psalm 90:2, 4
3. **God is Spirit** – He is "invisible" and has no physical substance or a body like us. Because God is spirit, He does not have the physical limitations we do. 1 Timothy 1:17; John 4:24; Isaiah 40:28
4. **God is personal** – He can relate to us in a way we know and understand. He is not an impersonal force like gods of some other religions, but has personality and emotions. He is acutely aware of our lives and responsive to our needs. 1 Kings 19:9-13; Acts 17:28-29; Isaiah 43:1-2, 49:14-16
5. **The unity and diversity of God (the Trinity)**
 - At the creation of the world and the baptism of Jesus, all three persons of the Trinity are present, distinct from each other, equal in their abilities and in perfect unity (having common purpose and love). Genesis 1:4, 26; John 1:1-3; Luke 3:21-22; John 1:19-34
 - People were created from an overflow of love amongst the Trinity and were invited into their circle of fellowship. God's purpose for marriage (Genesis 2:24-25 "one flesh") and for His Church (John 17:20-23) are the closest earthly models we have to describe how the Trinity relates together.

C. God is the Ruler

- God is the highest Authority and is the Ruler over all things. 1 Timothy 6:15-16; Revelation 4:1-11; 15:3-4; 17:14; 19:1-6
- God is the most qualified to rule our lives because of His greatness and goodness.

Discussion Questions

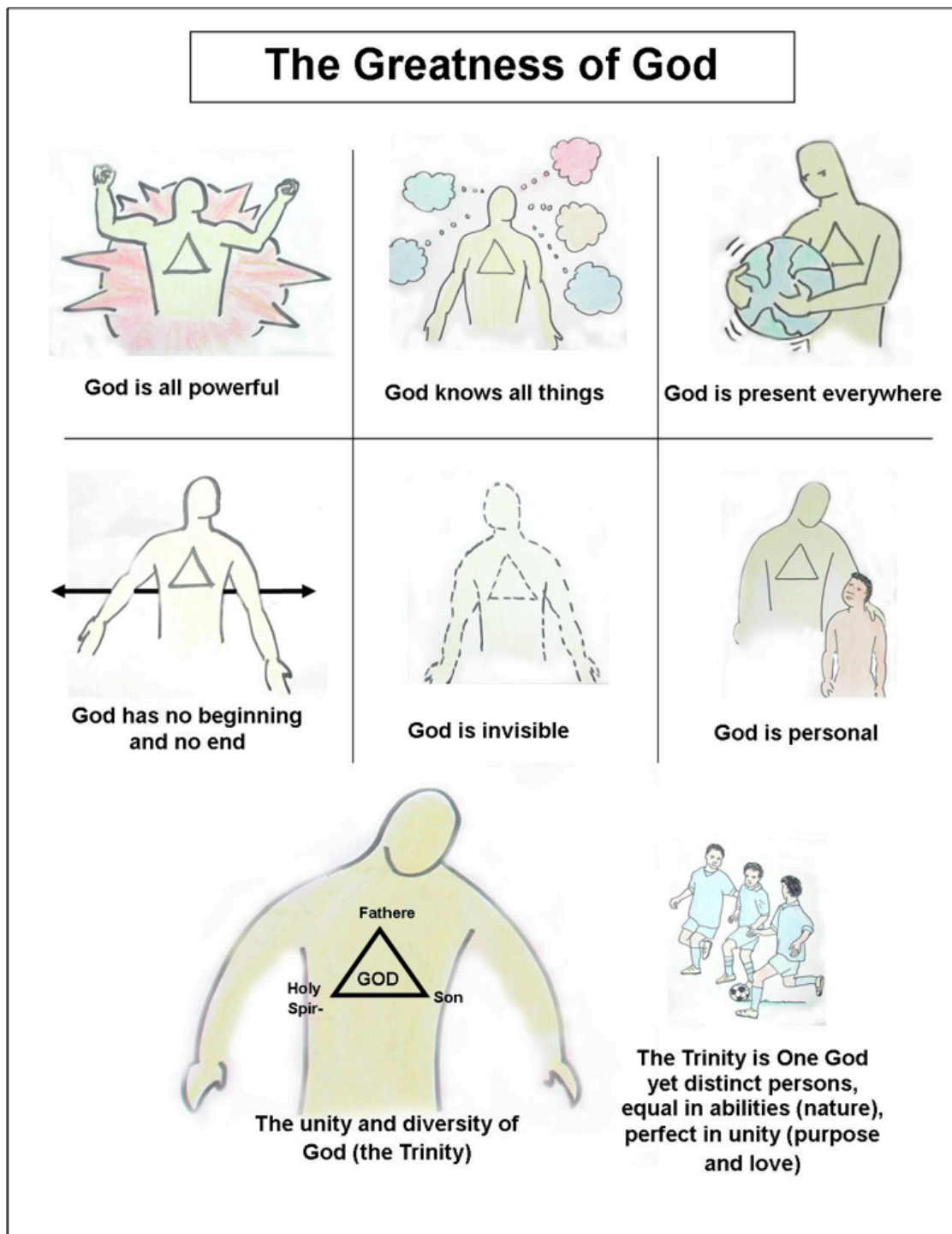
- Read through Genesis 1:1-31 and/or Isaiah 40:9-31, then discuss and write down what Scriptures say about the greatness and goodness of God.
- Identify and discuss any of your ideas about God that have been challenged or deepened by this lesson. Which quality of God's greatness stands out to you the most? Why?
- Take time to thank God that even though He is so exceedingly great compared to us, yet He is so very personal – He knows your name and is aware of your deepest needs and desires.

Appendix C. Sample of a Lesson Outline

THE TRANSFORMATION SERIES TRANSFORMATION OF THE HEART

Week		Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Weekend
Week 1	1	Introductions	The Greatness of God	The Goodness of God	Building Friendship with God	The Value and Design of People	Homework Storying/ Messages
	2						
	3	Pursuing the Truth	Games	Small Groups	Storying / Messages	Storying / Messages	
						Review	
Week 2	1	God's Law of Love	The Root of Sin	The Destructiveness of Sin	The Kindness of God in Salvation	Salvation from Sin	Weekend Outreach
	2						
	3	Storying / Messages	Storying /Messages	Small Groups	Outreach Prep	Outreach Prep	
		Outreach Prep	Outreach Prep				
Week 3	1	Outreach Debriefing	Customized Workshops	Customized Workshops	Testimonies / Evaluation / Graduation	Sample Daily Schedule 8.30 Worship 9.00 Session 1 10.30 Break 11.00 Session 2 12.30 Lunch 1:30 Session 3 3:30 Finish	
	2						
	3	The Command of Missions	Customized Workshops	Customized Workshops			

Appendix D. Sample of a Lesson Diagram



Appendix E. Explanation of the Financial Policy of BELT

There is an expectation in operating BELT seminars that participants pay for the cost of the BELT materials and any other related expenses (facilities, any food or housing for the participants, etc.). The reasons for this follow:

1. **Reproducibility** – One of the key Scriptures for BELT has been 2 Tim 2:2 *“And the things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, these entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also.”* During the BELT seminars, we purpose to invest in leaders (“faithful men”), modeling to them and teaching them in ways that they will be able to reproduce to others (“teach others also”). In order to do this, we intentionally avoid the use of high-tech media that cannot be reproduced and we structure the finances in such a way so that reliance on outside resources will be unnecessary to conduct a similar seminar. By having seminar participants cover the minimal costs of the course, then it is quite possible for the participants to reproduce the BELT seminar in another local setting.
2. **Ownership** – We want the participants to value the seminar as much as possible. We believe that if one has to pay for something, even if just a token of the real expenses, then there will be a greater value placed upon it. Also, we want them to realize that there is a part all people need to play in doing something worthwhile for God. During the seminar, we explain the financial partnership – we pay our way (airfares and most living expenses) and they pay theirs (the cost of putting on the seminar). We work with them to look for creative ways to do their part.
3. **Faith** – We want the participants to learn to believe God to provide for them, even in their poverty, in order to do whatever He calls them to do. In many places we go, people have a poverty mentality and expect others, especially foreigners, to provide for them. Many believe they “deserve” such provision because they are “poor”. We use this issue to teach about the character of God and faith, and together we believe God to provide for all the expenses.

BELT has operated this way from the beginning, even in the poorest of places. Such a policy has had its challenges, but also rewards. In many places BELT seminars are run, people are accustomed to having the costs of a seminar covered by the NGO or mission conducting the seminar. The first BELT seminar is always the most difficult in explaining why we operate this way. At the same time, we emphasize each BELT instructor must also believe God to provide. In every place we have gone, it has built the faith in the BELT participants to see how God provides for them as they do whatever they can and trust Him for the rest.