

amily reunions! What memories did that conjure up for you? I am sure some memories caused you to be reflective, others caused you to laugh, and brought some people to mind that are near and dear to your heart. Those wonderful annual family reunions completely stopped during COVID-19; even Christmas and Easter holidays left us separated from people we loved!

When that season was over, and we were able to resume those gatherings, my heart was filled with gratitude. I realized that something I took for granted was so much more precious than I had recognized in years past. Now the moments with friends and family seemed richer, had a greater depth to the conversations — and the laughter — what a sweet sound to my ears. It was as if I had been living in a black and white movie, and now everything was on an iMax screen in vivid, 3-D colors!

The morning of June 26, 2023, was one of those times. I stood in a room with 31 men from 21 nations, with faculty I had not seen for more than four years, and with our equipping team — Arthur, Sreedhar, Joey. Imagine how it felt to open the door to the room where the first in-person Haggai Leader Experience (HLE) since COVID-19 was taking place. The worship had already begun. The leaders were playing music, singing, and to my great delight, the Africans were dancing. And, within seconds, one woman joined the chorus of hallelujahs being sent up to the throne of God, tears of gratitude streaming down her face, thanking Him for restoring what had been lost for a season. The Haggai family was at last reunited!

You were there, too! Your prayers for this ministry, your support that funded equipping these leaders, and the passions

of your hearts to see the name of Jesus lifted up to the nations were all in that room. Over the days that ensued, I told them about you — that it was your generosity that made this experience possible for them. I told them that you were so very grateful for your partnership with them — and how I was grateful, too — and that some of us would go to tell the nations about Jesus if we could. They smiled when I said that, and I surmise they were thinking about how much a blueeyed, blonde American could accomplish in their nations in advancing the Gospel. And time and time again they expressed their gratitude for the opportunity you had given them and how much the HLE was impacting their lives.

I heard their plans, their goals for demonstrating and presenting the Gospel, and how they would raise up others and equip them to reach their nations. I listened to how they would expand their Kingdom work, or even start organizations to reach specific groups through serving and meeting needs. Most of all, I saw the passion that had been stirred up as they prayed, listened for the still small voice of God speaking His vision for their lives, and shared their plans with each other to commit to attempt something so great for God in their own nations.

Your influence has now spread to 21 nations. Please know that the seeds that you have sown through these leaders will multiply and bear fruit for the Kingdom. They need your prayers as they move forward to accomplish all that God has asked of them in the days ahead.

Thank you for your partnership in seeing every nation redeemed and transformed through the Gospel of Jesus Christ!



impact

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Impact Magazine is a seasonal magazine from Haggai International highlighting key stories, data, and images from Haggai leaders on the frontlines of ministry around the world.

OUR VISION |

Every nation redeemed and transformed through the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

| OUR MISSION |

To equip and inspire strategically positioned leaders to more effectively demonstrate and present the Gospel of Jesus Christ and to prepare others to do the same.

Partner with us to end Gospel poverty haggai-international.org/give





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Gospel. Practical challenges were addressed like the sheer distance between communities and the unavailability of the Bible in their own language, to deeper seated concerns like the lack of trust between different ethnic groups and the prevalence of discrimination against women. Evenings were spent worshiping God in different languages and in intercession for unreached areas of the Amazon.

Feedback from the participants was incredibly positive, with one attendee saying that Haggai International was the first foreign organization in many years that they felt comfortable opening their hearts and territory to. Their wish was to see continuity and longevity in the mission and a request was made for more leaders to be trained and for translation of the material into their own language to be taken

back to their communities, so great was the impact.

These newly equipped leaders, representing the Yhécuana, Curripaco, Baré, Jiwi, Puinave, and Huottoja tribes, will become change agents who can address the unique challenges their own people face. Their diversity reflects the richness of cultures and traditions within the Amazon Rainforest and they know best how to introduce the One who showers us with rain from Heaven, provides for us, and fills our hearts with joy. Together, we are accelerating an end to Gospel poverty as the light of Christ is shared in one of the most remote places on Earth.

| WRITTEN BY CAROLYN GRANT |

Rain From **Heaven**

Reaching remote tribes in the Amazon Rainforest.

"Yet He has not left Himself without testimony: He has shown kindness by giving you rain from Heaven and crops in their seasons; He provides you with plenty of food and fills your hearts with joy." Acts 14:17 (NIV)

piphytes hang from the trees, glistening with drops of rain from the recent downpour. Sunlight barely breaches the canopy, concealing a mysterious world below. The equatorial rainforests in the Amazonas State of Venezuela are some of the world's least explored and most untouched. Much like the indigenous tribes

in the rainforest, many of whom have been unreached by the Gospel.

Whilst God has revealed Himself through creation, the Good News of Jesus is carried on the feet of those willing to go and tell others about His redemptive work. People like Erika Suárez, representative for Haggai International in South America, who had long carried a burden to reach the communities in the Amazon. And Yalsy Heredia, leader of the Bahira ethnic group, who shared a similar dream of equipping leaders of different tribes within the rainforest to share the Gospel.

This dream became a reality in June of this year when these two leaders collaborated with other Haggai leaders to host the first Haggai National Seminar in Puerto Ayacucho, Venezuela. Facilitators traveled along the Orinoco River to meet and equip 24 participants representing six indigenous groups within the Amazon Rainforest. In addition to the teaching, meetings were held with the leaders of each ethnic group to try to understand the difficulties faced in sharing the







A businessman from a country at war, leaving his family and work for 10 days straight seemed impossible. But faith told Him to go and to learn how to better share the Gospel in the sphere of influence he knew only he could reach.

The next morning Stephen could feel the hum of anticipation among the 30 other men who had traveled similar trips as he. Almost every man he ran into looked different from the next — the various ethnicities, accents, and backgrounds were staggering. Stephen answered when he was spoken to, but admittedly, he was quiet and a little nervous. It was rare to see him smile, especially after all he'd witnessed living in a country at war.

As the days went on, these 31 men from 21 countries sat in conference rooms together, reflected and debriefed over round tables designed for conversation, and walked back

and forth from white boards, scribbling their ideas for how to reach their nations more strategically, more efficiently, more urgently.

This meeting of minds was a momentous occasion. It was the first time in three years that Haggai International was able to gather a group of men together in person for a Haggai Leader Experience (HLE). COVID-19 made all in-person plans non-existent, and even when the pandemic orders were eventually lifted across the world, visa offices were slammed and governments remained backlogged, so international travel to the U.S., where the HLE is normally held, was impossible. Haggai pivoted quickly to equip virtually in an immediately successful program, the Virtual Haggai Leader Experience (VHLE). Through the VHLE, God's work through Haggai leaders continued, and Haggai equipped more leaders at one time than ever before in its history.













Although the world was changed forever and digital equipping is here to stay, the goal to include in-person equipping again was on the forefront of our mind.

God led our equipping team to the right place, with the right budget, at the right time: A secure location in Asia that allowed access from nations all over the world with minimal headaches through the visa department. As such, these 31 men arrived from 21 countries in late June and spent the next 10 days being equipped in person. As the days unfolded, men like Stephen who arrived uncertain of what he would find yet convinced of God's call to be there, began to share with one another how God was moving in their hearts. They began to open up and lean on their brothers for advice, ideas, and a listening ear. They grouped into tables by region — Africa, Asia, Latin America, the Middle East — to start strategizing for ways they could uniquely reach their people.

There were stacks of files the men had printed that showcased strategic plans; laptops piled on notebooks with charging cords spilling across the carpet; coffee and tea in paper cups between the manila folders and the hum of 31 different voices whose one goal is to end Gospel poverty in their nations.

For many Christians in the non-West, especially living in places where their churches or movements are monitored, having Christian community can be a rare and difficult thing to find. When you do find it, you cling to it. Imagine living in this isolation and then being placed with a group of people whose souls share the same vision!

A few days into the session, Ritchie Tay, a seasoned Haggai facilitator, had to sit back and smile as he watched these connections unfold.

"One of the things I've discovered is that the participants are now open and vulnerable. That sets off a totally different way of how we talk to one another. They're now talking about their personal lives and their struggles, and the challenges they go through. And their willingness to deal with these challenges makes a difference. I can see they have big dreams now."

Near the end of the 10 days, participants donned their cultural attire and pulled out instruments — drums, guitars, shakers — for a night of worship. They joined their voices to lift up thanks to God for the blessing of hearing from Him during that week and hearing from each other. Hands raised, tears streaming, joyful shouts, embroidered tunics swaying, the men sang together:

"Because He lives, I can face tomorrow,

Because He lives, all fear is gone;

Because I know He holds the future,

And life is worth the living,

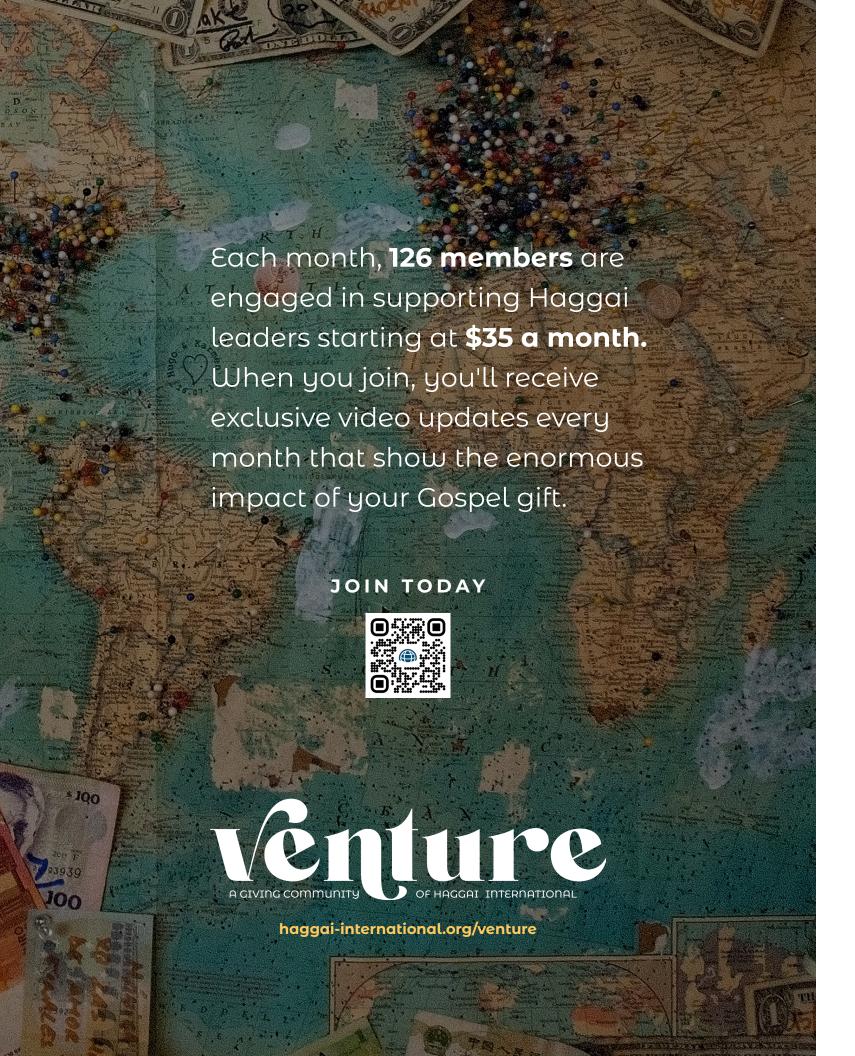
Just because He lives!"

And there was Stephen, up front with the band, smiling and laughing as he praised God alongside his brothers.

| WRITTEN BY BETHAN MINGLE |

*Name changed for leader's security.





NOTES FROM MY DIARY

Exponential — Multiply Your Power To Do Good

Dr. John Haggai wrote the following in 2015.

r. G. Campbell Morgan of England enjoyed the accolades of my father, who considered him the premier Christian writer of his day. (Dad rarely used superlatives.)

Dr. Morgan wrote his book, "The Crises of the Christ," but did not publish it for 33 years. He then took the manuscript out of the drawer, dusted it off, reread it, and said, "I don't think that I can improve at all on what I wrote 33 years ago." That's an amazing statement.

While I am no G. Campbell Morgan, I wrote the book, "Exponential — Multiply Your Power To Do Good," a few years ago, and I have just dusted it off, reread it, and decided I could not improve on it. (I'm sure others would disagree, but that's my conviction.)

This book contains the essence of my heart and mind on the subject of world evangelism. It is based on some major addresses I made at annual meetings of trustees, supporters, and family members of Haggai International.

Each chapter approaches the goal from a different direction. Some points are made in more than one place. I have decided against editing out these overlaps, because the points bear repetition and help to make connections between one chapter and another.

The word "exponential" is a crucial concept underlying everything in the pages that follow.

In the United States, there is one senior minister for every 506 people. In other words, the number of senior ministers is now approaching 600,000. That does not include associate pastors, ministers in education, teaching ministers, or evangelists.

Apply this percentage to just one country, Bangladesh, with a population of over 130 million. To have the same ratio would require 400,000 in the role of full-time, church-related, Christian witness.

That's only one country — a country you probably did not think to pray for this morning.

Apply the same ratios to the 2.5 billion making up China and India, and the 300 million making up the Arabic-speaking world, and the 200 million in Indonesia. You get the message.

Evangelism capable of reaching every person on the planet must be able to reproduce itself exponentially. That is the belief at the heart of the Haggai International ministry. And it is the argument connecting every chapter in this book.

We have not yet scratched the surface of the opportunity — and responsibility — given by our Lord.

For many years, our Lord's words as recorded in John 14:12 (KJV) have haunted me. Read them and reflect:

Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father.

I yearn to see that promise fulfilled in my lifetime. He promised it, and His promises are sure.

John Edmund Haggai
FOUNDER, HAGGAI INTERNATIONAL



THE THREE: Moved to **Action**

he summer before my senior year of college (2001), God gave me a new missions mentality. I spent the greater portion of that summer serving among unreached people in a floating village on Tonle Sap Lake, just outside of Siem Reap, Cambodia. During that time God began to truly shape my heart and mind for getting His Gospel to those who were without Christ, and He used several unsuspecting voices to shape my thoughts. There are three value statements that encompass what was impressed upon me.

 Nina Gunter, at 86 years old, said ... "If you take missions out of the Bible, you won't have anything left but the covers."

At the core of Haggai International's vision — to see every nation redeemed and transformed by the Gospel of Jesus Christ — are followers of Jesus joining God in His mission. God's mission for those who are without Him is woven throughout the fabric of Scripture from Genesis to Revelation. It is a Holy Spiritinspired book about the all-out pursuit God has for His lost children.

My direct encouragement, no matter your vocation — music teacher, financial consultant, software engineer, student, retiree, stay-athome mom, medical sales rep — is God is either calling you to go, or He is calling you to a life of profound prayer and generosity from where you live right now. The story of the Bible must become the story of our lives as well.

2. Samuel Zwemer, who went to be with the Lord in 1952, said ... "The history of missions is the history of answered prayer."

Change is made possible through

the avenue of prayer. In the process, change is plausible among the nations and will transform your soul, too. I like to say that God has the whole thing rigged. If you are not already doing so, I invite you to the privilege of engaging daily in praying for the nations. Pray for the international leaders already in those countries who are seeking to serve their own people. At the bottom left of this article is a QR code that will lead you to a simple app that will help you pray for the ends of the Earth daily.

The brutal facts are that 1 out of 4 people have not heard the Gospel. It is our shared conviction that Gospel poverty is one of the greatest injustices in the world today and it exists wherever people are deprived of hearing about Jesus. Talking about these facts is one thing, being moved to action is an altogether different notion.

3. Jon Tyson, a pastor in New York, said this ... "The main barrier to turning knowledge into action is the tendency to treat talking about something as equivalent to actually doing it."

A desire to see change for someone else (those who are without Christ) is birthed out of a benevolent soul. Compassion is the starting point to action. When God breaks our heart for the nations, He will begin to shape in us a desire to act. Our tears must move us to tactics while our sorrow must incite us to strategies.

It has been 22 years since that significant summer and I am still working through these three statements, allowing them to remold how I approach missions. I continually seek to apply them to my journey of seeing people without Christ experience life with the joy and hope that only Jesus can deliver. So far, it's been worth it every step of the way.



| WRITTEN BY CHIEF MARKETING OFFICER DUSTIN WILLIS |

THE MULTIPLICATION OF A LEADER:

Haggai equips 1 leader

IN 2 YEARS, THEY...



SHARE THE GOSPEL WITH 802 PEOPLE

What if these 251 new leaders are only

- HALF AS EFFECTIVE?

IN 2 YEARS, THEY...



share the GOSPEL with

PEOPLE (251x401)

impact of 1 leader

Scan the QR code to watch this unfold.







Where You Gather, God is There

Women in the Middle East listen to God's call to end Gospel poverty.

Listen.

Listen.

Listen, because if you don't, you may not hear something incredible. You may not understand what God has planned for you; you may not discern the often unheard whispers of God. What is He telling you? What plan has He laid out for you?

These are the questions that, like many Christians, Haggai leaders all over the world seek answers to. It's often their reason for attending a Haggai Leader Experience (HLE) — a chance to learn to discern and listen to what God is calling them to do. They share testimonies, lift each other up, and learn from one another before heading back out into their spheres of influence to exercise what God has revealed and taught. This year marked many firsts for HLE sessions around the world,

particularly one for Middle Eastern and North African leaders, among whom God spoke loud and clear.

In August, 33 women assembled in Asia from 14 countries across the Middle East and North Africa for the first in-person session in Arabic since the pandemic was declared. Women were able to get on airplanes, hold hands, give hugs, and exchange smiles with fellow female leaders who are strategically positioned to impact God's Kingdom. In an area of the world where it's nearly impossible to share God's love, it was a very big deal. And it created an environment apt for listening — and what these women heard just might change the world.

Like many leaders, Sarah* came to the HLE with her own ideas about what her ministry would look like and was patiently waiting for the Lord to reveal a detailed plan for it. She'd need different skills, she'd need to learn more, and she'd need to develop the confidence to carry out those plans. Her expectations were high.

"When we started in the first two days, I had a huge mess of conflicting thoughts and feelings," Sarah said. "But with so many new tools, and many inspiring women around me, I learned to listen to God's voice within me, to listen carefully and calmly to what He proclaims; and I discovered that I was burying talents that the Lord had already given me."

With that realization came a naturally increasing confidence and the motivation to hit the ground running, learning as much as she could from that moment on.

"Through the HLE, God began to show me how I would invest these skills in projects to support and communicate the Gospel," she said. "The Lord gave me a clear vision that was actually pretty far from my own thinking."

Realizing her own ideas were not God's will, she opened her heart to what He had to say. God taught her to be more committed to time and to be faithful toward the people He sent her to serve. Most importantly, God taught her to love those people and to always be vigilant, looking for those God wanted to send her way. She understood, with God's guidance, that these were people that she could equip to go back out into the world and share the Gospel with more people than she'd be able to reach by herself.

The session was exciting — it had been a while since a group like this had gotten together, let

alone a gathering of all female leaders — and it was refreshing, conversation igniting with both redemptive tales of the last three years and inspiring exhortation for these women to take on a new chapter in their respective ministries.

Like Sarah, Gemma* realized that although she was listening, she hadn't heard the urgency in God's voice to work to end Gospel poverty.

"It became clear to me that my role and contribution can make a real difference," Gemma said. "The HLE helped me set goals to implement my vision and mission in my life, as well as taught me how to measure the goals set and to verify if I am on the right path."

Through the powerful stories she heard from other female leaders, Gemma was motivated to set new goals for sharing the Gospel and equipping others to do the same. The clarity with which she could hear God's call instilled in her a new sense of urgency, one to go out and take care in discipling others in that same sense. Ending Gospel poverty would no longer be a back-burner idea — it was priority — and all actions thereafter would be in pursuance of that goal.

"If I didn't attend the HLE, I wouldn't have realized the urgency to evangelize and equip





others for sharing the Gospel, so I pray that God will help me to accomplish the goals I have set so I can apply my vision and mission for His glory."

Stories like Sarah's and Gemma's are not uncommon at an HLE, but what is most intriguing about this already unique session is what happened outside (and before, after, and during) the week. God whispered His power and intention amidst numerous spiritual threats that could have derailed this meeting. Efforts to delay, destroy, or diminish the potential of a gathering of this group of women included delayed flights, missed

flights, health issues, physical injuries, and more.

The Lord overcame each one, and prayer prevailed. Clearly, He had something important to say — and He still does today. Together, as we and Haggai leaders listen to His voice, we will end Gospel poverty.

| WRITTEN BY JENNIFER COLOSIMO

*Names changed for security.



National Ministry **Gala in Asia**

fter three long years of lockdown and mandatory masking, a national ministry in Asia gathered together for a gala to commemorate all God has been doing despite the restrictions. The Haggai representative for the region says it was "a full turn out and quite a happy chaos. Imagine Chinese New Year and a wedding feast combined into one!" The photo spread on the following pages highlights the immense joy of this celebration of our brothers and sisters.

*For security, the national ministry's country location is unnamed.



















































Thought Leadership: A Hybrid Future

In his role at Haggai International, Dr. Tyler Lenocker is tasked with developing initiatives that position Haggai International as a thought leader in global missions for decades to come.

/irtual or in-person? Since COVID-19, this question has dominated our churches, our businesses, our schools, and sometimes even our families. Whichever option we choose, we must recognize that digital technology has transformed our lives and relationships, as all technologies have throughout history: TV, cars, telephones, books, written language, and more. Experts have labeled our own time the "4th Industrial Revolution." Between 2015 and 2025, the amount of information (data) gathered digitally will have increased by more than 15-fold. The data expansion drives technological changes that already shape our lives. Most people in the world experience the tech revolution through their smart phones. A 2019 study showed that Thailand had 92 million phone subscriptions — in a country of only 70 million people! Throughout the world, these devices are reshaping human community, linking people with new global or regional networks, but also weakening and changing local relationships. Technology is not simply a tool; it is something that shapes and impacts society and culture. It changes who we relate to and how we relate to them. At Haggai, we are seeking to better understand how these generational changes are shaping Gospel witness around the world.

Young people will lead the way in our understanding of and critical engagement with emerging technology. Studies show that youth in Gen Z are more conflicted about the benefits of technology and show higher preference for in-person learning compared with the more tech-positive Millennial generation. Gen Z's perspective follows what many experts argue: thoughtful digital (or virtual) engagement to enhance our (and others') in-person lives rather than either uncritical embrace or total rejection of emerging technologies. Haggai seeks to balance the benefits of virtual and in-person methods in our equipping, all while prioritizing Gospel engagement in local contexts. Our mixed equipping methods at the international level, and then a wide variety of formats promoted through our national ministries, frees us to flexibly engage a changing world.

Not all regions will experience our tech revolution in the same way. Research demonstrates that global technological disparities will likely grow in the future rather than decline. The adoption of





the 5G network around the world (which will facilitate greater utilization of data to speed economic development) varies widely. Wealthy regions (East Asia, North America, and Europe) will see 5G adoption rates between 35% and 50% by 2025, whereas in Latin America, Africa, and the Middle East, 5G adoption will range between 3% and 7%. Data collection — which will drive and direct innovation — is centered in a few big tech companies, almost all based in the U.S.

Technology is not simply a tool; it is something that shapes and impacts society and culture. It changes who we relate to and how we relate to them. At Haggai, we are seeking to better understand how these generational changes are shaping Gospel witness around the world.

Our organization has always prioritized contextually relevant methods for equipping

Gospel leaders. This priority guides our engagement with technology and its diverse impact around the world. Starting at the end of this year and moving into next, Haggai will launch research initiatives to better grasp how our leaders are engaging with emerging technologies, both in how they equip other Christian leaders and how they reach their communities and countries with the Gospel.

The Body of Christ is called to be where people are. Gospel transformation begins with presence, whether in the Amazon Rainforest or the deepest recesses of online social networks. So, virtual or in person? The simple answer is that the future is hybrid, but we have much to learn in how to be faithful and transformative witnesses to the Gospel in a rapidly changing world.

| WRITTEN BY VP OF GLOBAL RESEARCH DR. TYLER LENOCKER |

Sources:

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What makes the HAGGAI LEADER EXPERIENCE so impactful?

hen I first came to Haggai International just over four years ago, I was amazed to see the impact that Haggai leaders have around the world. (This magazine is dedicated to sharing that impact!)

Since that time, over and over again in conversations with these leaders, a theme emerged. Unprompted, many leaders tell their story by beginning with the phrase "Before Haggai ..." and then continue it with the phrase "... after Haggai." Something happens at a Haggai Leader Experience (HLE) that is transformational for most participants. But what is it? What makes the HLE so impactful? The following are five key components that are a part of the journey.

INFLUENTIAL LEADERS

Haggai leaders are strategically positioned in countries where Gospel poverty exists. They are trusted, reliable, respected, and listened to in their local communities where they have long-term leadership experience and influence.

EXCEPTIONAL FACULTY

Haggai faculty are world-class facilitators who are not only subject matter experts but practitioners, illustrating and reinforcing concepts with their personal experiences, including as Haggai leaders themselves.

TRANSFORMATIVE CURRICULUM

The content of the HLE is not just a series of topics but a spiritual journey that starts with God's redemptive work in the world and moves the participant through their unique gifting for and calling to that work.

CATALYTIC INTERACTION

Participants who go on this journey together share different perspectives and experiences, which increases their engagement and enriches the journey.

GOAL SETTING AND ACTION PLANNING

The final step in the journey gives participants the time and space to seek God for the specific opportunities He places on their hearts, and participants set goals and action plans toward those opportunities.

Jesus said that if we seek, we will find. The HLE is a process of seeking God, listening to Him, and responding in faithfulness. Through that process, God makes good on Jesus' promise and through His Spirit transforms the participants' hearts. Participants routinely describe the HLE as "life changing" and "transformational," something that could only happen through the supernatural work of God.

What are the additional strengths to attending an in-person or virtual Haggai Leader Experience?

Throughout the pandemic, God provided a new way for us to equip leaders, virtually. We recently celebrated the return of inperson equipping. Now and in the future, Haggai International

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will use both methods to equip leaders. Both in-person and virtual equipping require the same standards for men and women to apply and be selected, use the same curriculum, and include intentional time with facilitators to guide leaders through the experience. Haggai leaders around the world benefit from both options.

Additional Strengths of an IN-PERSON HLE?



INTENTIONAL TIME

For 10 days, participants are away from the distractions of home, work, or social life.



ABILITY FOR SIDEBAR CONVERSATIONS

Meeting in person provides time and space for "in-between" conversations between meetings and during meals.



PHYSICAL/TACTILE COMPONENTS

Ability to draw or brainstorm ideas on paper or a whiteboard. Hugs and handshakes lead to faster and deeper connections.



NO NEED TO HAVE INTERNET

No challenges of being disconnected by a bad internet connection, particularly for those in remote locations.

Additional Strengths of a **VIRTUAL** HLE?



IMMEDIATELY IMPLEMENT LEARNING

Ability to attend a lesson and put it into practice the next day and share ongoing experiences with the group.



INCLUDE YOUR FAMILY

Sessions can be debriefed with a spouse or relative at the dinner table, or family lessons created from sessions.



NO TIME OFF NEEDED

No need to take time off work or away from family.



DOESN'T REQUIRE A VISA

No need to wait months or years to attend a training.

| WRITTEN BY CHIEF INTERNATIONAL OPERATIONS OFFICER LEE CUNNINGHAM |

TOGETHER, WE CAN END GOSPEL POVERTY



