



ESTABLISHING PEOPLE IN GOD'S WORD

PRECEPT MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL ■ JANUARY 2016



A Celebration of Answered Prayers!

Call to me and I will answer you, and will tell you great and hidden things that you have not known.

—Jeremiah 33:3 ESV

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David Arthur
CEO of Precept Ministries

The Vision of Precept Ministries International

To establish people in God's Word to live as exemplary followers of Jesus Christ, studying the Bible inductively, viewing the world biblically, making disciples intentionally, and serving the Church faithfully in the power of the Holy Spirit.

About Plumblines

The plumb line is pictured in Scripture as the standard of Truth. "Behold I am about to put a plumb line in the midst of My people. . ." (Amos 7:8). Our goal with *Plumblines* is to help Precept supporters like you measure all of life by God's Word. May it bless you!

Will you join us to change the world for Christ in 2016?

With a fresh new year of God-given ministry opportunities before us, I am truly privileged to stand beside faithful partners like you . . .

God brought us together to do His will. With your support, Precept Ministries International is actively training and equipping a multitude of believers to answer Christ's call to reach the unreached and strengthen the knowledge of others through Precept's Inductive Bible Study Method.

Your generosity and compassion help make it possible for our International Ministry to continue to expand in areas of the world with few resources. How glorious it is to see individuals, families, and in some cases entire communities delve deeper into the study and application of God's Word!

In this edition of the Plumblines you'll read how God is saving and changing lives, even in parts of the world that are increasingly hostile to the Gospel. Please pray with us, and give as you are able, to help Precept start the new year strong; ready to charge through every door the Lord opens to us.

Thank you again for partnering with Precept to advance the Kingdom by introducing people to Christ and providing them with the tools to better understand the One who brings salvation!

David Arthur, CEO

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "David". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Answered Prayers— *Ten Years in the Making!*

Ann's* story is a powerful one that takes place in the Middle East, in the heart of territory growing ever more hostile to the Gospel. To ensure her security, we have changed names and omitted references to details that might endanger these women of faith.

“For over a decade, Precept Ministries has been a huge gift in my life,” Ann says. “The Lord has used PMI to equip me to know how to study the Bible for myself and to know how to teach others to do the same. The Lord is using Precept as a tool to equip His people to be grounded in the Word, and as a tool to make disciples all around the world.”

PLANTING THE SEEDS OF FAITH IN A YOUNG HEART

“I first went to Precept’s teen Boot Camp when I was 14. I was a new follower of Jesus and that summer was pivotal in my life as we studied the Sermon on the Mount,” Ann recalls. “I returned to Boot Camp every summer after that. When I became too old to be a camper I had opportunities to come as camp staff. Then, when I graduated from college, the Lord made it possible [for me] to be a part of Precept’s internship program.”

“Shortly after college, the Lord led me to live overseas in the Middle East, [where] I had the opportunity to share what I had learned about studying inductively. I was able to share the tools of inductive study with national believers and expatriates. After a couple years in the Middle East the Lord led me back to the States.”

“FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS . . .” ESTHER 4:14

Yet even as Ann packed her bags to return to the United States, her faithful heart listened—and heard—God guiding her to do His will.

“I felt the Lord leading me to give a handful of extra studies I had been given to a local believer,” Ann

says. “She was one of two local believers I had met during my entire time in the Middle East. She had not yet told anyone in her family of her faith in Christ. We met for tea and she shared how she was struggling with fear, and struggling to not just read, but to study her Bible.”

The young woman’s fear was palpable and understandable given the rise of extremists in her part of the world. But the Lord had equipped Ann with just the right words of encouragement and a supply of powerful ministry resources that could help strengthen the faith of this new and isolated believer.

“I was able to give her some of Precept’s 40 Minute Studies—*Breaking Free From Fear, Being a Disciple Counting the Real Cost, How Do You Walk the Walk You Talk, Living a Life of True Worship,* and *The Power of Knowing God,*” Ann says.

“Her eyes welled with tears as she thanked me. She said she had been praying and asking God that He would teach her more about Himself and how to live boldly in a place hostile to the Gospel. She said she wants to know God more and be a bolder witness for Him.”

The two women sat smiling at one another, both secure in the knowledge that God had heard and answered their prayers . . . one had prayed to be nurtured and the other had prayed for the privilege of being a disciple-maker.

Ann’s story is a powerful testimony to the great good God is working through your support of Precept Ministries. From teen boot camp to disciple-maker in the Middle East, your prayers and generosity have helped to equip and train Ann—and so many others like her—to go wherever Christ calls her to serve Him. Thank you for your ongoing partnership! ■

The Lord is Using Your Support to *Change Lives*

In Nations Around the Globe...



IN UKRAINE

Precept sent four teams into a war zone recently to organize camps for 400 children and youth, where over 100 boys and girls received the Lord! A pastor from the area came to personally thank us, saying, “The Lord stirred our nest and now we look forward to His plan for the Church in Ukraine!” And a trainer who works with church planting and prison ministry throughout this troubled nation said, “I received so much encouragement!”



IN MOLDOVA

At the one conference attended by 220 eager participants in this Eastern European country, a Precept trainer presented Precept materials, the Precept Institute, the inductive method, and a lesson from “Marriage Without Regrets.” Several young people followed through by attending the Precept festival and a camp to study “Lord, Teach Me to Study the Bible in 28 Days.” A significant number also joined two Precept studies—“A Pure Generation” (a life-changing program for youth) and our 10-day session on “Marriage Without Regrets and Counseling.”



IN NEPAL

In the aftermath of the recent devastating earthquakes, young believers actively took up teaching local Hindu youth from the Precept book “Lord, I Want to Know You.” By the time they finished the study, we witnessed big changes in their lives, including a love for the Word and a desire to attend church. Many said, “We can’t wait to start the next Bible study!”

Another Life Transformed by God!

Personal Testimony of María Rosales



"My name is María Rosales. I am 19 years old and I am a medical student at Romulo Gallegos University in San Juan de los Morros in Guanare Venezuela.

"I came to the Lord Jesus Christ through a 40-Minute Study, *Forgiveness, Breaking the Power of the Past*, led by Pastor Jorge Arias in August of 2015.

"I wish to continue studying with the 40-Minute series and study the Bible inductively every day.

"I give thanks to God for allowing me to know Him in a personal way, and I wish to serve Him where He places me."

... And Right Here at Home!

IN NORTHEAST TENNESSEE

A Director of Missions and three pastors led the Holston Baptist Association in sponsoring a men's workshop to equip participants with the tools of inductive Bible study so they could confidently prepared to disciple others, entitled, "Men Digging Deep." The event called for local men, teenage boys, and their fathers to attend the 6-hour workshop where the pastors presented the Precept 40M Study, "Heaven, Hell, and Life after Death."

On the day of the workshop, grandfathers, fathers, and sons representing six area churches gathered to learn the inductive study method and take turns discipling each other from the Word.

It was truly God-honoring to see teenage boys taking their turn discipling men—in some cases their own fathers and grandfathers. When it was officially time to end, our mission to establish people in God's Word was evident . . . but attendees didn't want to stop, saying, "We're just not finished yet!" and were encouraged and inspired to continue the study on their own.

At a recent "Planning and Leading Precept Upon Precept™ Discussions" workshop . . .

"I learned so much about planning and preparing to lead, but most importantly learning and understanding. I will forever be a disciple and student of God's Holy Word. My understanding has been enlightened to dig and find truth for myself and move forward with sharing with others. I am so thankful and grateful for these two days, the Trainer, and Precept Ministries!"

—Mary Ann

A Call to Action for Believers EVERYWHERE!

So many lost and broken people are living in darkness . . . will you act now to bring God's Word to a villager far away who has never seen a Bible in his own language?

Will you provide the resources to train and equip a leader whom Christ has called to work in the harvest fields?

Will you empower and encourage a Christian to deepen her faith through Inductive Bible Study?

Say YES. As one of Precept's faithful partners, please share a gift now to develop more leaders to serve Christ, to expand our International Ministry, and to ensure core ministry functions can keep pace with the many opportunities God is placing before us.

Thank you for your prayers and for the gift you send today to make 2016 our most vital year ever! ■



Kay Arthur, Co-Founder of Precept Ministries

A MESSAGE FROM

January . . . a time of fresh starts

O Beloved,

2016 is here! The calendar has changed—and we cannot help but wonder what else is going to change!

Although it is a new year, for many it's filled with dread rather than promise. The world is in turmoil—as are the hearts and lives of multitudes. Many, like frightened helpless sheep without a shepherd, are lost! Fear grips their hearts. They don't know what to do! And our adversary the devil goes around like a roaring lion seeking someone to devour. Satan's children like wolves prey on their vulnerability.

And our hearts cry out for them, don't they!?!

What a contrast they are with our Precept Family around the world! I see confidence. Boldness, Excitement. Passion. A sense of urgency. It's not that they do not understand the times; rather they have a knowledge of what to do because the Word of God is the very bread by which they live. And they know their Shepherd (John 10) and follow Him. Their fear (trust, respect) of God enables them to conquer the fear of man!

O Beloved, as you read testimonies in this Plumblin from various parts of the world, including in the USA, may you rejoice as you get but a tiny taste of the abundant harvest your prayers and your financial investment in this ministry have wrought.

You've enabled thousands upon thousands to discover and know for themselves Truth. You are helping multitudes worldwide discover everything pertaining to life and godliness through the knowledge of God and Jesus (2 Peter 1:2-4). His Word is our indestructible foundation for all of life—it is our life!

Nothing we can do together is more essential, more critical, more imperative.

Thank you, thank you—keep it up—keep investing *and together* we will reap the harvest and hasten the day of our Lord's coming (2 Peter 3:11-15).

In much, much love and gratitude,

Planning for the Future of Your Loved Ones and the Ministries Dear to You



Have you made your wishes known about the care of your family and the ministries you support after you are gone? Through a well-designed will and other estate documents, you can trust that the goals important to you in this life will continue on behalf of your loved ones, and the ministries dear to you, for years to come.

Precept Ministries has partnered with PhilanthroCorp to provide customized will and estate documents as a courtesy to our friends and supporters. PhilanthroCorp has been helping Christian families work through stewardship and estate planning issues from a biblical worldview since 1997. We encourage you to utilize PhilanthroCorp's process to help you clearly articulate your desires for your family and the ministries you care about in order to accomplish God's purposes for your legacy.

Regardless of the size of your estate PhilanthroCorp is available to help you create or update your plan. Get started today by calling Tara DeWitt at 800-876-7958. Enjoy peace of mind *and* heart knowing you have been faithful with all God has given you now and in the future. ■

PRECEPTS FOR LIFE™ AIRING SCHEDULE:

Ephesians: The Mystery of God's Church;
Our Identity, Our Walk, Our Warfare.....January 4 – April 1

Jeremiah, Part 1: Return to Me April 4 – June 3

Jeremiah, Part 2: God's Certain Judgement.....June 6 – July 29

BECOME A MEMBER of Precept's Online Community BENEFITS FOR YOU!

Become a member of Precept Online Community to enjoy Free Bible Study Resources and Live Web Events with Kay and David Arthur and other special guests!

Join today at www.precept.org/poc



"The trip was better than I could have imagined... It's the best experience and best learning available! There are no words. It exceeded every expectation."

– 2014 Israel Tour Guest

Join David Arthur and Kay Arthur on the Precept 2016 Holy Land Tour! Together we will study God's Word in the places where the biblical patriarchs, our Savior, and the apostles lived. **This unique 12-Day Holy Land Tour will be a truly life-changing experience that will impact how you study God's Word.**

Tour Dates: May 10 – 21, 2016

Go to precept.org/Israel_tour to learn more.



Living for Eternity Now

It was 1983 and Michele Amoroso was a new believer who was eager to grow in spiritual maturity and had a deep desire to know God for herself. A friend who had been instrumental in Michele's conversion had discovered an in-depth Bible study—the first one in their area—and invited her to join the class. "I jumped in the deep end," Michele said. "It was Precept's *Sermon on the Mount* and I knew I had found the way to study God's Word I was looking for."

Michele started the next semester with Precept's *Covenant* study and she was committed. Within four, short, Bible saturated years, Michele was embarking on the *Precept Upon Precept™* leadership training path.

As God transformed Michele's life from the inside out, her husband Mike took notice. He watched Michele's desire to know God grow all the while God was expanding her influence. "People would watch Michele. They wanted to learn the Inductive Bible Study Method and then go deeper and have a better understanding of what Scripture says." Michele took the Precept leader training and starting leading Precept studies.

In 1998, Mike and Michele went on Precept's Israel Study Tour. Spending two weeks with the Precept team gave Mike confidence in the integrity of this ministry. It also gave him firsthand experience with the vital role Precept serves in the Church by teaching people how to study God's Word for themselves. "That's why we value Precept so much. It goes beyond whatever church someone goes to. If they're saved and growing in sanctification, they're going to want this."

God was making other changes in the Amoroso's lives. Their grandkids were finishing college, and Mike and Michele started thinking about their stewardship of God's resources.



If they were going to make their ministry vision continue after they were gone, which organizations would they entrust with God's resources and which were most effective bringing the Gospel to the world?

"We've always had in our will that we would leave everything to our family. We started thinking that might not be the best use of God's resources. We want to store up treasure in heaven. We want to shift to being conduits of what God has entrusted to us."

After research and prayer, Mike and Michele decided to include Precept in their estate plan. Mike says, "We're very careful about which ministries we support. Heads of ministry's change. We want to be discerning. We feel that Precept is going to be best use of our stewardship." Michele adds, "The future of Precept is in very good hands with David. And supporting Precept allows you to reach around the world." ■

As you consider your stewardship of God's resources, we invite you to contact Stan Latham at (800) 763-8280 to discuss ways you can support biblical disciple-making from the funds that normally go to the IRS.