



ESTABLISHING PEOPLE IN GOD'S WORD

PRECEPT MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL ■ AUGUST 2015

To The Ends Of The Earth



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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 Plumbline

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 *Plumbline* is to help Precept supporters like you measure all of life by God's Word. May it bless you!

Establish (*verb, i-'sta-blish*): To introduce and cause to grow and multiply

Forty-five years ago Precept Ministries was *established*, and our purpose is to *establish* people in God's Word through Inductive Bible Study.

Look with me at Colossians 2:6-7 (ESV), which clearly shows us that as believers, we are called to become *established* in God's Word:

"Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving."

Obviously ESTABLISH is an important word at Precept. But I think it has an even greater meaning today because of the unprecedented open doors of opportunity God is giving us around the world to *establish* people in His Word and disciple believers.

Technology, transportation, and political freedom are just a few things God is using to open doors in places we once thought were completely closed. Places like Eastern Europe (page 7), and Asia (page 4). Or places where spiritual apathy is the norm (page 3).

I believe God will help us rise up to meet these opportunities through prayers and the financial support from friends like you. But don't wait too long. As we have seen in just the past year, our world is a volatile place and the opportunities we have today may be closed tomorrow.

Thank you for sharing our passion for God and His Word. Thank you for your generous response!

David Arthur, CEO



From Montreal to Moose Jaw and Beyond

When Mark Sheldrake became National Director at Precept Canada in 2013, he knew he had his work cut out for him.

Studies showed that less than 15% of Canadian Christians read their Bibles once a week. And only one in four believes the Bible is relevant to modern life. So what would it take to establish Christians in God's Word in such a way that would change their lives and the lives of those around them?

Sheldrake understood that reaching and growing Christians across the country required passionate local leadership. To reach as many Canadian Christians as possible, he put together an aggressive plan he called, "Rising to the Call of Leadership." In nine days he would drive to 60 cities to start 60 new Bible studies, and raise \$60,000. But God had bigger plans.

By the end of Sheldrake's tour, 110 new Precept Bible study classes were started, the sales of *40-minute* books increased 140 percent, and

44 new donors committed to giving a total of \$10,000 per month.

Sheldrake continues to tour all across the country each year, teaching Inductive Bible Study and discipling believers. And with support from friends like you, our Answering the Call (ATC) funds allow him to teach trainers to call on leaders who will start Bible studies in new places with new people who want to know God.

With all the success of Precept Ministries in Canada, spiritual apathy is still a huge problem among Christians. That's why Sheldrake recently co-authored a new *40-minute* study with Kay Arthur titled, *Ignite Your Passion for God*. Pray with us that God will ignite a deep hunger for His Word throughout Canada.

Because of your faithfulness to Precept, thousands of Canadian Christians are being established in God's Word. The Bible is no longer another book on the shelf; it has become the life-blood of believers who yearn for God more every day. ■

Never Limit God's Imagination

“Now I understand the value of study not just one or two times per week. I enjoy using this method of Bible study daily.”

Forty-five years ago we would have never imagined those words coming from an army officer in Nepal. But I've learned to never limit God's imagination.

If God is using Precept to reach people from the U.S. to Nepal, and 180 countries in between, where else will He take us? I'm not going to limit His imagination.

One thing I do know, we live in a world where people are desperate for God. And I know God has called us to establish people in His Word.

That's why I'm asking you to give generously today so we can continue the work God has given us around the world, and be ready for the countless opportunities He brings us every day.

Who would have known a soldier established in God's Word would be called on to serve physically *and* spiritually when a disastrous earthquake hit Nepal? Again, I've learned to never limit God's wisdom, understanding, and imagination.

I pray you'll let me hear from you today. Thank you! ■



Answering the Call

Your gifts are touching lives around the world through God's Word!

Together, we are answering God's call to establish people in His Word. Here are just a few reports of how you are making a difference around the world through Precept Ministries International's *Answering the Call* initiatives.

Saved through Precept Study

I am so happy to be studying the Word of God. Since the groups began in our church, a revival has broken out. Our leaders now want to involve every age group in different Precept studies: men, women, youth, and children. What an impact we're having in our church and families! I am so excited after participating in the children's camp in the north of Nepal, where five girls came for the first time to church to our Bible study. They accepted Christ and now want to be baptized. Praise the Lord for His mercy!

—Sarah, Nepal

You spoke. We listened.



The majority of our faithful friends heard about Precept at church, from a friend, or family member.

Thank you for getting the word out about Precept. Please don't stop!

Nearly all E-team members know Precept is an international ministry with a worldwide focus.

94%



Most E-team members have helped with or led a Bible study.

I hope you'll be thrilled to see more updates from around the world, especially in your *Plumline* newsletters. We heard you loud and clear! You would like to see more international ministry updates.



We commissioned a research survey to get your thoughts and opinions about the work we are doing together around the world. Here's what you had to say:

Because of your generous support of Precept, we expect to have a strong year-end finish at all our ministry points around the world.



You told us four things make Precept Ministries unique:

- 1 Inductive Bible Study Method
- 2 Teaching believers to study the Word themselves
- 3 Word speaks for the Word
- 4 Vision of establishing people in God's Word

Nearly all respondents bought a Precept product at one time or another.

67% bought Bible studies

69% would be interested in purchasing Precept Bible studies

Did you know you can order our products online at www.precept.org?

Grateful for answers

I enjoyed this session so much, getting answers to my many questions. I enjoyed the inductive method which helps me in my service in the church. I'm confidently planning new groups that will involve about 173 people. Thank you for this wonderful study! —*Omsk, Siberia*

From Why? to Wow!

In the beginning I asked myself "Why should I do this study and keep on asking questions?" But by the end of the session the Word was in my heart in ways I was able to remember. I cannot forget this study! It's so important to learn and be able to recall the Word so I know how to answer others in difficult situations. —*Carol, Pakistan*

Training New Leaders

It was a wonderful and remarkable experience to travel the 575 kilometers (357 miles) from our city of Benguela to Caxito for our Leader Training at the United Methodist Church. We had 35 young men and women willing to train in order to reach their communities with God's Word for His glory! —*Henda, Angola*





A MESSAGE FROM

Kay

About God's work for 45 years!



Beloved,

For the past 45 years, we've seen God's wonderful promise from Isaiah 55:11 fulfilled—each day compounding on the last:

“So will My word be which goes forth from My mouth; it will not return to Me empty, without accomplishing what I desire, and without succeeding in the matter for which I sent it.”

We started by teaching young people how to study God's Word. Not long after came the Tuesday morning women's Bible study class, which was quickly followed by night classes for men. Soon after, I was travelling to Atlanta to teach larger groups. Every step forward grew exponentially.

In addition to teaching to live groups, God opened more doors through writing, publishing, radio, television, online media, conferences, and more.

What has been most exciting to me is seeing people learn to inductively study the Bible themselves, then teach others to do the same. By God's grace, He has multiplied the reach of Precepts from Chattanooga to North America, including Canada (pg.3), to 180 countries and 70 languages around the world including Romania (pg. 6), Pakistan, Angola, and Nepal (pg.4).

I hope you'll celebrate with me 45 magnificent years of God's faithfulness to His Word through Precept Ministries International.

In much love for Him and for you, His forever child,

Kay Arthur
Co-Founder of Precept Ministries

Kay



PRECEPTS FOR LIFE AIRING SCHEDULE:

Living For God's Glory	August 17 - September 4
Matthew: The Kingdom, His Kingdom, and Me	September 7 - November 20
Israel	November 23 - December 18



Praise For Romanian Pastors' Conferences

Pastors discover answers through Inductive Bible Study

Under communism, Romanian pastors were severely restricted from interacting with people, especially with fellow pastors. For some, the forced isolation drove them to insanity. Praise God for the freedom Romanians now enjoy.

That's why our pastors' conferences have always been such a high priority. Under oppression or not, we understand the tremendous need pastors have to study, fellowship, and encourage each other.

Recently we led three pastors' conferences. Two were held at the Eurasia Training Center and the third was in Bucharest, Romania. Pastors and other Christian leaders came from all corners of Romania and much of Eastern Europe, including Moldova, Ukraine, Albania, Slovakia, Serbia, and Czech Republic. Some drove for more than 30 hours just to attend.

The conferences focused on the book of Habakkuk. Together, pastors studied from the series *Understanding the Anger of God* and were encouraged from Wayne Barber's

preaching about the Old Testament prophet.

One pastor said, "The combination of the study and the messages, the truths and the teachings of the book of Habakkuk were made clear; relevant to help us serve the Lord."

The pastors praised the conference as a wonderful time of study in the Word as they discovered answers to many questions their people had been asking them.

Another young pastor who was struggling with a family tragedy had deep questions as we studied the book. But at the end of the conference he said, "I am so grateful I participated in this conference. I was blessed through the teaching and received a spiritual treasure. I was so encouraged by the way God answered my questions and now I can say: 'I want to continue to serve God and people.'"

"We are grateful for the brothers and sisters who made this conference possible." ■



**Join us for the 2015
Fall Women's Conference!**

Please contact Terri Stubblefield
at **423.296.8519** for registration.

Or for more information, on this or
other upcoming women's conferences,
go to **store.precept.org/Precept-Womens-Conference**

**Limited Space
Available!**

Shining the Light of God's Word!

Karen Wickline had been studying the Bible for many years, but felt as though she wasn't studying deeply enough. Then she heard about Precept.

"That was 20 years ago," she says. "The first book they were teaching when I started was Revelation—I learned the great importance of observing before interpreting and applying!"

Learning to study *Precept Upon Precept*, Karen grew in her study of the Bible, becoming established in God's Word. Wanting to help others grow as she was growing, becoming a leader was a natural next step. She met Kay along the way.

"When learning to become a leader several years ago, I went to Oxnard to hear Kay speak. I gave her some home-cooked brownies," Karen said. "When I went to President's Weekend in Scottsdale two years ago, Kay remembered that I gave her those brownies! My husband Wick and I laughed about that."

Wick had always been supportive of Karen in her teaching. But it was really his conviction that led them to start supporting the ministry financially.

"Seeing Karen on fire and spreading the Word—studies at home and at church—it's really impactful," Wick shares. "Seeing the benefit and how Precept is working around the world, I felt the need to support the vision of how they wanted to grow and to help them reach the people they wanted to reach."



Karen's been a leader for about 13 years now. Today she teaches future leaders.

"If we're not preparing the next generation, mentoring and sharing how to go deeper, then we're failing in this generation. The ideal is to multiply and pass on what Christ has given us. To daily learn about Him. To understand what Scripture is saying. Precept was really who gave me the tools to study God's Word. And it's a joy—and really exciting—to be able to pass that on."

Precept is proud to partner with believers like Karen and Wick, to shine the light of God's Word on others around the world. Thank you!

We would love to hear how studying God's Word is transforming your life. Feel free to share your story with us at www.precept.org/share_your_story.



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