

# Phil and Peggy Arendt

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1117 E. Westview Court  
Spokane, WA 99218  
(800) 966-5515  
(509) 343-4000  
phila@partnersintl.org

Dear friends,

Every April, we at Partners International look forward to our annual international meetings. No, we don't look forward to the *meeting* part, but it's a privilege to gather with and listen to staff and leaders from around the PI world. When it was my turn to present an overview of the work of Ministry Development, we were all led to thank God for the amazing work He has done!

## Since 2003

- 500 church planter, community transformation, and leadership development events have been facilitated (average is about five trainings per month)
- 17,500 leaders have been equipped from thirty "10-40 Window" countries (the least reached and poorest nations in the world)
- Tens of thousands have come to faith in Christ
- 1,500 new churches have been planted
- Hundreds of communities are being transformed

Out of these hundreds of training events, I have only directly led about 40 of them myself—less than 10% of the total. The other 90% of the training events have been facilitated by local champions whom God anoints and uses. This is just one of the "secrets" for these amazing results. Let me share one more reason.

PI works very closely with several grassroots training ministries that serve our indigenous partners. We call these "Like Minded Ministries". In many cases, our collaboration with them has led to some amazing outpourings of the Holy Spirit. Here are some with whom we labor:

Scriptures In Use: provides chronological Bible storytelling strategies and methods to evangelize, plant churches, disciple new believers, and train emerging leaders

Disciple Nations Alliance: offers community transformation training and networking to change people, neighborhoods, churches, and communities

MentorLink: equips global Christian leaders to live and lead with Christ-centered character

Many of PI's indigenous partners have taken the resources of these Like-Minded Ministries and used them to multiply kingdom impact. Let me briefly share a couple of stories to illustrate.



Equipping national ministry leaders  
in the least Christian regions of the world

In Ethiopia, with my good friend and colleague, Alemayehu Goshu, I was able to model basic and advanced Scriptures In Use church planter training seven years ago. In addition, three years ago, another colleague and I piloted MentorLink training to grow and groom leaders. Since then, Alemayehu has trained about 2,000 leaders who have started 850 new churches. Many Ethiopian pastors and mission leaders have begun mentoring relationships that are transforming their families, congregations, and ministries.



*Alemayehu Goshu with young ministry leaders*

Another story arises out of East Asia. Pastors in this country are accustomed to running the ministry like a secular business. Church leadership styles can be fleshly and domineering, and mere Western project funding has often been viewed as the primary means to address community development needs. Unfortunately, this approach has not often led to sustainable or multiplying results. Over the past three years, our regional PI director and I have introduced training from Disciple Nations Alliance and MentorLink. As a result, leaders are beginning to mentor and multiply younger leaders with Christ-centered values. We see pastors implementing plans for personal and church-wide community development, leading to transformed lives and a holistic church planting strategy.

*“The Kingdom of Heaven is like the yeast a woman used in making bread. Even though she put only a little yeast in three measures of flour, it permeated every part of the dough.”*

*Jesus in Matthew 13:33*

I'd like to think that my work is similar to that little bit of starter yeast. As God speaks and we listen, we invest small relational and training resources into kingdom leaders and pockets that have potential to grow and multiply. God uses this yeast, the dough begins to rise, and then we watch what He cooks up. You could even say that local leaders like Alemayehu and ministries like the ones in East Asia are turning into kingdom bakeries and even into baking schools!

This cannot happen without you. Your partnership with God and us over these past years is bearing lasting fruit, and our great God is being glorified. Thank you!

### **Announcing Peter's engagement . . .**

We are delighted to introduce you to Sally Spohn, the lovely, godly young lady whom Peter will marry in July. Sally and Peter have been dating since they were both students at the University of Washington, and Sally has patiently waited during Peter's years of Army training and his deployment. Peter proposed to Sally at Disney World, "The Happiest Place on Earth!"

### **Will you pray?**

In June, Peggy and I will be leading a small team from a church in California to teach English with a partner ministry's literacy center in Indonesia. Pray for our team, that we will effectively love and serve students and English teachers in this, the world's most populous Muslim nation.



*Sally and Peter*

*Paul*