

The Blanc Family

Global Academic Director Teaching with a Mission

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Dear Partners,

You may be wondering how the recent devastation in Haiti impacted IGM? Yes, IGM has national pastors in Haiti, twelve in all. Our Missionary Coordinators Brian and Janice Hampton have reported the encouraging news that all twelve of our national pastors are alive! Details continue to come as the Hamptons are on the ground in Haiti assisting in the relief effort, attempting to get aid to our pastors. You may read more news regarding the current status of our pastors, or even donate a special gift to the Haitian relief efforts through IGM, by visiting www.igmonline.org and following the link on the home page.

On January 12, we had the opportunity to travel to the Rochester, NY area and attend the IGM annual meeting. On the agenda was the task of defining the role of the Global Academic Director. This was an encouraging time for Sally and me as we were able to pray with key IGM staff and gain a sense of expectation as together we trust the Lord with regard to what lays ahead in His harvest fields. Let me take this opportunity to describe the role of the Global Academic Director and also invite you to pray for each step as we undertake these responsibilities by the grace of God.

IGM has created the role of the Global Academic Director as a strategic measure to enhance the educational partnerships of the Mission.¹ Our "Mission" is actually an association of multiple "missions" comprised of a host of national indigenous mission enterprises represented by more than twenty international fields.² IGM is growing each year in terms of its international missions associations. As a byproduct of these associations is the resulting fruit of partnering international missions. Souls are being won to Jesus Christ. Churches are being planted. Schools are being established. With regard to the later, IGM is currently in possession of a heritage of partnering missions internationally that operate Bible schools. As IGM continues to grow, additional training centers will emerge as new partnerships are formed. All of this begs a critical question: *With so many diverse international partnerships, how can a Mission standardize its training globally so as to produce the academic and spiritual quality consistent with its leadership expectations and doctrinal emphasis?* The role the Global Academic Director is designed for this purpose: to unite the diverse educational partnerships within IGM under a uniform standard of excellence, while assuring a balance of academics and spirituality.

There are two responsibilities that form the basis for this position:

(1) to **develop** the existing educational partnerships of the Mission (via assessment, evaluation, and recommendation), and (2) to **coordinate** short-term modular instructional teams.

Development

Through assessment, evaluation, and recommendation, it is possible to strengthen the existing educational partnerships (Bible Institutes, Bible Colleges, and Seminaries) within the Mission. The idea is to uniformly adopt a set of guidelines as standards for academic and spiritual excellence. In essence, this will create a type of accreditation process conducted by IGM under the auspices of the Global Academic Director. This includes course and curriculum development, complete with student learning outcomes intended to meet the expectations of a trained pastor within the IGM global family.

¹ By "educational partnerships" is meant any Bible institute, college, or seminary affiliated with IGM.

² Hence, Independent Gospel Missions (plural!). You may visit www.igmonline.org and go to the "Mission Fields" (globe) link on the lower left of the home page. The link will take you to a page containing more links to pages of all the IGM fields. There are letters from national pastors and many videos to view.



Coordinating

Short-Term modular instructional teams are a useful compliment to the residential instructional faculty of IGM educational partnerships. The challenges incumbent upon the Global Academic Director include:

1. Determining needed courses specific to the curriculum needs of partnering institutions.
2. Developing guidelines for course requirements and course syllabi.
3. Recruiting qualified instructors for short-term ministry.

The primary objectives set forth by IGM are to assure a uniform standard of excellence within the distinctive scope of Baptist faith and practice,³ and to encourage a balance of academics and spirituality.

My passion is to teach and to train. I have been preaching and teaching internationally since 1988. When considering the fact that fully 85% of the world's Bible-believing churches are led by untrained men, this passion grows daily when it is known that these men are not untrained by choice. The rapid expansion of the body of Christ, especially in the Third World, has resulted in a corresponding crisis in leadership. This is our field of service, "standing in gap" of training for the glory of God. We have such a high respect for the national pastor, having worked alongside of them for twenty years. What a privilege to assist them now in this capacity.

- Dr. Douglas A. Blanc, Sr.

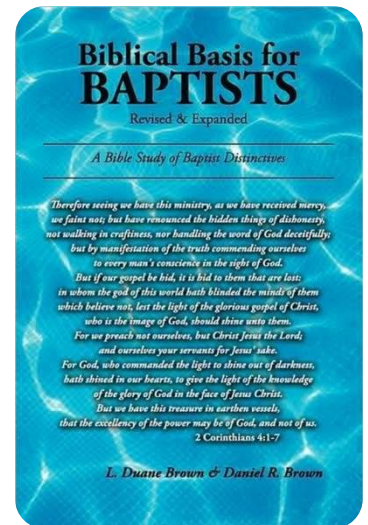
Prayer & Praise

- Praise the Lord that Amy (28) is recovering well from her recent surgery and has returned to work. Please continue to pray as she is experiencing some neurological symptoms unrelated to the surgery, but may be a further development of Crohn's disease or the onset of MS. Pray as we await the test results and for the upcoming consultation.
- Dayton (19) is in his second semester at Fulton-Montgomery Community College. He has applied and interviewed at numerous places, but is still in the hunt for a part-time position. Please pray.
- Please continue to pray regarding John (24) and his need for fulltime employment. He is still working part-time and actively applying.
- We are so thankful for each of you who pray faithfully for us and who support us financially. Please spread the word to those who may also be passionate about training nationals. We need all the team members we can find! Drop us an email or give us a call and we'll add your contact to our mailing list. ***(For those able to help financially, the colored box below contains instructions.)***
- ***Please pray for opportunities to present IGM and our ministry to local churches in the coming months.***
- Please pray as our Bible study group meets each week.

Itinerary

- **January 28 – May 13, 2010:** Teaching Ethics and Comparative Religion (Monday, Wednesday, Friday, 8-10 am) at Fulton-Montgomery Community College (Johnstown, NY)
- **April 17, 2010:** Paper presentation at the Northeastern Regional annual meeting of the Evangelical Theological Society at Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary, Northeast Branch (Schenectady, NY)
- **May 3-7, 2010:** IGM Leadership Conference at Odosagih Bible Conference (Machias, NY)
- **August 12-19, 2010:** IGM Mission Training School (Rochester, NY)

³ Visit www.baptistdistinctives.org for a collection of articles that give a sense of scope of what is meant by "Baptist faith and practice." There is also, *The Biblical Basis for Baptists: Revised and Expanded* by L. Duane Brown and Daniel R. Brown (Faithful Life Publishers, 2009). ISBN: 0982140886.



Contributions may be sent to IGM (see above) payable to Independent Gospel Missions and designated in the memo of the check: "Doug and Sally Blanc."

You may also contribute online with your credit card. Please go to www.igmonline.org then click on the "donate" link. Select the "Missionaries/National Pastors" Tab. Select the Region as "North America." Select the Country as "United States of America." Then, select the Missionary as "Doug Blanc." We have not established any "Projects" yet as all our funds are intended for living expenses/support. After putting in the amount you intend to donate, you may input your information and how often you would like to set up the gift (one-time, monthly, etc.). Finally, select "Donate." This is a convenient way to set up a revolving gift and avoid check writing.