



## MISSIONS FOCUS

From bulletin: July 24, 2022

Our Missionaries, their health and ministries affected by Covid-19

### **Becoming What God Intended (BWGI)** Dr. David Eckman

From today's bulletin / Missions Report from Missions Team

**Becoming What God Intended** (US, World) – In the latter half of 2021, BWGI completed their BC105 Skills for Living course. They launched another BC103 Head to Heart course with six small groups and 42 people in September. Pastors of churches with a total of over 1,000 members will also attend Head to Heart in January 2022. They look forward to wrapping up their 5-course curriculum project in July 2022 and offering the curriculum to an established Asian Seminary. They moved into a new office space in December. This new office will be the home of another BWGI International Institute. They covet our prayers that Asian students and the courses they are attending will not be disrupted in the future. Please also pray for the continued health and effectiveness of the team during the pandemic and the launch of the BWGI International Institute in January 2022 as well.

Copies of monthly newsletters follow.

*Thank you for reading about and praying for our missionaries, countries and people locally and globally!*

**BACBC.ORG**

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# Becoming What God Intended Ministries



February 2022

Dear Missions Director,

One of the most fascinating things about the Head to Heart Groups is the unusual spiritual experiences some members have. One of the more common unusual experiences is that individuals "receive a picture" or a striking image in their mind that leads them to a deeper understanding of God's love.[1] A few days ago, I received an email from one of our team members, and such a story was shared:

"On this special day, I want to share with you an anecdote I recently heard from a sister that I invited to become an H2H facilitator in April. When she grew up, she had been told that she was worthless because she was a girl and not a boy. Her mom had repeatedly told her that when she was born, the doctor mistakenly called out that she was a boy and her mom went from overjoyed to being disappointed. During H2H, she received a picture that Jesus was at that hospital scene and told her that she was just precious while holding her gently. This loving new picture has now replaced the worthless old picture of hers."

We asked permission from the sister who told the story if we could use it in our newsletter. She said yes, and added this, "All glory to the Lord! Please thank Dr. Eckman for putting on the H2H course. It is just a big blessing to me because I had been wandering around and struggling before the course." One of the principles of Head to Heart is, "How we see, is how we live." When we have a false picture of ourselves such as we are worthless, only a new picture from God can change the heart. The importance of seeing correctly was underscored by Christ in the Sermon on the Mount.

*3 "And why do you look at the speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye? 4 "Or how can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' and behold, the log is in your own eye? 5 "You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother's eye. (Matt. 7:3-5 NAS)*

Well sometimes God himself through the Holy Spirit has to take the log out of our own eye so we can see correctly. The big "log" for all of us is a false picture of God. If we have that picture right, every day is a good day. Our culture and the world culture is in a crisis, and we can join in that crisis, and forget God's picture of this world and the nations.

*Behold, the nations are like a drop from a bucket, And are regarded as a speck of dust on the scales; Behold, He lifts up the islands like fine dust. (Isa. 40:15 NAS)*

While those around us may be in turmoil, we can have a personally correct picture of God.

*5 Let your character be free from the love of money, being content with what you have; for He Himself has said, "I will never desert you, nor will I ever forsake you," 6 so that we confidently say, "The Lord is my helper, I will not be afraid. What shall man do to me?" (Heb. 13:5-6 NAS)*

Our peace is dependent on the Trinity and not the waves of fear and the occasional calm flowing through this world. Let us have a picture of God as our protector and sustainer. Join us for the Head to Heart Facilitator Forum where we will address how to let go of those false pictures in order to have the correct picture of God.

As we minister in this troubled world, particularly the oppressed parts of Asia, pray that the Spirit will use BWGI Ministries. For your prayers and support, we thank you.

Affectionately in Christ,

David Eckman

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# Becoming What God Intended Ministries



December 2021

Dear Missions Director,

Now is the end of a most exciting year and the beginning of a new one of great spiritual opportunity. Our opportunities keep expanding and our team is expanding as well. As we approach the end of the year, we would like to ask for your financial help not finish the year in the black (we will), but to open new opportunities in the new year 2022.

As you know we are ministering in different languages on nearly every continent. One of the programs that I find most meaningful is our special **Head to Heart Groups for pastors, missionaries, and church leaders.**

In January we will begin five new groups: one in the USA and four outside the USA. In fact, two different groups will have seminary presidents in them! Can you imagine the impact these groups will have eventually on literally tens of thousands of Christians?

Our five-course concentration of spiritual life classes will finish its cycle this coming week. Hardly anything exists like it. Through our course work and training in discipleship the participants grow deeper in their knowledge of the Scripture and deeper in what is of most importance, their experience of the Trinity.

At the back of this letter you will find different ways of expanding our reach and our team. **Why do we do what we do?**

Beyond humanity's wildest dreams, beyond the most fevered imagination, the reality of God the Son, the Creator, becoming one of us, so as to rescue to us, so as to communicate his Father in terms we can understand, and most incredibly of all, he should die for us are truths that should captivate the Christian's heart every day. **Most touching of all, the Son was doing that out of affection for his creation. He did not have his glory in mind; he had us in his heart.** Wanting to rescue us, wanting to die for us, wanting to lavish love upon us throughout eternity, how can our mind, our imagination, our emotions manage such nobility?

This love was manifested in two ways: he identified himself with us, and God identified our sin and ourselves with him. A two-fold identification is presented in the Bible. The Son of God identified with us through birth. He became one of us. Secondly, we became identified with him through the will of God and our immersion into Christ through the Holy Spirit. Both are wonderful. Willingly the Son of God joined himself to humanity. Willingly God the Father identified anyone who trusted the Gospel with his Son. **When God looks at us, he sees him, and when he looks at him, he sees us. We have become inseparable.**

With such love as this who would not want to spread it to others? Join us in expanding the circle of Christians who deeply experience our Triune God, and the non-Christians who have a chance to embrace the love of Christ and God the Father.

Affectionately in Christ,

David Eckman

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**General Fund**

**Goal: \$15,000**

Support general ministry needs "where needed most."



**BWGI International Institute**

**Goal: \$6,170**

The office will serve as a local BWGI location for training and seminars.



**Asia Training Center**

**Goal \$3600**

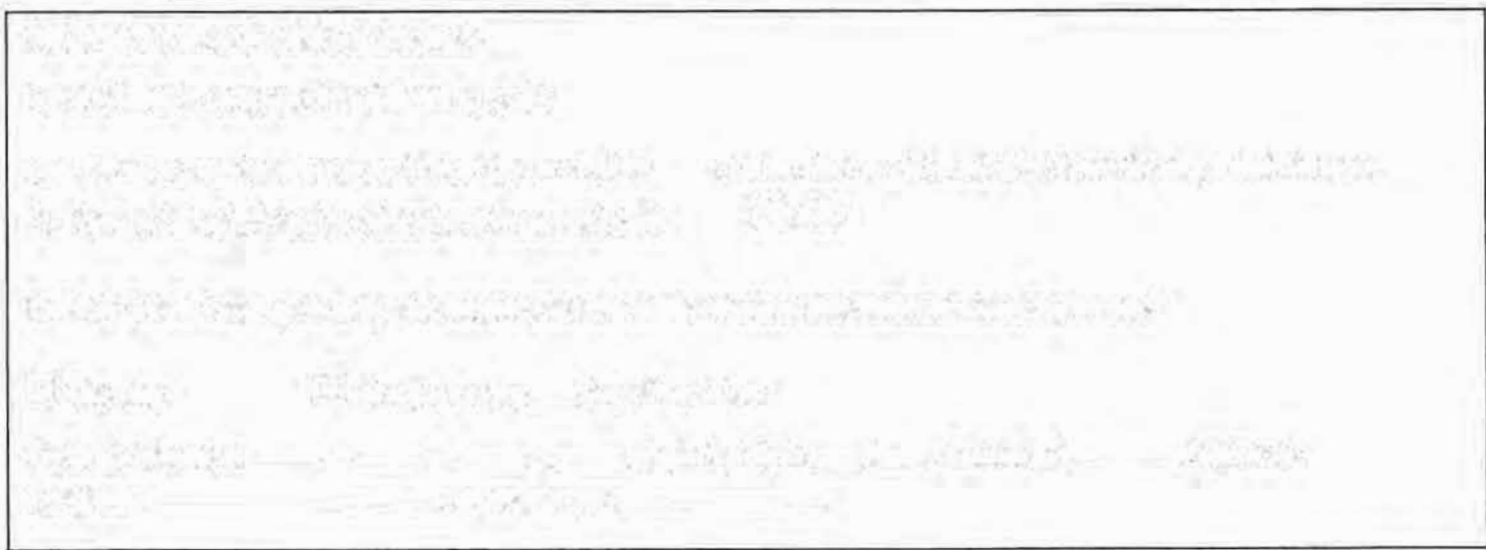
Provide scholarships, leadership training, & materials for our training center in Asia.



**Translations work**

**Goal \$10,420**

Support the translation of the 5-course curriculum material.





# Becoming What God Intended Ministries



November 2021

Dear Missions Director,

The Greek words for "to give thanks" and for thanksgiving or gratitude—eukaristeo (verb) and eukaristia (noun)—are words of response. A voluntary gift or grace leads to joy, which in turn leads to a voluntary response of gratitude.

## God's actions

- The provisions of Christ and of grace
- His love
- The fruit of the Spirit
- His blessings

## Our response

- Faith
- Our love
- Our thanksgiving and gratitude

Whenever one of these two words occurs in the New Testament, the context usually tells us to whom the gift was made or for what reason it was made, and often both. Thus, it is clear that thanksgiving is a response to a person giving a gift. So when we think about thanksgiving within the hierarchy of the heart, this is what we find:

The New Testament completely assumes that the giving of thanks, and thanksgiving or gratitude, are always specific responses to someone (namely, God) and His gifts of grace. Notice how this works with the verb eukaristeo in Col. 1:12:

*...while giving thanks [to whom?] to the Father,  
who has qualified us to the portion of the inheritance of the saints in light.*

**When the word thanksgiving (eukaristia) occurs, both the giver and the gift are often referenced.** See, for example, Luke 17:16; 18:11 (hypocritical thanksgiving!); John 11:41; Acts 28:15; Romans 1:8; 1 Corinthians 1:4; 14:18; 2 Corinthians 1:11; Ephesians 1:16; 5:20; Philippians 1:3; 1 Thessalonians 5:18; 2 Thessalonians 1:3; 2:13; Philemon 1:4; Revelation 11:17.

To sum up, the biblical pattern shows that biblical thanksgiving is invariably responsive, as this diagram shows:



After all, we are creatures. We initiate very little. Rather, we respond to the great gifts of God in Christ! During this Thanksgiving holiday, we want to thank you for you are a great gift of God in Christ to us!

In Christ,

David Eckman

## HELP US REACH OUR 3 GOALS



### We're Moving Back!

Not backward, but back to an office space that we occupied 15 years ago! The office will serve as a local BWGI International Institute location for training and seminars.

Help us to cover the remaining **\$9,720** rental expense for 2022.



### Give A Gift To Pastors

In January we will launch a new Training Center. The first course we will offer is BC103 Head to Heart.

Your support would cover the cost of the training and materials.

Help us supply **\$3,600** in scholarships.



### Head To Heart in Simplified Chinese

The 22 sessions and videos are currently in Traditional Chinese. Enable us to reach out to more Chinese throughout the world. Funds would go towards translating a 212-page workbook and 44 videos.

Help us to reach our remaining goal of **\$10,420**.



### BWGI Ministries General Fund

2021 was an eventful and most blessed year of seminars and courses. We want to finish out the year and begin 2022 strong.

Help us to reach our remaining General Fund goal of **\$16,260**.

# Becoming What God Intended Ministries



October 2021

Dear Missions Director,

Three of our Head to Heart groups have finished their 22 weeks of sessions. I joined their last Celebration session to talk to them about what they have experienced. Before I tell you more, let me mention that I was a pastor for about 15 years before going to work at a seminary. Being a pastor is a difficult and challenging job. The goal of the biblical pastor is to transform the life of the congregation. Many a pastor would be delighted at the results we saw from those three groups. To add to the excitement of it, one of our groups were pastors. Each of the three groups which were finishing emphasized how they experienced the love of God the Father and that changed their lives.

One pastor who is also a seminary teacher shared with us how, spiritually, he had reached a glass ceiling. Head to Heart changed this. He is now consistently experiencing the affection of God the Father. With a smile, he mentioned he should take Head to Heart ten times to get all the benefit he can. The pastor shared how this is important to his family, and it is also important to his ministry. He lectures all over how to have a healthy family. He went on to say that his family and those around him have observed the positive change in his emotions. Most of the pastors further shared how they so appreciated the small group they were in. They found that the rules for the small group led to practicing transparency and that transparency resulted in growing affection. What they experienced obviously is important for their Christian life; it is also important for their life as a minister. They can take the principles they learned and apply them to their congregations. I can confidently expect that thousands of Christians will benefit from what these men went through.

What the pastors experienced is the same as what the North American groups experienced. Don't be surprised that the pastors and the church members have had the same experience. People going into ministry are often taught volumes of information, but they are not placed in a process where they can integrate what they have learned into their emotional life. In seminaries, often truth does not make the journey from the Head to the Heart. Even though the pastors have more information, sadly they are in the same situation many of their congregation are in. They know the truth but they are not experiencing the truth. I am not surprised at this because of what my many years of experience in a seminary have taught me - that seminary education is almost all information without integration.

We have plenty to rejoice about. Not only have many individuals been blessed, but many more will also be blessed by these ministers as they share their Head to Heart experience. Five groups of pastors and missionaries have been led through Head to Heart this year. You, our friends, and our supporters have made this possible. We thank you!

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'David Eberman'. The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored background.