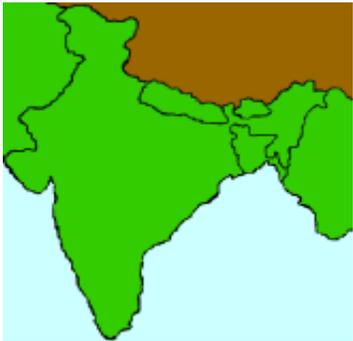


## NATIONS OF INFLUENCE



### In Southeast Asia

Bangladesh  
Bhutan  
India  
Myanmar  
Pakistan  
Nepal



### In Africa

Angola  
Cameroon  
Congo  
Côte d'Ivoire  
Dem. Rep. of Congo  
Gabon  
Ghana  
Kenya\*  
Malawi  
Mozambique  
Nigeria  
Rwanda\*  
Sudan\*  
Uganda\*



### In the West

Haiti  
Dominican Republic  
San Andres Island  
Providencia Island  
Suriname

**\*Note:** some PBSes are operated independently of Evangelism Resources

## WHERE NEXT?

**...where God directs and His people give!**

## THE IMPACT

*"Portable Bible Schools have trained and equipped lay leaders and mobilized them for evangelism. Now they are able*



*to conduct cottage prayer meetings, prayer cells, and home visits, praying for the sick and troubled people. They are able to do many various ministries, so Portable*

*Bible Schools are a great blessing in India."*  
- Dr. C. Akbar, India

*"Evangelism Resources began a program of planting several PBSes in the Pygmy villages of Cameroon in order to help train lay leaders and lay preachers to take the Word to their peoples in their villages... Because the mission is universal, the vision also means that not only will these people return to within their tribal group of Pygmies, but eventually they will also become missionaries to other people groups."*

- Lucién Bale, Cameroon

### Contact

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EVANGELISM RESOURCES

# PORTABLE BIBLE SCHOOLS

*"And the things you have heard me say...*

**entrust to**

# RELIABLE men...



who will also be qualified to

# TEACH OTHERS."

2 Timothy 2:2

In many nations the rural church is not keeping pace with the expanding population. The current number of trained professional church leaders is not sufficient to meet the need of the growing Church. The laity is a vast, untapped resource that holds the key to world evangelization and meeting this lack of leadership in the church today.

Through PBSes the laity is being trained, and the church is growing inwardly as well as outwardly. Lay pastors and leaders who graduate are in turn training others, fulfilling the principle taught in 2 Timothy 2:2. The PBS goes where the needs are, and allows those who can't give up their jobs to receive relevant training.

*Lay pastors in a Portable Bible School class in Kothari, Maharashtra, India*



## How PBSes Began

When Portable Bible Schools (PBSes) began to function in the Democratic Republic of Congo in 1987, it was estimated that approximately 60,000 villages were without any sort of church leadership. Much was done to rectify that problem in the years that followed.

Almost 30,000 lay pastors were trained in over 25 different denominations in PBSes. The movement spread to India in 1992, where it was estimated that there were 600,000 unchurched villages. Since beginning in India, tens of thousands of pastors have been trained and are now at work shepherding God's Church there. PBSes are now conducted in myriad nations around the globe.

## The Methods

The general objective of the curriculum, *Called to Shepherd God's People*, is to train laymen and laywomen in Bible knowledge and ministry skills. Written by Evangelism Resources' co-founder Thelma Braun, it has a threefold emphasis: Bible knowledge (including doctrine and a survey of the Bible); ministry skills (including pastoral care and evangelism); and character development (including personal holiness and spiritual maturity).

**CANDIDATES** must be literate and mature in age. They must be recognized by the congregation as spiritually qualified leaders.

**TEACHERS** should have Bible training, and should have received at least one week of orientation by the PBS supervisor prior to the opening of the school.

**DURATION** of the school is five one-hour sessions daily over a span of 40 class days, leading to a total of 200 hours of training.

**TEXTBOOKS** include *The Bible* (both Old and New Testaments) and *Called to Shepherd God's People*.

**COST** is shared by the sponsoring church and Evangelism Resources. And yes, ER's cost is only \$12/pastor!



*PBS students in Myanmar*

## The Strategy

The strategy of Portable Bible Schools is based on six "E's":

- **ENQUIRE** The region is surveyed, and teams search out the spiritual condition of the area, gathering relevant statistics. Prayer is conducted in the villages, which are placed on a map to be targeted.
- **EVANGELIZE** Teams of evangelists are sent out into the area surveyed. Each team has a specific number of villages to reach over a period of one to two months prior to the PBS.
- **ESTABLISH** A prayer cell is formed, and one of the new believers is chosen to lead the cell, planning later to attend a PBS. Regular times of prayer and Bible reading are scheduled.
- **EQUIP** A central village is chosen as a PBS site, three teachers are appointed, and a maximum of 42 students are invited to attend 200 classroom hours over an 8 week period. Evangelism trips are planned on weekends to put into practice skills that are being learned, and a graduation ceremony commissions lay pastors for service.
- **EXPAND** The graduate returns to his/her village and begins work as a lay pastor nurturing the cell group that sent him to the PBS. He trains helpers, plans evangelistic trips, and plants cell groups and house churches in neighboring villages.
- **EVALUATE** Follow-up with pastors is conducted on a yearly basis, if possible. Encouragement is given through prayer, ideas, and literature.