



## “TO THE ISLANDS”

**I**n November 2006, Mike Bergen and I went to evaluate a Great Commission Church in the Philippines of about 30-50 mostly young people. A pastor from another young church asked if I could come train leaders. I agreed to pray about it, but to be honest, the area was hot, dirty, poor, and very far away, which was not appealing. But, as I sought the Lord, He moved in my heart to “go.”

I read in ISA 42, “My Servant will bring justice to the nations ... In His law, the ISLANDS will put their hope. I will make you a covenant to the people, a light to the gentiles, to open eyes that are blind, to free the captives from the prisons, to release from the dungeons those who sit in darkness.” Wow, that sounds like the Philippines.



**Pastor German Arce with new Philippine church in Bulacan district of Manila**

God used that passage to actually grip my heart to go to the Philippines, where there are 90 million people on 7100 islands, and put into





**German, Herschel, Jesus, Resty, and Mike discussing Philippine training strategy**

motion something that could actually change a country, transforming lives through training that was more than "knowing" truth, but building the habits of highly effective believers.

I agreed to come every four months for one year, and developed 15 basic and simple truths, each of which could be taught in an hour. After translating them from English to the local language, we began with a few, which grew to 75. It's been three years, and grown to 8 churches, and we're now focusing on 15 leaders, who are "training others also." After they commit to developing a basic habit, I work with them to



**Herschel and Mike with 4 of the early trainers, Resty and Morissa, German and Zaldi**

overcome their obstacles, emailing trainees a few times a week, interacting with accountability on how to demonstrate transformation in their own lives, as they train others.

The Great Commission doesn't just say "teach them all I've commanded you," but "teach them to OBEY all I've commanded you. This, in my opinion, is where most training breaks down. As I considered where we could further develop this approach, much closer, the Lord opened a door to the Dominican Republic, one of 7000 Caribbean ISLANDS, and have begun training leaders in the BASIC COMMITMENTS.



**German Arce** (Philippines pastor and seminary professor):

*"When I began to actually start to obey, I realized how difficult it really was. It's like starting my Christian life all over again, with a goal of **obeying** what God says, not just understanding what God says."*

The day I got saved in Washington, DC, the pastor who led me to the Lord asked me to make a commitment to read the Bible and listen to God every day for the rest of my life. I thought, "OK," but I had no idea of the ramifications of that commitment. You might ask, "Herschel, have you done that?" No, of course not perfectly. But, I have made that a commitment every day since, and this is the type of commitment that transforms lives. This year, we hope to refine these BASIC COMMITMENTS, 20-30 basic habits that you can learn and train others to become highly effective believers, training that not only works in the US, but overseas in developing and limited access countries.

I'm sure you can imagine, that as more are involved and hungry to grow, the needs for prayer





**Dominican Republic Pastor Sabino and 3 trainees, Ambriotrix, John and Ramon**

and finances are increasing. As God blesses, if the Lord lays it on your heart to join our team in this effort, on our website, you can support us by joining a prayer team or contributing a one time or monthly gift, which we will use to train more trainers in developing countries. We will keep you up to date with stories of transformed lives, explain "basic commitments" training we are developing, and let you know ways you can help. Register using the form below, or at

**MartindaleMinistries.com**



**Ambriotrix Ramirez** (Dominican Republic church leader):

*"When I first started, I thought this is simple, but when I started to make it a habit, I realized 'this is really hard.'*

*The only explanation is this is from God. I have not been able to get away from Study #1 on John 15. This is amazing."*



**Herschel and Aldo discussing training goals and lessons with trainees**

# Coming Soon!

# BUILDING COMMITMENTS

## DVD Video Series

We would greatly value your prayer as we develop this series to be effective in developing and limited access countries.

## The Islands are Plentiful...

**But the laborers are few!**

Join our team in prayer and financial support, so more trainers can "train others also" in developing countries. If you go to our website, you can join a prayer team, or contribute a one-time or monthly gift, and stay up to date on what's happening in this ministry.

**MartindaleMinistries.com**

**Herschel Martindale**  
International Church-BUILDER, Teacher & Author of

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