



# Plumbline

## About *Plumbline*

The plumb line is pictured in Scripture as the standard of Truth. "Behold I am about to put a plumb line in the midst of My people . . ." (Amos 7:8b). Our goal with *Plumbline* is to help Precept supporters like you measure all of life by God's Word. May it bless you!

Because of God working through you to *Answer the Call*, even the "least of these" are learning to study God's Word for themselves, like these prisoners (and guards!) in Romania.



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# *Answering the Call*

## *Investments continue to grow*

**Thanks  
to You,  
a Vision Is  
Becoming  
Reality!**

**A**s we enter 2012, because of your faithful generosity, Precept Ministries International continues to fund strategic projects as part of *Answering the Call* (ATC). What God is doing through your investment in Precept is nothing short of miraculous.

For years, our international leadership has had plans on paper that would significantly grow the reach of Precept and the Inductive Bible Study method, but each year, those plans have been put on hold due to a

(continued on page 4)



**Jack and Kay Arthur**  
Founders of Precept Ministries

### **The Vision of Precept Ministries International**

To establish people in God's Word to live as exemplary followers of Jesus Christ, studying the Bible inductively, viewing the world biblically, making disciples intentionally, and serving the Church faithfully in the power of the Holy Spirit.

**“Projects that had been only a distant dream in years past were funded and launched through our Answering the Call (ATC) campaign.”**

# *Because You Prayed and Gave,* **A Vision Is Becoming Reality!**

## *Beloved,*

Well, here we are in 2012. Can you believe it? I hope you are looking forward to the new year with a spiritual excitement, praying that God will use you like never before!

That's exactly what Jack, David, and I and our entire team are praying for—that God will open the doors to even greater ministry opportunities as we seek to reach an additional 10 million people by the year 2015.

Thanks to God's grace and your faithful prayers and support, we got off to a great start in 2011. Projects that had been only a distant dream in years past were funded and launched through our *Answering the Call* (ATC) campaign. We're still working on the final numbers of total lives impacted and money received (and spent!) through ATC in 2011, but I can tell you it is significant. We'll share the details in the next *Plumblines*.

I truly believe that time is short, Beloved, and we have a God-given vision to reach 10 million NEW people by the year 2015. And I know you feel the same way because you have partnered with us to make this vision a reality.

Your prayers and faithful, generous support are making it possible for more people to study the Bible inductively and, even more important, to teach others to do the same. In this issue of *Plumblines*, you'll read about new and expanded ministry taking place. And this is happening because you prayed . . . and gave.

We have the vision, we have the people, we have the plan, and thanks to God working through His people, the resources are coming in to make the vision a reality. On behalf of all those we serve in 150 countries around the globe, thank you for all you do for the ministry of Precept and for the Kingdom.

Jack, David, and I pray that God will bless you and your family in this new year as you seek to serve Him in an even deeper way.

Your Co-Laborer in Ministry,

P.S. I sincerely hope you will take a few moments to read this issue of *Plumblines*. I am confident you will be encouraged by the many ways God is using your prayers and gifts to expand the ministry of Precept and establish more people in God's Word.

by David  
Arthur



# The Secret of Biblical Generosity

## *Understanding your role as God's steward*

**W**hat if the pizza delivery man showed up at your door with pizza sauce on his face? What would you say to him if you then discovered the pizza sauce came from the very pizza he was delivering to you?

“Dude! What are you doing eating my pizza?”

The delivery man responds with surprising boldness: “Your pizza? The cook gave it to me, not you.”

Now with great angst in your voice, you try to explain that he is the delivery man, not the owner of the pizza! You are the owner; you paid for it so it belongs to you, not him.

This scenario relates to how many of us view our giving. Sometimes I wonder if we begin to think of ourselves as owners instead of stewards. A steward is one who manages, takes care of, and distributes the owner's resources—but never owns them.

In 1 Chronicles 29, we read of the amazing event when King David led his people to give gifts to build the temple. Appropriately, David

led the charge by giving to the work of the temple himself—first. Verse 6 tells us that his generosity spurred on the giving of “the rulers of the fathers' households, and the princes of the tribes of Israel, and the commanders of thousands and of hundreds, with the overseers over the king's work,” all of whom offered *willingly!*

I love what we discover in verse 9 of this chapter: “Then the people rejoiced because they had offered so willingly, for they made their offering to the LORD with a whole heart, and King David also rejoiced greatly.”

Wow! The people witnessing their leaders give sacrificially and joyfully first encouraged them to give with a “whole heart.” Wouldn't that have been an incredible scene to experience—people giving lavishly and with great commitment and joy?

David's prayer starting in verse 10 explains what is driving this great movement of generosity: “Blessed are You, O LORD God of Israel our father, forever and ever. Yours, O LORD, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the victory and the majesty, indeed everything that is in the heavens and the earth . . .”

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This Malayalam language version of *God Are You There?* will soon be joined by more Precept studies in the native languages of India.

## Answering the Call (continued from page 1)

lack of funds. But through a God-given vision to reach an additional 10 million people by 2015, we are finally seeing some of those projects implemented.

Below are just a few examples of how God is using your investment to reach more people with the Truth of His Word.

### EURASIA

Key components of our Eurasia ministry are camps and training conferences where participants are immersed in the Inductive Bible Study method. The majority of those attending are men, and many of those are pastors. Three new conferences have been scheduled in Iraq, Vietnam, and Nepal, thanks to ATC. Hundreds of new and existing Precept leaders and trainers will study God's Word together with countless pastors. Most pastors in these regions of the world have little, if any, formal Bible training, so the methods they learn through Precept become the standard for teaching and training in their own congregations.



### AFRICA

Building on the success of the pastors' conference last fall in Uganda, Precept Africa Director Stuart Kemsley will participate in five Bible conferences across Africa in 2012. At each conference, he will conduct training workshops for pastors and leaders using our book *How to Plant and Grow Strong Churches*. This key resource was written specifically for pastors and has become an essential tool for those following God's direction to plant new churches and grow current ones using Inductive Bible Study. We plan to distribute up to 35,000 copies of this book in the next year. Because they will all go to pastors, the multiplication effect could be incredible.



#### >>> *Monzambique & Angola*

Once again, the lack of resources (books) has been the greatest hurdle to overcome for our work in Portuguese-speaking countries. But now, thanks to God's grace and your faithfulness, books are being shipped to countries like Mozambique and Angola where trained leaders are already in place and ready to put them into use immediately.

## A Closer Look at India

With additional trainers being added in India, we must meet their critical need for materials that will allow them to equip others with the skills required to study the Bible for themselves. Therefore, we are moving ahead immediately with translation and printing of several key resources, including *Lord, Teach Me to Study the Bible in 28 Days*, two Precept Upon Precept studies, and two 40-Minute studies in various languages spoken in India. People who speak Hindi, Telugu, Kannada, Malayalam, and Tamil will now have access to a wider range of materials (and training) that will deepen their Inductive Bible Study skills. ■



### India Stats

<b>Capital:</b>	New Delhi
<b>Government:</b>	Federal Parliamentary Constitutional Republic
<b>Area:</b>	1,269,219 sq. mi.
<b>Population:</b>	1,210,193,422

(continued on page 5)

## SOUTH AMERICA

### >>> Spanish-Speaking Countries

One of the greatest (and ongoing) challenges for our work in Spanish-speaking countries is the need to provide resources for training. Precept has not printed new books in Spanish in several years, and our inventories are nearly depleted. Without sufficient training resources, it is impossible to move into new countries where people are waiting to be trained. In 2012, we will print (or reprint) 16 different books to be used across the Spanish ministry. We expect at least 65 percent of these books will be used by new students who will then be equipped to lead others in going deeper into God's Word.



### >>> Ecuador

One of the key positions being filled through ATC is the National Director for Ecuador. Jhon and Cristina Alvarez are already on the job in Ecuador, and we expect to see the ministry of Precept grow rapidly in this key country. Along with new trainer David Arias, they have already begun to organize and retrain current leaders and will be adding students, leaders, and trainers throughout the year. By 2015 they plan to have more than 1,200 Precept groups across Ecuador. ■



Jhon and Cristina Alvarez

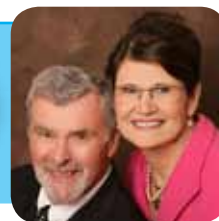


40-Minute studies like *Being a Disciple: Counting the Real Cost*, co-written by Tom & Jane Hart, are widely used in Spanish-speaking countries.



Thousands more will join Precept Upon Precept studies this year because of additional funds for printing for key studies—like this PUP course on *Judges* in Russian.

# Are you Distracted?



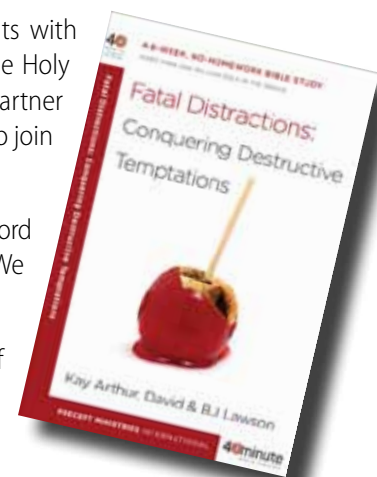
by Tom & Jane Hart

Have you asked, "What in my life is holding me back from pursuing righteousness?" All of us commit individual acts of sin, but you may have noticed that certain sins seem to be more of a problem. Sometimes we wrestle with habitual sin-behaviours when we try to get our needs met apart from God. The source of our struggle is called the flesh. If we live in the flesh rather than by the Spirit, these habitual sins will distract us from our pursuit of righteousness. The early church identified a number of "capital sins" - the sins from which they believed most other sin originates. The church fathers named seven sins that are so corrupting, so evil and dangerous that for the last seventeen hundred years they have been called the *Seven Deadly Sins*—and they are deadly to your spiritual growth. That is why we call them ***fatal distractions***. The new 40 Minute Bible study, ***Fatal Distractions: Conquering Destructive Temptations***, looks at what Scripture says about six of the seven deadly sins.

Precept Ministries International has set a God sized goal of reaching 10 million new students with Inductive Bible Study by 2015. This is a goal that seems unattainable without the power of the Holy Spirit. To accomplish this goal we are recruiting dedicated people who will answer the call to partner with us in *Mobilizing*. In a few months when we begin to recruit leaders from across the country to join us as we mobilize Canada, will you be one of those that God will call?

Those who are aware of what hinders their pursuit of righteousness, are being disciplined in God's Word and have seasoned disciples influencing their walk, will be key leaders in *Mobilizing* Canada. We encourage you to get the ***Fatal Distractions*** study and prepare for what God has in store.

To thank you for your gift this month to mobilize Canadians, we would like to send you a copy of the new 40 Minute, *Fatal Distractions*. Request it today when you make your donation. (On-line giving available at [www.preceptministries.ca/donate](http://www.preceptministries.ca/donate))



Accomplish your goal  
this year to  
***Read through  
the Bible!***



***Order your  
copy today!***

Cookies on the Lower Shelf, Part 1 provides a step-by-step guide beginning with God's beautiful creation in Genesis to the rabble-rousing days of the Judges of Israel. Meet Adam and Eve, weather the flood with Noah, and sojourn with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Go from the land of Canaan into Egypt with Joseph, then back out again as Moses and the children of Israel travel to the Promised Land. See tremendous victories under Joshua and chilling defeats during the time of the Judges.

Workbook #22110 | 10 lessons | \$24.99

**ABOUT THE "COOKIES" SERIES:** Journey through the entire Bible in just 30 weeks. This three part series-10 weeks each, covers Genesis to Revelation. With a study format designed to flex to the needs of each student, "Cookies" puts Bible reading within reach for the average person.

# *Don't Miss These . . .* **Upcoming Events!**

## Brantford Events

**Leader's Meeting with David Arthur**  
(watch live stream at [www.preceptministries.ca/leaders](http://www.preceptministries.ca/leaders))

>>February 11, 2012

**Transform Canada Fundraising Dinner**

>>February 11, 2012

**How to Study OT History & Prophecy**  
**Basics of Precept Upon Precept**

>>March 31, 2012

**Boot Camp**

>>July 9-13, 2012

## Off-Campus Opportunities

**Student Conference—Huntsville, Ontario**

>>April 20-22, 2012

**Disciple Now—Millarville, Alberta**

>>May 5, 2012

**Youth Retreat—Ottawa, Ontario**

>>May 25-27, 2012

*Live Workshops will be held in:*

**Elmira, Ontario — How to Study a New Testament Letter**

>>March 24, 2012

**Halifax, Nova Scotia**

**Witnessing & How to Study a New Testament Letter**

>>September 29, 2012

## Other Events

**One Heart One Way Women's Conference**

with **Carol Kent** (includes breakout sessions with Jane Hart, Jennifer Petersen, Judy Roach and others)

>> March 24, 2012 - Brantford . ON (details at [ncclive.com](http://ncclive.com))



## *Tune in Online*

Listen to or watch *Precepts For Life* at  
[www.preceptministries.ca/PreceptsForLife](http://www.preceptministries.ca/PreceptsForLife)

David continues this doctrine-filled prayer with this powerful statement: “Both riches and honor come from You . . . but who am I and who are my people that we should be able to offer as generously as this? For all things come from You, and from Your hand we have given You.”

The last sentence says it all. We don’t give to God from our own resources; we simply give back to Him what He has graciously given to us. We are stewards, not owners. It all belongs to God—every bit of it. Nothing we have is ours.

This principle is the secret to biblical generosity. We don’t give to help God out of a crisis; we don’t give to make a name for ourselves or to impress others. We give because He first gave to

us. Isn’t that beautiful? We can’t out-give God—because He already has it all!

So let me encourage you to take inventory. What do you have that you “own”? What resources are under your control that belong solely to you? The answer is simple yet profound: Nothing!

And this is exactly what King David proclaimed: “Yours, O LORD . . . everything that is in the heavens and the earth . . . both riches and honor come from You—all things come from Your hand, LORD.”

May this year be a year of great joy and rejoicing for you as you steward the resources God has granted you for the work of His Kingdom! ■

## Online Training Becomes Reality

*Coming This Spring!*

When Precept Ministries International began training Bible Study Leaders in the early '80s, the workshops lasted multiple days, and there were multiple levels of training required in order to lead a Precept Upon Precept class. Today, that training is down to one day. But in the busy world in which we live and minister, it is difficult for many people to attend even a one-day workshop in their own city, much less travel to Chattanooga or some other remote location.

As a result, countless people have been asking us for online training. Although we have had the desire to provide this for several years, only now are the resources and technology that will make this a reality available to us. Soon, people will be able to

receive Precept training on their schedule. It will be the same, high-quality, in-depth training currently presented in our live workshops (which will continue), but it can be done on a person’s own time and pace. Through ATC, we are making a significant investment in the technology necessary to make online training possible, and a recent generous foundation grant has topped off the needed funds to complete this project.

Watch your inbox for details about online training not just for *Precept Upon Precept*, but also for

*40-Minute studies*, our *New Inductive Study Series* and *Basic Bible Study Skills*. Thank you for sharing your resources so that others can know God’s Truth for themselves! ■





# E-Team Members Are Answering the Call

For more than 25 years, Precept's E-Team members have been faithfully giving and praying to support Precept around the world. The results have never been more obvious than they are today as we begin to see the results of the *Answering the Call* campaign—our goal of reaching 10 million new people with the Inductive Bible Study method by 2015.

partnership with Precept as we co-labor in 75 languages and 150 countries around the world.

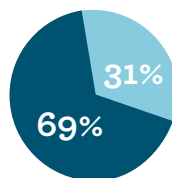
Each year, E-Team members make up more than 42% of all givers to Precept. And while that is an impressive number, the actual financial support from the E-Team totals nearly 69% of all donation income to the Ministry. God is using the E-Team to advance His Kingdom through Precept!

In just a couple of weeks, Precept will be rolling out a new version of the E-Team and will be inviting even more people to join this critical group of ministry partners. If you're not already an E-Team member, we hope you will begin to pray about this opportunity to change more lives in the days ahead. ■

**E-Team members make up more than 42% of all givers to Precept.**

The E-Team began in 1985 during a particularly difficult time in ministry for Jack and Kay. Crying out to God on her knees, Kay was reminded of the apostle Paul's friend, Epaphroditus. As she opened her Bible to Philippians 2:25 to read about this important helper in ministry, she realized God was showing her exactly what was needed to move forward. The result was the establishment of the E-Team for those who feel called to go deeper in their

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The gifts of faithful E-Team members account for **69%** of all giving to Precept in Canada.

- E-Team Giving
- All Other Giving



## Now Available Online!

### Announcing the 2012 Product eCatalog

[www.preceptministries.ca/catalog](http://www.preceptministries.ca/catalog)

Go online to view our new 2012 Product eCatalogue—it's packed with great resources to keep you discovering Truth for yourself throughout the entire year!

Please take advantage of the on-line 2012 Product eCatalogue. This digital delivery method is the most cost-effective means of distribution. We appreciate your support of our efforts to be good stewards of the resources God has entrusted to Precept Ministries International. If you do not have suitable internet access we will still provide a printed copy upon request.