

LEARNING TECHNOLOGIES PNG

In partnership with MAF Learning Technologies

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Our Vision

Overcoming Barriers, Transforming Lives, Building God's Kingdom

Our Vision is to provide pastors and church leaders in isolated areas with access to training for life and ministry. We are specialists in education, digital resources, and technology – passionate to equip pastors and church leaders who serve in the world's most challenging places.

Millions of dedicated pastors and church leaders in the developing world have no access to conventional classroom instruction methods. Many are new Christians themselves. They have a call to minister and a desire to learn but distance, danger, cost and lack of resources present significant

barriers. Those living in areas where believers must hide their faith, face even greater challenges.

By responding to the needs of these pastors and church leaders MAF – Learning Technologies is transforming lives around the world. Through distance education, pastors, church leaders and new believers have access to courses in church ministry, Bible study, theology, evangelism, leadership and a wide variety of other topics to develop spiritual growth. The services of MAF – LT allows these learning leaders to remain in their communities and care for their congregations and families while receiving critical biblical education and training.



Learning



Technologies



Resource

Presenting information alone is not instruction. Especially when there are barriers such as distance, between the teacher and the learner.

People learn differently from one person to another. We have our own unique and yet similar preferred learning styles. Cultures acquire knowledge and skills in a variety of ways. Seminaries, Bible schools, national church organisations, leader training missions and local churches pursue diverse educational goals.

Consideration needs to be given to the different teaching styles and methods required when in 'face-to-face' or distance learning situations.

The MAF Learning Technologies Team doesn't tell clients "This is how it's done." Instead, we ask them, "What does your vision compel you to accomplish?"

We offer a toolbox of curriculum development and learning delivery options. Our partners bring cultural expertise and deep commitment to their people. Together we seek to find the Lord's leading for their specific education needs.

Modern digital tools remain beyond the reach of many in the Third World church.

The MAF Learning Technologies Team confronts that challenge with both software and hardware technologies. We use existing digital tools like online forums, interactive online classrooms, wikis, e-mail, solar powered audio Bibles, mp3 players, and cell phones. Where needed, we develop our own software such as Poodle (Moodle) on a USB, DEViewer and DEScribe.

Students see or hear course materials and have direct links with instructors and fellow students – even when spread far apart in difficult locations.

Our design criteria include:

- Meets the actual need
- Robust
- Easy to maintain
- Simple to use
- Works with available technology
- Serves with or without Internet access

- Uses free, open source software

Third world pastors lack the learning resources available to those in the developed world.

In the developed world it is very easy to access Biblical learning materials, even at no financial cost. It is possible to download sermons, text or audio books and other learning materials from teaching pastors around the world through the internet - even directly to our mobile phones or portable media player.

We have so many options available to learn compared to third world and isolated pastors.

The MAF Learning Technologies Team collects Bibles, Bible references, Bible Studies, Christian books, articles, sermons and other quality course material in a variety of languages.

We seek copyright permission, catalogue these resources and publish into digital formats appropriate to the target users - making them available on appropriate technology.

Then, we deliver them at low or no cost to the ministries and leaders serving in the world's

What We Do - Commonly asked Questions:

What do I need to keep in mind when putting together a lesson? A unit? A course? **The MAF-LT team can help to ensure your course is designed effectively, emphasizing the need to focus on learner outcomes and transformation.**

Wondering how to use Moodle effectively? Wondering what Moodle is? Need an alternative way to deliver courses on a CD using a tool like DEViewer? Can I really deliver my courses on a flash drive called Poodle? What technology options are there for me to deliver my courses? Not sure what it will take to host a course delivery system? **Our MAF-LT team can help you evaluate the delivery system that would best suit your needs and situation.**

Who is the learner? What is their education level? What do they want when the course is completed? What is their technical savvy? How old is the learner? What is their primary language? **Our MAF-LT team can help you do a thorough analysis of your target audience.**

Do your learners have access to the Internet? Is Internet access expensive? How much IT resourcing will this take? Can I deliver my content offline and only use the Internet for learner interaction like forums and chat? **The MAF-LT team can help you maneuver the technical maze that results in good decisions for your learners.**

What are good education theories and models that can be used to encourage transformational learning? **The MAF-LT team can help you think through the issues related to learning and teaching to deliver your training effectively.**

Can my learners read and write? Even if they can read and write, is this their primary way of learning? Can the people my learner will be serving read and write? Have I considered how to train the 85% of the world's population that is primarily oral learners? **The MAF-LT team can help you discover and assess the use of oral strategies.**

What are the issues related to moving from face-to-face teaching to distance education? How do I know my learner is getting it? How do I do exams? What changes do I need to make to the way I present material? **The MAF-LT team can help you think through the issues related to distance education.**

If I'm not standing in front of my students to see their reaction to my teaching, how do I assess student involvement and interest? How can I be assured that it is my student taking the exam and not his friend? How do I keep that student from posting rude comments on the forum? How can I develop community when my students are in different countries? **The MAF-LT team can help you think through issues related to online teaching.**

Face-to-face meetings are nice, but with budgets down how can I spend less, but still interact effectively with my team? What tools exist to enable us to work together on projects without traveling so much? How can we communicate securely with our home office? With each other? **MAF-LT can help your team collaborate even if scattered across the globe.**

Interested in setting up a Web Server? Have a number of web servers that you would like to Virtualize? **The MAF-LT team can help you assess these needs and help you find the solutions you need by providing technical expertise.**

Are there any digital resources in Spanish that I can use to train pastors? There must be digitized books available for me to use in French-speaking Africa, where can I get them? How can I get Christian materials to national church leaders in Papua New Guinea who have little or no internet access? My international team needs Christian materials in Nepal, Russia and Albania; what is available? **The MAF-LT team has a number of resources and can help to find other resources.**

How can I arrange our organization's digital resources so that all of our team members can get to it? How can we make these resources accessible to our international team? **The MAF-LT team can help you construct a digital library that fits your needs.**

Do you need help setting up digital lending libraries for Church leaders in remote areas? **The MAF-LT team can help by sharing our experience in training librarians or "gatekeepers," as we call them.** This includes solar power and battery recharging

options and equipment sources as well as finding MP3 players and video players that are both inexpensive and will stand up to the rigors of challenging environments. We also can train you how to find what resources are effective for those needing training and resource materials.

MAF-LT can also train you in how to convert audio content from cassette tapes and DVDs to compressed forms that allow loading on portable devices or streaming from the World Wide Web.

Our MAF-LT staff have experience in working with content publishers to coordinate pricing and permission for digitized resources to be used at a fraction of normal printed pricing. We also have digital conversion services to convert printed materials to digital PDF format and converting audio cds or tapes to MP3 format that can be loaded to MP3 players for a digital library lending program setup.



CLTC TEE materials in Audio format for the remote teacher

MAF-LT is unique in the mission world, and fills a critical void in five distinct areas:

Overcoming Isolation—MAF-LT overcomes isolation caused by geographical, cultural and spiritual barriers.

Contextual Challenges—Because educational traditions differ around the world, MAF-LT assesses needs and provides customised learning tools and solutions.

Cooperative Partnerships—MAF-LT collaborates with ministry partners on every project to both meet immediate needs as well as multiply the created resources.

Enabling National Leadership—MAF-LT provides tools and counsel to enable indigenous people to develop independent, self-sustaining educational programs.

Multiplying Effectiveness—With the assistance of MAF-LT, indigenous pastors and ministry partners extend their reach and multiply their impact.

Our History

MAF Learning Technologies is a ministry of Mission Aviation Fellowship.

We began in 2000 as a 3 year project by Mission Aviation Fellowship to fill a specific need within the former Soviet Union. Pastors and church leaders lacked resources and training. We were not education providers but we had the technology to deliver what those pastors required. So we built partnerships with local training ministries that expanded their ability to serve the church.

During this three year project we and our partners:

- created Bibliologia - an extensive digital pastor's library in the Russian language. We have delivered

over 200,000 free copies via DVD and online download.

- the Bibliologia resource contained 18 Bibles, 200 books and 40 Bible based courses.
- built and helped deliver eight Russian and English Distance Education courses to 150 pastors
- established 20 computer based learning centres in Russia, Ukraine, and other Central Asia countries.
- Created DEViewer and DEScribe - free Bible Study software tools distributed to over 50,000 Russian speaking believers in 75 countries.
- established secure email services for pastors in remote or insecure areas.

The project's unexpected global impact revealed the church's extensive, critical needs. Therefore

MAF responded by establishing a Learning Technologies ministry which now partners with organisations in Russia, Europe, Central Asia, Southern Asia, Southeast Asia, Africa, Latin America and in 2011 Asia Pacific. The MAF - Learning Technologies team now comprises 41 staff, in career, part-time or voluntary roles.



2010 Ministry Highlights

- The MAF LT team served forty-six ministries in eighteen countries with consulting, training, resources and tools.
- Created an Alpha release of a new tool designed to simplify the building of digital libraries. This multi-language tool will be of benefit to ministries large and small around the world. Two LT projects will benefit immediately from this tool—Thai Resource Library and the Global Digital Resources project.
- Helped enable LT Latin America to make significant progress in establishing a region-wide web presence providing tools and services.
- Oral Strategies workshops in Thailand and Senegal opened new possibilities through oral inductive Bible study and appropriate technology tools for isolated people with little or no literacy to learn the Bible and multiply their learning amongst other oral learners.
- Oral Strategies workshops in the Nampa USA area exposed workers from various international ministries and local churches to MAF and new

tools to use in their churches, outreaches and mission work.

- The impact of training, audio tools and resources provided in Zambia, Uganda, Sudan, Nigeria, Liberia, Albania, Ghana and India will continue to ripple throughout the church in these countries.
- A major project was completed with Equipping the Saints ministry (20,000 students worldwide using these discipleship materials) to digitize 20 books, 150 audio resources and 125 videos that are now available on the web and DVD.
- Enabled Africa Inland Mission (AIM) to provide church planters in North Africa with a digital library of critical books and resource material to support their in-the-field training program. The necessity for this project was the isolation and security issues faced by the AIM missionaries, making it impossible for them to carry 75 Christian books in country.
- The MAF authoring tool (DEscribe) was significantly enhanced during the year to

incorporate, for example, the importing of older DEViewer courses and right-to-left languages such as Arabic.

- The entire MAF-LT website was redesigned, increasing our relevance to our target audiences, creating channels for partner ministries and those interested in being part of the LT ministry to interact and engage with us more dynamically.
- The experience and growing awareness of LT in the missions community has led to an ability to influence the way in which church leaders and missionaries are trained. LT staff are participating on the steering committees of two networks—Church-based Training Network which brings together 50 leaders from ministries in 22 countries, and Increase, an emerging collaborative network for the many TEE movements worldwide.



Equipping Pastors and Church Leaders

Isolated pastors and church leaders use MAF digital tools to learn, teach, disciple, and train ... in jungles and other isolated areas, as well as in urban settings.

Example - An indigenous pastor or church leader who needs to take a Bible training course visits an Internet café

1. Using an encrypted USB thumb drive, he downloads a portable Bible course.
2. He returns to his home, where he has a computer but no Internet connection. Only a few hours of electricity each day is necessary to operate his computer.
3. He is able to read and study the digital course material in a “virtual” distance learning environment. He can type answers to questions and assignments and save them to his USB stick.
4. A week or so later, he then returns to the Internet café. Using his USB thumb drive, he sends his assignments to his course mentor and other students. He downloads the responses from his mentor and distance learning classmates, to study along with the course material after he returns home.
5. He leaves the Internet café without leaving any digital trace of the material he was viewing on the public computer ... a very valuable feature for Christians who live in hostile regions.
6. The pastor or church leader then travels to jungle or isolated villages to evangelize, disciple, and train locals.

Partnering to Create Learning Materials

MAF meets with local church leaders, pastors, and teachers who know the needs of remote pastors and congregations in their country. A team is then formed.

1. The team works together to assess the learners who would take the courses, determining their level of biblical knowledge, how much study time they have available, where they live, what spiritual and life issues need to be addressed, etc.
2. The team also assesses the technology that learners have available to them.
3. The team trains local church leaders, pastors, and teachers who will write the course materials on how to best teach in a “virtual” computer-based, distance learning environment. Interactive, distance learning is very different from teaching face-to-face in a classroom!
4. Local course writers continue to create study and training materials, guided and supported at a distance by the MAF-LT ministry. MAF provides guidance, software such as Greenstone, Bible software, DEScribe, and DEViewer, and recommends the best use of the technology and learning styles for that part of the world.
5. MAF nurtures the relationship with the local ministry that delivers the training to its remote learners so that MAF can support and assist when challenges arise. Eventually, the local ministry and course writers are trained to develop everything on their own!
6. The materials that local writers create, under the coaching of MAF, become part of the resources that MAF shares with similar learners in Learning Technologies PNG



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