

Transforming the Church, One Person at a Time

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Why is it called Perspectives? Perspectives on the World Christian Movement has the goal of transforming the Church's perspective and vision, one individual at a time.

Chris Sheehan was a missionary for 20 years before taking Perspectives. Amazed at how it transformed his view of missions, he describes the course as "filling in a lot of holes in my mission thinking." Now Chris is on Wycliffe's Perspective team, working with technology, websites, and area classes. He loves the way Perspectives increases his connections with local churches and his impact on students. He says, "We have the opportunity through Perspectives to pour into the lives of these special people who are very sensitive to God and know they were made for more."

Chris is amazed at the impact a Perspectives class can have. He explains, "As a class coordinator, it was precious to see people respond to God's call to serve him more deeply. Many life trajectories were changed through the course!" Chris saw how some students went on to overseas missions, while others became welcoming to international students. Still others began serving in their hometowns through their churches and local ministries. As a world mobilizer, Chris knows that 19% of alumni who take the Perspectives course end up serving long-term on the mission field. From 2005-2010, that was 7,600 individuals!

Perspectives can transform a student's vision.

Stacy Lee served with Perspectives in many roles before serving as Wycliffe's Perspectives Team Manager for almost seven years. She remembers first taking the class: "I read the Bible with new eyes. I cannot un-see the thread of God's heart for the nations and his desire to be glorified in all the earth." Stacy had worked as a nurse for 10 years, but her career, which had been her life, was somehow not enough. Plagued by feelings that she was missing something and her career path was a mistake, she didn't see a different road to take.

That's when Perspectives gave her a new vision of the immensity of our God and his desire to see her work with him! Stacy learned that serving God isn't restricted to going

to the mission field. She began mobilizing with Wycliffe from her hometown, working with both Perspectives and Wycliffe to help people find their purpose and path in knowing and serving God. When individuals take Perspectives, they are 21% more likely to recruit others to the mission field. Each of us can heed God's Great Commission call in diverse ways.

Perspectives also brings churches together. One class may have 10 or more churches represented. By uniting area churches to jointly host the course, the body of Christ collaborates for kingdom advancement. Stacy says, "I love seeing the body of Christ come together like this! Fellowship, friendships, and partnerships find a place to grow within Perspectives classes."

Sometimes Perspectives will transform a student's purpose.

Andy Minch, a Bible translator in Papua New Guinea for 20 years, is an Associate Editor for the Perspectives *Reader* 5th edition. He loves Perspectives and has instructed more than 100 Perspectives lessons over the past 30 years. Andy often helps students experience a transformation in their life purpose. He talks about God's mission since the beginning of time. Students have a choice to make. Andy tells his students, "[Your] purpose in life can be wrapped up in what you think is good or you can view your purpose as faithfully joining God in his global mission." He adds, "The Perspectives course laid out for me a clarity of purpose. To view Scripture, history, and life from God's perspective provided a paradigm shift that screamed that God is never content with the status quo."

Perspectives changes churches as students learn to "prepare their hearts for a life of greater service and faithfulness." 