



India Project

April 17 - 28, 2017

When I was asked to be part of the CrossTalk Global India team, I was extremely honored and excited. I spent several years studying with Dr. Kent Edwards in a doctoral program and he had a profound impact on my understanding of preaching and my ability to preach. The concepts he taught me were helpful for preaching, leading Bible studies, biblical counseling, and even personal devotional times. So, when I heard about CrossTalk Global's goal to equip biblical communicators so every culture hears God's voice, I was thrilled to be part of the team!

Because of my experience with Dr. Edwards and his vision for CrossTalk, I knew I would have an amazing and fruitful time in India. However, **I completely underestimated how transformative CrossTalk would be** in just a matter of two weeks. I can honestly say that my life will never be the same. More importantly, the students we worked with were adamant that their lives and the people they lead would never be the same. **How does God use CrossTalk to transform lives in such a powerful way?**

CrossTalk is used by God to powerfully transform lives by **focusing on relationships**. CrossTalk's DNA is created to focus on people and not just a task. In India, we spent two weeks together learning how to understand and communicate God's Word. We laughed hard, sang loud, studied diligently, ate well, and practiced preaching. By the end of the two weeks we were no longer acquaintances, but family. Families share stories. During our time together I heard several stories from my new brothers and sisters. Many of them have experienced persecution. Some have been imprisoned for their faith and others kicked out of their homes for the sake of Christ. My understanding of what a committed follower of Christ looks like has forever been changed because of these new relationships. By focusing on relationships, CrossTalk is used by God to powerfully transform lives.

Crosstalk is also used by God to powerfully transform lives by **giving His people the tools they need**. One of my best friends, David, is a phenomenally gifted worship leader and has a deep love for Christ. David began leading worship for the local church when he was in seventh grade and has constantly sought to grow in his relationship with Christ and better himself as a worship leader. Even as a teenager, many people saw that David had the character and the gifting to be used by God as a worship leader.

However, David didn't always have the best "tools in his tool belt." He had a pretty cheap guitar that got the job done, but frankly, just didn't sound that great. David did the best he could with what he had and God used him! After seeing David's potential, I asked myself, "What could happen with David if we gave him a good guitar? He's already being used by God, but what could happen if he had the right tools in his 'tool belt?'" Our church pitched in and got David a Taylor Guitar...the best of the best! The difference seen (and heard!) in David's ministry was immediate. A nice guitar can't make someone a good worship leader, but a nice guitar sure can help a worship leader be more effective. This is



like what CrossTalk does. It puts the best tools in the ‘tool belts’ of biblical communicators. The students in CrossTalk India are passionate, gifted and committed followers of Christ. They have been doing the best they can with what they have and God has been using them in significant ways for His kingdom. Now CrossTalk is giving them the tools they need to more effectively communicate God’s Word and the students are beyond thrilled! Several told me they are excited to teach the Bible in a much more potent way. One student said, “I can’t wait to start teaching God’s ideas and not my own. My church will finally be properly fed! Now they can grow spiritually!”

I’m truly honored to help build relationships and help deliver some tools to the ‘tool belts’ of the gifted biblical communicators of India. **Great Relationships + Great Tools = Powerful Transformation.**

And this was only year one!



Brandon Hays, DMin
CrossTalk Instructor
University Pastor
Southcrest Baptist Church
Lubbock, Texas