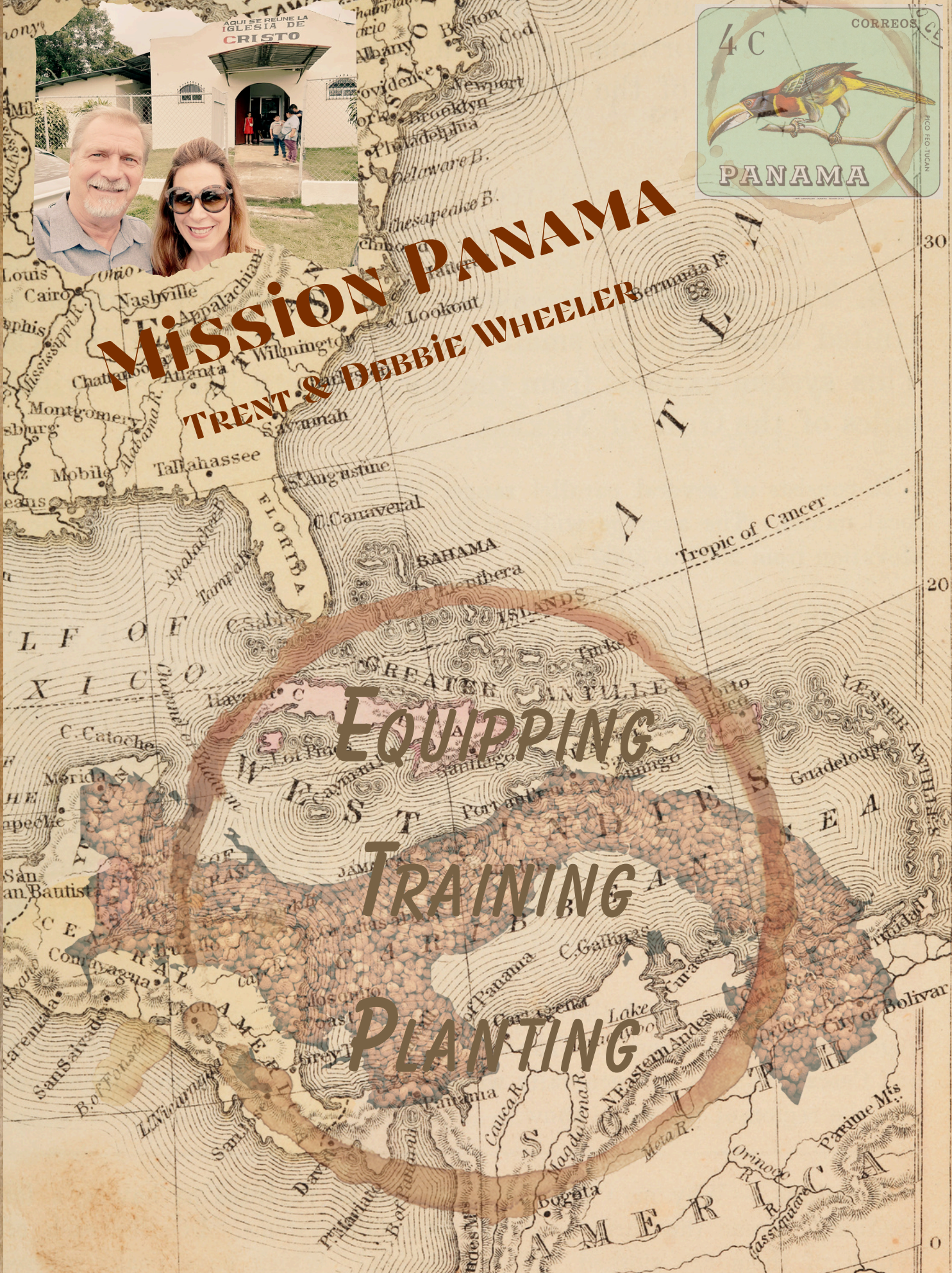


# MISSION PANAMA

## TRENT & DEBBIE WHEELER

EQUIPPING  
TRAINING  
PLANTING



# Philosophy of Missions



While most people are planning their retirement, Trent and Debbie Wheeler were looking for where they might serve the kingdom in their golden years. A journey that ultimately let them to Panama.

Trent and Debbie have devoted their lives in service to others. Trent served as the Director of African Christian Schools for ten years, did mission work in New Zealand, Honduras, and Africa as well as stateside church plants.

Debbie spent most of her career in nursing, but has also taught children's classes, ladies Bible class, as well as participate in campaign work on the mission field. She is especially thankful to be able to devote more time to God's work in the kingdom, especially being able to work with the children in Panama.

The Wheeler's philosophy of ministry comes from Ephesians 4:12, 13 *"Equipping the saints for the work of ministry, for the building up of the body of Christ, until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ."*



## ***A PRACTICAL APPROACH TO MISSIONS***

The primary goal at Misión Panamá is to empower churches to become: ***1) Self-supporting, 2) Self-governing, and 3) Self-propogating.*** Creating a self-sustaining work in Panama is nearly impossible without answering the economic needs of the church, preacher, and community.

There are two basic approaches to mission efforts: 1) local works remain under foreign support and guidance indefinitely, 2) We train local preachers in viable trades so they can support themselves in the local community. Read our case studies at:

<https://mision-panama.org/downloads>



# Bible Training

**The foundation of the work is centered around sharing Christ with the lost and equipping churches to serve.** The Wheeler's approach to biblical education includes:



**Preacher Training:** Create a curriculum for those who desire to serve the local congregations as preachers, elders, or Bible school teachers. A copy of our proposed curriculum can be found on our website at <https://mision-panama.org/downloads>

**Leadership Training:** Many of the churches in Panama do not have local leadership established. The Bible institute will have leadership as part of its core curriculum. The program *will also host special workshops on the qualifications and installation of elders and deacons in the local churches.*

**Chapel & Daily Bible Classes:** Since the overall program will include vocational education available to church members and the community; daily chapel and a ***daily Bible class will be mandatory.*** This portion of the program will focus on first principles such as the New Testament Church, Salvation, and Christian living.



## VOCATIONAL TRAINING

By adding vocational training to the Bible institute we create “tentmaker” ministries:

1. ***Provide training that allows preachers and church leaders to earn a living wage while in school and when they graduate.*** Whether it's welding, construction, bicycle repair, or wood working, local workers are no longer dependent on outside support.
2. Provide the local community the opportunity to better their lives with a vocational education.
3. Those enrolled in the vocational training programs will receive instruction in English by reading and studying the Bible.

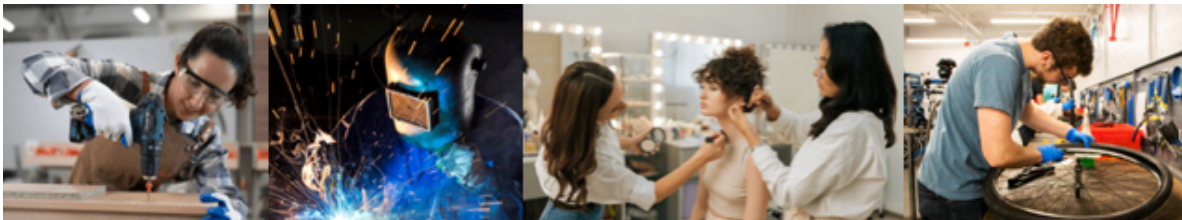
# Building for the Future



It is important to apply the same philosophy of missions to our own efforts. It's not enough for preacher's, churches, and the local communities to become self-sufficient. This program is designed with the same values and principles in mind. **The goal is for the Bible and Vocational Institute to be self-sustaining in three to five years.** The vocational departments will include working apprenticeships and the products and services will help pay staff and run the program.

**Example:** Construction and home repair skills are important needs in this region of the country as a result of the large expat community. Building houses, pools, workshops, and home renovations are always in demand. We already have a couple of U.S contractors willing to help us teach in these areas.

Trent & Debbie have personally purchased construction equipment for work on their own home (a small cement mixer, cinderblock cutter, grinders, saws, and other power and hand tools), they are donating to the vocational program. They still need, leather working tools, a couple of quality sewing machines, and other items (see the supply list attached).



## ***BUILDING ON SUCCESS***

For the past six months, the Wheelers have been seeking financial support for the Bible/Vocational Institute with limited success. Moving forward, they are shifting their approach to the program. They plan to begin working with some of the mature Christian leaders in the country to create a "video Bible institute" with free access for the churches, and build the curriculum around the current needs (one of these being establishing biblical leadership in the churches).

The vocational arm will also focus on a more humble beginning with a resource center of materials and local Christian leaders/mentors working with individuals seeking a trade, or wishing to improve on their current skill set. It will also include a daily English/Bible class for students entering the school.

### Supply List Needs:

- Leather & Woodworking tools
- Dewalt 20v battery packs
- Five heavy duty sewing machines.
- Bicycle repair equipment.
- Plumbers supplies.
- Barbering/Hair styling
- Video Bible School production equipment.

# How you can help



**Budget:** Mission Panama's goal is to raise \$25,000 by the end of December, 2026 for the purchase of vocational center equipment, audio/video equipment, and staffing for the video Bible school and vocational teachers

*We would be more than happy to provide a detailed breakdown of expenses to those interested in donating to the program or sharing this information with their home congregation.*

**Work Teams:** As our program in Panama grows, support teams from North America will be needed for campaigns, construction projects and Spanish speaking individuals can assist with training materials for the Bible Institute. We pray that you will consider sending a team to work with us in reaching Western Panama for Christ.

**Ambassadors:** To accomplish our goals, ***we need ambassadors*** who can help us reach out to donors, schedule church visits, contact faith-based foundations, or set personal fundraising goals. ***If each of our donors committed to helping raise \$1,000 to \$3,000 we would reach our 2026 goal in no time.***



• Leather & Woodworking Supplies	\$2,500
• 10 Dewalt 20v batteries	\$550
• 5 Sewing Machines	\$1,250
• Bicycle Repair Equip.	\$750
• Basic Plumbing Supplies	\$2,500
• Barbering / Hair styling	\$1,500
• Video Production Studio	\$5,000
• Construction: Equipment storage	\$4,000
• 2 years staff/instructor salaries	\$6,000

## How to Give

Send Contributions to:  
Creekside Church of Christ  
Panama Missions  
3949 Lithia Pinecrest Rd.  
Valrico, FL 33596

or, use the link at the  
bottom of this page.

Giving Online: <https://secure.myvanco.com/YN8B/campaign/C-14866>



[www.mision-panama.org](http://www.mision-panama.org)