

Brethren Church Library
in Multan, Pakistan



PHOTO CREDIT: BOAZ GILL

Perspectives from 22 Countries

Why We Need Christian Books and Libraries

We recently asked our community of Christian authors and publishers, "Is there a library that includes Christian books where you live? Please share one way such a library has been helpful, and/or your thoughts on how having such a library might impact your church and community."

We received over 10,000 words in responses from 22 countries across 4 continents.

Here's just a small snippet of what they shared:

- "Just as Paul instructed Timothy to give attention to reading so that he would be equipped, I strongly believe that proper access to Christian books will shape character and society." ISRAEL ELAZAR, NIGERIA
- "While thousands are coming to the Lord every day, their faith struggles to grow because they are not well-nourished. They deeply need to learn, but learning is impossible without books—and books are non-existent without libraries." DAPHROSE MUTEHO AND JEAN-PASTEUR KATAVO, DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO
- "A Christian library in our community would be transformative, providing a safe space for reflection, learning and peace. Digital resources cannot replace a physical library. Libraries have a power we cannot afford to lose. They build lives, strengthen families, shape cultures and nurture peace." BOAZ GILL, PAKISTAN
- "Many young people and families have benefited from books in our church library that address real-life challenges from a biblical perspective. Its presence has also encouraged a stronger reading culture within the church." SAMUEL IBYISHAKA, RWANDA

- "Having Christian libraries—or even Christian books in libraries for the general public—is helpful for everyone. We can be brought closer to Christ as readers, and share the gospel as writers." KEIRA VIRESE, PHILIPPINES
- "It is very important to have a library space in churches to provide access to books without having to buy them, considering the economic situation of many families, as well as providing support material for new Christians." JOSÉ GONZALEZ VARGAS, COSTA RICA
- "The library is a lifeline, and it has become a center for meeting other Christians and for tiny scattered churches to gather together." STEPHANIE HEALD, SCOTLAND



"We can be brought closer to Christ as readers, and share the gospel as writers."

Keira Viresse, Philippines

[Read more at maiglobal.org](https://maiglobal.org)



PHOTO CREDIT: JOSÉ GONZALEZ VARGAS

▲ personal library
of Christian books.



Serving together: MAI International Board meeting in June

Asking the Right Questions



By Heather Pubols,
MAI President

One of the temptations of leading a global network like MAI is to get caught up in “doing” and missing the right questions. How many training events have we run? How many countries have we visited? How many people came along? How many books have been published?

I’m not sure these are the right questions. MAI’s vision is not activity. Our vision is that the Church is strengthened and society is changed by encountering Jesus through the written word. The encouragement and training we offer Christian writers and publishers is a vital part of this.

Sometimes this happens through the training events we offer, and our webinar and workshop participants themselves grow in their own love for God and Christlike character, as well as spurred on to write books that point readers to Jesus.

From the time Pierre Celestin Uwiringiyimana of Rwanda came to faith in Christ, God gave him a burden to reach out to and disciple university students. He attended our Christian

Writers Workshop in March. “It supported me so much in writing my first book,” Pierre wrote to MAI.

Sometimes we see glimpses of God bringing His vision for MAI to pass through our online communities that gather Christians together to pray, write and explore ideas.

For Mary Sefa Boahemaa of Ghana, who has just published her first book, being part of MAI’s WhatsApp group for writers has been about more than publishing. “Being in this community has helped me in so many ways,” Mary told us. She hopes to encourage readers to trust God through all seasons.

And often, it’s only after years of building relationships, providing training consistently, and opening doors of opportunities to connect with others, that we see that God is indeed working through MAI to strengthen His Church as new publishing houses are built in hard places.

Ever since a training event by MAI in June 2023, people have been asking journalist Jonah Nyoni of Zimbabwe questions about Christian publishing. “Recognizing this gap in Zimbabwe and within the church, I felt led to register a company to help equip and support others,” Jonah says.

When we start asking questions like how people are being equipped to sow the seeds of the gospel in new ways and how are lives being transformed as a result, we can open our eyes to the long-term fruit that this work brings. Pray with us as we equip those who will write the stories that point people to Jesus in this generation and beyond.

Heather

Becoming More Like Jesus—Insights at an Online Spanish Book Club

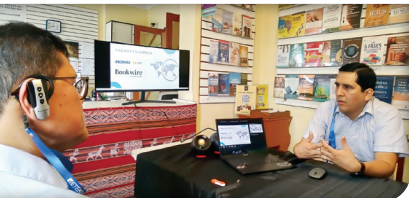
Over March and April, MAI-América Latina Board members Karen Suárez and Patricia Cabral facilitated weeks of online book club meetings in Spanish. Beatriz Buono of Argentina says, “I came away with the conviction that God designed us for change, becoming more like Jesus.”



Strengthening Publishers and Inspiring Designers in Latin America

MAI-América Latina Board Chair José Carlos Gutiérrez M. and MAI Director of Publisher Development Ramon Rocha visited Peru, Chile

and Argentina in May. “Those days were truly meaningful. They reaffirmed that we share a common vision and commitment to serving the church,” says Ruben Villar of Ediciones Puma in Peru.



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Editor: Trix Wilkins. Designer: Anna Piro
President: Heather Pubols

Media Associates International
P.O. Box 103
Wheaton, IL 60187 USA
Tel: +(630) 260-9063
mai@maiglobal.org
www.MAiglobal.org

MAI-Europe
Janet Wilson, Chair
mai-europe@maiglobal.org

MAI-Asia
Aaron Lee, Chair
mai-asia@maiglobal.org

MAI-Africa
Rose Birenge, Chair
mai-africa@maiglobal.org

MAI-América Latina
José Carlos Gutiérrez M., Chair
mai-americalatina@maiglobal.org