



## ESTHER INITIATIVE

### The Esther Initiative Vision

#### 1. The Story of Queen Esther

Esther was a descendant of the tribe of Benjamin, which had been part of the kingdom of Judah. Her ancestors were among the Jews who had been carried captive to Babylon nearly 100 years earlier. There were many Jews who didn't return to Jerusalem when it became possible, preferring to continue living where they had settled around the Persian Empire. After the death of Esther's parents, she was raised by Mordecai, an older cousin, who served in the Persian ruler's palace.

Through a series of events, we know that Esther – who was once an orphan - became Queen. **Some may have considered her an unlikely hero, but you and I know that God often uses the ordinary to do the extraordinary.**

In Esther Chapter 4 we get to the heart of the story: Mordecai implored Esther to intervene on behalf of her people or they would all be killed. Esther reminded Mordecai that anyone who came before the king without being called, even the queen, would be subject to death. The only exception to this would be if the king extended mercy by holding out the golden scepter. Mordecai then uttered the most famous line from the book when he said, "For if you remain completely silent at this time, relief and deliverance will arise for the Jews from another place, but you and your father's house will perish. ***Yet who knows whether you have come to the kingdom for such a time as this?***" Esther then agreed to risk her life for her people.

**With faith, clear preparation, precise timing, and courageous leadership, God used Esther to save her people and accomplish profound things for His Kingdom purposes! Esther's great faith and boldness changed the course of history. And just like Esther, you are called for such a time as this. It is no**

**accident that you live during this time in history in the exact position where God has placed you. He wants to use you to impact others for His purposes.**

**Our prayer is that you will be encouraged and equipped to influence other women for good. You are important to God's plan for your family, your community, your nation, and the world!**

## **2. The Need for Spiritual Mothers**

I am humbled not only by my own mother's significant spiritual investment in my life, but also by the additional spiritual parents God has put in my path throughout life's changing seasons. In true Titus 2 form, the timely investment of these saints has been transformational in helping me grow in my walk with Christ.

**But many spiritual orphans around the world don't have this privilege.**

The apostle Paul said of the early church that there were many guardians in Christ *but not many fathers* (1 Corinthians 4:15). The same holds true today. The world is desperately lacking spiritual mothers and fathers who will stand in the gap and teach what is good to a new generation of believers.

**Global Advance is answering this need through the Esther Initiative Mentoring Track.**

In strategic geographic regions around the world, passionate and mature women leaders on the front lines have willingly stepped up as Esther Initiative mentors. Locally and through the beauty of the internet, these women meet regularly with their spiritual mentees for fellowship, encouragement, prayer, and intentional leadership training using the Esther Initiative Leadership Training Manual.

*But that's only the beginning.*

Once trained, these mentees continue the multiplication process by *using what they've learned* to make disciples in their own spheres of influence, intentionally mentoring and mobilizing women *where they live* to reflect God's character to a lost world.

***One by one, in cities, towns, and villages, these spiritual mothers are standing in the gap, committing to raising up modern day Esthers to be difference makers for the advance of the gospel in their nations.***

One example is Jessica, whom we met in Nicaragua at a Global Advance training event.

As a pastor's wife, Jessica was singlehandedly leading five different areas of ministry and was quickly becoming overwhelmed and exhausted. She had a desire to lead women and build a ministry team but didn't know where to start. When presented with the Esther Initiative Leadership Training Manual and mentoring opportunity she overflowed with gratitude, stating that **this resource was like gold to her – an answer to her prayers and exactly what she needed** to move forward in developing women leaders in her church. Through the Esther Initiative Mentoring Track, women leaders in Jessica's church are now gaining the biblical foundation and confidence needed to lead various ministries. With renewed hope, Jessica now sees a way to multiply her ministry reach with a PLAN for personal emphasis on people and the gospel.

Jessica is so captivated with the beauty of Christ that she has a deep desire for the women around her to grow in His likeness. **This is spiritual mothering through the Esther Initiative: a long-term investment in raising up spiritual daughters all around the world to reflect the beauty of their Father.**

It's a legacy with great implications for eternity. **We can't think of a more worthwhile kingdom investment.**

### **3. The Great Commission**

*Matthew 28 says, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."*

These instructions from Jesus to His disciples, His last while He was here on earth, are at the very heart of what we do as leaders. Did you notice He didn't just ask His bewildered followers to lead people to salvation and promise them a home in heaven? They were asked to "make disciples of all nations, ... teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you," a much greater challenge! To "make disciples" requires us to open our lives and give of ourselves without reservation to the task of leading and loving others, encouraging them to pursue a personal, daily, obedient relationship with the Creator of the universe, the Savior of our souls.

Mature women leaders like you share this same vision. **We want to help equip you to lead the women God has placed in your spheres of influence.** Remember, God equips whom He calls, and He can use YOU for His mighty purposes if you'll let Him!

## 4. The Esther Manual

Global Advance has created a leadership training manual for women titled Raising Up Modern Day Esthers. This manual contains 12 chapters of foundational, biblical leadership lessons that are specifically designed for those who lead (or have the desire to lead) other women. If you are a Christian woman in leadership who is committed to developing the next generation of leaders for the Kingdom of God, we encourage you to use these lessons as a guide for training others through the twelve leadership training sessions. If you are a woman who is just beginning your leadership journey, prayerfully seek others who are like-minded and together recruit a godly mentor who will share her experience and wisdom with you.

Our sincere hope is that you will study these lessons “in community,” with each individual reading and reflecting on the material prior to meeting so that thoughts, experiences, and wisdom can be shared among the group.

## 5. Manual Format

As you open the Esther Manual, you'll notice that the Contents include 12 Chapters, broken down into three main sections: **Who I Am, My Relationships, and My Leadership**. Each lesson is intentionally laid out to provide:

1. **A Key Truth** – the main take-away of the lesson
2. **Your Response** – space for you to record how the key truth applies to your life
3. **Memory Verses** – to help hide the key truth in your heart

Let's walk through the manual together so you can get a glimpse into what this resource offers.

### Who I Am

1. My Identity in Christ
2. Walking in the Spirit

3. Mapping My Life
4. Dealing with My Past

## **My Relationships**

5. Nurturing My Relationship with God
6. Servant Leadership
7. Values, Priorities, Balance

## **My Leadership**

8. Communications, Personalities, Relationships
9. Leading Where God Has Placed You
10. Teamwork – The Key to Leadership
11. Called to Follow
12. Reflecting, Celebrating, Commissioning

Leadership can be a humbling experience. If you don't think of yourself as a "natural leader," you are in good company; neither did Moses, Gideon, or David, but God chose them to lead thousands. The good news is that God is not asking us to make disciples who will follow *us*, but disciples whom we can lead to follow Jesus, He who is "with us always," who holds "all authority in heaven and on earth!"

Will you prayerfully consider using this resource to raise up modern day Esthers in your nation?