



FaithLife Ministries

"Equipping Church Leaders Globally for 22 Years"

August, 2023
Newsletter

New Training Milestones Reached!



FaithLife Ministries reached three new milestones for our training ministry in July.

First, we sent out the **600th** copy of our **Management for Church Leaders™ Self-Training Book**, which is our primary training offered on our website since 2014. This book has driven requests for our Discipleship for Church Leaders training manual as well as requests from recipients to join our global trainer network. There is still a strong, ongoing need for this training as we sent out 100 copies in just the past 12 months!

Second, we also sent out the **200th** copy of our **Discipleship for Church Leaders™** training manual. This training course was introduced in 2016 and receives far less attention than our MCL training. However, we are also seeing more and more requests for it through our website.

The third milestone we reached this month was Kim sending out the **100th** copy of her **Children's Ministry Books!** We began offering these books on our website in 2015 and this training resource has been sent to 35 different nations!

We continue to be amazed at what God is doing through this ministry and give all the glory to Him!

FaithLife Ministries: The Beginning

"In the beginning, God created..."
Genesis 1:1

I thought it might be worthwhile to share some information on the background of our ministry.

My wife Kim and I started this ministry with the intent of using it as a vehicle to take Americans to the mission field to train pastors and church leaders through short term mission trips. We established FaithLife Ministries, Inc. as a Georgia non-profit corporation on January 22, 2001. This designation allowed us to operate as a non-profit corporation in Georgia with revenues to be used only for its expenses. We are not allowed to have members but do have a board of directors. We received our 501(3)c IRS tax exemption on June 18, 2001. This enabled us to receive tax deductible donations.

We led our first mission trip as FaithLife Ministries in **May of 2001** to the **Philippines** to conduct a children's, youth, and adult ministry leadership training conference in Laoag and Tabuk. On that trip the local pastor and our host, **Doming Orprecio**, asked Barry to do some management training for the mobile Bible school that he ran and for the pastors in his denomination that he oversaw. Barry developed the training later that year and conducted the first ever **Management for Church Leaders™** training in the Philippine city of Ballesteros in February of 2002.

Because of the need for this type of training globally, the Lord led Barry to pursue this more fervently. While we still took mission teams out to do other church leader training, Barry also began to train this new course in other nations as requested. By 2006 we had taught this new course in 5 nations, which included the **Philippines, Kazakhstan, Peru, India, and Kenya.**

Global Training Summary

The past three months have seen a steady increase in the training of pastors and church leaders by our global trainer network. Here are the summaries for each of the past 3 months:

There were 8 training conferences held in June by our global network trainers, quite a bit less than the past few months. Some of this is due to the end of the school year and graduations that slow down training opportunities in this month of the year. MCL training conferences were held in 7 nations including the **DRC, Burundi, Malawi, Uganda, the Philippines, India and Peru.** *(The photo above was from a training in Phalombe, Malawi by MCL Trainer Rabson Chilewa.)* A total of 200 pastors and church leaders were trained.



In July our global trainer network conducted a total of 12 training conferences. They trained 605 pastors and church leaders in those conferences that took place in the 7 nations of **Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, India, Nepal, Bangladesh, and Egypt.** *(The photo at left is from the training in Cairo, Egypt by MELTI, the Middle East Leadership Training Institute.)*



August ended up having more training conferences than we originally thought we would have. There were 11 training conferences taking place this month in the 6 nations of **Burundi, Liberia, Uganda, Kenya, Ghana and Togo.** *(The photo at right is from a training in Anigyekrom, Ghana August 8-11th by Dr. Theophilus Bekoe on our DCL training course.)* So far, 9 conferences have been completed where 426 pastors and church leaders were trained on either our MCL #1, MCL #2, or DCL training courses. The final 2 conferences are being held this week.



Our annual total for the number of pastors and church leaders our global network has trained through August is now **4,617!**

New Training Resources



We have been developing some new training resources for our ministry. Here's what's going on:

First, we have already completed the translation of our MCL #1 training manual into **Assamese**, a language used in northeast India. This has been added to our Global Trainer Network resources page for any of our trainers to access or download. This is the 29th translation of our MCL #1 training manual.

Second, we are in the process of having our MCL #2 and DCL training manuals translated into **Swahili**. The MCL #2 translation is done and the DCL translation will be completed very soon.

Third, I have completed the writing of the MCL #2 self-training book and it is being formatted in the same design as our MCL #1 self-training book, but with a different color scheme. That book is now done and will be added to our website this week. I have begun writing the Discipleship for Church Leaders (DCL) self-training book and expect to have that book completed by the end of this year.

We are also in the process of updating our **FaithLife Ministries video** that explains what we do, why we do it, how we do it, and where we do it. This is the video that visitors to our website would watch to learn about our ministry. The current video was made in 2016 and a lot has changed since then. We now have our training available on video to take online, we have added more translations of our training, and we also primarily teach in person through our global trainer network. We recorded new video and are adding updated photos and testimonies to it as well. This new video should be available and posted on our website in the next week or two.

Principle or Progress?

Principle or progress? That is a common conundrum in every generation. Do we hold onto our values and principles from the past that have gotten us to where we are, or do we jettison them in favor of new ideas or new ways of looking at the issues that we face today to shape the future?

What I am talking about here are principles that we rely on to guide our behavior as individuals and the policies and laws we enact as a nation. We often refer to them as core values. These are the principles that are timeless and do not change from generation to generation. While other things may change, such as technology, scientific discoveries, economic markets, and global politics, the principles and values that we rely on to guide our actions and decisions should not change. It would be dangerous for us to build our lives, or our nation, upon a shifting or unstable foundation (**Matthew 7:24-27**)!

Let's first look at our nation's principles and values. There seems to be a strong and growing desire in America today to ditch the principles and values of the past in favor of adopting new principles and values for the future. There are also voices clamoring for changes to our U.S. Constitution, claiming it is out of date and not in keeping with the times. As a result, some have lost confidence in the principles and wisdom built into our founding document. They would rather change these principles to fit current times instead of using them to guide our policies for the future.

But does our American Constitution need revision? The principles in our U.S. Constitution reflect our system of self-government and include our citizens' right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. They also include the right of free speech, freedom of religion, and the right to bear arms. But these rights are under assault today as outdated or needing change to fit the current times. But if we change them to fit the current times, won't we need to change them again in the future to fit the new current times? And while our nation has not always lived up to the principles embedded in our Constitution, the principles are nonetheless valid, beneficial, and worth keeping!

If we look at the Christian Church in America today, we see that there is also a desire to alter its founding document - the Holy Bible. The progressive movement in the Church today wants to redefine Scripture to fit current cultural norms rather than letting Scripture inform us of God's principles for our lives. Some Christian pastors and denominations have aligned themselves with earthly cultural and secular values instead of Godly values such as abortion (**Exodus 20:13**), homosexuality (**Leviticus 18:23**), gender ideology (**Genesis 1:27**), and prosperity theology (**Matthew 6:19-21**). These are all clearly against Biblical principles and teaching as referenced in the noted Scripture passages. As a result, they lead believers away from God's truth and His principles and advocate ungodly lives and behaviors which are harmful to them as well as to our nation.

Some American Christians also think that the Bible as our founding document is outdated and written for a different time that doesn't really apply to today's culture. But the Bible has plenty to say to us today regarding our culture, just as it did to the culture when it was written. It is just that progressive Christians don't want to accept it as truth or adhere to it. Rather than look to God's Word for wisdom and counsel regarding today's issues, such as justice, gun violence, abortion, or sexual behavior, they prefer to rely on their own truth rather than His principles. In essence, they are only seeking justification for their sinful lifestyles and secular ideologies! Christians do not get to decide what Scripture is good and what is not. It is God's Word and not ours. It's God's revelation to man not our interpretation of our God. His Word cannot be changed, and it should never be changed (**Revelation 22:18-19**)! Instead, we are called to meditate on His Word (**Psalms 1:1-2**) and obey it (**Acts 5:29**)!

So, the answer is always principle over progress when it comes to our lives and our nation's policies and laws. To do otherwise would be to destroy the solid foundation upon which our lives and nation are built and to suffer the consequences of our own sinful behavior and the influence of our corrupt world. The truth is that Biblical principles don't need to change - people do!!

Our 2023 Schedule

Dates

Nov 4
Nov 12-17

Location

Cumming, GA
Panama City, Panama

Purpose/Host

Annual FLM Board of Directors Meeting (via Zoom)
GPRO II - Global Congress for Pastoral Trainers

Prayer Requests



- God's peace for **Pastor Swadhin Biswas**, our MCL Trainer in **Bangladesh**, at the death of his brother-in-law.
- God's peace for **Pastor Wilson Esambe**, our MCL Trainer in **Cameroon**, at the death of his father.
- God's healing for **Pastor Gideon Nair**, our MCL Trainer in **Bangalore, India**, from heart and other health issues.
- God's provision of work and finances for **Hanna Karam**, our MCL Trainer in **Beirut, Lebanon**.
- God's provision for **Pastor Jai Baby**, our MCL Trainer in **Punjab, India**, who is forced to move, seek new employment, and resolve a court battle.
- God's peace and comfort for **Pastor Sam Abraham**, our MCL Trainer in **Palampur, India**, at the death of his father.
- God's provision and guidance for **Pastor Moses Wheigar**, our MCL Trainer in **Monrovia, Liberia**, as he pastors two churches.
- God's provision and protection for all of our global trainers.
- God's provision of finances for this ministry through our annual fundraising appeal.

Other News & Notes

- We finished recording our **MCL #2** training with a **Chinese translator** for China Partner this month.
- **Leadership International** has added our MCL training videos to their Bible training center curriculum for their global trainers.
- We recently completed a **Swahili** translation of our **MCL #2** training manual. It is now available on our website for our global trainers to access.
- If you are a Thrivent member, the second quarter **Thrivent Choice dollars** are now available for designation. We would be grateful if you would designate them to our ministry!
- We are in the final stages of producing an updated **FLM ministry video** for our website.
- We are looking at the possibility of recording our **MCL training on video in Spanish** for use in Latin America.
- Our **MCL Volume #2** training manual has been converted into a **self-training book**. It will soon be available on our website.
- Barry has also begun writing s self-training version of our **Discipleship for Church Leaders** training manual.



2023 Fundraising Appeal

We mailed out our annual fundraising appeal letters on June 28th. *(We also send out letters in late November to those who traditionally have given at the end of the year.)* We do not believe in asking for support more than once per year and trust God to provide what we need in the one mailing. We simply ask that if you receive our letter to prayerfully consider donating to support our ministry of training pastors and church leaders in the majority world. You can also visit our website under the "**How to Participate**" tab to make an online donation at any time to our ministry. Thank you!

Thank you for your prayers & support!

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