

August, 2015
Newsletter



Servant Leadership

“Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be your slave – just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.” - Matthew 20:26-27



In the Bible, Jesus clearly taught the principle of servant leadership, and that the person who wants to lead must first be a servant of others. This is precisely how God designed humans to lead one another for the benefit of all. Of course, the world views this much differently and often those who pursue leadership want to have the power to do what they want or believe is best. Just look at the 2016 American Presidential race that is now underway. How many candidates would we say are servant leaders? Not many, I suspect. And unfortunately, we will get what we vote for!

I would like to share a true story from a few hundred years ago. There were a group of soldiers responsible for a cannon on wheels. On one particular day, it had been raining and the ground was very muddy. Eventually the cannon got stuck in the mud. The Sergeant of the group rode on a horse and barked out instructions to the soldiers on how to get the cannon out of the mud, but to no avail. No matter how hard they pushed or pulled they could not get the cannon unstuck. Then a General came along and asked what the problem was. The Sergeant said the cannon was stuck and his men could not get it out of the mud. The General asked the Sergeant, “why don’t you get down and help them and maybe together you can get it out of the mud.” The Sergeant replied, “I am the Sergeant and they are the soldiers. It’s not my job to do that. Besides, I might get my uniform dirty.” At this, the General got off of his horse and helped the men move the cannon out of the mud. That General was George Washington, the first President of the United States!

You see, George Washington understood what servant leadership was. That’s what made him such a great leader! It was not sitting high on his horse and telling others what to do. Rather, it was getting down in the mud and working together with his followers so that problems can be solved and goals can be reached. Effective leadership is when the leader humbles himself and seeks to support his followers, and not make demands of them.

A more current example came from a friend of mine from Indonesia, who recently sent me this story about President Jokowi of Indonesia. *“On the 18th of June 2015, he invited 400 orphans to the presidential palace for a breaking of fast occasion. What was really touching and endearing is the fact that during the occasion, President Jokowi lined up for his food just like the orphans!! There was no special table for him or his Ministers, nor did they have any special food!! I could not help but be full of admiration for this great man and leader. How many people of his stature would do such a thing? How many would even contemplate inviting orphans to their breaking fast occasion!! Even if he had food served to him on a special table with lavish decorations, culturally we would have accepted it. But he personifies this concept of servant leadership i.e. he insisted on doing what his followers were doing and demonstrated that although he was their leader, he was full of humility.”* President Jokowi also understands servant leadership, and his nation will undoubtedly be blessed because of it.

The world needs more servant leaders. We need them in government. We need them in business. And we need them in our churches. When leaders lead according to Biblical principles, as humble servants, the people will be blessed. But when leaders lead for their own glory and purposes, the people are harmed in the process. So let us pray for all leaders and for them to lead as servants!

1st Ever Discipleship Training Conference June 29-July 1st, Seoul, South Korea

Barry & Kim traveled to **Seoul, South Korea** June 25th - July 2nd to train Pastors of the **Lutheran Church in Korea (LCK)** on **Discipleship for Church Leaders**.



This is a new training manual we developed in the past year at the request of the LCK and it was very well received. We taught on spiritual reproduction, humility, obedience, stewardship,

discipling children, youth, men & women, discipleship planning, mentoring, small group discipleship and developing a hunger for God. We got some great feedback on the training and plan to make some revisions based on that feedback before we release this training manual to others. While in Seoul Barry also had the opportunity to teach an adult class at Dae Jo Dong Lutheran Church in Seoul. He taught on **Fulfilling God's Purpose** based on **Jeremiah 29:11** and encouraged the church members to seek God's will for their lives & ministries. We are always joyful to return to Seoul to train and fellowship with our Lutheran brethren!

God is Moving in Pakistan!

We recently received a report from **Dr. Muqaddam Zia**, our MCL Trainer in **Pakistan**, that they held a worship service on the day of Pentecost in Faisalabad. Despite the continued persecution of Christians in this nation, over 3,000 people attended and 1,228 new believers gave their lives to Christ and were added to the Kingdom! (See photo).



Additionally, Dr. Zia was taken to court in July for converting Muslims to Christianity. But his court case was dismissed this month due to lack of evidence! Their commitment to the gospel and raising up more Christian leaders in Pakistan is inspiring! We thank God for their courage to train and proclaim the gospel in this mostly Muslim nation.

"So is my word that goes out from my mouth: it will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it."
- Isaiah 55:11

Kazakhstan MCL Training Conference August 10-14th, Almaty

Barry and Kim traveled to **Almaty, Kazakhstan** August 6-15th to train both Bible students and church leaders of the Agape Church on our **Management for Church Leaders** training.

It had been 5 years since Barry had last trained there due to new religious laws in Kazakhstan. (He had previously taught at their Bible School for 9 straight years between 2002-



2010.) They trained 9 Bible students in the mornings who will be future leaders and trained 41 ministry leaders of the Agape Church in the evenings. The training went very well and was well received. There was also great participation and interest in applying what was taught. It was wonderful for us to be back where we have so many friends and to see how the ministry has grown and changed in the past five years. We look forward to continuing our relationship with them and training more leaders in the future!

MCL Instructional Videos Now Available!

FaithLife ministries has developed 13 training videos to help our Global Trainer Network of MCL Trainers teach our **Management for Church Leaders™** training material to others. These are instructional



videos that explain how to teach our manual in general and each chapter individually. They are designed for our network of MCL

Trainers but others may find them useful as well. They were developed to provide additional support to our MCL Trainer manual which all of our global trainer network trainers should have. These videos are available at www.faithlifeministries.net and can be accessed from the home page via the Resources link in the right hand column or via the Training Tab at the top. Each video is about 3-5 minutes in length and are also available at www.youtube.com on the FaithLife Ministries channel page.



Global MCL Training

Our Global Trainer Network continues to teach our **Management for Church Leaders™** training at a strong pace. So far in 2015 they have trained over 2,496 pastors and leaders in 20 nations. Here are some highlights from the past 3 months:

Chile

Pastor Steve Burkhalter, our MCL trainer in Brazil, took our MCL training to Chile for the first time and trained 10 leaders in the town of **Iquique** June 2-4th. He was there for another purpose but took the opportunity to do our training as well!

Pakistan

Muqaddar Johnson, brother of Dr. Muqaddam Zia, conducted an MCL training conference June 5-6th in the town of **Lohky** where he trained 27 pastors and leaders.

Liberia

Pastor Moses Wheigar took our MCL training to the town of **Buchanan** for the first ever MCL training there. This was his first training of our material since the ebola outbreak in his country. He taught 42 leaders of which 25 were pastors June 24-27th.

India

Pastor Gideon Nair traveled to **Vishakhapatnam** June 26-27th to teach our MCL for the first time in this major eastern city. He trained 63 leaders of which 20 were pastors. One pastor commented that he felt like he was attending a Management School!

Philippines

Pastors Doming & Dolly Orprecio traveled to the city of **Mindoro** in the region of Mindanao July 16-18th to teach our MCL training for the first time in this southern part of the **Philippines**. They traveled a long distance to train 28 pastors there who were very grateful and encouraged.

Cameroon

Pastor Wilson Esambe trained 27 pastors and leaders July 15-20th in the town of **Kribi**, a training that had been postponed from an earlier date.

Ghana

Pastor Jasper Goka trained 110 leaders - 60 pastors and 50 church leaders - on our MCL training material in the town of **Koforidua** August 12-14th.

God or Me?

In the Bible, God clearly states that we, as His creation, ***“are to have no other gods before Him”*** (Exodus 20:3). This is the first of the Ten Commandments and sets forth the foundation of our relationship with Almighty God. God desires that we worship Him alone and submit our lives to Him. But throughout history man continues to place other things above God in their lives. Perhaps the most common idol man worships is himself and his own will instead of God’s will. And this is where we get off track and begin to derail ourselves from God’s plan for our lives.

God gave us free will to choose Him and He does not force anyone to believe in Him or submit to Him. Like a loving Father He wants His children to come to Him willfully and gladly. In **Deuteronomy 30:16-19** He sets before us blessings and curses and wants us to choose Him so that we may live and be blessed. But when we choose our own way instead of God’s way we put our lives in peril.

In America today, many of our social problems and conflicts can be traced back to the same thing – people wanting to do what they want, what pleases them or what makes them happy. They have placed their own personal choices above God. Our culture calls this tolerance. God calls this sin. Why do you think the church and Christianity have come under attack in America? Is it because Christians are intolerant? No. ***It is because God stands in the way of man’s desire to justify their personal choices.*** If God does not exist then man can do what it wants. We can’t have it both ways. Either we submit to our own will or God’s will. So, for example, in order for man to endorse abortion or gay marriage God must be eliminated from the discussion or at least made irrelevant. So endorsing tolerance of these sins is a direct frontal attack on God. It is because God’s Word is the only thing that stands against man doing what he wants.

And who do you think is behind this? It is satan, of course! From the beginning he has been a liar and deceiver and continues to tell people that they don’t need God and that they can be their own god. He convinced Eve to eat of the fruit of the forbidden tree so that by eating it ***“she will be like God, knowing good and evil.”*** (Genesis 3:5) He continually encourages man to deny God, do what pleases man, so that they can become like God. This has been satan’s game plan from the beginning, and apparently it still works today!

Today, we have the same choice – to serve God and do what He says, or serve ourselves and do what we want. It comes down to God or Me? God is good and wants to bless all people (***“Taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the man who takes refuge in Him”*** – Psalms 34:8). Man is sinful (***“For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God”*** – Romans 3:23) and our ways lead to our destruction (***“There is a way that seems right to a man, but in the end it leads to death”*** – Proverbs 14:12).

Who do you choose, God or Me?

Our 2015 Schedule

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Purpose/Host</u>
Feb 27 - Mar 6	Kampala, Uganda	East Africa MCL Trainer training - <i>James Ochwo, Kingdom Life</i>
May 10 - 23	Shanghai & Beijing China	MCL Training - <i>Zoe Zou, Equipping Leaders Asia</i>
June 25 - July 2	Seoul, S. Korea	Discipleship Training - <i>Eun Seob Kim, Lutheran Church of Korea</i>
Aug 6-15	Almaty, Kazakhstan	MCL Training - <i>Yuri Shumaev, Agape Evangelical Centre</i>
Aug 23	Gardendale, AL	FLM Ministry Update - <i>Good Shepherd Lutheran Church</i>
Aug 31 - Sep 9	Jakarta, Indonesia	MCL Training - <i>Frits Triman, Christian Muria Church</i>
Oct 4	El Cajon, CA	FLM Ministry Update - <i>First Lutheran Church</i>
Nov 7	Alpharetta, GA	Annual Board of Directors meeting
Nov 15-23	Santiago, Chile	MCL Training - <i>Steve Burkhalter, Nations2Nations</i>

News & Notes:



- Barry visited Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Gardendale, AL August 23rd to give a ministry update to the congregation.
- Barry taught homeless leaders with Stepping Stone Mission twice this summer - on June 24th on Courage and July 28th on God's provision.
- Barry is leading a men's Bible study this summer on his new book About Face.
- FaithLife Ministries will hold its annual board of directors meeting on Saturday, November 7th, at our home in Alpharetta, GA.
- We are revising our **Discipleship for Church Leaders™** training manual based on the feedback we received in Korea. We plan to release the final version to our global trainer network in September.
- We have begun work on a powerpoint presentation version of our MCL Volume #1 training manual for use by our global trainer network.



Thrivent Choice Update

FaithLife Ministries has been a participant in the Thrivent Choice grant funds program since its inception 5 years ago. Thrivent Financial notified us via email in July that since then we have received a total of \$10,504 in grant funds from Thrivent members! That's about \$2,000 per year! We are so grateful to those of you who are members of Thrivent for participating in this program and directing grant funds to our training ministry. We would like to encourage others who are with Thrivent Financial to consider directing their Choice Dollars to FaithLife Ministries in the future. It is certainly a blessing to us and those we serve!

Prayer Requests:

- Thanksgiving that **Dr. Muqaddam Zia**, our MCL Trainer in **Faislabad, Pakistan**, was exonerated of all charges of converting Muslims to Christianity.
- Pray for God's wisdom in the spreading of our MCL training in **China** as we work with our contacts there to determine the best way forward.
- Prayer for thanksgiving that the ebola crisis has subsided in West Africa and that our MCL Trainers can now travel and resume their training of our material.
- Pray for God's provision for this ministry through our annual fundraising appeal that was mailed in June.
- Pray for God's guidance and direction as we plan our 2016 training and travel schedule.

Thank you for your prayers & support!

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