

November, 2015  
Newsletter



## Christian Persecution

*“In fact, everyone who wants to live a Godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted.”*  
**2 Timothy 3:12**

In the past couple of years, ISIS has brought the issue of Christian persecution to the forefront of the world with their release of videos showing the be-headings of Egyptian Christians on a beach in Libya and the vicious attacks on Christians in Syria and Iraq. But there have been other attacks on Christians that have gained the world’s attention, including the kidnapping of 200+ Christians girls in Nigeria by Boko Haram and the murder of 70+ Christian college students in Garissa, Kenya. There have also been many lesser known attacks on Christians worldwide that include church destruction and the incarceration of Christians. These are horrible atrocities that we Christians here in America are shielded from and have rarely, if ever, faced ourselves.

But does that mean that Christians in America are not persecuted? Hardly. While we rarely face imprisonment for our faith, it happened just recently when Kim Davis, the Rowan County Clerk in Kentucky, was jailed for not issuing marriage licenses to gay couples because of her faith. Then there is Aaron & Melissa Klein, who own an Oregon bakery, who refused to put a celebratory message on a wedding cake for a gay couple and was sued and ordered to pay \$135,000 in damages. There are also blistering attacks on Christians who share their beliefs on the internet and in the media.

We Christians in America have been living a blessed life for many years, owing to the faith of our founders and forefathers in this land. But the culture in America has changed radically and has become more secularized. America has turned its back on God and began doing so long ago. And yet we should not be surprised. The Scripture above tells us we will be persecuted for our faith. Additionally, Jesus said in **John 15:18**, *“If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first.”* And again in **John 15:20** he said that *“if they persecuted me, they will persecute you also.”* So it is clear that persecution goes along with being a Christian!

And that should be obvious, because the world is against God and has been corrupted by satan since the fall of man (Genesis 3). So as a Christian develops a deeper faith in Christ they should expect persecution. The more we become like Christ the more the world will hate us and persecute us. That’s why Jesus was crucified, because he was a threat to the ways of the world (and people doing what they want instead of submitting to God).

Ah, but wait! There is good news!! Jesus said in **John 16:33** that *“in this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.”* Jesus went to the cross for you and me, and even those who killed him. But God raised Him from the dead for all to see. He did this to save us! Why? Because our God is a loving God and does not want anyone to perish but to come to repentance (**1 Peter 3:9**) and to experience eternal life with Him!! He did this so we might have everlasting joy and the assurance of eternity with our loving God and Savior Jesus Christ.

So no matter what happens in this world, Christians know that there is a better world waiting for us. We should not fear death nor should we fear persecution. But as it is written in **1 Peter 4:13**, *“Rejoice that you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when His glory is revealed.”* And again in **1 Peter 4:16**, *“However, if you suffer as a Christian, do not be ashamed, but praise God that you bear that name.”* Let us praise God in all circumstances!

**Indonesia MCL Training Conference**  
September 4-5th, Jakarta

Barry & Joel Weinhold traveled to Jakarta August 31 - Sept. 9 to train 70 pastors and church leaders on our **Management for Church Leaders** training. We were



hosted by **Frits Triman** and the **Christian Muria Church of Indonesia**. The training was very well received and the participants asked lots of good, insightful questions. This was

also Joel's first time training with FaithLife and he did an outstanding job!! There were also 21 leaders who stayed for the "Train the Trainer" session and indicated their desire to teach it to others. As a matter of fact, two of them have joined our MCL Global Trainer Network and the entire committee that arranged and organized our conference wants to create an Indonesia MCL Training team!! We thank God for their interest and enthusiasm in seeing our training spread to other parts of Indonesia!

**FaithLife Ads Now Appearing!**

We recently ran ads on Facebook and Google to try and find contacts who may be interested in our training in nations where we do not have any at present. Consequently, few of you will have seen them. Ads on Facebook appear in the newsfeeds of our target group in the particular nations we have selected and allow them to

like our page, comment on it, and visit our website to request information. Ads on Google searches will bring up our

ministry at the top of the searches for church leadership and management training and allow the reader to click through to our website. Thus far we have generated over three thousand Facebook page and website visits! We have also receiving a few requests for our training material. It is still early so we pray for more visits and hopefully some new contacts and training opportunities!



**Chile MCL Training Conference**  
November 18-20th, Santiago

Barry traveled to **Santiago, Chile** to train pastors and church leaders at a YWAM (Youth With a Mission) base from November 18-20th.

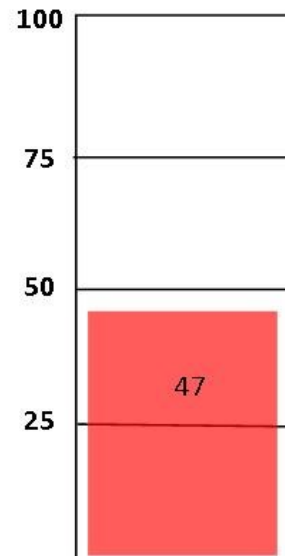
His training partner was **Steve Burkhalter**, a former YWAM base director and our MCL Trainer from Brazil, who coordinated the trip for us. Steve's



daughter Amelia accompanied us as our translator and he also invited Pastor Dario, a Chilean who now lives and pastors a church in Brazil (*in the photo*), to help us teach as well. We had a wonderful group of 17 leaders that we trained, who were also trained on how to train others. God not only used us to teach them, but to encourage them as well in their ministries. We look forward to seeing the fruit that is produced from this training!

**Reaching the Nations**

Our vision is to reach 100 nations with our training. Here is our current progress:





## 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 4,000 pastors and leaders in 29 nations! Here are some highlights from the past 3 months:

### Ethiopia

**Pastor Sam Abraham**, our MCL trainer in **Palampur, India**, took our MCL training to **Ethiopia** and trained 89 leaders in Addis Ababa Sep 2 & 4th. This was the first MCL training ever there. Praise God!

### Pakistan

**Muqaddar Johnson**, brother of Dr. Muqaddam Zia, conducted an MCL training conference September 26-27th in the town of **Mian Chanoo** where he trained 26 pastors & leaders. This was their 5th training this year.

### Tanzania

**Pastor Hassan Rangi** took our MCL training to the towns of **Mwanza** (where he taught 12 pastors October 13-14th) and **Kigoma** (where he taught 12 pastors November 10-11th). These were his first trainings of our MCL by an MCL Trainer in this nation.

### India

**Pastor Gideon Nair** traveled to **Bilaspur** October 2-3rd and to **Purnea** October 30-31st to teach our MCL for the first time in these two cities. He trained a total of 92 leaders of which 24 were pastors.

### Kenya

**Pastor Steve Obonyo** taught our **MCL # 2** training for the first time in the city of **Ntulele**. He trained 30 pastors and leaders there who were very grateful and encouraged.

### Guinea

**Pastor Samuel Bobor**, our MCL Trainer in Sierra Leone, trained 200 pastors and leaders November 1st-5th in the town of **Conakry**, the first time our training has been taught in this West Africa nation.

### Uganda

Seven conferences were held in this East Africa nation by 5 of our MCL Trainers there in September, October & November. A total of over 400 leaders were trained! Our thanks to **James Ochwo, Michael Wotts, Andrew Malinga, Joseph Richard and Emmy Kiyingi** for their efforts on our behalf!

## **New MCL Training in Southern Africa!**

One of our MCL Trainers from Uganda, **Pastor Joseph Senoga Richard**, recently took our MCL training to **Zimbabwe, Zambia and Botswana**, three nations

where our training had never been! This brings the total number of nations that



we have now reached to 47!! Part of our strategy is to see our training spread through our Global Trainer Network (GTN) as it is not only more cost effective but it is also taught by trainers who know the cultures. The photo above shows Pastor Richard with those he trained in Zimbabwe. He traveled to all 3 nations on one trip and trained a total of 143 leaders! We are blessed to have him as part of our GTN and we look forward to where he will take our training next! To God be the glory!

## **MCL Training Expands in Cuba!**

On a trip to Ecuador last year Barry met Pastor Fernando Rodriguez, who pastors a large association of churches throughout Cuba called Liga Evangelica. In April of this year, Fernando came to the USA and met with Barry and Kim in Charlotte, NC where he indicated that he had a trainer who wanted to take our training to "every corner of Cuba."



That trainer, Pablo Jorge, wanted 500 copies of our training manual in Spanish for that purpose. We provided the funds for the 500 copies and Pablo recently held the first training in a town called Escambray where he trained 32 pastors and leaders! He will use the remaining copies to take our training to every part of Cuba!! We are thrilled to partner with Fernando and Pablo in this wonderful project. God is at work in Cuba and we are excited to participate with Him in bringing Cuba to Christ!!

## Our 2016 Schedule

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Purpose/Host</u>
Feb 8-10	Phnom Phen, Cambodia	MCL Training - <i>Dr. Vanarith Chhim, Cambodia Lutheran Church</i>
Apr 11-15	Montevideo, Uruguay	MCL Training - <i>Pastor Julio Amarillo, Uruguay Church of God</i>
May	Bosnia & Montenegro	MCL Training - <i>Petrit Lleshi, Cru - Albania</i>
June 15-22	Bangkok, Thailand	<b>Pastoral Trainer Conference</b>
Jun 28-30	Quilmes, Argentina	MCL Training - <i>Pastor Jorge Rivero, Argentina Church of God</i>
Jul 4-6	Santiago del Estero, Argentina	MCL Training - <i>Pastor Jose Rosales, Iglesia Christiana Evangelica</i>
Aug	Ho Chi Min, Vietnam	MCL Training - <i>Joshua Nguyen, Marketplace Ministries</i>
Oct 17-19	Tallin, Estonia	MCL Training - <i>Pastor Ove Sander, Estonia Lutheran Church</i>

### News & Notes:

- Barry visited **First Lutheran Church** in El Cajon, CA October 4th to give a ministry update to the congregation.
- Barry taught homeless leaders with **Stepping Stone Mission** on October 14th on Baptism and November 10th on God's family.
- Gideon Nair**, our MCL Trainer Coordinator in India, recently informed us that he changed his ministry name to **Faith Life Ministries - India**.
- Andrew Sharp** was elected to our board of directors at our annual meeting on November 7th.
- We revised our **Discipleship for Church Leaders™** training manual and released it to our global trainer network in September.
- Since introducing her **Children's Ministry books** earlier this year, **Kim** has sent them out to 12 different nations!
- Barry plans to attend the first ever global gathering of pastoral trainers in **Bangkok, Thailand**, June 15-22, 2016.



### Annual Board of Directors Meeting

FaithLife Ministries held its annual board of directors meeting on Saturday, November 7th in Alpharetta, GA. We reviewed the results from our activities and training in 2015, which included reaching 10 new nations with our training and training almost 4,000 leaders as of our meeting. We then discussed our strategy for 2016 and approved our plan and budget for 2016. Our plans include training trips for Barry to Cambodia, Uruguay, Bosnia, Argentina, Vietnam & Estonia, along with a trip to Bangkok, Thailand to attend a global pastoral training conference. We also unanimously elected Andrew Sharp to our board of directors. We continue to thank & praise God for His provision and direction for this ministry!



### Prayer Requests:

- Continued prayers for **Nepal** as economic conditions have deteriorated since the earthquake. Pray also for **Rajendra Sundas**, our MCL Trainer in Nepal, as he seeks to rebuild his home.
- Pray for healing of **Ruth Wheigar**, wife of **Moses Wheigar**, our MCL Trainer in **Liberia**. She is suffering from diabetes, ulcers and malaria.
- Pray for all of our global MCL Trainers, that God will provide for, and sustain, them in their ministries.
- Thankfulness to God for his provision for this ministry through our annual fundraising appeal.
- Pray for God's provision as we seek contacts in new nations through Facebook ads and referrals.

*Thank you for your prayers & support!*

**FaithLife Ministries**  
**12000 Leeward Walk Circle**  
**Alpharetta, GA 30005**  
**Phone: 770-492-4903**  
**Email: BarryVoss@comcast.net**  
**www.faithlifeministries.net**