

May, 2017  
Newsletter

**FaithLife Ministries**  
"Equipping Church Leaders Globally for 15 Years"



### The Gospel is NOT Fake News!

With the internet and social media now globally pervasive, there is instant news reporting from a multitude of sources, many of which are not from traditional news outlets or reputable journalists. Some of the news we read or hear is legitimate, but recently much of what is reported is claimed to be "fake news". It is called fake news for a variety of reasons. Some news reports are simply untrue, some are reported prematurely before all the facts are known, some are distorted for political purposes, and some are omitted so as to create a false reality. Much of the news we read or hear today is actually opinion added to a set of underlying facts or circumstances. Consequently, it is more difficult today for the average person to discern what is true and what is not.

Two thousand years ago there was no internet, no 24 hour cable networks, and so no instant news. Instead, news traveled by word of mouth, by the testimony of eye witnesses, and by the writing down of events. The story of the birth, death and resurrection of Jesus of Nazareth, also known as the Gospel (or Good News), was the news of the day back then. Stories about Jesus and what he did were widely known. People came out by the thousands to see him, hear him speak, or be healed (**Matthew 4:24-25**). His life and ministry was widely reported according to the Bible as well as other written sources of that day (e.g. - Josephus). There were over 500 witnesses to Jesus' resurrection (**1 Corinthians 15:5**) and He appeared to the disciples 3 different times after his death (**John 21:14**).

The Jewish leaders of His day tried to discredit His resurrection and circulated "fake news" that His disciples had taken Jesus' body away and hid it. They even bribed the guards to say so (**Matthew 28:12-15**).

But today we know the truth. Jesus is alive! He has risen from the dead and now lives eternally with God in Heaven! Many attempts have been made to call this "fake news", but they have all failed. There are over 2 billion Christians in the world, about a third of the world's population, who confirm the truth of the Gospel. Many of His followers have died proclaiming this truth, and many continue to do so to this day! Who would die for a lie?

So with all the "fake news" being circulated today, there is still one true news story that remains. Jesus died on the cross and rose again so that all those who belief in Him and put their faith in Him may have eternal life! This is the Good News and it is the Best News the world has ever heard! Thanks be to God!

### FaithLife has a new Global Connection!

We were recently contacted by two people from RREACH, the ministry that organized the Global Proclamation Congress for Pastoral Trainers I attended last June in Bangkok.



One individual interviewed me for a story about our ministry and training that they plan to communicate to everyone who attended the conference last year. A second individual contacted me to let me know that they have set up a global support center to connect pastors and trainers with those who have training materials or training to offer. They will be sending out our MCL Training Book to anyone who is interested and will also connect us to individual pastors or trainers who are interested in our material so that we can follow up with them as well. On our part I am providing our MCL training results to them to add to their tracking of global pastoral training. God is on the move! Hallelujah!

### March Facebook Ad

We ran another Facebook ad during March targeting users in 12 nations that our training has yet to reach. Our goal was to build awareness of our ministry and to try and generate more contacts and requests for our training materials. These nations were **Angola, Namibia, Gambia, Central African Republic, Egypt, Bosnia, Serbia, Croatia, Georgia, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea and Belize**. The ad generated **7,270** visits to our website and 3 requests for our training materials.

## Uganda Training Testimonies

We received the following 2 testimonies about our MCL training from an MCL Trainer in **Uganda, Pastor Okumu Eryeza** (pictured), from recent trainings he held:



1. **Bishop Damascus: Panyangasi**, Uganda Training  
*“Long live FaithLife Ministries and MCL trainers. Thanks a lot for the training. I have been in Ministry for a long time and thought I was able in every aspect of work both in my office and Ministry. But after the training, by Pastor Okumu Eryeza, I started delegating responsibilities to other potential upcoming leaders and now Ministry is lighter, enjoyable and flowing.”*

2. **Pastor Odoi Ponsian: Iyolwa**, Uganda Training  
*“I would like to send my heart felt appreciation to the initiators of this training because it has caused a fundamental change both in the church and the community. The issue of conflicts in the church among believers is no longer a problem because we have the solution. I had a friend in the staff who had a very serious misunderstanding with his wife to a point that they were to separate. But by God’s grace and through this knowledge I guided and counseled them and later they reconciled and his wife even got saved.”*

## We've Been Hacked!

FaithLife Ministries email communications with two of our MCL Trainers were recently hacked and funds were stolen as a result. We use Western Union to send funds to our global trainers to conduct our Management for Church Leaders training. Recently we had 2 situations where our trainers requested that their funds be sent to Nigeria where they said they would pick them up. I was a bit suspicious and sent numerous emails to make sure that Nigeria was where they wanted the funds sent (it is not unusual for a pastor to request funds be sent to a different nation).

After confirming this by email I sent the funds. I later learned that neither of the 2 individuals sent me those emails. In other words, someone posing as them hacked their email accounts and were clever enough to convince me to still have me send the funds to them in Nigeria. They were able to somehow pick them up with a false ID of some kind.

Fortunately, the amount of money taken was not much and we now know how it was done. Most of my Western Union transactions go through fine so I will now just need to be more vigilant. But, I will institute some new procedures. First, I will no longer send funds to Nigeria because someone there has the ability to make fake ID's. Second, I am also going to use a secondary communication source like texting to verify all transactions.

I am now wiser for this and thankful to God that more funds were not stolen before we found out about it.

## Church Management Article Released!

FaithLife Ministries released a new article entitled "**8 Fundamentals of Church Management**" a couple of weeks ago. This article summarizes the key concepts found in our **Management for Church Leaders™** training manual. The intent of this article was to generate awareness of our training for pastors and church leaders in the USA and abroad, and to hopefully reach those who need or are interested in such training. The article was posted on our website as well as on our Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn pages and encouraged those interested to go to our website for more information and to request our training materials.



Unfortunately, it has not generated the interest we had hoped for. There have only been about 40 visits to our website and no requests for our training material. It is likely due to our not reaching the right audience. Whatever the reason, we will continue to seek avenues to build awareness of our training and would ask for your help in sharing the article with those you know who may be interested.

## Brazil Training Testimony



I received the following testimony from our MCL Trainer in **Brazil, Steve Burkhalter**. He recently conducted a training in the town of Eusebio and shared this about it:

*“It (Eusebio training) was very, very good. It has taken several years to finally pull this training off with this group. It was not easy or convenient, but I felt like it was the most responsive group I've ever done the training with. It literally has become the talk of the town. The whole community is buzzing over the impact it had and the new vision & excitement it created with a lot of young people. They are already picking up the ball and running with it. One very young & growing church had 18 participants and are already organizing to do the training with all of their cell group leaders which about 50-60 in addition to those who did this training. One senior pastor and an associate pastor from a different church want to help me take the training to other groups & places & have already started intensive preparation and personal training.”*

We are excited to see how God is moving in Brazil with our training thanks to Steve. Praise be to God!



## Global MCL Training

Our Global Trainer Network is training at a faster pace than last year's record year! So far in 2017 they have trained over 4,700 pastors and leaders in 16 nations! Here are

some highlights:

### Benin

**Pastor Theophile Goka**, our MCL trainer for **Togo**, took our Management for Church Leaders training to his neighboring nation of Benin where he taught 118 pastors and church leaders on our material. This is our first training in that West Africa nation.

### Nepal

**Pastor Rajendra Sundas**, our MCL Trainer in **Nepal**, taught our MCL to 100 pastors from throughout Nepal March 13-14th in his facility in Kathmandu. They will now return to their locations to train others.

### Kenya

**Pastor Joseph Richard** from **Uganda** took our MCL training to **Kisii, Kenya** and taught 374 pastors and church leaders in April. **Pastor Gordon Onyango** from **Kenya** also taught 108 pastors and leaders in **Nyeri** in April.

## Vision Update

Our vision has been to see our training reach 100 nations in Africa, Asia, Latin America and Eastern Europe. That vision has not changed. But we have made some changes to the nations we are including in that list due to new information and changing global circumstances. We have dropped Syria as it is impractical right now to get our training in there. We have also dropped Bosnia, Montenegro, Macedonia & Cyprus due to their very low Protestant Christian populations. We have added the Ukraine, Hungary, Romania, Bhutan and Israel.



We have also started to count nations where our MCL Self-Training Book has been sent as "**reached**" where individual training has been confirmed. As a result, we have included the nations of **El Salvador, Jamaica, Sri Lanka, and Papua New Guinea** to our list of reached nations. Consequently, we have now reached **64** nations with our training!

We are now calling our goal "**Vision 100**" and we will be striving to reach the remaining 36 nations in the next few years (see Finishing the Race article at right).

## Finishing the Race!

*"However, I consider my life worth nothing to me, if only I may finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given to me - the task of testifying to the gospel of God's grace."*

*Acts 20:24*

The vision and goal of this ministry has been to reach 100 nations with our **Management for Church Leaders™** training. We call this our **Vision 100!** We identified the 100 nations we felt the Lord wanted us to reach based on low economic development, low literacy, and the need for training as documented by Operation World (Jason Mandryk, Biblica Publishing, 2010), a book detailing the economic, demographic and ministry condition in every nation of the world. As of today, we have now reached 64 nations and with the plans we have in place, we could reach 72 by the end of this year.

This has been "our" race and our calling and like Paul, we desire to finish our race. Our training began in 2002 and started slowly. That was because it depended on us alone to go and train. A few years ago we established our Global Trainer Network and started to enlist others from around the world that we had trained to go and train as well. This has greatly increased our ability to train more pastors and leaders as well as to reach more nations. We also developed a self-training book format that allows us to reach nations where it is difficult to travel or teach in a conference format.

It might interest you to know that of the 64 nations that have received our training, I have only been to 37 of them, a little more than half. Our global trainers have taken the training to another 23 nations and the remaining 4 were reached with our self-training book!

Our hope is that we can finish our race in the next 3 years, or by 2020. I believe that I can probably reach about 8 more nations myself and our trainer network can reach another 10. That means that our self-training book will need to reach the final 10 nations. This is what we will be praying for and working towards over the next 3 years.

Would you please pray for us and ask the Lord to give us wisdom, provision, contacts and the perseverance to see it through to the finish line? We plead for your intercession on our behalf knowing that "**Apart from God we can do nothing.**" (**John 15:5**).

## Our 2017 Schedule

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Purpose/Host</u>
Jan 19-20	San Jose, Costa Rica	MCL Training - <i>Josue Ballestero, Costa Rica Church of God</i>
May 26-28	Chiang Mai, Thailand	MCL Training - <i>Pastor Rick Sriwong, All Christian Church</i>
July 24-26	Mexico City, Mexico	MCL #2 Training - <i>Pastor Jonatan Chavez, Iglesia Vida Nueva</i>
Aug 21-23	Thies, Senegal	MCL Training - <i>Bill Norling, World Harvest Ministries</i>
Sep 18-20	Kherson, Ukraine	MCL Training - <i>Valentin Siniy, Bible Translators of Ukraine</i>
Nov 4	Cumming, GA	FLM Board of Directors Meeting



### Prayer Requests

- Pray for God's provision of medical expenses for **Pastor James Ochwo** from **Uganda**, who needs hand surgery.
- Pray for healing for our MCL Trainer **Stephine Obonyo** in **Kenya** who came down with malaria.
- Pray for all of those mourning the loss of loved ones in the flooding and mudslides in northern Peru.
- Pray for God's provision of new contacts & opportunities for our training through our connection to the GPro Commission Support Center.
- Please pray for the financial needs of our ministry as our finances are running low at the present time.
- Please pray for God's provision through our annual fundraising appeal letter which will be mailed out in late June.
- Please pray for God's strength for us to finish the race He has called us to run to reach 100 nations with our training.

### News & Notes:



- We are in the process of translating our MCL manual into **Thai** and **Kirundi**, the language of Burundi. That will bring our total of translated copies to 24.
- I now have a training partner for our **Ukraine** trip in September. **Gary Church** from our congregation has responded to God's call and will be joining me on this trip. Thank you all for your prayers!
- I have begun development of a Trainer's manual for our **Discipleship for Church Leaders™** training. It should be completed in a few months.
- For those of you who are Thrivent members your 2017 1st quarter **Thrivent Choice Dollars** may now be directed to the ministry of your choice. We would be grateful if you direct them to us.
- We have added an MCL Trainer in **Beijing, China**. **Pastor Simon Lv**, who we trained back in 2015, has joined our Global Trainer Network. He is our 60th MCL Trainer!!
- I was recently invited to be a featured author for the **Global Pastoral Trainers** network, called GPro. I will begin submitting articles in the near future to further equip pastors and church leaders.

### A Special 'Thank You' From Nepal!

We recently received this plaque of appreciation from our MCL Trainer in **Nepal**, **Rajendra Sundas**, on behalf of the pastors he recently trained in his national **Management for Church Leaders™** training that was held in Kathmandu, Nepal on March 13-14th. We are so thankful for their kindness and thoughtfulness in sending this to us even though we ourselves were not there. This was quite a surprise to receive in the mail and we are so humbled that they would thank us in such a meaningful and personal way.



*Thank you for your prayers & support!*

*Barry & Kim*

**FaithLife Ministries**  
**6170 Crescent Landing Dr.**  
**Cumming, GA 30028**  
**Phone: 770-492-4903**  
**Email: BarryVoss@comcast.net**  
**www.faithlifeministries.net**