

August, 2018  
Newsletter

**FaithLife Ministries**  
"Equipping Church Leaders Globally for 17 Years"



## Scattering the Seed



**"Still other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop - a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown."  
Matthew 13:8**

Our mission and goal as a ministry has been to spread our training to as many nations as possible that want or need it. We discovered early on that our **Management for Church Leaders™** training was indeed valuable and needed throughout the world. It was like the seed Jesus describes in His **Parable of the Sower** in **Matthew 13:1-9 & 18-23**. We are the farmer in the parable who simply scatters the seed that was provided by God. While we may have developed the training, it was truly God who wrote it because it comes from His Word. So we did not create the seed nor did we control the type of soil that it fell upon. We simply scattered the seed and waited upon the Lord to produce the crop that would come when it was sown in nations where the "soil was fertile."

In the past 17 years we have seen which nations had fertile soil where we have planted the seed of our training. Our global trainer network testifies to those nations that were fertile. These are nations where the Lord has not only produced a large crop, but where He raised up trainers who continue to produce an ever increasing crop through the re-planting of our training in their nations and others!

We are grateful to God for being called by Him to scatter the seed of this training. And we are thankful for our global trainer network that continues to scatter the seed along with us. It is a privilege to be His instrument in serving the training needs of His Church around the world!



## Annual Fundraising Appeal is in the Mail

We mailed out our annual fundraising letter for 2018 in late June. As most of you know, we only ask for funds one time every year, usually around the 1st of July (*for those of you who give at the end of the year we send out the annual letter in late November*). We do not offer incentives or gifts for donations but rather simply pray for God to move in the hearts of those who receive our mailing to respond according to His Spirit and guidance. We absolute trust in the Lord to provide for our ministry needs and plans and know that whatever we receive will be according to His purposes for us. We desire to run this ministry by faith! (**2 Corinthians 5:7**)

We have been raising funds for this ministry since we began in 2001 and God has supplied our need through so many of you. We are grateful for every dollar of support we receive and are careful to manage those resources well for God's glory. The funds we raise go towards our travel expenses, training expenses (for us and for our global trainer network), ministry administration, and for a modest salary for Barry to provide income for our family.

We respectfully ask that you prayerfully consider making a donation to our ministry this year by responding to that mailing. It will help us continue the training of pastors and church leaders in the parts of the world that need our help. All donations are tax-deductible. If you prefer, you can also donate on-line through our website at:

<http://faithlifeministries.net/get-involved/>.

## First Ever Guinea Bissau Training!

**Bishop Sameul Bobor** from **Sierra Leone** recently took our MCL training to the nation of **Guinea Bissau** in western Africa (see photo). The training was held **August 15-19th** in the city of **Bissau** and he trained 250 pastors and church leaders. This was the first ever training there and is the 79th nation to receive our MCL training!! Bishop Bobor has



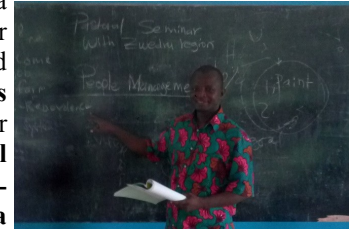
been an MCL Trainer since 2014 and has not only taught our MCL training in his home country of Sierra Leone, but has also taken our training to the nations of **Guinea** and **Gambia** in West Africa.

Also of note is that I have never met Bishop Bobor. He requested and received our training materials via email in 2012 and he immediately taught our material to a group of 100 pastors & leaders in Freetown, the capital of Sierra Leone, in December of that year. He has since been a reliable, consistent and effective trainer for us and a valuable member of our Global Trainer Network!

We have now reached 39 of the 42 nations in Africa that we set out to reach! The 3 remaining nations are **Angola**, **Namibia** and **Madagascar**, all in southern Africa.

## Global Trainer Multiplication!

We were excited to learn recently that one of our global trainers, **Pastor Wilson Esambe** from **Cameroon**, has raised up another trainer in **Liberia** to teach our **Management for Church Leaders™** training there! Pastor Esambe traveled to Liberia in April to introduce our training to his friend and colleague, **Pastor Rufus Kahn** (see photo). Pastor Kahn is the **National Leader of the Free Methodist Church in Liberia** and oversees 14 churches and 11 church plants in several locations. Pastor Kahn emailed me last week and said *"I am deeply grateful to you for your teaching material: Management for Church Leaders. Thank you so much for enhancing my work through these materials."* We are thrilled to see those we train go out and train others who go out and train others! (Pastor Kahn is not the first "2nd generation" trainer for us as there have been others in Uganda & Kenya).



It also turns out that Pastor Kahn knows our Global MCL Trainer in Liberia, **Pastor Moses Wheigar**. So we look forward to the two of them raising up more leaders for the Church in Liberia in the years to come. We praise and thank God for what He is doing in our midst!

## Have Training...Will Travel!

Our **Management for Church Leaders™** (MCL) training schedule for this year has been updated to include a new training trip to the **Ukraine** in November. Gary Church and I will return to the **Tavriski Christian Institute** in Kherson November 12-15th to teach the MCL #2 training and a seminar on fundraising. Our **China** training trip, which had been planned for October this year, had to be postponed due to the current religious and political climate in China at the moment. Hopefully we will be able to reschedule that trip in the future.



We would also like to announce some of our training trip plans for 2019. We are planning a trip to **Albania**, **Macedonia** and **Greece** in January. We have also agreed to return to **Grenada** in April of 2019 to teach our MCL #2 training and to go to **Kyrgyzstan** in June of 2019 to teach our first ever MCL training in that nation. We are also discussing possible training in **Lebanon**, **Armenia**, **India** and **Peru**. We will prioritize all of our training trips subject to our vision, strategy and available resources.

Did you know?

FACT

Here are some FaithLife facts you might not know:

- Barry has been on 125 mission trips, Kim 28.
- Barry has taught in 44 different nations, Kim 10.
- Barry & Kim have taught together on 21 trips in 9 nations
- Barry has made 23 mission trips by himself.
- Our most visited nation has been the Philippines with 19 trips there, followed by Peru with 15 trips and Kazakhstan with 13 trips.
- Barry has never met 13 of our 64 global trainers in person
- Our Management for Church Leaders Volume #1 training has been translated into 23 languages!
- We have sent out 163 copies of our MCL self-training book to 50 countries, including 22 copies within the USA.
- Our MCL Training has been taught to 39,499 pastors and leaders worldwide. Barry has personally taught 6,637 of them.
- We have 475 recipients of our newsletter and 919 followers on our ministry Facebook page.

## Global MCL Training

As is typical, training tends to slow down in the summer months of June & July. I'm not sure why that is but it has been the pattern for the past several years. But there are some highlights:



1. **Pastor Gideon Nair**, our primary MCL Trainer in **India**, took our training to **Jammu July 13-14th**, which is in the northwest part of India. The trip took several days by train and bus but the response

and participation were worth it (*see photo*). He trained 26 pastors and church leaders. Please read his profile below.

2. **Pastor Gordon Onyango**, an MCL Trainer in **Kenya**, conducted an MCL training in **Narok June 5-7th** where he trained 197 leaders of which 144 were pastors! Gordon has trained 673 leaders in total this year!

3. **Dr. Theophilus Bekoe**, who is not yet a member of our network, conducted 2 trainings in June of our **Discipleship for Church Leaders** training in **Ghana** in the towns of **Okajakram** and **Atwima Min**. He trained a total of 40 pastors and church leaders.

4. **Pastor James Ochwo**, our primary MCL Trainer in **Uganda**, trained 138 pastors and church leaders on our MCL training in the city of **Kyankwanzi July 4-6th**. Please read his profile below.

## *Who Do You Say That I Am?*

This famous question was asked by Jesus of his disciples in **Matthew 16:15**. Peter's answer, of course, was that Jesus was Christ, the Son of the living God. Well, I'm not Jesus but yet my identity has also come into question. I was recently contacted by **Western Union** to explain the nature of a recent money transfer I had sent to our MCL Trainer in **Pakistan** to help with the cost of him conducting 6 training conferences of our material. Despite my supplying information about who we are and what we do as a ministry, Western Union has denied my use of their services. They would not give me a reason due to their security policy.

The only explanation I can come up with is that they are suspicious of my transactions to nations with terrorist activities, such as Pakistan, Nigeria, and South Sudan. I can appreciate that and I guess they did not accept my explanation of what we do and all of the information about our ministry I sent to them. One of the key reasons may be that I have not personally met our contact in Pakistan, and they see that as a huge red flag. Our government is very serious about trying to stop money laundering and unfortunately to some it may look like that is what we are doing.

Although we have been open about our ministry and our global activities Western Union is still suspicious of our motives. But God knows who I am and you know who I am and what we do. And that's all that matters to me! So I have had to suspend funding any global training for now. And though I can't send money via Western Union anymore, I know God will make a way for our global training to continue!

## **MCL Trainer - Pastor James Ochwo**

I first met **James Ochwo** in **Kampala, Uganda** at a training conference we held there in 2009. He was one of over 150 attendees but I remembered him in particular. A few years later I learned that he was using our materials to train others in Uganda on his own. So in 2014 I invited him to join our global trainer network that we had just established. He readily said yes!



In 2015, James hosted a conference of MCL Trainers from East Africa for us in Kampala. The purpose was to provide "train the trainer" type training to our MCL Trainers in the region. James also invited 8 other potential trainers in Uganda to attend whom we also trained. They all joined our network, including a pastor from **Tanzania** and another from the **Congo**.

Since then James has been our primary MCL Trainer in Uganda and coordinates all of our training and trainers there. He has trained 2,320 pastors and leaders via 25 training conferences since 2013. He is a pastor and the Director & Founder of **Kingdom Life International Ministries**, a church leadership training ministry. He is married and has 6 children and lives in Kampala, Uganda.

## **MCL Trainer - Pastor Gideon Nair**

**Pastor Gideon Nair** is one of our dearest friends and a long time MCL Trainer from **Bangalore, India**. I met Gideon in 2003 on my first trip to India to do some training with one of our church's mission partners there, **United Evangelical Mission India**. Gideon worked for that ministry before branching out on his own in 2005 and forming **Help India International Mission**. In 2010 he invited me to come and train in the part of India where he does his ministry, the state of Odisha where he is originally from. We trained together there in the city of **Korba** in October of 2013.



Gideon joined our Global Trainer Network in 2014 and has been taking our MCL training to different parts of his nation ever since. He even changed the name of his ministry to **Faith Life Ministries India** in 2015. He also accompanied me to the **Global Proclamation Congress for Pastoral Trainers** in **Bangkok, Thailand** in June, 2016 where we did a joint presentation on our training strategy. He is also our coordinator of MCL training for India. Gideon is married and has two children and lives in Bangalore, India.

## Our 2018 Schedule

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Purpose/Host</u>
Jan 25-26	San Jose, Costa Rica	MCL #2 Training - <i>Josue Ballestero, Costa Rica Church of God</i>
Apr 16-20	Montevideo, Uruguay	MCL #2 Training - <i>Julio Amarillo, Uruguay Church of God</i>
May 7-11	St. George's, Grenada	MCL Training - <i>John Lewis, Global Proclamation Commission</i>
Sep 16	El Cajon, CA	FLM Ministry Update Presentation - <i>First Lutheran Church</i>
Nov 3	Cumming, GA	Annual FLM Board of Directors Meeting
Nov 12-15	Kherson, Ukraine	MCL #2 Training - <i>Valentin Siniy, Tavriski Christian Institute</i>

### Prayer Requests



- Healing for **Michael Wotunga**, one of our MCL Trainers in **Uganda**, who was recently hospitalized for two weeks with chest pains.
- Healing for **James Ochwo**, one of our MCL Trainers in **Uganda**, who continues to have problems with his hand and wrist after surgery a month ago.

- Healing for **Jodie Norling**, wife of Bill Norling, our good friend and missionary in **Nicaragua**, who recently broke her ankle in a bike riding accident.
- For God to multiply the resources of the church of **Rajendra Sundas**, our MCL Trainer in **Nepal**, to help them provide for the people of **Nepal** who are suffering greatly.
- Thankfulness for all of our **Global Trainer Network Trainers** who continue to "scatter the seed" of our training.
- For God's wisdom and guidance as we plan our **training and travel trips for 2019**.
- For God's continued provision of **trainers, finances and opportunities** for this ministry.

### News & Notes



- **Thrivent Choice Dollars** for the 2nd Quarter of 2018 are now available to be directed to the charity of your choice. We would be blessed if you would direct them to **FaithLife Ministries**.
- Barry will be giving a ministry update presentation at **First Lutheran Church** in **El Cajon, CA** on **Sunday, September 16th**.
- Our annual **Board of Directors meeting** will be held on **Saturday, November 3rd**, via telephone conference call.
- Kim and I recently had lunch with **Pastor Julio Amarillo** and his wife **Jacqueline** from **Montevideo, Uruguay** in **Cleveland, TN**. Kim had not met them before and we enjoyed a wonderful time together! My Spanish was better than I thought it would be as they do not speak English!
- We recently met with **Petrit Lleshi**, our friend and contact from **Albania**, and are in the process of planning a training trip with him to **Albania, Macedonia and Greece** in January.

### Recommended Resources

Below are some resources that I use to learn about what's happening in the church today:

1. [www.churchleaders.com](http://www.churchleaders.com) - this website contains articles written by many well known pastors and speakers on issues related to church and ministry leadership.
2. [www.barna.org](http://www.barna.org) - this website contains research data and analysis on the many issues that churches face.
3. [www.gprocommission.org](http://www.gprocommission.org) - this website provides articles on topics related to pastoral training and also has ministry resources available for pastors and church leaders.

*Thank you for your prayers & support!*

Barry & Kim

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