



A Biblical Response to the Corona Virus Pandemic

We are in the midst of worldwide pandemic due to the outbreak of a new form of the corona virus. It is causing many deaths and a shutdown of economic activity that threatens the jobs, income and survival of people and businesses all over the world. While we listen to disease experts and allow government leaders to make decisions on how we should respond, we sometimes assume that they have the knowledge to act wisely. But the truth is that they don't have the kind of specific knowledge needed to effectively combat the virus. As a result, decisions are made based upon our history with other viruses, inadequate data, and best guesses. And there is also no shortage of media pundits, scientists and others all sharing their thoughts and beliefs on social media on all sides of the issue. Consequently, the public is confused about what to believe. I know I am.

So what should we do when we have questions that do not have factual or adequate information upon which we can make decisions?

For Christians, we must turn to God and His Word for guidance. I believe the Bible gives us 4 ways that we can respond:

1. **Get more facts.** Obviously we need more factual information about the virus and its impact. We can't rely on inaccurate models, historical data and general assumptions. **Proverbs 10:14** says, "*Wise men store up knowledge.*" We are learning more about the virus every day, and we need to continue to test people and study the data so that we have more facts to make better decisions. But we also need to gather the facts ourselves. Don't just read one article or listen to one video but explore a variety of sources to become better informed.

2. **Be prudent.** All decisions have consequences so we must determine what we actually know and do not know. We must consider the benefits and risks of our decisions based upon the facts we know. **Proverbs 13:16** says that "*Every prudent man acts out of knowledge.*" That means we must be cautious not to act universally or hastily if the knowledge is not sufficient to justify a decision that could harm more than it helps.

3. **Be humble.** We, as well as our leading scientists and government leaders, must have the humility to recognize that we don't know everything. We are not God and do not have perfect knowledge. We must look to Him and His Word for guidance. **Psalms 25:8-9** says, "*Good and upright is the Lord; therefore he instructs sinners in his ways. He guides the humble in what is right and teaches them his ways.*" If we turn to God, He will provide the wisdom to guide us in our decisions.

4. **Be patient.** Because more time is needed to gather the facts, we need to be patient and allow our leaders to do that. In the meantime, we must pray for them to act wisely and prudently on our behalf. The Bible says in **Proverbs 15:18** that "*A hot-tempered man stirs up dissension, but a patient man calms a quarrel.*" So we must also exercise patience to bring peace and calm to our nation. Anger or conflict only serves Satan and his desire to distract us from God and combating the virus.

Let us strive for the facts and turn to God and His Word and prudently, humbly and patiently pray for His wisdom and guidance to help us respond and survive this pandemic.

Global MCL Training

Although much of our global training was restricted in April & May, here are a few highlights of the training that took place in the past 3 months:

1. **Pastor Darwin Pangaribuan** from **Indonesia** trained 14 church leaders in the city of **Bandar Lampung**.
2. **Pastor Jasper Goka** from **Ghana** trained 40 pastors and church leaders in the town of **Nzema**.
3. **Pastor Ciza Sylvestre** from **Burundi** trained 25 pastors and leaders in the city of **Kanyosha**.
4. **Pastor Kiyingi Emmy** from **Uganda** trained 60 pastors and leaders in the town of **Lukaya**.
5. One of our new MCL Trainers, **Bishop Chebon Eriama** from western **Kenya**, started training 24 pastors and church leaders in the towns of **Kumaet** and **Malakisi** in March (*photo below*).
6. Our newest MCL Trainer, **Dr. Fred Macharia** from **Nairobi, Kenya**, started training 9 pastors at his Theological College in **Nairobi** in March.
7. **Pastor Rajendra Sundas** from **Nepal** trained 50 pastors and church leaders in **Rasuwa** in April (*photo below*).
8. **Pastor Ciza Sylvestre** from **Burundi** trained 25 pastors and leaders in the town of **Gatunguru**.
9. **Pastor Jasper Goka** from **Ghana** trained 40 pastors and church leaders in the town of **Sekondi** in May.
10. **Pastor Kiyingi Emmy** from **Uganda** was also able to train two groups in May. He trained a group of 6 pastors at a home in **Setta** and he also trained 20 pastors and church leaders in the town of **Namayiba**.



Barry's Podcast Interview

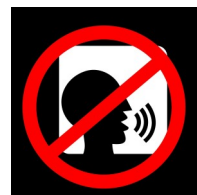


Barry was invited to be the guest speaker on the Abundant Living Podcast by Dr. Bruce Oliver. Dr. Oliver also has a training ministry and thought our story would be of interest to his podcast listeners, some of whom are global. Barry shared the story behind FaithLife Ministries and its beginnings, growth, vision & strategy, and what the Lord has accomplished through it. The audio podcast was posted on-line on May 14th and you can listen to it by visiting his website at www.abundantlivingblog.com and clicking on Visit Blog and then scrolling down to the post. You can also leave comments that would encourage both Dr. Oliver and me.

I believe that our story and testimony to God's faithfulness is also worth sharing. So please feel free to refer others that you know to this podcast who may be blessed by it as well. To God alone be the glory!

No Training? No Problem!

With the corona virus curtailing my training & travel I have had the time to work on several projects. These projects include:



1. Development of a Power-point presentation of our MCL #2 training manual.
2. Development of a Bible Study based on our MCL training that can be used as follow up material to our conference training.
3. Development of an MCL for Young Adult Leaders that is being spearheaded by Rev. John Lewis, our MCL Trainer in Grenada.
4. Development of a new Vision & Plan for this ministry once we reach 100 nations with our training.

Testimonies From the Mission Field

“And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others.”

2 Timothy 2:2



God has given us the privilege and honor of training pastors and church leaders about leadership and management principles for almost 20 years now. And in 2014 we set up a global trainer network to extend our training through those we have trained. This is often called multiplication ministry. We now have a network of over 70 pastoral trainers who teach our Management for Church Leaders™ training to others each month around the globe. I often share the numerical results of these training conferences in our newsletters but don't share some of the feedback and testimonies that I receive from them.

So I thought I would share a few of those that I have received recently to give you a little insight on the impact our ministry is having:

“We had a great training session last week in Chitwan and the next one will be in Delhi, India among Nepali Pastors and Leaders (expecting around 50 participants). I have a plan to conduct MCL training monthly in different parts of Nepal, at least 12 sessions this year on average.”

- **Pastor Dhan Thapa** from **Kathmandu, Nepal**

“We have done a three day seminar with Missionary Blake Northam. Attendance was 63. All in attendance were our college students. Blake is a very committed man of God blessed with explicit teachings and of sound doctrine. Looking forward to receive more teachings from FaithLife Ministries.”

- **Pastor David Evans** from **Thika, Kenya**

“I'm happy to report to you that MCL training took off today with an enrollment of 18 attendants. Praise the lord Jesus Christ for his grace. It was attended by two Bishops, 3 Pastors and 13 other Church leaders. They have really appreciated you for authorizing me to facilitate the training as a Pastoral Trainer. They have promised to mobilize more Pastors and Church leaders for the same course.”

- **Bishop Chebon Eriama** from **Busia, Kenya**

“I took much longer days than as usual because I was using chalk boards while they were copying, It was an exciting exercise but I finished well and the leaders send their appreciation to FaithLife Ministries for sending me to train them such practical materials. I was in a group that was discussing on how to handle people and finance management especially in the Church. I thank you for encouraging me and when I raised my faith God moved and here I testify of His grace. Be blessed.”

- **Pastor Okumu Eryeza** from **Kampala, Uganda**

“I greet you in the great name of our lord Jesus Christ. Thank you so much for all the great work you are doing. We thank God for His love and protection. The training started very well for the pastors and church leaders who managed to come. And God protected us from this virus. Thank you so much for all the support. May God bless you.”

- **Pastor Kiyingi Emmy** from **Kampala, Uganda**

As you can read, our global trainers are grateful for our training and having the opportunity to teach our training to others. And while most of our global training has been canceled due to the corona virus pandemic for April & May, these testimonies give us hope that our training will spread even further once we are able to resume. Please pray for all of our global trainers, and that the Lord will keep them safe and healthy as well as provide for their families and financial needs during this global crisis.

Our 2020 Schedule

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Purpose/Host</u>
Jan 20-24	St. George's, Grenada	MCL #2 - <i>John Lewis, Grenada Inst. for Theological Education</i>
May -PPD'd	Belize City, Belize	MCL #1 - <i>Pastor Julio Quiroz, Belize Church of God</i>
June - PPD'd	La Fox, IL	Ministry Update Presentation - Lord of Life Lutheran
Oct 15-26	Capetown, S. Africa	MCL #1 - <i>Caleb Davison, Leadership International</i>
Nov 7	TBD	Annual FLM Board of Directors Meeting

Prayer Requests

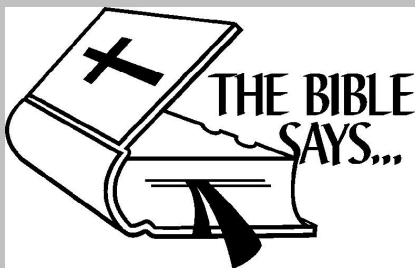


- For God's peace and comfort for **Pastor Wilson Esambe** and his family from **Cameroon** at the death of his 11 year old son, Japheth, from a life long respiratory illness.
- For God's continued financial provision for this ministry.
- For God's wisdom and guidance in making the decision when to safely and appropriately resume our global training.
- For God's Provision and guidance for **Annet Ndifuna** in **Uganda** as she takes over the ministry of her husband, Joseph, who passed away earlier this year.
- For God's provision for all of our global trainers who are suffering loss of income and food shortages due to the pandemic.
- Thankfulness to God for his healing of **Thomas Mendy** and his wife in **Senegal** from the corona virus.
- For God's wisdom & guidance for all pastors and church leaders around the world as they seek to re-open their churches in ways that protect their members from the corona virus while they worship, thank and glorify God.

News & Notes



- **Pastor Wilson Esambe** had to postpone his training in the **Seychelles** in March due to travel concerns over the corona virus. It was slated to be the 100th nation to receive our training.
- **Dr. Fred Macharia**, Professor at the International Faith Theological College in **Nairobi, Kenya**, joined our global trainer network.
- Barry met with **Caleb Davison** from **Leadership International** here in Atlanta to plan our training and trip to **Cape Town, South Africa** October 15-26th.
- As expected my training trip to **Belize** in May has been postponed until later this year due to the corona virus.
- We recently received the final copy of our MCL training in **Farsi**, the language of Iran.
- We completed the development of our **MCL #2** Training into **Powerpoint** slides for our Global Trainer Network.
- We began the development of a **Bible Study** based on our **Management for Church Leaders** training.



"But I will show you whom you should fear: Fear him who, after killing of the body, has power to throw you into hell. Yes, I tell you, fear him."

Luke 12:5

Thank you for your prayers & support!

Barry & Kim

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