

August, 2020
Newsletter

FaithLife Ministries
"Equipping Church Leaders Globally for 19 Years"



A New Vision For a New Decade!

"I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God made it grow."
1 Corinthians 3:6

Our ministry vision the past 13 years has been to reach 100 nations with our **Management for Church Leaders™** (MCL) training. As of today, our MCL training has been taught in 99 nations. We had envisioned reaching the 100th nation earlier this year through 2 trainings that were scheduled for the Seychelles and Belize. But these trainings did not happen because of the global virus pandemic. With our global training opening up again now, we expect to reach our goal of 100 nations soon.

Our original ministry intent was to "*scatter the seed*" of our MCL training. In other words, God directed us to spread it to as many nations as we could. As a result, the vision God gave us was to plant our training in 100 nations. With that vision nearing achievement, it became evident to us that we needed to ask God for a new vision.

Last year I began that process of prayer and meditation for a new vision from the Lord. I presented some ideas that the Lord had revealed to me at our annual board of directors meeting last November. After much prayer, deliberation and discussion with our board, we believe that God now wants us to make sure that our training is more "*firmly planted*" where we have sown its seed. As a result, our new vision will be to establish an active global MCL trainer in 50 nations by the year 2025. An active global trainer is someone who conducts our training on a regular basis each year. Although our training has reached 99 nations, only 20 nations currently have an active trainer providing regular, annual training. Consequently, there is a need for more active MCL Trainers in these other nations.

This vision is based on **1 Corinthians 3:6**. The church in Corinth was praising Paul and Apollos for their work in establishing the gospel there. But Paul proclaimed that "*I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God made it grow.*" We have done what Paul did by planting our training in 99 nations. But now we need to do what Apollos did. We need to feed ("*water*") the training seed we have planted by providing trainers and resources in those nations without an active trainer to help our training grow and develop there as well.

Our strategy for achieving this new vision is three-fold. First, we will begin with nations where we have a global trainer who is not active and work to have them become an active trainer. That may require funding training expenses or providing additional training tools. Second, we will look to establish our training in the curriculums of the Bible Colleges & Schools where we have taught our MCL in the past, or where we now have contacts. That could mean revising our training to fit school curriculum formats. It also might include some travel costs for us to introduce it or teach it ourselves. Finally, we will look to identify potential global trainers in nations where our MCL training has been planted but there is no global trainer. That may entail communication or travel costs.

By establishing an active global MCL trainer in 50 nations we will be strengthening our ministry, expanding our training within more nations, and ensuring the training of more pastors and church leaders in the future. We look forward to seeing how God grows this ministry in the years ahead. Please pray for us as we embark on this new adventure!

Global MCL Training



Many nations are now removing some of the restrictions on church gatherings that were put in place because of the global corona virus pandemic. This has enabled some of our global network trainers the opportunity to resume their MCL training where it has been requested provided they meet the local distancing and other health requirements. Here are a few highlights of the training that took place in the past 3 months:

1. **Pastor Kiyingi Emmy** from **Uganda** trained 25 pastors & church leaders in **Bombo** June 22-27.
2. **Pastor Ciza Sylvestre** from **Burundi** trained 27 pastors and leaders in **Musenyi** June 29-30.
3. **Pastor Jasper Goka** from **Ghana** trained 47 pastors and leaders in **Doboase** July 2-4.
4. **Pastor Steve Obonyo** from **Kenya** trained 25 pastors and leaders in **Eburu** July 6-8.
5. **Pastor Rajendra Sundas** from **Nepal** trained 80 pastors in **Kathmandu** July 16-17.
6. **Pastor Hassan Rangi** from **Tanzania** trained 50 pastors in **Nyarugusu** July 20-23.
7. **Pastor Ciza Sylvestre** from **Burundi** trained 30 pastors and leaders in **Buganda** July 30-31.
8. **Pastor James Ochwo** from **Uganda** trained 43 pastors and leaders in **Nakaseke** July 30-31.
9. **Pastor Chin Mung** from **Myanmar** trained 47 Bible students on-line from February - August.
10. **Pastor Kiyingi Emmy** from **Uganda** trained 35 pastors and leaders in **Nangwa** August 3-8.
11. **Pastor Gordon Onyango** from **Kenya** trained 92 pastors and leaders in **Siaya** August 13-15.

Also, there were MCL trainings conducted by **Pastor Maila Odah** in **Nigeria** and **Yeny Morales** in **Nicaragua**, who are not members of our global trainer network. We also added 2 new global MCL Trainers in June - **Pastor Andy Shie** in **Brunei** and **Sharita McDaddy** in **Ghana**. Pastor Shie will begin an online training for Brunei and Malaysia in September!

Closing in on #100



With the global corona virus pandemic that arose in March, our plans to reach 100 nations last Spring were derailed. We had 2 training trips planned to the Seychelles and Belize that would have put us at the 100 mark had they not been postponed due to the virus. But God had another plan!

There are a couple of possibilities that will enable us to reach 100 nations in September. One is through an on-line training with participants from several nations, including some from a nation we have yet to reach. The other possibility is through our MCL Self-Training Book that was sent to someone in a another nation where our training has not been. These are two possibilities that I would not have considered imminent a month ago.

So, we are excited and anxious to reach this new milestone however and wherever it happens. Let us continue to pray for God's direction and favor as we *"press on towards the goal"* (Philippians 3:14) that God has given to us!

First Global Zoom Meeting!

Barry was invited to speak to a group of pastors and other ministry leaders in **Myanmar** who are interested in teaching our **Management for Church Leaders** training there. This first international Zoom meeting for Barry was hosted by our MCL Trainer in Mandalay, **Pastor Andrew Ceu**. Barry had the opportunity to share the history of our training and to introduce it to the 14 participants in the meeting. As a result of that meeting, the participants all expressed a desire to teach our MCL training. Pastor Andrew will now set up another Zoom meeting for Barry to actually start teaching our training to these pastors so that they can train others. It will be Barry's first on-line training of our MCL! We will also be adding more MCL Trainers in Myanmar when it is done! We thank God for the ability to use technology to spread our training to more places and pastors!



The Future of Training



As a result of the global corona virus pandemic, training conferences are now limited or restricted in many parts of the world. The conference format generally provides for greater interaction with the trainer and is a better way to engage participants in a small group discussion. However, because of the pandemic, many trainers are now using on-line tools, such as Zoom, Skype, Facebook Live, or Microsoft Teams, as an alternative. Churches are also using these tools to have meetings and Bible studies on-line. Many business training organizations and schools in the USA are also converting to on-line training only. It would appear that on-line meetings and training is the future in the developed world.

Unfortunately, for our ministry, the availability of reliable internet services and the cost of computers needed to access them in the majority world are quite limited. Nevertheless, while conference training is our preferred method, we should still consider using these on-line tools where appropriate and available. The availability of, and access to, training is much more important than its format. Our training goals can still be accomplished if we learn how to take advantage of the tools and resources God has made available to us.

So, I would like to encourage all of our MCL Trainers, as well as anyone else involved in training pastors and church leaders, to consider using these on-line tools to train others. Let us not allow our limitations or our lack of knowledge cause us to ignore the future or the tools that God provides to us to spread His Word!

"See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?"
Isaiah 43:19

MCL Discussion Guide

We are in the process of developing an MCL Discussion Guide for use by our MCL Trainers and MCL training participants. This new tool will enable MCL Trainers to go deeper into discussion of the key training principles, and their Biblical support, during a training conference or as homework by the participants. It can also be used by MCL training participants, after they have gone through the training, for post-conference follow up, or to have training discussions with the leaders in their own church.



The MCL Discussion Guide is expected to be available later this year.



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Thrivent Choice Dollars for the 2nd Quarter Now Available

For those of you who are members of Thrivent, your 2nd quarter Thrivent Choice Dollars are now available for designation. We would be very grateful if you would be willing to direct those to our ministry. Simply log on to your Thrivent account, find the link to the Choice Dollars that you have, and then select FaithLife Ministries as the organization to direct all or any portion of your eligible Thrivent Choice dollars. Thank you for giving this request your prayerful consideration!

Annual Fundraising Appeal

We have started to receive donations from our annual fundraising appeal letter and are very grateful for the gifts that have come in thus far. If you were mailed the appeal letter and have yet to respond, we would be blessed if you would consider making a donation as you are led by the Lord. As a reminder, anyone can donate to our ministry on-line through our website.



Please visit <http://faithlifeministries.net/get-involved/> if you would like to do so. Thank you!

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 - PPD'd	Capetown, S. Africa	MCL #1 - <i>Caleb Davison, Leadership International</i>
Nov 7	On-line Meeting	Annual FLM Board of Directors Meeting

Prayer Requests



- Thankfulness to God for safely bringing **Gideon Nair**, our MCL Trainer in **India**, back home to his family after a 4 month separation due to the corona virus lockdown.
- For God's protection of the **Bahamas** during this current hurricane season as they are still rebuilding from last

year, which has also been limited by the global virus pandemic.

- For God's **provision of finances** for this ministry through our annual fundraising appeal letter.
- For God's wisdom and guidance as we consider **using on-line tools** for our training.
- For God's provision and comfort for the **flood victims** and families in **Nepal**.
- For God's healing for **James Ochwo**, our MCL Trainer in **Uganda**, from malaria.
- For God's help to reach the **100th nation** with our MCL training.
- For God's will and provision for our new vision to establish **active MCL Trainers in 50 nations by 2025**.

News & Notes



- Barry's planned trip to **Cape Town, South Africa** in October has officially been **post-poned** until 2021 due to travel restrictions into South Africa through February.
- We now have a **Laotian MCL** training manual translation!
- We are in the process of having our **MCL Vol. #1 Trainer manual** and our **MCL Self-Training Book** translated into **Spanish**.
- Barry's new book, **God's Spirit at Work**, is in production and will be released on September 28th.
- Two of our MCL Trainers are planning **on-line training** of our MCL. One will be by **Diego Cruz** from **Guatemala**, who will have participants from 4 nations, including Belize, a nation we have yet to reach. Training starts Sept. 5th. The other is being led by **Andi Shie** from **Brunei**, who will be teaching our MCL through their seminary in Malaysia. He will have participants from 2-3 nations and begins in September as well.



"Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything."
James 1:2-4 (NIV)

Thank you for your prayers & support!

Barry & Kim

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