

November, 2020  
Newsletter

**FaithLife Ministries**  
"Equipping Church Leaders Globally for 19 Years"



### Thanksgiving Day: Thanks and Giving!

**"I tell you the truth, whatever you did for the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me."**

Matthew 25:40

Thanksgiving Day will soon be upon us here in the United States. It is a traditional holiday that we set aside to give thanks to God for His many blessings upon our lives and our nation. It dates back to 1621 when the original settlers from England in Plymouth, Massachusetts celebrated the harvest and their safe arrival in our nation. It has come to mean a gathering of family and friends to eat turkey, pumpkin pie and watch football. More recently, it also means the beginning of the Christmas shopping season.

While it is a national holiday and not a religious holiday per se, many Americans attended church on Thanksgiving



Day in the past to thank the Lord for His blessings to us. Sadly, that aspect of this holiday has all but disappeared. And many Americans who are younger or came from other nations do not acknowledge God at all on this day. For them it's just another

holiday to get off work and do what they want on their day off.

For many Christians, however, it is also a day to give to others who are less fortunate. It may be serving in a soup kitchen or a homeless shelter, or just inviting someone who is alone or unable to afford a nice meal to join us in our home on Thanksgiving Day. I have participated in these opportunities to give to others over the years as well, and they are a great reminder to us that we are blessed to be a blessing to others. Jesus told His disciples, **"Freely have you received, freely give"** (Matthew 10:8) and **"It is more blessed to give than to receive"** (Acts 20:35). One of the most important ways that we can thank God for our blessings is by giving to others.

So this Thanksgiving Day, let us not only make it a day of "Thanks" and enjoy the blessings we have received from the Lord, let us also make it a day of "Giving" to others in Jesus name!

### Our Management for Church Leaders™ Training Reaches 100th Nation!

**"Many are the plans in a man's heart, but it is the Lord's purpose that prevails."**

Proverbs 19:21

We are thrilled to announce that our Management for Church Leaders™ training has reached it's 100th Nation! On September 5th, our MCL Trainer in **Guatemala, Dr. Diego Cruz**, held an MCL training on Facebook Live that was attended by 36 pastors and leaders from several nations, including **Belize**. That made Belize the 100th nation to receive our training! As you may recall, Diego and I had planned to take our training to Belize in May but the training conference had to be postponed due to the virus. Instead, our original host in Belize, Pastor Julio Quiroz from the Belize Church of God, attended the online training.

God gave us the vision to reach 100 nations back in 2008 and this goal has been the focus of our ministry the past 11 years. It is what led us to publish a self-training manual in 2012 and create our Global Trainer Network in 2014 so that we could multiply and spread our training.

We recognize that it took many people, especially our global trainers, to reach this goal, and it was all by God's Hand and not our own! We are also thankful to all of our ministry donors and supporters who helped provide the funding and prayers that God used to bring this about. We truly thank and praise the Lord for leading us, and using all of us, to reach this wonderful milestone in this ministry!

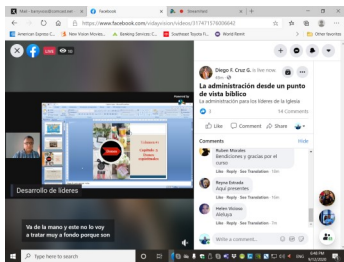
We released a 15 minute video a few weeks ago to celebrate this accomplishment for the Lord, which included a look back on how we got here. You can view the video on-line at youtube.com using the following link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NWd1aBRuqWw>

## On-line Training Begins

In September we saw the beginning of two important on-line trainings of our **Management for Church Leaders™** material.

The first began on September 5th in **Guatemala** by **Dr. Diego Cruz**. He used Facebook Live and held a 2 hour class each Saturday in September from 4-6 pm Guatemala time (see photo). I also participated with him and had the opportunity to greet the participants in Spanish and encourage them in our training. Diego did a great job of teaching and using the technology with power-point slides he had created. We had a total of 36 participants from 7 nations for the 4 sessions. The nations included Belize and Spain, both new nations for our training! The participants were also engaged in the training and gave positive comments!



The second training took place in **Malaysia** and began on September 15th using Zoom and was taught by **Andy Shie**, our MCL Trainer from **Brunei**, and **Alfred Duma**, one of their training directors from Kuching, Malaysia. Alfred is also going to join our global trainer network! The training is for students who attend their denomination's training center. They had 30 participants from 3 nations - **Brunei, Malaysia & Indonesia** - and they are teaching every other Tuesday night through March.

I am also hoping to start an on-line MCL training for some pastors and leaders in **Mandalay, Myanmar** who want to teach our material to others. I am waiting for our MCL Trainer in Mandalay, **Pastor Andrew Ceu**, to set that up for us.

We are excited to see us all use the tools that are available to teach our material during this pandemic when travel and large gathering are limited. We give all the glory to God!

## Reaching the Iranian Church

We recently added a new MCL Trainer in England. His name is **Hesam Heravi** (pictured) and he is from Iran but now lives in Liverpool. He is a former Muslim who became a Christian while living in Tehran and is one of the leaders of the Liverpool Iranian Church. He also translated our Management for Church Leaders training manual into Farsi, the language of Iran. He plans to teach our material to some of the leaders in his church as well as reach out to other Iranian churches around Liverpool. He will also be sharing our training material with his contacts in some house churches in Iran. Even though we can't travel to Iran, we can still reach Iranian Church leaders with our training! We thank God for leading us to Hesam!



## On-line Training in China

I am excited to be working with a new ministry called **China Partner**. They work with registered churches and seminaries throughout China. I had been invited to go there to introduce our Management for Church Leaders training two years ago but the trip was postponed due to the Chinese government crackdown on churches there and the uncertainty that created. Then this year the virus hit.



So, now they have asked me to develop 30 minute training sessions via Zoom where I will be translated into Chinese. These sessions will be recorded and then distributed to pastors, church leaders and seminaries in China. The first session will be recorded on December 7th and future sessions will be done on a monthly basis. I thank the Lord for this opportunity to do on-line MCL training that will reach many pastors and leaders in different parts of China. Please join me in praying for this training as well.

## Barry Writes a New Book!



During this pandemic, Barry took time to write a new book entitled, **“God’s Spirit at Work: Lessons From the Mission Field.”** In it he shares the 10 spiritual lessons he learned from his experiences from his 24 years of short term international mission trips. The book is available in paperback and electronic formats on several internet sites, including Amazon, Barnes & Noble, Xulon Press, and Apple iStore. For more information, please visit our website and click on Barry’s Books in the lower right hand column of our home page.

## Global MCL Training



Our global trainer network Trainers have begun to increase their training of our MCL as restrictions are being lifted in more and more nations. Over the past 3 months our global trainers have trained over 1800 pastors and church leaders in 27 nations! Here are a few highlights of the training that took place during the past 3 months:

1. **Pastor Maila Odah** from **Nigeria** trained 60 pastors & church leaders in **Gelengu** Sept 3-4.
2. **Dr. Diego Cruz** from **Guatemala** trained 36 pastors and leaders in 6 nations on-line Sept 5-26.
3. **Pastor Moses Wheigar** from **Liberia** trained 76 pastors and leaders in **Buchanan** Sept 11-12.
4. **Pastor Gordon Onyango** from **Kenya** trained 105 pastors and leaders in **Homabay** Sept 24-26.
5. **Pastor Jasper Goka** from **Ghana** trained 58 pastors & leaders in **Half-Assini** Oct 1-3.
6. **Pastor Kiyangi Emmy** from **Uganda** trained 45 pastors & leaders in **Katuna, Rwanda** Oct 5-10.
7. **Pastor Ciza Sylvestre** from **Burundi** trained 25 pastors and leaders in **Gitwenge** Oct 15-16.
8. **Pastor Samuel Quispirroca** from **Peru** began a weekly on-line training of 13 Bible students in **Cusco** on Oct 18.
9. **Pastor Daniel Chaemebo** from **Ethiopia**, a new MCL Trainer, started weekly training of 5 of his key church leaders in **Mekanissa** on Oct 23rd.
10. **Pastor Rajendra Sundas** from **Nepal** trained 30 pastors in **Lalitpur** Nov 1-2.
11. **Pastor Samuel Bobor** from **Sierra Leone** trained 200 pastors and leaders in **Port Loko** Oct 2-7.
12. **Pastor James Ochwo** from **Uganda** trained 68 pastors and church leaders in **Yumbe** Nov 3-5.
13. **Pastor Samuel Rojas** from **Colombia** trained 25 Bible students in **Fusagasuga** Nov 9-20.
14. **Pastor Hanna Karam** from **Lebanon** trained 33 pastors & church leaders in **Egypt** Nov 19-20.

We continue to be encouraged and blessed by the diligence of our global trainers to teach our material to others, even during a pandemic! To God alone by the glory!

## What is Truth?

Pontius Pilate once spoke these words to Jesus (**John 18:38**) before he handed our Lord over to be crucified. It was in response to Jesus' declaration that *"everyone on the side of truth listens to me."* (**John 18:37**)

We are in an election year in the United States and Americans are being bombarded with political ads via emails, texts, social media and the mainstream media, all claiming to be the truth. But political ads are rarely the truth. They are generally twisted facts to smear opponents or distort their opponent's record. We, as Americans, must be very discerning as to the truth, and not rely on political ads to get our facts before we vote.



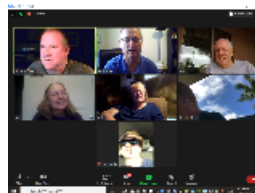
Truth is hard to find in our world today. Whether we are talking about issues such as an election, the global pandemic, international trade, foreign policy or climate change, the truth is not always self evident. In reality, it is often hidden in ways that make it extremely difficult for the average person to determine. But as humans, we must try to discover truth in our world as best as we can.

But there is a truth that supersedes worldly truth, and that is God's truth! God's Word is truth and as Jesus declared, if we want to know the truth we need to listen to Him! The best way to determine what is true, then, is to look to God's Word and ask God's Spirit to reveal it to us. Without God's Spirit, we cannot discern the truth (**John 16:13, 1 John 4:1**).

What is truth? God is truth!! (**Psalm 119:160**)

## 2020 Board of Directors Meeting

Our 2020 Board of Directors meeting was held via Zoom on Saturday, November 7th. As usual, we first reviewed our operations, strategies and training in 2020. Due to the COVID pandemic, our global training was suspended from April to June but began



to resume in July and is now back to pre-virus levels. We are thankful that some of them are able to train on-line instead! We also discussed our strategic plans and budget for 2021 and approved them. Our focus will now be on establishing ongoing training of our Management for Church Leaders training course in more nations. We are also pleased to announce that we have added **Dr. Wahid Wahba**, founder and president of the **Middle East Leadership Training Institute**, to our board of directors.



## 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>
Sept 26	La Fox, IL	<b>Ministry Update Presentation (via video) - Lord of Life Lutheran</b>
Oct - PPD'd	Capetown, S. Africa	MCL #1 - <i>Caleb Davison, Leadership International</i>
Nov 7	On-line Meeting	<b>Annual FLM Board of Directors Meeting</b>

### Prayer Requests



- Healing and recovery for **Jasper Goka**, one of our MCL Trainers in **Ghana**, who has a heart problem.
- For God's protection and encouragement for Christians in **Pakistan** undergoing renewed persecution.
- Healing and recovery for **Shara Sudarsanam**, wife of our **India** MCL Trainer Samuel Sudarsanam, from COVID-19.
- Thankfulness to God for leading us to reach **100 nations** with our **MCL training**.
- For God's will and provision for our new vision to establish **active MCL Trainers in 50 nations by 2025**.
- For a new church building for **Pastor Christopher Ofunza** in Bumala, **Kenya**.
- For God's provision of a new **PA system** for **Pastor Moses Wheigar** in Monrovia, **Liberia** to replace the one that was stolen from their church.
- For God's **healing** for our longtime friend and supporter, **Mary**, who has **bone cancer**.
- For God's guidance in our **on-line training for China**.

### News & Notes



- We reached the 100th nation with our **Management for Church Leaders** training on September 5th through the on-line training that reached a pastor in **Belize**.
- We added 3 new Global Network Trainers in September, including **George Hakim** in **Cairo, Egypt**, **Pastor Jigmee Bhutia** in **Siliguri, India**, and **Hesam Heravi** in **Liverpool, England**.
- The new **MCL Training Discussion Guide** was completed and released to our global trainer network in October.
- Barry's new book, **God's Spirit at Work**, was released on September 28. To get a copy, visit our website at [www.faithlifeministries.net](http://www.faithlifeministries.net).
- We released a **new video** this month celebrating our **reaching 100 nations** with our Management for Church Leaders training.
- We sent out **tax receipt letters** this month as required by the IRS to everyone who had contributed at least \$250 in a single donation so far in 2020. If you did not receive a tax receipt, or would like one anyway, let us know and we'd be happy to send you one.

### Considering a donation for a year-end tax deduction?



If you are thinking about making a year end charitable donation to receive a tax deduction, would you consider making a donation to our ministry to help us fund our training for next year? Your gift would be deeply appreciated and would enable us to train more leaders and establish more global trainers as well. All donations are tax deductible. Simply mail us a check made payable to **FaithLife Ministries** to the address on the right by December 31st!

*Thank you for your prayers & support!*

*Barry & Kim*

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