

February, 2021
Newsletter

FaithLife Ministries
"Equipping Church Leaders Globally for 20 Years"



FaithLife Ministries Celebrates 20 Years of Ministry!

"So is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it."

Isaiah 55:11

Faithlife Ministries was established on January 22, 2001, and over the past 20 years we have seen the Hand of God moving in our ministry and doing some amazing things. Looking back to our beginning, we could never have imagined what God had in store for us.

Originally, we started this ministry as a vehicle to take teams of Americans to the mission field to train and equip church leaders. We led teams from 8 - 20 people and conducted training conferences on Children's, Youth, and Adult ministries. Our first mission trip was in May of 2001 where we led a team to the Philippines to train in the towns of Loaog & Tabuk. While there, the pastor asked me (Barry) if I would teach about leadership and management to his Bible School students and pastors the following year. So I put together a training course called Management for Church Leaders™ which we first taught there in February of 2002.

But it soon became apparent that God wanted us to teach it in other countries as well. So He began to open up doors and within a few short years we had taught this training in 6 nations. As a result, I felt the call to do this ministry full-time because God was showing us the need and creating the opportunities to go and train. By 2012 we had taught this training in 20 nations.

But God also gave us the vision to reach 100 nations with this training and the means to do so. In 2014, He led us to create our Global Trainer Network and so we began to train those we had already trained to go and train others. That strategy enabled us to rapidly expand the number of nations we could reach with our training, so that last September we had reached our goal of 100 nations!

Along the way we also developed more training resources including videos, powerpoints and Trainer manuals. We have also had our MCL training translated into 26 languages! When God moves, and His servants obey, great things happen!

So, we celebrate what God has done! We are also grateful for all of our donors and our prayer team, as well as the 60+ MCL Trainers in over 40 nations that teach our material to others. When God's people allow God to use them, amazing things happen!

Status of our New Vision



Last year we announced that after reaching the 100th nation with our **Management for Church Leaders™** training we would pursue a new vision for this ministry. God responded to our prayers by giving us a new vision to see this training established in 50 nations by the year 2025.

About a year ago, we had ongoing and active training in only 20 nations of the 100 that we had reached. Those nations were **Burundi, Cameroon, DRC, Ghana, Guatemala, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Liberia, Malawi, Myanmar, Nepal, Nigeria, Pakistan, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, South Sudan, Tanzania, Togo** and **Uganda**. As of today, we now have active training in 27 nations! The 7 nations we have established training in since then include **Brunei, Malaysia, Ethiopia, Vietnam, Colombia, Costa Rica** and **Nicaragua**. And there are several other nations where we expect to begin training during the rest of this year as well. They include **South Africa, Bangladesh, Jamaica, Estonia** and **Peru**. I hope to add more nations in the months ahead!

We thank God for the MCL Trainers who continue to train our material despite the pandemic and personal struggles. Please pray for all of our global trainers, for good health, safe travels, and God's provision for them, their families and their ministries!

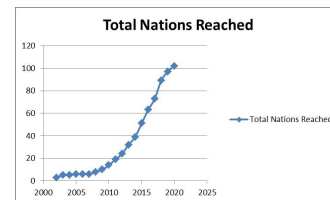
To God alone be the glory!

FaithLife Ministry Milestones

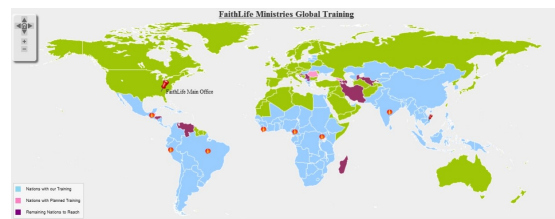
- Jan, 2001** - FaithLife Ministries incorporated
- May, 2001** - 1st mission trip to Philippines
- Feb, 2002** - 1st Management for Church Leaders™ (MCL) Training (Philippines)
- July, 2005** - Barry begins working full-time in this ministry
- Jan, 2009** - God gives us a vision to reach 100 nations
- Jan, 2011** - MCL Vol #1 & #2 update introduced
- Feb, 2012** - MCL reaches 20th nation (Tanzania)
- Mar, 2012** – MCL Self-Training Book introduced
- Sep, 2012** - Updated website and blog are launched
- Mar, 2014** – Global MCL Trainer Network established
- Apr, 2014** - MCL 10th translation released (French)
- Jan, 2015** – Children’s Ministry Books introduced
- Mar, 2015** – MCL Audio training introduced
- May, 2015** – MCL reaches 40th nation (China)
- June, 2015** – Discipleship for Church Leaders™ Training introduced
- Aug, 2015** – MCL training videos introduced
- Sep, 2016** – MCL reaches 60th nation (Sri Lanka)
- Sep, 2017** – MCL 20th translation released (Thai)
- May, 2018** – MCL reaches 80th nation (Laos)
- Nov, 2018** – MCL Self-Training Book reaches 200 recipients
- Jan, 2020** – MCL training reaches 50,000 pastors and church leaders
- Sep, 2020** – MCL reaches 100th nation (Belize)
- Jan, 2021** – MCL Self-Training Book reaches 400 recipients

FaithLife Accomplishments

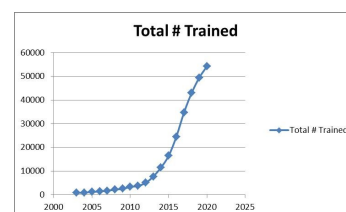
Our driving vision for the past 20 years has been to reach 100 nations with our Management for Church Leaders™ training. We reached that goal last year when a pastor from the nation of Belize attended an on-line training hosted by our MCL Trainer in Guatemala, Dr. Diego Cruz. The chart below shows the growth in the number of nations we reached each year since we began teaching this material in 2002.



The map below shows which nations we reached and gives a good perspective on where our training has been taught. The nations in light blue are the ones where our MCL training has been taught. The nations in purple are those we have yet to reach. The nations in green are nations that are not in our target area:



As of the end of 2020, we have trained a total of 54,242 pastors and church leaders. That's an average of 2,712 per year! Most of those (47,338) were taught by our global trainer network trainers. The chart below shows the cumulative number we trained each year:



We have also developed more training resources in the past 20 years. They include MCL Trainer manuals, a Discipleship training manual, Powerpoints in English for our training manuals, training videos to help our global trainers teach our MCL material, and an MCL Self-Training Book that anyone, anywhere can go through our training on their own. Furthermore, we have had our basic MCL training manual translated into 26 different languages!

We give God all the credit and glory for everything!!

Global Trainer Network 2020 Results

Last year was a most unusual year. With the global pandemic that hit last Spring many of our plans have been set aside, delayed, or canceled altogether. We have all had to make adjustments and I congratulate all of our global trainers for doing what they could to keep our MCL training active last year despite the lockdowns, restrictions and travel bans. It is amazing to me to see how effective they were still able to be last year with our training despite their challenges.



In 2020, our global MCL trainers trained a combined 4,753 pastors and church leaders via 100 conferences in 29 nations around the world!! That was an incredible achievement considering what transpired this year. In that total were also 2 new nations that were reached, Belize and Spain, through their efforts.

We also added 11 new MCL Trainers last year and also saw many of them teach our MCL for the first time this year, including **Daniel Chaemebo in Ethiopia, Hanna Karam in Egypt, Chebon Eriama and Fred Macharia in Kenya, and Jigme Bhutia in India, Canada, Nepal and US (on-line).** We also saw some on-line training for the first time, including **Diego Cruz in Guatemala, Dominican Republic, Belize, Spain and Mexico; James Ochwo in Kenya; Andy Shie in Malaysia, Brunei and Indonesia; Chin Mung in Myanmar, and Samuel Quispirroca in Peru.**

Overall, 2020 ended up being a productive year of training!

Global Training News

So far in 2021 our global trainer network MCL Trainers held 13 training conferences with one more taking place this week. Thus far, 678 pastors and church leaders have been trained this year with results from the last two conferences expected shortly.

We have added 3 new MCL Trainers to our global trainer network this year. They are **Pastor Paul Adair from Mavis Bank, Jamaica, Pastor Swadhin Biswas from Pabna, Bangladesh and Pastor Maila Odah from Jos, Nigeria.**

I hosted our first international Zoom meetings this week for our global MCL Trainers. On Monday I met with 2 of our MCL Trainers from Africa. On Tuesday I met with 7 of our MCL Trainers in Asia. On Thursday I met with 3 of our MCL Trainers in Latin America. All of the meetings went well and were productive.

FaithLife 2020 Achievements

Despite the pandemic, 2020 was a year of accomplishments for this ministry! Here are a few of the highlights:

- * We reached the 100th nation (**Belize**) with our Management for Church Leaders training in Sept.
- * We trained a total of 4,782 pastors and church leaders in 30 nations.
- * We reached 5 new nations with our MCL training this year - **Belize, Spain, Trinidad & Tobago, England and Sweden!**
- * We added 11 new MCL Trainers to our global network this year.
- * We developed several new training resources, including the MCL #2 powerpoints, a Spanish MCL #1 Trainer manual, an MCL Discussion Guide, and 3 new MCL translations!
- * We developed a new vision to establish ongoing MCL training in 50 nations by the year 2025.
- * We developed a new video to celebrate reaching 100 nations with our training.
- * We developed new contacts in 5 nations last year that we have yet to reach with our MCL training.

These achievements were the result of the hand of God upon this ministry and the efforts of not only ourselves, but our global trainers and supporters. We are thankful to all of you for what God has done this year!!

MCL Training News

In lieu of travel, below are several on-line training opportunities for me (Barry) that are coming up:

I will begin weekly on-line training of pastors and church leaders in **Mandalay, Myanmar** via Zoom next Tuesday, March 2nd. I plan to teach one chapter of our MCL each week.

I will resume my training for pastors and church leaders in **China** with a second Zoom training recording in March. The recorded video will be distributed afterwards via email.

Finally, I was contacted by the head of **Lucent University** (www.lucent.university) which offers an on-line Bible College curriculum. We are currently in discussion about including our MCL Training as part of their curriculum.

Prayer Requests



- For God's continued healing for **Dr. Diego Cruz**, our MCL Trainer in **Guatemala**, from his heart surgery.
- For God's continued healing for **Ruth Wheigar**, wife of **Pastor Moses Wheigar**, our MCL Trainer in **Liberia**, from diabetes.
- For God's peace and comfort for **Pastor Chebon Eriama** from **Kenya** at the death of his grandchild.
- For God's wisdom and guidance as we develop short video training tips to attract new requests for our training.
- For God's wisdom and guidance as we develop more on-line training for pastors and church leaders in 2021.
- For God's provision and peace in **Lebanon** which has been struggling from the virus and a port explosion last Fall.
- For God's direction for our MCL course being offered at **Lucent University**.
- Thankfulness to God for His provision of finances for our ministry.
- God's wisdom and direction for our strategic plans and activities in 2021.

News & Notes



- Barry had a successful initial on-line training for pastors and leaders in **China** in early December.
- Tax receipt letters for all donations received of \$250 or more during the last 3 months of 2020 were mailed out in January. If you need a receipt for your donations in 2020, please contact us and we'd be happy to send you one.
- We sent out the 400th copy of our **Management for Church Leaders™** Self-Training Book in January!
- **Deb Hartje** has served on our board of directors for 15 years. Thank you Deb for your contributions and input to this ministry!
- **Thrivent Choice Dollars** for the 4th quarter of 2020 are now available for designation to the ministry of your choice. We would be very grateful for any Thrivent Choice Dollars you might direct towards FaithLife Ministries.
- Our **MCL Self-Training Book in Spanish** is now finished! If you would like a copy, please let us know.

My Covid Battle

I tested positive for the Covid virus in December. After a week my symptoms did not go away and I started to have some breathing problems. So, I went to the ER at the local hospital to get treated for it. Within a few days I felt normal and was released after 5 days!

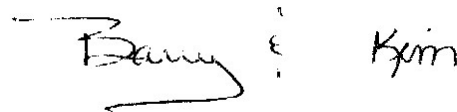
I learned a few things that gave me a new perspective. First, the virus is not a death sentence. If caught early and treated the survival rate is excellent. Second, I still caught the virus despite wearing a mask and distancing. Masks are not 100% preventive. We wear them to protect giving it to others. Third, I learned that a person is contagious 48 hours before the onset of symptoms only. However, recent studies have also shown no cases of catching the virus from someone who has no symptoms. Finally, if you are vulnerable due to heart or lung issues, avoid public contact.

Everyone should make their own choices based on their own health, where they live, and common sense. We must not succumb to the media fearmongering or the "science" which is not always conclusive.

Website Updated!

We recently made several updates to our website maps and website structure. There are new maps for where our training has been taught and where our active MCL trainers are located. Please visit our website at www.faithlifeministries.net and check out these new maps as well as the new structure of the training and resources available on our home page.

Thank you for your prayers & support!



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