



Mid-Year Results



We are now halfway through 2021 and I would like to share with you the progress we've made toward our goals from our 2021 Strategic Plan thus far.

- 1. Establish our training in 6 new nations this year.** Thus far, we have established training in 4 new nations - Vietnam, Bangladesh, Malawi and Jamaica.
- 2. Add 4 new MCL Trainers to our global network.** Through August we have added 12 new trainers in Jamaica, Bangladesh, Nigeria, Estonia, Malaysia, Costa Rica, Colombia, Guyana, Philippines, Kenya, Liberia and Ghana.
- 3. Train 6,000 Pastors and Church Leaders.** As of today we have trained 3,296 pastors and leaders in 22 nations.
- 4. Reach 3 new nations with our MCL training.** We have reached 1 new nations so far (**Guyana**).
- 5. Develop new training resources.** We have completed translations of our MCL training into Bengali, Chichewa and Amharic; our DCL training into Spanish; our MCL Discussion Guide into Spanish; our MCL Self-Training Book into French; our MCL Powerpoints into Russian and Spanish; and our DCL Powerpoints into Spanish.
- 6. Develop MCL Training Tips Videos.** We have recorded 12 training tips and have posted 6 of them on our FaceBook page through August, one each month beginning in March.

We give all the glory to God for what He has accomplished so far through this ministry!

Georgia on my Mind

I've had Georgia on my mind for the past two years. Not THAT Georgia, where I live, but the nation of Georgia in the Balkans of Eastern Europe. I was invited to go there by Valentin Siniy, Director of the Tavriski Christian Institute (TCI) in Kher-son, Ukraine where I taught our MCL in 2017 and 2018. He also arranged our MCL training at a Bible School in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan in June of 2019. His next plan was to have me go and teach it at their satellite campus in the nation of Georgia in 2020.

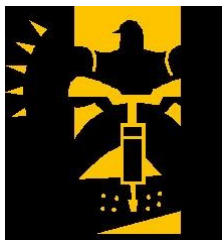


We had tentatively planned that I would go and train there last year, but that was before the pandemic hit and so those plans were postponed. In July I had reached out to Valentin to see when we might do that training. He asked me if I would consider a 2-3 day conference for pastors in Georgia instead of a training at his campus and when I might be available to go. I said yes and suggested that we wait until 2022 to let the virus situation settle down and the international travel system start to return to normal. He agreed and so we will start planning that training trip later this year.

I look forward to traveling again to train and especially to reach a new nation with our MCL training. I am hopeful this may lead to training opportunities in other nations in the Balkans as well. God is good!

(I also have invitations to go and train in China, Honduras and South Africa/Madagascar in 2022 as well. Those plans have not been firmed up yet either.)

Why We Must Work



The United States will soon have a holiday called Labor Day where we honor the workers in our nation. And it got me to thinking about the reasons why we must work. The Bible gives us 3 primary reasons why:

1. To provide for our own living.

In Genesis chapter 1, God created man in His image. He then *"took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it."* (Genesis 1:15). So from our beginning we were put on this earth to work. Work subsequently became *"painful toil"* because of Adam's sin. The Apostle Paul also confirms our need to work in 2 Thessalonians 3:10 when he said *"if a man will not work, he shall not eat."* So, we have been created to work in order to provide for ourselves and our families. We are responsible for making our own living, which is why we seek education, skills and a job so that we can fulfill that role.

2. To serve the needs of others.

Every business that exists was created initially to serve a need that existed at that time, either in the form of a product or service. By providing something useful or needed by others is therefore, in effect, serving their needs. Employees of a business are therefore serving the needs of others, whether directly or indirectly. The same is true for workers in Education, Government, Medical and Social services as well. Every worker is therefore ultimately serving the needs of others. The Apostle Paul reminds us in Colossians 3:23 that *"Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men."* Jesus also said in Matthew 25:40 that *"whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me."* So it is clear that when we work, we are actually serving the needs of others.

3. To serve God and His purposes.

We were also created to work for God's purposes. Jesus told his disciples in John 9:4, that *"As long as it is day, we must do the work of Him who sent me."* Paul wrote in Ephesians 2:10 that we were *"created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."* Paul further confirms this in 1 Corinthians 3:9 where he says that *"we are God's fellow workers."* As followers of Christ, we are called to share the gospel and minister to others in order to *"bear fruit"* for His kingdom (John 15:16). So even in our earthly work we can serve the purposes of God.

In our ministry, I am clearly working for all 3 of these reasons. This ministry is about serving God and His purposes by serving the needs of pastors and church leaders around the world. And in that process we also derive the means to support our own living.

This infers that we also never stop working. Regardless of whether we earn a paycheck or not, we still must work to serve the needs of others and serve our God. When we work for those reasons, work is always a joy and a blessing!!

Global Training

In June, our Global Trainer Network had training conferences in the nations of Kenya, Uganda, the DRC, Burundi, Cameroon, Guinea and Papua New Guinea. They trained a total of 780 pastors and leaders in these conferences. The MCL training in Papua New Guinea in the South Pacific was the first ever training conference held in that nation!



Barry finished his on-line Zoom training of 17 pastors and church leaders in Mandalay, Myanmar in June on our Discipleship for Church Leaders training manual. They would like him to next do an on-line training of our Management for Church Leaders training beginning in September.

Training slowed down a bit in July as there were only 5 MCL training conferences held this month. A total of 288 pastors and church leaders were trained during July in conferences in Kenya, Uganda (2), Burundi and Ghana. Some of the slowdown was due to a rise in Covid cases that caused other planned training to be postponed.

We also added another global MCL Trainer in July, **Pastor Abraham Nyako**, from **Dansoman, Ghana**. His first MCL training took place in August.

Our global trainer network continued its strong performance in August with 9 more training conferences in Nepal, Ghana, Uganda, Burundi and Nigeria. So far this month they have trained a total of 240 pastors and church leaders with 2 trainings being held for which we are awaiting results.

For the year our total for the number of pastors and leaders trained is now almost 3,300.

There are already 8 training conferences planned for September so hopefully our global training will continue at its current pace.

We added one more new MCL Trainer to our global network in August. He is **Pastor John Wahogo** from **Namanga, Kenya**.

We are thankful to God for all of our trainers!

New Training Resources

We have completed the development of some new tools and resources to help our global trainers in the past 3 months. They include the following:



1. PowerPoint slides for our Discipleship for Church Leaders training in Spanish
2. Spanish & Kirundi translations of our DCL training manual
3. A French version of our MCL Self-Training Book,
4. Spanish and Russian translations of our MCL #1 PowerPoint slides
5. Bengali (West India) & Amharic (Ethiopia) versions of our MCL #1 training manual.
6. A Russian version of our MCL #2 PowerPoint slides.

We also have several other translations under development at the moment, including a Burmese, Swahili and Lugandan MCL #2 & DCL. Also under consideration are MCL #1 translations into Bassa (Liberia) in Bahasa and Iban (Malaysia).

Professor Voss

Barry traveled to Ennis, TX in late June to record his teaching of our Management for Church Leaders training on video for a course on Organizational Management for Lucent University, an on-line Bible College. He recorded 18 chapters from our MCL Volumes #1 & #2 over 5 days. It was a bit exhausting and also challenging to keep his voice in good shape for that long. The training he recorded is now being edited and finalized for posting on their website and will be available to students in the coming weeks. It was a wonderful experience and quite different from teaching a room full of people. But we believe that God will use this on-line course to reach more pastors and church leaders with our training! Oh, and now he can also be called "Professor Voss"!



Prayer Requests



- For God's provision and protection from the Covid virus for the nations of India, Nepal, Bangladesh and Liberia.
- Thankfulness for God's strength for Barry during his video recording of our MCL training for Lucent University in June.
- Thankfulness to God for the recoveries of Gideon Nair in India and Rajendra Sundas in Nepal from the Covid virus.
- Thankfulness to God for his financial provision for this ministry.
- For God's healing of the parents and sister of Diego Cruz, our MCL Trainer in Guatemala, who were hospitalized with Covid.
- For God's protection of our Christian brothers and sisters in Afghanistan and Pakistan against persecution from the Taliban.
- For God's provision of a new church plant in Malaba, Kenya by Pastor Chebon Eriama, our MCL Trainer in Kenya.
- For God's provision of a new home for Pastor Kiyingi Emmy and his family (our MCL Trainer in Uganda).
- For God's healing for Pastor Wilson Esambe, our MCL Trainer in Cameroon, suffering with typhoid fever.

Annual Fundraising Appeal



We mailed out our annual fundraising appeal letter for 2021 in late June. We only do this once a year and what we receive in donations from this mailing is what sustains us for the coming 12 months. If you received one of our letters, we would only ask that you read it and prayerfully consider supporting this ministry. If you did not receive one of these letters, visit our website at www.faithlifeministries.net/participate to make a donation on-line or get information where to mail a check. All donations are tax deductible.

News & Notes

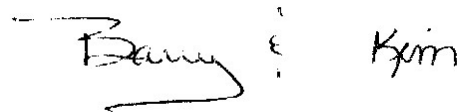


- Quarterly Zoom meetings with our global trainers in Africa, Asia and Latin America were held the 2nd week of August. They requested a website page for them to access our training resources. Work on that has begun with an expected completion in September.
- We recorded 7 more MCL Training Tips in July to post on our ministry FaceBook page. Tip #6 was posted on August 5th. The remainder will be posted each month from September to February.
- Our scheduled training of our MCL & DCL training for trainers in Capetown, South Africa July 23-24th was postponed for a third time due to the corona virus. New dates for this training have not yet been determined.
- Our annual board of directors meeting will take place on Saturday, November 6th via Zoom.
- Our annual fundraising appeal mailing for 2021 produced an 18.1% response rate, which is the highest response rate we have ever achieved! Thank you Lord!!

Myanmar Zoom Training To Resume!

Our Zoom training for pastors and leaders in Mandalay, Myanmar will resume in September. Barry will be teaching them weekly on our Management for Church Leaders Volume #1 material beginning the second week. This time, however, he will be translated live into Burmese as he teaches.

Thank you for your prayers & support!



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