



FaithLife Ministries

"Equipping Church Leaders Globally for 22 Years"

February, 2023
Newsletter

Going Strong at 22!



We celebrated the 22nd anniversary of this ministry on Sunday, January 22nd! God grew us greatly in 2022, guiding us to reach 4 new nations with our training, add 3 nations with active training, add 6 new MCL Trainers, and to train 7,355 pastors and church leaders! And He has given us some incredible opportunities to grow even more in 2023.

We are currently recording our MCL #1 training on video and hope to launch that online in May. We are also developing self-training versions of our other 2 courses, the MCL #2 and our DCL (Discipleship) training manuals this year as well. On top of that, we have 3 invitations to go and train in Romania, Armenia and Madagascar this year! And our Global Trainer Network continues its steady training with 14 conferences in January and another 13 in February!

We rejoice in what God is doing in and through us and are grateful for His vision for us in 2023, His guidance for our training, and for your support for this ministry!

The Value of our MCL Training

On my trip to Cairo, Egypt in October, I met with Hanna Karam, our MCL Trainer in Lebanon. Hanna became one of our global trainers after attending our initial training in Cairo in October of 2019. He shared with me his testimony about our Management for Church Leaders™ training that I was unaware of until now. I thought I would share it with all of you to help underscore the value of our MCL training:

"The first time I attend the conference which was about "Management for Church Leaders", I thought it will be like other courses which takes any management business course and adds some spiritual ideas and verses to it. But when the teaching started, I discovered that it was a different kind of curriculum. The "Management for Church leaders" curriculum is written based on scripture and the biblical principles for leading and managing churches.

I decided to join your global trainer network and teach this course to others. I had the privilege to teach it many times to church pastors, leaders, and students at a seminary in Ukraine before the war. I met some of the pastors who took this course a few months later and they told me that they started to make some changes in their churches according to the MCL training when they found it according to the biblical teaching. Other leaders sent testimonies of how their ministry was changed after applying the teaching in their ministry, and they taught others at their churches how to do the ministry biblically as well. My prayer is that the Lord bless this course and give us new opportunities to teach it to other pastors and leaders."

As Hanna says, our MCL course is more than just adding spiritual references to secular business practices. Instead, it is taught on the basis of Scripture itself. As the Bible says in **2 Timothy 3:15-16**, **"All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work."**

So, in case you were not aware, we do not teach best business practices from America from a spiritual perspective. Instead, we teach God's Word and how to apply it when leading and managing churches!

Global Training Summary



Thus far in 2023 our network has trained a total of 1,062 pastors and leaders via 27 conferences in 13 nations. Here are the summaries for each of the past 3 months:

In December, our MCL training slowed down a bit due to Christmas and other yearend activities for churches around the world. But our global trainers still managed to conduct 8 training conferences that month to close out 2022. Those conferences were in **Kenya, Liberia, Ghana, Uganda, Burundi, Tanzania** and **Bangladesh**. Our trainers trained a total of 483 pastors and church leaders in these conferences, bringing our total for 2022 to 7,200! This was the highest number we've trained in a year since before Covid.

Our global trainer network held 14 training conferences in January, getting us off to a good start in 2023. These Management for Church Leaders (MCL) trainings were conducted in 11 nations, including **Nepal, Kenya, Uganda, Burundi, DRC, Bangladesh, Togo, Indonesia** (see photo above), **Belgium, France** and **Egypt**. In these 14 conferences our trainers taught a total of 508 pastors and leaders. Included in those conferences are results from **Pastor Wilson Esambe**, our MCL Trainer in **Cameroon**, who traveled to Europe in January and ended up teaching our training to 14 pastors and leaders that he met in Belgium and France. These are both new nations for our training!

Our global trainers continued to train at a strong pace in February. There have been 12 training conferences held thus far with one more to go in Tanzania. It is being held in the village of **Geita** and led by **Pastor Peter Kitang'wa**. In those 12 conferences, 554 pastors and church leaders were trained in 7 nations (**Kenya, Tanzania, Nepal, Uganda, Malaysia, Burundi & Ghana**), bringing our total for this year up to 1,062!

We also added a new MCL Trainer to our global trainer network. He is **Pastor Rabson Chilewa** from **Blantyre, Malawi**. Our global trainer network now has 85 trainers in 50 nations.

Training Resources Update



We have concluded the recording of our MCL #1 training course on video this week and expect that course to be offered through our website in May. Further details about that will be shared

in a future newsletter. We have also been invited by China Partner to record our MCL #2 on Zoom with a Chinese translator this year. Those recordings will be made over 6 months beginning in March. We have recently completed a retranslation of our MCL #1 training manual in Kirundi, and that manual is now available on our website for our global trainers. We are still awaiting translations of our MCL #1 in Punjabi and our MCL #2 and DCL in Swahili. Barry has also begun writing a self-training version of our MCL #2 that we expect to be completed by the end of June.

Our Global Reach



We were recently reviewing our MCL self-training book recipients and discovered that we had sent our training to people in 10 nations that we had not included in the

108 nations that our training has reached. We have now added the 2 nations of **Belgium** and **France** that were reached this month along with the nations of **Armenia, Australia, Curacao, Eritrea, Mauritius, New Zealand, Saudi Arabia, Slovenia** and **Taiwan** that had received our MCL self-training book. As a result, our current count of nations that we have now reached stands at 120! Praise the Lord!

Blog Summaries

Barry writes a monthly blog covering various topics related to Christianity and the culture we live in. Here are brief summaries of our blogs for December, January and February.

December

Our December blog was titled, “*What Are We Afraid Of?*”, and referenced the Christmas season becoming more secular and the reluctance of Christians to proclaim the birth of our Savior Jesus during this time of year. In other words, the Church was allowing the culture to redefine Christmas in secular terms and is now about Christmas trees, Santa Claus and Elf on the Shelf. I suggested that Christians are afraid to speak out today in our culture for fear of being cancelled or persecuted in some way. But as Christians, we need to believe and trust in Jesus (**John 14:1**). We do not need to fear our culture because God promises never to leave us or forsake us (**Deuteronomy 31:6**). We need to trust in Jesus, proclaim Him boldly, and hold firmly to our faith!

January

Our January blog was entitled, “*Christmas Isn’t Over*” and was about Christmas not being a one day event or even a season (the 12 days of Christmas). Instead, Christmas is about the birth of a Savior for *all* mankind and is worth celebrating each and every day of the year (**Luke 2:11**). I shared how the culture acknowledges His birth in our calendar (BC & AD), in the singing and listening to Christmas carols with the message of his birth as our savior, and recognizing Santa Claus, who is based on the life of St. Nicholas, a devout follower of Christ. Although people today still reject Jesus and prefer a life apart from God their Creator, Jesus is still the only answer to the sin and violence that pervades our world. But for those who believe in Him, they have peace and joy every day of their lives because of Christmas!

February

In our February blog entitled “*Love - What Does it Mean?*”, I discuss the word love and its various meanings in the Greek language. The Bible says that God is love (**1 John 4:16**). The New Testament was written in Greek and there are four words for love in that language - eros, philia, agape and storge. Eros is about passion, philia is about brotherly love, and storge is about family love. Jesus uses the word agape, which means unconditional, sacrificial love. It’s also a verb and an action. It’s the love God and Jesus demonstrated for us. It is also the type of love that He requires of us to show to others (**1 John 4:19**). As Christians, we can love spouses, family and friends in the other meanings of love from the Greek language, but as Christians, we are called to love others as Jesus did, with agape love!

Believing is Seeing!

“Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”

John 20:29

The recent outbreak of the Holy Spirit on the campus of Asbury University in Wilmore, Kentucky has shown the world that God is still present and active for those who believe and worship Him. While skeptics abound, it is clear to me that only those who truly believe in God can actually “see” that what is happening is real. According to Scripture, God makes Himself known to us through his Holy Spirit, and only those who have His Holy Spirit can believe in Him (**1 Corinthians 2:10**).

Paul also writes in **1 Corinthians 2:14** that *“the man without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned.”* In other words, what the secular world sees at Asbury is foolishness and not real because they do not have the Spirit of God in them. For those who seek to know and understand what happened at Asbury University, and is now happening in other places, they can only “see” it’s reality if they look at it through spiritual eyes.

In **John 20:29** above, Jesus commends those who believe in Him without having to see Him with their physical eyes. And while the world says that seeing is believing, God says that *Believing is Seeing!*

What do you see in the events at Asbury University? Do you see the Holy Spirit at work or just a group of people who like to sing and fellowship with one another? The difference is found in your faith.

Our 2023 Schedule

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Purpose/Host</u>
TBD	Armenia	MCL #1 - <i>Pastor Arman Davtyan</i>
TBD	Honduras	MCL #1 - <i>Pastor Peter Hearne</i>
TBD	Madagascar	MCL #1 - <i>Young Ohm, Leadership International</i>
July 9	La Fox, IL	Ministry Update Presentation - <i>Lord of Life Lutheran Church</i>
Nov 3-4	Cumming, GA	Annual FLM Board of Directors Meeting
Nov 12-17	Panama City, Panama	GPRO II - Global Congress for Pastoral Trainers

Prayer Requests



- God's peace and comfort for the family and friends of **Pastor Abiola Longe**, our MCL Trainer in **Nigeria**, who passed away unexpectedly on December 13th.
- Thankfulness to God for our **ministry accomplishments in 2022**.
- **That our 2023 ministry plans** are in God's will for this ministry.
- For God's healing from various illnesses for **Pastor Gideon Nair**, our MCL Trainer in **India**.
- For God's peace and provision for the people of the **Ukraine** and for an end to the war.
- For God's protection for the people of **Malawi** that is enduring a dangerous cholera outbreak.
- For God's peace to reign in **Peru** and for an end to the violence and political mistrust in that nation.
- God's peace and comfort for the family of **Pastor Kiyingi Emmy**, an MCL Trainer in **Uganda**, at the death of his father.
- God's peace and comfort for all those who lost loved ones in the earthquake in **Turkey & Syria**.
- God's peace to descend upon **Haiti** to quell the recent violence and protect the people as they hold an election.

Other News & Notes



- We completed our recording of our **MCL #1 training with a Chinese translator** in December. These training videos will be distributed in China in 2023 by China Partner to their network of pastors and church leaders. We have also agreed to record our MCL #2 training for them this year with a Chinese translator beginning in March.
- We have now recorded all 12 chapters of our **MCL #1 training on video** for our use and have finalized 7 of them. The other 5 chapters will be finalized in the next month. Once completed they will be sent to **Leader Formation Institute in Romania** for posting on their Bible School website. That course will officially begin in August. We will also provide access to this training on our website beginning in May.
- Barry will attend the **Global Proclamation Congress for Pastoral Trainers (GPRO II)** which will be held in **Panama City, Panama November 12-17th**.

Thank you for your prayers & support!

Barry & Kim

“There is no wisdom, no insight, no plan that can succeed against the Lord.”

Proverbs 21:30

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