



FaithLife Ministries

"Equipping Church Leaders Globally for 23 Years"

August, 2024
Newsletter

Headed to Cape Town!

Barry is headed to **Cape Town, South Africa** next week to train 70 pastors and church leaders on our **Management for Church Leaders** training. Joining him to help train will be **Kevin Elseroad**, pastor of our home church in Georgia. Our host in Cape Town is **Pastor Tosomba Lokombekombe** and his Embassy of Christ Kingdom For All Nations church. Barry met Tosomba at the GPro II conference in Panama last November.

South Africa is a nation that needs our training. So, this is a very strategic opportunity for us to not only conduct an MCL training conference there, but to also train those at the conference to teach our training to others in this nation in the future.

Please pray for this conference, our safe travel, and that God would use it to produce fruit for His Kingdom in South Africa!

A Return to China



I taught our Management for Church Leaders training in Shanghai & Beijing China back in May of 2015. We had two great conferences, but we have had no active training there since then. Over the past few years I have been working with Erik Burklin of China Partner about teaching our Management for Church Leaders training to their network of registered churches and seminaries throughout China. We have been discussing a possible training trip for 2025 now that China has reopened after Covid. Recently, Erik invited me to go to China this October to attend a symposium on the ministry needs of China.

I have registered for that symposium and am in the process of making plans to attend that conference in Shanghai. I will also be meeting several of China Partner's contacts and seminaries in Nanjing and Beijing while there as well. This will be a wonderful opportunity for me to educate myself on the specific training needs they have and to also meet the people who will likely host my training next year.

Please pray for my preparations for this trip, safe travel, and for the Lord to speak to me on how best to teach our MCL training in China when I go there next year for that purpose.

Global Training Summary



Over the past three months our global trainer network has been very active in teaching our various training courses. Here are the summaries for each of the past 3 months:

Our global trainer network had a busy June with 17 conferences being held in the nations of **Botswana, Uganda, Kenya, Senegal, Togo, DRC, Tanzania, Philippines, India, Nepal, Pakistan** and **Ukraine** (see photo at right). A total of 758 pastors and church leaders were trained.



July was supposed to be a slow month for our training. Instead, there were 14 training conferences held where our global trainers trained a total of 470 pastors and church leaders via those 14 conferences in 7 nations, including **Uganda, Kenya, Burundi, Tanzania, Zambia, Bangladesh** and

the **Philippines**. The photo above is from the training in **Malakisi, Kenya** by **Pastor Chebon Eriama**. Two of our newest MCL Trainers, **Eric Wambua** and **David Njuguna** from **Kenya**, both taught their very first MCL training in July!

Our global trainer network had another successful month of training in August. They conducted 11 training conferences in the nations of **Uganda, Tanzania, Togo, India, Pakistan, Nepal,** and

the **Ukraine**. They trained a total of 655 pastors, church leaders, and children's ministry leaders, bringing our total for the year through August to 5,383! The photo above is from the training in **Pakistan** taught by **Hamid Iqbal**. We also added another global trainer in August. Our newest MCL Trainer is **Pastor Kra Konan** from **Abidjan, Ivory Coast**.



We continue to train at a pace, that will help us to surpass our annual goal of 8,000 pastors and church leaders trained this year. Praise the Lord!

MCL Training is on the Radio!



Our **Management for Church Leaders** training audio version is being broadcast live on **Hope 103.1 FM** in **Grenada**! When Barry was in Panama, he met **Pastor Trevor Thompson** who runs this broadcast ministry. Barry sent him our audio training files that were recorded in 2012 for Lutheran Blind Mission and they have broadcast this training over two weeks in May and August at 8:05 am EDT. They broadcasted one chapter per day and will likely broadcast them again in October. You can listen to it live on their website at www.hopefmgrenada.com by clicking on the Listen Live link on their home page. If you are interested in listening to it, contact Barry for the dates it will be broadcast next.

MCL Training is Coming to Television!



One of our USA based global MCL Trainers, **Pastor Ed Udell** from **College Station, TX**, recently informed us that he has an invitation to teach our MCL training on his son-in-law's online Christian television network. This television ministry is called Faith2Life Television Network and is on the Roku Channel and at <https://faith2lifefenetwork.com/>. (catchy name, eh?)

Pastor Ed is currently in the process of determining how best to teach the material (live or recorded) and to secure the needed funding for it on his own channel on the site. We are excited about the possibility of our training being taught in this way and are helping to support it. We encourage you to check out the website and keep Pastor Ed and this opportunity in your prayers for a successful launch in the coming weeks.

New Courses Draw Interest!



Last year we introduced 3 new **self-training books** to our list of training resources. They were each added to our website home page and include our **Management for Church Leaders II**, **Discipleship for Church Leaders**, and **Children's Ministry Training Resource Book**. Since their introduction in 2023, there have been 59 requests for our MCL #2 book, 58 requests for our DCL book, and 48 requests for our Children's Ministry book. We are excited to see this interest in our other training resources and that they are being both read and taught!

God Provides!



The response to our annual fundraising appeal letter in late June has been strong and is another confirmation that we continue to serve according to God's will and purpose. The donations we have received thus far through our donors is a testimony to God's continued provision of the financial needs of this ministry. We put our trust in Him to provide for the financial and other needs of this ministry, and we know we could not do what we are doing without His provision.

We are very grateful for the prayer and financial support this ministry receives and we want to thank our Lord and our donors for their faith and trust in our ministry! To God be the glory!

When is a church not His Church?

The Christian Church today hardly resembles the one that Jesus' disciples started 2,000 years ago. His Church today is divided and fragmented. So, when is a church not His Church? Let me share 6 ways that this happens.

1. **When a church accepts cultural values over Biblical teaching.** When a church deviates from God's Word and accepts cultural values or practices that do not conform to Biblical teaching, they are no longer being His Church. These churches are man-focused instead of God-focused and are no longer able to effectively make disciples for Jesus Christ.
2. **When a church is focused on outward results instead of inward transformation.** Too often churches present their accomplishments instead of Jesus or the gospel to attract non-believers to attend their church or ministries. When churches are focused on outward results instead of inward transformation, they cease to function as His Church was designed to function.
3. **When a church prefers organizational efficiency over spiritual impact.** There are many churches that strive for operational efficiency. And while the church may run like a well-oiled machine, their ministry may have little or no spiritual impact on those who slide in and out of church with no contact or engagement with anyone. When this happens, a church is not His Church as it was intended to be.
4. **When a church seeks political solutions instead of discipleship.** When Jesus came to the earth, He never sought political power or a human kingship. Therefore, the role of His Church is to influence and change the hearts of mankind and not to leverage the government to enforce Biblical obedience.
5. **When a church is financially stable but spiritually bankrupt.** The Church was never called to be financially solid and always in the black. The Church is called to be "Salt & Light" (Matthew 5) and to serve others in Jesus' name while trusting in God for the financial provision needed to accomplish His purpose.
6. **When a church lacks a missional emphasis.** When a church ceases to find ways to reach the world with the good news of Jesus, it is no longer acting like His Church.

Our 2024 Schedule

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Purpose/Host</u>
Feb 18-26	Cairo, Egypt	MCL & MCL #2 training— <i>MELTI</i>
Sep 2-11	Cape Town, South Africa	MCL Training— <i>Embassy of Christ Kingdom Church</i>
Oct 13-21	Shanghai, China	China Ministry Symposium (<i>with China Partner</i>)
Nov 2	Zoom (online)	Annual FLM Board of Directors Meeting

Prayer Requests



- God's financial provision for this ministry through our annual **fundraising appeal** letter.
- God's restoration of the office equipment of **Pastor Hamid Ibal of Pakistan** that was destroyed by fire/vandalism.
- God's provision of **food and medicines** for the people of **Cuba** who are suffering.
- God's provision for **Pastor Wilfredo Oseo** in the **Philippines** who is struggling to pay their church rent.
- God's peace and stability to reign over **Bangladesh** due to the **government changeover** taking place.
- God's provision for the **flood victims** in **Bangladesh**.
- God's provision and restoration for the people who suffered loss in **Grenada** due to **Hurricane Beryl**.
- God's provision and healing for the people of **Nepal** who have recently suffered through accidents, flooding, and deaths.
- Safe travel, good health, and effective training for **Barry and Kevin** on their trip to **Cape Town, South Africa** September 2-11th.
- God's healing for our friend and long-time donor, **Tom Hanson**, from pancreatic cancer.

Other News

- In June we sent out the **700th** copy of our **Management for Church Leaders Self-Training Book!**
- We added a **French** translation of our **Discipleship for Church Leaders** training manual in June.
- An **Arabic** translation of our **Children's Ministry Resource Training Book** was completed and is now available.
- If you are a **Thrivent** member, you can now direct your 3rd quarter **Choice Dollars**. We would be grateful if you would consider this ministry for those funds.
- Barry has joined a **global network of non-formal trainers and ministries** that train pastors. The goal is to collaborate together on the training of pastors.



Thank you for your prayers & support!

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