



The UPDATE

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One Long Bus Ride

In the last Update we shared that, just as Jesus said that he “had to go through Samaria,” so he challenges us to go out of our way to reach those who may be close to us geographically, yet quite different from us culturally (though they may have the same passport). In November of last year ICM held a missions conference in the Caucasus region of Russia and we were able to share these same principles there. Just south of the North Caucasus region are several Muslim republics, a Buddhist republic, as well as large displaced people groups such as Armenians. They are at a key geo-political crossroad which has created a dynamic mix of people groups over the centuries. Though technically still within the borders of Russia, these Muslim people groups are resistant to the Gospel message. It is our goal to share with the Russian believers in the region the need for them to reach into these areas, as well as provide the practical skills that will help them bridge the cultural and spiritual divides.

The call to missions is for all of us. In spite of the challenges God has been calling

individuals to himself. Though it may only be a trickle now, we want to be part of seeing God use these believers who are on the doorstep of the 10/40 window see this become a flood. During one Sunday service in the ethnic Russian region, a young woman introduced herself to us and shared her story. She was from Dagestan (one of the Muslim republics) and had become a believer. She was the only follower of Jesus in her family and one of the few in the area. She had heard of the special meetings and had traveled twelve hours by bus in order to be there. As a former Muslim she is paying a



Together with the young woman who was a new believer from a Muslim village and had traveled overnight by bus to attend the meeting



Participants in missions conference as part of our Ministry Coaching Series

price daily to be a believer. It was one of those humbling moments to be with someone who had counted the cost in order to be a follower of Jesus – at a level that few of us from the west are ever confronted with personally.

Within the Russian group of churches which we have been teaching and coaching for the last few years, there are those who have committed their lives to Christ from these ethnic Muslim towns. Others are praying for these peoples and have a desire to reach into these communities. It was rewarding to hear the feedback from participants that our presentation of missions was the first they had heard from a foreigner that actually made sense within their context. Please remember to pray for those who have chosen to follow Jesus against such tremendous opposition.



Conference includes both teaching sessions. . .



. . . as well as opportunity to apply the information as a church team

Multiplication versus Addition

Some time after their first missionary journey, Paul said to Barnabas (Acts 15:36, *The Message*), "Let's go back and visit all our friends in each of the towns where we preached the Word of God. Let's see how they're doing." In many ways this characterizes our ministry of coming along side of those who we regularly visit in order to encourage and equip to do the work in their region to which they have been called.

Over the last four to five years we have been traveling to a group of churches called the Family of Churches (FoC) in the Caucasus (Russia) in order to equip the leadership build healthy churches. This is accomplished through mentoring leaders, coaching and consulting with ministry teams, and providing relevant materials that they can use to continue the process.

Our involvement began with facilitating conferences using our Ministry Coaching Series which is designed to help leaders start and develop new ministries and plant churches. Topics covered include Leadership Foundations, Mentoring Others, Team Building, Dealing with Transition,, Church Growth, Missions, and so on. But our ultimate goal is not to just teach seminars or facilitate conferences. Rather, our goal is to reproduce our ministry and see local leaders implement the tools and teach this material themselves. So on this last trip we traveled to several of their churches and leadership teams and helped them with evaluating and implementing tailor made strategies according to the relative health of their church and leadership. However, instead of our team doing all the teaching, several of the local leadership team

assisted with the teaching. One of our values as an organization is to not just be the outside *gurus* who come in with all the answers. It is our desire to include the overseers and leaders of the churches in the process. This is particularly appropriate as foreigners can only stay in the country for three months at a time, before they must leave for three months. As this is also the case in other places we go, like Cuba, a missions strategy is only sustainable long term as we include them in the training process – our goal is to train the trainers.

After several years of modeling this and working towards this goal, last November this began to happen. One of the key leaders, Valera (who is also the husband of our translator, Narina), joined our team and we included him to teach half of the sessions of our Leadership Seminar. He also helped as we implemented various tools to



...husband, Valera, from the leadership team of the FoC

Russia is a big place and there are also many other countries needing similar training.



Team teaching our Leadership Seminar with our translator (Narina, above) and her...

At the end of two weeks, two conferences and face to

face consultations with about 80 leaders, we were able to share our report of an evaluation of the churches with the founder and overseers of the fellowship. We will continue to provide coaching so that they can implement many of

the same tools, becoming better equipped to reach their goals of planting hundreds of churches in the region.



Valera assisting in walking through our evaluation & assessment materials with local church teams

A key component of this is the

funding to continue to produce our Mentoring Manual which is being used extensively to develop leaders in the region, as well as our Ministry Coaching Series which leaders are now using in their churches. Our team is currently writing new materials which will be used to strengthen the marriages of these leaders next year. Thank you for your prayers for this group living in this strategic region of the world, as well those in other parts of the world that our ministry touches. Our new materials are now being translated and your partnership in 2010 will help us print and distribute these materials.



Church teams discussing how to practically implement the material in their churches

evaluate the church leadership teams in our workshops. Our role is not only to coach these ministry teams, but also to then teach the key overseers how to do this....basically working ourselves out of a job. Well in that area anyway, as it seems like there might be enough work to go around for some time to come!



Reporting our consultation recommendations to the regional overseers of the Fellowship

We would like to introduce you to Rafik and Safia Daudjee. Rafik is joining the board of directors for ICM Canada this year, but is not really new to ICM. Before immigrating to Canada three years ago with his family, he lived in Tanzania and taught at our ICM School for pastors (Africa Theological Seminary) in Dar es Salaam. Besides being a church planter, he is a teacher and is working on developing materials to equip believers (in Canada and other countries where we minister) in how to share the love of Jesus with their Muslim neighbors in relevant ways. We are looking forward to Rafik's contribution at a Board and ministry level from his years of unique experience. The following is a brief summary of his story:



Rafik & Safia Daudjee, ICM Board

"I was born and raised in a Muslim family, of the Shiite sect. As a child I attended the local Madras and was very committed. Yet my love for religion began to clash with my problem of sin in my life. Religious duties were not enough to give me the peace that I craved. At the age of 16 a deep thirst came in to my life to know God and find peace. I began searching in my own religion becoming more pious and zealous. Yet I wrote in my diary those days, "Where are you God?" However, I was not satisfied within and I had no peace. I began to look for God in Transcendental Meditation (TM), yoga, and even dabbled in astrology, numerology, horoscopes, palmistry, and the occult world. But I just became more frustrated and nothing was able to satisfy me.

In 1978, the government selected me for a Medical Assistants Course, in Mwanza, town (Tanzania), which is on the shores of Lake Victoria. Due to my frustrations, I could not study and I was given psychological treatment and drugs on which I became increasingly dependent. I continued with school, but there was still no peace within and I lived a life of fear, even while I continued to have a thirst for God. At this time (1980), I was engaged and married to Safia, who I had known since childhood (that is a story in itself for another day!)

On Sunday February 17th 1980, I met a doctor who was also my professor, who had been treating me (I didn't know that he was a Christian). We met for a Coke and he began telling me about Saul of Tarsus. As we read the passage and came to verse five which has the name of Jesus, I made a silent prayer, "God is there any truth in this name?" At that very moment a miracle happened that I cannot explain. I fell in love with the Name and a powerful attraction occurred in my heart toward the Bible and that Name. Immediately after reading the few lines there, I asked this doctor "How do you become a Christian?" He began telling me many things that I did not understand. I met him at night again and he shared many things, which were hard to understand. Yet I knew one thing. I had found God in Jesus while I was reading that Bible

of his. The next morning I badly needed a Bible and a friend gave me a New Testament. I began reading and every word was as though it was for me. Peace and joy welled up in my heart. It was as if the Scriptures were written just for me.

My new life began with God, yet with it came persecution from my family and community. My mother refused to eat and my father became angry. My father tried to prevent me from following Jesus and I was thrown out of the house. Yet Jesus was so real to me and revealed himself to me. He healed me of drug dependency and I was delivered from the demons that plagued me. In 1981 I felt a call of the Lord calling me to preach the gospel and I began preaching the gospel in many parts of Tanzania with a vision that Muslims would come to know this same Jesus. In 1996 the Lord called me in the city of Dar Es Salaam to plant a church with a vision to reach the 50,000 unreached Indians in the city (75% of which are Muslims and 20% Hindus). That church continues to grow in Dar es Salaam, even while we are excited about God's calling to Canada as we minister as missionaries here to the growing Muslim population."

2010 at a Glance

Jan-Feb - Missions Conferences/meetings in Canada and material development

March - Germany, Eastern Europe

May - Seminar in Moscow, Russia

July - Marriage Conference and Ministry Consultation & Coaching; Caucasus, Russia

Sept-Oct - ICM International Council and Leadership Seminars in Dem. Rep. of Congo. Ministry trip to India and/or UAE.

Nov - Leadership Conferences & Mentoring Workshops in Cuba



Phil Jeske
President

"... a great door for effective work has opened to me. . ." 1 Cor. 16:9

Our Mission

To serve the church by discipling & equipping its leaders.

Our Purpose

ICM develops innovative solutions so that Christian ministers can receive affordable on-the-job ministerial training, focussed on molding character, refining skills, as well as imparting knowledge; so that they may be better equipped and the body of Christ built up (Eph 4:11-12).

Accountability

ICM is an interdenominational non-profit charity registered in both Canada and the USA. It also has ministry offices in Africa and Europe. It is a faith mission and supported by free-will donations of those of like vision.

ICM adheres to the WEF & Lausanne Covenants statements of faith and takes an evangelical approach to Scripture.

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As I look to this new year, this verse out of Corinthians is the verse that came to mind. We really see many such open doors in front of us, one of the greatest being in Russia. It is humbling to have groups like those in Russia open up their lives and hearts to us and ask us to provide evaluation and feedback to them so that they may be more effective in their ministry. The mutual accountability and close relationships that develop with those that we minister with is something we never take for granted.

At times we can look to the harvest fields and can get overwhelmed with the needs, How can we make a difference in cities like Moscow with over twelve million people and less than half of one percent who are believers, or the many other such places that have a minimal Gospel witness? *Yet even in the presence of our enemies*, the psalmist wrote, *he prepares a table of provision*. It is good to remind ourselves that "making disciples of all peoples" is not our idea, it is actually His idea. As our team prioritizes our ministry involvements in 2010, it is with a great sense of humility as we think of the open doors that God has provided for us. . . even if at times it means in the presence of overwhelming odds and opposition.

As Paul mentioned at the end of verse nine (taken from *The Message*), "There is also mushrooming opposition." Of course this comes as no surprise, as this has always been the case from the very beginning of the church. In different countries it takes different forms. For instance getting our visas for Russia (particularly where we go), is getting more and more difficult and expensive. Countries like Cuba present similar challenges and in other countries there are varied challenges. Yet regardless of our challenges there are those like the young women from Dagestan that pay a daily price that eclipses what any of us have to pay to serve Jesus. The sad fact is that, right now in the 21st century, there are more Christians being persecuted around the world than at any time in human history.

Yet in spite of the obstacles from within and without, God has opened up doors of opportunity and together we want to walk through them this year. Remember that every time you read one of our stories or reports this year, that you have had a part to ply in the victories, as well as helping to bear the burden of the challenges. I am reminded of David's words in 1 Sam. 30:24 after he went into battle with some of his men, while leaving others to look after the supplies. While some who fought along side of him did not think it was fair to share the spoils equally with those who stayed with the supplies, David replied, "The share of the man who stayed with the supplies is to be the same as that of him who went down to the battle." We all have a different part to play in the Great Commission, but though our roles may be different we all share in the same battle. Thank you for your willingness to do your part as we walk through the open doors in 2010. We will all share in the victories together!

Partnering Together

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