



# The Update

Youth Academy, Dominica Rep

Volume 33 2<sup>nd</sup> Qtr 2023

## Third Gen in Latin America

ICM Canada's ministry in Latin America began in Cuba in 2009 when we were initially invited to provide our leadership and mentoring training within a large denomination across that nation. Unfortunately, that initial group was only interested in being "consumers" of the materials – personally benefitting, but not taking the initiative to use it to train others. Our core value as a ministry is that the training we provide must be locally sustainable as well as reproducible. In other words, our goal is not to just provide the training but to identify those who will use the materials to train others (2 Tim. 2:2).

In Cuba, we eventually began working with a group that had this same value of passing on the training and reproducing themselves in others. It was from this fellowship of church that we trained Raydel, who eventually emigrated to Dominican Republic to serve with Carlos. He has since been instrumental in training thousands. Serving Carlos, Raydal and their team for the last eight years, we are now witnessing the values of servant leadership and healthy churches being replicated into the third generation of leaders that they work with. The following are just two such examples:

Elias is a young pastor who enrolled in our CLI (Christian Leadership Institute) program and is being mentored by Raydel. As well as pastoring a church, he also coordinates a fellowship group of over one hundred other ministers



Teaching Staff of Youth Academy



Students from Manny's Saturday Academy

share with the student body when he was there in April.



Phil and Manny

within his region of San Pedro. Phil was able to share with this group when he was in the country in April, teaching them to the same principles of leadership that changed Elias' life. So from Phil -- to Raydel -- to Elias -- to now many other leaders who are influencing other leaders in their region.

Manny is another example of this multigenerational approach to passing on leadership. Initially exposed to our materials through Carlos and Phil, Manny has now started an Academy for young people that meet for training every Saturday. Yes, hard to believe, but after being in school all week, there continues to be a waiting list of young people wanting to take their Saturdays to grow in their faith, learn what it means to be a leader, as well as acquire practical skills that will help them in the marketplace. Phil was able to

Elias and Manny represent the many young leaders it has been our privilege to work with over the years from Africa to Russia, Ukraine and now Latin America & the Caribbean. Connecting with leaders such as Elias and Manny, when they are still young, has the potential to realign the trajectory of their leadership direction for the rest of their life. This is often counter cultural from what they grew up with in their society. But instead of relying on us, they are now personally taking up the mantle of training the next generation of leaders in their country.

The impact of the training continues to grow exponentially beyond our initial efforts, as these leaders continue to serve in their communities and nation. We are excited about the vision of the team in Dominican Republic to respond to the many other invitations for leadership training in Latin America and the Caribbean. Thank you for your continued partnership as we assist them in training leaders throughout the region.



Carlos, Phil, Elias



# Strengthening the “First Team”

Over ten years ago we developed materials to help married couples, aptly named, “The First Team.” While the roles in marriage vary from couple to couple, we have seen freedom come to married couples as they understand that they are a team and God wants to work through them as a couple – rather than dominating each other, seeing that mutual submission is a key to a healthy marriage. While the complete seminar is usually a 2-3 day event, our ministry coaches have been innovative and adapted it in various settings. For example, Valera and Narina in Russia are using it as a basis for pre-marital counselling and with couples that they provide ongoing mentoring.

In 2022 Phil met Juan, a ministry colleague of Carlos in DR., who

participated in a weekend leadership retreat (“Finishing the Race”). Since then God has opened up new doors for Juan to use his wisdom



and experience to pastor the church he attended. When Phil was in the country in April of this year, he was asked to spend an evening teaching the principles of healthy boundaries, communication, and roles in



marriage with young couples from the church. As with leadership principles, our fallen cultures have tainted what real love is and how this is expressed in a healthy marriage. Our materials are designed to help couples have marriages based on biblical principles rather than the unhealthy models they have learned from the culture around them.

## MCNet Christian Leadership Institute (CLI) Update



In April Phil was also able to meet with Raydel and the key leaders launching our Competency Based Mentorship in Dominican Republic. This extensive 4 year program (CLI) is designed for those who feel called to serve in a more full time capacity in ministry. As in many countries, church leaders often have very minimal biblical and leadership training. Our goal is to provide training through an innovative mentorship approach. Rather than requiring them to leave their ministry and community and meet at a training center or bible school. Instead, the study the materials and are linked with a mentor who guides them through the eight modules (40 competencies) of the program.



CLI Planning meeting with DR Team

This targeted approach is where the future of training is moving and yet the mentoring model is as old as the first century when Jesus trained the first disciples. While in each region each candidate meets in person with their mentor, there is

also an online component, as each candidate worldwide has access to the materials in an electronic format. Over the last couple years we are working out the wrinkles in DR and will be enrolling more candidates throughout Latin American (the materials are already about 50% translated into Spanish). It will also be introduced in Guatemala and Colombia later this year.



# Latin America/Caribbean Expansion

Perhaps the first thing that comes to mind regarding Dominican Republic are the white beaches and warm sun. While there is plenty of that, the island has also had a strategic important historically in the Latin America/Caribbean region. It was first discovered by Europeans back in 1492 (called Hispaniola), eventually becoming known as the Dominican Republic. It was here that the Europeans built the first Cathedral, University, and Hospital in the new world.



From its strategic ports, the Spanish and Portuguese discovered the rest of the Americas,

including parts of Florida and Mexico. The early Catholic missionaries also started their “evangelization” of the Americas from Santo Domingo (obviously, not always with positive outcomes). Currently, the nation retains its status as a hub of travel in the Caribbean as well as Latin America.

Why this 500 year walk down memory lane? Well it seems in God’s providence, this island in the Caribbean has also become a strategic launching point for our ministry as well.

Our key partners and ministry coaches, Carlos



(Dominican) and Raydel (Cuban) have a vision to expand the ICM leadership training to various surrounding countries.

They have already made several trips to Guatemala and later this year Phil plans to join them in Colombia to follow up on invitations to train leaders there. Why is this important? Well throughout the region many young leaders are following through on God’s call in their lives, but have very little grounding in God’s word. This also includes a real lack of understanding of biblical leadership and how this differs from the culture around them. At the very least, this has led to weak churches and a mere cultural Christianity, to even more serious heresies that have led many away from faith in Jesus.

As the Lord provides workers and resources, our goal is to help them equip leaders that serve others rather than self-serving power and position. While this is an initiative of our Latin American team, we will be helping with their travel and accommodation costs. Your financial partnership will help us in this new initiative.

## RENDEZVOUS IN ISTANBUL, TURKEY

The conflict continues in eastern Ukraine, limiting our ability to meet in person with our teams from both Ukraine and Russia. However, Phil and Nancy will be meeting the team from Russia in Istanbul, Turkey in June, as well as with Karl and Claudia in Germany. Please continue to pray that Maxym and Anya from Ukraine will also receive a visa to be able to join the team in Germany for a few days.

Phil will be introducing some of the new materials he was developed so that these trainers will be equipped to train others throughout Russia and Ukraine. If you would like to partner with us at this time and make a special donation it will help with the costs of flights and accommodation to make this trip possible for our ministry coaches from Ukraine and Russia.

## AFRICA UPDATE

Since Rafik and Phil’s trip to Tanzania last year, they have been video conferencing a couple a times per month with a cohort of leaders going through the CLI leadership materials. So far they have covered the First Module, with topics relating to their personal life: *Godly Character, Spiritual Disciplines and Gifts, Ministry Calling, Servant Leadership, Leadership Capacity and Lifelong Learning*. Later this year Rafik and Phil will again be travelling to Tanzania to follow up with the training in person. Thank you for your prayers for the ongoing MCNet ministry in East Africa as well as the various other ICM ministries throughout the continent.



## Our Mission

Serving the church by mentoring and coaching ministry teams.

## Our Purpose

Our goal is to see another generation equipped so that they may be relevant witnesses in their culture. We accomplish this through mentoring leaders, coaching and consulting with ministry teams, and providing culturally relevant materials that facilitate this process.

## Accountability

ICM is an interdenominational non-profit charity registered in both Canada and the USA. 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.

**THE UPDATE** is the bi-monthly newsletter of ICM, Canada.

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# From My Desk



Phil Jeske, PhD  
President

I think the older we get the greater our desire to leave something behind that will outlive us. Perhaps this has something to do with the phrase from Ecclesiastes that we truly have "eternity written in our hearts." We seem to intuitively know (or at least long) for something beyond our few short years on this earth. This seems to be a truism, regardless of how long or short our stay on planet earth.

From the pictures in the newsletter this quarter (and video if you subscribe to our YouTube channel – MCNet Intl), you will notice that I had the opportunity on my last trip to Dominican Republic to share with a Youth Academy that was initiated by Manny. He has been equipped through our leadership materials and continues to be mentored by Carlos. In the prime of his life, Manny is fulfilling his vision of investing in the young people of his nation.

It brings back memories of some twenty years ago when Nancy and I were living in Berlin. At the time we were developing the training materials now used by these leaders to mentor others (the *Mentoring thru Intentional Relationships* Guide). From our limited view at the time, I was just developing some notes to help a group of young leaders in one small German church. Little did we know that a couple decades later this would expand into several language and many countries and the first fruits of many other training manuals and leadership guides, from the early days in Russia/Ukraine and Africa, to now various countries in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Manny is one of the many young leaders who we have had the privilege to mentor and who is now reproducing these values in another generation. Who know over his lifetime how many more lives this one man will touch in his country? It is really humbling to realize the full potential possible as we multiply the impact of one such life by the thousands of leaders that we have together with you had the privilege to touch around the world.

I also think of Valera and Narina in St. Petersburg who Nancy and I first met over 15 years ago and had the privilege of investing in their lives when they were still in their mid-thirties. Since then they have touched countless lives as they have mentored many young leaders. Many of these are now pastors and leaders in their community. Currently they are planting a new church in StP. Though I can't personally travel to Russia now, the training carries on through our MCNet coaches and continues to bear fruit through their lives.

Over the years it has been such a blessing to have such meaningful relationships that God has granted us the privilege to know around the world. Sometimes I am not sure why they want to still listen to an old bearded balding guy, but we have truly been blessed with a life that has been filled with these friendship and ministry partnerships!

Now into our sixties (just!), we appreciate these relationships even more. Nancy and I also continue to be humbled by your partnership that enables us to continue to invest in these lives. We are looking forward with anticipation to the future as we together touch lives in these various countries. We know that our mutual efforts will bear eternal fruit. Thank you for sharing this vision and participating practically with your interest, prayers and giving.

## Partnering Together

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