



# The Update

Lviv, Ukraine

Volume 31 4<sup>th</sup> Qtr 2021

## Back to the Future in Ukraine

It had been almost 25 years since an ICM board representative joined Phil on an exploratory trip to Lviv in western Ukraine in response to various leadership training opportunities. Since then we have been to almost every corner of the country, but most of the training has occurred in the eastern sections of the country and the Crimea. Due to the war, it is longer advisable for foreigners to travel to some of these areas.

For years our training materials have been used in Ukraine in the Russian language, however, for many parts of the country, particularly in the central and west, there has been an increased interest in the national language, Ukrainian. Practically, the far east of the country primarily uses the Russian language while the central and western parts of the country tend to use the Ukrainian language.

So after all these years, it was with anticipation that we responded to the invitation to meet with some leaders in Lviv. After "meeting" them by video link, the goal was to finally meet them in person. Karl (from Germany) met up with Phil in Kiev and together with two MCNet coaches from eastern Ukraine (Max and

Vlad), they travelled to Lviv. Over a few days they had several meetings with various levels of leadership.

The result was that plans were made to translate the mentoring program into Ukrainian and in follow up trips begin to implement this training in their region. In the Spring of 2022 Phil will join them again in Lviv to launch the mentoring model with this group of several hundred pastors and church leaders.

Reconnecting to serve in Lviv represents a full circle for ICM in Ukraine. While we have established training in many other parts of the country we are looking forward to also serving in this region which has perhaps the highest density of churches and believers in the whole country. Thank you for your prayers as we begin this process in a new area of the country.



Karl, Phil, Max, Vlad –  
masked and unmasked!

## Year End Partnership Opportunity

Our team of ministry coaches last met in 2019 just before the pandemic. At that time it was decided to begin work on a new Competency based Program. Since then the program has been written and is being translated. Using much of our existing materials, it is designed for those wanting a more formalized certificate, while still based upon a mentoring model. As a follow up to this and to discuss its implementation, we are planning another Coaches' Consultation in 2022.

In June of 2022 leaders from Ukraine/Russia/Germany/Latin America and Canada are planning on meeting in Turkey for a spiritual retreat as well as a planning meeting. While we have been meeting via video, after all the challenges of the last couple years we feel it would be important to meet in person again. Our desire is to facilitate a time of renewal and encouragement for each of these couples. Meeting in Turkey provides a relatively inexpensive way for those from Ukraine and Russia to meet. Meeting in another country is the only way to meet our Russian coaches at this time.

In order to make this feasible for them, ICM Canada would like to cover as much of the accommodation and food costs as possible. If you would like to contribute with a special year end gift to partner with these leaders, it would be a huge encouragement for them. Thank you for your prayerful consideration as to what you could do.



# Creative Initiatives in Latin America/Caribbean

Manny was exposed to our ministry several years ago when he attended one of our leadership seminars. He has been mentored by Carlos and also translated some of our materials. Recently he has started an academy for young men (16-22) and meets with them



*Manny (L) with Carlos*

every Saturday. Using our training materials, he is investing in these young men by teaching them the Bible as well as life skills and what it means to be a godly man. They also learn English and a basic trade to help them in their lives.

We are excited to see his passion, as well as be involved in the young men who he is mentoring in this new academy. His initial vision was to just focus on men, however as they began to talk to their friends, several women also wanted to join the program. Esperanza (who also serves with Carlos) has been using our materials to mentor young



*Esperanza (R)  
Sharing with  
Phil*

women for many years and so Manny asked her to join him and develop

several women who can also help the young ladies that have joined the academy.

While our ministry focuses on the key leaders in a region or country, the real work is being done through initiatives such as this one. Identifying young leaders and then equipping them to start ministries that meet the needs of their communities is our ultimate goal. Phil had a chance to



*Manny (far right) with some young adults...  
Phil and Doug hiding in the middle*

meet in person again with some of these young (and not so young) leaders who are serving within DR. While connecting via video over the last year and a half has been a short term solution, there is no substitute to be able to meet in person again and share one another's joys and burdens. Thank you for your part in making this happen.

## Serving Leaders & Their Teams

While in the Dominican Republic in September, Phil was invited to spend a day with Pastor Guarionex and teach the key leaders of his fellowship of churches. He shared on the importance of servant leadership in order to have a healthy ministry and the need to mentor the next generation of leaders.



*Phil with Pastors in DR*

Pastor Guarionex (not pictured) had attended some of the first leadership seminars that Phil taught years ago in DR. and was also the motivating force behind inviting him as the plenary speaker at the Evangelical Leadership Conference in September.

This is one of the fellowships/denominations that Carlos and his team continues to serve with leadership training and materials as they are trying to bring about a change in their values and leadership culture. Their goal is to release the next generation into leadership so that they will continue to be relevant witnesses within their culture and community.



# Discipling Young Women from Russia to Canada

Last month we reported on the Conference that Phil spoke at in the Dominican Republic in September. The theme was Discipling and how this relational approach is really pandemic (and persecution) proof. The history of the Church over the last two thousand years is that nothing can thwart the Lord of the Church fulfilling his purposes in this world. When our wineskins (or ways of doing ministry) are not working or are limited, he loves us enough to shake things up in order to help us change how we do things. Church leaders around the world have had to reconsider the “how” of ministry over the last couple years.

While the conference dealt with these issues at the big picture, national level...the reality is that we all live at a much more down to earth, day to day level. We typically don't interact with global issues in our personal life, but rather with actual people and their lives. Our discipleship materials are designed to be used in this one-on-one context. The reality is that if enough believers do this, the results will affect the big picture and even a whole nation. The following are just two examples, one from Canada and the other from Russia, of how this relational approach is changing individual lives.

Tatiana has been a ministry coach in our MCNet community of leaders for many years (in Russia) and on a recent video call shared



Discipleship participants with Shirley in Canada. . .

how she is using our *Discipling thru Intentional Relationships* guide to help several young believers grow in their walk with Jesus. She is excited as they apply the Word of God to their lives and grow as they go through the manual together.

On the other side of the world, in Canada, another woman is also walking alongside of several young ladies and helping them grow in their new-found faith. Shirley has recently started a ministry that

disciples young women in their walk with Jesus. Together with her husband, John, they have been friends of the ministry for many years, meeting many of the international coaches. Canada – Russia. Different countries, different

cultures, different languages.....yet same Spirit, same Word, same power of transformation working in lives. While this newsletter usually focuses on countries outside of North America, the fact of the matter is that there is no real difference between “here” and “there”. God’s transforming power is the same in Russia, Africa , Latin America... and even Canada.

If you would be interested in using these materials to help someone grow in the faith, we would love to send you a pdf for your use. To receive your copy just email us at [office@icmcanada.org](mailto:office@icmcanada.org).



. . . and Tatiana in Russia

## Hunger for Training in Ukraine

While in Ukraine this fall, Phil had the chance to connect with several teams that he had not been able to see in person for the last couple years. Maxym is the MCNet Coach in Ukraine and it is through his contacts that we have been able to minister and serve various teams including Pastor Vlad and Pastor Jacob. While health restrictions and the continuing crisis in this part of Ukraine impacted who could participate in person, it was a blessing to again be able to coach these teams and share their joys and sorrows (Max and Vlad's photo are on page 1).

As typically happens, leaders are exposed to our materials through those who have either read and used the materials, or have been in one of our seminars. While in the eastern city of Zaporozhia, a pastor from the city of Kharkiv contacted Maxym. He had seen the materials and wanted to get connected with Maxym and leaders of like values. He was hungry to learn more about how to develop healthy leaders for their church plant.

On the last day before flying back to Canada, this pastor and a couple team members made the four hour drive to Zap., arriving early evening. Phil, Karl and Max were able to share about three hours together before the team had to make the four hour drive back to Kharkiv. Their willingness to make an eight hour round trip for a few hours together highlights the commitment and hunger of many of these young leaders. Thank you also for your efforts in order to help us provide these materials, in the midst of your own challenges. It enables us to provide these resources at little or no cost to such leaders around the world.



Pastoral team from Kharkiv

## 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.

## ICM, CANADA

34181 - 17790 #10 Hwy  
Surrey, BC V3S 8C4  
604.614-4473

## ICM, USA

P.O. Box 129  
Monument, CO 80132  
661.832-9740

## E-mail

[office@icmcanada.org](mailto:office@icmcanada.org)

[www.icmcanada.org](http://www.icmcanada.org)



# From My Desk

**Phil Jeske, PhD**  
President

In the last Update I walked down memory lane of how I sensed God's calling to inter cultural missions as a young teen. The problem with getting older is that the milestones just keep coming! Early next year will forty years since graduating from the discipleship school in California that had such an impact on my ministry life (as well as where I met my wife....which means that next year is also our 40<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary).

After not being able to travel internationally and connect personally with our team, in the last three months I have been on three international trips. For those who have travelled these days, you know the challenges of just getting from here to there. Multiple testings, regulations, forms and so on. In spite of the challenges I am glad that I eventually made it back in one piece!

On my trip to Ukraine in October, Karl joined me from Germany. I first met Karl when we were living in Berlin and he was a young twenty something. We began meeting every Friday and in 2003 he was one of the first to go through the new Mentoring Guide I had just written. Not only did a friendship develop, but he became a colleague in the ministry. Well nearly twenty years have gone by and he is now a pastor and leader in his fellowship, as well as husband and father of a growing family. After several years of not being able to travel together, it was a real blessing to have Karl join me in Ukraine last October. Sharing ministry together, as well as a few laughs along the way, was like a breath of fresh air after a difficult couple years.



Christmas is around the corner and Nancy and I's prayer is that you will also be able to spend quality time with those in your family and close friends. One thing the last couple years have surely taught us is that these personal connections are essential, not just optional. At the end of life's journey no one wishes they had spent more time accomplishing things or had spent more time at the office.

The Christmas Season, as well as the realization of another New Year around the corner, has a way of focussing us on what is most important in our lives. It's not just the lights and gifts, but it is all about the relationships we have developed. These take on a deeper meaning as we remember the One who sent his only Son to enter our earthly reality so that we could be reconciled first to Him and then to others. It is because of our relationship with Him that we can have truly meaningful relationships with those God has given us to walk this journey together.

So as we are able to again connect this Christmas Season with those most meaningful to us, may we be reminded that it is He, Emmanuel – God with Us! – that brings real meaning to our lives and those we have the privilege to share our life's journey with.

## **Partnering Together**

- ☐ Please find enclosed my gift of \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ I would like to join the team as a monthly partner:  
\$ \_\_\_\_\_/month

- ☐ Resources/Materials for Pastors/Leaders \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ Conference Expenses for Pastors/Leaders \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ Please send info regarding Donating Electronically

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Prov/State \_\_\_\_\_ PC/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

ICM is a registered charity in Canada/USA and all gifts are tax-deductible. Each gift designated towards a project will be used as designated. When any given need has been met, or where projects cannot be reasonably carried out, the donor agrees that designated gifts may be used where needed most.