



# The Update

Train Station  
Zaporozhzhia, Ukraine

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## Return to Eastern Ukraine

by Dr. Phil

### Planes and Trains. . .

We usually don't bore you with the details of how the sausages are made, so to speak.... in other words sparing you the travel details as to how we get there, but in order to provide a bit of context for my last trip to Ukraine this edition will be an exception. What used to be a straight flight to Kiev from Amsterdam and then a domestic flight to the eastern Ukrainian city of Zaporozhzhia (Zap), has due to the war become a bit more complicated and took three days.

Once in Amsterdam, it began with a flight to Krakow, Poland and from there a three hour train ride to the western border of Ukraine to link up with another twenty hour overnight train across Ukraine to the east of the country. Unlike my return trip by train through western Europe to Amsterdam (long story), the Polish and Ukrainian trains were consistent and on time!



Zap is about 50 km from the front line and



near the large nuclear power plant you have likely heard about in the news (currently under Russian control). While I was in the city, there were several missile strikes and evidence of previous strikes. Closest to home was the destruction of the hotel (two months before arrival) in which we always stayed while in the city. But after a year and a half of war, the air raid sirens are largely ignored as people go about their business (a skill I had to quickly learn, particularly when they went off while I was preaching!). At this time there are few foreigners this far east, but my goal was to personally encourage and affirm our friends and colleagues as they serve under difficult circumstances. While technology allows for video chats, the reality is that nothing replaces personal contact.



Anya & Maxym, Phil

You'll likely remember Max and Anya from previous newsletters. They have been our key MCNet partners in Ukraine for the last several years. Due to the greater exposure to attack of apartment buildings Maxym and Anya have moved from their flat and are staying at a small country cottage on the edge of town. Usually these summer garden homes have no indoor plumbing and limited power options. However, over the last year we have helped them put in indoor plumbing (most appreciated in winter) as well as made it a bit more livable, though it would still not be mistaken as luxurious! It was a blessing to be able to stay there and experience relative peace in the midst of the storm.

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Country Cottage/  
Renewal Centre



# Return to Ukraine...

## Wings Renewal Centre

Max and Anya's vision to create a retreat or renewal center in this green space is becoming a reality. They use this facility to bring church folks and small groups out from the city, serving those who need a break and give them a garden setting in which to recuperate spiritually, emotionally, mentally and physically. What continually amazed me on my trip was the resilience and vision of the leaders we have had the privilege to serve, in the face of ongoing uncertainty and risk. Instead of just pulling back and protecting themselves, they were reaching out and developing new ministries. Very humbling and inspiring.



## New Hope Center



While they also pastor a growing church, their primary ministry is providing

leadership for their team that has been helping displaced families and meeting the practical needs through their New Hope Center. They provide beds and a place to stay for internally displaced people (IDPs), as well as providing services for children and youth. Those from their team who have remained in the city have been facing personal challenges, such as being separated from family and concerns for the safety of their own loved ones. Yet in the midst of these personal challenges, they have continued to carry the weight of responsibility of helping others. Their resilience and strength was truly amazing to see, and was a real reflection of Christ living in and through them.

## Messengers of Hope



was a real blessing to meet other ministry friends and hear how they were doing. Jacob is a pastor who we have helped to train his young leadership and before the war he had one of the

While many families, and even some leaders, made the difficult choice to leave the country, it

largest churches in the city. As the war broke out many of his young leaders (often young families) left and so he is now starting over in training a new team. Yet instead of retreating, the church has purchased their first property, an empty grocery store, which is in a great location (at a much reduced cost due to the war!).



I also had the chance to meet with a pastor from Kharkiv, who we trained and provided materials in the fall of 2021, months before the war. At that time he had travelled the

five hours to Zap with his team and coincidentally was in Zap when I was there again. Kharkiv is about 50km from the Russian border and was badly damaged in the ensuing battles. He shared how most of the church families had to flee to safer cities, including his wife and family. However, he remained and provided humanitarian aid and served the broken community. Another example of grace under fire. Please continue to pray for these leaders as they are Christ's ambassadors in the war zone.

## Future Ministry

In a previous newsletter we introduced you to Willi who serves with a German mission as East Europe



Director. Since he has been using our materials for many years (Germany, Ukraine, Uzbekistan), Karl and I met with him in Magdeburg, Germany in June and more formally invited him as one of our MCNet Coaches. My trip to Ukraine was planned for September in order to coincide with one of Willi's training trips there. While we were there we (Maxym, Jacob and Willi) discussed the current needs of the church and what training would be necessary moving forward. One thing that has become clear is that in order to be relevant and effective in the future in Ukraine our materials will need to be translated into Ukrainian (up to this point we have been using our Russian translation). We are praying about the logistics as this will require quite a financial and personnel commitment.





# Reports from Africa

## Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)



Earlier this year Deo (MCNet Coach, W. Africa) returned for a ministry trip to his country of birth, the Democratic

Rep. of Congo. He has had an ongoing ministry there and was able to teach some leadership



seminars as well as provide clean water to communities through his partnership with another organization. After his kidney transplant, we are excited to see Deo fulfilling his vision of reaching the people of the DRC.

## TANZANIA, E. Africa

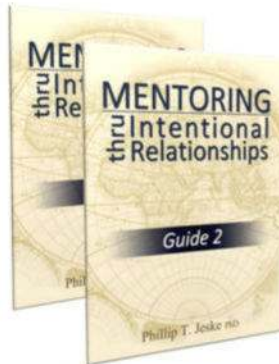
James Kamau continues to serve leaders in Eastern Africa, particularly in Tanzania. He also continues to reach out to the Masai people and earlier this year he was able to baptize several Masai men. He and his team continues to see a church established among the rather closed Masai people group.



James (on bike) with Masai new believers

## Good Never Expires

One thing that the pandemic, and more recently the war in Ukraine, has confirmed for us as a ministry is the durability and resilience of the mentoring model for leadership development. This should be no surprise, as it has been around since a certain Rabbi walked the dusty roads of Galilee some two thousand years ago!



This year it has been twenty years since the first mentoring manual to help leaders develop others was written. Since then it has been translated into German, French, Russian, Spanish and Mandarin. The last few years have proven that even when bible schools are shut down and whole populations are uprooted, (as with a pandemic or war), with the right tools local church leaders can still continue to develop their own leaders.

This is the genius of Jesus' model of a relational approach to developing others. In the last twenty years there have been many adaptations and developments, the latest being our CLI (Christian Leadership Institute) which is a four year competency-based mentoring model for leadership development. Though it has a significant on-line/digital component, the key is still one leader engaging personally in a relationship with an emerging or potential leader. What is as old as Jesus' ministry....has never really gotten old.



Carlos, Phil, Raydel

## Guatemala Expansion

In November Phil was able to join Carlos and Raydel (MCNet Coaches, Latin America) in expanding the training into Guatemala. The journey began in Dominican Rep., which is the hub of our Latin America ministry. From there they spent a few days with key leaders in Guatemala. We'll be sharing more about this trip and ministry expansion in our next newsletter.

## Year End Partnership

As the year comes to a close, if you would like to partner with us, it would help us to continue to sow into the lives of those who are sowing into others. There are several way you can make a yearend donation:

### Bank Interac (Canada)

From your online banking use the office@icmcanada.org email (no password required).

### Website

You can use either PayPal or a major credit card: [www.icmcanada.org/donate](http://www.icmcanada.org/donate)

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Make payable to "ICM" or "ICM Canada" and mail to:  
ICM, Box 34181 17790-#10 Hwy, Unit 104 ,  
Surrey, BC. V3S 8C4

### US Donations

In the USA, you can donate electronically through the [www.icmusa.org](http://www.icmusa.org) website, choosing "ICM Canada" from the drop down list.



### 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.

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# From My Desk

**Phil Jeske, PhD**  
President

*I am beginning to write these reflections as I bounce along my overnight train trip back west through Ukraine to the Polish border. Under the clear blue autumn sky the endless wheat and sunflower fields pass by to the clickity-clack of the train tracks. Though leaving the war zone, I find myself full of mixed emotions.*

*Max dropped me off at the Zap train station last night and as the train pulled out of the station I could see groups of families bidding each other tearful goodbyes. The train was generally filled with wives, mothers and some children returning to western parts of Ukraine or further into Europe.*

*Why mixed emotions? Of course as I travel further west there is a sense (real or perceived) of greater physical safety, however there is also the reality of leaving friends in a dangerous situation, not knowing when we will meet in person again. Those who survive war or living in a war zone often have what is called "survivor guilt." Why were they spared and others were not?*

*Perhaps what I was feeling could be called "leaving town guilt." While it was time for me to get back, after being with Max and these other leaders for a week, it was not so easy to just leave and not feel somewhat torn.*

*After decades of travelling to various countries and experiencing the connection with the body of Christ around the world, I have become convinced that our connection to our passport country pales in importance to our heavenly citizenship and faith family around the world.*

*Of course, having a Kingdom focus does not mean that we become so heavenly minded that we cease to be of any earthly use. God has a purpose for each of us on our journey here on earth. This differs for each of us, but even on our best days eternity has been hard wired into our DNA and so we instinctively long for something that is better.*

*It has been a privilege over these decades to introduce you to those that God has called us to serve around the world. Though you may not know them personally, your prayers and partnership have helped us equip, encourage and empower the next generation of Christian leaders to serve where God has placed them. Each name and face represents thousands of lives that are being touched with the Good News through their lives.*

*This is so much more important than our connection to any nationality. I guess that also explains my mixed emotions. It's more than just living "safe," but rather being engaged in God's eternal purpose. The good news is that his Kingdom will outlive all the turmoil and struggles we currently find ourselves. The real kicker is that you hold the same eternal passport and so you will definitely meet each of them someday! Thank you for being part of this shared future and partnering together until we meet on the other shore.*

### **Partnering Together**

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