



The Update

Believers praying in Havana, Cuba

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What is K2.4.2?

Together with Carlos, Raydel and Madelines continue to train leaders across the Dominican Rep. As you may recall, Raydel & Madelines, who are from Cuba, have joined Carlos to implement the MCNet leadership training in DR (called K2.4.2). In March several Cuban leaders travelled to DR in order to receive further training that they could take back to Cuba (see picture on page 2).

Carlos and his team in DR have a vision for Cuba and have helped encourage and equip church leaders there over the years. ICM will be joining with Carlos and his team as they continue to serve the Church in Cuba by training its leaders. While this includes training and materials, the importance of coming alongside of these Cuban leaders and encouraging them cannot be overstated.

Many years ago, when ICM was first asked to come to Cuba, we trained Javier, who has since been mentoring leaders and training others to do so in his denomination. When the Jeskes and Friesens

were in DR in March, Javier joined them from Cuba so that they could discuss and strategize with Carlos and Raydel how to best continue the leadership training in Cuba.



Raydel, Carlos, Javier, Phil

The plan at this point is to have three ministry centers across the country and in April Phil will be going to Cuba with Carlos in order to travel to these areas with Javier and launch the leadership training in this country.

Javier sent the following email from Cuba recently:

Greetings brother Phil and our ICM/MCNet partners in ministry. We are always encouraged to hear news of the work that our fellow workers do in different parts of the world. We keep praying that God will open doors everywhere.

Here in Cuba we are already in a new beginning and we see how God is opening doors for the expansion of his kingdom. After some meetings with leaders in Havana, where we are already working, we have developed the vision for the city and we have developed a plan of where we are going in the future.

I have began an initiative with about 120 Christians who have been mobilized for evangelism. They have lists of 10 friends each to pray for and present the Word to them. The next step will be to emphasize the need of discipleship with those who have come to the Lord. We have already been teaching your workshop, Developing Others as we prepare to mentor leaders and help them find others to mentor.

Last Monday we had a time of prayer with 80 people in the place known as the "Christ of Havana." [see picture above] It is the highest point of the city and we met to pray to the Lord for our country. Thank you for your prayers for Cuba and challenges we face. Our prayer for you is from 1 Cor. 15:58, "Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain."

*In Christ,
Javier.*

Javier (far left)
teaching in Cuba



Investing in Leaders' Marriages from Latin America . . .



days was just as beneficial. Though they live in proximity to hotels, it is financially beyond the reach of most of them. One couple that has a ministry to the difficult country of Haiti have invested their lives to this



Carlos, Doug/Rebecca, Raydel/Madelines, Phil/Nancy



Doug & Rebecca with Carlos translating

TRAINING THE TRAINERS

In March

Doug/Rebecca and Phil/Nancy equipped several leaders in DR so that they can use our marriage materials(*The First Team*) to train others. Together with the local MCNet coaches (Carlos and Raydel/Madelines) they discussed topics such as God's design for Male/female Relationships, Personality, Communication & Boundaries, Intimacy, Finances, and Ministry Roles in Marriage.

As important as the training was, for many of these couples having the opportunity to get away for a few

Each of these couples were equipped to use our materials to help marriages within their ministries over the next year. While the warm sunshine and beaches seen idyllic to most, many marriages within the country are far from idyllic. Regardless of the sunshine, they have the same problems as the rest of us! Our main target group, church leadership, face additional stresses on their marriage as their lives are an open book, often 24/7. In each country we serve marriages seem to be under stress

ministry and this was one of the few times they were able to get away, as was the case

and require positive input in order to, not just survive, but to be a beacon of hope and help for others in their community.

One of our main emphasis is to teach leaders Jesus' model of leadership which was that leaders are not called to be "the boss" or "chief" but are called to be servants (Matt. 18, 20; Phil. 2). They are to use their gifts to equip others to be the best that they can be. In order to be consistent to the biblical text, this same principle of mutual submission must apply in the marriage relationship. This is in sharp contrast to both patriarchal *and* feminist societies alike. The relationships in the Body and Christ, and by extension in the home, are often quite different than the fallen cultures in which they exist. As we read in Galatians (3:26-29), we are all children of God, there are not to be differences according to ethnicity (Jew or Gentile), social status (slave or free), or gender (male or female): We are all one in Christ.

(Continued on next page)



Nancy with some of the couples



The Cdn & DR Team with Raydel and pastors from Cuba (center) ➤



... to Russia

Our goal is that these leaders who went through this training in DR will now train others. This is why we call it a “Training the Trainers” seminar. But this goal is more than just a blind hope, for we have already seen this happen in other countries as those we have trained are now training others. Several years ago, Phil and Nancy were able to teach these same marriage materials to couples in Russia and this work continues there through the efforts of Alexei/Tatiana and Valera/Narina. Thank you for your prayers for the marriages of those we work with and particularly the ongoing ministry of these couples in Russia. Your support enables us to provide these materials into the languages of the various countries we serve. If you would like to view a PDF of this marriage material, let us know and we can make it available to you (office@icmcanada.org). Recently, Tatiana sent the following:



Marriage Coaches in DR



Alexei & Tatiana, Moscow

Dear Phil and team,

Thank you very much for sending the newest marriage materials to us. Since I teach in the Marriage & Family Depart. of the seminary in Moscow, your material is a blessing for me, especially in Russian.

Just two weeks ago I taught some of these principles at a church in our denomination. The approach that the material takes of beginning with God's original plan in the Creation model of Genesis is rather new in our cultural context. In many societies, including our own, men are used to think that they have higher position in the sight of God, and unfortunately this is appealing even in the church.

While equality in the Soviet Union was a common view, it was considered as part of Soviet ideology and thus wrong. This has created a situation in many churches where now dominance over women is a normal idea. Your approach of mutual submission and the idea that God created man and woman

as a team in order to fulfill his purposes on earth is challenging in most cultures, including our own. As you mention in your seminar Servant Leadership/Mentoring, all of our cultures are fallen because of sin and so this has also negatively affected male/female relationship.

The concept that patriarchal societies were not God's original plan and that the husband is to leave his parents and join the women and they are to become one is so different from what our students see around them that they are very surprised. So thank you again for this material and thank you for you and your team being dedicated to the biblical view.

Tatiana

More than a Certificate



Coaching Leaders in DR

In November of last year Phil and Doug were able to visit some of the groups in the K2.4.2 network that Raydel has been training. The K2.4.2 ministry (which stands for *koinonia*

attitude towards money, sexuality and power (three major challenges that leaders often face).

In March Phil was also able to spend a couple days coaching some of the leaders in Carlos' other ministry networks in DR. As these leaders interact with the Scripture and see the biblical model of leadership, the contrast in what they have learned and experienced in their culture (and even the church) is quite evident. While transformational change does not happen overnight, fundamental transformation is possible with God's power and a willing heart.

Now that the initial intake of the K2.4.2 groups has finished the first six chapters, those who want to continue to change and grow as leaders are invited to continue to complete the final six chapters of the Mentoring Guide. The focus on these chapters is on servant leadership, growing as a leader, and helping them discover God's place for them in the body.

From this group, individuals will be identified who will then begin to mentor others and start their own groups. The Fall edition of The Update will include a report on the launch of this leadership model in Cuba (Carlos & Phil joined Javier there in late April).



from Acts 2:42) is the leadership network that Carlos and Raydel have initiated in DR. In April they will graduate nearly 100 participants that have completed the first six chapters of our Mentoring Guide over the last six months. This has provided them the opportunity to discuss issues relating to their personality style, their giftings, their life timeline, as well as learning to apply the spiritual disciplines in their lives as emerging leaders and discussing issues regarding their



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.

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From My Desk



Phil Jeske, PhD
President

On page two, Gal. 3:26-29 was referenced and I would like to add a few thoughts to the mix. This passage refers to the reality that our membership in the Body of Christ supersedes our ethnicity, nationality, and even gender distinctions. This was highlighted for me rather graphically several years ago in the midst of the Russian/Ukraine conflict (which is out of the headlines, but still ongoing).

I happened to be on a trip to Ukraine at the time and was planning on travelling to the Crimea (at the time still part of Ukraine) and then fly onward to Moscow, Russia. However, due to the conflict, I could not get to Crimea and all flights were disrupted from Ukraine to Russia. It was only a couple weeks after I flew out of the eastern city of Donetsk that the new airport was bombed to the ground.

We had ministry contacts in both countries and in those early days I noticed that divisions arose even among believers, as they took sides of their government and blamed each other for the conflict. Unfortunately, the unity between similar denominations on both sides of the border that had been forged since the early 1990s came apart and old divisions resurfaced.

At that time, I would typically be with believers in Ukraine one week and then be with believers in Russia the next and would often hear two different views of the same events. I found myself reminding leaders (and myself) that before we are citizens of Russia, Ukraine, US or Canada, we are citizens of heaven – we are all part of that universal Body of Christ that Paul was talking about in Galatians. The Apostle Paul admonished us that we are to have a unity that is above national and cultural identity.

Of course, this is often easier said than done. It is easy to get committed to the worldview of our own country and lose sight of God's bigger perspective. I must admit, having twice been refused a visa to enter Russia, I have not always had happy thoughts towards the current officials or the current state of geopolitical affairs! I find myself also struggling with anger as I see how governments treat their own people in restricted and repressed countries. They are often more concerned with making sure they stay in power than doing what is best for their citizens (a common disease afflicting many politicians).

But while we may not have control over governments and what they choose to do, I am reminded again by Paul that as members of the Body we are to be unified in purpose, regardless of our national citizenship or affiliation. This also means not viewing citizens in any particular country through the prism of the actions of their government or its policies. If we do this, it only serves to separate us from each other, which ultimately weakens our ability to fulfill the Great Commission (Matt. 28:19-20).

When it comes to the need to focus on what we have in common, rather than our distinctive ethnicity or nationality, it would seem that the same could be said regarding doctrinal divisions in the Body that are not core to the Gospel . . .but that is likely a discussion for another article.

Though things for the Church are not getting easier these days in places like Russia, China, Cuba and many Muslim nations, the takeaway from the last 2000 years is that God's ultimate plans will prevail. No government, authority, or system (including doctrinal differences) has ever been able to thwart God's redemptive purposes on this earth. And don't worry, nothing ever will.

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