



The Update

Sunset in the DR

Volume 28 No. 1 Jan-Feb 2018

“With you it should not be so. . .”

On the last trip to Dominican Republic, Doug and Phil were able to spend time with several of Carlos' and Raydel's ministry teams. Doug has co-authored much of the MCNet materials and is the Executive Director of the MCNet affiliate in Canada called CLIMB.

While static pictures of leaders sitting around discussing and learning may not seem that exciting, what the picture cannot convey is the results of these meetings. Over time what happens is that the priorities of these leaders change as do their values. This results in the positive impact with those they serve. Instead of leadership being about position and power it becomes about helping others discover who God made them and being effective in



Coaching EA Team

whatever sphere of influence they may have in the church and as members in their community.

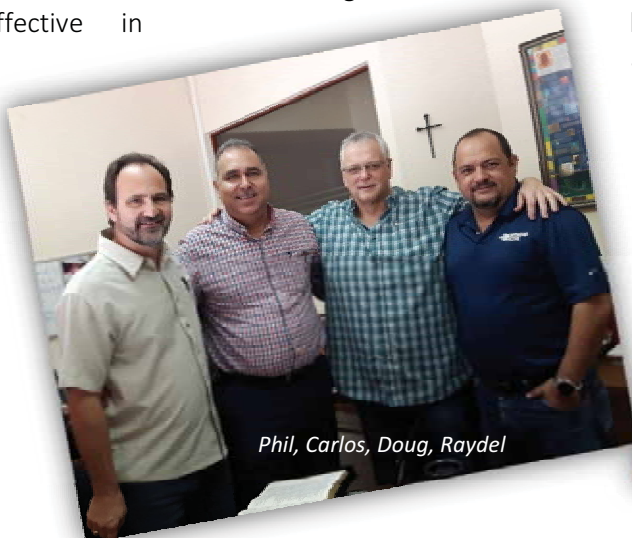
As in most countries and cultures, Christian leaders must guard against allowing the hierarchical top-down model of leadership prevalent in our fallen world to influence their leadership model. As Jesus admonished his disciples, “With you it

should not be so. . .” (Matt 20:26). While not a popular message, for it means a complete rethinking of priorities and approach to ministry, it is crucial if we are going to see the relationships in the body of Christ be healthy and lasting growth that is reproducible.

The EA Team

Carlos is the Director of an organization in DR that has opened many doors in the country for ICM. He is part of several networks of leaders and has used his influence to champion Jesus' model of servant leadership with his extensive networks. Though change is not quick or easy, as a ministry we have come along side of him to encourage and help him in this task.

We have already seen change in these leaders. They are now mentoring other young leaders and coaching them as they lead their teams. The goal is to mitigate the negative impact of leaders who willfully, or out of ignorance, spiritually abuse those God has called them to serve.



Phil, Carlos, Doug, Raydel



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Return to Russia

Well it has been several years since members of our Intl team have been able to visit Russia. Frequent readers of the Update will recall that over the last ten years we have worked rather extensively with leaders in this country. Due to visa issues in the last two years this has not been possible, but in 2018 we hope to revisit some of the groups we have worked with over the years. Fortunately, the ongoing training is not dependent upon our visits. Local equipped ministry coaches continue to teach leaders using our materials.

The following is a recent report from Valera and Narina in the southern part of the country. They have been the catalysts that have trained the next generation and have changed the DNA of their fellowship of churches to be a mentoring movement for leaders. God is opening doors for them to move to St. Petersburg and we look forward to partnering with them as they train new



Valera (1st row, ctr) with Russian Leaders

leaders and plant churches in that region. Thank you for your prayers so that we may be able to visit again with our partners in the Gospel in Russia.

Dear MCNet team,



Valera & Narina

This week was a busy one as we had a gathering of pastors and leaders in our fellowship, along with their eldership teams. There were about 120 present and Valera taught from the ICM material about husbands and wives in ministry. Together we were able to address many issues that both women and men face in their lives and ministries.

We are also planning to take a couple trips to St. Petersburg next year. From our network of relationships within our fellowship here, we already have many contacts there who are looking for leaders and churches to be planted.

The leadership training continues in our church and bible school. Recently Valera was teaching basic bible interpretation with these leaders (using your materials) and he has had the opportunity to do this with leaders in surrounding regions.

Next week Valera and another one of our leaders will be going to Moscow as we are looking at starting some churches in the city. They will be sharing from the MCNet workshops, Foundations of Leadership and introduce the Mentoring Introduction. Later this year we want to start a school for young pastors and we want them to understand biblical servant leadership as you have shared with us. It is our plan to begin with Developing Others 1 & 2 as well as Biblical Foundations.

Hopefully Phil will be able to make it to our region this year and see for himself what God is doing. Thank you again for your partnership together with us and providing all these materials for us so that we may use them with our leaders.

In Christ,
Valera&Narina



Alexei (R) with co-worker
in "Lutherstadt"

The Reformation: A Lighter Side

As we highlighted in newsletters last year, 2017 was the 500 anniversary of the Reformation led by Martin Luther, with beginnings in Wittenberg, Germany. Some of our various team members had the opportunity to travel to Wittenberg (Lutherstadt) and most of us took some time to reflect on the meaning of the Reformation and what it has meant to the church then and now. Of course it was not all serious and so here are a few of the lighter "T-shirt" moments.

Alexei (from Moscow) was with a co-worker in Wittenberg (famous door in background). You'll notice the T-shirt of Martin Luther looking a lot like the popular Latin American revolutionary, Che (who was basically a "killer turned folk hero" by those who have a superficial recollection of history). But instead of the *Viva la Revolution*, it has a much more hopeful message, *Viva la Reformation!*

Doug (left), ICM board member and coach in MCNet also did a series in his church on the Reformation last year. . . his shirt (a brain child of his son) reads, "Party like its 1517!" – a less deep but still rather hopeful message!



"With you it should not be so. . ."

In March the Jeske's and Friesens' will be returning to DR in order to teach their marriage seminar for leaders (*The First Team*). As leaders undergo that personal transformation process, the next most important relationship where servant leadership needs to be applied is in the family unit. If it is not applied there it will be meaningless in their teams and ministries. Thank you for supporting this ministry in prayer as we come along side of these leaders in order to see lasting change in their fundamental attitudes and values. This change has the potential to make a generational impact.

The K2.4.2 Network

One of the key developments in our work in Latin America/Caribbean was the relocation of Raydel and Madeline from Cuba to DR. Carlos facilitated this move so that in the next couple years they could help him develop a network of leaders in the region who share the values of the Ministry Coaching Network (MCNet). Using the Mentoring Guides, Raydel and his team are mentoring like minded leaders who will then be able to reproduce these values in others through the same process that has been modeled for them.

Doug and Phil had the opportunity to visit several of these groups, as well as meet with the K2.4.2 (referencing the Koinonia found in Acts 2:42) core team while in the country. While the ministry has only been up and running for about nine months, they already have five different groups and the goal is that this year these will begin to multiply and touch other leaders.

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Raydel also continues to stay in touch with the network of leaders he was working with in Cuba.



Phil, Doug & Raydel sharing with some of the groups in the K2.4.2 Network

As we are able, we are planning to visit and encourage these leaders in Cuba. Please continue to uphold them in your prayers as they serve under very difficult circumstances.

Meet the Board



ICM Canada Board & spouses

ICM Canada is blessed to have a board who not only provides accountability for the ministry, but shares the same vision and passion to train leaders around the world. Each has a lifetime of experience and volunteers their time to the work and vision of ICM and have done so for many years. While their pictures do not typically appear in the Update they are a valuable part of our team and the work would not be possible without them.

At the last Christmas get together, the board members were joined by Maxym and Anya, who were in Canada taking part in some extended training with their own organization.

While in Canada they were also able to participate in the monthly meeting of the Canadian member of the international Ministry Coaching Network (CLIMB).

Maxym and Anya have hosted Phil and various team members several times in Ukraine, the most recent time being the marriage seminar in the Spring of last year.

This year there are plans for our team to return to their city in Ukraine as we continue to coach leaders in the region. Please continue to pray for this country and the church as it faces its many challenges.



Maxym & Anya (far left) at the MCNet Canada (CLIMB) monthly meeting

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.

Board of Directors, Canada

John Anonby; Rafik Daudjee
Gary Cooper; Doug Friesen
Gary Klassen; Phil Jeske
Tim Toronchuk

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From My Desk



Phil Jeske, PhD
President

As we together embark on another year it seems an appropriate time to reflect on the “Why” of our various activities and involvements. More than even the “What,” the “Why” will determine our priorities and direction for our lives and specifically for the coming year.

While this is a helpful exercise personally, it is also helpful (and necessary) for us as a mission organization to reflect on this vital question. As a reader and supporter, your perception of ICM is likely formed by what you see us doing, activities such as writing materials, teaching leaders, coaching teams and so on. But while this answers the “What,” it does not necessarily reveal the “Why.”

Let me come at the *Why* question from a different angle. Have you ever suffered under a leader, be it at work or in the church, who obviously cared more about their reputation and hanging on to their influence and power than empowering those around them? These are leaders who need their ego stroked and think that leading others is all about what they can get out of it. Or if we are more charitable, they may just be incompetent and not have a clue to the damage they are causing.

Well, if you are like most of us you don’t have to think long to come up with names and faces. . . . and will likely have the emotional scars to prove it. The good news (*and* the bad news!) is that you are not alone. Power driven, top-down leaders are endemic in most cultures and countries, since we are all part of a fallen world (a nicer way of saying sin). Jesus came not only to save us from our sin, but transform us to lead as he did – the One who *was* the Messiah and yet knelt down to serve others.

I think we would all agree that Jesus had real authority, but this was gained through sacrifice and service, not raw power and position. Instead of using the authority and influence for their own benefit, *real* leaders use this to help others move forward and succeed. They are more focused on the needs of others and the organization, using others to fulfill their vision. Leading should not be about “us” but about “others.” Of course, the ultimate expression of Jesus’ leadership was evidenced by hanging on a cross – interestingly, the very thing we are asked to take up daily.

So while ICM is engaged in “teaching,” “mentoring,” “coaching,” etc., the goal of all we do is about this fundamental leadership transformation. This is the *Why* of what we do. All of our activities as a ministry are focussed on helping leaders lead the way that Jesus led. The result of this is that those in their churches or organizations are encouraged to use their gifts and fulfill the dreams that God has given them, regardless how big or small they may be. It is about developing others.

So *Why* do we do *What* we do? Bottom line is so that a fundamental change occurs in the leader’s heart resulting in the formation of a servant leader who does not abuse those they serve (whatever spiritual term may be used to describe it). Rather, they follow Jesus’ example and in so doing transform their organizations, churches, and denominations. While not everyone is willing to follow Jesus model, after nearly three decades we are encouraged to see the results of our efforts. Thank you for standing with us as we continue to see the lives of leaders transformed into those servant leaders we are all called to be.

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