



The Update

Traditional Ukrainian Church

Volume 31 1st Quarter 2021

Developing Others in Ukraine



Maxym & Anya and part of their team (R)

Maxym and Anya continue to serve leaders through their various ministries in eastern Ukraine (following is an update of how they are doing). Several years ago Max introduced the ICM team to a pastor and bible school leader, Vladimir, who Phil has since been coaching.

In the late 1990s Phil visited Lviv in western Ukraine together with a Canadian mission colleague. Now nearly twenty-five years later it seems God is opening up a door

in this region of the country. There is a network of leaders in Lviv who has been exposed to our materials through Vlad and would like us to come and do some leadership training there.

We anticipate that sometime in the fall of 2021, Phil will be able to join Max and Vlad as they travel to Lviv to serve leaders in this region. Thank you for your prayers as we walk through open doors.

Maxym reported the following recently,

“Dear Team,

As with everyone, the virus has impacted how we do church. Our church plant of about 25 families is now a bit smaller and we are able to meet periodically, as well as our online activities. Unfortunately, not everyone has good online connections and so that is a bit of a problem in doing church completely online.

Our New Hope Mission and Center that serves families in crisis has also continued, even though about two thirds of our staff of 16 have had covid and eventually recovered, including our family.

As I am now in my late forties, one thing I have been noticing of late is that not many leaders in our country are actually thinking about ways that they can develop others. They are just focused on serving others with their gifts and not on how to help others develop their own gifts and skills to serve others.



Through the influence of Phil and the ICM team, I have seen the need to train others in order to have a sustainable ministry. So at this stage of my life I see the need to invest in those emerging leaders in their mid twenties and so that over the next ten years, as they become leaders in the church, they will be able to be the main leaders and have the values of mentoring others. We were in our mid thirties when we began to take on the main roles of leadership and so want to empower others to do the same. Since then we have developed the sixteen people that are currently on our staff.

Serving together, Maxym and Anya”



Phil with Vladimir in 2019



Zaporizhia in eastern Ukraine & Lviv in the Carpathian Mts in the west

Serving African Leaders



Greg, Seas of Life Missions, Kenya

Several years ago at a missions conference in Canada a missionary serving in Kenya came by the ICM booth. He was actually living and serving young leaders in the Kisumu, Kenya area, only a few hours from where the Jeske's used to live when they first moved to East Africa in the early 1990s.



Greg, and some of his team, Kenya

ICM often donates materials to those serving overseas and so we gave him a copy of our leadership training materials, *Mentoring thru Intentional Relationships*. Subsequently, we gave him permission to use the PDFs for the ministry as we do with our network coaches around the world.

Well that is often the end of the story and we never hear from the person again. We then have to wait for eternity to see what became of those seeds that were sown. However, in this case, Greg (working with *Seas of Life Missions, Kenya*) contacted us after getting back to Africa and beginning to use the materials with his team and other young leaders. Since then we have remained in regular email contact.

Through his ministry, Greg is involved in training young leaders in practical life and work skills, such as computer and IT, music and public speaking and various other vocational training. The vision of the ministry is to plant youth centers across the nation (61% of the

population of Kenya is under the age of 24). With a Christ centered approach they use various activities to introduce youth to Jesus. This includes helping them spiritually with morals and character, practically with training and entrepreneurial opportunities and physically with activities and sports.

Greg has been using our Mentoring leadership guides to help develop his team and those who show the potential for leadership. Each Guide has six chapters that each usually take a month to work through in a small group and in one-on-one mentoring sessions. Topics are discussed such as understanding one's personality, giftings and calling, learning how to exercise life and spiritual disciplines, what servant leadership looks like and finally helping each participant understand God's mission on this earth and how they are uniquely equipped to join him in that mission from the church to the marketplace.



Following are responses from some of the youth leaders who are in the program:



Through answering the questions, we have been brought closer to God and each other. The relationship between mentor/overseer and students/leaders has improved greatly and brought us closer to one another. It is not so much a class, but more so of a way to find God's will for my life together with friends who love me.

Kevin



I have found this mentoring book a manual for my life. Before we began these teachings two years ago, I was confused about my purpose and calling. Now it has redefined everything for my life, learning what is required by God for myself.

Floice

This mentoring manual has helped me so much more in leadership, relationships, spiritual growth and emotional knowledge. I have greatly improved as a leader due to these teachings. I now relate better with my fellow leaders as well as the youths I serve.

Because of the dialogue inspired through the sidebar questions I have learned so many valuable truths through fellow leaders. I have really grown spiritually as well. Emotionally it has helped me so much as through these teachings, I have learned to listen better to others without thinking they are against me. I'm so thankful for our overseer Rev. Greg, for his sacrifice he has made to do this mentoring class weekly as it has helped all of us so much.



Christeen

I am so grateful for these weekly mentoring teachings. It has helped me become a better minister. There is so much wisdom, insight and revelation in these teachings. I have learned so much about personality types, spiritual gifts along with God's will for my life. Because of the teachings on different personalities, it has helped me to be far less judgmental about others...and to deal with them in love always. I have greatly improved my relationships with others due to the mentorship teachings. I am thankful to Phil Jeske, the author, for the great revelations he has shared and pray continues to use him to bless others. I am anxious to learn from other teachings of the author.



Gloria

Partnership in the Latin America/Caribbean

African Leaders

(cont. from page 2)

Our materials are made available electronically through the website (and then printed by local ministries in their own countries) and so often we do not hear the testimonies of how God is using the various materials in people's lives. This is particularly the case when the materials go into countries and regions where we have not personally visited as a ministry. However, since our materials "travel" to places that we may never visit in person, they are designed so that a local leader can understand it and then implement it within their own ministry with others.

Last year we just had our series of eight workshops translated into Swahili for our partners in Tanzania and so now Greg will also be able to use these in the local language. Many of these overseas ministries do not have the funds to cover the full costs of the development or printing of the materials. We believe God has called us to provide these for such groups so that they may be able to do quality leadership training in their region. . .often in places that our ICM team will not personally visit.

Thank you for your partnership which enables us to provide these resources free of charge to ministries such as this and leaders such as Greg. While we personally equip our own network of Ministry Coaches through our MCNet (Ministry Coaching Network) to train others with our materials, we are also encouraged by ministries such as Greg who are using our materials for the Kingdom as they train the next generation.

Raydel provides an update on the K242 ministry in the Caribbean (referring to the *koinonia* in Acts 2:42). While it has been difficult for the team to get to Cuba and other Latin American countries in 2020, they continue to see growth in the Dominican Republic. In spite of the challenges, God continues to prepare us for the day when we will be able to expand into other Caribbean and Latin American countries.



Raydel writes,
"Certainly this year has brought us a "non-ordinary" reality, where so many are experiencing loss, scarcity and constraints on resources and labor these past months. We have especially seen with great concern the effect of this reality on Christ's Church throughout the world and especially in our country. However, at the end of the year we, in a spirit of humility and wonder, can do nothing but say like the prophet Samuel after victory: "So far the Lord helped us".

Last year we were able to see the results of the time and the resources invested in developing leaders and churches with which we have fellowship, in previous years we shared with them the tools which now they use in the work of keeping alive and nourishing the faith of 208 churches, we enjoy to begin to see the fruits of the work of faith and the work of love planted through our ministry.

The Word of God has run and multiplied in the midst of the pandemic in the Dominican Republic; the conferences, topics, meditations and studies, have been widely used by approximately 250 leaders participating in the three levels of training of the program in their congregations, both in virtual and face-to-face trainings according to the context imposed on them.

A little more than 180 pastors already have in their hands a new arsenal of resources for when they reach this "new normal" in order to care for and feed their congregations and take care of the flock that have been entrusted to them by the Lord. We have been surprised by God, seeing how the number of brothers studying the Bible through our workshops and training has grown from 2,188 at the beginning of last year to 2,322 students by the end of the year.

God's grace has surprised us last year by breaking our expectations completely and reaching the number of 174 training groups across the country. Finally, throughout 2020 the initial group of 6 coaches with whom we started the year has multiplied to 3 groups of regional connectors to form an average of 12 local facilitators per region who are being trained as coaches to open new groups and reach new congregations in 2021 in the central, northern and eastern region of the country.

So not only have we seen churches strengthened and multiplied in the Word in the Dominican Republic, but also now we have a stronger structure and more mature leaders who will continue to provide us with a safer platform for work in Haiti, Cuba, Puerto Rico and other Latin American countries when the Lord' will lead us to do so.

Our beloved brethren we make you partakers of these blessings because you have played an essential role in supporting us and you have been God's instruments in order to bring these realities before our eyes. Please receive our prayers of thanksgivings and sacrifices of praise to God for you (Hebrews 13:13-16) who, despite their own difficulties, have participated with us in the work God has done in 2020 through K242 [ed. MCNet Affiliate in Latin America].

We praise the Lord because you are part of this team that pursues the Glory of God in what He does and works primarily for the extension of His Kingdom in our region. To Him be the glory forever and ever. Amen (1 Peter 5:11)"

Raydel
Network Coach, ICM/MCNet Intl.



From My Desk



Phil Jeske, PhD
President

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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Scars. Not something we usually want to talk about or perhaps admit to. Yet I would suggest that they are important reminders of God’s faithfulness as we face the future.

Like most of us, you may have picked up a few physical scars over your lifetime. I still have a significant “zipper” on my thigh where a power saw cut my leg in Uganda in 1993. Every time I see it, it is a reminder of God’s faithfulness in sparing my life on that day. But we also have other types of scars that we accumulate over a lifetime such as emotional, mental, psychological, and even spiritual ones. Remembering what these scars represent is important as we move forward.

As we reflect on the pandemic of 2020 and anticipate things eventually becoming more “normal,” it is likely that we have accumulated a few scars over the last year. While some people may have come through unscathed, others have experienced either physical loss of a loved one or friend, or perhaps the loss of not being able to adequately grieve and bring closure to a loss. Other scars may include a loss of purpose and control as one’s livelihood or business has been affected, or perhaps social and emotional ones as we have not been able to meet with family and friends and gain their support.

Often when we get through to the other side of a tragedy or loss we want to forget it and put it behind us as quickly as possible. And yet the scars are there to remind us that it actually happened... and that moving forward our suffering can have a purpose. Initially, the scars may actually negatively reinforce the trauma, but in time we can allow them to remind us of His faithfulness.

In our book, *Roads less Traveled* I used the metaphor of “stones” (Joshua 4) as a remembrance when the Israelites passed through the Jordan river. They gathered twelve stones and made an altar on the river’s bank as a reminder of what God had done that day. Scars can serve this same purpose.

Having a scar signifies that we went through something, even though the wound may have healed and no longer be life threatening. I am not sure if 2020 “scarred” you in any way, but if it has, I hope that you will use those scars to remind you of what God has (is) teaching you. Then this experience will not be wasted, but we can allow God to increase our dependence on him and then enable us to comfort others on the other side of the experience.

It is natural for us to want to forget or hide our scars, rather than wear them as badges. Yet even Jesus – in his glorified body – had visible scars. I am sure God could have made them all disappear after his resurrection, however, they remained as visible signs in his hands and his side. It would seem that they will be visible for all eternity; reminders of what He went through for us.

As followers of Jesus, he also would like to use our scars as reminders of his faithfulness and an encouragement to others along the way. So once we get through to the other side of this particular pandemic, whatever scars you may have received along the way, I pray that they will prove to be reminders to you and provide a promise of His future goodness in your life.

Partnering Together

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