



# The Update

African Leaders

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## A Muslim finds Christ in Tanzania



Safia & Rafik

Rafik is a Ministry Coach in our MCNetwork in Canada. He also serves on the board of ICM Canada and has an encouraging testimony. Here is a portion of it in his own words:

*I was born in Tanzania into the Shiite Muslim religion called the Dawoodi Bohora. This Shiite sect originates from Yeman in the 10<sup>th</sup> century with headquarters now in India. I was trained in the Koran in a madrasa from an early age and by the age of 16 had developed a deep thirst to know God personally. I began to search in my own religion, becoming more pious and zealous, seeking to please Allah through prayers, good works and fasting.*

*Yet a personal relationship with God remained elusive. At the time I wrote in my diary, "Where are you God?" This led me to develop severe anxiety and fears, to the extent that I could not even go out socially and connect with friends. I then began searching for peace through TM (Transcendental Meditation), Yoga and began dabbling in the occult practise of palmistry and astrology. But nothing satisfied my soul.*

*In 1978 I was selected by the government to study clinical medicine, but due to my mental state could not study. I was even sent for psychiatric treatment, which resulting in becoming addicted to*

*tranquilizers. Two years later, while still studying at the school, my professor (who was also the doctor treating me) asked to buy me a Coca Cola and opened up Acts 9 and began telling me the story of a certain Saul of Tarsus.*

*We came to the passage in Acts 9:3-5, where Saul heard the voice of the Lord saying, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting," As I read "I am Jesus," I prayed in my heart, "God is there any truth in this Jesus?" At that very moment a miracle happened that is hard to explain. I developed a powerful attraction towards this name of Jesus and the Bible. I asked the doctor how I could become a Christian. Over the next days he shared many things with me that at the time I did not fully understand, but I did know that I had encountered Jesus while reading the Bible and God had touched my heart.*

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# MCNet International

## LATIN AMERICA

It seems that we are seeing more and more marriage in crisis in every country in which we serve. Last year the Jeskes were able to spend time with couples in Ukraine as they taught their marriage seminar for leaders (*The First Team*). Phil will be returning and following up with these couples in May. In March, Doug and Rebecca will be joining Phil and Nancy as they do a marriage workshop in Dominican Republic.

The divorce rate and cases of infidelity within the church is rather astounding. The main purpose of the upcoming marriage workshop will be to equip 10-15 couples in the use of our materials so that they will be able to then help other couples throughout the country. Thank you for your prayers as we serve these couples to strengthen their marriage relationship. If you would be interested in a free PDF copy of our marriage material for your own use, just send us an email ([office@icmcanada.org](mailto:office@icmcanada.org)).



*Phil & Nancy  
Marriage Seminar,  
Ukraine 2017*

## RUSSIA/UKRAINE/E.GERMANY

In April Phil was scheduled to be in Russia to be with our coaches there (Alexei and Tatiana & Valera and Narina), but was again refused a visa. This was likely due to the proximity of the Russian elections and recently all evangelicals with buildings have been checked and questioned regarding foreigners. In May Phil will still be with Maxym and Anya in Ukraine to do some training and will be joined by Nancy in Germany to be with Karl and Claudia and young emerging leaders in Europe. Please continue to pray for the church in Russia, Ukraine, and the rest of E. Europe.



*Doug & Rebecca,  
previous trip to Cuba*



## MCNet in Canada

Doug & Rebecca Friesen provide leadership to the CLIMB organization which is part of the MC Network. The goal is to equip emerging leaders who are leading unique ministries that are using relevant models to reach into the Canadian context. This month we have highlighted a couple of the ministries within our Canadian network of MCNet.

Chia and Rafik highlight just two of the ministries connected to our international network that are serving within the post-modern context of Canada. Other ministry coaches around the world are serving in quite different contexts. But regardless of geography or culture, God is raising up those with new wineskins to reach out in relevant ways with the Good News (rather than "fakenews," see last page).



*Rebecca & Doug*



# A Muslim finds Christ in Tanzania

(Continued from Page 1)

*So I began reading more and more of the Scriptures and strength, peace and joy filled my heart and my life began to change. A short time later I was also miraculously healed from drug dependency and set free from demons.*

*My life had been so changed, I felt compelled to begin preaching on the streets and sharing my testimony in churches and various schools. Then in 1983 I held my first open air Gospel meetings and this launched my ministry throughout cities in Tanzania and Kenya. It was at one of these open air meetings that my wife, Safia found the Lord. We had met as children and had been married at a young age. Since that time she gave her life to the Lord we have been serving him together.*



*Safia & Rafik and family*

*In 1991, after graduating from Bible School and seminary, I served as a missions pastor and continued to teach, preach in bible schools and colleges. It was this that led me to do some teaching at ICM's in-service pastoral training in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. In 1996 I felt impressed to plant a church amongst the unreached East Indian population in the city of Dar es Salaam. I pastored this church for several years and trained several leaders from the church who in turn planted other churches in Dar and as far away as the UK.*

But Rafik's story was about to take another turn that would connect him to what God is doing in Canada. In 2006 he and his wife Safia, felt led of the Lord to move to Canada, so together with their family of six they began the immigration process. He landed on the west coast of Canada in BC and by 2010 was serving as an associate pastor in a local church. It was also during this time that he joined our ICM Canada team as a board member. He has taught evangelism and church planting at a local Bible school, helped with several church plants, and is currently a chaplain with the Salvation Army in downtown Vancouver, where he works with the homeless, addicts and refugees.

Those of us with the privilege to know Rafik and Safia personally can attest to their passion to share the love of Jesus with others and see lives transformed. We are glad to have them as part of our Ministry Coaching Network (MCNet) as they continue to touch many lives.



*Chia & Jeanie and family*

## Mentoring Players 2 Leaders

Chia and Jeanie are also Canadian coaches in our international Ministry Coaching Network. Their ministry is quite different from Rafik and Safia, yet they have the same goal and passion. As we have reported previously, Chia has a ministry within a local school district in Canada touching lives that would likely never attend a church. They have adapted our mentoring materials, that we use with leaders around the world, and recently shared the following story with our team:

*"Balkar is a 20 year old student at a local university and in March I started training him in basketball because he has a dream to play college basketball. Two months into training him I asked him if he would like to work through our Players 2 Leaders mentoring manual. He agreed and since then we have had many meaningful conversations about life and leadership. I have also had the opportunity to pray for him. One of the highlights of my week is to be able to spend time with Balkar and build into his life. We have developed a great friendship through the basketball training and working through Players 2 Leaders. It will be exciting to see how he will continue to grow as a player and leader in the future."*

## 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

This Ministry Update highlights several stories of *Good News*. In contrast to the *Good News*, of late we have been hearing a lot recently about *fake news*. I find this somewhat ironic, particularly in societies that pride themselves on being open to anyone's version of the "truth." It is true as long as *you* believe in it.

Tolerance seems to mean that everyone can have their own version of truth. And yet there continues this time-tested notion that there is truth and it is knowable. Kind of ironic when you think about it. Pilate's classic question is still relevant, "What is truth?" Jesus of course answered that he was *THE Way, THE Truth, and THE Life*. There was only ONE way to the God and that was through him. A pretty exclusive contrast to a tolerant anything-goes-as-long-as-you-are-sincere attitude.

In spite of all the effort made to paint those with exclusive views of God and a relationship with him as intolerant, it seems that the current discussion about *fake news* takes us back to a time when most folks recognized the need for truth and the ability (albeit flawed) to ascertain it. The age old axiom seems to still be true. . . two things that are opposite cannot be both true at the same time...the very nature of truth is that it is rather exclusive.

So in a society that has championed tolerance above all other virtues, this seems to point to an innate desire for truth. With regards to the Gospel (literally, the *Good News*) those who paint it as fake news, may just be struggling with the implications of believing that truth. When it comes to the Gospel, perhaps fake news means whatever someone does not want to accept as truth. Again, not necessarily because it has been vetted and found lacking, but because someone does not want to be accountable to the person who says that He is the *only* Way, the *only* Truth and the *only* Life.

What this points to is the fallacy of a relativism that prides itself on a tolerance that all information (even what we may invent in our own intellect) is truth. Like it or not, that just ain't so (good point, bad English!). None of us really have the option of creating our own truth. For truth to have any validity it means that there must be untruths. A truth that it seems even the media is having to admit. While everyone tries to squeeze the truth into their agenda (usually called spin), at some point something is either a truth or an untruth.

Now most of us don't have all the information, so are often at a disadvantage in evaluating all of the information that we are bombarded with daily as true or untrue. But that there is even a conversation and aspiration for truth I see as a positive development! Of course, when it comes to God's truth, we are not at a disadvantage. . . He has provided us not only with the written verifiable truth which has been proven for several thousand years (the written Word), he also sent the Truth embodied in the form of his Son. *Real* good news.

To the best of our abilities, we are committed here to sharing with you the real news from the field in our Updates, positive and negative. For the lovers of truth and the Good News there is no need to perpetuate fake news here!

## Partnering Together

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