



The Update

Palace, St Petersburg, Russia

Volume 30 2nd Quarter 2020

From All Nations to All Nations

Our Network Coach for Latin America, Carlos, brought together the trainers from Cuba as well as leaders from DR and Haiti. Phil was invited to join them late last year to teach his new material, "Multicultural Team Building."

The reality around the world is that the Gospel has truly gone from all nations to all nations. In practical terms, this often means that most teams are made up of those from difference cultures and countries. While in the past most of these teams were led by western missionaries (often where the money was coming from), the good news today is that local nationals are providing leadership for the ministry within their own countries.

Carlos is one such example of this. While he is Dominican and trains leaders in the DR, he also has Haitians, Cubans and Americans on his



▲ Teaching "Multicultural Team Building" with Latin Am/Car. team in DR



Sharing meal with team from Cuba

team. He and his team has also travelled to meet with interested leaders from other Latin American countries in order to provide leadership training in their countries. From all nations to all nations rather than just "from the West to the rest."



Carlos (far left) with Cuban team (in DR)



Phil with team members from DR, Haiti and Cuba

The new materials that Dr. Phil has developed is designed to help team leaders and members negotiate the challenging waters of accomplishing their purpose on teams that are very diverse. This often includes those speaking different languages, coming from varied socio-economic backgrounds, as well as many cultural differences. (If you know someone or a mission team who may benefit from this material, let us know at office@icmcanada.org and we can send a complimentary PDF copy).

cont. on page 3

RUSSIA UPDATE



Valera & Narina
in front of their
apartment

MCNet also has ministries in Russia who are part of the network and have unlimited access to our materials and coaching. Earlier this year plans were being made to meet with our Russian and Ukraine Network Coaches in Riga, Latvia. Due to various reasons, and now in light of the travel restrictions, this meeting will not take place. One of the conclusions from last year's MCNet International Consultation in Wittenberg was that there was a need to have more of these regional meetings.

As the ministry has expanded, it is not always possible to get to every country every year and so having these regional meetings would be a solution. Coaches from each region would invite leaders from surrounding countries in order to be encouraged, receive training on new materials that ICM develops for the network (a Regional Consultation is being planned for Latin America later this year).

This is particularly necessary for those who are serving in Russia and Ukraine as there are travel restrictions to enter each other's country as well as for Phil who still cannot receive a visa for Russia. The good news is that the work in each of these countries carries on; ICM's investment over the last fifteen years in the lives of Russian leaders continues to bear fruit through Valera/Narina and Alexei/Tatiana as well as others.

One couple that we have been in relationship with over many years is Valera and Narina. We first worked with them and their Family of Churches in the Caucasus region. They have now recently moved to St. Petersburg to begin a ministry there as they continue to disciple new believers and mentor potential leaders. Recently they wrote the team:

Dear friends,

Thanks for your prayers and care.

Valera has begun to mentor three guys and we have also started a ministry to couples (using your marriage materials) and have 23 couples who participate. Some of the couples we work with have also started serving orphans. Valera visits the orphanages and is working with those aging out of the system to help them identify a potential future career and organizes ways for them to get work experience. I'm (Narina) am working with the women ex-orphans and women who suffered sex abuse and domestic violence. At the moment there is a team of eight women working with me.

We are excited that four new families recently became followers of Jesus and have started visiting the church. We have begun going through the first Discipleship manual with them, as well as teaching them how to have a biblical marriage.

*Thanks again, Valera & Narina
St. Petersburg, Russia*



Thank you for praying for the ongoing work in Russia. As travel opens up again, and schedules allow, we hope to meet with those in Russia and Ukraine for a regional meeting to encourage and equip these leaders as they serve others.

Valera K. (right) with Valera S. (left), the founder of the Fellowship of Churches which he pioneered in the Caucasus



Above: Valera
teaching.
Left: With
young couple
from church



New Realities

As your schedule and plans have likely changed due to the pandemic, travel bans have also impacted us as a ministry. While the work continues in the various countries, as those in our Network continue to equip leaders for these times, the conference scheduled for May in Tanzania (and side trip to Uganda) has been postponed for later in the year. While the team is regularly in touch via various media technologies such as video conferencing, times like these make this even more relevant and shortens the distance as coaching can take place through social media platforms.

As travel restrictions ease later this year, the goal is to also return in person to Ukraine, as well as a planned Latin America/Caribbean Regional Consultation in the Dominican Republic. Thank you for remembering the work during this time. If you have more time on your hands and have not seen all of our video's posted online you can go to our YouTube channel to see what is going on in various regions of the world (search MCNet International).

The Future of Leadership Training

At the MCNet Intl. Consultation in August of 2019, a presentation was made by Doug Friesen (ICM board member and Exec. Dir of CLIMB, MCNet Canadian affiliate), regarding the need for a new model for theological education in the 21st Century. This seemed to be the next step for ICM Canada and MCNet and so since then steps have been taken to develop a new program for leaders wanting more specific ministerial training.

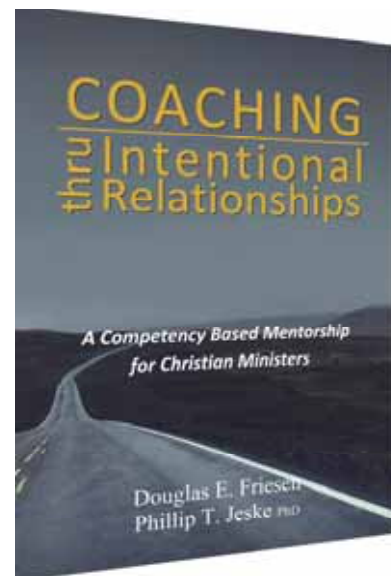
In Africa in the early 1990's ICM was instrumental in pioneering an "in-service" model for pastors and leaders needing on-the-job theological training. For the last three decades, ICM Seminaries in Africa have provided the opportunity for pastors to receive a theological training at a degree level through this innovative non-residential model.

Though this is still meeting a need in Africa, in some areas this model is becoming a challenge due to the high cost, as well as the changing expectations of leaders. Much has changed in the last decades, creating a need for a new model to provide theological training. Through our Network, we are now developing a new model based on Competency Centered training. Rather than a focus on pages read and papers written, each candidate's proficiency in various competencies is assessed and a mentors creates a development plan specifically for each.

What is truly unique about this program will be that it will be based on a mentorship model, as with our other programs. So while there is an online "high-tech" component, it also has a "high touch" mentoring relationship.



Coaching thru Intentional Relationships will be a Competency Based Mentorship for Christian Ministers. It will be somewhat more formalized than our other programs, but will still be a relational mentoring approach to training church leaders. Much has also changed in the accrediting world over the last years and so we are excited about the possibility of providing an accredited degree (ATS) to all those in ICM Canada's MCNetwork around the world, through a partnership with a Canadian Seminary.



In 2019 we developed our *Discipling thru Intentional Relationships Guides* (1&2), which are intended to help a believer disciple a new follower of Jesus through a one-on-one relationship over a one year period. Over the last seventeen years thousands of leaders have also been trained through our relational model, *Mentoring thru Intentional Relationships Guides* 1&2 (2003).

This new curriculum is currently in development with the goal of having the majority of it completed by the end of this year. When completed we will have the *Discipling* series to help believers develop, the *Mentoring* series to help leaders develop, and then the new *Coaching* program to provide theological, leadership training at a degree level within an apprentice/relational model. We believe that this is the new innovation for delivering training in the next decades – keeping up with the new technology, but at the same time based on how Jesus mentoring his disciples some two thousand years ago.



From All Nations. . . (Cont. from pg 1)

ICM's focus on equipping local leaders to impact their own country/culture is more than just a missiological/philosophical value, but has several practical implications. Instead of a centralized missional approach, which can limit growth, it is more of a web (network) that can grow without creating dependence on one central office or organization.

As we have seen through this pandemic when countries are shut down to travel (or when visas are not granted by certain countries), the work within each country can continue and be as unique as the needs in that country. ICM still has a role, but it is not the same as typical mission agencies. We are facilitators to encourage the connections in the network as well as develop new materials in order to add value to the ministry of each affiliate in the network.

Earlier this year, Carlos and Raydel R. (their organization is part of the MCNet global family) were in Guatemala meeting with leaders from various other countries interested in implementing the training program that they have been implementing in DR and Cuba over the last few years. It includes teaching leaders basic inductive Bible study as well as ICM's leadership materials. As travel restriction ease in the coming months we are looking forward to having many other countries in the region become part of our Ministry Coaching Network (MCNet).

Thank you for standing with us during this challenging time, as we continue to develop materials and encourage these leaders around the world.

Our Mission

Serving the church by mentoring leaders 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 and overseen by a Board of Directors.

ICM adheres to the WEF & Lausanne Covenants statements of faith and takes an evangelical approach to Scripture.

THE UPDATE is the bi-monthly newsletter of ICM, Canada.

ICM, CANADA

34181 - 17790 #10 Hwy
Surrey, BC V3S 8C4
604.614-4473

ICM, USA

P.O. Box 129
Monument, CO 80132
661.832-9740

E-mail

office@icmcanada.org

www.icmcanada.org



From My Desk

Phil Jeske, PhD
President

How are we different?

Are we as Christians any different than others in a Pandemic? Perhaps a bit of an odd question, but I was thinking about this as I have been following the news coverage and having to adjust our travel plans and ministry to this new reality. I am sure you have heard some variation of these thoughts over the last weeks, but let me offer my own reflections.

I like the quote I heard about what Martin Luther wrote in the early 1500s as he was dealing with how to respond to the Bubonic Plague. During that time, the illness is said to have killed up to 60% of the European population. Writing to a colleague he says, *I shall ask God mercifully to protect us. Then I shall fumigate, help purify the air, administer medicine and take it. I shall avoid places and persons where my presence is not needed in order not to become contaminated and thus perchance inflict and pollute others and so cause their death as a result of my negligence. . . If my neighbor needs me however I shall not avoid place or person but will go freely as stated above. See this is such a God-fearing faith because it is neither brash nor foolhardy and does not tempt God.*

Two extremes as I see it. One, not doing what we can and acting foolishly. I read an online article from an African paper reporting how the president of an African country believed that the Corona virus could not live in the church. Though this "spiritual" approach seems admirable on one hand, it does not seem to reflect the wisdom we see from Luther's approach. My guess is that, until Jesus' Kingdom comes and his will is being done on earth as in heaven, it will rain on the just and the unjust; living in a fallen world we as Christians are not immune from the effects of sickness and sin.

A second extreme is that we can chose to be paralyzed by fear. Wall to wall media coverage and having the possibility of tracking the global numbers by the second is like gasoline for fear. However, regardless of the circumstance, fear is a choice and we don't have to succumb to it. 2 Tim 1:7 encourages us that He has not given us a spirit of fear, but of love, discipline and a sound mind. Times like this require believer's to have a sound, steady mind. If our focus is correct, we can have access to that peace that passes even our understanding (and circumstances).

I like the fact that in the face of death all around him, Luther used wisdom to do what he could do (for his time) and yet did not give in to fear (which must have been a challenge as millions of bodies began stacking up). This necessitates that we learn to feed ourselves in the Word and gain all we need from Christ who lives within us. Of course, in addition to the illness there is also the economic fallout that we have yet to see the full effects. For all of us this will also be an opportunity to exercise our trust in God for our daily bread as well as our future security.

So, back to my original question, *Are we different?* Maybe the answer is, Yes *and* no. In some ways we as believers are the same – we are not magically immune – but at the same time we can be different. In wisdom we can live without giving in to fear. Regardless of the circumstances we can focus on Christ and have his peace within. Regardless of how bad things get, this will enable us to be that strength to those around us as we share the hope that lies within us.

Partnering Together

☐ Please find enclosed my gift of \$ _____
☐ I would like to join the team as a monthly partner:
\$ _____/month

☐ Resources/Materials for Pastors/Leaders \$ _____
☐ Conference Expenses for Pastors/Leaders \$ _____
☐ Please send info regarding Donating Electronically

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Prov/State _____ PC/Zip _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

ICM is a registered charity in Canada/USA and all gifts are tax-deductible. Each gift designated towards a project will be used as designated. When any given need has been met, or where projects cannot be reasonably carried out, the donor agrees that designated gifts may be used where needed most.