



SUMMER 2023

THE TCM REPORT

Graduation Celebration 2023 - Soaring Like Eagles

BY DAVID WRIGHT

During the last three years, TCM students completed their degree programs and earned their certificates or diplomas. Certainly, these students have rejoiced with family and friends, but the last time TCM was able to host a Graduation Celebration was in May 2019. No one has forgotten that a pandemic postponed almost every public gathering for the better part of two years. In addition, the war in Ukraine has made travel throughout Europe very difficult.

Therefore, the first of two Graduation Celebration gatherings scheduled for 2023 was special in so many ways. Thirty-seven graduates from seventeen countries were able to attend the May 14, 2023 event. They, along with their guests, made for a “full Haus” in the valley of the Vienna Woods. As has been the case since 2006, the celebration service took place at the Stift Heiligenkreuz in their beautiful Kaisersaal.

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Graduation Celebration 2023

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The graduates were encouraged and dedicated with prayer, congregational worship songs, spoken blessings of hope, and a message shared by Jim Cousins. Jim is a TCM student and Associate Pastor of Christ's Church of the Valley in Peoria, Arizona. He encouraged the graduates to "Open Doors to Disciple Making" among the people of their churches, cultures, and countries.

The audience also had the privilege of hearing from four graduates. These four, Serghei Moraru of Moldova; Rando Kristen Kangro of Estonia; Iva Balabanova of Bulgaria; and Victor Bojonca of Romania, shared their testimonies of how their calling and ministries have been influenced by what they have studied and learned at TCM.

An additional feature at the event was the commissioning of eleven of the thirteen individuals who had completed the TCM Chaplaincy Program and were able to attend the event to receive their certificates.

Because the increased number of graduates with whom we wanted to celebrate was so large this year, a second Graduation Celebration will be hosted by TCM this summer on July 30, 2023. We anticipate a similar number of graduates will receive their TCM diplomas. What a blessing the Lord has given to the wonderful international disciple makers and to TCM.

The graduation gatherings these last three years were certainly missed, but being together once more in May and again in July are sweet blessings.

"Do you not know? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired or weary, and his understanding no one can fathom. He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak. Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary; they will walk and not faint."

Isaiah 40:28-31

Teaching and Imparting Values to the Next Generation

TCM's vision is that every nation has disciple-making leaders impacting their churches, cultures, and countries for Christ. You can contribute toward fulfilling this vision not only by supporting TCM financially and in prayer but also by being disciple makers who impact your sphere of influence right here, right now. A key way to influence your sphere of influence for Christ is to pass along your biblical values to the next generation.

Earlier this year, we sent a survey to our donors which included this question: "How would you describe your personal values and approach to expanding legacy impact?" The overwhelming response to that question was "I am interested in passing my values to the next generation." This is the essence of disciple making – teaching and imparting biblical values to the next generation of Christ followers so they too can impact others for Christ.

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TCM Chaplaincy

BY SARA FUDGE

Many TCM students, staff, and faculty have been touched by the war in Ukraine. TCM has responded in different ways to meet the needs generated by this situation. This has included safe nights to travelers coming through Vienna as well as those arriving in other European nations, supplies of food, medicine, and other goods with many people on bent knees praying for those struggling to get through. One other request by those serving in this field was for more chaplains. When this need was expressed, TCM moved to meet it.

Over the last year, TCM designed a chaplaincy certificate that focuses on this line of ministry. How is chaplaincy different from pastoral ministry? Pastoral ministry is centered in the church where people come to worship, pray, learn, and fellowship with other Christians. They work primarily with people in the church. They reach out to evangelize and meet needs with their base and support from the church location.



Chaplains are employed by the secular sector serving in the hospitals, military installations, prisons, assisted living, and other institutions. Chaplains work primarily with people who are outside the church, who may never step foot in a church building. Chaplains are commonly called on to work alongside other chaplains and individuals of diverse denominational backgrounds or with no church affiliation. Serving on the frontline, chaplains are a godly presence bringing hope, helping hands, and direction to hurting people. Listening to the hurting and bridging the gap between the church and the world are primary skills for the chaplain. “Serving the suffering is where the chaplain spends the majority of [his]/her time... (Alan T. Baker, *Foundations of Chaplaincy: A Practical Guide*, p. 19).”

TCM’s chaplaincy certificate lays the groundwork for this very important ministry. This certificate includes core courses found in all TCM certificates as well as a course in understanding what chaplaincy is and how it can be effective. The certificate also includes an introductory course in pastoral counseling which is important when serving the hurting.

In May, eleven of the thirteen individuals who had completed the TCM Chaplaincy Program were able to attend the Graduation Celebration to receive their Chaplaincy Certificates along with a symbolic towel signifying the nature of TCM’s servant ministry to one another. TCM intends to continue developing its focus on chaplaincy to expand its effectiveness throughout the world. The psalmist writes, “For he has not despised or scorned the suffering of the afflicted one; he has not hidden his face from him but has listened to his cry for help” (Psalm 22:24).

The Opportunity to Do Good

BY DAVID WRIGHT

May 16, 2023 was a cold and rainy evening in Vienna, Austria. Nevertheless, 35 people gathered in a large room to fellowship, pray, worship, study God's Word, and pray some more. Each of the 35 is a refugee – refugees from Ukraine and Russia who arrived in Austria having left professions, loved ones, and homes behind. A cold rainy Austrian evening was nothing compared to what they had experienced in their homelands. This was an oasis of God's love.

Andrey and Oksana Puzynin led the session along with their three sons. The Puzynins know firsthand about the loss of their homeland and family. In 2014 the Puzynins fled Donetsk, Ukraine when Russian rebels took over that region, leaving their home and most belongings behind. They arrived at Haus Edelweiss for a safe rest. During this stay, it became apparent that their family would be a perfect fit for ministry work with TCM. Andrey became TCM's Associate Dean and Oksana the Assistant Librarian.

Once settled into their home on TCM's Austrian campus, they looked for other ways to serve. They assisted a local church in serving refugees from the Middle East and they longed to plant a church that would serve Russians and Ukrainians living in the Vienna metro area. A Christian



(Small group teaching)

church was planted that Andrey would lead. A community of like-minded believers developed and a church of 25 met to worship.

With the war in Ukraine and the influx of refugees from Ukraine, this church has increased to well over 150 each Sunday. And throughout the week they are in touch providing prayer and encouragement to one another. On Tuesday evenings 30-40 people gather for a Bible study, worship, and a fellowship meal prepared with much love and care.

On May 16, five Americans were added to the number. With the translation assistance of TCM's Yulia Lubenetis, herself a refugee, we five tried to blend in and not disturb the sweet fellowship that was taking place. As the Bible Study concluded with prayer and we began to exit, a recent refugee rushed to our side and asked, "Won't you please stay for dinner? We have prepared something special for you!" An offer we could not refuse, we remained and loved our time with everyone. Over a humble and tasty meal, we learned of professions left behind and the trust and hope these new friends have in Jesus. And how grateful they are for this growing community of believers that has been brought together. The opportunity for each of us to do good is all around.

"Therefore, as we have the opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially those who belong to the family of believers."

-Galatians 6:10



(Church service)



The church in Vienna planted by Andrey and Oksana Puzynin has been serving Ukrainian refugees each week since the war in Ukraine began in February 2022. The members provide hundreds of meals weekly, as well as hosting social gatherings, picnics, and small group activities throughout the year. In addition, a communication system has been established to provide encouragement and assistance to families or individuals in need.



personal stories, lessons you've learned, your journey of faith, and loving words to explain how you feel about them. Be clear about what you want them to know.

- **Collaborate missionally.** Do you have funds earmarked for giving to TCM, your church, or other missions? Share with your loved ones why you support these ministries. Invite your loved ones to share input on where you give. Then donate together. Or perhaps you volunteer time toward a cause you're passionate about. Invite family and friends into an afternoon of serving the Lord together. By demonstrating your closely held values in action, they'll be empowered to do the same.
- **Make yourself available.** The most meaningful investment you can make in the life of the next generation is yourself. Be a reliable and trustworthy source. Be generous with your time, your presence, and your listening ear. Your love will speak volumes and set a powerful Christ-like example.

Teaching and Imparting Values to the Next Generation

(Continued)

To help you do this, here are three ways you can transfer your values to the next generation and help them walk faithfully with Jesus.

- **Write it down.** We pick up messages through subtle and unspoken cues daily, but the clearest way to communicate one's thoughts is to put them in writing. Compose letters for your loved ones that share

Thank you for being someone who understands how to give generously and with purpose. Take the opportunity to influence the next generation to live and give with purpose as well.

For more information about how to pass along your values to those you love, please contact Megan Herring at megan@tcmi.org.

TCM Students Have A Passion For Disciple Making

BY KEN FLORA

In May, I had the opportunity to visit with TCM students in Austria and Albania, including several who had recently completed their Master of Arts degrees. I started my visit in Austria with TCM's graduation ceremony and then I joined Dr. Tony Twist in Tirana, Albania for his Theology and Practice of Prayer class. I concluded my time in Europe by returning to Haus Edelweiss in Austria for Session 3 classes. What I found from this time visiting with our students is that they hold a common passion for not only making disciples, but also for developing additional disciple makers.

For example, one of our Albanian students, Tomor, said that his goal is to raise up Christ followers through disciple training and teaching the Word of God. Tomor's Master of Arts concentration in Organizational Leadership helped him relocate and expand his church to a different area in Tirana that previously had no Evangelical churches. Tomor said his TCM training helped him to cast the vision and prepare his congregation for the move. His prayer is that this new church location on the southern edge of Tirana will be fertile ground for God to raise up new disciple makers to rapidly increase the number of disciples in Albania.

Another TCM student, Miranda, shared that after her TCM training, a young woman she was discipling said, "We have a new teacher now, the way you teach, the way you unfold the Bible is new." I heard story after story about how these students' lives and ministries were transformed through TCM's education and practical ministry training. They praised God and expressed their profound gratitude for this training.

At Session 3, I had another opportunity to observe TCM's transformational training firsthand by sitting in on a portion of Rick Justice's Servant Leadership class. This is critical leadership training, applicable for both ministry and secular roles. I witnessed Dr. Justice's unique ability to combine his secular leadership experience with vast experience in ministry to equip

"...I felt blessed to have met, worshipped alongside, and prayed with so many followers of Jesus who had been impacted by TCM, many of whom work on the front lines of countries where less than 1% of the people are Evangelical Christians."



(Albanian students)

students for leading with a sacrificial servant leader style. The servant leadership approach is the most effective for making disciples and it was modeled by Jesus, the greatest servant leader of all time. The class included students from Austria, Russia, Turkey, and Belarus, who were all being transformed by this lesson on leadership, how to have the greatest lasting, even eternal impact on people.

As I boarded the plane to return to Indiana, I felt blessed to have met, worshipped alongside, and prayed with so many followers of Jesus who had been impacted by TCM, many of whom work on the front lines of countries where less than 1% of the people are Evangelical Christians. I came away with an even greater appreciation for TCM's mission and I also came away inspired and motivated to be a more effective disciple maker where God has placed me.

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TCM Summer Classes

HAUS EDELWEISS:

SESSION 5 (JULY 27-31)

- Pastoral Counseling Rick Walston
- History of Christian Theology 2 Oti Bunaciu
- Theology and Practice of Prayer Pavel Coufal
- Survey of Church History Yulia Lubenets

SESSION 6 (AUGUST 24-30)

- Christian Ethics Meego Rimmel
- Mission and the Old Testament. Jozsef Steiner
- Advanced Research and Writing J.K. Stevens
- Research Methods Nancy Olson

ONLINE:

- Research Methods Yulia Lubenets
- Intro to New Testament Studies Konstantin Nazarov
- Servant Leadership Rick Justice



IN-COUNTRY

AUGUST

Poland

- Theology and Practice of Prayer Tony Twist

Kenya

- Homiletics Jeff Snell
- Disciple Making Through the N.T. Jozsef Steiner
- Research Methods Yulia Lubenets
- Servant Leadership Myron Williams

Indianapolis

- Mission Theology Mihai Malancea
- Research Methods J.K. Stevens

Phoenix

- Research Methods J.K. Stevens

SEPTEMBER

Phoenix

- Mission Theology Mihai Malancea

Armenia

- Pastoral Ethics Meego Rimmel

Turkey

- Servant Leadership Rick Justice



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President's Outlook

As you know, TCM is growing. Our Every Nation Initiative (ENI) increasingly engages more leaders from more countries. And more continents (America and Africa). By 2027 our strategic plan is to increase student capacity by at least another 500 globally.

But ENI growth is not only about going wider. It also means going deeper. Examples of this include new student management systems, increased faculty and staff capacity, upgraded facilities, better quality assurance processes, expanding our Executive Leadership Team from four to seven by 2025, and serving better alongside our historic ministry partners.

An interesting example of this deepening comes from Poland.

On Thursday, 18 May 2023, Ken Flora, Christian Witzmann and I met with the National Council Board in Warsaw to deepen our partnership with the Polish Christian Church. The occasion for the visit was also to participate in the 100-year celebration of the Christian Church in Poland and the 60-year celebration of TCM working in Poland.

Interestingly, as Poland came into the European Union, our

churches were given by the government the same status as the Catholic Church – including the opportunity to have a seminary. However, they lacked the resources that other denominations had to establish higher educational training. Last year, we signed an agreement for TCMI Poland to reset our relationship and become their official seminary.

At our May 18 meeting we discussed our plans to expand our training in light of the opportunities now in place because of the war:

- The need to train chaplains;
- Cooperating to facilitate church planting and training among the 1.5 million Ukrainians now in Poland;
- Identifying and serving those we can among the 8 million who came through Poland to Western Europe since February 2022.

Similar opportunities for cooperative service are emerging with other long-term partners in Europe. It's awesome to see how our Father is deepening our relationships AS PART OF more effectively expanding our global outreach. He's absolutely amazing!

Soli Deo gloria!!