



VISION AND VICTORY THE TCM REPORT

WINTER 2024



Photo: Liberia class;
see page 4

2023 HIGHLIGHTED VICTORIES OF TCM

By David Wright

As each year draws to a close, TCM's staff looks back and asks, "What were the victories? At the same time, we prayerfully consider the coming year and the vision that we have been given to proceed.

A scripture we frequently quote and consider as a guide is John 15:5-8.

"I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples."

Space does not allow for every victory in 2023 to be highlighted. We are, however, grateful for each victory, small or grand. For each we give God the praise and glory!

JANUARY – DECEMBER – EVERY YEAR!

As we consider our victories of 2023, we include you, with gratitude, our partners in ministry. TCM is blessed to have individuals, couples, churches, small groups, and like-minded organizations that provide support in numerous ways. Your prayers, your financial support, your words of encouragement, your time, and talent combine to assist TCM to accomplish our vision to develop effective leaders of disciple-making movements that impact their churches, countries, and cultures for Christ. Together we are branches on THE VINE.

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FEBRUARY - MARCH 2023 – TCM ACCREDITATION REVIEW

Throughout 2022, the entire TCM staff worked together to develop our required "Accreditation Self-Study Report." That 400+ page report was submitted to The Higher Learning Commission (HLC), our accrediting body, in February 2023. That submission was followed by an intense multi-day visit by a five member HLC Peer Review Committee. This committee visited both the Indianapolis office and TCM's Haus Edelweiss campus in Austria. They met with staff, faculty, students, graduates, and Board members. The result was an incredibly positive report by the peer review team and a conclusion by the HLC that TCM is worthy of their accreditation for the next ten years! As with any accreditation received, periodic reports throughout the ten-year period will be required.

JANUARY - DECEMBER 2023 – CLASSES PROVIDED

Classes begin each year in January. Throughout 2023 more than 120 graduate level classes were delivered. TCM students access their classes through TCM's hybrid model. This model includes 80% online and 20% in person to maximize the mentorship with the class professors and the relationship with fellow students. TCM presents class retreats at Haus Edelweiss as well as 26 other mentoring centers throughout Europe, Central Asia, Turkey, Africa, and the United States. Our students come from nearly 50 nations. The HLC accreditation adds tremendous value for our students in their home countries.



JANUARY-NOVEMBER 2023 – A FULL HAUS!

The pandemic of 2020-2021 followed by the war in Ukraine, which began in February 2022, resulted in abbreviated activity at TCM's Haus Edelweiss for nearly a three-year period. Thankfully 2023 saw a return to a full schedule enjoyed by students, staff, faculty, and volunteers. From the Winter Work Crew that arrived in late January to prepare the campus for classes and a variety of events to the final team of volunteers that lovingly closed the campus in late November 2023 was indeed a blessed year at Haus Edelweiss.

MAY – JULY 2023 – TWO GRADUATION CELEBRATIONS!

The challenges presented by a pandemic followed by a war in Ukraine, prevented TCM's annual graduation celebrations scheduled for 2020-2022. We are thankful, as mentioned above, that 2023 allowed for 121 graduates from 23 countries to receive their certificates or diplomas. Due to the increased number of graduates and guests, two graduation celebrations were hosted.

In addition to the graduates receiving their diplomas, the May celebration included the commissioning of 13 TCM Organizational Chaplains. And for the first time in TCM's history the graduation speaker was a current TCM student. Jim Cousins, Associate Pastor at Christ's Church of the Valley in Peoria, Arizona and a TCM student, presented a challenging message to the graduates to open doors to disciple making.

A second celebration was hosted on July 30 at which Bart Shaw, Campus Pastor of Traders Point Christian Church in Carmel, Indiana encouraged the graduates with his message entitled "Our Prayer for You." In addition, for the first time, TCM President, Tony Twist



conferred an honorary Doctor of Divinity degree to longtime TCM ministry partner, Andrzej Bajęński of Poland.

LIVES CHANGED – 1957-2023

Only our Lord knows for sure the number of lives that have been changed through the ministry of TCM during the last 66 years. We know the number of churches planted and people baptized and discipled is well into the thousands. We look forward to sharing with you more stories and accounts of how TCM students, graduates, staff, volunteers, and faculty have impacted their families, communities, and cultures with the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Let each of us remain in Him as solid branches attached to His Vine.

HIGHLIGHTS AT A GLANCE...

- TEN-YEAR ACCREDITATION APPROVED THROUGH THE HIGHER LEARNING COMMISSION
- MORE THAN 120 GRADUATE-LEVEL CLASSES DELIVERED THROUGH A HYBRID MODEL
- STUDENTS ENROLLED FROM NEARLY 50 NATIONS
- RENEWED ACTIVITY AT HAUS EDELWEISS AFTER THE PANDEMIC AND WAR IN UKRAINE
- 2 GRADUATION CELEBRATIONS HOSTED FOR 121 GRADUATES FROM 23 COUNTRIES

GOOD AND PERFECT GIFTS FROM ABOVE

By Megan Herring

“Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change” (James 1:17 ESV).

In a world that is constantly changing, it comforts us that our heavenly Father, who is light in this dark world, does not change. He continues to fulfill His promises faithfully and provide for His people. TCM’s ministry is possible because of the generous support of our individual and church donors. Each gift given to TCM is good and a blessing from above.

2023 held several unanticipated good gifts for TCM – gifts received as the result of commitments made by donors in their Wills or Trusts to give a portion of their estate assets to TCM. Our heavenly Father controls the timing of these gifts, and each gift is a testimony of the faith our donors place in this ministry. Thank you to Robert, Elizabeth, Phyllis, Mary,

Jon, Pat, and others who made provision for TCM in their estate plans, trusting our Father to send the gift in His perfect time.

2023 also held several other welcome gifts – notifications by donors that they are including TCM in their estate plan. We are honored and humbled every time we learn of these commitments. We trust our Father in heaven to send these gifts in the future in His perfect time.

As we look forward to 2024, will you consider letting our heavenly Father use you to provide a “good and perfect gift from above”? Will you give generously to TCM now? And will you consider including a future gift to TCM through your estate plan?

For more information, please contact Megan Herring at megan@tcmi.org or visit <https://tcmi.legacywill.org>.

LIBERIA: LAUNCHING TCM'S NEWEST MENTORING CENTER

By Tom Sears

Looking back at the victories in 2023, one of my personal highlights is the opening of TCM's newest mentoring center – Liberia, West Africa. For those not super familiar with Liberia, it is a small country at southwestern tip of West Africa. Liberia is one of only two countries that was never colonized by European powers. In the early 1800s, the United States established a resettlement program for freed slaves who chose to establish a new life back on the African continent. Then in 1847, Liberia declared itself an independent nation with the support of the United States. This makes Liberia Africa's first and oldest modern republic. Considering this history, it is not surprising to see the resemblance in the Liberian flag with the American flag or to consider that the capital city, Monrovia, was named after U.S. president, James Monroe.

Since that time, the people of Liberia have undergone more than their fair share of suffering – stricken by two civil wars, Ebola, and other crippling hardships, the country has been left with almost an entire generation without much (or any) formal education. But there are faithful Christians in the country that are answering the need for



nationally-led schools and colleges to raise godly leaders for a brighter future. Project Liberia is one of those organizations. Project Liberia is a Christian non-profit whose mission is to come along side the Liberian nationals and educate them to be evangelists, pastors, teachers, and to build healthy thriving churches. About three years ago, the leadership of Project Liberia approached TCM to partner with them to help provide education for the top-tier Christian leaders in their country to help accomplish their mission. Similar to many other organizations in the country, one of their biggest challenges is how to train their national leaders. After a lot of prayer, research, and preparation, in 2023 TCM officially launched its Master's Degree program in the country toward reaching this goal.

Project Liberia quickly began spreading the word around the country leading to our first challenge. We had too many students! The hunger for TCM's niche in higher education focused on prayerful, faithful disciple making was becoming quickly apparent. Out of the 40 students who were admitted,

we were able to start with 20 right away and then launch a second cohort of the second 20 students in January of 2024. You will see pictures in this report of the first face-to-face session that occurred in Monrovia, Liberia in October 2023.

Similar to other TCM mentoring centers around the globe, these groups of students come from a variety of backgrounds, represent several national denominations, are a variety of ages, are male and female, and are involved with many forms of creative ministry and church work across the country. Only a handful are directly



connected with Project Liberia while the others are Bible college professors, pastors in rural areas, and some who serve in other forms of Christian leadership.

I could go on and on about how TCM is now meeting specific needs for the local church and Christian educational institutions in Liberia (and I probably will in future reports). But for now, I want you to hear from some of the students themselves. They understand that it is only through your support that TCM was able to provide this opportunity. Here are a few excerpts from several thank you letters these Liberian students have written to TCM and to you, TCM's financial supporters.

Top photo: Zach with student
Bottom photo: John (in the green)

Greetings, my name is Billy. My family and I have dedicated our lives to serving God and spreading His Word through our ministry. We strongly believe in the transformative power of education, which is why I have chosen to pursue a teaching career alongside my ministry work. As a full-time teacher, I have the privilege of shaping young minds and helping them navigate through life's challenges while instilling important values rooted in faith.

The TCM program is an absolute blessing in my life. It provides a platform for individuals like me to deepen our theological knowledge, grow spiritually, and enhance our ability to bring God's Word to those we serve. This dynamic learning experience allows us to broaden our understanding of scripture, theology, and ministry, ultimately equipping us to make a greater impact for the Kingdom of God.

We thank you from the bottom of our hearts. Your selfless act of giving is inspiring and empowering to many, and for that, I am truly grateful!

-Billy

Dear TCM Partners,

I and my beloved wife Emma have been praying for an opportunity for me to continue my education, not just in the practical aspects of ministry, but also in the spiritual disciplines. I have been doing ministry with Christ, but this TCM program has provided a lot that I am gaining right now to do ministry differently, especially in the methods of disciple making. This is important for my life, for my family, and for my church in Liberia.

I have been in ministry delegating responsibilities to members over the years, but I now have an idea of mentoring others who I believe God might use to bring in more functional, spirit-filled members who would use their various God-given gifts for Christ. I am convinced that serving God has nothing to do with positions or titles but to be with Jesus by the renewing of my ministry. I am therefore convinced that I have not been fully performing my task as Senior Pastor without fully participating. However, thank God, I now have the second chance through TCM for spiritual advancement. I see this because of the intentional mentors from TCM who are willing to do holistic ministry in a cross-cultural context with us. May God continue to bless us.

-John



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Pat Bonner
Jim Conner
Jim Conner
Jim Conner
Raymond Larry Dillon
Raymond Larry Dillon
Raymond Larry Dillon
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WINTER 2024 | INDIANAPOLIS, IN



PRESIDENT'S OUTLOOK

Do you see Him?

Often in the quiet ways He works. The pandemic forced us to "up our game" online. War recalibrated us to serve

Often in the quiet ways He works. The pandemic forced us to "up our game" online. War recalibrated us to serve in different ways. AI and global changes forced us to embrace new systems to train, help, make disciples, and connect.

We saw Him as we celebrated another ten-year reaffirmation of HLC accreditation. Two "catch up" graduations at Haus Edelweiss. A new cohort in Liberia. Deeper "diaspora driven" partnership and connections in Poland, the commissioning of our first thirteen Organizational Chaplains, and the way PrayerFast is putting wind in our sails.

I see Him from the mast, scanning the horizon, as His wind advances us forward. I see His hand at work among all of

us who pray, serve, give, and love as we move this mission forward together.

He has positioned us to sail farther, carry more cargo, take on more passengers, add more crew, and increase our capacity while moving faster than ever before. The "over and above" Every Nation Initiative need?

Six million dollars. For more and better student services, academic services, ministry services, IT growth and upgrades. All to train additional leaders who will baptize and disciple others, plant churches, and minister to those in need. Leaders of churches, ministries, organizations, and educational institutions impacting their churches, cultures, and countries for Christ.

This will be the largest fundraising effort in TCM's history. But we have seen Him position us in the past. And always He has provided.

Let's look forward to seeing Him do it again!

Soli Deo gloria,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tony". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.