

TCM REPORT

SUMMER 2021



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Pg 2 - The Blessing of PrayerFast

Pg 3 - Welcome Nancy Olson

Pg 3 - Academic Update

Pg 4 - Serving Like Jesus Onshore and Offshore

Pg 5 - Prayerful Renovation

Back Cover - President's Outlook





THE BLESSING OF PRAYERFAST

By David Wright

Throughout the world the consequences of COVID-19 will likely be seen or felt for a long time. Some of those consequences have been tragic, others have brought blessings. Let's focus on a specific blessing.

Through TCM's 64 years of ministry, we have had hundreds (if not thousands) of opportunities to gather with our students, faculty, staff, supporting churches, and individuals. We have hosted events at which hundreds gathered to pray and learn of the work being done throughout the world for the Lord through TCM. Due to COVID-19 concerns, those occasions to gather were not possible during the last 18 months. But a blessing came as a result. TCM developed a virtual gathering place we called PrayerFast. This was truly for prayer and teaching about the importance of praying and fasting in one's spiritual life. It was not intended as a fundraising event but simply to bring people together to pray for the Church and for TCM's role in the body of Christ.

Planning and preparation for PrayerFast 2020 was intense. But the results have been such a blessing. More than 500 individuals from 34 nations gathered for this virtual event. The term "virtual table" became a part of our vernacular. A "virtual table" is when one or two people host their friends or colleagues located in separate online spaces within the TCM PrayerFast digital platform. Fifty people served as virtual table hosts for our first event. And that was our prayer goal!

We have heard from people around the world. They have asked, "Will you have a PrayerFast event in 2021?" Our answer: "Yes!" PrayerFast 2021 will take place on November 13, 2021, 10:00 a.m. – Noon EST. It will once again be an international virtual event. Our goal is to have at least 1,000 people gather to pray for the Kingdom of God.

People are inspired by Jesus' example of prayer and fasting. It is TCM's desire that each of us does the same. With that in mind, we invite you to join TCM President Tony Twist as he hosts TCM's Great Commission partners from around the world, as well as Christian leaders from across the United States.

Are you interested in serving as a table host? We would love to have you. This year many will invite people into their homes, churches, and offices to join PrayerFast with one computer. However, virtual table hosting will still be needed and welcomed. We will provide training for table hosts in October.

If you are interested in hosting a table, contact Megan Herring at megan@tcmi.org. If you have questions about PrayerFast, feel free to contact me at david@tcmi.org.



ARE YOU IN THE CENTRAL INDIANA AREA?

You are invited to join TCM President Tony Twist, David Wright, and Jordan Scheetz for an in-person PrayerFast Gathering.

The Creek, Shelby Street Campus
8435 Shelby St, Indianapolis, IN 46227

Saturday, August 21, 2021
9 a.m. – Noon

RSVP to Megan Herring at megan@tcmi.org

During our time together, we will focus on following Jesus through Fasting and Prayer.

— This PrayerFast gathering is a free event —

WELCOME, NANCY OLSON!



by Rick Justice

As TCM continues to advance its global mission, I am pleased to announce that Nancy Olson has joined TCM as the Director of Library Services. Nancy announced her retirement from Lincoln Christian University as of May 31, 2021, where she was named

Director of Library Services Emerita. She served the University for 33 years.

For TCM, Nancy will work part time primarily from her home in Lincoln, Illinois and will be responsible for planning, assessment, accreditation, faculty collaboration, and other information services activities. Nancy will direct work at the physical libraries located at Haus Edelweiss with Oksana Puzynina who is the Information Services Librarian, and at the Indianapolis library. In addition, Nancy will continue the journey of creating a robust virtual library that is necessary in today's electronic world.

Nancy is no stranger to TCM. She is an adjunct faculty member and has taught classes for TCM since 2008. She has most recently served as library consultant for TCM.

Her Master of Divinity degree was earned from Lincoln Christian Seminary and her Master of Science in Librarianship was earned from Western Michigan University. She has published on topics that are dear to the faculty and students of TCM and was awarded the prestigious Emily Russel Award for outstanding contribution to Christian librarianship and the Association of Christian Librarians.

Nancy developed a strategic plan for library improvements entitled: "'We are here for you!' Becoming a Robust Virtual Library."

Welcome, Nancy. We are glad you are here!



ACADEMIC UPDATE

by Rick Justice

The world continues to respond to the global pandemic in various ways. TCM made the decision to go with 100% distance delivery of courses when it wasn't safe to travel, but to continue to use the combination of face-to-face and online approach if it were safe and convenient to travel.

Because of the complexity of international requirements from many governments, the Executive Leadership Team recently made the decision to complete the 2021 calendar year as follows. All courses that have been scheduled for Haus Edelweiss have been moved to 100% online. In-country courses where it is safe to travel

will continue to have a hybrid approach with a combination of online and face-to-face classes. The graduation celebration that was scheduled for August is now being planned for the spring of 2022.

As we approach the mid-point in our academic year, the class schedule for 2021 is progressing well. At this point, we are on target for delivering more courses this year than last year. Of the 146 courses scheduled for 2021, 98 have started or have completed the online portion of the course. We are especially pleased that of the 51 classes that have been completed, 15 were able to include a face-to-face element. To date, 14 classes have been removed from the schedule due to various reasons related to scheduling and logistics.



SERVING LIKE JESUS “ONSHORE” AND “OFFSHORE”

by Thomas Sears

Let me introduce to you my friend Giorgi. Giorgi is a TCM student from the country of Georgia. (The Georgia located just east of the Black Sea, not the one just east of Alabama.) Giorgi’s life looks different from most because six months of the year he lives on an oil cargo ship working for a large maritime shipping company. This is how Giorgi supports himself financially. But to him, his time on the ship is far more than a job.

Starting as a ship cadet, Giorgi quickly discovered that the concept of servant leadership goes a long way in a work environment where people are prideful and where everything is arranged by rank. In one of my recent conversations with Giorgi, he said, “What people really need is to see Jesus’ character in you. When you are humble, kind, and genuinely love others, it is not long at all before people start saying, ‘There’s something different about you.’ That is my opportunity to share the gospel with them. Living on a ship for so long makes people question the meaning of life. They get to a place mentally and emotionally where their hearts are very open and are searching for meaning. Many of them turn to alcohol abuse and depression. But I know there is another way. I often get asked many difficult questions, and TCM has helped equip me to answer those questions and to become a man who is always growing and maturing in my faith.”

Giorgi’s shipmates were not the only ones who noticed something different about him. Giorgi received several promotions from his superiors and now serves as a Captain’s Mate navigating the ship and oversees all the official paperwork for the cargo and crewmembers on board. In the little spare time he has, Giorgi

leads a Bible study on the ship, and when his company decided to do a mental health program for the crewmembers on the ship, the captain said to Giorgi, “You’re a good person. You seem very mentally healthy. Why don’t you lead this program!” This is just another example of how God continues to give Giorgi a variety of unique opportunities to share the love of Christ with his shipmates that over the course of six months become like family to him.

An added benefit to working half of the year on a ship is that he can return home and spend the other half of the year with his family, friends, and church. In the past, Giorgi has filled a lot of his time onshore organizing and leading youth events at his church. But in 2021, when his pastor had to step down due to strenuous life circumstances, Giorgi filled his place by leading the church and preaching every Sunday. Giorgi states, “Because of TCM, I felt equipped to step up and serve in this role for my church.”

The concept of servant leadership not only seems to define his outward actions, but it has shaped his heart and inward attitude as well. When asked about the large amount of influence he now has “onshore” and “offshore,” Giorgi states, “I think of myself as an ordinary leader who just wants to serve God.”

Will you please pray for Giorgi’s life and ministry? Will you also please consider sponsoring a student like Giorgi by giving a financial gift to TCM designated as “Student Scholarships”? Each year, men and women like Giorgi come to TCM with unique and powerful ministry opportunities. Our hope is to equip them to share the gospel using the Jesus-style leadership wherever they go “onshore” or “offshore.” Thank you.



PRAYERFUL RENOVATION

By David Wright

Since its purchase by TCM in 1972, Haus Edelweiss has often been referred to as a house of prayer. Now, the oldest building on the campus of TCM's Haus Edelweiss in Austria is being remodeled and repurposed. Formerly used as a small residence, TCM's Gate Haus will become a prayer chapel and will be known as the Gate Haus of Prayer. TCM has been blessed with several financial gifts to make this transformation possible. The preparation and demolition portion of the effort was done by our TCM Team in Austria. The heavy lifting was led by Therese Witzmann, wife of TCM Vice President Christian Witzmann. Her volunteer efforts and her keen eye for interior and exterior design have been a blessing on this and other projects on the Haus Edelweiss campus. The rest of the team includes Facilities Coordinator, Slava Toma; Guest Services Assistant Coordinator, Jacob Paul Jones; IT Director, Mihai Bojonca; and Haus Edelweiss Office Manager and Campus Pastor, Chad Dillon. The work related to the building's infrastructure (electrical, plumbing, heating, etc.) is being completed by Austrian building contractors with whom TCM has had good experience.

On June 23 four experienced volunteers, Larry Ritter, Brian Gioe, Kim Beckwith, and Jim White, arrived to provide additional renovation help. They worked on the Gate Haus renovation and several other projects while at Haus Edelweiss.

Thanks to all who have supported this effort with their financial gifts, prayers, and talents! We look forward to this special place and the blessings that will come from prayer and meditation taking place there.





TCMII CLASSES: Summer

IN-COUNTRY

July

Small Groups Ministry

David Roadcup,
Bulgaria

Hermeneutics

Jordan Scheetz,
Moldova

Session 5 – Austria Online

Introduction to Old Testament Studies

Jordan Scheetz

New Testament Theology

Dumitru Sevastian

Principles of Christian Teaching

Myron Williams

August

Theology and Practice of Prayer

Tony Twist, Ukraine

Servant Leadership

Myron Williams,
Kenya

Hermeneutics

Konstantin Nazarov,
Kenya

Introduction to New Testament Studies

Dumitru Sevastian,
Armenia

Transforming Leadership

Timotei Rusu,
Ukraine

Session 6 – Online

History of Christian Theology 2

Oti Bunaciu

Introduction to New Testament Studies

Fred Hansen

Theology and Practice of Worship

Dennis Martin

Research Methods

Andrey Puzynin

September

Hermeneutics

George Bristow,
Turkey

Servant Leadership

Rick Justice, Russia

Disciple Making

Jozsef Steiner,
Hungary

Mission Theology

Mihai Malancea,
Czech Republic

History of Christian Theology 1

Sorin Badragan,
Latvia

Leadership and Development in Ministry

Jozsef Steiner,
Hungary

Introduction to Christian Education

Myron Williams,
Ukraine

Introduction to Pastoral Counseling

Rick Walston,
Belarus

Session 7 – Online

Christian Ethics

Meego Rimmel

Theology and Practice of Worship

John Sarno

Introduction to Pastoral Counseling

Rick Walston

*Practical Ministry Seminar:
Creativity and Digital Leadership*

Myron Williams

ONLINE

Hebrew 2

Sara Fudge

Systematic Theology

Jozsef Kovacs

Small Groups Ministry

Timotei Rusu

U.S. COHORTS

Mission Theology

Jozsef Steiner
Indianapolis

Research Methods

J.K. Stevens
Indianapolis

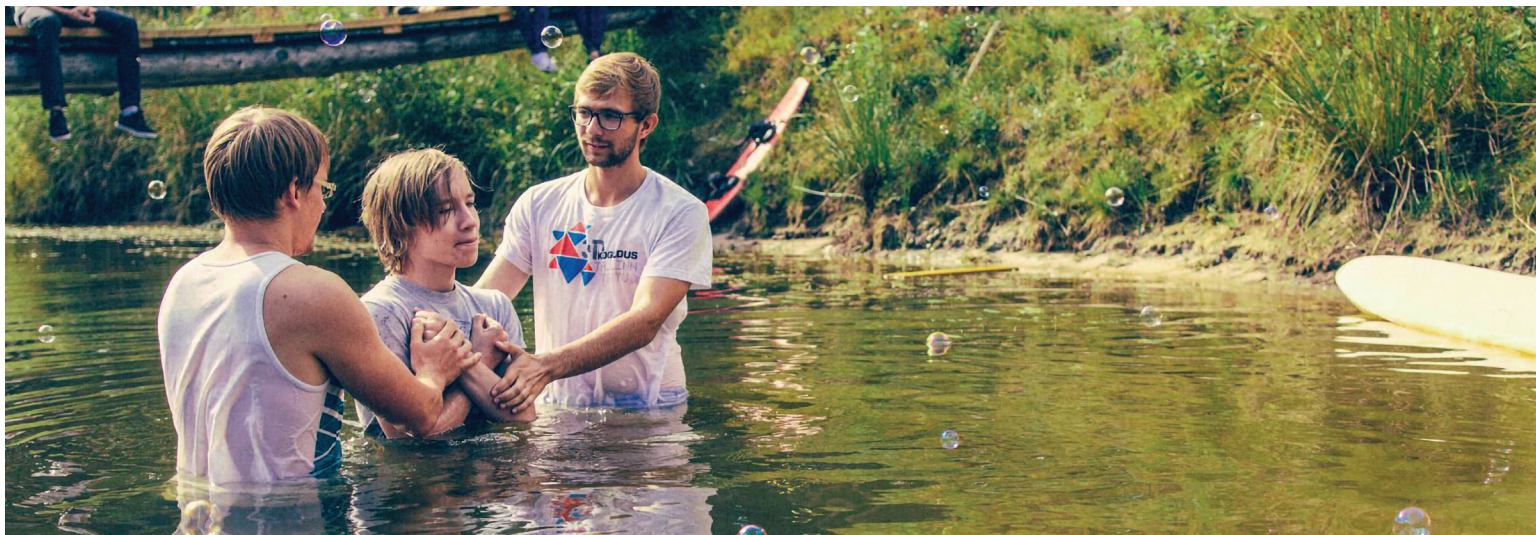
Servant Leadership

Rick Justice
Arizona

Research Methods

J.K. Stevens
Arizona





COMMEMORATIVE GIVING

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Milbra Brady
Milbra Brady
Miriam Butler
Martha Jean Cartier
Gary Flowers
Gary Flowers
Gary Flowers
Shona Rene Jones
Shona Rene Jones
Shona Rene Jones
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Gary and Cathy Taylor

EUROPEAN EVANGELISTIC SOCIETY

In Memory Of:

Jerry Rudberg

Donor:

Dennis and Karen Lindsay



PLANNED GIVING

by Megan Herring

The TCM Vision of Faith Community exists to recognize those who commit to Equipping Future Disciple-Making Leaders.

We invite you to join the Vision of Faith Community, investing in the future of disciple-making leadership by including TCM in your estate plan. Your planned gift will help ensure that TCM can equip the next generation of Christian leaders to be effective disciple makers who impact their churches, cultures, and countries for Christ.

Contact Megan Herring at megan@tcmi.org for more information.



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A current financial report or a full audit report is available upon request.



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PRESIDENT'S OUTLOOK

Tony Twist

This spring I returned to Haus Edelweiss. Vaccination plus "brain swab" plus masks and then quarantine. My time away from Austria felt much longer than 15 months. The buildings

and grounds were the same. The Stift Heiligenkreuz, staff, and surroundings were familiar. But there was a difference.

It was us. We had been pruned in various ways. Some had lost family members. Others struggled with visa issues. Personal and/or family COVID issues had attacked half of us. Other ailments surfaced among us as well.

Looking back, we see that the ministry has in fact expanded. But everything has been recalibrated into a "new normal." Better "high tech" was accompanied by less "high touch." The same computers that allowed us to travel the world did not allow community in the same way. We missed handheld prayers, joyful hellos, back slapping stories, and goodbye hugs. We missed experiencing His love for us together at the Haus.

But the ministry accelerated. With the pruning and new learning also came advancement of the mission and vision. For example, excess capacity was channeled into the PrayerFast Movement. The new normal includes significantly more private and corporate prayer time. This deeper reliance upon God has already brought fruit in ways we had not anticipated. Such as His abundant provision for TCM, including the opening of new online cohorts in Kenya and the U.S., and no classes cancelled directly due to a pandemic.

"And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose" (Romans 8:28 NIV).

My post-pandemic trip to Haus Edelweiss reminded me again of just how true this verse remains. So moving forward, we will continue loving and serving Him. And then continue to discover how He is working. Even through a pandemic.

Yours in Him,

Tony