



TCM
INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE



EXPLORE

TCM Report

Fall 2019



*30 Years After the Fall of the
Berlin Wall. - p. 2*

FROM EXPLORATION TO ENGAGEMENT

by David Wright,
Vice President of Ministry Services

Next month will mark the 30th anniversary of the opening up of the Berlin Wall and the symbolic “Iron Curtain.” The memory of the Iron Curtain is vivid in the minds of thousands of people of Eastern Europe, many of whom are affiliated with TCM.

When the Berlin Wall was constructed in August of 1961 the mission of TCM was headquartered in Toronto and planting churches throughout the Province of Ontario. It was within those churches that TCM leaders began to meet men and women from Eastern Europe who had fled to Canada to escape the persecution they experienced because of their Christian faith. As relationships developed between the TCM church plant leaders and the immigrants, interest in providing assistance to the Christian brothers and sisters that remained in Eastern Europe grew.

Gene Dulin, TCM’s founder and first president, made a trip to the USSR along with Russian immigrant John Huk to visit the underground churches that existed through the various states of the USSR. That trip of exploration began the efforts to serve the men and women of Eastern Europe through the provision of Bibles and other Christian books printed in their native languages, as well as food, clothing, and medicine. All that was provided was covered in diligent prayer.

Time marched, prayer and fasting continued, and the USSR borders with its sections of walls, barbed wire, and land mines remained. Darkness seemed to deepen over these nations where three or four generations of people were told by their leaders that God did not exist. But in such darkness, the Light of the World did shine brightly among a dedicated remnant.

The oppressed began to rise up. Evidence of that began in Hungary in August 1989, when the border between Sopron, Hungary and St. Margarethen, Austria was opened, and

hundreds began to cross into the west! Though unpublicized, thousands daily were fleeing to freedom.

Then on November 9, 1989 the East German leaders announced that all rules and limitations on traveling between the east and the west were lifted. Families once divided by such barriers were once again able to unite. Other borders followed suit and were opened. TCM served those in the east the entire time. In doing so, TCM established trust with the Christian leaders and people that remained faithful to God’s call on their lives.

We are grateful for this heritage. We pray we stay true to it. We pray we continue to remain faithful in seeking God’s plan, His call for where he would have TCM serve is where we want to be. Exploration of other opportunities has allowed TCM to expand its ministry into 46 countries. Most recently we have seen 32 Kenyans enrolled in TCM’s first cohort there. The professor for their Discipleship Class is Dr. Jozsef Steiner, a TCM graduate from Hungary. Jozsef’s role is an example of God’s affirmation of TCM’s ministry engagement in Eastern Europe that will have a worldwide effect.

Will you please pray for TCM? Join us as we give thanks for the opportunities opened to us in 46 countries. Please also pray as we continue to explore and engage other opportunities to expand our equipping of Godly leaders in countries such as Albania, Sierra Leone, India, and the United States.

“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age” (Matthew 29:19-20).



To commemorate the first fissure in the “Iron Curtain,” an historic “fence-cutting” ceremony took place at the Sopron, Hungary border crossing on June 27, 2019. It was at this location where Hungarian authorities opened a small portion of the USSR border, known as the “Iron Curtain,” for thousands of Eastern Europeans to cross into freedom in the summer of 1989.

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SPOTLIGHT ON STUDENTS

by Debbie Poer
Director of International Services

VLADIMIR

On the local level Vladimir has served as the pastor of his church for 15 years. On the national level he serves on the mission committee of his brotherhood of churches, training church planters. He also serves on the leadership team of the Czech Evangelical Alliance.

The vision of the church where he is pastor is to see the surrounding towns have vibrant and gospel sharing churches. As a result, they have planted several daughter churches. Actively involved in evangelism and discipleship, they organize Exploring Christianity courses, children's camps and English camps, and they minister to recovering alcoholics, deaf people, children from detention centers, and local youth.



For Vladimir, TCM offers a practical focus to ministry. He has the chance to concentrate on solving real-life problems of church life and ministry. He is able to connect the courses with his own ministry experiences, combining theology and practical application. As his church grows, he is better able to lead and build up other leaders.

In his personal life his TCM courses force him to go deeper in his study of theological disciplines and in this way widen his perspectives. Even after 15 years of preaching and teaching he realizes that without a deeper knowledge of God and His Word, he would not be as effective in sharing the gospel. In addition, he can better defend his Christian convictions. Because his church is focused on evangelizing, he has many opportunities to answer questions from non-believers. His TCM studies help him know how to give good and informed responses.

"I am thankful for TCM! I am challenged! I am a better leader and disciple maker."

VLAD

Vlad was 19. It was night and he was sleeping when he heard God calling to him in a dream. He awoke the next morning, knowing that if he did not stop living his current lifestyle his life would be finished. That day he began his walk with Jesus and within a year had read through the Bible.

Today Vlad serves as a missionary, traveling throughout Moldova, participating in evangelistic programs and visiting orphanages and hospitals. One of the goals his group, "The Messengers of the Gospel," has achieved is visiting 450 churches in Moldova. In 2016 he began serving as the Moldovan director of an organization whose mission is to add relational value to global communities through mentoring, resourcing, and nurturing. As part of that organization Vlad travels each year to over 15 countries, helping bring hope to many communities.

When asked which TCM class or classes have impacted his life and ministry, he responded, "All of them!" Vlad asked that we pray for safety for his team as they share the Gospel in Muslim countries.

TOMASS

My name is Tomass. I was born and raised in Riga, Latvia. I still live here with my wife Jolanta and our three-year-old son Eliot.

I'm part of a local church called "Mājvieta" where I serve on the board as well as oversee the missional community ministry. We believe that the church should have smaller communities that live out their Gospel identity on a daily basis. By doing that we also have the opportunities to reach out to our friends, family, neighbors, co-workers, and other people around us.

Right now, we will be concentrating on training new leaders so that they can lead their own missional communities. Our dream is that every district of Riga will have a community that is a blessing to the people living around them.



TCM is not only a great source of knowledge and wisdom it is also a place for me to learn humility and servanthood. Sure, the courses are really useful for everyday life and ministry but what impacted me the most are the people that both work and serve at TCM. When I first went to Austria, I met the volunteers from U.S. that have traveled at their own expense just to serve the students there. Now that is very Christlike and inspires me to do the same for other people. Additionally, the professors are always ready to answer any questions that the students have, take genuine interest in their lives, and usually one of the first people to do the dishes in the kitchen! That is some next-level servanthood that I can learn from and hopefully one day be as loving and caring as they are.



THE GREAT COMMISSION EXPERIENCE

TCM wants to have a long-term impact on the next generation of Christian leaders across the globe. One of the ways we do this is by selecting top-tier juniors and seniors in high school from TCM partner churches, and providing them with an opportunity to experience the Great Commission in a practical way. On June 22 nine students from seven churches across six states flew to Tallinn, Estonia for TCM's third Great Commission Experience youth trip. After spending time with TCM graduates and their church in Estonia, the group flew to Haus Edelweiss where they each encountered the Global church in a unique and meaningful way.

Once the experience came to an end, the students wrote 12-page reflection papers on how the trip impacted their lives. Here are some excerpts from their reflections.



TCM'S THIRD GREAT COMMISSION EXPERIENCE YOUTH TRIP

By Tom Sears
Director of Global Ourteach

"I felt the Lord's pull to surrender during this trip. I was a little nervous because I knew I would encounter other languages. But I felt the Lord's pull throughout the trip, and I even got to learn a bit of some of the languages too! So I decided to just surrender myself and let God move through me even though I wasn't in my comfort zone. I was so happy that I did because it was both a new experience and one that I don't know if I'll ever get again."

— *Elijah*



"For the church service at Haus Edelweiss, we worshipped in about eight different languages. One of the girls on the trip said, 'The church services were a sneak peek of what heaven will be like.' It was wonderful to worship with all of them."

— *Heidi*





“I realized that God was calling me to do more than evangelize to people, but to disciple them and grow with them. I am working on becoming a disciple maker in my college with people who seem stuck in their faith. God is faithful to those who are faithful to Him, and He has continued to show how faithful He is to me in the months after I returned from the trip.” — *Grant*

“Proverbs 4:7 says, ‘The beginning of wisdom is this: Get wisdom. Though it cost all you have, get understanding.’ If I were to sum up the biggest takeaway from this trip, it would be this verse. My experience with TCM and generally with the global church has undeniably changed, enriched, and enlightened my worldview and my knowledge of the Kingdom, and I am grateful that I was allowed to see more of what God is doing in all of our lives.” — *Emma*



“The disciplines lesson taught me that I cannot go on ignoring different parts of what Jesus tells us to do just because they are hard. I will never be an effective disciple maker until I figure out how to feed myself.” — *Sarah*

“Robert Coleman says, ‘Jesus never asked anyone to do something which He was unwilling to do.’ If we want to tell others to serve, we must do so ourselves. If we tell people they should go and follow the instruction found in the Great Commission, we must also be willing to go. Servant leadership means being ready to take charge in any situation. It means jumping at the prompting of Christ, not timidly waiting on someone else to get the job done.” — *Abby*



“I learned through this experience that missions happen everywhere. I am entering into this year of school ready to make a difference in my community. High school will be the largest mission field that I’ll ever be a part of, and I don’t intend to waste it.” — *Ericka*

Since its creation, many donors connected with this experience have contributed to the “Great Commission Experience Endowment.” This endowment is designed to give the Great Commission Experience students an opportunity to give back to the TCM disciple makers who made an impact on their lives while in Europe. As Jesus said, it is more blessed to give than to receive. This endowment will create an opportunity for the students each year to make a global impact that lasts far beyond the blessing they received during the Great Commission Experience trip.

If you want more information about the Great Commission Experience Endowment, or more information about how your church can get involved sending students, please contact Tom Sears at tom@tcmi.org.



UPCOMING EVENTS

November 6, 2019



RENEW Gathering 2019
and
Prayer and Fasting Celebration –
hosted by Tony Twist (with Shodankeh Johnson)
Franklin, Tennessee – Nashville area
www.renew.org/2019gathering

November 7-8, 2019



NATIONAL DISCIPLE MAKING FORUM

Brentwood, Tennessee – Nashville area
www.discipleship.org/kingjesus



November 14-17, 2019

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON MISSIONS

Kansas City, Missouri
Visit TCM at Booth 1327
and

TCM/EES WALKER LECTURE BREAKFAST

November 15, 2019

With guest speaker – Mark Moore,
TCM adjunct faculty, author, and teaching pastor at
Christ's Church of the Valley, Peoria, Arizona

No cost, Reservations required – debbie.poer@tcmi.org

AS SEASONS CHANGE . . .

For more than 20 years Flat Rock Christian Church, Flat Rock, Indiana has been instrumental in coordinating TCM's used clothing ministry. We are grateful to Flat Rock Christian Church for the use of their facility and to Don and Janet Bush and others for their tireless leadership in organizing that ministry. Thanks also goes to the many volunteers from Flat Rock Christian Church and the hundreds more who have volunteered to help sort clothes, pack boxes, and load shipping containers. During Flat Rock's years of serving in this way they have sorted and packed enough clothing to send 20 shipping containers to various locations for use by TCM students and graduates in their ministries.

But as the Seasons change from summer to fall, so does TCM's clothing ministry change.

Beginning October 1, 2019 Flat Rock Christian Church will no longer be serving as TCM's clothing ministry processing center.

**AS OF OCTOBER 1, 2019,
FLAT ROCK CHRISTIAN CHURCH AND TCM'S OFFICE IN INDIANAPOLIS
WILL NO LONGER BE ABLE TO ACCEPT USED CLOTHING.**

Thank you to the many, many people, organizations, and churches who have provided the good used clothing for use in this ministry.

COMMEMORATIVE GIVING

In Memory Of:

Howard Dobbs
Gene and Lenora Dulin
Ken Helm
Jimmie Hodges
Dwight Olson
Henry Webb
Susan Willcox

Donor:

Leland and Janet Ashford
Leland and Janet Ashford
Jinnie Helm
Lois Hodges
Jim and Glenda Buckley
Delano and Winifred Schanie
Dolores McFarland

In Recognition Of:

Carolyn Dobbs
Joan Walters

Donor:

Leland and Janet Ashford
PEO Sisterhood Chapter HJ

TCMII CLASSES

In-Country

November

Mission Theology
Introduction to the New Testament
Worldviews and Religion
Intro to New Testament Studies

Servant Leadership
The Missional Church
History of Christian Theology 2
Homiletics

Jozsef Steiner, Latvia
Sevastain Dumitru, Georgia
Mihai Malancea, Hungary
Konstantin Nazarov,
Central Asia
Myron Williams, Moldova
Zhenia Siniy, Russia
Sorin Badragan, Russia
Leonid Mikhovich, Ukraine

December

History of Christian Theology
The Missional Church
Discipleship
Biblical Theology of Religion

Haus Edelweiss

Missional Theology
Research Methods
Advanced Homiletics
Intercultural Studies
Servant Leadership

Sorin Badragan, Bulgaria
Zhenia Siniy, Central Asia
Jozsef Steiner, Kenya
George Bristow, Turkey

Jozsef Steiner
Andrey Puzynin
Leonid Mikhovich
Mihai Malancea
Myron Williams

END-OF-YEAR GIVING

The leaves are changing, the weather is getting cooler in much of the nation, pumpkin spice is the flavor for everything, and Christmas stuff pervades the stores. As 2019 winds down, we say THANK YOU for all your prayer, volunteer, and financial support of TCM. Because of your prayers, your time, and your financial gifts, God has used TCM to impact the world through our students and graduates in many ways. We know many of you consider additional giving at year end so as you consider your end-of-year giving, here are a few different ways to give.

- Cash
- Gift of Appreciated Securities (stocks, bonds, mutual funds, closely held stock) - This is particularly helpful in avoiding capital gains tax on the sale of securities with a low basis.
- Qualified Charitable IRA Gift - This is particularly helpful to those over 70 ½ who do not need their entire RMD for 2019.
- Real Estate
- Personal Property and other Income Producing Interests
- Charitable Gift Annuity – This is particularly helpful to those who wish to give a larger amount but would like to receive an income stream in the years ahead.

For more information about end-of-year giving, please contact Megan Herring at megan@tcmi.org or 317-299-0333.



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RE-DEDICATION TO THE LORD

In 1890, the original owners of Haus Edelweiss painted above the front door “We, Anton and Irene Spanner always trusted in our Lord, and therefore we built this house under



the holy cross.” Over time, the painting had faded and was covered over with plaster. Upon discovery of these original words, TCM engaged Franz Hobl and Raphaela Krisits, who worked for several months to restore the dedication to its original appearance.

On August 25, we held a celebration to unveil the restored dedication, attended by short-term workers, faculty, staff, and special guests. Among the special guests were the mayor of Heiligenkreuz, members of the evangelical church

in Baden, and representatives from Stift Heiligenkreuz including the Abbott.

The event was a time for grateful remembrance and re-dedication. We did not simply restore a piece of history. Instead, we looked back, gratefully remembering and celebrating what God has done through Haus Edelweiss and TCM over our 62-year history. We gratefully remembered and acknowledged the importance of community, teamwork, and relationships in fulfilling the work God has given TCM.

As we move forward to fulfill our mission and vision, it was a wonderful occasion to remember that Haus Edelweiss remains built upon trust in our Lord and His Holy Cross.

Tony

Tony



President,
TCM International Institute