



TCM

INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE

EXPAND

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ADJUSTING IN THE MIDST OF CRISIS

by David Wright

Many of you likely have received our message that the early sessions at Haus Edelweiss will need to be completed through distance delivery, as students, faculty, volunteers, and staff cannot gather in large numbers from various nations at this time. But the education and equipping will continue through various distance education methods. Not one class is canceled. For this we praise God. And we thank you for your prayers and support.



The news and social media outlets continue to be filled with the latest concerns brought about by the COVID-19 coronavirus. I hope that even though life now seems significantly different, we are all moving forward with our lives. We each have had to adjust.

Whether those adjustments include becoming a temporary home-school teacher for the better part of two months, or being a patient but assertive shopper seeking out groceries and dry goods amidst the crowds, or a church member sitting on the couch listening to some of the best and most encouraging sermons you have ever heard, we each have dealt with what might be called a new normal.

I pray you are healthy. And we thank you for your continuing prayers for the ministry of TCM. Our vision to have effective leaders of disciple-making movements in every nation bringing changes to countries, churches, and cultures for Jesus Christ remains. In order to continue our mission without interruption we have had to be flexible and creative. Let me share some actions that we have taken.

As the COVID-19 coronavirus moved into Europe, we began to get daily updates from Haus Edelweiss in Austria. The Austrian government began to limit the number that could gather in public and private. We saw those numbers reduced from hundreds at a time to five people within a matter of days. During this time President Trump announced restrictions on flights from Europe to the United States beginning March 14. These circumstances resulted in TCM's United States staff, that had yet to receive their permanent Austrian visas, needing to

return to the United States ASAP. In addition, various TCM professors, Americans and Europeans, were teaching classes at mentoring centers throughout Europe and the Middle East. Each of these had to be routed home quickly with limited air travel options.

One of those professors was teaching in Armenia. While there, his return flight to Vienna was canceled and the borders were closed. He was able to get to Poland from where he could fly to Vienna. He was then met at the Vienna airport by a European TCM staff member who drove him to the Czech border. When arriving at his homeland border he found it was closed even to fellow Czech citizens. Undaunted, our professor (also a TCM graduate) prayed for God's intervention. Returning to the border patrol office he once again explained his dilemma. The border guards, moved by his story, relented and allowed him to enter Czech Republic on foot. He was soon picked up by a family member and safely returned home.

We know that changes are frequent in our world. When a crisis is upon us those changes can even be more frequent and even challenging. But we are blessed to know we are the children of a God who does not change. He is the same yesterday, today, and forever.

"And let us not grow weary in doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith" (Galatians 6:9-10 – NIV).

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STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: IRYNA

by Debbie Poer

Growing up in Ukraine, Iryna's family did not provide her with a stable home life. Her father was not part of her life, her mother's issues brought fights, police, and ambulances. Iryna was a child solving the adult issues of apartment documents, work, and payments while trying to study. She was so tired. Even though she had been a part of a church for several years, going to a Bible study, nothing changed. She did not understand why God, who she heard to be so good, did not change her situation and she contemplated suicide. Then one day a voice said, "STOP!" Very gently and quietly she heard, "This is not the way that I have prepared for you." With those few words her life became new and she praises God for how He has changed her.

Today Iryna is the wife of a pastor, serves in a leadership role in the women's ministry in the region of Ukraine in which she lives, and serves as the secretary of the Council of Christian Churches in her region. Together with her husband they are responsible for the family services ministry within the Council of Christian Churches.

Her studies at TCM have helped to shape and tune her inner world. As she and her husband work to plant a new church



she uses what she has learned – that the church is the people and she is called to see and care for their needs and to think generationally, rather than only for today's members. With her better understanding of church planting their new church is growing, even outgrowing their current meeting space.

When asked why she has chosen to serve in the various ministries she shared that her life has been blessed. First, she was asked to help, then she was trusted to take on additional responsibilities. She did not choose to serve in these ways – God called her to service. Because of Jesus' sacrifice for her she knows she must be obedient to His call on her life.

U.S. COHORT UPDATE

by Ryan Akers

In his book *The Purpose Driven Life* Rick Warren wrote, "There is no growth without change." With this in mind, TCM continues to refine and expand its U.S. Cohort educational program. Over the past three years, TCM has created cohorts of students, combining elders, pastors, and ministry leaders. Our cohorts from 2018 and 2019 are moving into years three and two of the program, respectively. This year TCM added another cohort in Indianapolis. More so, TCM's national expansion focus has garnered much interest in Arizona. As a result, TCM extended its U.S. Cohort model into the southwest, starting our first cohort in Phoenix. TCM now has four cohorts working on the practical application of God's Word and spiritual principles, such as prayer and fasting.

TCM prayerfully continues its recruitment efforts in several ways. When thinking about growth, the U.S. Cohort program has pursued change as a means of diversifying our approach to training leaders in our constituent churches and ministry partnerships. One such method has been the addition of online courses, available for individuals looking to experience the TCM model of academic excellence. A list of these courses is available at www.tcmi.edu.

Recruitment also extends to enrollment of students in our current cohorts. In May and September, with the onset of new courses



during these months, applicants to the program can register for immediate matriculation. TCM anticipates starting more U.S. cohorts in January 2021. Interest continues to build for our cohort system, and we are thrilled to be positioned for ongoing expansion.

Perhaps most exciting, TCM recently partnered with **e2: effective elders** for the creation of its own cohort in 2021. **e2: effective elders** is a ministry which provides leadership coaching for elder and staff teams, and will now be working directly with TCM professors for advanced training. More information about this opportunity will be available soon as the partnership develops. For further information, please connect with Ryan Akers, Director of Educational Support Services at ryan.akers@tcmi.org.

TCMII CLASSES SPRING AND SUMMER

HAUS

April 23-29 (Online - Face-to-face classes canceled)

<i>New Testament Eschatology</i>	Fred Hansen
<i>Cross Cultural Ministry</i>	Oti Bunaciu
<i>Marriage and Family Life Education</i>	Jim Buckley
<i>World Views and Religion</i>	Mihai Malancea

May 14-20 (Session 3)

<i>Theology and Practice of Prayer</i>	Andrey Puzynin
<i>Servant Leadership</i>	Myron Williams
<i>Homiletics</i>	Rick Grover
<i>Discipling and Mentoring</i>	David Roadcup

June 4-10 (Session 4)

<i>New Testament 1</i>	Barry Blackburn
<i>Old Testament Theology</i>	Jordan Sheetz
<i>Theology and Practice of Worship</i>	Dinelle Frankland
<i>New Testament 2</i>	Fred Hansen

July 17-23 (Session 5)

<i>Introduction to New Testament Studies</i>	Fred Hansen
<i>Discipleship</i>	David Roadcup
<i>New Testament Teaching and Preaching</i>	Jeff Snell
<i>Mission Theology</i>	Mihai Malancea

IN-COUNTRY

May

<i>History of Christian Theology 2</i>	Sorin Badragan, Moldova
<i>Discipleship</i>	Myron Williams, Sierra Leone
<i>Research Methods</i>	George Bristow/Joseph Howard, Turkey
<i>Old Testament Theology</i>	Sara Fudge, Online
<i>Research Methods</i>	Yulia Lubenets, Online
<i>Christian Ethics</i>	Meego Rimmel, Online
<i>Marriage and Family Life Education</i>	Jim Buckley, Belarus
<i>History of Christian Theology 2</i>	Sorin Badragan, Hungary
<i>Introduction to New Testament Studies</i>	Dumitru Sevastian, Krygyzstan
<i>Exegesis of the Book of Revelation</i>	Fred Hansen, Estonia
<i>History of Christian Theology</i>	Sorin Badragan, Ukraine

June

<i>Systematic Theology</i>	Oti Bunaciu, Estonia
<i>History of Christian Theology 1</i>	Sorin Badragan, Online
<i>Cross Cultural Ministry</i>	Oti Bunaciu, Online
<i>Old Testament Theology</i>	Konstantin Nazarov, Armenia
<i>Theology and Practice of Worship</i>	John Sarno, Russia
<i>History of Christian Theology 1</i>	Oti Bunaciu, Romania
<i>Christian Ethics</i>	Meego Rimmel, Albania
<i>Greek 2</i>	Dumitru Sevastian, Online

July

<i>New Testament Teaching and Preaching</i>	Jeff Snell, Romania
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REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES EXPAND

by Rick Justice

During the last week of February, Regional Representatives from 19 countries gathered at Haus Edelweiss. The Regional Representatives play a vital role for student support at TCM. They are responsible for providing logistic support for visiting TCM professors to in-country centers, instructional assistance, student services, and student recruitment in their particular region.

We were thankful that we were able to conduct the meeting several weeks before the COVID-19 virus changed the way we travel (or don't travel). During this meeting we were able to update the Representatives on many things related to the academy such as strategic planning and organizational capabilities, discussing how we can expand to meet TCM's vision of having effective leaders for disciple-making movements in every nation.

During our preparation for the meeting, TCM staff and administration bathed our plans in prayer. During the meeting, the Representatives and staff met for four hours per day in directed prayer. During our final prayer time, we were encouraged to find someone and give a word of encouragement. One of the representatives came to me with: "I am so impressed with the amount of work you get done . . . at YOUR age." I assume there was something missing in translation.

Since that meeting, nations have taken steps to limit travel to and within the various countries. How does one even think about

FAREWELL AND WELCOME

by David Wright

THE SPILMAN FAMILY

At the end of January 2020, a warm, loving, yet tearful farewell was extended to the Spilman Family. For over five years, Theo and Kristen Spilman were key members of TCM's Haus Edelweiss Team. Theo Spilman served as Coordinator of Food Services.

Theo brightened everyone's day with his culinary creations. He inspired those that served as volunteers with his humor and spiritual leadership.

Kristen served as the Coordinator of Guest Services. In fulfilling her role, she warmly welcomed volunteers, students, faculty, and other special guests.

In addition to Theo and Kristen, we also say farewell to their two sons, Louis and Reuben. Both were born in Austria. Along with their Mom and Dad, they were such a joyful presence on campus. We pray wonderful success for the Spilmans as they move back to the Springfield, Illinois area.

THE DILLON FAMILY

As the Spilman Family departs we welcome the Dillons, Chad and Nicole. It was in Session 8 of 2019 while serving as Short-term Workers, that they believe God called them to TCM. After much prayer, conversation, and more prayer, they became members of TCM's staff.

Chad comes to TCM after serving as the Middle School Pastor for Chapel Rock Christian Church in Indianapolis. He now serves as Haus Edelweiss Office Manager and Campus Pastor. Nicole, with much experience in the food preparation for large groups, now serves as the Food Services Coordinator. Chad and Nicole are graduates of Johnson University. Chad also earned a Certificate in Discipleship from TCM and was a member of the first graduating class of TCM's U.S. Cohort. They are the parents of Madison and Adam.

THE HEITZMAN FAMILY

We also welcome Kaleb Heitzman who serves as the Assistant Director of Distance Learning for TCM. With degrees from the University of Kentucky and Asbury Theological Seminary, his role will be key as TCM expands its distance delivery capabilities. Kaleb is married to Shannon and they are parents of 18-month-old son, Micah Wyatt who brings them great joy.



Spilman Family



Dillon Family



Heitzman Family

(continued from page 4)

expanding? We are expanding the way we think, the way we serve, the way we teach.

Since 2012, TCM has been accredited to deliver 100% of its curriculum online. This type of teaching is nothing new to us. We've responded to national emergencies in various countries for many years in similar ways. We need to, once again, expand the use of distance learning.

I was scheduled to travel to Istanbul during the third week of March to teach a class on Servant Leadership. Since I was not able to travel, my class used various elements of distance learning. We met each day, as scheduled, using videoconference technologies. Since Turkey is seven hours ahead of our time zone, my class started at 1:30 a.m. EDT. I decided to meet with them at 1:30 a.m. for the week. I didn't think this was anything outstanding. Many professionals work the night shift. My wife Dixie did so for several years at a local hospital. But the impact of expanding the way we serve the students made an impression.

At the conclusion of the course, one of the students said: "Not only was the content of the course excellent, but your demonstration of being a servant leader by getting up every morning to deliver the class went beyond the course content."

God uses these opportunities to expand His Kingdom and we need to be aware to look for those opportunities. Paul reminded the Colossians to "devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful" (Colossians 4:2).



Total Population: 1,890,000*
Number of People Groups: 21*
% Evangelical Christians: 7.68%*
 *Statistics taken from JoshuaProject.net

LATVIA

A CLOSER LOOK

by Tom Sears

Further Expansion in the Baltic Peninsula

For many years, TCM has had a strong history in the small Baltic country of Estonia. Meego Rimmel, TCM student from 1995 and 2000 and TCM's Regional Representative from Estonia, has now helped TCM gain headway into training new Christian leaders in his neighboring country of Latvia. In 2018, TCM had its first graduate from Latvia and is hosting courses in the capital city of Riga on a regular basis to meet the needs of the growing number of Latvian students.

Tomass, TCM's newly appointed Regional Representative from Latvia, shares the following reflections about his country:

Although 70% of people claim affiliation to the Christian religion, in reality about 3% go to church (at least twice a year) and even a smaller percentage are devout Christians invested in the Kingdom work. One of the biggest challenges is dedication to the Gospel and misinformation about what Christianity is in general.

I hope that many more pastors and leaders will pursue ministry training that TCM provides, and that it would result in more Christian leaders having sound doctrine that they can then pass on to others. We are very happy that in partnership with a local evangelical denomination, TCM is helping train more pastors and leaders providing the training piece that we need to send out more leaders in ministry. TCM is a great resource.

Greatest prayer need: Dedicated people who are faithful, available, and teachable. People who are willing to give everything up for the sake of the Gospel.

Love, Tomass



An Old Church Replanted

In 1998, a native Latvian named Karlis "accidentally" attended a summer camp his cousin had been invited to attend. There he met his first Christian friends. It was those friends who invited him to attend a youth camp in 2003. One of the counselors at the camp led a session for the boys on what it means to be a real man from a Christian perspective. Growing up without a father, Karlis desperately wanted to be "a man," but was doing it by making all types of wrong choices. At the end of the session Karlis told God, "Okay, if you are real let's try this." He left the camp with a changed heart which led to making changes in his life.

Today Karlis is the pastor of a church in Riga, the capital city of Latvia. Two years before becoming the pastor he had told his mother-in-law that church was dying and no one in his right mind would agree to be the pastor there. He says God has a sense of humor in whom He calls. He admits he did not choose to become the pastor of a dying church, but he did choose to respond to God's calling no matter what the calling may be. Out of this old church, a new vibrant "church plant" was born. Karlis adds:

There is a great lack of godly leaders between the ages of 40 and 60, not just in our church but in Latvia in general and so many younger leaders like myself have to take responsibility and initiative. By responding to God's calling we witness that God is building His church and He can call the youngest and dumbest of people to be His instruments. We lack experience and skills and we make many mistakes, but we also experience and demonstrate that God is not dead, and He is not imprisoned by our understanding of how the church should look.

Karlis (TCM Student from Latvia)

HAVE YOU CONSIDERED A PLANNED GIFT?

by Megan Herring

Times like this current season of global uncertainty surrounding the COVID-19 coronavirus remind us that it is a good practice to review our Wills, Trusts, and beneficiary designations periodically. As we review them, key questions to consider include:

- Are my Will and other estate planning documents up to date?
- Have I updated the beneficiary designations on my life insurance, retirement plans, and annuities?
- Whom do I want to name as my fiduciaries (Personal Representative, Trustee, Guardian, Attorney-in-Fact, Healthcare Representative)?
- How do I want to provide for my spouse, children, grandchildren, and other loved ones?
- What gifts do I want to make to my church and other key ministries?

If you have questions about estate planning in general or want more information about including TCM in your Will or as a beneficiary of your life insurance or retirement plan, please contact Megan Herring at megan@tcmi.org.

COMMEMORATIVE GIVING

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Leland Ashford
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Donor:

Diane Junker
Donna Junker

Donor:

Beth Bartchy-Smith
and Garry Smith

Thank you for your continued prayer and financial support to TCM during the COVID-19 crisis. We also continue to pray for you and for those affected by the crisis.



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PRESIDENT'S OUTLOOK

Tony Twist, President

The Regional Representatives Meeting at Haus Edelweiss was incredible. The week of February 24-28 included great prayer times, new representative orientations, ongoing training, and a wonderful spirit of harmony and cooperation. TCM's expansion continues!

New representatives attending were from Albania, Armenia, Kenya, Latvia, and Western Ukraine. The Kenyans were well received and added a wonderful diversity to our predominately European mix. The STW Group from Christ's Church of the Valley and TCM staff did a great job providing hospitality, prayer support, and service.

Such reunion times are always a wonderful reminder of our Father's provision and love. I hope you also can feel His pleasure! It shines out whenever His children support and serve one another. Please know that your support and prayers were used greatly by Him to bless His expanding global family through the mission and vision of TCM.

Gratefully in Him,

Tony

