

equipping | leaders

volume 17

THE POWER OF  
*Relationships*



**International Leadership Institute**  
equipping leaders. spreading the gospel.

2023





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EQUIPPING LEADERS  
SPREADING THE GOSPEL

# CONNECT INVEST MULTIPLY



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EQUIPPING  
LEADERS  
SPREADING  
THE *gospel.*







Ephesians 4:16

“From Him the whole body,  
joined and held together by  
every supporting ligament, grows  
and builds itself up in love, as  
each part does its work.”





## THE POWER OF RELATIONSHIPS

**There is power in connection.** We have all experienced that truth over the last few years. Being connected to people — meeting with them, hugging them, walking through the valleys and mountain tops — something comes to life in us when we experience meaningful relationships.

**Why?** Because our Heavenly Father designed us that way. He says over and over in His Word that He desires a personal relationship with each of us, and He calls us to enter into loving relationships with one another.

Jesus even says in John 13:34, *“By this everyone will know that you are My disciples, if you love one another.”*

We were never created to be alone, isolated, or cut off from others. Through the power of relationships we are able to show the world the love of Jesus.

**In this edition of ILI’s *Equipping Leaders Magazine*, we explore the power of relationships within the Body of Christ.** These stories from around the world demonstrate God’s beautiful plan to form unbreakable bonds in His Name. We pray you, too, are inspired to cultivate deep relationships so you can grow, increase faith in others, and accelerate the spread of the Gospel!

*Wes + Joy Griffin*

Wes and Joy Griffin  
International Directors







# CONNECTING AFRICA: ONLINE, IN-PERSON, & ON-DEMAND

*Helen, ILI alumnus connecting and serving in Kenya and online*



There are times when I step back and realize how the Lord intricately weaves together the lives of those working to spread the Gospel. Faithfully connecting His body of believers, God allows *us* to be His hands and feet and transform the world through the power of the Holy Spirit.

In the fall of 2022, I attended my first ILI training event, gathering leaders from around Kenya. I was greatly surprised, I've never been so deeply moved. God spoke to my heart, and I felt the burden to bring these Eight Core Values to the elders of the Church. I saw how every Core Value, from Intimacy with God to Visionary Leadership to Integrity, has the power to impact lives and change the future for many generations to come.

During the event, I connected with another participant, George, who also believed in the vision God placed on my heart. George, who was first equipped as an ILI leader in 2012, regularly teaches the Core Values across many denominations all over Kenya. We knew if we worked together, this dream could become a reality because there is great power in relationships!

The Kenya ILI Team connected us with Charles, an active alumnus on ILI's On-Demand platform. A great influencer, Charles has invited over 150 people to experience the History Makers training as the self-paced, video-driven courses with a global online community.

Together, we set out to invite as many elders in the Church as possible to an upcoming History Makers training online. **What happened next is only through the power of Christ at work!** Over 80 elders, leaders of the Church, attended online sessions to be equipped with the Eight Core Values. They graduated with such zeal.

One leader was so impacted that he felt the call to pay the way for 100 more elders to attend the training. No matter what age or status or longevity you have as a believer, God is prepared to teach you more. Because of these leaders, generations will look different for families in Africa!

*"Hear this, you elders... Tell it to your children, and let your children tell it to their children, and their children to the next generation."* – Joel 1: 1, 3



*Check out ILI's On-Demand training for yourself!*

**TRAINING.  
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# ILI GLOBAL UPDATE : ANTICIPATING GOD'S GREATNESS

*The ILI Training Team*

God often moves in unexpected ways, exceeding our goals and expectations. In fact, you would only need to listen to our daily prayer time once at the international office to realize the awe-inspiring faith of our global community. Leaders of every age and sector of society work with excellence for the Lord.

*“Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart,  
as working for the Lord, not for human masters...” — Colossians 3:23*

Our ILI teams around the world are spectacular, and we are constantly reminded that behind each leader equipped is a story of God moving to impact the world for His glory. At the beginning of each calendar year, our training department collects and reports on the training statistics for the previous year. As the 2022 final numbers rolled in this January, we were just shy of the God-sized goal of equipping 25,000 leaders for the year. Still full of excitement, our team rejoiced over each life changed by the Eight Core Values.

Then, the unexpected happened as we were closing the books for 2022. Pastor Joel Caperig wrote from the Philippines to report 18 training events which added 2,020 alumni to the global ILI family. Just like that, we were over 100% of the goal. **Across the globe, 722 training events equipped 25,253 leaders with the Eight Core Values of the most effective Christian leaders.**

*Check out the 2022  
Impact Report!*



Every ILI Team is fearlessly leading on the frontlines to spread the Gospel. Two of these teams are making a powerful impact in Latin America. With a combined landmass of less than 100,000 square miles and only 22 million in population, ***the combined number of training events for Honduras and Cuba amounted to almost 10% of all ILI training in 2022!*** These leaders inspire us. They are proof that no matter how great or small a nation is, God will move through any heart submitted to Him.

The ILI Training department works to provide our leaders with the highest quality resources. Last year, we announced our re-engineered and streamlined curriculum called “History Makers.” With ILI materials currently in 62 languages around the world, we have another God-sized goal of translating History Makers into each language by the end of 2026, roughly 14 languages per year! We’re excited to see how God moves and stretches our faith through this goal. Learn more details at [ILITeam.org/historymakers](http://ILITeam.org/historymakers).

Whether equipping leaders in a small Latin American country, gathering men and women across Asia Pacific, or translating material for ILI’s curriculum... the power of the Holy Spirit is active and surprising, and we are thrilled to be a part of God’s plans!





# MIDDLE EAST NORTH AFRICA: BEAUTY FROM ASHES

Hanaa, ILI alumnus from the Middle East North Africa region (MENA)

*"I knew God brought me here 'for such a time as this,' and He gave me the courage to fight for these precious lives."*

The broken road is not one I would readily choose, but God's faithfulness never fails. Through the pain, loss, and uncertain times, He's produced in me a perseverance I would never know without the trials.

*"Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance."*

— James 1:2-4

It was the day before my daughter, Marie's, wedding when I got the horrific news... Marie had been killed in a car accident. Everything halted in my life, and the agonizing pain engulfed my spirit. Could God ever bring beauty from such heartbreak and grief?

Through His sovereign and loving plans, God directed my path to an orphanage of girls around the same age as my daughter. Over time, I found myself connecting and desiring deeper relationships.

The girls and I developed a deep trust, and they eventually opened up to share some devastating news — they were being sexually abused by the orphanage manager. The Holy Spirit stirred my heart with passion, I knew I was here *"for such a time as this."*

The defense was long, but we brought the manager's sins to light. The case was won and the orphanage was closed. The girls were safely placed between two homes and a different orphanage. **Their lives drastically changed that day.**



When I shared this testimony at the Egypt History Makers Journey earlier this year, I immediately felt a heaviness in the room. Six of the girls timidly approached me as I finished speaking with tears streaming down their cheeks. They explained that they, too, had experienced the same pain and suffering.

God especially drew me into Ana's\* heartbreaking story of being sexually abused by her cousin at the age of 12. When Ana found the courage to share with her mother of the trauma, her mother was enraged. For women in our culture, purity is believed to be the gateway to a marital future, so Ana's mother blamed her for bringing shame on the family. In her anger, she attempted to drown Ana in a nearby river.

I am reminded of the story of the Good Samaritan when I realize how God saved Ana that day. Discarded and left to die on a river bank, God intervened through a man coming to dump his trash. The man, like the Good Samaritan, responded in compassion and rescued Ana from death. **I am in awe of how God divinely brings beauty from ashes when all hope seems lost.** Ana is now 23 years old, in love with a man, and engaged to be married. Not only has Ana been healed from her wounds but, in ultimate restoration from the Lord, her family also celebrates her healing!

Praise God for the History Makers training that gave Ana and these young women the opportunity to connect, restore, and be equipped to accelerate the spread of the Gospel.

*\*Name changed for security purposes. Event led by Yousef Sarkes, ILI International Director for Middle East North Africa.*



WATCH A SPECIAL VIDEO with *Hanaa* SHARING HER STORY







# CENTRAL ASIA: 20 YEARS LATER, COUNTLESS LIVES CHANGED

*Pastor Saqib, ILI alumnus equipping leaders and serving the “least of the these” in Pakistan*

*Since 2008, 63 indigenous churches have been planted among unengaged groups in Pakistan.*

I sat down in a room filled with other leaders, waiting to hear about a promising leadership organization. Little did I know, that first connection in 2004 to the International Leadership Institute would open the door for God to birth a vision to spread the Gospel. That was almost 20 years ago...

The greatest potential for Kingdom impact was there in front of me. I saw strategic ways to multiply my training to other men and women in Pakistan clearly presented in the ILI material. In 2006, I was given the opportunity to teach and interpret ILI sessions and even translate ILI material into my native language. God used the session on Passion for the Harvest to deeply

touch my heart. Suddenly, I felt the weight and responsibility of carrying the Gospel to my people. “Christ for All Nations” was birthed, a ministry with the vision to reach unengaged people groups in Central Asia and fulfill the Great Commission.

Since 2008, 63 indigenous churches have been planted among these unengaged groups. They may not have buildings or pews or a choir, but the Holy Spirit is moving powerfully through these humble gatherings of believers.

They have also stepped up to serve and minister to “the least of these” in need around them. As the Taliban takeover of the Afghanistan government unraveled before our eyes in 2021, thousands of





Afghans fled into Pakistan. An already unstable environment quickly escalated to brutal violence and suffering. In total, more than 6 million Afghans were driven from their homes, creating a massive humanitarian crisis in the nation.

The team sacrificially set out to bring hope in the darkness through a “Discovery Bible Study” by Rev. Jim Lilly, and now, more than 650 Afghan refugees claim Jesus as their Lord! From trauma and uncertainty to powerful persons of peace, these leaders feel the burden from God to return home to Afghanistan and share the Good News of Jesus Christ.

*“If someone who promotes peace is there, your peace will rest on them...”*  
- Luke 10:6

What a powerful reminder that a relationship with our Heavenly Father is worth more than the peace and safety of our own lives.

As we work with the refugees who remain in Pakistan, our goal is to provide them with Pashto Bibles, the Afghan language, so their faith in God can be strengthened. With 53 Afghan orphans in our care, we are also working to have permanent placement to provide food, shelter, and education for these precious lives.

Jesus said *“the harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few...”* We are encouraged to see the workers being raised up and the Body of Christ mobilized to reach the harvest of these unengaged people groups across Afghanistan, Pakistan, and all of Central Asia.



Saqib graduating from his first training event in 2006





# EAST AFRICA: FOUR NATIONS IN FOUR WEEKS

*ILI Co-Founder and International Director, Joy Griffin*



*“I’m eighth generation ILI.”* These were the words of an ILI alumnus just outside a small town in Kenya, East Africa. As he proudly stood there before me, I pondered the generations of ILI leaders who faithfully paved the way before him. More than 20 years ago, Bishop David Thagana, ILI’s International Director for English-Speaking Africa, attended the very first ILI training event with leaders from around the world. David went back and shared his training with others and the multiplication began.

In January of this year, Bishop David and I traveled with our team to Tanzania, Kenya, Rwanda, and Burundi (Africa’s smallest nation). We set out for four weeks to reconnect and encourage ILI alumni, minister to those hurting and in need, and equip leaders through History Makers training events. As we began our journey in Kenya, I was reminded of the first generation of ILI leaders...

During one of ILI’s first training events for Kenya, a group of participants held a crusade and asked me to preach. A Turkana man, who was known as the village blind man for 20 years, was miraculously healed during the service, and God restored his sight! Astounded, many went to their huts and brought others out to see the man. News of the healing spread throughout the predominantly Muslim territory, and against the greatest odds, many Muslims found faith in Christ. Now, more than a decade later, ministry has expanded from 9 churches to 25 churches gathering to worship under trees and in the open desert. They are faithfully feeding the hungry, baptizing believers, educating children, and ministering to orphans, widows, and prisoners. Many Turkana souls will be in heaven because of these leaders’ obedience to serve this unreached people group.

During our time in Burundi, I had the great privilege of visiting Bishop Felicien Juma, who was first equipped at an ILI training event in 2003. God clearly spoke to his heart and gave him a vision for starting a church. The vision of the GOA (Glory Outreach Assembly) church expanded as Bishop Felicien and his team felt the burden to raise up godly children. A school was born with a mission to give children hope for the future with Jesus Christ as their foundation.

My heart is full to think of the countless lives changed because of the bold obedience of generations of ILI leaders in East Africa. What a blessing to fellowship with our brothers and sisters on the frontline of spreading the Gospel!

CHECK OUT  
A SPECIAL

*highlight video*



FROM JOY AND  
DAVID’S TRIP WITH  
AN EXCITING  
UPDATE FROM  
FELICIEN.





TOP: ILI graduates during a Burundi leadership training event.

MIDDLE: Joy and David baptize new believers in Tanzania. Joy prays over men and women of the Turkana tribe.

BOTTOM: Bishop Felicien Juma teaches during an ILI training event.





# SOUTH ASIA: A NEW START AND A TEAM RELAUNCHED

*Silus Sudhakar, ILI National Coordinator for South Asia*

*I needed divine connections for the 3,000 people groups and 500 spoken languages across 9 nations...*

In times of extreme adversity, I have seen God not only sustain but work through the difficulties to strengthen my soul and relationship with others. In the face of pain, persecution, and isolation, we have a Heavenly Father who heals, restores, and gives hope for the future.

*“I have said these things to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.” — John 16:33*

Persecution for our brothers and sisters remains a constant threat across South Asia as governments in many nations enforce anti-conversion and blasphemy laws. We have also seen radical nationalist groups regularly target

Christians in an attempt to protect the dominant religion of Hinduism. Many of our ILI alumni have also walked with the added heaviness from illness, financial strain, and losing loved ones due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Despite these obstacles, I can confidently say that God is our Jehovah Jireh, providing an everlasting hope in times of need. At the beginning of 2022, I stepped into the role of National Coordinator for South Asia, and a fresh anticipation emerged!

I realized the intimidating task ahead of me when I set out to relaunch our ILI South Asia Team and reconnect with alumni in my region. I knew I would need divine connections for the more than 3,000 people



groups and over 500 spoken languages across 9 nations. Little did I know, God was already preparing the way before I even began my journey.

One thing I was sure of... God had come before me to speak to the hearts of these ILI leaders. Before I could finish casting the vision of ILI and reintroducing the Eight Core Values, they committed to do training events among their people. I felt my passion to spread the Gospel grow as their excitement poured onto me. We eagerly look to the future with great anticipation for lives to be eternally impacted!

### Equipping Leaders in a Persecuted Nation.

Recently, a History Makers Journey was held in a heavily persecuted nation in South Asia - the first ILI training event for that nation. In those circumstances, participants often struggle to open up and interact with one another, but that was not the case for this group! They were eager and ready to connect, and they were all inspired as they worked their way through sessions on Vision, Overcoming Obstacles, Multiplication, Family Priority, and more. Despite living in a nation closed to the Gospel, these men and women are committed to putting their safety on the line to be a light in the darkness.

### Gathering Alumni for the 2023 South Asia Summit.

In April, the ILI South Asia Team was thrilled to bring together 47 alumni from India, Nepal, and Bhutan for a week of celebration, fellowship, and strategic planning. Though the team from Bangladesh was greatly missed because they were unable to obtain their visas, we know God has great plans for all of our teams fearlessly serving on the frontlines.

*“Let us not lose heart in doing good, for in due time we will reap if we do not grow weary.”*

— Galatians 6:9



Strategic planning during the South Asia Summit



Washing feet during Servant Leadership



Experience worship with the South Asia Team





Armenia History Makers

# EUROPE: EUROPE IS ABLAZE

*Martin Durham, ILI International Director for Europe*

*“This conference left me with a big hunger and thirst for God and for intimate time with Him.”*

Twenty years ago, sitting on a veranda deep in the woods, God clearly spoke a vision into my heart... *“Europe Ablaze with the Gospel.”* I knew if I ignored God’s call, countless lives would be unreached by the life-transforming power of Jesus. So I said “yes!” and never looked back.

Now, there is an unstoppable History Makers team leading the way for Europe. In the last year, training events have taken place in Turkey, Armenia, Georgia, Switzerland, and more. Spiritual fires are blazing up throughout the continent as the Gospel is proclaimed both online and in-person!

### **Turkey, Leading in a Muslim Nation**

Being a Christian in Turkey means living among the 0.2%, less than 200,000, who

proclaim Christ. For a nation with heavy religious oppression, there is great hope in the 32 men and women who were recently equipped from 10 different regions of Turkey. The visions God placed on their hearts will be the brightest testimonies of hope and love so many around them desperately need.

*“This event has been an incredible opportunity! History Makers has given me direction on how to work through my God-given vision and how to take the next steps to accomplish that vision.”* - Young church leader in Turkey

### **Armenia, Multi-Generational Training**

In Armenia, 44 men and women graduated from a training event and were energized to share with others. They



multiplied their training just a few months later. Gathering a unique group, 103 participants were inspired as senior leaders were equipped alongside younger, emerging leaders, both eager to pass on their legacy in Christ to the next generation.

### Georgia, Alumni Training Event

A History Makers Summit gathered past ILI alumni from various regions of Georgia to connect, inspire, and celebrate with one another. As a group of key leaders, they explored the “*What next?*” for the multiplication of History Makers across Europe. During their time, they dreamed and sought God’s plans for the future.

### In-Person Across Europe

Gaining momentum, teams have been excited for more face-to-face History Makers events in Belgium, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, France, Romania, Switzerland... and especially inspiring for Moldova, where 53 young leaders came together from across the nation.

### Equipping Leaders Online in French

As COVID prohibited the world from meeting in-person, the ILI digital team quickly launched ILI training online as well as a self-paced, on-demand platform. French training was a priority to launch for the entire French-speaking world. Hundreds have already been equipped with the Eight Core Values!

As leaders accepted the challenge to multiply the training in their home countries, one leader courageously took History Makers to the islands of New Caledonia in the Pacific Ocean. The training sparked a new project to establish a Bible school that will serve all the islands of New Caledonia.



Praise God for the work He is doing through men and women being equipped across Europe. Pray for the Gospel to spread through these zealous leaders!



Switzerland History Makers



Bulgaria History Makers



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