



# REACHING ACROSS

*Developing Christian leaders globally*

JUNE 2020

## “This We Know”: A Word from Our Executive Director



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*The “new normal”*... another oft-used phrase finding its way into our every-day language since the advent of COVID-19.

We understand its meaning. Habits by which we socially gather have, for at least the short-term, changed. Hence, the “new normal.”

When pharmaceuticals develop to counter this disease, we trust a more familiar “normal” will one day return. Perhaps, for some, social habits will undergo a change that lasts longer than the continuation of the disease. We just don’t know the long-term effects, do we?

Nevertheless, this we know: **We know the Future Leadership Foundation remains committed to its mission of developing Christian leaders globally.** Field service staff and volunteers remain in touch with our international partners.

Conversations about plans for 2020 continue, even as ideas emerge for 2021. The work goes on.

And, since the work goes on, I want to express our gratitude for faithful donors who continue to give. Gifts given now will strengthen our capacity to support the work of training Christian leaders, this year and beyond.

C. S. Lewis once addressed the importance of giving, writing:

*The great thing is to be found at one’s post as a child of God, living each day as though it were our last, but planning as though our world might last a hundred years.*

So it is with FLF.

Thank you for your continued confidence in FLF’s development of Christian leaders globally; and, on behalf of our international partners, thank you for giving faithfully and sacrificially.



*Left: Luis Mendoza leads a one-day course on systematic theology for pastors in El Salvador.*

*Right: Paul Newman, John Claydon and John Jackson during a pastor’s retreat in Lithuania.*



## INSIDE: How FLF Is Keeping the Main Thing the **Main Thing**

As we seek the “new normal,” our work continues. Recent e-newsletters have highlighted ongoing work in Ukraine and El Salvador. (Visit [tinyurl.com/FLF-recent-newsletters](http://tinyurl.com/FLF-recent-newsletters) to catch up or subscribe.)

Inside, you’ll find reports from field service supervisors and team members sharing how FLF is partnering in their assigned areas. Despite how each area may be affected by the global pandemic, we all share the same imperative to go, teach and disciple.

When war broke out in Eastern Ukraine, a number of Ukrainian Church leaders and their families fled and found refuge in next door Poland. Since FLF already had a relationship with many Ukrainian Church leaders through the Ukraine Baptist Theological Seminary, it was a natural progression of our FLF network to become acquainted with and involved in church work in Poland.

## Poland

Patrick Wilson, pastor at Salem Avenue Baptist Church in Rolla, MO is helping to raise money to make this a reality.



*Pastor Gregory Skobel (l) and Marek Glodick of the Polish Baptist Union at Zelów Church.*

Mateusz Wickery, president of the Baptist Union in Poland, not only welcomed active involvement of Ukrainian church leaders in Poland but he also invited FLF to come and discuss a partnership with the Polish.

Two-fifths of the Baptist churches in Poland do not have a pastor and most Polish pastors lack adequate theological resources to prepare sermons. After several meetings, FLF took on a project of encouraging students to finish seminary at the Warsaw Baptist Seminary by gifting and equipping each graduate with a theological book.

In addition, Parkade Church in Columbia, Mo., is sponsoring a church revitalization partnership with the Baptist church in Zelów, Poland. This 172-year-old church had a dwindling membership of six members. Pastor Gregory Skobel, a graduate of the Warsaw Baptist Seminary, was asked to revitalize this church; however, the Polish Baptist Union had little funding to offer so they requested help.

Parkade Church agreed to help sponsor the church with hopes of raising enough resources to assist the church with outreach sports camps.

*Chris Cook, Poland Field Services Director*

## Central America and the Caribbean



God is at work in El Salvador!

FLF recently completed our second year of a 3-year initiative to provide theological education for pastors and church leaders.

In partnership with Asociación Bautista de El Salvador, Institución Teológica de Bautistas de El Salvador, and Guatemala Baptist Seminary, we are leading six courses toward a Certificate of Biblical Studies. The goal of the program was for 30 pastors to complete this first series of courses.

To date nearly twice that many have already participated.

This past March Pastor Luis Mendoza led a one-day course on systematic theology in 3 different regions of the country. In 2021 plans are set for Pastor Heber Mena to lead the final course in this series and celebrate with our first graduating class.



### Future Leadership Foundation

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The Future Leadership Foundation (FLF) develops Christian leaders globally, collaborating with churches, ministry organizations and religious entities by addressing needs and goals that facilitate reaching people for Christ and equipping them for ministry.

#### Leadership Team:

**Executive Director:** Greg Morrow; **Director of Operations:** Melissa Hatfield; **Field Services Directors:** Calvin Brown, Dr. John Claydon, Chris Cook, Steve Easterwood, Michael Graves, Mike and Robbi Haynes, John Jackson, Heber Mena, and Phil Rector; **Treasurer:** Gary Collins; **Communications:** Ken Satterfield

#### 2020 Board:

**President:** John Heskett, Chesterfield, Mo.; **Vice President:** Tom Ogle, California, Mo.; **Secretary:** Gerri Ogle, California, Mo.; **Board members:** Julius Anderson, Lake St. Louis, Mo.; Karen Badger, Rolla, Mo.; Steve Easterwood, Kirksville, Mo.; Larry Guess, Fenton, Mo.; Stephen Hemphill, Liberty, Mo.; Andre Khudyadkov, Kiev, Ukraine; Stephen Mathis, Jefferson City, Mo.; Jean Roberson, Birmingham, Ala.; Thea Scott, Jefferson City, Mo.; and Tom Wright, Lee's Summit, Mo.

#### Advisory Board:

Kathleen Boswell, Sedalia; Jennifer Briner, Switzerland; and Ryan Feeler, Rolla, Mo.

Our partners in India, Estonia, Belarus, and Lithuania each have their individual challenges due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

In **India**, we continue to reach out to our partner “Transforming Leaders in Asia” to help train pastors and emerging leaders. Pray for health and strength as they minister to spiritual and humanitarian needs of their region during this world pandemic crisis and cyclone season.

The Baptist Union and Minsk Seminary in **Belarus** are longtime partners of FLF. After recently helping them with Strategic Planning for their ministry, we are continuing to resource them with training. Pray for plans to help provide Family Ministry Leadership Training for pastors during the increasing COVID crisis in their country.

## India • Estonia • Belarus • Lithuania



*Transforming Leaders in Asia retreat participants.*

Evangelical leaders in **Estonia** are focused on raising up and equipping emerging leaders in their country. FLF is providing funding and leadership training for five weekend training intensives throughout 2020 and beyond. Pray for the 16-24-year-old emerging leaders from the churches who are following God’s call on their lives.

Baptist churches in the small Baltic country of **Lithuania** are gradually developing ties among themselves to resource and encourage one another in ministry. FLF has helped initiate and continue this development among key leaders in the various Baptist groups. Please pray for unity among these congregations under the leadership of the Holy Spirit and our ever increasing role in that process.

*John Jackson, India, Estonia, Belarus, Lithuania Field Services Co-Director*

## Moldova

We were just weeks away from going to Moldova with all our conference plans in place when the President announced the suspension of all travel to Europe. We have rescheduled the conference for mid-November, provided health conditions worldwide have improved.

Our plan is to teach in four regions of Moldova to two hundred pastors and church leaders regarding healthy families.

Please pray for the Baptist leadership in Moldova and the pastors and churches who have limited medical care, limited resources for virtual church and are vulnerable to governments that are suspicious of Christians, churches and pastors.

*Mike and Robbi Haynes, Moldova Field Services Co-Directors*

## Ukraine

As one of the team participating in Ukraine pastor retreats and church planting leader development, it has afforded me the opportunity to go to Ukraine and participate in three pastor retreats.

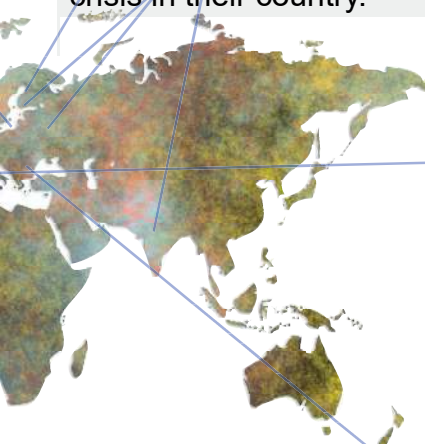
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In Puerto Rico FLF is just beginning to build relationships and explore how to serve this island nation. The needs there are great!

The island’s 3.4 million people continue to struggle with recovery from Category 5 Hurricanes Irma on Sept 6, 2017 and Category 4 Maria that hit two weeks later. More than 30,000 homes were still dealing with tarp-covered roofs when a series of earthquakes hit in 2018, followed by a 6.3 magnitude in Sept 2019 and 6.4 in January of this year.

FLF is working with American Baptist Churches of Puerto Rico and First Baptist Church Rio Piedras to support pastors and leaders as they share the Gospel and serve those in need.

*Michael Graves, Latin America Field Services Director*





Over the summer, we will share videos and stories from individuals who have said YES to FLF – either through volunteering, partnering in work, and/or giving financially. Learn more at [flfmissions.org/sayyes](http://flfmissions.org/sayyes).

Will you join us in saying YES to FLF? Enclosed in this mailing is a response card. Take a moment to pray for FLF and consider how you can join us in the vital work of developing Christian leaders globally. You can also give online today at [flfmissions.org/give](http://flfmissions.org/give).

Each time, FLF has been foundational in providing both advice and financial support as the network of partners — both boots on the ground and financial — have grown. My role has grown from team member to team leader.

People could help support this ministry through prayer and financial giving. Prayer not only for the local Ukrainian students to grow and mature and go and serve where the Lord leads, but also prayer for the American team members. There is a lot of preparation — in addition to our current job loads — and there is a lot of sacrifice —

## Ukraine

*Continued from page 3*

often, sacrificing accumulated vacation and/or time and presence in the local ministry context.



*Jason Gentry (second from left) in Ukraine.*

I believe the relationships that form between teacher and student, though, is priceless and the mutual edification and encouragement are worth every prayer and every penny.

I hope for future opportunities to serve in Ukraine or elsewhere and know that God has certainly blessed the past efforts and will continue to bless present and future opportunities when done faithfully.

*Jason Gentry, Pastor, Hallsville Baptist Church, Hallsville, Mo.*

## Be Involved in Future Leadership Foundation

FLF is not only designed to discover and develop leaders, it also finds ways to involve others through participation and volunteering.

Return the response card or in one of these ways:

### Give

There are three ways you can invest in future leaders:

- Mail: Write a check to FLF and send to PO Box 1891, Columbia, MO 65205-1891
- Online: Give on our website, [www.flfmissions.org](http://www.flfmissions.org) or email us at [office@flfmissions.org](mailto:office@flfmissions.org).
- Phone: Call toll free 866.652.5150 and let's talk

As a 501(c)3 charity, your gifts are tax-deductible.

### Follow

Keep up-to-date by subscribing to FLF on Facebook ([facebook.com/flfmissions](https://facebook.com/flfmissions)), Twitter ([@flfmissions](https://twitter.com/flfmissions)) and Instagram ([instagram.com/flfmissions](https://instagram.com/flfmissions)).

### Pray

Help support our efforts to start with God's guidance, for minimizing setbacks and for safety in travel and for our global partners.

### Subscribe

Use the enclosed response card to share your name and email address, or suggest a new subscriber who shares our passions. You can also email [office@flfmissions.org](mailto:office@flfmissions.org) or call toll-free 866.652.5150.

*Remember, choosing the email option will save postage!*