



## **Marvin's Ministry Update**

*July – September 2018*

### **MentorLink Canada Update**

Celebrating Thanksgiving Day provided the opportunity to thank God for the privilege of serving in the ministries of MentorLink. Through the combined efforts of our international partners and ML Canada, we continue to see many leaders trained in mentoring and changed by embracing the MentorLink Transformational Values. For instance, board member Tim Jacobson, who connected us with 270+ Amharic Bible Schools in Ethiopia, reports that 32 teachers have taught 1,371 students the "Leading Like Jesus" course since it was introduced into their curriculum two years ago. Also, Rene Mbongo, our West Africa partner, reports of positive mentor-training events in Mali, Senegal, and Gambia that have flowed from the West Africa event in May 2017.

In Canada, I continue to hear from individuals who are using MentorLink methods and materials or who are encouraged by our mentoring activities. Pastor Aaron Groat of Calvary Baptist Church, Burlington, ON writes: "I've got four guys going through the Leader's Covenant...it's a great tool for getting conversations going. I also used the Transformational Values with our elders to remind them about what leadership is truly all about. Thanks for these great resources."

### **Personal Ministry Updates**

Summer provides a different rhythm and focus in ministry – mainly family and other people. Here are a few of my activities that involved various kinds of mentoring relationships:

- a. Spending time engaging with our three adult sons, Dan, Dave, and Scott. What joy!
- b. Helping a new Canadian family, Dereje and Abi Befekadu, think about ways to engage in ministry. Dereje helped Tim Jacobson finalize the DWJ Amharic tools.
- c. Continuing a relationship with our neighbours, Gunars and Lisa, who have struggled to trust anyone and are now attending church with us. This has taken almost five years and has challenged Kay and me to live out "religion that is pure" according to James 1:27.
- d. Listening to the stories of two men and their life-transforming encounters with Jesus. Ricardo, now a mentee, was first; Pedro came shortly after. My mentoring relationship with Pedro began after a "chance" meeting at a businessman's breakfast. PTL! We celebrated with a BBQ together.
- e. Geocaching with our four granddaughters while on a one-week cottage vacation.





Dereje and Abi



Pedro and Marvin



Gunars and Lisa



Geocaching with granddaughters

## **Mentoring Affirmations**

Recent research by the Evangelical Fellowship of Canada (EFC) entitled “Renegotiating Faith” states that ongoing mentorship from a student’s church back home is “one of the most significant factors correlated to young adults connecting with and continuing on in Christian communities after high school. A mentoring relationship helps young adults walk through their identity formation, and the presence of a mentoring relationship is a sign that a young adult is well integrated into their home church community.” What an opportunity for adult mentors!

In a Faith Today article, Craig Smith writes: “Pastors and leadership teams are to teach and mentor people on how to be servant leaders within their context...This objective is the most overlooked role of church leaders. The majority of people who attend church work in the secular world. They are in desperate need of training and mentoring on how to be Christlike leaders in their workplace...Rarely is that way of operating centred on Christ’s teaching about leadership.” This is the focus of MentorLink values and materials; we are ready to help.

## **Ministry Opportunities (Prayer and Praise)**

- a. Prayer for wisdom as I meet with approximately 30 mentees regularly and engage in periodic conversations with various other leaders.
- b. Praise and prayer for the opportunity to develop mentoring movements in several local churches through training their leadership teams. We hope to begin some of these this fall.
- c. Prayer for speaking ministries: Sundays at Memorial Baptist Church, Stratford, ON (October 14) and Beacon Bible Church, Tillsonburg, ON (November 25); Men’s Breakfast at Unionville Alliance, Unionville, ON (October 20).
- d. Prayer for two MentorLink conferences in Nairobi, Kenya in November: the ML Round Table Fellowship Gathering (November 5-9) and the East Africa Mentor Training Conference (November 11-15), where I will share in a couple of sessions.

*“You (Timothy) have heard me (Paul) teach many things that have been confirmed by many reliable witnesses. Teach these great truths to trustworthy people who are able to pass them on to others.” (2 Timothy 2:2)*