

HENRY REYENGA

The Cost of the Gospel - Twenty-Five Years Edition

Why Christian Leaders Institute Must Go Everywhere



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To God be the Glory!

Contents

<i>Preface</i>	ii
1 Chapter 1 - The Search in the Night	1
2 Chapter 2 - The Cost of the Gospel	13
3 Chapter 3 - Wise as Serpents, Harmless as Doves	18
4 Chapter 4 - Extreme Cost Nations	23
5 Chapter 5 - Very High Cost Nations	28
6 Chapter 6 - High and Moderate Cost Nations	33
7 Chapter 7 - Low/Open Cost Nations	39
8 Chapter 8 - The Ministry Model That Can Cross Borders	44
9 Chapter 9 - Ordained and Embedded	59
10 Chapter 10 - The Data Tells a Story	68
11 Chapter 11 - The Next Twenty-Five Years	73
12 Appendix 1 - The Christian Leaders Institute Numbers	80
13 Appendix 2 - By the Christian Leaders Alliance Numbers	88
14 Appendix 3 - The Challenge it Reach the World	95
<i>About the Author</i>	100

Preface

Twenty-Five Years, One Open Door

From Henry and Pam Reyenga

There are moments in life when you look back and see the hand of God more clearly than you saw it while you were walking through it.

This book comes from one of those moments.

For twenty-five years, we have watched Christian Leaders Institute grow from a burden, a prayer, and a vision into a global movement of ministry training. What began as a dream to make high-quality Christian education freely available has become a worldwide pathway for called Christians to be trained, encouraged, recognized, and sent into ministry.

We have seen students study late at night after working long hours. We have seen mothers, fathers, pastors, chaplains, church planters, wedding officiants, life coach ministers, Bible study leaders, and everyday believers discover that God was calling them to more. In 2006, Christian Leaders began and 6 students enrolled in that first year. Since that time over 1,200,000 people have set up an account and over 102,000 people have finished courses, credentials and ordination pathways.

We have seen people in free nations train openly, and celebrate completions, and step into public ministry.

We have also heard from students in places where following Jesus carries a serious cost. Some cannot speak freely. Some cannot safely post their testimony. Some cannot print a certificate and put it on the wall. Some must study carefully, quietly, and prayerfully.

Both matter.

Both are part of the Christian Leaders story.

And both remind us why we are here.

The gospel is good news in every nation. Jesus Christ is Lord in every place. The Great Commission has not changed. But the cost of following Jesus is not the same everywhere.

In some places, following Christ may cost a person family acceptance. In others, it may cost employment, safety, legal standing, marriage prospects, or community belonging. In still others, the cost may not be persecution but comfort, distraction, spiritual drift, and wasted freedom.

That is why Christian Leaders must count the cost.

Jesus never hid the cost of discipleship. He said:

“If anyone desires to come after me, let him deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me.”

—Matthew 16:24, WEB

He also said:

“Behold, I send you out as sheep among wolves. Therefore be wise as serpents, and harmless as doves.”

—Matthew 10:16, WEB

Those words have become increasingly important to us.

Christian courage is not carelessness.

Christian wisdom is not cowardice.

Christian faithfulness is not recklessness.

A testimony can glorify God, but it can also expose a vulnerable believer. A ministry credential can open doors in one nation and create danger in another. A public baptism may be a joyful witness in one place and a serious risk in another. A student in an open country may use training publicly, while a student in a restricted country may need to use that same training quietly, relationally, and protectively.

This is why online ministry training is not merely convenient. It is strategic. It is urgent. It is missional.

Christian Leaders Institute has been given a rare opportunity. We are one of the few ministry training movements with a realistic pathway to go everywhere. Not because every nation is open. Not because every student can be public. Not because every credential can be displayed. But because free online training can reach called believers where they already live, in their own language, culture, family systems, and ministry realities. We now have courses in English, Spanish, French, Russian, Ukrainian, Arabic, Hindi. and Mandarin.

Buildings cannot go everywhere. Language groups online can.

Visas cannot go everywhere.

Tuition-based ministry training cannot go everywhere.

But free online ministry training can cross borders, enter homes, strengthen hidden disciples, activate public leaders, and multiply Christian service in ways previous generations could only imagine.

This book is being prepared for a milestone moment in our lives and in the life of Christian Leaders Institute. As I transition from President into the role of Founder Chancellor, Pam and I are not looking at this as a retreat from the mission. We see it as a deeper return to the original calling: to help raise up Christian Leaders everywhere.

Pam and I have walked this journey together. We have prayed through the burdens, celebrated the breakthroughs, edited the words, listened to the stories, and watched God use ordinary people in extraordinary ways. We have seen that Christian Leaders are not only formed in classrooms. They are formed in kitchens, prisons, hospitals, churches, workplaces, marriages, grief, repentance, service, and prayer.

This book is not meant to be a heavy academic study. It is a movement book. It is a prayerful guide. It is a call to students, supporters, graduates, donors, professors, churches, chaplains, officiants, ministers, life coach ministers, Soul Center leaders, and everyday believers.

We want you to see the world with gospel urgency.

We want those in free nations to understand that freedom is a stewardship,

not a possession to waste.

We want those in restricted nations to know they are not forgotten.

We want donors and supporters to understand that every gift may help train a Christian Leader who could never afford traditional ministry education.

We want students to more fully grasp that every course completion is more than a number. It may become a sermon preached, a funeral comforted, a marriage strengthened, a Bible study started, a prisoner visited, a family disciplined, a Soul Center launched, or a hidden believer encouraged to keep following Jesus.

We also want this book to be honest.

Not every country is the same. Not every student faces the same risks. Not every ministry method should be exported everywhere. Christian Leaders must learn to ask deeper questions.

Not only:

“Is Christianity legal here?”

But also:

“What happens to a real person when he or she follows Jesus publicly here?”

And then:

“How can a trained Christian Leader serve wisely, courageously, and faithfully in this setting?”

This book will not tell every story. It will not explain every nation in full detail. It will not reduce complex countries to simple labels. But it will help us pray, think, train, give, and serve with greater wisdom.

The Cost of the Gospel is not only about persecution. It is also about calling. It is about the stewardship of opportunity. It is about the next twenty-five years. It is about a global movement that must not become comfortable when the harvest is still plentiful.

Jesus said:

“The harvest indeed is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Pray therefore that the Lord of the harvest will send out laborers into his harvest.”

—Matthew 9:37–38, WEB

That prayer is still before us.

Lord, send laborers.

Lord, train laborers.

Lord, protect laborers.

Lord, multiply laborers.

Lord, help Christian Leaders Institute serve your kingdom everywhere you
open a door.

In free nations, Christians must not waste their freedom.

In restricted nations, Christians must not lose heart.

In every nation, Jesus still says, "Follow me."

With gratitude and hope,

Henry and Pam Reyenga

1

Chapter 1 - The Search in the Night

The room was dark except for the glow of a phone.

A man sat near the edge of his bed, careful not to wake anyone. He had been thinking about Jesus for months. A coworker had given him a verse. A neighbor had prayed quietly with him. Somewhere along the way, the question had moved from his mind into his soul.

Could God be calling me?

He did not know where to begin. There was no Bible college nearby. He could not ask too many questions publicly. His family would not understand. His community might not forgive him. Even searching online felt risky.

Still, he typed the words slowly:

Free online ministry training.

A world opened.

Across the ocean, in another nation, a woman typed almost the same words in broad daylight. She had just led a small group Bible study in her church. Someone had asked if she would consider becoming more equipped. She was already known as a faithful believer. Her pastor encouraged her. Her family supported her. She could study openly, print certificates, share her progress, and maybe someday pursue a ministry credential.

She typed:

Christian leadership courses online.

She found the same doorway.

One student searched in the light.

One student searched in the night.

Both were looking for training.

Both were responding to a call.

Both mattered to God.

And both help explain why Christian Leaders Institute exists.

The Same Gospel, Different Costs

The gospel is good news in every nation.

Jesus Christ is not the Lord of one continent, one language, one denomination, or one culture. He is Lord over all creation. His call reaches cities and villages, islands and deserts, prisons and palaces, open churches and hidden rooms.

Jesus said:

“Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I commanded you. Behold, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”

—Matthew 28:19–20, WEB

The Great Commission has not expired.

The command is still active.

The nations are still before us.

The harvest is still plentiful.

The laborers are still few.

But the cost of following Jesus is not the same everywhere.

In one country, a Christian Leader can enroll in ministry training, post a testimony, print a certificate, become credentialed, and serve publicly. In another country, a student may need to study quietly, protect digital access,

avoid public recognition, and use training through careful relationships rather than public platforms.

In one place, baptism may be celebrated with photos, family, and church applause. In another, baptism may require secrecy, prayer, and wise protection.

In one place, becoming a Christian minister may bring respect. In another, it may bring suspicion.

In one place, a certificate on the wall may open a door. In another, the same certificate may create danger.

This is why Christian Leaders must learn to think with both courage and wisdom.

Why This Matters Now

For twenty-five years, Christian Leaders Institute has been part of a growing global story.

The dream was simple but bold: make quality Christian ministry training available to people who could not otherwise access it.

That dream has become more urgent with every passing year.

The world is connected in ways previous generations could hardly imagine. A student can study Scripture on a phone. A volunteer can prepare for ministry after work. A pastor without access to seminary can receive training. A chaplain can grow in skill. A wedding officiant can learn to serve with biblical seriousness. A Life Coach Minister can learn to ask better questions. A hidden believer can be strengthened quietly.

Online ministry training is not merely convenient.

It is strategic.

It is urgent.

It is missional.

Buildings cannot go everywhere.

Visas cannot go everywhere.

Tuition-based ministry training cannot go everywhere.

But online ministry training can reach people where they live.

That does not mean every student can use the training in the same way. That

is one of the most important truths of this book.

Some Christian Leaders Institute students study openly. Others study quietly. Both matter.

Some students can show their certificates. Others should not.

Some can pursue public recognition through Christian Leaders Alliance. Others may need formation before visibility.

Some can organize a Soul Center publicly. Others may gather quietly around Scripture, prayer, hospitality, and trusted relationships.

Some can preach in a church building. Others may begin by discipling one person at a kitchen table.

Faithfulness does not look identical in every nation.

The Question Behind the Question

When people think about religious freedom, they often ask:

Is Christianity legal in that country?

That is an important question, but it is not enough.

A better ministry question is:

What happens to a real person when he or she follows Jesus publicly there?

That question changes everything.

A country may have churches, but converts from another religion may still face danger.

A nation may allow Christian worship, but evangelism may be restricted.

A government may permit religious identity, but families may punish conversion.

A city may have visible churches, while a village may reject a new believer completely.

A constitution may promise religious freedom, while local pressures make obedience costly.

Christian Leaders must learn to see beyond the surface.

The issue is not only law.

It is family.

It is culture.

It is safety.

It is community.

It is employment.

It is marriage.

It is baptism.

It is public testimony.

It is digital visibility.

It is the cost of being known as a follower of Jesus.

This is why we must count the cost.

Not to avoid obedience.

Not to become fearful.

Not to hide the gospel.

But to shepherd people wisely.

Jesus said:

“Behold, I send you out as sheep among wolves. Therefore be wise as serpents, and harmless as doves.”

—Matthew 10:16, WEB

That verse is not a call to panic. It is a call to mature ministry.

Be wise.

Be harmless.

Be courageous.

Be careful.

Be faithful.

A Doorway for Public Leaders

In many nations, Christian Leaders Institute training can be used openly.

A student can enroll, learn, complete courses, share progress, and grow in confidence. A local church volunteer can become better equipped. A pastor can deepen biblical training. A wedding officiant can learn to serve the bride and groom with spiritual care. A chaplain can prepare for hospitals, prisons,

schools, workplaces, or community settings. A Life Coach Minister can learn to help others discern calling, healing, relationships, and next steps.

In open settings, training can become visible.

Certificates can be printed.

Credentials can be displayed.

Churches can celebrate.

Families can attend commissioning services.

Students can invite friends to study.

Leaders can multiply leaders.

This is a gift.

But it is also a stewardship.

Freedom is not given so Christians can drift. Freedom is given so Christians can serve.

In free nations, one of the greatest dangers is not persecution. It is wasted opportunity.

A believer may have access to Scripture, training, churches, mentors, legal protection, digital platforms, and ministry credentials—and still remain passive.

That is a cost too.

The cost may not be imprisonment.

The cost may be obedience.

The cost may be repentance.

The cost may be giving up comfort.

The cost may be stepping out of the crowd and saying, “Lord, train me. Send me. Use me.”

A Doorway for Hidden Disciples

In other nations, Christian Leaders Institute training may serve a different purpose.

The training may not first produce public ministry.

It may first produce spiritual strength.

A student may learn Scripture quietly.

A seeker may understand the gospel more clearly.

A new believer may learn how to pray.

A future leader may grow in doctrine, character, and discernment before anyone knows.

A small group may be strengthened without public attention.

A family may be disciplined slowly.

A future minister may be formed in secret before serving in the open.

This should not be despised.

The kingdom of God has always included hidden faithfulness.

Not every faithful Christian Leader has a platform.

Not every trained believer has a title.

Not every ministry moment is visible to donors, churches, or institutions.

Not every completion becomes a public testimony.

Some of the most important work of God happens where only heaven sees.

But heaven does see.

That is why the quiet student matters.

That is why the hidden disciple matters.

That is why the person searching in the night matters.

The Certificate That Could Not Be Printed

Imagine a student who finishes a course.

In one country, the student prints the certificate, frames it, and brings it to church. The pastor celebrates. The congregation claps. A young person sees the certificate and thinks, "Maybe I could study too."

In another country, the student finishes the same course and does not print anything.

The certificate remains unseen.

There is no public celebration. No photo. No post. No announcement.

But that student has grown.

The Word of God has entered deeper.

The call has become clearer.

The courage has become steadier.

The mind has been trained.

The heart has been strengthened.

That unseen completion may become a quiet Bible conversation, a whispered prayer, a hidden act of mercy, a wiser answer to a seeker, or the beginning of a household turning toward Christ.

This is why we must stop measuring ministry only by what is visible.

Visible fruit matters.

But hidden roots matter too.

Field Wisdom

A ministry credential can open doors in one nation and create risk in another.

Online training must always be applied with local wisdom.

Christian Leaders Institute can provide access.

Christian Leaders Alliance can provide study-based recognition and credential pathways.

But local wisdom must guide how training becomes ministry.

A public testimony should not endanger the person who lived it.

A baptism photo should not expose a vulnerable believer.

A donor report should not create risk for a student.

A ministry listing should not place a leader in danger.

A Christian Leader must ask:

What is faithful here?

What is wise here?

What is safe for this believer, this family, this church, this community?

What kind of witness will honor Christ without unnecessary exposure?

The gospel is not fragile.

But people can be vulnerable.

The Opportunity to Go Everywhere

Christian Leaders Institute is one of the few ministry training movements with a realistic pathway to go everywhere.

That does not mean every door is public.

It does not mean every nation is safe.

It does not mean every student can use the same strategy.

It means the model is uniquely suited for this global moment.

Free online ministry training can reach:

- the pastor who never had access to formal education,
- the volunteer who wants to serve better,
- the mother discipling her children,
- the prisoner preparing for a new life,
- the chaplain serving in crisis,
- the officiant preparing for sacred ceremonies,
- the Life Coach Minister helping someone discern calling,
- the believer in a restricted nation who studies quietly,
- the church planter who needs practical tools,
- the donor-supported student who could never pay tuition,
- the hidden disciple who may never be publicly known.

The next great wave of Christian leadership may not come only through large institutions, famous platforms, or wealthy nations.

It may come through ordinary people, trained where they are, serving the people already near them.

This is the beauty of the Christian Leaders movement.

A student does not need to leave his country to begin being trained.

A woman does not need to wait for a distant seminary to open.

A volunteer does not need to stop working to grow in ministry.

A hidden believer does not need public recognition to become spiritually stronger.

A called Christian does not need wealth to begin.

The door is open.

What This Book Will Do

This book will not tell every story.

It will not explain every nation in full detail.

It will not pretend that every situation is simple.

It will not reduce countries to stereotypes.

But it will help Christian Leaders ask better questions.

What does it cost to follow Jesus here?

What does it cost to lead here?

What kind of witness is wise here?

Can training be used publicly here?

Should recognition be visible or private?

How can students be protected?

How can supporters pray?

How can donors help?

How can free nations serve restricted nations?

How can restricted nations encourage free nations not to waste their freedom?

Most of all, this book will call us to see the world with gospel urgency.

Jesus said:

“The harvest indeed is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Pray therefore that the Lord of the harvest will send out laborers into his harvest.”

—Matthew 9:37–38, WEB

The harvest is still plentiful.

The laborers are still few.

And the opportunity before Christian Leaders Institute is enormous.

Prayer

Lord Jesus,

You are Lord of every nation.

You see the student who studies in the light, and you see the student who studies in the night. You see the pastor, the chaplain, the officiant, the Life Coach Minister, the church planter, the donor, the professor, the volunteer, the hidden believer, and the seeker who is afraid to ask questions out loud.

Give us courage without carelessness.

Give us wisdom without fear.

Give us urgency without pride.

Give us compassion for those who pay a high cost to follow you.

Give us repentance where we have wasted freedom.

Give Christian Leaders Institute the grace to train leaders everywhere you open a door.

Send laborers into your harvest.

Protect the vulnerable.

Strengthen the weary.

Awaken the comfortable.

Multiply Christian Leaders in every nation.

Amen.

Reflection Questions

1. When you think about the Great Commission, do you mostly imagine public ministry, or do you also think about hidden faithfulness?
2. What freedoms do you have that many Christians around the world do not have?
3. How could those freedoms become a ministry stewardship rather than a personal comfort?
4. Why is it important to ask, "What happens to a real person when he or she follows Jesus publicly here?"
5. How can online ministry training serve both public Christian Leaders

and hidden disciples?

6. What dangers might come from sharing testimonies, certificates, baptism photos, or ministry credentials too quickly in restricted settings?
7. Where might God be calling you to become more trained, more courageous, or more prayerful?
8. How can you pray for Christian Leaders Institute students who study quietly in costly places?

Chapter Summary

The gospel is good news in every nation, but the cost of following Jesus is not the same everywhere.

Some students find Christian Leaders Institute in open countries where training can be public, celebrated, and credentialed. Others find it in restricted settings where study must be quiet, careful, and protective. Both matter.

This is why Christian Leaders Institute's mission is so urgent. Free online ministry training can cross borders, reach ordinary believers, strengthen hidden disciples, and activate public leaders. But training must be joined with wisdom.

The next twenty-five years call for a movement that is bold enough to go everywhere and wise enough to protect those who follow Jesus in costly places.

In free nations, Christians must not waste their freedom. In restricted nations, Christians must not lose heart. In every nation, Jesus still says, "Follow me."

2

Chapter 2 - The Cost of the Gospel

The Cost of the Gospel

The dinner table became quiet.

A young man had prayed all afternoon for courage. He had not come to reject his family, insult his ancestors, or become foreign to his people.

He had come to say one thing:

“I am following Jesus.”

The words were simple.

But in that room, they cost something.

His mother stopped eating. His father looked down. His sister cried. By morning, relatives knew. By evening, neighbors knew.

He was no longer only a son, brother, worker, and friend.

He had become **“the one who left.”**

In another country, a woman made the same confession and faced no rejection. Her family celebrated. Her church posted baptism photos. Her pastor encouraged her to begin ministry training.

Same gospel.

Different cost.

Same Jesus.

Different pressure.

Same call.

Different consequences.

That is why Christian Leaders must understand the cost of the gospel.

Jesus Never Hid the Cost

Jesus said:

“If anyone desires to come after me, let him deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me.”

—Matthew 16:24, WEB

Grace is free.

Following Jesus costs everything.

We do not purchase salvation with suffering. Christ alone saves. But when Christ saves us, he becomes Lord.

Every other loyalty must bow.

Family.

Culture.

Nation.

Comfort.

Sin.

Fear.

Ambition.

Even our own plans.

The gospel is free, but it is never cheap.

Counting the Cost

Jesus said:

“For which of you, desiring to build a tower, doesn’t first sit down and count the cost...?”

—*Luke 14:28, WEB*

Counting the cost is not cowardice.

It is wisdom.

A Christian Leader must never treat conversion, baptism, testimony, public credentialing, or online ministry visibility carelessly.

A testimony may inspire one setting and endanger another.

A certificate may bless one believer and expose another.

A ministry credential may open doors in one nation and create risk in another.

The better question is not only:

Can we do this?

The better question is:

What will happen to real people if we do this publicly here?

The Five Costs

The cost of the gospel often appears in five ways:

1. Family Cost

Some believers face rejection, shame, financial pressure, marriage loss, inheritance threats, or being treated as disloyal to family, tribe, caste, religion, or nation.

2. Legal Cost

Some nations restrict conversion, evangelism, church registration, religious literature, online speech, baptism, or public Christian ministry.

3. Social Cost

Some believers are excluded quietly. They lose customers, friends, work opportunities, marriage prospects, village trust, or social belonging.

4. Security Cost

Some face threats, mob pressure, militant violence, church attacks, harassment, or physical danger.

5. Spiritual Cost

Every believer must surrender sin, pride, bitterness, immorality, greed,

comfort, fear, and self-rule.

Not every Christian faces the same cost.

But every Christian faces the cross.

Freedom Is Also a Test

In restricted nations, believers may ask:

Will I follow Jesus if it costs me safety?

In free nations, believers must ask:

Will I follow Jesus if it costs me comfort?

Freedom is a gift.

But freedom is also an accountability.

If we can study openly, we should not waste the opportunity.

If we can pray openly, we should not neglect prayer.

If we can give freely, we should not be stingy.

If we can train for ministry, we should not remain passive.

Jesus said:

“To whomever much is given, of him will much be required...”

—Luke 12:48, WEB

CLI and the Cost of Training

Christian Leaders Institute exists because ministry training has often been too expensive, distant, or inaccessible.

But the need is everywhere.

Grieving families need comfort.

Prisoners need hope.

Couples need guidance.

New believers need discipleship.

Churches need leaders.

The unreached need witness.

Free online ministry training lowers the barrier.

It does not remove the cost of discipleship.

It prepares Christian Leaders to pay that cost faithfully.

Some will serve publicly.

Some will serve quietly.

Some will use credentials openly.

Some will need to protect their identity.

All need formation.

Field Wisdom

A careless leader says, “Just be bold,” without understanding danger.

A fearful leader says, “Stay silent,” without trusting Christ.

A wise Christian Leader says:

Let us follow Jesus faithfully here.

Let us count the cost.

Let us protect the vulnerable.

Let us not be ashamed of Christ.

Let us ask what obedience looks like in this place.

Chapter Summary

Jesus never hid the cost of discipleship.

The cost may be family rejection, legal pressure, social exclusion, security danger, or spiritual surrender.

The cost is not the same in every nation.

But the cross belongs to every Christian.

Counting the cost does not mean avoiding obedience.

It means obeying Jesus with courage, wisdom, and love.

3

Chapter 3 - Wise as Serpents, Harmless as Doves

Wise as Serpents, Harmless as Doves

The certificate was ready.

The student had completed the course. He had passed the quizzes. He felt a quiet confidence rising in him.

He had studied Scripture.

He had prayed through his calling.

He had begun to believe God could use him.

On the screen were the words:

Certificate of Completion

In another country, a student might print it, frame it, post it, and celebrate it at church.

But this student did not click print.

He closed the screen.

Not because he was ashamed of Christ.

Because in his setting, public proof could create danger. His family might see it. His employer might hear. Someone might report him. Other believers might be exposed.

So he prayed quietly:

“Lord, let this training become faithfulness, even if no one sees the paper.”

That moment teaches a needed lesson:

Faithfulness is not recklessness. Courage is not carelessness. Wisdom is not cowardice.

Jesus Knew the Danger

Jesus said:

“Behold, I send you out as sheep among wolves. Therefore be wise as serpents, and harmless as doves.”

—Matthew 10:16, WEB

This is mature Christianity.

Jesus names the danger: **wolves**.

He names the vulnerability: **sheep**.

He names the posture: **wisdom and innocence**.

Wisdom without innocence becomes manipulation.

Innocence without wisdom becomes carelessness.

Courage without wisdom can endanger people.

Wisdom without courage can become fear.

Jesus calls Christian Leaders to both.

The Gospel Is Public, But People Can Be Vulnerable

The Great Commission is not hidden.

Jesus said:

“Go and make disciples of all nations...”

—Matthew 28:19, WEB

But there is a difference between hiding Christ and protecting vulnerable

people.

A baptism photo may bless one believer and endanger another.

A public testimony may inspire donors and expose a convert.

A certificate may open doors in one nation and create risk in another.

A ministry credential may help a chaplain serve publicly in one place and make a hidden believer a target in another.

The gospel is not fragile.

But people can be vulnerable.

Different Forms of Faithful Witness

Not every faithful witness looks the same.

Public witness is right where freedom is real. Preach, teach, baptize, train, credential, commission, and multiply openly.

Relational witness may be wiser where public evangelism creates danger, but trusted conversation is possible.

Private discipleship may be needed when a seeker or new believer must grow quietly.

Protective witness asks careful questions before posting names, faces, testimonies, certificates, credentials, or locations.

Mercy ministry witness serves through compassion, prayer, chaplaincy, coaching, and presence.

Suffering witness remains faithful when public freedom is limited.

Visibility is not the only measure of faithfulness.

Some roots grow underground before fruit appears.

Digital Doors Need Digital Wisdom

Christian Leaders Institute can reach people through a phone, computer, or tablet.

That is a gift.

But the digital door also brings digital risk.

Some students can freely receive emails, download PDFs, print certificates,

and post their progress.

Others must ask:

Who can see my device?

Who can access my email?

Are notifications visible?

Is my browser history safe?

Should my name appear publicly?

Could my testimony expose someone else?

A ministry that can go everywhere must learn to care wisely for people everywhere.

Credentialing with Discernment

Christian Leaders Alliance credentials can bless leaders with public trust.

They can help officiants, ministers, chaplains, Life Coach Ministers, and Soul Center leaders serve with clarity and accountability.

But credentialing must be wise.

Some leaders should be publicly commissioned.

Some should be quietly strengthened.

Some should display certificates.

Some should keep them private.

Some should use public ministry titles.

Some should simply serve faithfully without drawing attention.

This is not compromise.

This is wisdom.

Love People More Than Publicity

Anniversaries need stories.

Donor reports need testimonies.

Movements need examples of God's work.

But stories must never become more important than the people who lived them.

A testimony should glorify God without endangering the believer.

A photo should not expose a vulnerable student.

A baptism should not become content before it has been treated as covenant.

A donor update should not reveal details that create risk.

The question is not only:

Will this story move people?

The better question is:

Will sharing this story honor and protect the person?

Chapter Summary

Jesus sends his followers as sheep among wolves.

That does not cancel the mission.

It shapes the method.

Christian Leaders must be bold enough to go everywhere and wise enough to protect those who follow Jesus in costly places.

CLI can train students around the world.

CLA can recognize leaders with study-based credentialing.

But certificates, testimonies, photos, directories, and credentials must be handled with discernment.

Faithfulness is not recklessness.

Courage is not carelessness.

Wisdom is not cowardice.

4

Chapter 4 - Extreme Cost Nations

Hidden Faith and Holy Courage

The church was attacked after midnight.

Glass broke.

Smoke rose.

Benches were overturned.

The cross was gone.

By morning, believers stood at a distance wondering:

Who had been seen entering?

Would children be questioned?

Would the pastor be blamed?

Would a new believer be exposed?

Would anyone come back?

In some nations, a church sign can stand for fifty years.

In an **Extreme Cost nation**, even a small gathering can become a target.

What Extreme Cost Means

Extreme Cost nations are places where following Jesus publicly may bring severe consequences:

Imprisonment.

Violence.

Surveillance.

Family rejection.

Loss of work.

Church destruction.

Forced displacement.

Danger to other believers.

But a category is not a stereotype.

It is a prayer guide.

The real question is:

What happens to a real person when he or she follows Jesus publicly here?

Hidden Does Not Mean Weak

In costly places, faith may need to grow quietly.

A believer may pray in secret.

A student may study Scripture at night.

A pastor may disciple without public records.

A convert may wait before baptism.

A certificate may stay unprinted.

Hidden does not mean weak.

Sometimes hidden means protected.

Sometimes hidden means wise.

Sometimes hidden means faithful.

Why Online Training Matters

Christian Leaders Institute can reach places where buildings, visas, tuition, and public seminaries cannot.

A student may not be able to attend Bible college.

But a student may still learn.

Quietly.

Carefully.

Prayerfully.

Faithfully.

That is why free online ministry training is strategic and urgent.

Extreme Cost Nations and CLI Completions

May 14, 2026 Snapshot

Afghanistan — 14

India — 1,141

Iran — 25

Libya — 4

Mali — 10

Myanmar — 45

Nigeria — 3,976

Pakistan — 146

Saudi Arabia — 74

Somalia — 6

Sudan — 110

Syria — 8

Yemen — 3

Eritrea — 11

North Korea — 1

These numbers are not just data.

They are intercession points.

They say:

God is already opening doors.

Some doors are public.

Some are narrow.

Some are hidden.

But they are still doors.

Reproduce Faith Before Publicity

In open nations, ministry may become visible quickly.

In Extreme Cost nations, multiplication may begin quietly:

Scripture memory.

One trusted conversation.

Prayer in a home.

A family member seeing forgiveness.

A worker refusing corruption.

A neighbor receiving mercy.

The key principle is simple:

Reproduce faith before you reproduce publicity.

Publicity is not the same as fruit.

Heaven sees hidden faithfulness.

What Students Need

Students in Extreme Cost nations may need to:

Study privately.

Protect digital access.

Avoid public posts.

Delay public credentials.

Avoid printing certificates.

Seek trusted local counsel.

Serve relationally and quietly.

Public recognition is a gift.

It is not the essence of calling.

What Supporters Need

Supporters in free nations should pray differently:

Lord, strengthen hidden believers.

Protect new converts.

Guide students studying quietly.

Raise up local Christian Leaders.

Give courage without recklessness.

Give wisdom without fear.

And supporters should give with faith.

Some students cannot appear in donor videos.

Some cannot safely say thank you.

Some cannot display certificates.

But heaven sees.

5

Chapter 5 - Very High Cost Nations

Visible Churches, Vulnerable Converts

The church doors were open.

There was a sign outside. People walked in with Bibles. Children sang. The pastor preached.

At first glance, it looked simple:

Christianity is allowed here.

But after the service, the pastor said quietly:

“Yes, the church is visible. But not everyone can come here safely.”

A young woman had been reading the Gospel of John. She believed Jesus was Lord. But if she walked into church publicly, her family would know. Her neighbors would know. Her safety could change.

The building was visible.

The convert was vulnerable.

That is the tension in many **Very High Cost nations**.

What Very High Cost Means

Very High Cost nations may have churches, pastors, worship services, and Christian communities.

But conversion, evangelism, baptism, discipleship, or public Christian leadership may still bring serious pressure.

The key question is not only:

Can Christians worship there?

The deeper question is:

What happens when someone publicly turns to Christ there?

The Threshold Is Watched

In some nations, churches are tolerated.

But converts are watched.

A person may admire Jesus privately but fear being seen at church.

A student may study online but avoid printing a certificate.

A believer may want baptism but fear family consequences.

The door may be open.

But the threshold is watched.

Jesus Meets People Quietly

Nicodemus came to Jesus at night.

“He came to Jesus by night...”

—John 3:2, WEB

Jesus did not despise him.

Jesus taught him.

A quiet seeker may still be sincere.

A hidden student may still be courageous.

A cautious convert may still be faithful.

We must not crush souls at the threshold.

Very High Cost Nations and CLI Completions

May 14, 2026 Snapshot

Algeria — 5
Bangladesh — 30
Bhutan — 4
Brunei — 4
Burkina Faso — 15
Cameroon — 419
Central African Republic — 4
Chad — 5
China — 133
Colombia — 76
Democratic Republic of the Congo — 61
Cuba — 4
Egypt — 41
Ethiopia — 583
Iraq — 3
Jordan — 9
Kazakhstan — 8
Kyrgyzstan — 2
Laos — 4
Maldives — 1
Mauritania — 1
Mexico — 136
Morocco — 6
Mozambique — 42
Nepal — 60
Nicaragua — 8
Niger — 5
Oman — 16

Qatar — 58

Tunisia — 6

Turkey — 70

These numbers are not for boasting.

They are prayer markers.

Each number may represent a student, pastor, seeker, hidden disciple, or future Christian Leader.

What Students Need

Some CLI students in Very High Cost nations may study openly.

Others may need caution.

Some may print certificates.

Others should not.

Some may pursue public credentials.

Others may need to wait.

The key is discernment:

Will public recognition help or harm?

What Supporters Need

Supporters in free nations should pray for:

Wise pastors.

Protected converts.

Students under family pressure.

Visible churches with courage.

Hidden disciples with strength.

Training that helps without exposing the vulnerable.

Not every kingdom fruit appears in a donor video.

But heaven sees.

Chapter Summary

Very High Cost nations often have visible churches.

But visible churches do not always mean safe conversion.

CLI training can strengthen churches, pastors, students, and hidden disciples in these places.

Some students can serve publicly.

Others must grow quietly.

The principle is simple:

Do not mistake visible churches for safe conversion.

6

Chapter 6 - High and Moderate Cost Nations

Open Doors Under Pressure

The church sign was still standing.

People sang.

The pastor preached.

No police stood at the door.

To an outsider, it looked simple:

Christianity is free here.

But three hours away, in the same country, Christians met quietly. A new believer feared losing family, work, housing, and community if he became public.

The door was open.

But the threshold was costly.

High and Moderate Cost Nations

High and Moderate Cost nations often have real Christian opportunity mixed with real pressure.

Churches may exist.

Bibles may be available.

Online training may be possible.

Some leaders may serve publicly.

But pressure remains:

Family pressure.

Regional pressure.

Bureaucratic pressure.

Dominant-religion pressure.

Secular pressure.

Social pressure.

Spiritual drift.

The principle is simple:

Use open doors, but watch what happens at the threshold.

A Great Door, Many Adversaries

Paul wrote:

“For a great and effective door has opened to me, and there are many adversaries.”

—1 Corinthians 16:9, WEB

An open door does not mean an easy field.

The door is real.

The pressure is real.

Christian Leaders must see both.

High Cost Nations and CLI Completions

May 14, 2026 Snapshot

Azerbaijan — 1
Bahrain — 21
Belarus — 5
Benin — 17
Bosnia and Herzegovina — 1
Djibouti — 2
Gambia — 18
Guinea — 8
Honduras — 14
Indonesia — 198
Israel — 21
Kenya — 2,136
Kuwait — 21
Lebanon — 21
Malaysia — 197
Palestinian Territory — 1
Russian Federation — 42
Senegal — 11
Sri Lanka — 106
Tanzania — 345
Thailand — 89
Uganda — 903
United Arab Emirates — 239
Venezuela — 24
Vietnam — 52

Moderate Cost Nations and CLI Completions

Albania — 13
Argentina — 35
Armenia — 9
Bolivia — 5
Brazil — 211
Bulgaria — 14
Chile — 16
Costa Rica — 27
Croatia — 8
Cyprus — 15
Dominican Republic — 56
Ecuador — 24
El Salvador — 16
Georgia — 33
Ghana — 1,838
Greece — 19
Guatemala — 21
Guyana — 68
Haiti — 157
Jamaica — 475
South Korea — 54
Moldova — 2
Mongolia — 7
Panama — 18
Paraguay — 2
Peru — 19
Romania — 30
Serbia — 9
South Africa — 7,070
Spain — 111
Suriname — 9

Ukraine — 29

Zambia — 1,334

Zimbabwe — 802

What These Numbers Mean

These numbers are not just data.

They are signs of opportunity.

Students are already responding.

Churches can be strengthened.

Local leaders can be trained.

Believers can move from passive faith to active ministry.

The pressure is real.

But so is the harvest.

What Students Need

CLI students in these nations should ask:

What freedom do I actually have?

What pressure do I face?

Can I study publicly?

Should I be cautious?

Can I use credentials openly?

What does my local church advise?

How can I serve faithfully now?

The answer will not be the same for everyone.

But the call is the same:

Follow Jesus faithfully. Use the training wisely. Serve the people near you.

Chapter Summary

High and Moderate Cost nations often have open doors and real pressure.

Christianity may be legal. Churches may be visible. Online training may be possible.

But conversion, evangelism, public ministry, family response, or regional realities may still require wisdom.

CLI can train local Christian Leaders where they already live.

Some can serve openly.

Others need caution.

All need courage and wisdom.

Use open doors, but watch what happens at the threshold.

7

Chapter 7 - Low/Open Cost Nations

Public Freedom, Holy Stewardship

The church parking lot was full.

Families walked in with Bibles, coffee, children, and phones. The livestream camera was ready. The pastor's name was public. The sermon would be posted before lunch.

No one feared police.

No one hid the Bible.

No one worried a baptism photo would cost a job.

This was a **Low/Open Cost nation**.

A few miles away, a man scrolled through Christian Leaders Institute courses. He could study openly. He could print certificates. He could talk with his pastor. He could pursue credentials.

And yet he hesitated.

Not because he was in danger.

Because he was busy.

That is the spiritual tension in open nations.

What Low/Open Cost Means

Low/Open Cost nations generally allow Christians to worship, evangelize, publish, train, credential, plant churches, serve publicly, and organize ministries.

This does not mean faith is easy.

There may be secular pressure, criticism, apathy, or cultural embarrassment.

But the freedom is real.

And freedom is a stewardship.

Jesus said:

“To whomever much is given, of him will much be required...”

—Luke 12:48, WEB

The Danger of Wasted Freedom

In Low/Open Cost nations, the greatest danger may not be persecution.

It may be wasted freedom.

Comfort whispers:

Later.

Not now.

Someone else will do it.

Keep faith private.

Do not give too much.

Do not get too serious.

A believer in an Extreme Cost nation may need courage to be seen.

A believer in an open nation may need courage to stop drifting.

Low/Open Cost Nations and CLI Completions

May 14, 2026 Snapshot

Andorra	— 1
Australia	— 1,014
Austria	— 35
Bahamas	— 122
Barbados	— 64
Belgium	— 56
Belize	— 43
Canada	— 3,030
Czech Republic	— 15
Denmark	— 29
Estonia	— 7
Finland	— 26
France	— 64
Germany	— 218
Iceland	— 3
Ireland	— 153
Latvia	— 9
Lithuania	— 11
Luxembourg	— 7
Malta	— 4
Netherlands	— 126
New Zealand	— 304
Norway	— 48
Poland	— 36
Portugal	— 45
Slovakia	— 6
Slovenia	— 3
Sweden	— 53
Switzerland	— 48
Trinidad and Tobago	— 279

United Kingdom — 2,158

United States — 64,588

Uruguay — 2

These numbers show access.

But they also show responsibility.

What Students Should Do

CLI students in open nations should use the freedom.

Study seriously.

Print the certificate.

Tell your pastor.

Invite another student.

Explore credentialing.

Serve your church.

Start the Bible study.

Prepare for chaplaincy.

Learn to officiate well.

Support students in costly nations.

Do not wait for persecution to make faith serious.

Let gratitude make it serious now.

What Churches Should Do

Churches in open nations should see CLI as a multiplication tool.

Train volunteers.

Equip small group leaders.

Prepare chaplains.

Raise up officiants.

Strengthen future ministers.

Mobilize retired believers.

Encourage young adults.

The question is not only:

How do we attract more attendees?

The better question is:

How do we train more Christian Leaders?

Chapter Summary

Low/Open Cost nations have broad freedom.

That freedom is a gift.

But it can be wasted.

CLI can help open nations become engines of multiplication through students, churches, donors, credentials, and global support.

The call is clear:

Turn access into action.

Turn freedom into service.

Turn gratitude into generosity.

Turn training into ministry.

8

Chapter 8 - The Ministry Model That Can Cross Borders

Training Crosses Borders

The missionary stood at the airport.

His suitcase was packed. His Bible was ready.

Then the visa was denied.

In another nation, a young pastor needed training. He could not leave his church, move his family, or afford tuition.

So he opened his phone.

Buildings cannot go everywhere.

Visas cannot go everywhere.

Traditional seminaries cannot go everywhere.

But free online ministry training can cross borders and strengthen leaders where they already live.

The Core Truth

Training crosses borders so ministry can take root locally.

Christian Leaders Institute does not replace the local church.
It strengthens it.

Global Mission, Local People

Jesus said:

“Go and make disciples of all nations...”

—Matthew 28:19, WEB

The mission is global.

But ministry reaches real people in real places:

A pastor in India.

A mother in Ghana.

A chaplain in the United States.

A student in Pakistan.

A hidden believer in Iran.

A Soul Center leader in the Philippines.

The nations are people.

And people need training where they live.

Free Access Is Shared Sacrifice

Free training is not costless.

Courses, technology, faculty, support, and translation all require resources.

Students can receive freely because others give.

“Freely you received, so freely give.”

—Matthew 10:8, WEB

Some receive.

Some give.

Some give it forward.

Online Training Is Real Training

Online training is real when it forms real Christian Leaders for real ministry.

Students study:

After work.

At night.

At a kitchen table.

On a phone.

In prison.

In a village.

In a costly nation.

In a free nation.

They do not leave life to study.

They study in the middle of life.

Local Leaders Matter

Local Christian Leaders know what outsiders often miss:

The language.

The family systems.

The fears.

The open doors.

The watched thresholds.

CLI trains them where they are so they can serve where they are.

Chapter Summary

Free online ministry training is strategic, urgent, and missional.

It reaches where buildings, visas, tuition, and traditional systems often cannot.

Some students will serve publicly.

Some will serve quietly.

Both matter.

Training crosses borders. Calling takes root locally.

May 14, 2026 CLI Completion Snapshot

Countries and Territories by Continent

Africa

Algeria - 5
Angola - 38
Benin - 17
Botswana - 729
Burkina Faso - 15
Burundi - 20
Cameroon - 419
Cape Verde - 3
Central African Republic - 4
Chad - 5
Congo - 6
Congo, The Democratic Republic Of The - 61
Côte D'Ivoire - 45
Djibouti - 2
Egypt - 41
Equatorial Guinea - 8
Eritrea - 11
Ethiopia - 583

Gabon - 17
Gambia - 18
Ghana - 1838
Guinea - 8
Kenya - 2136
Lesotho - 83
Liberia - 274
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya - 4
Madagascar - 22
Malawi - 290
Mali - 10
Mauritania - 1
Mauritius - 39
Morocco - 6
Mozambique - 42
Namibia - 261
Niger - 5
Nigeria - 3976
Rwanda - 195
Senegal - 11
Seychelles - 10
Sierra Leone - 158
Somalia - 6
South Africa - 7070
Sudan - 110
Swaziland - 119
Tanzania, United Republic Of - 345
Togo - 26
Tunisia - 6
Uganda - 903
Western Sahara - 1
Zambia - 1334
Zimbabwe - 802

Asia

Afghanistan - 14
Azerbaijan - 1
Bahrain - 21
Bangladesh - 30
Bhutan - 4
British Indian Ocean Territory - 1
Brunei Darussalam - 4
Cambodia - 34
China - 133
Georgia - 33
Hong Kong - 82
India - 1141
Indonesia - 198
Iran, Islamic Republic Of - 25
Iraq - 3
Israel - 21
Japan - 87
Jordan - 9
Kazakhstan - 8
Korea, Democratic People's Republic Of - 1
Korea, Republic Of - 54
Kuwait - 21
Kyrgyzstan - 2
Lao People's Democratic Republic - 4
Lebanon - 21
Macao - 18
Malaysia - 197
Maldives - 1
Mongolia - 7
Myanmar - 45
Nepal - 60
Oman - 16
Pakistan - 146
Palestinian Territory, Occupied - 1
Philippines - 1802
Qatar - 58
Russian Federation - 42
Saudi Arabia - 74
Singapore - 131
Sri Lanka - 106

Syrian Arab Republic - 8
Taiwan - 48
Thailand - 89
Turkey - 70
United Arab Emirates - 239
Viet Nam - 52
Yemen - 3

Europe

Aland Islands - 3
Albania - 13
Andorra - 1
Armenia - 9
Austria - 35
Belarus - 5
Belgium - 56
Bosnia And Herzegovina - 1
Bulgaria - 14
Croatia - 8
Cyprus - 15
Czech Republic - 15
Denmark - 29
Estonia - 7
Finland - 26
France - 64
Germany - 218
Greece - 19
Guernsey - 1
Holy See (Vatican City State) - 1
Hungary - 21
Iceland - 3
Ireland - 153
Isle Of Man - 4
Italy - 147
Jersey - 3

Latvia - 9
Lithuania - 11
Luxembourg - 7
Macedonia, The Former Yugoslav Republic Of - 3
Malta - 4
Moldova, Republic Of - 2
Montenegro - 3
Netherlands - 126
Norway - 48
Poland - 36
Portugal - 45
Romania - 30
Serbia - 9
Slovakia - 6
Slovenia - 3
Spain - 111
Sweden - 53
Switzerland - 48
Ukraine - 29
United Kingdom - 2158

North America, Central America, and the Caribbean

Anguilla - 7
Antigua And Barbuda - 23
Aruba - 11
Bahamas - 122
Barbados - 64
Belize - 43
Bermuda - 17
Canada - 3030
Cayman Islands - 24
Costa Rica - 27
Cuba - 4
Curacao - 8
Dominica - 45
Dominican Republic - 56

El Salvador - 16
Greenland - 2
Grenada - 29
Guadeloupe - 4
Guatemala - 21
Haiti - 157
Honduras - 14
Jamaica - 475
Martinique - 1
Mexico - 136
Montserrat - 2
Netherlands Antilles - 7
Nicaragua - 8
Panama - 18
Puerto Rico - 56
Saint Kitts And Nevis - 24
Saint Lucia - 45
Saint Martin - 4
Saint Vincent And The Grenadines - 31
Trinidad And Tobago - 279
Turks And Caicos Islands - 16
United States - 64588
United States Minor Outlying Islands - 4
Virgin Islands, British - 13
Virgin Islands, U.S. - 15

South America

Argentina - 35
Bolivia - 5
Brazil - 211
Chile - 16
Colombia - 76
Ecuador - 24
Guyana - 68
Paraguay - 2
Peru - 19

Suriname - 9
Uruguay - 2
Venezuela - 24

Oceania

American Samoa - 5
Australia - 1014
Christmas Island - 2
Cook Islands - 1
Fiji - 41
Guam - 6
Kiribati - 4
Marshall Islands - 4
Micronesia, Federated States Of - 3
Nauru - 1
New Zealand - 304
Northern Mariana Islands - 6
Palau - 1
Papua New Guinea - 43
Samoa - 1
Solomon Islands - 14
Timor-Leste - 2
Tonga - 1
Tuvalu - 1
Vanuatu - 4

Antarctica and Remote Territories

Antarctica - 1
South Georgia And The South Sandwich Islands - 1

What This Means for Students

Students in open nations should use the opportunity.

Study seriously.

Complete courses.

Talk with your pastor.

Invite others.

Pursue credentialing if God is calling you.

Serve publicly.

Support students who cannot study as freely.

Students in High or Moderate Cost nations should use open doors wisely.

Study where you can.

Serve where you are.

Discern your thresholds.

Seek local counsel.

Use certificates and credentials if they help.

Be cautious if visibility creates risk.

Students in Extreme or Very High Cost nations should know this:

You are not forgotten.

Your hidden study matters.

Your quiet courage matters.

Your formation matters.

Your calling matters.

Use wisdom. Protect yourself and others. Let the Word of God become deep in you. Let training strengthen you for the ministry God entrusts to you, whether public or hidden.

What This Means for Supporters

Supporters are not merely supporting a school.

They are supporting a global training pathway.

A gift may help a student in a free nation become active after years of passivity.

A gift may help a pastor in a pressured nation strengthen a church.
A gift may help a hidden believer study safely.
A gift may help a chaplain comfort the grieving.
A gift may help an officiant honor marriage and family.
A gift may help a Life Coach Minister guide someone toward calling.
A gift may help a Soul Center leader build local ministry.
That is kingdom giving.
It reaches farther than visibility.

Field Wisdom

The training crosses borders so ministry can take root locally.

Christian Leaders Institute does not need every student to leave home in order to be equipped.

In many cases, the student's home is the mission field.

The family is the mission field.

The church is the mission field.

The workplace is the mission field.

The prison is the mission field.

The hospital is the mission field.

The village is the mission field.

The neighborhood is the mission field.

The nation is the mission field.

Training crosses borders.

Calling takes root where the student lives.

The Anniversary Moment

As Christian Leaders Institute marks this May 14, 2026 snapshot, we must see the model with fresh gratitude.

Free online ministry training is not a side project.

It is a mission pathway for this generation.

The story is not only about courses built, students enrolled, or credentials

earned.

It is about doors God opened.

A student who could not pay.

A pastor who could not travel.

A prisoner who needed hope.

A hidden believer who needed formation.

A volunteer who needed confidence.

A retiree who discovered calling.

A chaplain who became more prepared.

A church that began multiplying leaders.

A donor whose gift reached farther than expected.

The next twenty-five years are not merely about growth.

They are about faithfulness.

Will we go everywhere God opens a door?

Will we train leaders who can serve publicly?

Will we strengthen disciples who must remain hidden?

Will we raise donors who understand the urgency?

Will we help churches become training hubs?

Will we expand languages?

Will we protect vulnerable students?

Will we celebrate data without forgetting souls?

Will we keep the gospel at the center?

The answer must be yes.

Prayer

Lord Jesus,

Thank you for every open door.

Thank you for the technology, donors, professors, churches, staff, students, and supporters that make free online ministry training possible.

Teach us to steward this model with humility.

Let training cross borders so ministry can take root locally.

Strengthen students who study openly.

Protect students who study quietly.

Raise up Officiants, Ministers, Chaplains, Life Coach Ministers, Soul Center leaders, pastors, Bible study leaders, church planters, and everyday believers.

Help Christian Leaders Institute go everywhere you open a door.

Help supporters give with faith.

Help churches activate more leaders.

Let every course point to Christ.

Let every certificate become service.

Let every credential become humility.

Let every student become more faithful.

Amen.

Reflection Questions

1. Why is free online ministry training especially strategic in this generation?
2. What barriers often keep called Christians from accessing traditional ministry education?
3. How can online training strengthen embodied local ministry rather than replace it?
4. Why are local Christian Leaders often the most strategic people to train?
5. How can the same training model serve both public leaders and hidden disciples?
6. What does it mean to say that data should become prayer rather than pride?
7. How can churches in free nations use CLI as a multiplication tool?
8. Where might God be calling you to help training cross borders so ministry can take root locally?

Chapter Summary

Christian Leaders Institute's model matters because it can cross borders that buildings, visas, tuition-based systems, and traditional institutions often cannot.

Free online ministry training can reach students where they live and help them serve in their own families, churches, communities, and nations.

This model does not replace the local church or embodied ministry.

It strengthens them.

Some students can study openly and use credentials publicly. Others must study quietly and apply their training with protective wisdom.

Both matter.

As CLI looks ahead, free online ministry training is not merely convenient.

It is strategic, urgent, and missional.

The training crosses borders so ministry can take root locally.

Chapter 9 - Ordained and Embedded

Christian Leaders Alliance and Local Ministry

Ordination does not begin on a stage.

It begins when a student opens a course and says:

“I want to serve, but I need training.”

A future Officiant learns to serve a bride and groom with dignity.

A future Minister learns to bring the Word and care for souls.

A future Chaplain learns consent-based spiritual care.

A future Life Coach Minister learns to help people discern calling without controlling them.

Christian Leaders Alliance ordination is:

Study-based.

Locally endorsed.

Publicly recognized.

Embedded in real communities.

Not Instant Ordination

CLA does not treat ordination as a quick title purchased online.

Ordination is a trust.

Each person completes training through Christian Leaders Institute, submits a local endorsement, and is publicly ordained, often with prayer and the laying on of hands.

Training prepares.

Endorsement confirms.

Ordination recognizes.

Local ministry gives the calling a place to serve.

Four Major Ministry Pathways

Officiants serve weddings, funerals, baptisms, vow renewals, and sacred life moments.

Ministers preach, teach, disciple, organize, and serve in churches, homes, Soul Centers, and communities.

Chaplains bring Christian presence into hospitals, prisons, schools, workplaces, crisis settings, senior care, and community spaces.

Life Coach Ministers help people name calling, discern next steps, and move from confusion to clarity.

May 14, 2026 Snapshot

Christian Leaders Alliance Ordination Track

15,861 visible ordination-track program completions

153 countries and territories represented

These are not just institutional numbers.

They are deployment numbers.

They represent Christian Leaders who completed study, sought local endorsement, and moved toward public ministry recognition.

Ordination Track Completions by Continent

Africa

Algeria — 2
Angola — 4
Benin — 2
Botswana — 60
Cameroon — 34
Chad — 1
Congo — 2
Democratic Republic of the Congo — 2
Côte D'Ivoire — 11
Egypt — 3
Equatorial Guinea — 1
Eritrea — 1
Ethiopia — 27
Gabon — 2
Gambia — 1
Ghana — 149
Kenya — 222
Lesotho — 8
Liberia — 17
Madagascar — 1
Malawi — 29
Mali — 1
Mauritius — 2
Mozambique — 3
Namibia — 23
Nigeria — 197
Rwanda — 18
Senegal — 1
Seychelles — 1

Sierra Leone — 5
Somalia — 1
South Africa — 769
Sudan — 11
Swaziland — 10
Tanzania — 23
Uganda — 75
Zambia — 128
Zimbabwe — 82

Asia

Afghanistan — 3
Bahrain — 2
Bangladesh — 1
Brunei — 1
Cambodia — 2
China — 15
Georgia — 5
Hong Kong — 9
India — 84
Indonesia — 20
Iran — 5
Israel — 4
Japan — 8
Jordan — 2
Kazakhstan — 1
South Korea — 7
Lebanon — 5
Macao — 1
Malaysia — 21
Myanmar — 7
Nepal — 6

Oman — 2
Pakistan — 4
Philippines — 148
Qatar — 4
Russia — 5
Saudi Arabia — 8
Singapore — 14
Sri Lanka — 10
Syria — 2
Taiwan — 5
Thailand — 13
Turkey — 7
United Arab Emirates — 18
Vietnam — 10

Europe

Albania — 1
Armenia — 1
Austria — 5
Belgium — 5
Bulgaria — 1
Cyprus — 2
Denmark — 3
Estonia — 1
Finland — 5
France — 9
Germany — 19
Iceland — 1
Ireland — 25
Isle of Man — 1
Italy — 20
Jersey — 1

Latvia — 1
Netherlands — 8
Norway — 3
Poland — 4
Portugal — 3
Romania — 1
Serbia — 1
Slovakia — 1
Slovenia — 1
Spain — 16
Sweden — 2
Switzerland — 8
Ukraine — 1
United Kingdom — 257

North America, Central America, and the Caribbean

Antigua and Barbuda — 1
Aruba — 1
Bahamas — 14
Barbados — 4
Belize — 2
Bermuda — 4
Canada — 376
Cayman Islands — 5
Costa Rica — 3
Curacao — 1
Dominica — 6
Dominican Republic — 5
El Salvador — 4
Grenada — 1
Guadeloupe — 1
Guatemala — 2

Haiti — 14
Honduras — 1
Jamaica — 42
Mexico — 16
Montserrat — 1
Panama — 4
Puerto Rico — 8
Saint Lucia — 4
Saint Martin — 2
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines — 1
Trinidad and Tobago — 14
Turks and Caicos Islands — 2
United States — 12,357
United States Minor Outlying Islands — 2
British Virgin Islands — 1
U.S. Virgin Islands — 2

South America

Argentina — 5
Bolivia — 1
Brazil — 11
Chile — 2
Colombia — 10
Ecuador — 2
Guyana — 9
Peru — 2
Suriname — 1
Venezuela — 1

Oceania

American Samoa — 1

Australia — 76

Fiji — 2

Guam — 1

Marshall Islands — 1

New Zealand — 37

Papua New Guinea — 2

Timor-Leste — 1

What the Numbers Mean

The largest visible concentrations are in the United States, South Africa, Canada, the United Kingdom, Kenya, Nigeria, Ghana, the Philippines, Zambia, India, Zimbabwe, Australia, Uganda, Botswana, and Jamaica.

But smaller numbers matter too.

One Officiant can serve a family.

One Minister can start a Bible study.

One Chaplain can visit a prisoner.

One Life Coach Minister can help someone discern calling.

One Soul Center leader can gather people for prayer.

Do not despise one.

The kingdom often begins with one.

Chapter Summary

CLA ordination is not instant recognition.

It is a pathway of study, local endorsement, public ordination, and embedded service.

As of May 14, 2026, **15,861 ordination-track completions** represented **153 countries and territories**.

These are deployment numbers.

They show trained Christian Leaders becoming Officiants, Ministers, Chaplains, Life Coach Ministers, and local servants in real communities.

Training prepares. Endorsement confirms. Ordination recognizes. Local ministry serves.

10

Chapter 10 - The Data Tells a Story

Every Number Represents a Calling

CLI Training, CLA Ordination, and the Harvest Map

The spreadsheet did not look spiritual at first.

Rows. Columns. Countries. Completions.

But behind every number is a person.

A student studying after work.

A mother learning after the children are asleep.

A pastor seeking stronger training.

A chaplain preparing to serve.

A wedding officiant learning to care for a bride and groom.

A hidden believer growing quietly in a costly place.

The data tells a story.

Not the whole story.

But enough to make us pray.

May 14, 2026 Snapshot

Christian Leaders Institute Visible Completion Snapshot

102,312 completions

216 countries and territories represented

Christian Leaders Alliance Ordination Track Visible Snapshot

15,861 completions

153 countries and territories represented

These numbers belong together.

CLI shows the broad training movement.

CLA shows the study-based ordination and credentialing movement.

CLI trains.

CLA recognizes.

CLI equips.

CLA helps deploy.

Together, they show a global Christian leadership formation movement.

What the CLI Number Means

102,312 completions means the door is open.

Free online ministry training is reaching students across the world.

It reaches people traditional systems often miss because of cost, location, time, language, persecution, or limited access.

This number is not a finish line.

It is a stewardship.

What the CLA Number Means

15,861 ordination-track completions means many students are moving from learning into recognized ministry service.

They are preparing as:

Officiants

Ministers

Chaplains

Life Coach Ministers

Soul Center leaders

Local Christian Leaders

Each one completes study.

Each one must seek local endorsement.

Each one is publicly ordained where appropriate.

Each one becomes embedded in a real place, among real people, for real ministry.

Data Must Lead to Discernment

Numbers help us see where students are studying.

They help us see where leaders are being formed.

They help us see where training is needed, where translation matters, where donors can make a difference, and where prayer is urgent.

But data must never replace wisdom.

A spreadsheet can show completions.

It cannot show the cost of faithfulness.

A country total can show reach.

It cannot show whether public credentialing is safe.

In open nations, recognition may be public and useful.

In costly nations, recognition may need to be private, delayed, or carefully handled.

The Right Way to Read the Numbers

Jesus saw crowds, but he did not see statistics.

He saw souls.

“But when he saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion for them, because they were harassed and scattered, like sheep without a shepherd.”

—*Matthew 9:36, WEB*

Then he said:

“The harvest indeed is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Pray therefore that the Lord of the harvest will send out laborers into his harvest.”

—*Matthew 9:37–38, WEB*

That is how CLI and CLA data should be read.

See the multitude.

Feel compassion.

Pray for laborers.

Train them.

Recognize them wisely.

Send them with love.

The Harvest Map

The CLI and CLA numbers form a harvest map.

They help us ask:

Where are students searching?

Where are leaders being formed?

Where are churches being strengthened?

Where are hidden believers being encouraged?

Where should we translate more?

Where should we support more?

Where should we protect more?

Where should donors see an open door?

This is not data for pride.

This is data for prayer.

The Next Twenty-Five Years

At this anniversary moment, the numbers matter.

102,312 CLI completions.

216 countries and territories.

15,861 CLA ordination-track completions.

153 countries and territories.

But the numbers should not make us say, "We have arrived."

They should make us say:

The harvest is plentiful.

The door is open.

The next twenty-five years matter.

Every number represents a calling.

Every completion may represent a leader.

Every leader may become a blessing.

And every blessing begins with a God who still sends laborers into his harvest.

Chapter 11 - The Next Twenty-Five Years

Your Sons and Your Daughters Will Prophesy

A Founder Chancellor Address

The room is full.

Students, graduates, staff, donors, professors, board members, ministry leaders, family, friends, and supporters have gathered to celebrate twenty-five years of Christian Leaders Institute.

Pam and I stand here with gratitude.

This has never been only an institution to us. It has been a calling. It has been a family journey. It has been a movement of God's grace.

When we began, we could not see all that God would do. We could not see every student, every course, every nation, every donor, every staff member, every board member, every faculty contributor, every credential, every challenge, or every breakthrough.

We simply followed the open door.

And God kept opening doors.

Sons and Daughters

The theme that comes to my heart tonight is from Acts 2:

“It will be in the last days, says God, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh. Your sons and your daughters will prophesy. Your young men will see visions. Your old men will dream dreams.”

—Acts 2:17, WEB

That passage feels close to us tonight.

Christian Leaders Institute was founded while our firstborn was at seminary. From the beginning, this mission touched our family. It touched the next generation. It touched the question of how called sons and daughters could be trained for ministry.

We remember Brianna and Christina helping in the early years with administration and web design.

We remember Ann and Tom helping us get a run-down building into shape. We remember Ann serving faithfully for ten years.

We are grateful for Brianna’s continuing service as Accreditation Liaison.

And now we rejoice as Abby officially begins serving as President on July 1. We are also grateful for Mitchell Dominiak, Abby’s husband, who heads up online marketing and helps carry this mission into the digital places where students are searching.

This is not only a leadership transition.

It is Acts 2 in front of us.

Sons and daughters.

Visions and dreams.

One generation blessing the next.

A calling moving forward.

Pam and I are not stepping away from the mission.

We are stepping into a new full-time role as Founder Chancellor. We will continue writing, praying, encouraging, developing, connecting, and mobilizing more Christian Leaders.

The title changes.

The calling remains.

The harvest remains.

We Did Not Carry This Alone

When we look back over these twenty-five years, we do not see a straight road.

We see prayer.

We see sacrifice.

We see spiritual warfare.

We see perseverance.

And we see people whom God sent at the right time.

We remember early co-founders and supporters **Rich and Helen DeVos, Marty and Ruth Ozinga and Ron and Sherry Parr**, who believed in the mission and helped open doors.

We remember **Brian DeCook**, whose twenty-plus years of board service, mentoring, legal wisdom, peacemaking insight, and faithful counsel strengthened CLI through many seasons.

We remember **Steve and Marie Elzinga**, whose shared ministry calling partnership reaches back to 1990.

We remember **Dr. David Feddes**, whose theological depth, teaching, writing, and academic leadership helped shape the heart of CLI.

We remember **Jerry Lorenz**, whose IT partnership helped put Christian Leaders Institute on the world stage. In an online ministry movement, technology is not merely technical. It is missional.

We remember faithful board members such as Chairman **Dr. James Hunt, David Zillig, Chris Branoff**, Samuel and **Ed VanDunnen**.

We remember kingdom leaders whose counsel made a difference: **Dale Deppe, Craig Adams, Kevin Kihnke, Craig VanderLende, Steve Timyan, and Harold Voorhees**. And we are grateful that **Brent Voorhees** is joining the CLI board as part of the next generation.

We remember the staff, now grown from just a few to more than thirty. Our staff increased in this since 2020 lead by such amazing people like **Abigail**

Munro our development director. We think of leaders like **Rhonda Sullivan**, who now heads Human Resources, and **Haley Steiner**, who will assist Pam and me in this next era.

We remember over fifty faculty contributors who brought courses, wisdom, teaching, and direction.

And we remember the students.

Students all over the world.

Students in open nations.

Students in costly nations.

Students in cities.

Students in villages.

Students in prisons.

Students studying after work.

Students studying after children are asleep.

Students studying publicly.

Students studying quietly.

Students graduating and launching into ministry.

So many people have made this mission a reality.

You prayed.

You gave.

You taught.

You served.

You built.

You stayed.

You believed.

And God used it.

The Mission Is Not Finished

At twenty-five years, it would be easy to celebrate and relax.

That would be a mistake.

Gratitude must not become drift.

Anniversary must not become nostalgia.

Celebration must become commissioning.

The work is not finished.

There are still nations where believers need training. There are still pastors who cannot afford seminary. There are still volunteers who are willing but unequipped. There are still chaplains needed in hospitals, prisons, schools, workplaces, disasters, recovery ministries, senior care, and community settings.

There are still weddings where the bride and groom need more than a ceremony.

There are still funerals where families need resurrection hope.

There are still hidden disciples searching.

There are still free Christians drifting.

There are still languages waiting.

There are still Christian Leaders who have not yet been trained.

Jesus said:

“The harvest indeed is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Pray therefore that the Lord of the harvest will send out laborers into his harvest.”

—Matthew 9:37–38, WEB

That prayer is still before us.

The harvest is plentiful.

The laborers are few.

And Christian Leaders Institute exists to help train laborers.

Go Everywhere

Christian Leaders Institute is one of the few ministry training movements with a realistic opportunity to go everywhere.

Not because every nation is open.

Not because every student can be public.

Not because every credential can be displayed.

Not because every testimony can be shared.

But because free online ministry training can cross borders.

It can reach students where they live.

It can serve public leaders and hidden disciples.

It can train those who cannot travel.

It can train those who cannot pay tuition.

It can strengthen local churches.

It can prepare Officiants, Ministers, Chaplains, Life Coach Ministers, Soul Center leaders, Bible study leaders, church planters, and everyday believers.

Online ministry training is not merely convenient.

It is strategic.

It is urgent.

It is missional.

Some students study openly.

Others study quietly.

Both matter.

If the Lord Wills

As Pam and I step into this next season, we do so with open hands.

James reminds us:

“Instead, you ought to say, ‘If the Lord wills, we will both live, and do this or that.’”

—James 4:15, WEB

So we say it that way.

If the Lord wills, I hope to retire as Founder Chancellor twenty-five years from now, after I turn ninety.

That may sound bold.

But this entire mission has been bold from the beginning.

If the Lord gives the years, strength, wisdom, and opportunity, Pam and I want to spend the next twenty-five years helping mobilize more Christian Leaders than ever before.

By that time, if it works out that way, we long to see a myriad of students from every part of the world trained, equipped, encouraged, credentialed where wise, and mobilized for ministry.

More languages.

More courses.

More local leaders.

More churches strengthened.

More students finishing.

More donors giving it forward.

More hidden believers encouraged.

More free Christians awakened.

More costly nations prayed for.

More Christian Leaders mobilized.

Pam and I are not stepping into a smaller vision.

We are stepping into a longer one.

Appendix 1 - The Christian Leaders Institute Numbers

Christian Leaders Institute Students Who Completed
Courses, Awards, Certificates, Degrees, and Ordinations

May 14, 2026 Snapshot

Visible snapshot total: 102,312 completions

Countries and territories represented: 216

Percentage basis: Percentages are shown only for the top 20 nations and are calculated from the visible total of **102,312 completions**.

1. United States — 64,588 (**63.128%**)
2. South Africa — 7,070 (**6.910%**)
3. Nigeria — 3,976 (**3.886%**)
4. Canada — 3,030 (**2.962%**)
5. United Kingdom — 2,158 (**2.109%**)
6. Kenya — 2,136 (**2.088%**)
7. Ghana — 1,838 (**1.796%**)
8. Philippines — 1,802 (**1.761%**)

9. Zambia — 1,334 (**1.304%**)
10. India — 1,141 (**1.115%**)
11. Australia — 1,014 (**0.991%**)
12. Uganda — 903 (**0.883%**)
13. Zimbabwe — 802 (**0.784%**)
14. Botswana — 729 (**0.713%**)
15. Ethiopia — 583 (**0.570%**)
16. Jamaica — 475 (**0.464%**)
17. Cameroon — 419 (**0.410%**)
18. Tanzania, United Republic Of — 345 (**0.337%**)
19. New Zealand — 304 (**0.297%**)
20. Malawi — 290 (**0.283%**)
21. Trinidad And Tobago — 279
22. Liberia — 274
23. Namibia — 261
24. United Arab Emirates — 239
25. Germany — 218
26. Brazil — 211
27. Indonesia — 198
28. Malaysia — 197
29. Rwanda — 195
30. Sierra Leone — 158
31. Haiti — 157
32. Ireland — 153
33. Italy — 147
34. Pakistan — 146
35. Mexico — 136
36. China — 133
37. Singapore — 131
38. Netherlands — 126
39. Bahamas — 122
40. Swaziland — 119
41. Spain — 111

42. Sudan — 110
43. Sri Lanka — 106
44. Thailand — 89
45. Japan — 87
46. Lesotho — 83
47. Hong Kong — 82
48. Colombia — 76
49. Saudi Arabia — 74
50. Turkey — 70
51. Guyana — 68
52. Barbados — 64
53. France — 64
54. Congo, The Democratic Republic Of The — 61
55. Nepal — 60
56. Qatar — 58
57. Belgium — 56
58. Dominican Republic — 56
59. Puerto Rico — 56
60. Korea, Republic Of — 54
61. Sweden — 53
62. Viet Nam — 52
63. Norway — 48
64. Switzerland — 48
65. Taiwan — 48
66. Côte D'Ivoire — 45
67. Dominica — 45
68. Myanmar — 45
69. Portugal — 45
70. Saint Lucia — 45
71. Belize — 43
72. Papua New Guinea — 43
73. Mozambique — 42
74. Russian Federation — 42

75. Egypt — 41
76. Fiji — 41
77. Mauritius — 39
78. Angola — 38
79. Poland — 36
80. Argentina — 35
81. Austria — 35
82. Cambodia — 34
83. Georgia — 33
84. Saint Vincent And The Grenadines — 31
85. Bangladesh — 30
86. Romania — 30
87. Denmark — 29
88. Grenada — 29
89. Ukraine — 29
90. Costa Rica — 27
91. Finland — 26
92. Togo — 26
93. Iran, Islamic Republic Of — 25
94. Cayman Islands — 24
95. Ecuador — 24
96. Saint Kitts And Nevis — 24
97. Venezuela — 24
98. Antigua And Barbuda — 23
99. Madagascar — 22
100. Bahrain — 21
101. Guatemala — 21
102. Hungary — 21
103. Israel — 21
104. Kuwait — 21
105. Lebanon — 21
106. Burundi — 20
107. Greece — 19

108. Peru — 19
109. Gambia — 18
110. Macao — 18
111. Panama — 18
112. Benin — 17
113. Bermuda — 17
114. Gabon — 17
115. Chile — 16
116. El Salvador — 16
117. Oman — 16
118. Turks And Caicos Islands — 16
119. Burkina Faso — 15
120. Cyprus — 15
121. Czech Republic — 15
122. Virgin Islands, U.S. — 15
123. Afghanistan — 14
124. Bulgaria — 14
125. Honduras — 14
126. Solomon Islands — 14
127. Albania — 13
128. Virgin Islands, British — 13
129. Aruba — 11
130. Eritrea — 11
131. Lithuania — 11
132. Senegal — 11
133. Mali — 10
134. Seychelles — 10
135. Armenia — 9
136. Jordan — 9
137. Latvia — 9
138. Serbia — 9
139. Suriname — 9
140. Croatia — 8

- 141. Curacao — 8
- 142. Equatorial Guinea — 8
- 143. Guinea — 8
- 144. Kazakhstan — 8
- 145. Nicaragua — 8
- 146. Syrian Arab Republic — 8
- 147. Anguilla — 7
- 148. Estonia — 7
- 149. Luxembourg — 7
- 150. Mongolia — 7
- 151. Netherlands Antilles — 7
- 152. Congo — 6
- 153. Guam — 6
- 154. Morocco — 6
- 155. Northern Mariana Islands — 6
- 156. Slovakia — 6
- 157. Somalia — 6
- 158. Algeria — 5
- 159. American Samoa — 5
- 160. Belarus — 5
- 161. Bolivia — 5
- 162. Chad — 5
- 163. Niger — 5
- 164. Bhutan — 4
- 165. Brunei Darussalam — 4
- 166. Central African Republic — 4
- 167. Cuba — 4
- 168. Guadeloupe — 4
- 169. Isle Of Man — 4
- 170. Kiribati — 4
- 171. Lao People's Democratic Republic — 4
- 172. Libyan Arab Jamahiriya — 4
- 173. Malta — 4

174. Marshall Islands — 4
175. Saint Martin — 4
176. United States Minor Outlying Islands — 4
177. Vanuatu — 4
178. Aland Islands — 3
179. Cape Verde — 3
180. Iceland — 3
181. Iraq — 3
182. Jersey — 3
183. Macedonia, The Former Yugoslav Republic Of — 3
184. Micronesia, Federated States Of — 3
185. Montenegro — 3
186. Slovenia — 3
187. Yemen — 3
188. Christmas Island — 2
189. Djibouti — 2
190. Greenland — 2
191. Kyrgyzstan — 2
192. Moldova, Republic Of — 2
193. Montserrat — 2
194. Paraguay — 2
195. Timor-Leste — 2
196. Uruguay — 2
197. Andorra — 1
198. Antarctica — 1
199. Azerbaijan — 1
200. Bosnia And Herzegovina — 1
201. British Indian Ocean Territory — 1
202. Cook Islands — 1
203. Guernsey — 1
204. Holy See (Vatican City State) — 1
205. Korea, Democratic People's Republic Of — 1
206. Maldives — 1

- 207. Martinique — 1
- 208. Mauritania — 1
- 209. Nauru — 1
- 210. Palau — 1
- 211. Palestinian Territory, Occupied — 1
- 212. Samoa — 1
- 213. South Georgia And The South Sandwich Islands — 1
- 214. Tonga — 1
- 215. Tuvalu — 1
- 216. Western Sahara — 1

Reading the Numbers

The top 20 nations account for the largest visible share of CLI completions, with the United States representing **63.128%** of the visible total. Yet the smaller numbers also matter.

One completion in a difficult place may represent a hidden believer strengthened.

One completion in a small nation may represent a future Bible study leader.

One completion in an open nation may represent a student preparing to serve publicly.

These numbers are not merely institutional data.

They are prayer markers.

They show where students have already found training, where ministry preparation is taking root, and where Christian Leaders Institute can continue to serve the global harvest.

Appendix 2 - By the Christian Leaders Alliance Numbers

Christian Leaders Alliance Members Who Completed Programs in the Ordination Track

May 14, 2026 Snapshot

Visible snapshot total: 15,861 ordination-track program completions

Countries and territories represented: 153

Percentage basis: Percentages are shown only for the top 20 countries and are calculated from the visible total of **15,861 completions**.

1. United States — 12,357 (**77.908%**)
2. South Africa — 769 (**4.848%**)
3. Canada — 376 (**2.371%**)
4. United Kingdom — 257 (**1.620%**)
5. Kenya — 222 (**1.400%**)
6. Nigeria — 197 (**1.242%**)
7. Ghana — 149 (**0.939%**)
8. Philippines — 148 (**0.933%**)

9. Zambia — 128 (**0.807%**)
10. India — 84 (**0.530%**)
11. Zimbabwe — 82 (**0.517%**)
12. Australia — 76 (**0.479%**)
13. Uganda — 75 (**0.473%**)
14. Botswana — 60 (**0.378%**)
15. Jamaica — 42 (**0.265%**)
16. New Zealand — 37 (**0.233%**)
17. Cameroon — 34 (**0.214%**)
18. Malawi — 29 (**0.183%**)
19. Ethiopia — 27 (**0.170%**)
20. Ireland — 25 (**0.158%**)
21. Namibia — 23
22. Tanzania, United Republic Of — 23
23. Malaysia — 21
24. Germany — 19
25. Rwanda — 18
26. United Arab Emirates — 18
27. Liberia — 17
28. Mexico — 16
29. Spain — 16
30. China — 15
31. Bahamas — 14
32. Haiti — 14
33. Singapore — 14
34. Trinidad And Tobago — 14
35. Thailand — 13
36. Brazil — 11
37. Côte D'Ivoire — 11
38. Sudan — 11
39. Colombia — 10
40. Sri Lanka — 10
41. Swaziland — 10

42. Viet Nam — 10
43. France — 9
44. Guyana — 9
45. Hong Kong — 9
46. Japan — 8
47. Lesotho — 8
48. Netherlands — 8
49. Puerto Rico — 8
50. Saudi Arabia — 8
51. Switzerland — 8
52. Korea, Republic Of — 7
53. Myanmar — 7
54. Turkey — 7
55. Dominica — 6
56. Nepal — 6
57. Argentina — 5
58. Austria — 5
59. Belgium — 5
60. Cayman Islands — 5
61. Dominican Republic — 5
62. Finland — 5
63. Georgia — 5
64. Iran, Islamic Republic Of — 5
65. Lebanon — 5
66. Russian Federation — 5
67. Sierra Leone — 5
68. Taiwan — 5
69. Angola — 4
70. Barbados — 4
71. Bermuda — 4
72. El Salvador — 4
73. Israel — 4
74. Pakistan — 4

- 75. Panama — 4
- 76. Poland — 4
- 77. Qatar — 4
- 78. Saint Lucia — 4
- 79. Afghanistan — 3
- 80. Costa Rica — 3
- 81. Denmark — 3
- 82. Egypt — 3
- 83. Mozambique — 3
- 84. Norway — 3
- 85. Portugal — 3
- 86. Algeria — 2
- 87. Bahrain — 2
- 88. Belize — 2
- 89. Benin — 2
- 90. Cambodia — 2
- 91. Chile — 2
- 92. Congo — 2
- 93. Congo, The Democratic Republic Of The — 2
- 94. Cyprus — 2
- 95. Ecuador — 2
- 96. Fiji — 2
- 97. Gabon — 2
- 98. Guatemala — 2
- 99. Jordan — 2
- 100. Mauritius — 2
- 101. Oman — 2
- 102. Papua New Guinea — 2
- 103. Peru — 2
- 104. Saint Martin — 2
- 105. Sweden — 2
- 106. Syrian Arab Republic — 2
- 107. Turks And Caicos Islands — 2

108. United States Minor Outlying Islands — 2
109. Virgin Islands, U.S. — 2
110. Albania — 1
111. American Samoa — 1
112. Antigua And Barbuda — 1
113. Armenia — 1
114. Aruba — 1
115. Bangladesh — 1
116. Bolivia — 1
117. Brunei Darussalam — 1
118. Bulgaria — 1
119. Chad — 1
120. Curacao — 1
121. Equatorial Guinea — 1
122. Eritrea — 1
123. Estonia — 1
124. Gambia — 1
125. Grenada — 1
126. Guadeloupe — 1
127. Guam — 1
128. Honduras — 1
129. Iceland — 1
130. Isle Of Man — 1
131. Jersey — 1
132. Kazakhstan — 1
133. Latvia — 1
134. Macao — 1
135. Madagascar — 1
136. Mali — 1
137. Marshall Islands — 1
138. Montserrat — 1
139. Romania — 1
140. Saint Vincent And The Grenadines — 1

- 141. Senegal — 1
- 142. Serbia — 1
- 143. Seychelles — 1
- 144. Slovakia — 1
- 145. Slovenia — 1
- 146. Somalia — 1
- 147. Suriname — 1
- 148. Timor-Leste — 1
- 149. Ukraine — 1
- 150. Venezuela — 1
- 151. Virgin Islands, British — 1

Reading the Numbers

The Christian Leaders Alliance Ordination Track shows a movement of trained and recognized Christian Leaders serving across the world.

The largest visible concentration is in the United States, with **12,357 completions**, representing **77.908%** of the visible total.

But the smaller numbers matter deeply.

One ordained leader in a difficult setting may become a faithful witness.

One Officiant may serve a bride and groom with Christian dignity.

One Minister may begin a Bible study.

One Chaplain may comfort a prisoner or patient.

One Life Coach Minister may help someone discern a calling.

One Soul Center leader may gather people for prayer, discipleship, and local ministry.

These are not merely institutional numbers.

They are deployment numbers.

They show Christian Leaders completing study, receiving local endorsement, being publicly ordained, and becoming embedded in real communities for ministry service.

Note: The list provided here contains **151 visible entries**, while the snapshot heading says **153 countries and territories represented**. Two entries may be

missing from the source list or recorded under names not included here.

Appendix 3 - The Challenge it Reach the World

Seeing the Nations Through Prayer, Training, and Opportunity

Risk categories show where Christian Leaders may face opposition.

Population data shows how many people live in those ministry environments.

Together, they reveal the scale of the harvest.

The question is not only:

Which nations are difficult for Christian ministry?

The deeper question is:

How many people live where Christian leadership requires courage, wisdom, discretion, and training?

Summary Snapshot

Extreme Cost Nations

15 nations

2,413,734,633 people

29.1% of world population

Nearly **2.414 billion people** live where following Jesus or publicly serving as a Christian Leader may bring severe cost.

Very High Cost Nations

35 nations

2,705,332,925 people

32.6% of world population

More than **2.705 billion people** live where Christian ministry may be possible but often carries serious pressure, restriction, monitoring, legal complexity, or danger.

High Watch Nations

18 nations

827,181,417 people

10.0% of world population

More than **827 million people** live where ministry may be possible but requires special alertness.

Open but Watchful Nations

49 nations

1,079,491,819 people

13.0% of world population

More than **1.079 billion people** live where Christian ministry is generally possible, but local pressure, instability, crime, family tension, or religious hostility may still affect Christian Leaders.

Lower Public Risk Nations

79 nations

1,235,703,695 people

14.9% of world population

About **1.236 billion people** live where worship, ministry training, evangelism, chaplaincy, officiant ministry, and public Christian leadership are generally more accessible.

Lower public risk does not mean lower spiritual need.

It means greater public opportunity.

The Big Finding

Extreme Cost + Very High Cost

5,119,067,558 people

61.7% of world population

More than **5.1 billion people** live in nations where Christian leadership may carry extreme or very high cost.

Extreme Cost + Very High Cost + High Watch

5,946,248,975 people

71.6% of world population

Nearly **5.95 billion people** live in the top three ministry-risk categories.

That is more than **seven out of every ten people on earth.**

Why This Matters

Online Christian leadership training is not a small convenience.

It is a global mission doorway.

A CLI course can cross borders that buildings, visas, and public seminaries may not cross.

A hidden student may become a house church leader, chaplain, officiant, minister, Life Coach Minister, or disciple-maker.

A supporter in a safer nation may help train a leader in a costly one.

What This Means for CLI Students

Your training matters.

Your Bible study matters.

Your ministry formation matters.

Your courage and wisdom matter.

Some students will serve publicly.

Others will serve quietly.

Both are part of the harvest.

What This Means for CLI Supporters

A gift to CLI is not merely funding online education.

It may help train:

A pastor in a pressured nation.

A chaplain in a hospital or jail.

An officiant serving a family.

A Life Coach Minister guiding a calling.

A hidden believer who cannot attend public Bible college.

The supporter gives.

The student studies.

The leader is formed.

The church is strengthened.

Final Reflection

The numbers are not just numbers.

They are people.

More than **5.1 billion people** live in Extreme Cost or Very High Cost ministry

settings.

Nearly **5.95 billion people** live in the top three risk categories.

This means the online opportunity before Christian Leaders Institute is enormous.

In safer nations, training can multiply public ministry.

In costly nations, training can strengthen hidden faithfulness.

In every nation, online Christian leadership training can become a bridge between calling and service.

“The harvest indeed is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Pray therefore that the Lord of the harvest will send out laborers into his harvest.”

—Matthew 9:37–38, WEB



About the Author

About the Authors

Henry and Pam Reyenga

Henry and Pam Reyenga have spent their lives serving the spread of Christianity through ministry training, local leadership development, and global outreach. Together, they have shared a calling to help ordinary Christians become equipped, confident, and mobilized for ministry in their homes, churches, communities, and nations.

Henry Reyenga is the founder of Christian Leaders Institute and Christian Leaders Alliance. For decades, he has worked to make high-quality Christian education accessible to volunteer, part-time, and full-time Christian leaders around the world. His ministry vision centers on multiplying Christian leaders through free and low-cost training, study-based ordination, local endorsement, and practical ministry formation.

Pam Reyenga has served as a faithful ministry partner, editor, encourager, and theological conversation partner throughout this work. Her influence is seen in the clarity, warmth, and pastoral tone of many Christian Leaders resources. She brings a heart for discipleship, spiritual formation, marriage, family, and the everyday faithfulness of Christian life.

Together, Henry and Pam write for Christian leaders who are called to serve in real places among real people. Their work reflects a deep commitment to biblical faith, the local church, the priesthood of all believers, and the belief

that every Christian has gifts to offer in the mission of God.

They are especially passionate about equipping Officiants, Ministers, Chaplains, and Life Coach Ministers to serve with humility, courage, wisdom, and love. Through their writing and ministry leadership, they seek to encourage a worldwide movement of Christian leaders who are trained, locally embedded, publicly recognized, and ready to bring the hope of Christ into every nation and community.

Henry and Pam live with a prayerful desire to see sons and daughters, young and old, men and women, rise up in the power of the Holy Spirit to proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ and serve faithfully until the Lord returns.

You can connect with me on:

 <https://www.christianleadersalliance.org>

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 <https://www.x3coffee.org>

