

THE SLIEDRECHT FAMILY

June 2023



Freswick Castle, Scotland

Transform 22

"Through the Transform experience, I believe I have finally started asking the right questions of myself. Through my interactions with my fellow travelers in the program, I have been led to additional resources and gained new insights on my spiritual struggles and growth. Additionally, I have witnessed the clear leading of the Holy Spirit as He has been showing me the interrelationship of these new insights and integrating what I have been learning into

roadmap for continued growth and recovery... I expect that Freedom In Christ Ministries will be an integral part of that plan."



Mark, one of the Transform Leaders and Victor, one of my Hub members

"A key word from my Transform experience is 'assurance.' The Lord has granted me deeper assurance of His coverage of me, His identity planted in me, His rescue of me, His plan for me and my wife, and His care for my adult children and grandchildren. The word 'assurance' is important because I have been through a season of uncertainty about many, if not most, aspects of life (though always certain of my salvation). My confidence was failing, discouragement was rising, anger and frustration were alive and well. The assurance of God of my position in Christ, His ability to rescue and His plan for me has been renewed in two stages: a sabbatical I took from church last summer, & Transform."

- Testimonies of 2 participants in my Transform Hub

After 8 months of personal study and weekly discussions on Zoom, the [FreedomInChrist.org](https://freedominchrist.org) Ministries' Transform 22 Leadership Journey officially ended this past April with a retreat/conference in Traverse City, Michigan. I was able to meet face-to-face for the first time with my Hub members, and to reconnect in person with US Freedom in Christ leaders. It was an incredible time of fellowship, testimonies, learning, growth, and networking. There is a



Seth is the FICM US National Director of Ministry Relations, and fellow Transform Hub Leader. He is a great friend/mentor to me.

real and deep community that is developed and promotes personal growth among those who go through this in-depth discipleship process together.

UK2023 Family Gathering

Two weeks later, I was on a plane to England for the Freedom in Christ Ministries International Gathering. The theme was “Sharing the Treasure.” That is what Freedom in Christ Ministries is all

about – sharing the full treasure of the Gospel so that people in every nation and from every generation may truly live in freedom in Christ:

- freedom from sin, guilt, shame, lies, fear, the past, performance-mentality
- freedom to be and behave out of who God made you to be – fully accepted, secure, and significant in Christ
- freedom that results in the abundant fruit of the Spirit
- freedom to serve out of love and genuine rest.



Freedom in Christ Ministries (FICM) does this by producing resources for disciple-making movements, currently in over 40 countries.



FICM Leaders and delegates from Latin America

It was inspiring to hear from so many leading these movements around the world, especially in the hard places and in the face of much persecution, and among the youth in Latin America. The highlight was being able to sit and have face-to-face conversations with these leaders, some of whom I had never met before, others of whom I had already known from Zoom

(& in person) meetings – to build relationships with, but also to network, vision, and strategize with. It truly is one big family making incredible impact for God’s Kingdom, as led and empowered by the Spirit. I praise and thank God that I can be part of such a family and impact, for the opportunities He has given me to be mentored by, and to contribute to the amazing discipleship movements God is leading through the resources and passionate people of FICM.

Another highlight was, of course, seeing Josh & Mandy Shaarda



Neil Anderson, the founder of FICM, receives a farewell “retirement” gift





Celebrating King Charles' Coronation with the Shaarda kids – Lydia, Grace, Luka, and Emelai

and their kids. We had moved to Uganda together in 2007 (Mandy is Angie's sister) and they are still in Uganda serving with FICM, so they were also at the UK2023 Gathering. Josh shared about his ministry work in developing Freedom in Christ disciple-making movements particularly in prisons in Uganda, beginning with Soroti Prison. It has been so encouraging to witness the Freedom in Christ



Makai Shaarda

discipleship movement grow out of the doors God had opened for us to establish the discipleship movement of Bible Listening Groups in Soroti Prison back in 2014. Josh also shared powerful video testimonies of Ugandans who I know and who have been impacted by and are now impacting others with the FICM discipleship resources Josh has transposed for use in rural Africa. It sure made me miss Uganda! (side note: Josh also provides accountability assistance with the [Freedom Boys Ministry](#) in Soroti.)



Josh Shaarda shares about the Freedom in Christ disciple-making movements taking place in prisons in Uganda

UK Visits



Anne & Tim Marsden

After UK2023, I was able to spend a couple days with Tim & Anne Marsden, friends of ours who had visited Uganda many times while we lived there and provided us with much encouragement, along with training for our team and partners. Their gracious hospitality and heart for ministry and missions is inspiring. We would love to collaborate in ministry again in the future.

I then went up to northern Scotland to visit my sister, [MoniqueSliedrecht.com](#), who I hadn't seen for over 8 years (she's been in Scotland for 20+ years). She is an artist, runs a retreat centre for Christian artists at [FreswickCastle.com](#), and works with [WayfarerTrust.org](#), a Christian charity which seeks to encourage people from all walks of life to value the arts and to actively support all those striving for excellence and spiritual inspiration in



Murray & Monique in front of Freswick Castle



Meeting with missionaries in Freswick Castle

the world of arts and media. Freswick Castle Retreat Centre and the Wayfarer Trust were founded by MurrayWatts.co.uk, a famous English Christian playwright and screen-writer who wrote, among many other things, the script for [The Miracle Maker](#) movie and [The Lion Children's Bible](#). It was so good to not just see the incredible beauty and history of northern Scotland and to enjoy Monique and Murray's wonderful generosity and hospitality, but moreover to learn more about their

ministry work and the state of the church in Scotland (less than 5% are Christian), meet the people they work with (including artists and other missionaries), and talk about the potential opportunities to collaborate in ministry, particularly with Freedom in Christ Ministries.

◆ Pray with us as we discern God's leading in these relationships & partnerships ◆



A kiss for the King on his Coronation.
He was not amused.



A Coronation Tea
Party with the kids

Thank you for your continued partnership in the Gospel with us as we seek to mobilize disciple-making movements around the world with [Freedom in Christ Ministries](#) and [Global Outreach International](#).

freedominchrist.org

globaloutreach.org



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