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A NetDMC Project

# The Mandate

*'Making Disciples That Make Disciple-Makers'*

A Collection of Essays to Envision Followers of Jesus

Darren Bearson – Sonya Bearson – Brenda Bertrand – Henry Blackaby  
John Blue – Eddie Broussard – Dave Buehring – Gregory Campbell  
Jon Davis – Grant Edwards – Paris Goodyear-Brown – Bill Hull  
R.T. Kendall – Lynell LaMountain – Bill Miller – Mark Miller  
Cherie Minton – Jack Minton – John Perkins – Michael Q. Pink  
Winkie Pratney – Bob Sladek – Dan Sneed – Byron Spradlin  
Woodie Stevens – Devi Titus – Larry Titus – John Tolson  
Mary Tomlinson – David Wells – Randy Young – Heather Zempel

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A Collection of Essays to Envision Followers of Jesus

A NetDMC Project / Compiled by Dave Buehring

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# The Mandate

*‘Making Disciples That Make Disciple-Makers’*

“Jesus came to them and said, ‘All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore ***go and make disciples*** of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.’”

~ *Matthew 28:18-20*

“And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others.”

~ *2 Timothy 2:2*

“For though you have countless guides in Christ, you do not have many fathers. For I became your father in Christ Jesus through the gospel. I urge you, then, be imitators of me. That is why I sent you Timothy, my beloved and faithful child in the Lord, to remind you of my ways in Christ, as I teach them everywhere in every church.”

~ *1 Corinthians 4:15-17*

**An Introduction:**

# ‘Making Disciples That Make Disciple-Makers’

Dave Buehring

## *A Four-Generation Model*

Have you ever been “ruined for the ordinary” by something someone said? It may have been a passing comment, an unusual insight or something said directly that resonated deep within. I had one of those divine kind of occurrences that shaped my life, while flying between Los Angeles and Washington D.C. in April of 1980.

I was 20 years old at the time and living in Kona, Hawaii serving with Youth With A Mission (YWAM). My day-to-day responsibilities revolved around leading a youth ministry called “Acts 2.” I led a team of young adults that engaged in campus ministry and hosted weekend youth retreats and two-week intensive summer discipleship camps.

I was approached one day by one of our base leaders asking if I would be open to traveling a bit with YWAM’s founder Loren Cunningham. He had an extended trip coming up that would take him to Dallas, Los Angeles and Washington D.C. to train missionaries, host a television show, and participate in a large gathering in our nation’s capital. I was honored to be asked, and after prayer, embraced the opportunity!

On our flight from L.A. to D.C., Loren asked me what I thought my spiritual gifts were. At 20, I was still in the process of trying to figure that out myself! Because I had been in Kona for several years, Loren had the opportunity to observe me and our “Acts 2” team firsthand. With that in mind, he shared with me that he thought I had been given gifts of leadership and teaching. While discussing this, he said the following words to me:

*“You know, Dave, it really isn’t important how big the organizations are that you will lead, or the size of the groups that you will teach. The way that God will measure the fruitfulness of your life is whether you have invested to the third and fourth generations.”*

He went on to explain to me that he did not mean 40-year generations, but rather the kind of generations referred to in 2 Timothy 2:2 where (1) Paul disciplined (2) Timothy who invested in (3) faithful men who then passed it on to (4) others. Loren had just envisioned me with a *four-generation model* of disciple-making!



The aim is reproducing the life of Jesus so deliberately and thoroughly into another that they are transformed, enabling them to replicate the same in others. Thus begins the powerful pattern of multiplication!

Hearing these words at 40,000 feet “ruined me for the ordinary!” Since then, *making disciples that make disciple-makers* has been my measure of spiritual fruitfulness. I’m curious, what’s yours?

## *An Honest Evaluation*

Henry Blackaby, author of *Experiencing God*, recently made the observation that “this is the least disciplined generation I have ever seen.” Over the last few years, I’ve heard other “fathers of the faith” like Jack Hayford, Lloyd Ogilvie and John Perkins express their concerns about the lack of deliberate disciple-making and its consequences in the church and the world around us.

Biblically, disciple-making is the way Jesus grew and expanded the church in maturity while also adding to its ranks. The measure of fruitfulness of Jesus’ discipling is unmistakably clear in Acts: a sincere, united, powerful, ever-expanding, culture impacting, God fearing and God glorifying church! What godly leader alive doesn’t long to see and experience Jesus moving through His church like this in our day?!

Without deliberate disciple-making the church becomes ‘thin’ spiritually. It also loses its influence and voice within society as no one carries God’s ways into the various domains of culture. And, maybe most tragically, there is a huge vacuum and void of disciple-makers in our day for those who want to be disciplined! Somehow this command and strategy of Jesus has been radically reduced – or even completely lost – in church life. Few and far between are pastors and leaders whose primary purpose and aim are *making disciples that make disciple-makers*.

To provide pastors, spiritual leaders and churches that we are walking alongside with an honest evaluation, I encourage them to consider the following three key questions:

- 1) *Do you and the Christian community (church) you serve have a deliberate plan in place to obey the command of Jesus to make disciples?*
- 2) *Are your current members actively engaged in “making disciples that make disciple-makers?”*
- 3) *Do you have a biblically based, proven and practical resource to aid your members in the disciple-making process?*

Stop now for just a moment and consider: *what did you just discover about yourself and the Christian community you lead/are a part of through these three questions? Did you rush right past them or did you allow the full reality of your answers to sink in? In light of your responses are you currently cultivating a disciple-making community?*

### ***The Dozen Domains***

The command of Jesus to make disciples is not limited to church life but rather extends to every domain of culture where followers of Jesus live and serve. God’s intentions are for people to be deeply valued and to have their needs met. Living and leading in the ways of God allows *God to be glorified and people to be honored and served*. More often than not in our society, leaders rule out of pride, selfishness and greed leaving people dishonored, discouraged and destroyed.

To see real change occur on this front, godly leaders serving within the various domains must be freshly envisioned and equipped to make disciples, mentor, and coach other godly leaders within their domains. Then, like Nehemiah and Esther, when strategic decisions need to be made, godly men and women who are in decision-making roles can reference and lead out of the ways of God. This allows the blessing, provision and protection of the Lord to flow to those they serve.

We believe that there are a dozen broad umbrellas – “Dozen Domains” – that represent various expressions of culture where leaders are appointed by God to serve. Each one of them has their own distinct ‘strands of DNA’ which uniquely reveal the character of God and represent:

1. Specialized abilities, gifts and callings to serve others;
2. Products, services and wisdom to bless others;
3. God-given influence to shape and lead others;
4. Relationships to enjoy and team with others;

### 5. Strategic missions to be accomplished for others.

The Dozen Domains are made up of:

<i>Family &amp; Social Services</i>	<i>Church &amp; Missions</i>
<i>Government/Law/Nation-Security</i>	<i>Education &amp; Students</i>
<i>Electronic/Print/Digital Media</i>	<i>Arts/Entertainment/Sports</i>
<i>Business &amp; Commerce</i>	<i>Science &amp; Technology</i>
<i>Health/Medicine/Wholeness</i>	<i>Environment/Agriculture/Zoology</i>
<i>Non-Profits &amp; Service Orgs.</i>	<i>Peoples (cultures/affinities)</i>

### ***Reproducing the Character, Ways and Mission of Jesus***

Regardless of what domain or people grouping we are called to serve, as followers of Jesus we have been commanded to “make disciples”: *reproducing the character, ways and mission of Jesus in those around us expecting them to multiply the same within others*. As followers of Jesus, disciple-making must always be our aim and end. After all, it is what Jesus has specifically commanded us to do.

Along with multiplying the character and mission of Jesus, we must also deliberately reproduce the ways of God in others. The ‘ways of God’ can be defined as “God’s path on a matter”. for example: *His path revealed in Scripture* on how we are to relate to one another, *His path revealed in Scripture* regarding how we launch ministries or businesses, *His path revealed in Scripture* on what it looks like to lead as a godly leader, etc. His ways were the pursuit and plumb line of His leaders in Scriptures, e.g. Moses (Ex.33:13-14), Joshua (Jo.22:5), David (Ps.25:4-5) and Micah (Mi.4:2). They are true, dependable and apply eternally to every people and culture. Not only are His ways wonderful but they actually work!

I have found over the years that discipling people in the ways of God may be expressed in various ways, especially within the marketplace. This includes the methods of mentoring and coaching. *Mentoring* allows one to intentionally pass onto another what they have learned and experienced. *Coaching* points people towards insights and solutions by navigating them through a series of key questions.

Disciple-making, mentoring and coaching have the following in common: (1) deliberateness in walking alongside others via *a relational approach*; (2) *guiding and equipping* that leads to discovery and development towards greater health and more effective service; and (3)

sowing *seeds of multiplication*, enabling others to reproduce in others what they have received.

As followers of Jesus, we have been commissioned to make disciples. Many who lead outside the Church & Missions domain effectively use mentoring and coaching to guide and equip others within their domains in truth and godly principles for life and leadership. We must embrace one another's gifts, emphases and place of calling to see to it that God's ways are passed on, applied and multiplied!

### ***Teach – Demonstrate – Replicate***

I am often asked about whom one should disciple or invest in. Brand new believers must be discipled in the basics right away. That is a must! Beyond that, a good starting point, as Jesus demonstrated in Luke 6:12-16, is to seek the Lord about it in prayer. I have found over the years that *to the degree I have relationship with someone, to that same degree I have authority to speak into their life*. In light of this, consider who has the Lord provided a natural heart link with and who receives what you give with weight. I have learned through experience that those with qualities of faithfulness, availability, servant-heartedness and teachability seem to go deepest and farthest when it comes to reproducing what they have received.

A healthy and biblical approach to disciple-making is to *teach – demonstrate – replicate*. First, *teach* them all about it, grounding them biblically and making sure they fully understand. Next, *demonstrate* it for them – show them – so they can see what it looks like for themselves. Then, ask them to *replicate* it for you, providing you an opportunity to “coach them up” right on the spot. *Teach – demonstrate – replicate*.

This has worked for me in family life, coaching football, developing leaders, and in making disciples. I'd encourage you to give it a try.

### ***The Aim of “The Mandate” Booklet***

This booklet is a collection of short essays by thirty-plus friends of mine, all who are godly men and women committed to making disciples where God has appointed them to serve.

You'll find that it is divided into three sections:

- ***Perspectives on Disciple-Making*** – insights and challenges from spiritual leaders representing the Body of Christ;
- ***Disciple-Making within The Dozen Domains*** – glimpses of how disciple-making can be approached and applied within the various domains of culture; and
- ***Disciple-Making among ‘Tribes, Tongues, Peoples and Nations’*** – a few examples of the impact of serving specific “people groupings” (Rev.7:9) with deliberate disciple-making.

Our aim with this booklet is three-fold:

- 1) We believe the role of “disciple-maker” is a multiplying mission belonging to every follower of Jesus. Our hope and prayer is that this booklet – with writings from leaders representing various denominations, domains and organizations – will freshly envision you to align your life and leadership to obey the command of Jesus in Matthew 28:18-20 to “make disciples.”
- 2) We believe that we can accomplish something together that is much greater than anyone of us could achieve on our own – a reviving of deliberate disciple-making, mentoring and coaching in the ways of God. We'd invite you to prayerfully consider joining our growing network of *NetDMC* teammates in our decade-long *2020 Vision*. See the back of this booklet to learn more about *NetDMC*.
- 3) We believe that the godly men and women represented in this booklet offer practical insights, seasoned wisdom and proven resources to serve in cultivating disciple-making communities and/or discipling leaders in the ways of God. We commend them to you.

*~ Dave Buehring has served for over three decades as a missionary, pastor, teacher, and disciple-maker. He is the Founder and Team Leader of the Lionshare Leadership Group, the facilitator of NetDMC and author of ‘A Discipleship Journey’. Website: [www.lionshare.org](http://www.lionshare.org).*

# *Perspectives on Disciple-Making*

Insights and challenges on disciple-making from  
Spiritual Leaders representing the Body of Christ

The final command that Jesus gave His disciples as he returned to the Father was, and remains, crucial to the salvation of the world: "...make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them...and teaching them to observe (practice) all things I've commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age" (Matt. 28: 19-20). It is important that we recognize in this passage that this was not merely a suggestion – it was His command! He expressed it to them not only with great urgency, but with great clarity and simplicity as well. Without question, disciple-making to Jesus is an extremely vital process in God's eternal plan to redeem a lost world back to Himself.

Corporately, every local church is a "living body of Christ" and therefore vital to God's eternal purpose. God purposed that His churches take His good news to the world and make disciples. And it is through disciple-making that God equips believers to be on mission with Him. His desire is always to fashion each and every church according to His specific purposes. So, it is imperative in these critical days that local churches make discipleship a major focus in how they function. And, it should be a major focus among seminaries where the future leaders of our churches are being prepared to serve.

We should also recognize that since Christ promised He is with us always, He remains with us all the time, 24/7. Our lives, our homes, our churches, and our workplaces are all "Holy ground" where He can draw people to Himself. Everyone touching our lives should be encountering Christ too! With Christ living in us, we are accountable to make disciples wherever He leads us out in the marketplace. We can make disciples one-on-one with family members, neighbors, or co-workers. We can lead small group studies in our home, at work, or on campus. Anywhere, anytime, we should avail ourselves to God for disciple-making.

We have been commanded to "go...and make disciples...and teach them." My prayer is that we will all answer His call, regardless of where He places us each day, and simply obey Him.

*~ Dr. Henry Blackaby, a Baptist leader, is broadly known for his work, 'Experiencing God', which has now been translated into multiple languages. He currently is discipling approximately 200 CEOs throughout America in the ways of God. Website: [www.blackaby.org](http://www.blackaby.org).*

## ***There is No Plan B!***

Jesus' last command to his disciples was simple and direct: "go make disciples of all nations." He ascended into heaven and left the rest of redemptive history in the hands of a few dozen followers. That was the strategy, the entire game plan: "Go make disciples." There was no Plan B. To this group of unlikely revolutionaries, Jesus handed the keys to the Kingdom—relationships. The deliberate and strategic passing of the faith from one person to the next. And it worked!

If there is one thing the church must do and do well, it is to make disciples. In our contemporary church culture, we have invested tremendous resources in improving our programming and constructing buildings, and we have devoted tireless energy to debating worship styles and mission strategies. Though valuable, these activities and conversations will not bring change to a generation. Nor are they at the core of our calling. We must make disciples.

I think it's worth noting that Jesus instructed us to "make" disciples and not simply to "find" them. We church leaders often take the easy route and expect disciples to materialize because we have dedicated a budget category and a sermon series to the idea. We insert the word "discipleship" into a mission statement that hangs on the wall and assume that we will crank out disciples as a result. Then we get frustrated when we don't find people transforming into Christ-likeness and growing in their gifts. Somehow, we miss the part of Jesus' command that instructs us to "make" disciples, and forget that making disciples is hard work.

We must return to the story of Jesus with fresh eyes and discover some ancient truths-- that discipleship is more about the journey than the destination and more about the process than the product. Discipleship is more about relationship than program. It's more about completing spiritual workouts than completing spiritual workbooks. Making disciples focuses more on engaging in transformational conversations than on enlisting followers of rules and traditions. It requires time and relationship. And now, as then, there is no Plan B.

*~ Heather Zempel is the Discipleship Pastor at National Community Church in Washington, DC and the author of 'Sacred Roads: Exploring the Historic Paths of Discipleship'. Follow her regular ramblings at [www.heatherzempel.com](http://www.heatherzempel.com).*

## ***The Expectation of Discipleship***

Can you become a Christian and not follow Jesus? I am afraid that many serious Christians would answer yes. This is the root problem in the contemporary understanding of the gospel. It reveals two mistakes in our thinking; first that salvation is primarily about getting our sins forgiven. Second, that salvation is an event, not a lifelong process. By process, I do not mean that you must behave a certain way for a long time to merit eternal life. I am referring to the process of becoming like Jesus starting at the moment of spiritual birth.

We are born into something called salvation, which is a lifelong process. Some people would call the life of salvation a life of discipleship. Jesus invited us into this life, "If any of you want to be my follower, you must turn from your selfish ways, take up your cross daily, and follow me." Jesus' words describe discipleship as a natural part of salvation; it is the normal Christian life.

The expectation of Jesus is that his followers would repent of their sins, take up their cross or mission in life and follow him daily. There would be an initial repentance and decision to follow him, which we would call, "becoming a Christian." Then, repentance and turning from selfish ways and taking up the cross or special mission of life would be the daily condition required for becoming a new person in practice.

This matters because the call to be disciples and make disciples is about expectation. Jesus expected that this would be His follower's first priority, simply because he made it so in telling them to do it. To put anything else first is a mistake. It is an exercise in missing the point. Author C. S. Lewis got it when he stated, "The Church exists for nothing else but to draw men into Christ, to make them 'little Christs'. If they are not doing that, all the cathedrals, clergy, missions, sermons, even the Bible itself, are simply a waste of time. God became man for no other purpose."

*~ Bill Hull has served as a pastor in the Evangelical Free Church of America and is the author of many books including 'Jesus Christ Disciple Maker', 'The Disciple Making Pastor', and 'The Disciple Making Church'. Web site: [www.billhull.com](http://www.billhull.com).*

## *Transformational Disciple-Making*

In the Great Commission of Matthew 28:19-20, Jesus says, “Teach them to obey everything I have commanded you.” How do you teach someone to obey God? Not how do we teach someone to comply, but how do we teach someone to obey? Obedience is an issue of the heart. It is a choice of submission to God as an expression of love for Him. As Jesus said in John 14:15, “If you love me, you will keep my commandments.”

So, how do we impact the heart of another person? God has always been concerned about the heart of the individual --the inner person. Joel 2:13 says, “Rend your heart and not your garments.” In the New Testament, Jesus also talks about the heart in Matthew 22:37, “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.”

In the words of Jesus, the greatest command is to love God with our whole inner life. In the Old and New Testaments, there is significant overlap in the meanings of the words *heart*, *soul* and *mind*. Oftentimes, the Hebrew word *mind* is translated heart. In other places where the word *soul* appears in the original text it is translated mind. The point Jesus is making here is not to distinguish between the heart, soul and mind, but to say that loving God means to love Him with your entire inner life.

Our inner life includes how we think, how we handle our emotions, how we decide, and what we value. It is the inner life of an individual—the heart, soul and mind—that must be transformed through the process of disciple-making. The Apostle Paul says in Galatians 4:19: “My dear children, for whom I am again in the pains of childbirth until Christ is formed in you.” The core of disciple-making is seeing the person of Jesus Christ formed in the inner life of another.

*~ Eddie Broussard has served as a leader for many years in various settings and currently functions with The Navigators as the Senior Vice President and Associate Director. Website: <http://eddieandbarbie.navigators.org>.*

## *Foundational Discipleship*

The foundation of a house is fairly simple and straightforward, not complex like the architectural details that follow in the construction process. Upon a good foundation, a variety of houses can be built: contemporaries, Victorians, even log cabins. No builder, however, would attempt to construct a house without a well-constructed foundation. And, perhaps even more futile, attempting to construct the foundation after the rest of the house is under construction.

Foundational discipleship is a process of relational teaching through example that must be built into a new Christian in the first few months of their newfound faith. It focuses on the first few months of a Christian’s faith. It instructs relationally. It teaches basic disciplines while understanding the problems that new Christians face. Foundational discipleship is the same for all Christians, all denominations, all nations, and all peoples. Formational discipleship, which is the deliberate, ongoing, and maturing of followers of Jesus in the ways of God, is different for all Christians, all denominations, all nations, and all peoples. A Russian flat looks very different from a Southern antebellum mansion, but the foundations are the same!

There are four distinctives of foundational discipleship:

- One-on-one relational instruction
- Awareness of the temptations that all new Christians confront
- Development of the foundational disciplines of prayer, Bible study, fellowship and evangelism/discipleship
- Completed within the first three months of their new faith

In the Sermon on the Mount (Mt.7:24-27), Jesus teaches that a Christian with the proper foundation will live in a house of faith that withstands the storms of life. With this foundation, a Christian can become a doctor, lawyer, pastor, or teacher. Without this foundation, the Christian doctor, lawyer, pastor, or teacher could profess Christ for years, but sooner or later, will find themselves vulnerable to trials, temptations, false teaching, or despair. A house will fall unless it has the right foundation.

*~ Grant Edwards has served as the Senior Pastor of Fellowship Church in Springfield, Ohio for over 35 years. He developed the discipleship process known as “First Steps,” helping churches around the globe to implement it. Website: [www.disciplinganother.com](http://www.disciplinganother.com).*

## *A Life of High Impact*

Let's face it – we all want our lives to impact this world in a profound and way. Jesus gave us the game plan for how to live a life of high impact when He said in Matthew 28:19 to “go and make disciples...” That's His plan; His simple, yet profound plan to impact the world – beginning with you!

Most of us are taught to focus on evangelism, or “making Christians.” That's a great mission, but we fall short of Jesus' plan if we don't continue in making disciples. Did you know that the word “Christian” is mentioned only three times in the New Testament, while the word “disciple” is mentioned 269 times? The emphasis is obviously on the word “disciple” and from this we know it's crucial to become one and help others to do the same. But what is a disciple?

First, a disciple is a learner. True learning, Biblically speaking, only takes place when it *changes how you live*. Second, a disciple is a follower. This is a person who “sticks to” the Master and desires to model the life of Jesus. Third, a disciple is a reproducer. Reproducing discipleship is critical for impacting the lives of those around you, yet sadly it is the most neglected part of disciple making. Remember, Jesus commanded us to “go and make disciples.” If we aren't reproducing discipleship in others, we are missing the mark on living a life of high impact.

Think what would happen if you decided to disciple two people a year, and at the end of that year all three of you decided to disciple two new people each, and so on. At the end of ten years you would have impacted a minimum of 59,000 people! *Fifty-nine thousand people* would be living powerful lives as disciples of Jesus because *YOU* first determined to reproduce discipleship in others.

So what are you waiting for? Has anyone discipled you? Do you know how to disciple others? Begin the great adventure with Jesus and engage in the learning, following and reproducing process that allows you to live a life of high impact!

*~ John Tolson is a teacher, speaker and author who has spent more than 30 years making a profound impact on the lives of others. His current role includes serving as the Team Chaplain for the Dallas Cowboys. Website: [www.HighImpactLife.com](http://www.HighImpactLife.com).*

## *Word & Spirit Disciple-Making*

There has been a deep conviction that has governed my thinking for over twenty years. We must bring the Word and the Spirit together. Speaking generally, it seems to me that there has been a “silent divorce” in the church between the Word and the Spirit.

Take those on the Word side. Their emphasis is: we must earnestly contend for the faith once delivered unto the saints; we must get back to expository preaching, to the doctrines of the Reformation that once turned the world upside down – justification by faith, sovereignty of God; and until this happens, the honor of God's Name will not be restored. What is wrong with that emphasis? Nothing. In my opinion, it is exactly right.

Take those on the Spirit side. Their emphasis is: we must get back to the book of Acts where there were signs, wonders and miracles; prayer meetings resulted in the place being shaken; if you got into Peter's shadow you were healed; lie to the Holy Spirit and you are struck dead; and until this kind of power returns to the Church, the honor of God's Name will not be restored. What is wrong with that emphasis? Nothing. In my opinion, it is exactly right.

The problem is that this “silent divorce” means that almost wherever you go, it is one or the other. Not only that, neither side admits to a problem. You can't tell Word people they don't believe in the Holy Spirit. You can't tell Spirit people they don't believe in the Bible. The great gulf is fixed and neither appears to desire to humbly learn from the other, speaking generally. What is needed more than anything in the world is that we see it is not one or the other that is needed but *both* – simultaneously.

Today's disciple-makers must take fresh aim at raising up followers of Jesus that are deeply rooted in the ways of God revealed in the Scriptures *and* who obediently follow the lead of the Holy Spirit. This will result in spontaneous combustion – and *then* the honor of God's Name will be restored.

*~ Dr. R.T. Kendall was the pastor of Westminster Chapel in London, England, for twenty-five years. He is a well-known teacher and author with dozens of books to his credit, including 'Total Forgiveness'. Website: [www.rtkendallministries.com](http://www.rtkendallministries.com).*

## *Cultivating Disciple-Making Denominations*

The family of churches and leaders that I am privileged to serve has as its mission statement: *“To glorify God by making disciples everywhere by proclaiming and practicing the Gospel of Jesus Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit.”*

Clearly when you state right up front that you will glorify God by making disciples, you have one of three choices. You can totally ignore it; you can give lip service to it with regular pronouncements of guilt for failing to achieve it; or you can take it seriously and have that mission guide your corporate passion, strategies and activities. I would say we are somewhere between the second and third options -- passionately seeking to engage disciple-making in a consistent manner with regular doses of guilt thrown in when we fall short!

Since we understand that making disciples is an overarching mandate for all we do, we are seeking to apply the disciple-making ethos to all of our missional activities both in Canada and internationally. The strategic process that our General Executive has commissioned calls for the development of clear definitions and strategies regarding disciples and being a disciple-making fellowship. One of our departments, Mission Canada, continues to be the custodian of our efforts to understand how as local churches or through our diverse ministries we would know if disciples actually are being made. These identifying markers provide a basis for our national, provincial and local leaders to interact regarding our effectiveness in achieving our mission in our various contexts.

We have sought to do several practical things to keep our mission on the front burner. This includes drawing on input from men like Ed Stetzer and Dave Buehring, making it the focus of district leadership events, identifying key resources and emphasizing core spiritual disciplines.

Please know, we are not exercising false humility when we say we have a long ways to go to cultivate a disciple-making family of churches. But hey, we've at least taken some steps in the right direction which as we say up here in Canada is pretty good, eh?

*~ Dave Wells has pastored throughout Canada for many years and currently serves as the General Superintendent for The Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada. He also has served as a chaplain for Canada's Olympic and Commonwealth Games Teams. Website: [www.paoc.org](http://www.paoc.org).*

## *Walking the Ancient Paths of Discipleship*

Looking at the landscape of effective, biblical discipleship in the church, the essential elements are the same: scripture, prayer, worship, devotion, fellowship, and service are among the chief ingredients. This is true in sacramental / liturgical churches. Discipleship is not new and we have much to learn from walking the ancient paths of our faith. So what does ancient discipleship look like?

We begin with the sacrament of baptism. We enter this process with faith through these waters where we are born anew into Christ and become a member of the church. Baptism rewrites our DNA making us new creations (II Cor. 5:17). We start with this sense of being in Christ recognizing an ontological change. This sense of identity is crucial, for without an understanding of being grafted into Christ, we relinquish our stance as human *beings* and tend to focus on the aspects of *knowing and doing*. Knowledge and action are part of our discipleship but it is not the starting point. Rewriting our DNA requires two primary ingredients: Bible study and worship. In terms of scripture, one of the tools employed is a lectionary, a systematic reading of scripture. Whether it is the Daily Office (morning and evening prayer) or Eucharistic (celebration of the Lord's Supper), there are assigned readings for every day. This was the rhythm of the monasteries and it is a rich cadence for the believer.

The second component of worship is done in an ancient manner as well. It is contemplative and reflective. Some may bristle at “reading” prayers but in doing so, we join with the communion of saints (Heb. 12:1) in worship of Almighty God. For two-thousand years the liturgy is a proven path, leading people deep into the presence of God. It can become mechanical but so can any method. The richness of liturgical movement accomplishes discipleship in a deep and mysterious way.

The layers of liturgical forms and practice are many. The threads of this tapestry weave together to produce people who are committed to the Lordship of Christ. The other elements of mission, evangelism, social justice and more, flow from this sense of identity grounded in scripture and sacraments.

*~ Jon Davis is a bi-vocational leader in the Episcopal Diocese of Central Florida. He serves as the Vicar of the Church of the Incarnation and as the Director of the Canterbury Conference and Retreat Center. Website: [www.incarnationoviedo.com](http://www.incarnationoviedo.com) / [www.canterburyretreat.org](http://www.canterburyretreat.org).*

## ***Been With Jesus?***

At times, it seems like the word “discipleship” can become kind of faddish, losing its power, significance and meaning. Yet, in Jesus’ day it was a way of life built on relationship.

The identifying mark of the early disciples was that they “had been with Jesus” (Acts 4:13). Disciple-making in the early church was about establishing a relationship with Jesus. The identifying mark of our disciple-making today, for any denomination, is not the cause we undertake, the standards we pursue, the seminars we teach, or the worship services we create. The identifying mark of discipleship has not changed; can people tell that we have “been with Jesus?” Is our relationship with Jesus evident and obvious to those who surround us in our daily lives?

The Apostle Paul continues to reinforce this theme that discipleship is about relationship. In Philippians 3:8-10 he says: *“Indeed I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as refuse, in order that I may gain Christ . . . that I may know him and the power of his resurrection.”*

True disciple-making is all about building a relationship – “that I may know Him.” It is not about self-realization, independence, or personal spirituality. It is all about Jesus and what Jesus chooses to do in me, with me and through me. We can only pass on what we’ve got.

Disciple-making is not primarily learned in a classroom, in a book or is automatically a part of our lives because our denomination emphasizes it or uses it in a tag line. It is learned in relationship with Jesus and with people as we serve. The identifying mark of a disciple-maker is when people are compelled to say: “Wow, there is someone who has been with Jesus!” Imagine the impact of an entire denomination committed to being with and becoming more like Jesus – and replicating Him in everyone around them!

*~ Bill Miller has served as a Youth Director in Hawaii and California, as a Senior Pastor in Washington and Conference President in Minnesota. He is currently as the President of the Potomac Conference of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Website: [www.pcsda.org](http://www.pcsda.org).*

## ***An Uneasy Question***

Can you be a Christian without being a disciple of Jesus?

If you are an apprentice to an electrician or plumber, studying bricklaying, or learning any skill from a master teacher, you would not hesitate to tell me you are a student of “so and so.” If I ask if you are a good apprentice, you might say, “Yes, I am” or perhaps “No, I am not.” However, what if I asked if you could be a better student? You would probably say, “Why, sure I could be!”

So I ask again, *can you be a Christian without being a disciple of Christ?*

Is it really possible to be a professing Christian and a member of the church in good standing and not be a disciple of Jesus? Have you met people in the church who are not students of Jesus? They simply have no intention of being a disciple nor have they ever intentionally decided to please God by following Jesus and obeying Him.

Unfortunately, what sometimes happens in the church is that we accept the “musts” and “oughts” and “shoulds” of life as if they were authentic translations of the gospel. After all, if we sing on the praise team, serve as an usher, are a member of the church board, or greet at the front door, we *must* be really spiritual, right? If we show up at church with our teens entertained, the children quiet and well behaved, the bills paid, and everyone happy, then the church *ought* to be fine for now, right? As long as we get our promotions, have enough vacation and salary to live a comfortable life, and maintain an acceptable level of personal happiness, then we *should* be okay with God, right?

Actually, none of these things has anything to do with being an authentic student of Jesus. None of it has much bearing upon the mission that He gave us – *to make Christ-like disciples*.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer said, “Christianity without discipleship is always Christianity without Christ.” So, again I ask, can you really be a Christian without being a disciple of Jesus?

*~ Woodie Stevens serves as the Global Director for Sunday School & Discipleship Ministries International for the Church of the Nazarene. Website: [www.sdmi.nazarene.org](http://www.sdmi.nazarene.org).*



The family system is the context in which we first learn about God. Critically important and deeply rooted beliefs about the nature of God, such as whether or not God exists and whether or not God can be trusted, are shaped in the crucible of the family. The shaping begins at birth. The baby cries with hunger and the mother feeds him. The baby cries because he is wet and the mother changes him. The thousands of repetitions of the baby expressing a need and having it effectively and joyously met by the caregiver who delights in him wire the baby's brain and spirit to accept the truth of a loving and need-meeting God. Sadly, the opposite sorts of early experiences, ranging from parental disinterest to chronic maltreatment or neglect create a neurophysiological scaffolding on which to hang unhealthy relational interactions, both with God and with others.

The parent's potential for influence begins in infancy, but extends throughout the child's lifespan. The savvy parent learns when to lead, when to follow and when to "wonder with" a child about situations, ranging from obedience to friendships to school issues to dating, and for parents who succeed in building solid, open communication with their children, marriage, sex, and the rearing of their own children.

Parents are given a guide for handling the heart of each of these issues in God's word: the Bible. Framing life situations within the context of God's truth over and over again during the course of childhood helps the child develop an internal compass. Teaching children how to experience God and hear His voice for themselves, part of which is sharing openly with them about one's own growing and active relationship with God, is one of the most important gifts we can give to our children. Lastly, the family should also be a safe place to express and practice one's gifts – ministering to siblings and even to parents in a setting of encouragement and experimentation helps children develop confidence that they can be agents of change in a world in desperate need.

*~ Paris Goodyear-Brown is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker and Registered Play Therapist – Supervisor. She sees children in private practice, is an author and speaker, and serves as adjunct faculty and guest lecturer for Vanderbilt University. Website: [www.parisandme.com](http://www.parisandme.com).*

# *Disciple-Making within The Dozen Domains*

Glimpses of how disciple-making can be approached and applied within the various domains of culture



According to statistics from George Barna, only 9% of Christians within the USA make their decisions based upon a biblical worldview – meaning 91% of those who have “given their lives to Jesus” don’t actually think like Jesus, have attitudes like Jesus, live out of the values of Jesus, and consistently demonstrate the love, obedience and priorities of Jesus in their daily lives! That’s

quite a contrast to what the church in Acts looked like:

- A praying, empowered and “one heart one mind” church
- A church that obeyed Scripture and the lead of the Holy Spirit
- A maturing, obedient, missional and culture impacting church
- An enduring church that feared and glorified God

The church in Acts reaped and reflected the deliberate disciple-making of Jesus. What pastor and church wouldn’t want to experience that kind of fruit and impact today? At the end of His ministry, Jesus commissioned His followers to do exactly what He had done for them, “make disciples...teaching them to obey what I’ve commanded you”(Matthew 28:18-20). We must embrace the biblical reality that God’s primary way of growing and expanding His church, locally and globally, is through the process of deliberate disciple-making: *reproducing the character, ways and mission of Jesus in those around us expecting them to multiply the same within others.*

The primary thrust of the local church is to function as a “disciple-making hub” where followers of Jesus are deliberately matured in the things of God while at the same time multiplying in others what God has given them. It is the embassy where disciples are equipped and teamed to live and lead in the ways of God within the “Dozen Domains” of culture.

To reap Acts-like fruit and impact, we must begin by humbling ourselves before God in repentance for disobeying His command to us. Then we must realign to obeying and engaging His commission to make disciples!

~ Dave Buehring has served for over three decades as a missionary, pastor, teacher, and disciple-maker. He is the Founder and Team Leader of the Lionshare Leadership Group, the facilitator of NetDMC and the author of ‘A Discipleship Journey’. Website: [www.lionshare.org](http://www.lionshare.org).



“We must be global Christians with a global vision because our God is a global God.” – John Stott

In both the design and strategy of our Lord Jesus, true discipleship is simply incomplete without a Great Commission context and passion. At the end of the day, no follower of Jesus is the “end-user” of his or her discipleship. But without a global life orientation, discipleship practices can subconsciously become religious avenues primarily pursued for greater self-understanding and quality of life. With Jesus, the disciple-making of the original twelve, from calling to commission, was all about others. When he first called them to follow, he promised they would be “fishers of men.” And when he was ready to leave them, he charged them to “go into all the world.” True discipleship, therefore, cannot be divorced from the Great Commission. It is not just “learn from Me,” but it’s also “follow Me...” into all the world.

Yet the Great Commission could be characterized as the Great Omission in many discipleship models today. Our challenge is to raise up a generation of global Christians -- everyday disciples passionate to leverage time, talent and treasure to see Jesus glorified among all peoples around the globe. This requires the recovery of two missing jewels of discipleship: *worldview* and *world vision*. Worldview is all about seeing life through the lens of Holy Scripture and aligning beliefs and behaviors accordingly. World vision is seeing our lost world as Jesus does, being moved to compassion and action as He was.

To raise up a new generation of global Christians, we must root them not only in the Word and ways of God, but also in His worldview and world vision. As one student said through her tears during her summer missions debrief: “This cross-cultural mission has helped me overcome my greatest obstacle...myself.” True disciple-making is all about “others.”

~ Randy Young has served many years as a Senior Pastor and missions mobilizer. He is the Founder and Director of The Agora Group, training next generation leaders to impact global cultures. Website: [www.theagoragroup.org](http://www.theagoragroup.org).



GOVERNMENT | LAW | NATION SECURITY

In a recent Gallup poll, members of Congress are ranked among the least respected professions in America with roughly half of people saying that the morals and ethics of these two groups are low or very low. It is no wonder this is the case when we are constantly hearing about elected officials on trial for taking a bribe or caught having affairs. It doesn't shock us anymore. It's become a cliché.

Government leaders who lack morals are not unique to modern times. The Bible is full of the stories of flawed and sinful kings, judges and prophets. But the Bible is equally clear about the need to raise up godly men and women in politics and government. Proverbs 28:2 states "When there is moral rot within a nation, its government topples easily. But wise and knowledgeable leaders bring stability."

How do we get wise and knowledgeable leaders in government? We start by building a culture of discipleship and mentoring within the ranks of governmental leaders and require that these leaders live their lives in a way that glorifies God first. Imagine if we had a whole network of politicians and government leaders who got on their knees before God with every vote or decision they had to make. Imagine if they were willing to make unpopular decisions based on biblical principles even if it meant electoral consequences.

Daniel was bold in following the principles of God over man's and this resulted in growing influence. He never worried about the consequences of his decisions because he knew they were a result of following God's guidance. He was willing to literally be put into a den of lions rather than compromise his beliefs!

We must deliberately disciple governmental leaders in God's ways. The result: a restored respect and public trust, and a more stable society.

*~ Darren Bearson has served in government and politics both in Washington DC and across the country. He spent four years serving in the White House under President George W. Bush and now runs a consulting company, Compass Point Strategies, LLC.*



GOVERNMENT | LAW | NATION SECURITY

In Old Testament times, military and nation security was an important aspect of individuals, tribes, and cultures. For example, Joshua defeated the Amalekites (Exodus 17), Moses sent out leaders from each tribe to spy out the land of Canaan (Numbers 13), Gideon freed Israel from the Midianites (Judges 6-8), and David bravely confronted the Philistine champion Goliath (1 Samuel 17). Just as in OT times, the need to have men and women of God involved in military and nations security is essential to Kingdom Building.

Current literature suggested that the 9/11 attacks ignited a change in policing from a Community Oriented Policing era to a Homeland Security era, with a focus on terrorism and counterterrorism. According to the Defense Manpower Data Center, between October 7, 2001 and July 3, 2010, 44,200 soldiers have been killed or wounded in action during Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom. According to the National Law Enforcement Memorial Fund, one law enforcement officer is killed in the line of duty somewhere in the United States every 53 hours on average and since 1792, nearly 19,000 U.S. law enforcement officers have died in the line of duty. Men and women employed in the military and nations security domain are entrusted to protect this country with his or her physical abilities, but it is even more important that they protect our homeland spiritually.

In order to be living examples in an occupational environment that oftentimes prohibits spiritual socialization, prayer is essential! Prayer is the foundational component of strength, courage, perseverance, and protection for those who serve the public through this domain. The primary way of expanding discipleship in this domain will take place through an "each one, reach one" concept, which encourages each military and nations security disciple to engage in assertive efforts to identify and support at least one other believer within the organizational confines of this domain.

*~ Gregory Campbell currently serves as the Deputy Chief Inspector, United States Postal Inspection Service. He is also a Ph.D candidate at Walden University.*



ELECTRONIC | PRINT | DIGITAL MEDIA

The power of the written and spoken word is evident everywhere. We are inundated with information – on our computers, our phones, our televisions, our radios and even through low-tech newspapers and magazines. Despite the increase in our access to information, we seem to be less trusting of the media we consume.

“The media” always ranks near the bottom in public opinion surveys of whom Americans trust. Political polarization, the proliferation of unconfirmed information, and the democratization of the Internet have only aggravated that mistrust. Journalists are under assault; not only from skeptical consumers, but also from an economic system that values quick profits over substance.

People who choose journalism as a profession consider it a calling. They seek to expose and solve problems, give voice to the voiceless, and are suspicious by nature, having seen the worst in humanity. They believe only what they can see and prove. This suspicion carries over to religion, especially Christianity, which claims there is such a thing as absolute truth and that there is only one way to reconcile with God.

Christian journalists must mentor and disciple other Christian journalists because working in this field is like living in Babylon during Daniel’s time. They are in the minority and have to constantly battle against the dominant worldview, which holds that every opinion has equal weight, everyone must be tolerant, and that truth is relative. Christian journalists not only have to be salt and light, they must also be wise as serpents and gentle as doves, as they try to report the news fairly, answer colleagues’ questions about crazy Christians in the news, and live the life of a Christ follower.

~ Sonya Crawford Bearson is a former correspondent for ABC News and KNBC Los Angeles. She is currently a stay-at-home mom who leads the moms ministry at Woodridge Church in Medina, Minnesota.



EDUCATION | STUDENTS

Based on his extensive research, Dr. Tim Elmore, founder and president of Growing Leaders and an expert on the culture of emerging generations, wrote the following about ‘Generation iY’, the generation born after 1990:

- They are 40% less empathetic than earlier students.
- They are twice as likely to not finish high school.
- They are less altruistic and more self-absorbed.
- They are postponing adulthood. 26 is the new 18.

This makes the task of discipling young people in the ways of God much more difficult. The environment is hostile towards educators who desire to pass on timeless principles of scripture (sacrifice, humility, obedience, discipline). But all is not lost. This generation is also highly relational, very spiritual, desires authenticity, craves mentors and is extremely pragmatic. When a trusting relationship is established, this generation will dive headfirst into learning.

What works today, and is more necessary than ever is similar to what worked in biblical times. We need:

- Educators who listen and not just talk
- Students who humbly submit themselves to their teachers
- Educators who embody what they are teaching
- Students who embrace transformation not just information

The greatest example is the relationship Jesus had with his disciples. Always in the moment, ready to use metaphors and stories, asking powerful questions and caring enough to patiently listen to the real need being expressed; Jesus provides a beautiful template for the teacher. In my experience as a discipler of young people, I have found that simply being available, listening well, being transparent and following Jesus’ example, you will be given a great opportunity to speak into the lives of young people which will in turn challenge and inspire you!

~ Mark Miller serves as a Principled Leadership Coach, speaker and is the author of ‘Experiential Storytelling’. He has coached and mentored students to corporate executives with the primary goal of helping them live a better story. Website: [www.markmiller.blogspot.com](http://www.markmiller.blogspot.com).

## Education & Students



EDUCATION | STUDENTS

Did you know that students in grades K-12 will spend, on average, **1080 hours per year** within a school setting? In a child's most impressionable years, that is an enormous amount of foundation laying; of worldview shaping. Parents have the God-given responsibility to train up their children, but as an extension of that authority, schools exist to support parents in the training

process. When a child is old, they will not generally depart from that early foundation, be it oriented toward God or away from Him. Thus, children rely on their authorities, primarily parents and teachers, to teach them about what is right, true, and real. Therefore, the task of educating the next generation in the ways of God remains paramount in an increasingly hostile world.

While some would suggest that education today is values neutral, we know that *someone's* values are being taught to our children every day. Education is not merely informational in nature, but transformational, in that it shapes the mind and heart of a child as it relates to how they view themselves and the world around them. In other words, the teaching process *is* a discipleship process, and the destinies of young people are always at stake. Is it any wonder that a consistent attack on the Judeo-Christian values taught to children has been underway in order to cut off future generations from the things of God?

So imagine what would happen if we could capture the hearts of young people for Christ now. The Church's task of discipleship must be as focused upon children as it is upon adults. We must move beyond Sunday school to Monday through Friday schooling as well.

Knowing how seriously Jesus treated children, we must quicken our efforts to raise the next generation of spiritual champions.

~ Bob Sladek is Head of School at Mariner's Christian School in Costa Mesa, Ca. He has served as pastor to children, youth, and young adults in order to impact next generations. Website: [www.mcs-school.org](http://www.mcs-school.org).

## Arts / Entertainment / Sports



ARTS | ENTERTAINMENT | SPORTS

Discipling artists must become an absolute priority for church leaders in these early days of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. The Protestant Church is already behind the wave of first-world culture change. In the developing nations of the world, we have already left the age of the *orator* and entered the age of the *artist*.

God has made *artists* – who I like to call *imagination specialists* – to lead human communities into touching the transcendent realities of life. They are *transcendence toucher* specialists. They are *environment designer* and *worship facilitator* specialists.

Am I saying that artists are special? No, not at all. I am saying that artists are *specialized* by God Himself. Artists' "unusual wisdom at imaginative design and expression" (the OT idea at the core of the term "craftsman," see Ex 35:30-36:3) provides humanity with servant leaders uniquely equipped to create the handles by which we humans grasp the non-material realities of life -- love, gratitude, beauty, goodness, etc. God enables artists to serve the community and culture by sculpting the symbols, metaphors, rituals, liturgies, and other expressions that allow us all to "hold" and "handle" the realities of life beyond the material.

Creatively gifted people must be "re-introduced" to and "re-invited" into the servant-leadership of the Church. If not, this current generation of church leaders stand to lose yet another generation of artists; robbing the church of growing more fully in the ways God desires her to grow.

Discipling artists must become a value and priority for pastors and creative followers of Jesus. The Church needs them to serve. The culture and the nations need to see Jesus revealed through them. Will you take deliberate action to disciple them in the ways of God so they can fulfill God's unique purposes for their lives?

~ Byron Spradlin is the Founder and President of Artists in Christian Testimony International. He is a musician, Bible teacher, pastor, and international specialist on worship, imagination and arts leadership. Website: [www.ACTinternational.org](http://www.ACTinternational.org).

## Arts / Entertainment / Sports



ARTS | ENTERTAINMENT | SPORTS

As an athlete, your whole life consists of learning the fundamentals of your sport: strength, speed, agility, hand-eye coordination, shooting, passing. As a hockey player, I found myself doing the same things playing in the NHL that I was taught growing up as a kid first learning the sport. The consistency with which the athlete executes these foundational practices

differentiates between the average, the good and the great.

Paul says to Timothy in I Corinthians 11:1, “Be imitators of me just as I imitate Christ.” This is a familiar principle to professional athletes as we have spent our lives imitating fellow athletes. In athletics, discipleship takes place through teaching the next generation how to play the game. We are shown by those who have gone before what to do and what not to do. Pitfalls are identified. We become stronger physically and mentally. We are taught how to finish the race. To an athlete, finishing strong is everything. Winning is everything. We would never play the game just to be in the game, yet that is what we have done as Christians. Jesus gives us this great game plan in Matthew 28 to go and make disciples, but somehow we have managed to take this ever so important principle out of the Christian walk. Instead we have taught people that just being on the team is enough.

Having spent three years of his life with twelve men, Jesus changed the world forever. One pastor spent countless hours praying, teaching me how to pray; reading the Scriptures, teaching me how to read the Scriptures; loving people, teaching me how to love people. The influence of athletes is matched only by celebrities and politicians. Just as Paul was sent to the Gentiles and Peter to the Jews, there are men and women God desires to send into the world of the athlete to disciple them in God’s ways and show how to live for His glory!

~ John Blue played hockey at the University of Minnesota, on the USA Olympic Hockey Team and in the National Hockey League. Today he serves as the Lead Pastor at Pacific Pointe Church in Irvine, CA. Website: [www.pacificpointechurch.com](http://www.pacificpointechurch.com).

## Business & Commerce



BUSINESS | COMMERCE

When an emerging business leader wants to grow themselves or their business, they turn to proven leaders who have a track record of success and are willing to share their secrets. The “hungry for success” emerging business leader frequently submits themselves to be disciplined, mentored or at the very least, instructed by those who, while holding the golden chalice of business success, often offer with that chalice a mixture of values that frequently denies or ignores the claims of Christ on this world and their life.

Emerging leaders need strong mentoring relationships that pass on the heart of God for this world and not just the secrets of material success. Where are those godly, successful business mentors who will help the up and coming not only attain success in their chosen field of endeavor, but also show them how to fold their life into the overriding purpose of God?

Mentoring works. Elijah mentored Elisha, Stalin mentored Khrushchev and Fidel Castro mentored Hugo Chavez but those leaders, like all leaders, can only pass on the inheritance of *their heart*. Where are the business leaders who carry the heart of God into the marketplace, providing leadership, mentoring and dare I say, discipling to the emerging business leaders to help them step into the hope of *His calling* and the riches of the glory of *His inheritance* in the saints? (Eph 1:18)

There needs to come a shift from a focus on personal accomplishment and even great success in the realm of business done in the name of Jesus, to a more corporate view of accomplishment and success that folds into the master plan of making disciples of all nations. (Matt 28:19) That is the heart of God, the Great Commission, the fulfillment of Psalm 2:9 and the plan of the ages. We in the business community are invited to participate in that grand vision until we see the “kingdoms of this world become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ.” (Rev 11:15) Are we up for it? Let’s disciple!

~ Michael Q. Pink is a bestselling author, consultant, business trainer and coach. He currently heads up the Rainforest Business Institute bringing transformation to cultures through innovative business training. Website: [www.MichaelPink.com](http://www.MichaelPink.com).

## Business & Commerce



Webster defines a missionary as “a person who is sent out on a mission.” For some of us, our mission field is the corporate business world.

With His work life as an independent businessman in the carpentry business, I picture Jesus relating to the everyday work struggles of too much or too little work, dealing with challenging clients, and building a successful business.

In His adult ministry, He spent most of His time around business people – fisherman, tax collectors and those of wealth. In love, Jesus always accepted them for who they were but challenged them to grasp eternal truths and pointed them to their God-given destinies.

In *Jesus CEO*, Laurie Beth Jones states: "If everyone treated their staff the way Jesus did his, you would see an increase in morale and productivity. He created a lean, clean marketing machine. These people were motivated."

In the marketplace our discipling may come in many forms such as consulting, coaching, leadership development or team building. But like Jesus, our work is to love and accept our clients where they are, and challenge them to know Him and His ways. We must intentionally:

- Pray diligently for those He calls us to serve
- Honor each person as God does
- Discern needs and water with seeds of faith
- Live holy lives as we lead our businesses
- Be prepared to share the good news

Billy Graham has said that the next big move of God will be through believers in the marketplace. To accept this call, we must know that the business world can be a holy place of work – and one where the mission field is ripe for the harvest

~ Mary Tomlinson has over 30 years of corporate/consulting experience, including 18 years at Disney. As President of On-Purpose Partners, she works with businesses, non-profits and government organizations. Website: [www.onpurposebusiness.com/mary\\_tomlinson.php](http://www.onpurposebusiness.com/mary_tomlinson.php)

## Science & Technology



*“He has made everything beautiful in His time: also He has set eternity in their heart, yet none can find out all work that God makes from the beginning to the end.”* (Eccl. 3:11)

There are three topics you may give yourself to that essentially cover everything; language, science and theology. *Language* because we need the ability to describe what we know and see; *science* because we love to find things we might know and see; and *theology* because no-one but the Maker has the ability to know, see and speak not only everything, but all that may be behind it or beyond it.

Science and technology is one of God’s great gifts to mankind: the knowing of worlds, dreaming of possibilities and discovery of connections that can mark genuine greatness.

God is Himself the great Engineer and Maker. To deliberately divorce ourselves from His insight, wisdom and direction in any quest we aim at is an invitation to arrogance. History is filled with records of what happened when those with such a gift did not have the sense to use this wonder wisely to bless the world. Babel was only the beginning; we can build another Hindenburg or Titanic for ourselves, but it will not be remembered on that day for how well it stood or flew or sailed.

When Jesus rose from the dead and came back to see His followers, He told Thomas, the born skeptic with the heart of a scientist, to reach for, see and touch Him and not to be faithless, but believing; Thomas said: *“My Lord and my God.”*

History holds the records of multitudes that used this gift for good; and time cannot tell all that was accomplished in their stand and by their hand. We must give ourselves to the discipling of those gifted and called to the sciences and technology – teaching them the ways of God so they might reveal to the World the Who behind the Wonders!

~ Winkie Pratney has enjoyed both a research and experimental background in a number of sciences. He is a historian, apologist, teacher, author and General Editor of the Revival Study Bible. Website: [www.winkiepratney.com](http://www.winkiepratney.com).

## Health / Medicine / Wholeness



HEALTH | MEDICINE | WHOLENESS

Did you know that the second leading cause of death among males between the ages of 25 and 34 in Florida is suicide? It's becoming a trend across our country, revealing the severity of the pain that people seem to be dealing with physically, mentally and emotionally.

People are engaging in risky behaviors and addictions of all kinds to cope with their pain. Followers of Jesus with godly character, hearts of compassion and competency in skills serving within the domain of Health/Medicine/Wholeness have much to offer those struggling with the need of healing, wellness and inner freedom. In John 10:10 Jesus says, "I have come that you might have life and have it more abundantly." The Greek word for "life" is *zoe* and means "life as God originally intended."

From the very beginning, embedded within the Creation story in Genesis, are eight principles for walking in an abundant life:

- Choice – taking charge of your life
- Rest – replacing chaos with calm
- Environment – creating an oasis that nurtures your spirit
- Activity – staying young mentally and physically
- Trust – expressing one's faith in a loving Heavenly Father
- Interpersonal Relationships – celebrating the people in our lives
- Outlook – the key to opportunity
- Nutrition – fuel for peak performance

These godly principles create a lifestyle of well-being and wholeness, allowing one to serve and give of themselves to those in need. Whether it be as medical professionals, counselors or those that promote health via exercise and nutrition, there is a need for followers of Jesus to actively disciple those called to this domain, so that God may be glorified and people honored and well served in and through it.

We've been commissioned to transform lives and entrusted with helping people move from hopelessness and pain to hopefulness and peace.

~ Lynell LaMountain serves with *CREATION Health* working in tandem with Florida Hospital. Website: [www.creationhealth.com](http://www.creationhealth.com).

## Environment / Agriculture / Zoology



ENVIRONMENT | AGRICULTURE | ZOOLOGY

*"In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth...And God said, Let the waters under the heaven be gathered together to one place, and let the dry land appear: and it was so. And God called the dry land Earth; and the gathering together of the waters He called Seas. And God saw that it was good."* (Genesis 1:1, 9)

The dominant metaphors of God's creative work in Scripture for our world are those of the *Environment, Agriculture and Zoology*. The very structure of life is upheld by His amazingly interlinked planetary design. In Genesis, our stated created origins are set in the context of the sheer beauty, size and power of Earth's majestic supporting structures, where wonders are unveiled. In all creation, beneath what seems like apparent simplicity lies mind-blowing sub-microscopic maintenance of previously unseen and unknown complexity.

The scriptures clearly reveal that God has given man responsibility to steward His creation (Genesis 1:28). Not only is this to be done out of reverence for and obedience to God, but also so that generations might reap the fruit of sustenance and enjoyment that flows from His glorious creation. Because followers of Jesus realize this is a command and value of God's, they should be on the leading edge of care, wisdom and service in regards to tending this domain.

Healthy soil conditions and crops, clean air and water, the wellbeing of the many organisms and species within the plant and animal kingdoms are all part of 'being responsible' for things assigned to us by our Maker. Environmental, agricultural and zoological researchers, scientists and practitioners must continue to seek to wisely manage God's creation. At the same time, we must deliberately disciple leaders in this domain with God's heart and ways, ensuring a godly perspective and excellence in competence as it relates to stewarding the Earth.

~ Winkie Pratney has enjoyed both a research and experimental background in a number of sciences. He is a historian, apologist, teacher, author and General Editor of the *Revival Study Bible*. Website: [www.winkiepratney.com](http://www.winkiepratney.com).

## Non-Profits & Service Organizations



NONPROFITS | SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS

**Tsunamis...Hurricanes...Floods...Fires... Earthquakes...**Most of us have found ourselves watching the nightly news, moved by the heartbreaking calamities around the world. In the midst of it questions are asked: “What in the world is going on...and what can we do?”

Jesus commissioned His Church to lay our lives down in loving service to a broken world. We are to love through compassionate—and often times, spontaneous—acts of kindness, reflecting the very glory and nature of God to those whose image of Him may have been distorted through suffering and loss. Throughout the teachings of Jesus, it is simply impossible to miss the mandate that He has given to His followers: to show our love for Him by serving others in need.

However, before actively engaging his disciples in acts of service, Jesus purposefully invested himself into their lives -- spiritually, relationally, and practically. This pattern of modeling and molding his team was evident throughout the time he walked with them on earth. It was woven into the fabric of their relationship and the various tasks assigned at any given moment. His first priority was to prepare them for the demands that would soon be placed upon them. Jesus knew that without this foundation, they could not follow His example by laying their lives down for others.

Discipleship just doesn't happen by itself. As followers of Jesus serving in compassion ministries in the non-profit world, we must be intentional about investing into the lives of those bearing the burden of service. The rush to serve must be tempered by the example of Jesus; care for those entrusted to us first, so that they in turn, can care for others. This is not a one-time event, but rather an ongoing expression of loving God and loving one another. The careful and continual attention to the well-being of our team will result in far greater effectiveness, and bear transformational fruit in the lives of the served as well as the servant.

~ Jack & Cherie Minton are the Founders of Hope Force International a Non-Profit organization created to provide a clear pathway to mobilize Christians into rapid disaster response scenarios around the world. Website: [www.hopeforce.org](http://www.hopeforce.org).

## Peoples: Discipling the Young Black Man in America

We are all well aware of the drastic statistics related to young black men today and how these negative numbers increase when there is not a father in the home. We need to ask the question: what is being done to communicate the truth that young black men need in order to succeed?



PEOPLES

Discipleship is central here. God incarnated in Jesus Christ the perfect example of how to do this. Christ developed godly character in others. This is our commission as well. We are called to be men who walk in the ways of God and exercise authority for the good of others. We are formed by what we believe and how we are anchored. We ought to be anchored in Christ, expressing the fruit of the Spirit (Ga.5:22-23) in honesty, truth and respect.

I grew up without a father but God blessed me with a man of God who disciplined me in my youth. I am ever so thankful for the time he spent casting dreams into my life that have come true today. I encourage older black men to take time and cast godly dreams into the lives of young black men. We can only arrive at this by caring, loving and affirming young black men in their personhood.

There are three core principles to build in the lives of young black men. First, each one should be encouraged to discover their special talents. God has created each man for a specific purpose, and has equipped him with the tools and gifts he needs to accomplish that. Second, a strong vision must be cast to follow God's will. A desire and vision must come from within, centered on Jesus Christ. The third principle deals with bearing suffering. In our walk with Christ, there are many struggles and opportunities to “carry the cross” that we must be willing to embrace and endure to accomplish Jesus' mission through our lives.

We have a holy heritage to uphold. I invite you to join me in laying godly tracks for generations of young black men to follow and walk in.

~ Dr. John Perkins is a leader, teacher and author. As a reconciler and community transformer, he founded the Christian Community Development Association and leads the John M. Perkins Foundation for Reconciliation and Development. Website: [www.jmpf.org](http://www.jmpf.org).

## Peoples: Discipling & Mentoring Men



Can you think of any patterns destructive to today's world and society that are not prosecuted primarily by men: substance abuse, domestic abuse, homicide, child abandonment, property crime, pornography, sex trafficking, etc.? The most notorious dictators and perpetrators of genocide – Stalin, Hitler, Nero, Pol Pot, Idi Amin, Omar al-Bashir – all of them men. A sinister and pervasive evil evades easy detection behind these past truths and present patterns: wholesale abdication of male responsibility and widespread excusal. The path to and root of male abdication is a lack of godly fathering.

The solution to any problem becomes self-evident once the problem is well defined. Stated in the boldest terms I know how: *The greatest need and the ultimate answer to male irresponsibility and evil is the presence of godly fathers – men who know how to encourage, affirm and love younger men, and do it.*

In I Corinthians 4:15-16, the Apostle Paul provides us with a strong solution: *“I became your father in Christ Jesus through the gospel. I urge you then, be imitators of me.* Millions are “taught” via the pulpit through Sunday morning messages and expensive modern media. Yet, all heaven cries out for one man of God to disciple one son on Monday!

No spiritual fathers adopting sons equals no discipleship. True discipleship equals spiritual dads willfully mentoring spiritual sons and investing into their souls -- nothing less, nothing more. Where men are the problem, godly men are the answer.

The singular answer to the greatest need: spiritual dads. Will you lay down your personal agenda and pick up the mantle of “discipler of men” today? Heaven awaits your answer.

~ Larry Titus is a speaker/author who has 34 years of pastoral experience, and 50 years in ministry. He is the President of Kingdom Global Ministries, a ministry that recognizes resources and releases global leaders. Website: [www.kingdomglobal.com](http://www.kingdomglobal.com)

## Peoples: Discipling & Mentoring Women



A strong society is hinged on healthy homes. Edward Gibbons, author of *The Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*, lists the “undermining of the dignity and sanctity of the home” as being one of the five reasons that great civilizations wither and die. This is because the home is the basis for human society and the scripture cites women to have the domestic dominion of the home.

Perhaps this is why Paul was emphatic about the importance of women modeling and teaching values to the younger generation. God's design for discipleship ensures that biblical values are sustained in cultures even if laws are passed with an attempt to circumvent biblical ways. To relationally transfer a virtue regardless of the law is to preserve a Gospel that cannot be stopped.

The purpose for women discipling women is to address gender specific virtues that are essential in maintaining godly relationships that develop God-fearing families. Older women play a very important role in Jesus' mandate to “...go and make disciples of all nations... teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you” (Mt. 28:19-20). It is an older woman's example of her obedience to God that trains and qualifies her to train others to live in peace and make their homes places of love. It is not a question or suggestion; it is God's design that each generation must give encouragement and guidance to the next.

John Adams once said, “From all that I have read of history and government of human life and manners, I have drawn this conclusion, that the manners of women were the most infallible barometer to ascertain the degree of morality and virtue of a nation. The Jews, Greeks, Romans, Swiss, and Dutch all lost their public spirit and republican form of government, when they lost the modesty and domestic virtues of their women.”

~ Devi Titus is an award-winning author, public speaker, wife, and mother with a passion for seeing women live fulfilled and godly lives. She is the president of Global Pastors' Wives Network and vice president of Kingdom Global Ministries. Website: [www.kingdomglobal.com](http://www.kingdomglobal.com).

## Peoples: Discipling & Mentoring The Next Generation



Some time ago, I had the privilege of having lunch with an incredible group of youth pastors—sharp young leaders who were passionate about their relationship with Jesus and their love for people, especially for the young generation. To say I was impressed with them would be an understatement.

I was also impressed by their desire to find mentors—spiritual fathers and mothers who were willing to invest their lives in them. I was blown away by the fact that they wanted to “hang out” with an old guy like me. At their age, I would have never thought that anyone over the age of thirty had anything to contribute to my life. These guys were different. They sought me out, asked me to have lunch with them, and opened their hearts and lives to me.

As we were getting ready to leave, one of them thanked me for taking the time just to be with them. I’ll never forget his words: “You have spent more time with us at lunch today than my pastor has in the almost two and a half years I have worked for him.” At first, I was sure he was joking or at least exaggerating. How could that be? But, I quickly realized that was not the case. Several of the others spoke up, affirming his statement and acknowledging to varying degrees that their experience was similar as well. Although the discussion that followed was brief, it has troubled me for years. Those exceptional young leaders all came to their positions not only with a specific job to do but with a deep desire for someone to invest in them--their lives and their future.

As an older leader (“a father”), I have taken the challenge to invest—not only what I have learned about ministry but also my life—in an emerging group of leaders, who, I believe, can become much more than I could ever be. They are ready to listen if we are willing to invest. I’m also finding that my greatest days of ministry are now giving myself to develop spiritual sons and daughters who will touch their world in ways I have only dreamt about.

~ Dan Sneed currently travels the world as a Bible teacher and conference speaker, ministering to and advising leader, while serving on numerous ministry boards. He is the author of ‘The Power of a New Identity’. Website: [www.dansneed.com](http://www.dansneed.com).

## Peoples: Discipling & Mentoring The Next Generation



Have you found that attempts to mentor the next generation of followers of Jesus can become a dizzying effort? We can find ourselves lost amidst antiquated structures, processes and programs that yield little to no fruit. Then, instead of reevaluating our efforts and carefully finding the most effective and strategic route out of tradition and into a more organic relational model, we fall prey to what is most familiar to us.

This generation has little interest in programs, structure and meetings. They seek organic, easy going relational opportunities. Here are a few things to consider when investing in young leaders:

**Streamline or eliminate formal programs** – Next generation disciples would rather sit casually around a dinner table with no agenda than sit for hours in a classroom with a speaker and microphone. Your best programs will never hold a candle to an organic, unplanned, time over coffee or through a text exchange. Loosen the agenda and reach out relationally.

**Try technology** – Have you text, tweeted or friended your mentee? This is especially important if you are a mentor that is using old mentoring techniques to reach a new generation. If it feels informal, it is because it is. Try using technology to reach, find and initiate communication with your mentees. They will respond a lot faster to a tweet or text than any other mode of communication.

**Air your dirty laundry** – So what if David committed adultery! They want to know if you did and how you made it through. Scripture comes alive to this generation when there are real life stories from your life to illustrate biblical truths. In former mentoring models, we shared our successes. This generation longs to learn from our failures. What we see as humbling they call authentic.

If you’re struggling to build mentoring relationships with next generation disciples, listen to what they are asking. Your best route to success is embracing a *more relational and organic* approach.

~ Brenda Bertrand has honed her leadership skills in a well-rounded career in the worlds of media, higher education, missions, and politics. Her mission is to equip the next generation of women for personal and professional leadership. Website: [www.brendabertrand.com](http://www.brendabertrand.com).

# What is *NetDMC*?

How do you impact a nation? By influencing it's domains of culture. How do you influence the domains of culture? By shaping godly leaders within those domains to live and lead in the ways of God. How do you shape godly leaders? By cultivating relationships and communities committed to making disciples that make disciple-makers!

*NetDMC* is a growing *network of disciple-makers, mentors and coaches* relating to, referencing and resourcing one another for the purpose of shaping godly leaders within the Dozen Domains in the ways of God.

Initiated by God in the heart of Dave Buehring in 2006 and launched by the Lionshare Leadership Group, *NetDMC* provides an opportunity to cultivate relationships among like-hearted leaders, facilitate strategic conversations and teaming opportunities, as well as share information, wisdom and resources. While honoring and championing each other's God-given spheres of service, we also endeavor to accomplish something together that is much greater than anyone of us could achieve on our own – a culture of “making disciples that make disciple-makers” within the Dozen Domains.

Our belief is that there are a "Dozen Domains" within culture where leaders are appointed by God with the intention of serving in such a way that God is glorified and people are honored and served.

- *Family & Social Services*
- *Church & Missions*
- *Government/Law/Nation-Security*
- *Education & Students*
- *Electronic/Print/Digital Media*
- *Arts/Entertainment/Sports*
- *Business & Commerce*
- *Science & Technology*
- *Health/Medicine/Wholeness*
- *Environment/Agriculture/Zoology*
- *Non-Profits & Service Organizations*
- *Peoples (cultures/affinities)*

Our 2020 Vision is a decade-long approach that envisions, equips and engages godly leaders to actively participate with other like-hearted leaders on a Domain Team with the aims of:

- *God being glorified and people being honored and served within their domain.*
- *Discipling those around them in their domain to live and lead in the ways of God.*
- *Setting in motion multipliable relational models of disciple-making within their domain.*

Two *NetDMC* Summits have already been hosted. At the first, in Nashville in July 2009, Henry Blackaby, Winkie Pratney and others helped us understand the value and significance of teaming together to re-establish God's purposes of making disciples within the church and the domains of culture. The second was held in Dallas-Fort Worth in March of 2010 where time was spent in “domain huddles” and learning together about the need of discipling the young black man in America.

Currently, Domain Teams are being developed to facilitate strategic conversations regarding our decade-long *2020 Vision*, which will be the central focus of ***NetDMC Summit 3 in Dallas-Fort Worth, July 11-13, 2011.***

If you want to learn more about *NetDMC*, sense God's leading to join us or desire to receive an invitation to participate in our upcoming Summit, please contact our Lionshare office at [NetDMC@lionshare.org](mailto:NetDMC@lionshare.org) or call (615) 377-4688.



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