

Equipping Disciples to Multiply Laborers

# MENTORING

## THE POWER OF INSIGNIFICANCE

*“...God chose what the world counts weak to put its strong things to shame, and God chose what the world counts poor and insignificant...”*

**1 Corinthians 1:28**

By: Dr. Waylon Moore

Do you like Trivial Pursuit? Ok, quick-- what was the name of the servant whom God used to launch David towards Kingship? That was an unfair question: the servant was apparently too insignificant to name; however, he was a critical link in God’s plan. That servant gave an unbelievably faith-ful, PR recommendation to King Saul: “I have seen a son of Jesse the Bethlehemite, that is cunning in playing, and a mighty valiant man, and a man of war, and prudent in matters, and a comely person, and the Lord is with him” (1 Sam. 16:18).

From Shepherd to the Throne

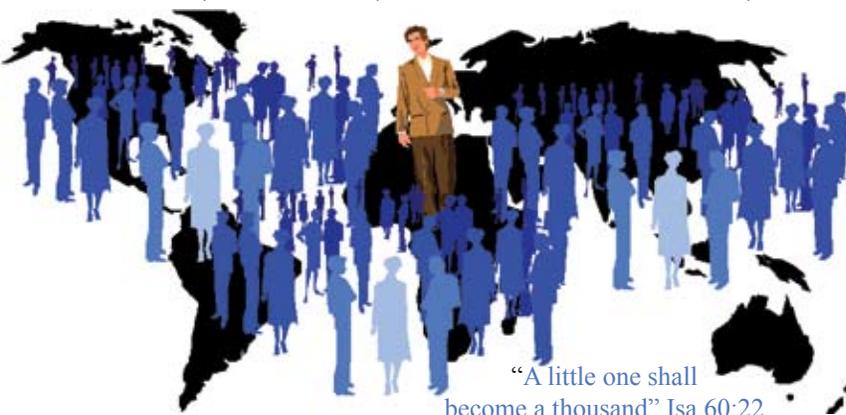
Recall these facts: David was young and tending the flocks. He was even too insignificant to be called up when Prophet Samuel arrived in Bethlehem and ordered Jesse to bring all his sons to him. Later King Saul had his army on hold, living in a tent-city, because of their fear of the strength of Goliath. When David volunteered to fight the big warrior, Saul said with care, “Thou art but a youth...” A nobody’s over-the-top recommendation lifted a shep-

herd boy out of the pastures, to the battlefield, and ultimately toward the Throne. God can get great glory and He can work powerfully through those whom the world would call “insignificant.”

God has mightily blessed people who are small and runts, the unseen and invisible. Noticed neither by the world nor by our blind eyes. Bible writers sometimes identify people with the terms “little” and “small,” to encourage us who feel that way, to believe Him. He can get more glory from those without a college degree, those short of stature or unknown than from most persons who are spectacular. Those with a personal publicity machine working for themselves may be hard to find in eternity! Paul writes to warn these new believers, who have been drinking from the wine of cultural success, to focus on the divine viewpoint. He knew the rottenness of trying to be ‘politically correct’ yet remaining babes in Christ.

“Look at the facts of your Call, Brothers. There are not many among you who are wise, as men reckon wisdom, not many who are influential, not many who are high-born; but God chose what the world counts foolish to put its wise men to shame, and God chose what the world counts weak to put its strong things to shame, and God chose what the world counts poor and insignificant, things that to it are unreal — to bring its ‘realities’ to nothing, so that in his presence no human being should boast” (1 Corinthians 1:26-31, The Twentieth Century New Testament, p. 282.)

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“A little one shall become a thousand” Isa.60:22

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## From Island Boy to Mentor of World-Changers

Barnabas was born on a small island, Cyprus. As far as we know, he didn't have the education and the status of others. He wrote no book in the New Testament. But he wrote on hearts, investing his life in men who did! He mentored Saul of Tarsus, who became Paul the Apostle, the author of over a dozen New Testament books. John, the writer of the gospel of Mark, was an insignificant teen, when he was lovingly, patiently, mentored by Barnabas. Barney gets a "fraction of the action" in rewards from God as millions read these Scriptures.

If we analyzed the most significant men in the book of Acts, we'd quickly pick out Peter for the first chapters of Acts, and Paul for the balance of the book. These two were life-impacting world shakers. They are certainly on the "first team." But how do we find the Peters and Pauls in our church? That might be very hard to do. God's channel to find them, though, was through two (initially) insignificant men, Andrew and Barnabas. The key to getting a first team is in encouraging and mentoring the second team, Andy and Barney. You have them in

your church now! And through prayer, you can spot them. They will reach the world-changers, if you mentor them into spiritual growth and reproduction.

Fred Smith is one of my much-admired mentors. He grabbed my heart by long distance over the years, writing through pointed, insightful articles. After Fred's home going, 52 Christian leaders whom he mentored helped write a new book, "Breakfast with Fred." It highlights 52 key lessons and insights from this marvelous "mentor to a generation of leaders." In a chapter titled, "Flying with the Eagles," Fred shares how some big decisions shaped him and brought spiritual and financial success. "I believe I am responsible for my own personal development... The first is mentoring. When I was young I heard the expression, 'Birds of a Feather Flock Together.' I knew then that I wanted to associate with individuals who would be my mentors and roll models." From being mentored, he reached out, in turn, to fill his life investing in others during his 92 years. Many of those whom Fred encouraged, would have, at first, been called "insignificant." Yet through mentoring they

became major leaders for Christ in business and in His Kingdom.

I met a young student at Texas A&M, among the thousands of insignificant cadets who weren't leaders at all. He was tall, faithful to the Lord, and a successful witness for Christ. I was thrilled at his spiritual hunger to see cadets grow strong. God linked us together as we met here and there, over the months that grew to years. Speaking to missionaries across the globe, I have rarely finished a first message before someone comes to me and shares about the life-impact of my dear friend from Texas A&M who mentored students for decades at the University of Oklahoma. This disciple maker and world-impacting servant of the Lord is Dr. Max Barnett. Let me close with Isaiah 60:22, one of my favorite verses. "The runt will become a great tribe, the weakling become a strong nation. I am God. At the right time I'll make it happen" (The Message). There are no little people in God's eyes. No little churches, and no little decisions in life. By walking in the Spirit you are eternally significant. You have been given Christ's power to change your world --and mine.

## Moore Family News

**Dr. Moore and CLEMMIE** loved their recent visit to Springfield, Illinois, where they visited her uncle's Drug Store. They attended a wonderful meeting of the International Mission Board where **WAYLON** is a trustee. Waylon will be in Paraguay January 11-19, 2008 to visit our IMB mission colleagues. Pray for strength,



safety, and open doors of ministry. Pray, too, for ideas for a new book which the Lord may want him to write! **MARTHA** is leading three small groups weekly in her university outreach. They handed out 500 candy canes on campus just before Christmas and she's preparing for a collegiate team of 10 from Union University which arrives Jan. 12th. **BRUCE and HEATHER** have entered an exciting new phase of ministry, as the church which Bruce planted, Cross Pointe, has merged with Lifepoint Church, north of Tampa. Bruce is Sr. Exec. Pastor, working with Lead Pastor, Brad White. Bruce coordinates the multiple staff as we see staggering growth and God's grace.

# New Year's Fuel

Since so many of us like to “turn over a new leaf” around New Year’s time, I’m offering three powerful suggestions to enrich your life as well as the lives of those around you. Instead of calling them “resolutions,” think of these as boosters for your Quiet Time. A new idea to spice up your times of meeting with God. You could also use these ideas with children, teens or your mate, as a bonding and fellowship time in the Word together. I personally use these tools in mentoring others. The first one is to do a longer year- end journal entry from 2007, highlighting the past, present and future, as you see God at work!

## 2007 — Year-End Journal of God’s Work in and through My Life: The Supernatural, the Struggles, and the Strengths — 1 Chronicles 16:12

### New Year Idea #1: Your Spiritual Inventory

Use a spiritual inventory to grow stronger in the New Year, by remembering the past! Rick Warren writes: “When you understand that life is a test, you realize that nothing is insignificant in your life. Even the smallest incident has significance for your character development. You will be tested by major changes, delayed promises, impossible problems, unanswered prayers, undeserved criticism, and even senseless tragedies.”

Record experiences and lessons, or they will fade. God commands us to “remember His marvelous works that He hath done, His wonders, and the judgments of His mouth” (1 Chronicles 16:12). For years our family has individually answered the questions listed below, then shared together around New Year’s the “tests,” prayers, and blessings from the year. Here is a list of questions to consider. Please print them, and give to those you love for a blessing together.

### THE PAST

1. List the greatest blessings from God this past year: in your family, your work, and your personal life.
2. What was the greatest trial (national, family, job, health)? What have you learned from it?
3. List in order the best of your answers to prayer.
4. List happenings or circumstances you do not understand.
5. List a specific lesson the Lord taught you last year.

### PRESENT

1. What is the Lord trying to teach you now?
2. What are you praying now for your: mate, marriage, children, job, church; those who don’t know Jesus Christ?

### FUTURE

1. What is a priority this new year regarding: your personal life and walk with God; family, business, and ministry?
2. What prayer goals will you begin? What is God saying to you these days about this New Year?
3. Can you set any goals regarding: your witnessing, your giving, your mentoring, your deepening time with your family, and your Bible study and prayer life?



[1] Rick Warren, *The Purpose-Driven Life*, Zondervan, p. 43.

# It's A New Year, Friends!

—So get real. Get refreshed with God.

And THEN get busy.

## New Year Idea #2:

### Prayerfully read a New Testament book through 30 times

You'll know that book better than any other and experience life changes! In just 30 days or less this book will become a friend, an encounter with the Living God. For example, read a short book such as Philippians or Colossians (it takes only 12-16 minutes to read it at one sitting). You're reading for an overview the first week or first few days. Think of it as water skiing, not pearl diving.

As a further step, each time you read, look for one thing to focus on: a person, a topic or idea, a key word. For example, one day look for verses that tell you about God. Think through what God says about Himself. You might note these verses. Then, read to learn about Jesus. Next, soak up verses about the Holy Spirit. Chew on what you're discovering... Other topics to look for include:

- promises to believe
- sins to forsake
- examples to follow
- verses about joy
- verses on peace
- sharing your faith
- unity
- pressure and trials
- biography, key people
- find the best verse in each chapter or the main idea of the book

## New Year Idea #3:

### This year, do a five step "meditation" on one verse per week

Meditate on (meaning: to ponder over, and take time to think over) key verses in the Bible, such as those that stand out to you in a Sunday message or your Home Team study. God will give you experiences that flow from meditation. Begin with a short verse, such as 1 Peter 5:7 or Philippians 4:13. Here's how:

- 1) Understand the Perimeter of the verse — A verse of Scripture is like a hamburger patty. One could eat only the meat patty; however, it's better as a burger. Surrounding the verse is the context. I read a number of verses before and after the focus verse. These verses season the text and give it pizzazz, as buns, mustard, catsup, pickles and tomatoes. The context is essential for interpreting and applying the verse. Write down some of these thoughts.
- 2) Paraphrase the verse — Put it in your own words. Give the verse a "yours truly" version. You'll begin meditating when you start saying it in your own language.
- 3) Pulverize the verse — Say the verse out loud, emphasizing a different word each time you say it, slowly. Next, pick out the most important word to you. Bombard that word with questions using Who, What, When, Where, Why, and How. You'll discover you don't have answers to all questions. You'll need to think over it, search the Scriptures, and pray.
- 4) Personalize the verse — Apply the verse specifically. Seek the mind of God to link one truth you've discovered to a particular need in your life, family, or ministry.
- 5) PRAY the verse back to God and into your life. You may wish to write down a prayer.

For further ideas and resources for you, your family or marriage, or your church-- check out this idea-packed website: [www.mentoring-disciples.org](http://www.mentoring-disciples.org).

If I may encourage you in any way, write me at: [mentors@arq.net](mailto:mentors@arq.net).

*I'm praying that this will be the best year of your life!*

— Waylon B. Moore

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906 W. Candalewood • Tampa, FL 33603-1702

Phone: (813) 238-2303

E-mail: [mentors@arq.net](mailto:mentors@arq.net)  
[www.mentoring-disciples.org](http://www.mentoring-disciples.org)

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