

Equipping Disciples to Multiply Laborers

MENTORING

WINNING THE BATTLE FROM DECISIONS TO DISCIPLES



“Arise, cry out in the night. At the beginning of the watches pour out your heart like water before the face of the Lord. Lift your hands toward Him for the life of your young children, who faint from hunger at the head of every street.” Lam. 2:19 (NKJV)

A Testimony By: Dr. Waylon B. Moore

This verse by Jeremiah recording a terrible famine, reflected to me the thousands of newly converted “spiritual babies”, who rarely get the spiritual nourishment designed for a baby Christian. Babies need liquids at first, not steaks. And they need feeding multiple times a day for many months. Peter writes, “As new born babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby, if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is gracious” (I Peter 2:2,3 NKJV). Growing from a conversion decision to a mature disciple takes time. We must stand against the forces of evil outside, and the flesh in the church. Disciples are made not born. Satan is crafty at stopping believers birthing healthy babes in Christ who mature into disciple-makers! We must fight the good fight to make disciples. A healthy birth increases the babes potential for growth and walking well. One grows in spiritual balance with a Barnabas-mentor. They encourage and model how to feed on the Basics. The child also needs and delights in close family fellowship. And we all need a Pastor-teacher in that fellowship (Ephesians 4:11-15).

We begin the Christian life as a **spiritual baby.**

A baby needs four things constantly, to grow strong into maturity: **loving, feeding, protection, and training.** Babies don’t feed themselves. We can’t give a baby a bottle and say, “see you next Sunday.” They need daily food. The Apostle Paul wrote the babes in Thessalonica a nurture letter of total scripture. He reminded them how he lived and what he did and said those weeks with them. He was their Bible with legs, their model, their spiritual parent-mentor, “like a mother caring for her little children” and like “a father” (I Thess.2: 7,12). Read the first three chapters. See how Paul reminds them

Continued on page 2

IN THIS ISSUE

From Decisions to Disciples	1-3
CDs and DVDs	3
Family News.....	4
Schedule of Events	4

to “remember”, and “you know” or recall. Every believer needs a mentor with a “parent heart” to carry them if need be or help them up when they fall. We need volunteers trained to “adopt” those new babes. They need prayer immediately, and then helped to begin growing that same week. I’ve met new believers at a coffee shop, parking lot, my house, their office at lunchtime. We talk about their needs, counsel, pray, and share scripture together. The connecting time interval is critical (see Acts 2:46,47; 5: 42; 16:5; 17:11,17). Wait a week or two, and you’ll loose many to the world.

A good diet for the babe in Christ.

We start milk feeding, taking them to Jesus in a Gospel. John’s gospel is strong on the Deity and Lordship of Christ. We also help the babe in their daily walk through the letters of Paul, Peter, and John. Reading the Psalms helps devotions and prayer. While Proverbs instructs us on work, attitudes, 12 character traits for our family. We start by leading them into a simple, entry level Bible study. I use a simple self-feeding entry-level tool. It’s a short book called FIRST STEPS. These six les-

sons ask questions with scripture answers all from a built-in Gospel of John (NIV). Each short lesson has “cream verses” of spiritual milk about salvation, assurance, victory over sin, the Holy Spirit, God’s promises, with some “how to do” a Quiet Time, and write out one’s testimony.**

How do you get mentors who will lead these new Christians into discipleship?

Finding and equipping mentors is an international need. I’ve found two wise answers that got me mentoring. Mentor Dr. Howard Hendricks answered this “how” of desperation by Pastors this way: “All of you want some couples to join your church who love their pastor, tithe, can teach the Bible effectively and will go witnessing every week. Forget about them joining your church! **You have to build them!**” So a priority became mentoring men.

Decades ago In England, the Conference speaker to answer this need for committed laborers was Dr. Hudson Taylor. He was an MD, missionary, and Leader of the largest group of

missionaries in the world, working through the China Inland Mission. They had more missionaries in China than all the major missionary groups put together had around the world. His simple answer was a surprise. Taylor said, “First, I pray daily Christ’s command for “the Lord of the harvest to send out workers” (Matt. 9: 36-38). (Do we pray that way?)

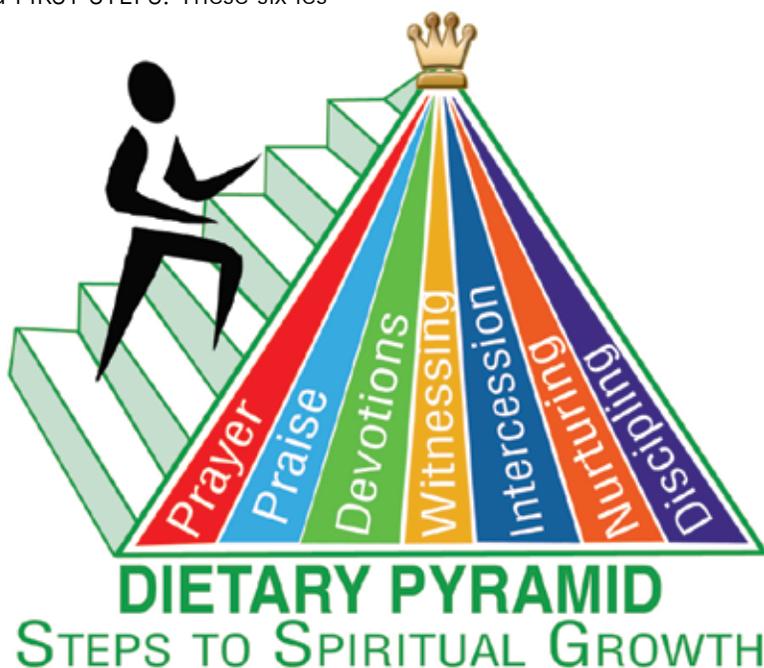
“Second, you must get the Word of God into the life of those in the pews between Sundays... the Spirit will go after them, and many won’t be able to say ‘no’ to the call of God.” (How many people do you know in your church or group who are in the Bible daily? Those who mentor know).

Sunday attendance while essential isn’t enough to produce Christ-centered disciples. We must get the church into the Word of God daily so that the Spirit’s sword will carve on their hearts. Paul modeled weeks, even months praying for and investing in new believers. He knew a healthy birth was essential for consistent growth. And he was willing to give more than the Gospel; his very life was available to love, feed, protect, and train new believers (1 Thess.2:8).

I have applied Taylor’s two biblical principles for raising up laborers this way. First, I pray for laborers almost daily, and have put my fingers on the map of the USA praying into every state. Then I placed a map of the world on the floor, and on my knees, began over time, praying for every nation three things:

- A. That God would use me in that nation to raise up laborers
- B. That God call and send missionaries to reach the nationals there
- C. That God raise up nationals who will multiply churches.

His second emphasis of “getting people into the Word between Sundays”



I found more difficult as a pastor. First, I saw that I had to find time to schedule mentoring times with a few hungry, available men. Early, before they went to work became the best time to meet. We begin teaching the how of self-feeding to a small group of men (not over eight) at our church at 6:30 for an hour. No preaching! They were encouraged to share what God has said to them from their study. I sought personal applications. Our rule was if they didn't do the study they couldn't comment. We began with simple question-answer studies, then on to "how to meditate" and chew verses. Next we began a simple inductive method of Bible study. I learned those four questions from mentor Charlie Riggs who became a vital part of the Billy Graham Team for 37 years. We had coffee, questions, discussions, laughter, and prayer. Out of the dozens of laborers God called, almost all who went to Seminary were faithful in one of those early a.m. Bible study times! Women met with my wife mid-morning with a nursery available, learning Inductive study. We were getting them in the Bible between Sundays. And the Spirit of God was raising up disciples!

A principal for finding new potential disciples.

I slowly observed what became a principle on how to get many more men and women into discipleship. We call it "Overexposure of the Word" in a short time. What was Vacation Bible School? It was an over exposure of the Scriptures on children for five days, and many were saved. What do Bible Conferences, Missions Conferences, Evangelism times produce? They are an overexposure of people to the Word of God in a short time. Want missionaries? Overexpose them for a week or two overseas to the needs, challenges, and opportunities there, and the Holy Spirit will call!

We learned we could do nothing in a life, except where the Holy Spirit works ahead of us in hearts. After prayer and planning we began other meetings: two men's retreats, a woman's retreat, and a couple's retreat yearly. We found different ways to share God's Word mixed into a time of sports, fun, good food, a sermon, testimonies pre-planned, and study groups with "pick at topic" to learn. Those Friday evenings through late Saturday afternoons had a solid "overexposure of the Word in a short period of time."

We watched as men here and there from the retreat began to show life. When we spotted **life**, I assigned one of our men to get with the guy, listen, pray, and suggest further time together. We recruited them also, to get in a group or Sunday school class. Couples were re-born; wives were ecstatic as husbands prayed with them for the first time. Families were changed, and we had a church with LIFE!

How did Jesus make disciples? Think of the Holy Spirit and W. I N. D. Twelve men were "with Him" for three years in Jesus' private ministry. A disciple is a follower and lover of Jesus. Activity and position themselves do not produce disciples. Jesus modeled four disciplines with the Apostles that produced disciples who were world changers. Following Jesus into his private **WIND** ministry will make disciples who become disciplemakers. The private ministry of Jesus was **W**itnessing, **I**ntercession, **N**urturing, and **D**iscipling. Getting any of these four basics into a life makes that person infectious and attractive. Others will see, ask to know how and the multiplying process begins.

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Visit www.mentoring-disciples.org and click: Materials

Note: Shipping is available at additional charge

CDs & DVDs (plus shipping)

- *The Power of Mentoring & Winning your Neighbors and Friend* 2 discs, \$5 ea.
- *Building Disciples Toolbook* 300 pages; download; Adobe format - \$17
- *Midwestern Seminary Class "Lectures on Mentoring"* MP3 format, 10 hours - \$15
- *Mentoring Workshop: Dr. Moore/ Dr. Bill Steeger, others.* CD MP3; 12 hours - \$17
- *Equipping Mentors for Character & Skills* 8 DVD's; 14 great hours for groups, or select leadership training to multiply. Includes workbook - \$95

Books

- *Living God's Word:* Sizzling group study on applying Scripture; by Lifeway \$9.95
- *Multiplying Disciples* - CD or book. Used in seminaries. Discover how Paul built men \$11
- *First Steps* - 110 pp. Includes 6 "entry level" beginner studies and NIV Gospel of John. Also the why of how to memorize Scripture, how to give a testimony, how to have a Quiet Time. Sold in boxes of 76 at \$1.54 each (\$131) Or, 5 for \$9.00
- *The Power of a Mentor* - 24 pages; Summary of mentoring \$2



Family News

The big news is a girl grandchild is a'comin in September!

Heather and Bruce are doing well. We are so thankful to be leading a **Lifegroup** at our church. Our friendship there is precious. Also I'm sharing in New believer follow-up classes, and seeing God save couples and singles every week. **Bruce** is challenged with the touching of so many lives, needs, and blessings. We are beginning to make disciples. I've had wonderful times of stretching, learning, in **Paraguay** in January, then in **Costa Rica** last month, teaching mentoring to our IMB personnel at Language school there. A Lifepoint volunteer team with **Pastor Brad and family**, and **Pastor Bruce** served in churches there.

Martha will be on vacation here in September, before her 12 month assignment to Spain.

Clemmie has eye surgery in late May. We praise the Lord for your friendship, and the treasure of your prayers, letters, and gifts.



DR. MOORE'S Schedule of Events

Your prayer support is valued:

- | | |
|-------------|--|
| May 25-27 | Midwestern Seminary, KC.
Class: Teach Discipling |
| June 23-25 | IMB Trustee Meeting, Richmond, VA |
| July | Writing on two manuscripts |
| Sept. 22-25 | Guest Teaching:
Southwestern Seminary. |
| Sept. 26-27 | Mentoring Mini-Conference:
Friday eve -Sat., Ft. Worth, TX. |

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