

ABOUT MORE DISCIPLES

“In *More Disciples*, Doug Lucas examines a broad range of movements that multiply disciples and churches. He identifies the common principles and the variety of methods. The book is comprehensive and points the way to further learning. A great reference.”

—**Steve Addison**, author of *Pioneering Movements: Leadership that Multiplies Disciples and Churches*.

“*More Disciples* ... establishes the global need for better disciple-making. It challenged me to get engaged. The book is filled with practical, proven concepts, approaches, and tools to get started and stay focused on disciple-making, including use of the Zume Project resources. I am looking forward to getting involved in a Zume small group and putting these principles into action.”

—**Jerry Anderson**, elder (on sabbatical), Sunday School class teacher, and Zúme group facilitator, Northeast Christian Church, Louisville, KY

“You can make disciples, baptize, help people remember Jesus Christ through starting other groups of disciples and teaching them to do the same. ... Do not be dissuaded that you are not competent enough. Read *More Disciples* and press forward to finish the work Jesus Himself started - that the whole earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of God as the waters cover the sea (Hab. 2:14).”

—**Ian Benson**, Secretary, International Missionary Training Network, World Evangelical Alliance Mission Commission, www.theimtn.org

“In Jesus’ priestly prayer in John 17:20, we see that the expectation of our Lord was disciples making disciples, ‘I do not ask for these only but also for those who will believe through their word.’ In *More Disciples*,

Doug Lucas reminds us that this is still the expectation of our Lord in the 21st century. It has always been God's plan to extend and expand His kingdom through simple men and women who love God with all their heart, soul and mind, who are obedient to Christ, and who are committed to pushing back darkness through multiplying disciples. *More Disciples* provides timeless principles and simple tools for those who desire to be a part of kingdom expansion."

—**R. Bruce Carlton**, Professor of Cross-Cultural Ministry, Oklahoma Baptist University; and author of *Strategy Coordinator: Changing the Course of Southern Baptist Missions and Amazing Grace: Lessons on Church-Planting Movements from Cambodia*

"The theme of modern missions is fast shifting away from adding new believers one by one to making disciples who multiply over and over again. If that is what you want to be a part of, then *More Disciples* will give you the tools you need to get started. Doug Lucas has given us a compass to chart the course, a clear track to run on and an inspiring glimpse of the Kingdom impact ahead for all who focus on *More Disciples* as their destination."

—**Harry Brown**, President, New Generations, formerly known as CityTeam International

"*More Disciples* is a must-read for every Christian! Making more disciples is the mission that Jesus left us with and should be a major focus of our lives. Doug does a great job articulating how every Christian can be a fruitful disciple-maker. Perhaps you question if God really can use you to make more disciples. Perhaps you assume that only pastors and missionaries can make more disciples. That couldn't be further from the truth. This book will set you on fire as you realize that God not only CAN use you but WANTS to use you to make many more disciples!"

—**Chris Galanos**, author of *From Megachurch to Multiplication: A Church's Journey Toward Movement*, and Founding and Lead Pastor of Experience Life Church in Lubbock, Texas, named by *Outreach Magazine* as one of the "Top 100 Fastest-Growing Churches."

“*More Disciples* addresses head on the fundamental question: What’s it going to take to bring the world to faith and discipleship in Jesus Christ? From this clarion call to make disciples, we learn what it means to be a disciple and then move on to the question of “How?” *More Disciples* takes the centuries-old-challenge and, through the grace of God, places it within our grasp.”

—**David Garrison**, Executive Director, Global Gates and author of *Church-Planting Movements*

“God is on the move in our day seeing *More Disciples* made much like what we see in the book of Acts. All across the globe, His Spirit is waking up followers of Jesus who are owning their identity as disciples makers. As a result, millions of people are coming into the Kingdom each year and churches are multiplying daily. Doug Lucas offers practical ways how everyday, ordinary believers can partner with the Holy Spirit to extend His Kingdom both next door and to the ends of the earth. We don’t need years of costly training. We simply need hear from our Father (breathe in) and do what He says (breathe out). Read this book but more importantly heed Doug’s call to put the principles in this book into practice. Let’s go!”

—**Bryan King**, Mobilization Minister, Cedar Ridge Christian Church, Broken Arrow, OK

“Why read this book? Well first, because Doug Lucas wrote it. You may not know who Doug is but from personal experience I can tell you he will make you nervous. He is an informavoire sucking up whatever facts he can that come near him. But what will make you nervous is his obedience quotient. The time between knowing and doing can be measured in hours not days and weeks. But second, because Doug writes from a life of practice not theory. He is personally and intimately acquainted with the methodologies in *More Disciples*. He is not telling you, “I think this CPM/DMM strategy will work!” He is saying “I KNOW it will work because I have a front row seat to God transforming people right in

front of me.” Third, and finally, because as the primary vision-caster for one of the most effective sending agencies in the US, Doug’s grasp of what is happening globally will inspire and challenge you to look again at the Great Commission. He’ll give you a look that will cut through the centuries of tradition to a simple repeatable process that has the potential of the good news going viral. So please... Stop reading this endorsement right now and get into this book. I promise you, you will think and act differently about the Kingdom.”

—**Roy Moran**, author of *Spent Matches* and *Primary Cultural Architect* of Shoal Creek Community Church, Chairman of the Board of “New Generations” and “Beyond.”

“The tools and concepts in this book provide ways for us to be intentional in listening to God, pursuing the life He intends for us, knowing Him more deeply, making Him known more effectively, and, most importantly, loving Him more passionately. It provides a toolkit to help us build in this way. May you become a skilled craftsman.”

—**Curtis Sergeant**, Founder of MetaCamp, content creator of the Zume course, and a trainer in disciple-making movements

“*More Disciples* is an important resource for facilitating the immergence of the next wave of multiplying discipleship practitioners. Doug Lucas shows why many have changed their ministry paradigm for the sake of kingdom expansion and why many others should consider doing so. *More Disciples* reminds those who already practice CPM/DMM principles to stay the course and to use this helpful resource to cast their disciple-making vision to others.”

—**Mike Shipman**, author of *Any-3: Anyone, Anywhere, Anytime – Win Muslims to Christ Now!*

“We envision a world on fire for God, consumed with discipleship groups making discipleship groups that resemble the wild bush fires that consume vast lands in West Africa at the end of the rainy season.

Everywhere disciples go implementing the tools mentioned in *More Disciples*, bush fires will result that will consume the whole world with knowledge of the glory of God. Our passion is that we see the great commission finished in our lifetimes and we believe the practices mentioned in this book will make it possible for all the peoples of the earth to praise him. Praise God that he has allowed us to witness what he is doing to make disciples of all nations with our own eyes.

—**Terry and Amy** (last name held for security's sake),
implementers of these strategies and life practices in West Africa.

“Multiplying movements of new disciples are transforming Asia, Latin America and Africa. Doug Lucas has written to help us in America experience the same joy, fulfillment, and spiritual fruitfulness. Doug traces history, explains process, and carefully details methodologies globally blessed. No longer do believers have to say, ‘Why are we not seeing spiritual fruit like we read about in the New Testament and hear about overseas?’ Doug is an experienced overseas missionary and agency administrator, but, more importantly in 2018, a hands on practitioner in the USA. He writes with passion, freely quoting from other practitioners such as Curtis Sergeant. He recommends a well-researched process built on solid Biblical principles supported by excellent online resources. As something like a great grandfather of many overseas movements cited in this book, I take special pleasure in recommending this simple practical handbook for every believer to multiply disciples.”

—**Bill Smith**, Trainer, encourager, and prayer partner of many
God uses to birth Church Planting Movements.)

“*More Disciples* is truly an excellent resource for people wanting to get started, or get better at, catalyzing multiplying disciples. But it will also be a very useful reference resource for CPM/DMM veterans. Doug is the president of a large American agency that has achieved remarkable breakthroughs in transitioning its teams to successfully catalyze

movements. From that experience, Doug has distilled for us the processes that took him years to learn and apply. *More Disciples* is a handbook of practical knowledge that will enlighten the reader with rich insights and provide simple case studies along with many useful visuals. This is a timely, and much needed resource!

—**Jerry Trousdale**, Director of International Ministries, New Generations, and author of *Kingdom Unleashed: How Jesus' 1st-Century Kingdom Values Are Transforming Thousands of Cultures and Awakening His Church* and *Miraculous Movements: How Hundreds of Thousands of Muslims Are Falling in Love with Jesus*.

More Disciples is a book well done being published at a critical moment for the church and those who wish to see all nations as brothers in Christ. There are several major take-aways that will touch every audience. First, we applaud the emphasis on the fact that disciple-making movements begin in the hearts of those called to be disciple-makers. (Personally, I think we should never actually have to use the term disciple-maker, because the nature of a true disciple is to make more disciples.) Second, we love the link that *More Disciples* makes between disciple-making movements and churches. Personnel and resources, as well as doctrinal audits are the purview of the church; and disciple-making movements cannot reach maturity without the churches who support and foster movements. Finally, *More Disciples* addresses one of the weaknesses in disciple-making movements by supplying curricula that is culturally adaptive and ready for those who are interested. We're grateful for the hard work accomplished by the *More Disciples* team and I pray it blesses many practitioners so that even more movements will be started.

—**David Watson**, Co-Author of *Contagious Disciple Making: Leading Others on a Journey of Discovery*

A Guide to Becoming and
Multiplying Followers of Jesus

MORE DISCIPLES

Doug Lucas

Foreword by David Garrison

Introduction and Epilogue by Curtis Sergeant



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Most of all, **thanks to God for His abundant grace and mercy.**

Special note from the author and publisher: After covering expenses, all proceeds from the sale of this book will be applied toward the costs of translating the Zúme course into additional languages (as this book goes to print, 36 languages are in process; each language costs an additional \$7500 to produce, on average) and conducting “live” DMM trainings in new locations worldwide.

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FOREWORD

By David Garrison

For as long as I have known him, Doug Lucas has been a servant leader of the Body of Christ in the pursuit of the Great Commission. This book is the culmination of a lifetime of humbly loving, serving, and leading us to do what Christ commanded two millennia ago: disciple the nations!

More Disciples addresses head on the fundamental question: What's it going to take to bring the world to faith and discipleship in Jesus Christ? From this clarion call to make disciples, we learn what it means to be a disciple and then move on to the question of "How?" *More Disciples* takes the centuries-old-challenge and, through the grace of God, places it within our grasp.

As a diligent student of the best practices in global missions, Lucas has compiled, sifted, and integrated the most fruitful mission practices from around the world and offered these up as a gift to anyone who wishes to see Christ's Great Commission mandate fulfilled.

The Great Commission was never meant to be limited to a vision statement or a frothy aspiration. Jesus meant for His disciples to do for the world what He had done for them: reproduce the life-transforming power of the gospel virally to the very ends of the earth.

As the Body of Christ, the Great Commission is neither a simple Messianic benediction nor a hollow platitude. It is both our quest and

More Disciples

our destiny. *More Disciples* offers us a seasoned and reliable guidebook as we journey to the fulfillment of this great Kingdom venture.

David Garrison

October, 2018

New York, New York

INTRODUCTION

By Curtis Sergeant

Only one life, 'twill soon be past.
Only what's done for Christ will last.
(Refrain from “Only One Life” by C.T. Studd)

In Bethlehem, at the Church of the Nativity, there stands a statue of St. Jerome. He was the translator of the Latin Vulgate, which served as the official Catholic Scriptures from its completion in 416 AD until the latter half of the 20th century. It is widely considered to be not merely the first translation of the entire Bible, but the most important translation ever.



Photo 1: Statue of St. Jerome.

The Church of the Nativity was built on top of a series of tunnels and caves where Jerome lived and worked on the translation for over 30 years. You will notice when you look at the statue that there is a human skull chained to his left ankle. Jerome lived with that skull chained to his leg in order for it to be a constant reminder to him of the brevity of life. That sort of dedication and focus

enabled him to make a massive impact on the world for the Kingdom of God.

In our day, it is perhaps more difficult than ever to maintain such focus. From New Delhi to Beijing, Lagos to São Paulo, London to New York, our increasing urbanization and the integration of new technology into our lives has led to a new sense of busyness and poverty, the poverty of time. Over and over, when seeking to disciple others and equip them to make disciples, I hear objections related to the lack of time.

The last time I checked, everyone still had 24 hours in a day. What has changed?

In Ephesians 2:10, Paul says, “For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.” This tells us that God has specific plans and intentions for what He wants us to do. In the Gospel of John, Jesus repeatedly spoke about the fact that He only said what He heard the Father saying and did only what He saw the Father doing.

My conclusion is that, if we don't have enough time, it must mean that we are not limiting ourselves to what God intends for us to do, but rather we also are seeking to do some activities we want to do. The result is, indeed, we do not have enough time. Similarly, rather than restricting ourselves to saying what the Lord is saying, we spend time saying things we want to say. The result is noise which, when added to the voluminous data our society churns out, fails to achieve the purposes God intends.

It is a matter of stewardship. We must be more in tune with the Spirit in order to utilize the 24 hours we are given each day. We constantly must be attentive to the Lord's intentions and desires in order to achieve His purposes in our communications with others.

Knowing Him and making Him known is the life of being a disciple. Constantly, He is expressing Himself and revealing Himself and communicating to us. He does this in large and bold and loud ways in nature and creation and the rise and fall of empires and the making of history and societal events. He does this in small and intimate

and quiet ways through silent impressions and thoughts, dreams, and minute gestures or facial expressions of people. He does it through Scripture, prayer, fellow believers, and pain or grief. To the degree we are sensitive to His communications, we have the opportunity to know Him more intimately and make Him known more effectively.

It is a journey. This journey will not reach its destination until we see Him face to face. We are destined to be “on the way” or “in process” until then. Of course, because He is infinite and we are not, our recognition of Him will always be limited. To the degree we know Him, however, we will be remade more in His image. One purpose of our lives on earth is to begin this process in preparation for an eternity of fellowship with Him and worship of Him forever. The other primary purpose is for Him to use us to be part of His speaking to others.

This book provides tools and concepts to help us develop patterns that support living this sort of life, one that is on a trajectory of knowing Him more fully and making Him known better by others. Some people complain that any tools or patterns are deadening and lifeless and interfere with having a living and vital relationship with God and others. That is ridiculous. We should view such tools and processes in the same way we view eating utensils and mealtimes. Is food boring and bland because we eat with utensils? Does the use of eating utensils ruin the experience of eating? Are meals rendered meaningless because we use a knife, fork, and spoon over and over and over again? Do we lose interest in eating because of the life-draining repetitiveness of the endless cycle of breakfast, lunch, and dinner? Do we quit loving food because of these empty habits?

The tools and concepts in this book provide ways for us to be intentional in listening to God, pursuing the life He intends for us, knowing Him more deeply, making Him known more effectively, and, most importantly, loving Him more passionately. Let us strive to live our lives in an intentional way like St. Jerome in order that we might please the One we love.

In 1 Corinthians 3:10-15 Paul says,

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“According to the grace of God given to me, like a skilled master builder I laid a foundation, and someone else is building upon it. Let each one take care how he builds upon it. For no one can lay a foundation other than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if anyone builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw - each one’s work will become manifest, for the Day will disclose it, because it will be revealed by fire, and the fire will test what sort of work each one has done. If the work that anyone has built on the foundation survives, he will receive a reward. If anyone’s work is burned up, he will suffer loss, though he himself will be saved, but only as through fire.”

This book provides a toolkit to help us build in this way. May you become a skilled craftsman.

Curtis Sergeant
Dadeville, Alabama
October, 2018

CHAPTER 1

WHY MAKE MORE DISCIPLES

Why should we try to make more disciples? Why should we be in a hurry to do so?

What's a Disciple?

First things first, what do we mean when we say, “disciple?” For the purposes of this book, we’ll define a disciple as a follower of Christ who hears, obeys, and shares the Good News with others, then trains them to do the same. Put another way, a disciple loves God, loves people, and makes other disciples. How did we come up with that definition?

Jesus Commanded It

In Matthew’s version of the Great Commission, Jesus’s command to make disciples of all nations leaves no room for error.



Photo 2: Jesus said, “Make disciples.”

you always, to the very end of the age” (Matthew 28:18-20).

Jesus 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

If He commanded it, we ought to tackle it full force. There's also another reason why we should want to persuade them.

The Early Church Modeled It

The book of Acts is a history of the expansion of the early Church. The author, Luke, was a very methodical writer. He categorizes himself as a careful investigator (Luke 1:3). He wants his reader(s) to know about the “certainty of things” (Luke 1:4). Although he is aware of multiple secondary sources (Luke 1:1), if he hadn't witnessed something first-hand, he believed in gathering eye-witness reports (Luke 1:2).

Knowing this, it's not surprising that when the first crop of new believers seeks to be baptized into Christ, Luke counts them the best he can. In Acts 2:41, he records that about 3,000 people were added to the number of original disciples following Jesus. I have a feeling this was an estimate, but nevertheless, Luke was trying to investigate properly.

Some six verses later, Luke is already out of fingers. By this time (already), God was adding to their numbers daily those who were being saved (Acts 2:47).

Interestingly, as persecution broke out, it didn't stifle Kingdom growth. It just amplified it. When Peter and John were imprisoned because they couldn't stop testifying about the resurrected Jesus, it prompted some 5,000 new believers to accept Christ (Acts 4:3). By the time we get to Acts 5:32, the believers were meeting needs of the poor like crazy, as a natural outgrowth of their love and concern for one another. God did some amazing things during those days (Acts 5:12). A few verses (and a few days) later, Luke has to admit, he can't keep track any more. At that point, instead of guessing at the numbers, he just quantifies them as “increasing numbers — crowds of both men and women” (Acts 5:14). This reminds me of a child who, instead of counting, will just give up and begin to use words like “gobs” and “humongous” and “mongo.”

More persecution breaks out. More punishment takes place. The growth skyrockets. The disciples are meeting daily — not just in the temple complex, but in homes too (Acts 5:42). Every day, they keep

“teaching and proclaiming the good news that Jesus is the Messiah” (also in Acts 5:42). The government and religious leaders ratchet up the persecution even more and what happens to the church? “So the preaching about God flourished, the number of the disciples in Jerusalem multiplied greatly, and a large group of priests became obedient to the faith” (Acts 6:7).

Luke was astounded. From his roots as a critical investigative reporter, he saw growth out of control. In fact, the early Church went from exact numbers to additions, then from additions to additions **daily**, and from daily additions to **multiplication**.

Now **that** is what we call **more disciples**.

Love Compels Us

If we truly believe in a literal place of eternal punishment for those who don't know Jesus (2 Thess. 1:8-9), then it stands to reason that loving Christians would do everything they can to get the message out as quickly as possible to save as many as possible. You see, researchers tell us that approximately 2.9 billion people in the world today are unreached by circumstance, not by choice. They've never had a valid chance to say “Yes!” to Jesus because they don't have a significant witness in their midst. How much would we have to **hate** them to keep the truth a secret — especially when we know how to retell it?

To make matters even more complicated, these 2.9 billion people don't all speak the same language. In fact, many wouldn't even speak to one another if they did! They are separated by barriers of geography, culture, understanding, and/or acceptance. Since their fathers and forefathers wouldn't speak to one another, their descendants follow in those same footsteps. They might shop in the same market. Maybe they even attend the same university; however, because of language, resentment, ethnicity, or simple pride, they don't hang together. So reaching one population segment is no guarantee of reaching the neighboring group.

When we begin to count all those differing tribes, languages, castes, and nations, the numbers swell quickly. Many of these groups

will need unique strategies because they are unique “people groups.” The old song, “Each one, reach one,” breaks down when the “one” won’t talk to the other. Nope, to reach all people groups, the effort is going to have to be intentional.

Our Complex World Demands a Solution

Add to this the challenge of today’s cities. Over half the people in the world today live in urban areas. Take London, for instance. In a 2015 study, 33% of all Londoners said they believe in an afterlife, but 41% reported that they believed we simply “cease to exist” after death, and another 26% weren’t sure. Today roughly 1/3 of all adults in Britain claim they don’t believe in “a God.” So megacities which were once missionary-sending centers are now confused about and even negative about Christianity (Jordan, 2015).

If this is true, then today’s church faces a virtual emergency. Every day, among all these tribes, castes, and nations, some 50,000 to 70,000 people pass into a Christless eternity with no hope of Heaven. Unless God “changes His mind” about judgment, the certainty is — they will not enjoy His Heaven.

Caring for the One

In Luke 15, Jesus tells the story of the shepherd who left 99 sheep in a meadow in the high country and combed the hillsides, picking His way in and out of ledges and briar patches, in hopes of finding one lost lamb. How much the more, with 2.9 BILLION lost souls, should we make it a priority to “leave the 99” in the high country and mobilize every last resource available for the sake of the **last**, the **least**, and the **lost**—the most **desperate** living in the greatest **darkness** in the most imminent **danger**.

In Steven Spielberg’s 1993 blockbuster movie, *Schindler’s List*, based on an actual man’s life, Liam Neeson’s character, Oskar Schindler, arrives in Krakow in 1939, hoping to make a good living running his new factory. He joins with the Nazis at first because it was smart for business.

He fills his factory with Jewish workers for smart-business reasons. And when Hitler's troops begin wiping out nearby Jewish settlements, Schindler protects his workers, perhaps in the beginning, mainly to keep his factory running smoothly. Soon, he becomes passionate about saving innocent lives. In a famous scene, with the help of his Jewish accountant, played by Ben Kingsley, he works hard to develop a list in which every life mattered. He can be heard to say again and again, "How many are on the list now?" Again at the end of the movie, he's asking, "Why didn't I sell my car? Why didn't I sell this pen?" Of course Schindler is moved by the gratitude of the 1,200 he has saved, but he's filled with anguish that he didn't save "just one more."



Photo 3: Jesus said, "Go after the lost sheep."

Add to God's Glory

There's another reason for making more disciples that goes beyond the imminent justice of God. And that is, the glory of God. John Piper wrote, "Missions is not the ultimate goal of the church. Worship is. Missions exists because worship doesn't. Worship is ultimate, not missions, because God is ultimate, not man. When this age is over, and the countless millions of the redeemed fall on their faces before the throne of God, missions will be no more. It is a temporary necessity. But worship abides forever. So worship is the fuel and goal of missions" (Piper, 2010).

Making more disciples means more people wearing white robes (headed to Heaven) at the end of all time. No one should go to his grave without someone testifying to him about Christ's love. And

more disciples add to God's glory, by adding to the praises that will be uttered by a tapestry of skin-tones, cultures, and races.

If we could possibly accelerate the fulfillment of the Great Commission, should not every church, every household, and every individual in God's Kingdom want to get involved? What if these approaches helped us save millions, or thousands, or even just one more lost lamb? Should it not become our highest priority?

There's No Time to Waste

In view of all the above, there's no time to waste. If we could discover an approach that might accelerate good Kingdom growth, should we not embrace it? Curtis Sergeant's (who wrote the foreword for this book) famous 12-minute training video shows the importance of the speed at which we tell the Good News to the unreached. When he begins telling about pace, he begins snapping his fingers loudly, explaining that, with each snap, another soul is passing into a Christ-less eternity. About 50,000 people per day die among all unreached peoples — which roughly corresponds to one person every second (Sergeant, YouTube, 2015). In view of the millions (billions, actually) with little or no message, shouldn't today's highest priority be "more disciples" and "more training" in an effort to reach as many as possible, among as many neighbors and nations as possible?

Curtis reiterated a call to action in a recent article he wrote for *Mission Frontiers*.

It would be simple to think someone else will step up and answer the call. It would be tragic if we sat hopeless in a broken world when we are the ones He put here to co-labor with Him to do something about it.

In America: Only 2% of Christians share their faith. Let's do something about it – in Jesus's name!

In the last 10 years, church attendance has gone down in every single county. Let's do something about it – in Jesus's name!

In the last 10 years, church membership dropped nearly 10% and population increased 11.4%. Let's do something about it – in Jesus's name!

Transfer growth and the conversion of children of existing members account for 96% of church growth. Let's do something about it – in Jesus's name!

Of all Americans, 53% are now considered “uninvitable to church.” Let's do something about it – in Jesus's name!

Our cities and states are becoming increasingly unreached. Let's do something about it – in Jesus's name!

Other religions like Islam, Hinduism, Atheism, and Secularism are shaping society. Let's do something about it – in Jesus's name!

We all have seen or heard of movements taking place in China, India, Africa, and many other places by the hand of the Lord. Now, it is America's time. Let us believe this in faith!

As God rhetorically asked in His first book, “Is anything too hard for the Lord” (Sergeant, *The Zume Project Igniting The Spark*, 2018)?

In Matthew 9:35-36, we read about Jesus's heart for the hurting. Matthew records that “when Jesus saw the crowds, he had compassion on them.” Why did he have compassion? Because “they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.” Have you ever seen crowds like that? Have you met the harassed and helpless? Do some of them live next door? If that's the case, imagine what it's like in a refugee camp in Europe, or a remote village in Africa, or in a crowded village with dirt streets beside a river in Asia. In Matthew 9:37, Jesus concluded, “The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.” Today, will you join me in that prayer for the harvest?

Questions for Discussion:

1. How might you have previously answered the question, “What is a disciple?” Do you agree or disagree with the definition provided in this chapter?
2. How did you view disciple-making before reading this chapter? Compare and contrast your prior understanding with any nuances you’ve picked up from this reading.
3. This chapter pointed to the fact that the early church seemed all the more to thrive in the midst of persecution. Would you say there is persecution where you will be making disciples? Has the church thrived? Offer some theories as to why or why not?
4. How might you have previously explained the parable of the lost sheep in Luke 15? As a result of reading this chapter, how has your understanding changed, if at all?
5. If a friend were to ask, “Does making more disciples somehow add to the global voice offering glory to God,” how would you answer? Explain the basis of your position.

CHAPTER 2

A WAY FORWARD

If we accept the premise that God wants us to make more disciples, the question then arises, “How?” Accepting that God desires and expects us to join Him in this task, how do we go forward?

Researchers and practitioners have sought an answer to that very question for 100 years or so. Today, we stand on the shoulders of giants who have enlightened the way through years of exploration and experimentation, seeking the answer to the key question in this book: “How can we make more disciples?”



Photo 4: To make more disciples, what’s the “way forward?”

Today, we are in the midst of what just might be the greatest awakening since the first century. We are witnessing, in fact, what can only be described as a vast sea change in the way we believe God wants us to participate in growing His kingdom. This paradigm shift is huge. As we look back at the past 100 years, suddenly, in what seems like the blink of an eye, the earth has shifted.

Allen

It's hard to find the absolute beginning of this journey, so let's just pick one modern-day prophet and let him represent the awakening many others have been experiencing. Roland Allen is one of the best expressions for our wake-up call today. In *The Spontaneous Expansion of the Church* (Allen, 1962), written in 1927, Allen imagined a day when every believer would tell the gospel story to everyone he or she met. This constant proclamation, coupled with the work of the Holy Spirit, would, in Allen's opinion, unleash a power in the church known only before in the book of Acts. The church would grow like wildfire. All believers, when freed of outside controlling factors, would instinctively long to spread a burning faith because they simply couldn't keep quiet.

Patterson

Fast-forward a few decades and you'll hear another prophet, a little-known missionary named George Patterson. In his book, *Obedience-Oriented Education* (Patterson, 1976), Patterson compared traditional college methods with what he called, "obedience-oriented methods." He wrote, "The obedience-oriented teacher, looking beyond his student, is satisfied only with edifying work in the field" (Patterson, 1976, p. 3). Patterson saw a day when the church would grow spontaneously.

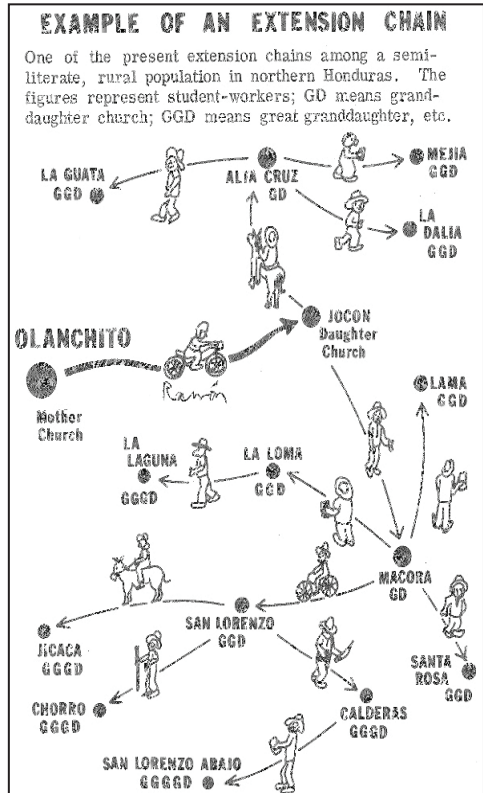


Figure 5: Patterson's vision of small extension classes look a lot like the multiplying groups of CPM/DMM.

Like all living creatures, the Church has within herself the power to grow and multiply after her own kind (Mark 4:1-20). She develops spontaneously, not like an institution whose progress depends on the initiative of her executives. An active, feeling body, she seethes with potential energy. An obedient church has to grow and multiply just as surely as the plants and animals; it is her nature. This assurance moves us to witness and serve in relaxed, voluntary obedience to Christ (Patterson, 1976, p. 15-16).

Patterson describes (and pictures) an Extension Chain. This Extension Chain diagram clearly shows that a worker (I wrote in the name, Ramon) from a “mother church” (in Olanchito) would end up riding a motorcycle to a nearby town called Jocon, where he would begin spreading the Good News and raising up a church. From there, two other workers would end up traveling to towns like Alta Cruz and Madora. There, these two workers would establish what Patterson called “granddaughter churches.” Workers would leave towns like Alta Cruz to travel to other villages like La Guata, Mejia, and La Dalia, where these new workers would establish “great granddaughter” churches. Patterson concluded from his personal observations that the churches with little or no contact with professional missionaries were actually the strongest and most trouble-free. However, he pointed out that there was a constant channel of communication going up and down the chain. He loved it that “everyone in the chain knows what is going on in his own area of responsibility” (Patterson, 1976, p. 18).

Patterson developed a terrific work in Honduras, modeled after the early Church in the book of Acts. Just as Luke had trouble tracking all the multiplication, Patterson had some trouble, too. Patterson writes later,

“To permit a spontaneous movement in the churches the theological curriculum itself forms part of the multiplying process. The students become teachers of others; their assignments aim to develop new leaders in an atmosphere of freedom to work for Christ” (Patterson, 1976, p. 12).

By keeping the churches (or classes) rather small, the student-workers could achieve success rather rapidly.

Patterson characterized this process as “Small Extension Classes,” explaining that “Reteaching the same things to their own congregations or classes readily reproduces new centers of leadership” (Patterson, 1976, p. 28).

Patterson said, “Traditional textbooks do not lend themselves to a spontaneous movement. To adapt to a program of self-extension, each textbook should (1) be self-teaching, (2) require corresponding practical work for each week’s study, and (3) be reteachable, enabling any student-worker to reteach it to his own students in another center” (p. 29). He later adds, “Tradition cripples

spontaneous expansion by limiting evangelism to special meetings or Sunday evening services. Biblically, evangelism is the ordinary, daily work of the members of a church. There is nothing special about it. But some churches leave witnessing for professionals with extraordinary preparation” (Patterson, 1976, p. 30).

I love it that Patterson was so practical. He developed a list of 35 activities in which each student-worker needed to engage. “Student-workers

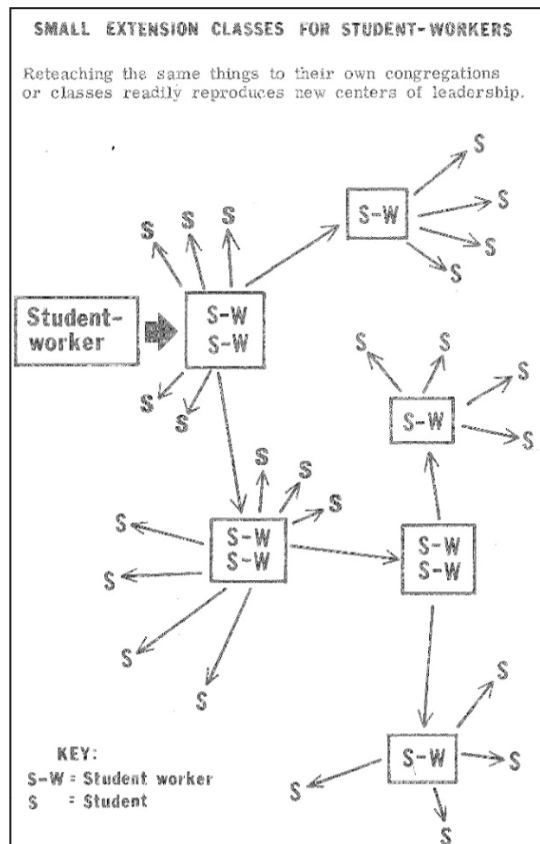


Figure 6: Small extension classes for student-workers.

Go Deeper

To learn more about CPM/DMM principles, strategies and life practices, visit

www.MoreDisciples.com

where we will post improvements and revisions to this book, along with dozens more helpful resources.

GLOSSARY

3/3 Group = See three-thirds group.

Accountability Groups = Meetings staged between two or three people of the same gender - men with men, women with women - once a week to pray and discuss a set of questions that help reveal areas where things are going right and other areas that need correction.

CMM = Church multiplication movement = See CPM. (For the purposes of this book, we are defining CMM and DMM to be synonymous.)

CPM = Church-planting movement = A rapid multiplication of indigenous churches planting churches that sweeps through a people group or population segment

Disciple = a follower of Christ who hears, obeys, and shares the Good News with others, then trains them to do the same. Put another way, a disciple loves God, loves people, and makes other disciples.

Discovery Bible Study = (See Three-Thirds group)

DMM (Disciple-making movement) = See CPM. (For the purposes of this book, we are defining CPM and DMM to be synonymous.)

Three-thirds group = A 3/3 group, then, is a gathering of 4-12 people who want to learn to love God, love others, and make disciples. They “do life” together in their 3/3 group, holding one another accountable to goals that they, themselves, set, in response to hearing God’s Word and applying it. The name comes from the fact that the study consists of three “thirds” – a look back (at the past week), a look up (at what God

More Disciples

has said in a portion of His Word), and a look forward (at goals for the coming week). A 3/3 group essentially can be a “simple church,” either standing on its own, or within the context of a larger “city church” or “regional church network.”

Zúme = A web-driven training experience with 10 sessions focused on becoming a disciple worth multiplying. It also teaches personal and group-oriented CPM/DMM strategies to share our faith and grow the church.

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