DISCIPLES MAKING DISCIPLES

About 60 Discipleship Essentials quad leaders regrouped with a “Grid Iron” Dinner and training session, January 31, 2016. Now there are over 400 in quads with 150 quad leaders locally since we began in 2010. We are experiencing greater unity and encouragement at the core of our church. Thank you, Ralph Rittenhouse and Greg Ogden, for laying the groundwork as we continue in 2016, equipping us to make disciples who make disciples.

Jesus came and told his disciples, “I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” Matthew 28:18-20
HISPANIC CONFERENCE

One group of people we wanted to reach for the 2015 Global Discipleship Summit were those right in our backyard. Los Angeles and the surrounding area has an estimated 5000 Spanish-speaking Christian churches who desire Biblical training in discipleship. Because most of these Hispanic churches are led by pastors and church leaders who are bivocational, they were unable to attend. We decided to condense the Discipleship Essentials training into a two-day conference and go to them.

GDI: RALPH AND GREG TO ROMANIA

We have received scores of emails from pastors and leaders from 16 countries about how life changing the training in August 2015 was for them. The GlobalDiscipleshipSummit.com contains 19 videos from that week-long training, which gave birth to the new partnership of Ralph Rittenhouse and Greg Ogden.

Greg Ogden, author of Discipleship Essentials, states, “Our first trip will be to Romania from March 30-April 11. Is there anything more fulfilling than to be a part of the international mission of the kingdom of God? Truly Jesus’ kingdom is one without borders. I see this as a wonderful convergence of where CCC has been, and the way God has worked in my life.

In August of 1992, I led a small team from my church in Saratoga, CA under the auspices of World Vision to visit their work with an orphanage in Constanta, Romania on the Black Sea. A commercial real estate developer who was in my discipleship group was on that team. His heart was so crushed by the need of 35 HIV-positive children that eventually he led the charge to wrest control of PC3 from the Romanian government and turn it into a Christian home called Casa Viata Noua (House of New Life). My wife and I returned in 1999 for the dedication of this ministry. Subsequently my wife, Lily, who will be with us on this mission, returned in 2003 and again in 2009 on a mission from the church I served in Chicago. Only the Lord could have foreseen these connections with Camarillo.

Our mission on this trip is to continue to encourage those who have already been trained and inspired by the approach we have taught and the Romanian pastors witnessed among all of you. But so excited are the Romanian pastors that they, like you, said we need to cast a wider net. So Ralph and I and key members from CCC will be teaching university and seminary students, small group leaders, and pastors in multiple venues in 4 different regions. No doubt it will be demanding as we will be on the move, but we know that the Lord has given us his vision for one of the ways to fulfill His commission to “go and make disciples of all nations.”
From the Desk of Greg Ogden

“I want to tell you about a new nonprofit organization that I am forming with Ralph Rittenhouse, recently retired pastor of Camarillo Community Church. Our purpose is to seek to make disciples who make disciples around the globe encouraging others to intentionally relate to each other in an atmosphere of transparency and accountability. Our primary source is the Bible. Our tool is Discipleship Essentials.

For the last five years it is have a joy to have a growing relationship with Camarillo Community Church. When you are a journey with Jesus, the wonderful surprises never end. Over these years the Lord has drawn our lives together because your leadership thought what I had envisioned for making disciples in quads (I call them micro groups) was the way to go. You went all-in and defined your mission around the very thing Jesus said we should, “Go and MAKE DISCIPLES of all nations…”

In August at this conference, I pulled Ralph aside and said, “I sense that the Lord may be calling us together in partnership to spread the disciple-making vision and training as far and wide as the Lord might provide.” I had no idea Ralph was planning to “retire” to do exactly this. All of this has led to the formation of The Global Discipleship Initiative, which will allow us initially to follow up on those who came to us in August.

I couldn’t be more excited about how the Lord might use Ralph and me, and many of you to continue to encourage the multiplication and empowerment of disciple-makers around the world. A very significant aspect of all of this is the model of disciple-making that Camarillo Community Church has become. You are a teaching church, the living example, the very embodiment of a discipllemaking community. As we go around the world, we will be talking about you and pointing to what is possible when a church takes seriously The Great Commission. Thank you Camarillo Community Church.

If a church is to be serious about adopting Jesus’ mission of making disciples, they need to have a unified approach. In other words, making disciples is about creating a cultural movement that says this is what we are about. So serious are we, that we are going to adopt an approach to making disciples that will be practiced by all the staff and core leaders. In other words, “This is the way we do it here.”

Ralph Rittenhouse and Greg Ogden Partnership
GlobalDiscipleshipInitiative.org
New Nonprofit 501(c)(3)

Transforming Discipleship:
Making Disciples a Few at a Time

Greg continues, “You probably know the book Discipleship Essentials, as the tool or curriculum that guides you through some of the core foundations of the Christian life.

The book behind this book is a text called Transforming Discipleship. In three parts this book first describes the deficit of discipleship across the American church, which has yielded a superficial discipleship; the middle section describes the way Jesus and Paul made disciples; and the final section shares how micro groups (triads and quads) are the ideal environment for transformation into Christlikeness and for multiplying disciples.

This book was first published by InterVarsity Press in 2003 to serve as the implementation vision behind Discipleship Essentials. Over the last number of months I have dedicated time to update this work at the request of InterVarsity Press. It was encouraging when the publisher came to me and said, “This book is doing well. We would like you to give you a free hand to incorporate any new insights you have since the book was originally published.” I am happy to say that the CCC’s transformational story became a significant part of my rewrite. Pastor Ralph’s voice can be heard in a couple of places.

Discipleship is not just a bunch of isolated groups living in their own world, but a movement that shapes a church’s lifestyle. Momentum takes over and a people get caught up in a life-giving mission in the name of Christ. This is what I envisioned in Transforming Discipleship and what I see at Camarillo Community Church.
“We are living in a time when the church is rediscovering the truth that transformation in Christ occurs through the disciplines of [spiritual] formation.” - Greg Ogden