

Global Discipleship Initiative (GDI) News – May 2017

Dr. Ogden and I spent a wonderful week at Carey Theological College in Vancouver, British Columbia, May 15-19, 2017. Dr. Darrell Johnson, author of three of the essays in *Discipleship Essentials*, is also a beloved professor at the college. He and Greg have been friends since their seminary days.



At Darrell's invitation we offered a three-day seminar on discipleship for church leaders, with an extended two days for students attending for graduate credit. There were 50+ who attended the seminar and five students who received credit for a full five days.

They had a bit of extra reading and some papers to submit. The overall reception was excellent. It was obvious that those attending were planning to use what they were learning. Their questions indicated a true hunger to learn and many had already launched quads.



Albert Wu is a young associate pastor of Tapestry Church, a youthful congregation that meets in three different locations in the greater Vancouver area. Tapestry has a strong emphasis on discipleship and as many as nine of their staff team attended much of the three-day conference.

Jay is originally from Panama but now pastors a Hispanic church in the area. Jay is pursuing a D.Min. degree at Carey and is already five weeks into his first quad. Jay is enthusiastic about the result they are seeing.



Jackie and I enjoyed showing Lily and Greg around the Whatcom County area where we live. We concluded our week with a Sunday afternoon "Discipleship Meet & Greet" at Cornwall Church in Bellingham. There were 45 people who attended. Seven were pastors from at least five different local churches.

Now there are eight quads currently meeting in the area. The intention was to introduce them to GDI and Dr. Ogden, and to give them an idea of what God is already doing in Whatcom County with intentional discipleship. The time exceeded our expectations and we left with a feeling of deep gratitude and great expectation for the future.

Ralph Rittenhouse