TRUSTING GOD’S PATH - Retirement Announcement of Ralph Rittenhouse

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek His will in all you do, and He will show you which path to take.”

Proverbs 3:6

Solomon in all his wisdom offers advice we dare not ignore.

Retirement has never been a part of my plans. I’ve always envisioned serving God until he takes me home. But I have known for some time that there might be a "next stop" before we go to heaven. Even considering that has not been easy. I have been in Camarillo and at Camarillo Community Church for 32 years, this past July. I am now dedicating babies of babies I dedicated. The people of Camarillo Community Church are my forever family. I have loved seeing God build this church and grow its people, including me.

Because we don’t think the Lord is through using us, we want to put ourselves into the best position possible to serve him as long as we can. My NEW life mission will be to coach pastors and churches in launching and maintaining global discipleship initiatives following the multiplication model of our Lord.

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” Acts 1:8

I believe God has a new and different plan for my life. The past Global Discipleship Summit has brought hoped for clarity, recognizing the opportunity to partner with Dr. Greg Ogden in training additional pastors and church leaders to do the work of Christ in discipleship. I now have invaluable opportunities for discipleship coaching all over the world. Jackie and I are planning a move to Ferndale, Washington, just 20 minutes south of the Canadian border. I will no longer be Sr. Pastor of what I consider the most wonderful church in the world.

I have no doubt that God will provide all the wise counsel I need. I also place my complete faith in God to provide our every need as we transition into uncharted, unknown waters.

Ralph Rittenhouse, Senior Pastor
Camarillo Community Church

"I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Counselor, who will never leave you. He is the Holy Spirit, who leads you into all truth. The world at large cannot receive him, because it isn’t looking for Him and doesn’t recognize Him. But you do, because He lives with you now and later will be in you." -John 14:16-17
WHAT’S NEXT?

The elders are considering just how to follow the Holy Spirit’s instructions for sending me out on my discipleship journey. God has led in my heart and God has confirmed in theirs, this new direction, and we’re working out the details. But God continues in this day what we see recorded in Acts 13, his intention of global discipleship. My title may be Pastor of Discipleship - at large. According to Dictionary.com, "at large" can indicate "free from restraint, at liberty; representing the whole of a body rather than one division or part of it."

OUR PURPOSE

- To promote intentional small group discipleship insuring authentic spiritual transformation as Christ demonstrated and commanded.
- To use gender specific quads and triads for high accountability and relational transparency.
- To utilize Discipleship Essentials by Greg Ogden to provide a standardized curriculum insuring optimum theological exposure and reproducibility.
- To continue to provide discipleship training opportunities for pastors and church leaders.
- To continue to involve the people of CCC in global discipleship efforts providing them occasion to be obedient to the Great Commission and giving them opportunities to grow by participation.
- To support the efforts of those trained as they launch and maintain discipleship initiatives in their churches and countries through partnership coaching.
- To seek to assist in providing translations and materials as needed.
- To be a role model and impetus for every church in America to be global discipleship training centers as well as offer this model to international churches and ministry centers.
BOLDLY MAKE DISCIPLES

Rely on the Holy Spirit. The flow of the Holy Spirit’s power through our lives is like the flow of nutrients through a fruit tree. Botanists explain that the leaves use up nutrients in the process of photosynthesis.

As the leaves consume nutrients in the sap, suction is formed, which draws more sap from the roots. Without the sap, the leaves and branches would die. But the continual flow of this sap comes only as it is used up by the work of the leaf.

Likewise, through faith we draw life from the Holy Spirit. But a continual supply of fresh spiritual nutrients depends on our willingness to “consume” the old supply through our involvement in the divine mission, the sacred adventure.

We have a proven model and track record that energizes individual believers to step up to the global call for us to follow the biblical model that Jesus left us. And it prepares the American church for what may well be coming in the next quarter century: unfunded and marginalized and reviled.

PRIORITIES

Our team is organized to coordinate training and persistent encouragement for Christian discipleship efforts worldwide. We plan to respond by

- Maintaining a current list of all known global discipleship initiatives.
- Setting up an effective tracking system to gauge discipleship effectiveness.
- Developing prayer and contact support for domestic and international discipleship partners.
- Fulfilling future efforts, both domestic and international.

- LA Hispanic Summit, April 2016;
- Romania training mission, Spring 2016;
- Training in both north and south India;
- Training summit in Cambodia;
- Training summit in Brazil;
- Domestic pastors’ summit next fall.

"Ralph Rittenhouse has discipled us. He has been our shepherd to launch and to guide us. This whole quad system—it’s been transformative for our church. We are in the baby stages as this is our first year. We are launching quads. What he has done here is put our hearts and minds on multiplying disciples—not only the ‘multitude’ on Sunday mornings, or the 70 sent out as core leaders, but also our elder board, like the 12. Ralph has met regularly with us (Rob McCoy, Bryan LaSpada, and me). We have been transformed as pastors to focus on multiplying disciples—between what Ralph has done and the Lord has shown us to do.”

– Bret Shellabarger, Associate Pastor, GodSpeak Calvary Chapel, gccto.com

“You have heard me teach things that have been confirmed by many reliable witnesses. Now teach these truths to other trustworthy people who will be able to pass them on to others.” -2 Timothy 2:2
GLOBAL DISCIPLESHIP SUMMIT
August 14-24, 2015

“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