

DISCIPLESHIP ESSENTIALS

ACCEPTING THE CHALLENGE. HAITI DISCIPLESHIP. HOW TO GROW YOUR CHURCH.

ACCEPTING THE CHALLENGE TO COMPLETE THE WORK

S (Scripture) - "I brought glory to you here on earth by completing the work you gave me to do." John 17:4

O (Observation) - John, chapter 17 is a prayer; a prayer of Jesus to his Father. It is offered just hours before his crucifixion. In verse 4 Jesus makes an interesting statement saying that he has completed the work he was sent to do. Certainly his death for our sins was part of that work, though it had not taken place yet. But the context for his statement is the training of the twelve. He has just finished his last major teaching session with his disciples; chapters 13-16. Chapter 17 begins, "After saying all these things, Jesus looked up to heaven and said..." Now he is praying for his disciples. He prays for their protection from the evil one; for their holiness and for all who will believe because of their message. He prays specifically for the disciples' perfect unity, so that the world will know that he was sent from his Father and that the Father loves the disciples as much as he loves His Son.

A (Application) - The work I think Jesus is referring to here as completed, was the training of the twelve. The mission that he was passing on to them was to continue the discipleship work that he had modeled for them. In v.18 he says, "Just as you sent me into the world, I am sending them into the world." The work he had completed was the making of disciples and that's what he intended for them to continue. And, this is the work he intends for all of us to continue. He didn't intend for us to die on the cross for people's sins, but he did intend for us to make disciples. And, a disciple isn't a fully obedient disciple unless he is making disciples to make disciples. This is the way we bring him glory (v.10). This is the way the world will know that He is in us, is because we are doing his work.

P (Prayer) - Father, help me to carry on the work that you sent Jesus here to do. He completed his part. Now I pray that you will enable us, those of us who claim to be his followers, to complete our part.

- Ralph Rittenhouse

This is "SOAPing" coined by Wayne Corderiro, author of *The Divine Mentor*, who designed this method for daily devotions.



TRANSFORMING DISCIPLESHIP



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“Real relationships are an essential part of God’s plan.

The world’s need for relationships is God’s opportunity to build disciples. But these personal relationships cannot happen from a distance or in a crowd. Disciples are made in relationship with other disciples.

Remember a relational environment is the vehicle best suited for discipleship. It allows strangers and acquaintances to become a discipleship family.” – Jim Putman, *Real-Life Discipleship Training Manual*, p. 93.

Game Changer Connectors

Claudia Souser (ccsouser@pacbell.net) to connect women and *Jim Moyer* (jimmoyer@camcc.net) for men.

**Your ultimate purpose in life is to be a disciple and to make disciples.
Being a disciple is NOT a “program” OR “curriculum.” IT’S A LIFESTYLE.**



Our first exposure to Haiti was startling. Piles of rubble filled the streets, much of it still left from the devastating earthquake that occurred six years ago. Most of the roads were filled with potholes and mud, yet jammed with vehicles--trucks, cars, vans, buses, motorcycles, and "tap-taps."

– Ralph Rittenhouse



Conference Attendees in Haiti at the Ebenezer Discipleship Training Center (EDTC) with Indigenous Leadership



Because voodoo is literally the national religion and deeply ingrained in the culture, Greg taught on spiritual warfare from Paul's letter to the Ephesian church, and I taught SOAPing and the necessity of multiplication.

After Haiti, what's next?
Canada! October 2016

Lessons from Haiti for Making Intentional Disciplemakers

from the Notes of Dr. Greg Ogden

One of the main motivations for spending almost a week in Haiti from July 7-13, 2016, was to see how a ministry in a very poor country actually trains reproducing disciplemakers. **GDI** is on the very frontend of formulating approaches to creating indigenous disciplemaking movements across the globe. We have a lot to learn. Oh, how valuable it is to step out of your own environment with all the blinders that come with it and see how others have applied transformation principles in another setting! Because of the impact of being in Haiti, we will find a ministry once a year where we can go to learn.

The big question I came back with was:

“What is the training model necessary to internalize the commitment to the value of making reproducing disciples and what will it take to transfer the content of Discipleship Essentials into the life of discipplers?”

In Haiti the answer was to have 5-8 handpicked trainees to come together for 3-5 months at the Ebenezer Discipleship Training Center (EDTC) from Sunday through Thursday each week. For 3 days they were immersed in learning and teaching each other the content of *Discipleship Essentials*. On Wednesdays they went out to the streets to share the gospel, which often meant engaging in a spiritual battle against voodoo. After “graduation” the graduates return to their home villages (often poor farmers) to assist their church, engage in personal disciplemaking, etc.

The above question will be the one we put before our key partners in Romania and Nepal. We can already see that the process we use in the US of meeting weekly in triads/quads (micro groups) until DE is complete and then seek our own disciples will not work in many others countries. We would certainly keep the concepts of the micro groups, because that has universal value, but in Nepal, for example, we are already talking about key trainees coming together for 2-3 days a quarter to cover one section of DE and then be sent back to use it with their micro groups. The training in less educated poorer countries will need to be longer term with intensive accountability.

The gospel is universal. How we train to create disciplemaking movements will require flexibility with partners. Ultimately our partners will have to answer the above question for themselves as we come alongside to coach them in fulfilling the mission to “MAKE DISCIPLES” of all nations.

DISCIPLESHIP IN HAITI

from the Notes of Pastor Ralph Rittenhouse

Dr. Greg Ogden and I journeyed to Haiti in July for about 10 days. Since a plumber and his wife in Michigan had sponsored the translation of *Discipleship Essentials* into Creole about 10 years ago, there has been steady growth towards the maturity of Christians there.

The mission that Nate and his wife Brenda have started is radically contrary to most mission philosophies and methodologies. They tenaciously focus on presenting the gospel and on personal discipleship. Many mission efforts in Haiti are focused on helping with social and cultural problems, sometimes neglecting the gospel all together. Nate is convinced that Haiti doesn't have a poverty problem. The problem is spiritual and unless the spiritual problem is dealt with, there will be no real economic progress. The results they have seen have produced deep personal growth in the lives of the graduates from the training center and an infusion of new life and converts for the churches they serve.



Pastor George heads up the "hands on" portion of the ministry.

One of the highlights of our trip was the baptism of Justin, a young legislative Aide from the Michigan House of Representatives. Justin, one of the team from Michigan was spiritually searching when he arrived and within a few days made a strong commitment to Jesus Christ. He was baptized in the waters off Haiti by Pastor George, one of the trainers at the Ebenezer Discipleship Training Center (EDTC). We may have discovered a model for training disciples that can be simulated in other countries.



Ralph Rittenhouse and Greg Ogden Partnership
GlobalDI.org
 501(c)3 nonprofit



Justin Alexander
Baptized



Newly Trained Leadership

Nate trained the leadership using *Discipleship Essentials* and now it serves as the core curriculum of the training center. Over the past seven years 130 students have completed the 3-5 month course that requires full time residency at the center.

There is no charge for the training and students are primarily young adults sent from the churches of the country.

The mother church in Petit Goave and the other churches were in desperate need of trained leaders. A training center was established that has now trained approximately 130 graduates who have been sent back to their home areas across the island to make disciples and assist the churches.

Nate and his family have spent months every year on the island helping get the training center functioning with the intention of making it totally indigenous - Haitian run.

The living conditions at the center are intended to be and remain at Haitian standards (very primitive by US standards). Mark and Policia, two Haitian men Nate has trained, are the trainers at the center today.

SAVE THE DATE: *GLOBAL DISCIPLESHIP INITIATIVE UPDATE*

Saturday, October 15, 2016, 1pm-3pm
with Greg Ogden, Ralph Rittenhouse, and Sabin from Romania

HOW TO GROW YOUR CHURCH

“For the past 30 years, there has not been a year that I have not had at least one discipleship group.”

– Greg Ogden

At the Judgment Seat of Christ, Jesus will not be asking pastors for their attendance sheet total on Sunday morning. Instead....



CAMARILLO COMMUNITY CHURCH
1322 Las Posas Road Camarillo, CA 93010
CamCC.net
805.482.2657

Discipleship Newsletter

Discipleship Forum: Journey to be more like Jesus

CamarilloCommunityChurch.org
discipleship@CamarilloCommunityChurch.org

Contact Pastor Jim Moyer, 482.2657, x 118
to be part of a *Discipleship Essentials* triad or quad.

“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

