

The Billy Graham School

COMPASS

Navigating Ministry & Missions

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Making Disciples through Mentoring

Most churches—if they do discipleship at all—still do it programmatically. That is, they organize a program, teach some classes, and evaluate the program’s success based on numbers attending. The more who attend, the better the program is assumed to be.

To be clear, I am not opposed to programs. Well-designed and well-implemented programs can in fact be an effective step in discipling. My concern is that programmatic discipleship built solely around small groups and directed studies misses the most obvious New Testament means of discipling: one-to-one mentoring.

Jesus produced disciples by investing first in a group of twelve men, and then more pointedly in a group of three (see Matt 5-7; Mark 3:13-15; Luke 9:1-6, 18, 29; John 21:9). The Apostle Paul followed Jesus’ model by likewise pouring his life into a few young men. The best example is Timothy, whose life was never the same after the mis-

sionary evangelist called him to join his team (Acts 16:1-3).

The reasons for doing discipling through mentoring are many, but space allows me to deal with only a few. First, *the approach is biblical*. If Jesus and Paul made disciples through this means, how can we not follow that pattern? Older men and women teaching the younger generation is not optional for the church (Titus 2:1-8).

Second, Christian teaching lived out reinforces the truth of the Word. Mentors model the truth of God’s Word. Simply stated, it is in the classroom of life that we best see the Word in action.

Third, mentoring discipleship requires the mentor to guard his life against the Enemy’s attacks. Committed disciplers wear a bull’s eye on their back for Satan. Knowing that their actions affect a second generation of believers, good discipling mentors stand strong against the Enemy.

Fourth, a strong discipling relation-

ship provides a safe place to deal with failure. A discipling mentor models holiness, calls his disciples to the same, and holds them accountable to that standard. Should they fail, he offers forgiveness and encourages them to return to the fight.

For this complete article, see my blog archives at www.biblicalchurchgrowth.com. Both that blog and this edition of the Compass are designed to encourage you to mentor another believer. Please pray about that possibility as you read this newsletter.

Chuck Lawless
Dean, The Billy Graham School of
Missions, Evangelism and Church Growth



“Mentors model the truth of God’s Word. Simply stated, it is in the classroom of life that we best see the Word in Action.”

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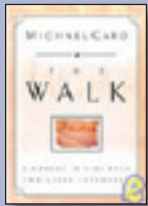
FOR THE TRUTH. FOR THE CHURCH. FOR THE WORLD. FOR THE GLORY OF GOD



Recommended Resources

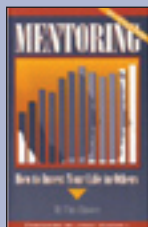
Topic of the Month:

Mentoring and Discipleship



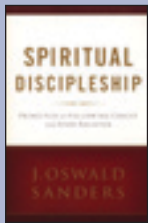
Michael Card,
The Walk

Tim Elmore,
Mentoring



Chuck Lawless,
Disciplined Warriors

Thom Rainer
and Eric Geiger,
Simple Church



J. Oswald Sanders,
Spiritual Discipleship

Paul Stanley and
Robert Clinton,
Connecting



Books can be found at:
Lifeway.com or
Amazon.com

Personal Testimony

In May of this year, I had the incredible opportunity to spend two weeks at The West Texas Ranch for Christ in Blackwell, Texas. Dr. Billie Hanks, a man who has committed his life to discipling men and teaching others to do the same, is the man behind the two-week crash course on effective discipling. Through this Texas experience, my whole outlook on life and ministry was transformed. I learned that I was spending too much time and energy on “church things,” and realized I was neglecting the very example set by our Lord Jesus and the Apostle Paul. I have been teaching for some time, but now I need to *intentionally* be the example, demonstrating my faith before others. This way, the

young men I am working with will be able to emulate that which they have “heard from me in the presence of many witnesses...” (2 Tim 2:2). Particularly, for two months now I have been working hard in the area of Scripture memorization. I never imagined that I could memorize so much Scripture in so short a time, but I have. So here is discipling in its simplest form: one man showed me how he memorized Scripture, and I put it into practice. Let us train others likewise!

By Matthew V. Briggs, M.Div. candidate in the
Billy Graham School

Richard Baxter (1615-1691): A Model of Pastoral Discipling

By Tim Beougher, Billy Graham Professor of Evangelism, SBTS. Dr. Beougher is the author of *Richard Baxter and Conversion* (Christian Focus, 2007).

Richard Baxter, a Puritan pastor who ministered in 17th century Kidderminster, England, has been called the greatest of all English preachers, the virtual creator of popular Christian literature, and “the most successful preacher and winner of souls and nurturer of won souls that England has ever had.”¹ What was his approach to making disciples?

Baxter’s method for discipling is best set forth in his classic work, *The Reformed Pastor*.² The model is based on Acts 20:28: “Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.” The starting point is that pastors/leaders must walk with God before they encourage their people to do so. This reminder is important in a day when tragically too many church leaders suffer

from spiritual burnout.

In “taking heed to the flock,” Baxter taught and modeled four principles in discipling. First, Baxter labored for the genuine conversion of his people. He rightly understood that evangelism is the first step in discipling. Baxter did not want mere professions of faith -- he wanted to see genuine, life-transforming conversions.

Second, he prepared what we would call today “discipleship materials” to encourage new believers in their walk with Christ. He wrote a *Paraphrase of the New Testament* (1685) so that persons with limited education could read and understand the Bible. He also developed adult catechisms (basic material on Christian growth) to instruct persons in spiritual development.

Third, he emphasized “personal work.” At first he was content to catechize only “in the Church” and to talk with individuals “now and then.” He discovered, however, that for his preaching to be fruitful he must follow it up with personal discourse with every family in his parish. He urged pastors to adopt this ministry of personal instruction with this heartfelt plea:

I know that preaching the gospel publicly is the most excellent means, because we speak to many at once. But it is usually far more effectual to preach it privately to a particular sinner; as to himself: for the plainest man this is, can scarcely speak plain enough in public for them to understand; but in private we may do it much more . . . Long may you study and preach to little purpose, if you neglect this duty [of personal instruction].³

Finally, he ministered with a deep awareness of the brevity of life. He was earnest in his work because he understood that eternity hung in the balance. The oft-quoted statement from Baxter summarizes his approach to ministering to others: “as a dying man to dying men.” While we live and minister in a different era, this “Baxter Model” commands our attention because of its biblical basis and proven results.

ENDNOTES

¹A. B. Grosart, *Representative Nonconformists* (London, 1879), 137.

²*The Reformed Pastor* was originally published in 1656; By “reformed” Baxter means, not Calvinistic in doctrine, but revived or reformed in practice.

³Richard Baxter, *The Reformed Pastor* (1974 Banner of Truth reprint), 196.

CHURCH HEALTH 101

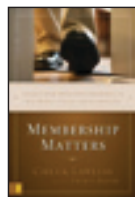
Knowing “Disciplined Dave”

Many churches know who their “Saddleback Sam” is – the characterization of the person they want to reach in their community. Few of the same churches know, however, who “Disciplined Dave” is. “Dave” describes the disciple that the church intends to produce (for example, see the article about Central Baptist Church on the back page of this newsletter). Consider these simple questions to determine your church’s “Disciplined Dave”:

- What do we want disciples to know?
- What do we want disciples to believe?
- What do we want disciples to be doing?

Based on these questions, begin describing your “Disciplined Dave.” Then, make the needed plans to move believers toward your goal.

See *Membership Matters*,
by Chuck Lawless



The Seven Gifts A Mentor Gives

1. Accountability – Holding a person to his commitment to God.
2. Affirmation – Speaking words of encouragement, love and support to your mentee; affirming his strengths, thoughts, ministry, and obedience.
3. Assessment – Objectively evaluating his present state and giving him an assessment on what you see; it enables him to gain perspective from an outside point of view.
4. Advice – Speaking words of wise counsel and giving him options for his decisions. It means providing direction and navigation for his life.
5. Admonishment – Giving words of caution and warning to enable him to avoid the pitfalls he may not foresee as well as you do. It may mean providing correction.
6. Assets – Giving him tangible resources, gifts, and tools-whether a book, a tape, a ministry resource or a personal contact that you can introduce to him.
7. Application – Pointing him in the right direction to find places where he can apply the truth he has learned.

Taken from: *Mentoring: How to Invest Your Life in Others* by Tim Elmore

RESEARCH SHOWS

Research from The Barna Group shows that the church in America is comprised of “many converts, but shockingly few disciples”:

- Only 9% of all born-again adults have a biblical worldview—meaning they believe that absolute moral truth exists, that such truth is contained in the Bible, and they hold a handful of core beliefs such as Jesus lived a sinless life on earth.
- When asked to define a successful life, most describe outcomes related to professional achievement, family solidarity, physical accomplishments, or resource acquisition.
- The most widely known Bible verse is “God helps those who help themselves” – which is actually not in the Bible.
- A typical believer spends less time reading the Bible in a year than watching television, listening to music, reading other books and publications, or conversing about personal hobbies and leisure interests.
- When Christian adults were asked to identify their most important goal for their life, not a single person said it was to be a committed follower of Jesus Christ or to make disciples of Christ.

At the same time, Barna found that “77% of church members think that a discipleship/mentoring relationship would be very valuable.” Apparently, many undisciplined church members are just waiting for someone to disciple them.

Source: Barna, *Growing True Disciples* and *Revolution*

Church Profile: Discipleship in Decatur, Alabama

Dr. Rob Jackson (Ph.D., BGS) has been the pastor of Central Baptist Church in Decatur, Alabama, for five years. The church's mission statement is simple: the Great Commission. Dr. Jackson told the church when they called him that discipling would be in their DNA, and he has led them in that direction.



Their strategy has three components: evangelizing, establishing, and equipping. More simply, the strategy is come, fill, and go. The church prays that God would draw people to come to Him, fill them as they are established and learn to "feed" themselves, and then send them to take the Good News to a lost

and dying world. Disciplemaking, then, is not an end in itself; its goal is reproduction.

Central's staff prayed to see what "Joe or Susan" Central should look like after three years as members, and they then work backwards to try to make sure that each person involved in Central Baptist is a disciple growing in doctrine, devotion, character, and ministry. The church then encourages spiritual growth through one-on-many, one-on-some, and one-on-one discipling.

Naturally, the one-on-many involves the pastor and other persons preaching and admonishing the "many." One-on-some discipling involves small groups on Sunday morning, Wednesday nights, and other nights of the week. One-on-one ministry

pairs a maturing believer with another believer, with the goal of helping him or her become a reproducing discipling. More fundamentally, basic discipling begins in the home, where parents are encouraged to disciple their own children.

Dr. Jackson strongly believes that there are few discipling churches because so few pastors are willing to invest their lives and energies into this process. In turn, he is personally discipling two men and one youth.

Rob and his wife Tonya have been married twenty-one years. They have one daughter, Abigail, who is eleven – and whom Dr. Jackson is discipling. To learn more about Dr. Jackson and Central Baptist, go to: www.cbcdccatur.org.

BGS HELPS

Biblical Church Growth: The Blog and Writings of Dr. Chuck Lawless

Blog, Articles, Books, MP3s, Recommended Resources, Book Reviews, Links

<http://www.biblicalchurchgrowth.com>

The Dehoney Center for Urban Ministry Training

We have recently started a center for training ministers to reach the cities. If you are interested in the center or our Certificate of Urban Ministry, please contact us at UrbanTraining@sbts.edu.

Need a good evangelistic tract?

<http://www.sbts.edu/pdf/GRACE.pdf>

Operation Multiplication:

The Disciplemaking Ministry of Billie Hanks

<http://ieaom.org/index.html>

Mentoring: The Ministry of Waylon B. Moore

<http://wwwmentoring-disciples.org/index.html>

Mentoring and Church Planters

<http://www.churchplantingvillage.net/site/c.ijTKZPEJpH/b.894991/>

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