

# GROWING 12 MEN FOR GOD

## THE SPIRITUAL LEADERSHIP CHALLENGE — FAITHFULLY MAKING MEN SUCCESSFUL

### I. DISCIPLESHIP DEFINED

### II. THE GOAL OF RAISING UP 12 MEN

### III. GROWING 12 MEN FOR CHRIST

### EXPERIMENTAL LIST OF PROSPECTIVE DISCIPLES

## I. DISCIPLESHIP DEFINED

(The following is an adaptation and amalgamation from two great present day church leaders — George Barna and a British Consultation on Discipleship from Eastbourne, England, Fall 1999):

There are valid differences of perspective on what constitutes discipleship.

We might define the goal of discipleship as a believer attaining to spiritual maturity, i.e. becoming a complete and competent follower of Jesus Christ.

Christian discipleship can be defined as a process that takes place within accountable relationships over a period of time for the purpose of bringing believers to spiritual maturity in Christ. Discipleship is about the intentional training of people who voluntarily submit to the Lordship of Jesus Christ and who want to become imitators of Christ in every thought, word and deed.

Biblical examples suggest that discipleship is both relational and intentional, both position and process. It is on the basis of teaching, training, experiences, relationship and accountability that we become transformed into the likeness of Jesus Christ.

## II. THE GOAL OF RAISING UP 12 MEN

New Life for Churches is not an educational program, it is a discipleship ministry. New Life is all about “**intentional**” discipleship. **Intentionally** discipling others! **Intentionally** doing what Jesus did. **Intentionally** discipling men!

What is discipling? Discipling is often misunderstood. Often it is referred to in the context of guiding new believers into the basics of the faith. The New Life ministry is completely different. New Life discipling is better understood as “**growing men**”; **growing men for God**; **growing future church leaders**. This is what Jesus did. Jesus grew; or produced 12 church planters, Jesus developed 12 church fathers. Jesus raised up 12 Kings. Jesus produced 12 founders for His Kingdom.

Perhaps it will help us all to take a fresh look at what the real goal of a spiritual leader should be.

The assignment is as follows:

In 6 years grow 12 new leaders to be exactly as you are with the same vision and experience! That's it! That's all! That's your job! The 'job' is defined as follows:

- 1) Each must have an on-going New Life group with unbelievers.
- 2) Each must have a successful spiritual ministry.
- 3) Each must be growing 12 men to become exactly like yourself with the same vision & experience.
- 4) Each must continue to study New Life mentoring materials.
- 5) Each must have a vision for local church leadership development and church multiplication.
- 6) Each must have planted a new church.

7) Each must have / be leading New Life Bible & Leadership courses.

So, the big question is — are **YOU** growing 12 such men?

Who are they? How far along the 7-step definition have they come?

Better get your pen and paper and make a chart to track your results.

Well, what does it look like? Are you going to make it in 6 years?

Should you need more years, how many more? How old will you be then?

New Life has *Leadership Workshops* which are a tool specifically designed to assist you personally in raising-up these 12 new Church leaders.

New Life for Churches offers several manuals for Spiritual coaches, Workshop leaders, and Course coaches. It is wise to review and apply such sections as the section on “closed conferences”. There is no room for visitors, just listeners, or those that do not attend all workshops in sequence. If you will strictly adhere to the principles listed in the manuals you will save yourself a lot of costs, a lot of effort and a lot of heartache. *Better grow small groups. L.A. Leadership Advancement Workshops are not about numbers, L.A. Workshops are about depth! L.A. Workshops are about the future. L.A. Workshops are about vision. L.A. Workshops are about church multiplication.*

### III. GROWING 12 MEN FOR CHRIST

On occasion the value of leading very small groups surfaces. Is a group of 2 or 3 potential church leaders a valuable investment? Growing 12 men for Christ. The easy way and the real way. A time to choose. A key ingredient for a coach is faithfulness. A coach needs to learn to delineate the difference between just leading groups or growing spiritual workers.

The Great Commission has 2 parts:

- 1) Make followers of Christ from unbelievers, and
- 2) Teach all things — i.e. train leaders.

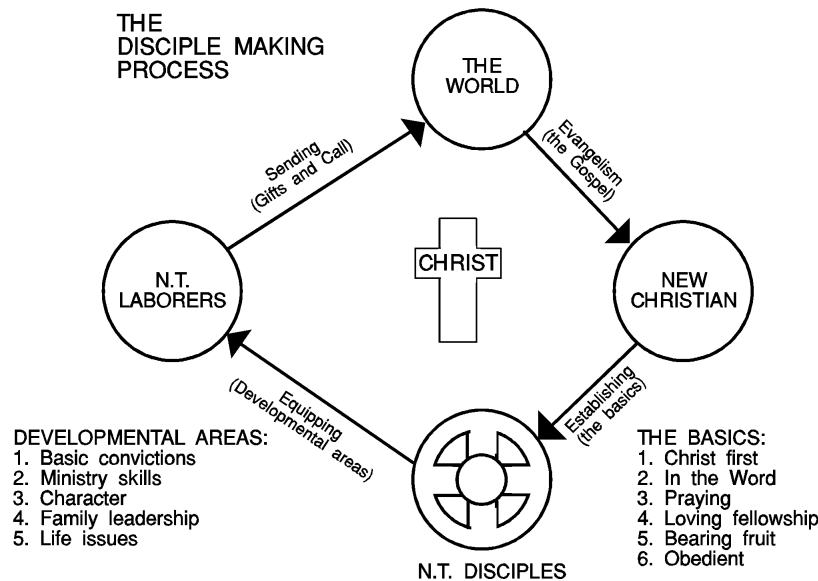
The New Life ministry is doing both part 1 and part 2 of the great commission. Dear Coach, I believe that it might be helpful for you to really think about what you want to do with your life. I think it might help you to clearly decide on your life and ministry goal. Do you want to do part 1, which is personal evangelism? It is a wonderful ministry and there are many organizations to work with, or do you want to grow leaders and do part 2? If you want to do part 2 you are in good company with New Life .



Here is a simple diamond shape illustration which explains the Great commission. This diamond illustration is from the New Life course book “*Establishing Disciples*” chapters 14-15.

Let us study this diamond shaped diagram.

Which part of the New Life ministry do you want to do?



How many *New Life* groups will it take before you can grow 12 men to become exactly like yourself?

The expectation of *New Life* is that you will grow 12 men, hopefully in 12 small groups. Perhaps you find 3 men in a church in a distant city, will it be worth your effort to grow 3 men there? That is the big question for your time investment with 4 men in one city, and perhaps 2 men in another town. And how many men can you grow in your own city where you live? What about the other places? Perhaps you have 12 MEN already? Rejoice over every single one you have!

Jesus did not find smart men like Paul and then trained them. He found clumsy smelly fishermen and said, “I will **make** you successful”. Make you a fisher of men — i.e. make you successful. A fisherman who does not catch fish is not a fisherman at all, he is on vacation. Therefore, the term “fisherman” is equal to “successful.” Dear Coach — who are **you** making?

Our dream is that you will grow 12 new leaders, 12 (like men yourself) and preferably in a few cities throughout your province. You have a couple more years until your men should be ready. Jesus did it. Is growing 12 men really what you also want to do my brother?

Dear Coach our ministry is “**Making Other People Successful.**” Your reputation and our reputation depend on that.

The main person to make successful is your church superintendent. If God gives you grace to make him successful then He will also give you grace to make others successful. Timothy says: Love, unity and other things must be demonstrated within one’s family in order to be a good church leader. Furthermore, it says, ‘young men treat the older brothers as you would your own father.’ You have a very unique and great privilege; can you handle it? I hope you will say yes to this challenge.

You may possibly be a young Coach, but I want you to know that I believe in you and that I believe you can do it. I do believe that you need to make a choice though.

Brother if you can see the above vision for your province you will be smiling from ear to ear and full of delight. You will be rubbing your hands with glee. You will find no sacrifice too great to grow a dozen men for Jesus. A dozen men may be in a dozen cities throughout your province, **wow**. God bless you my brother. I love you!

## ***Closing Challenge — Personally Mentoring***

### **Personally mentoring to Grow 12 Church Leaders**

Something to think about.

Some interesting observations I want to share are as follows.

There is a gentle division noticeable among Coaches. It is physically easier for young Coaches to do a large ministry than for older Coaches. But it is easier for middle- aged Coaches to disciple others successfully than

for younger Coaches. Some of the bit older more mature Coaches seem to be able to locate protégées and reproduce themselves. Some of the younger Coaches seem to struggle more in the area of personal success.

Why should this be so? Younger Coaches often have a plan and a vision to do a certain ministry program or accomplish a certain objective — it might be establishing a Mentoring Ministry for instance or planting a church. Older Coaches often begin to see that there is more to it. So they naturally tend to focus more on assisting others in a more personal way. This way their own ministry is assured and expanding because the mentees in it are more clear in their understanding of how to best participate.

Here is another short note about Mentoring.

Many Brothers do not know you other than what they see. With other words they see you as the spiritual Church Leader that you are now, not as you were. But the Lord wants you to remember who you were and where you came from. Some of you have already traveled a long spiritual journey. Some of you are already a miracle of God's grace. Look at where you came from and where you are at now in your spiritual life and ministry. You have a wealth of personal experience already and it is high time to start sharing this in order to grow disciples. Discipling means living your lives all over again, i.e. share what happened to you personally from the time you were a little boy. Share all your spiritual growth experiences. Share each at the appropriate moment when it will be most helpful in your student's life, i.e. when he is at the same place spiritually you were when this story took place. Or, when he faces the same or a similar decision you had to make then.

Dear coaches, discipling means to lay off your clothing of officialdom and official ministry and to start doing things personally. It means quit talking about Abraham Bible, or Pavel Troshin and talk about your own spiritual development.

Growing men for Jesus will also give you compassion for your younger assistants as you realize how you used to struggle with similar issues. Personally growing men for Jesus will also open your eyes as to where your church leaders are spiritually at in their life.

New Life is all about "intentional" discipleship. Intentionally discipling others! Intentionally doing what Jesus did. Intentionally discipling men! Intentionally "growing men"; growing men for God; growing future church leaders.

Have a great time growing your men for Jesus.

*"Making Other People Successful."*

May the Lord's blessings rest upon you!

Amen

Blessings to you, our dear friends!