### A New Mentor’s Initial Prayers for Disciples!

**I. The Most Important Item**

A young, energetic, prospective missionary received some very encouraging news. One of the most successful missionaries he had ever heard about was going to speak at his church. With the hope of learning how he could be most effective on the mission field, the prospective missionary prepared questions to ask the veteran ambassador.

His first question was: "As you look back on a successful ministry, what brings you the most joy?" The wise missionary did not hesitate to answer. "As I look back, it is not the huge crowds that I spoke to or the large churches that I started that bring me the most joy. It is the young boy I led to Christ along the road who is now a powerful preacher. It is the woman I led to Christ in the village who is now training her children to be strong believers. It is the individuals whom I have been able to disciple that bring me my greatest joy and fulfillment!"

Why is this true?

Assignment - Do this prayer time with your deacons

**The strategy that Jesus gave to reach the world was not "go and make converts," it was "go and make disciples."**

God compares a new convert to a newborn child. Everyone rejoices at his birth! But the work has only just begun. To bring that baby to full maturity, daily feeding and constant care will be required. That is the work of the ministry as well, and we are to pray for God to raise up laborers to carry out that work.

When the nation of Israel cried out for deliverance from the bondage of Egypt, God sent Moses to do the job, but he was a baby and needed training. (See Exodus 2:1-10.) When Israel needed a judge to replace a corrupt spiritual leader, God sent baby Samuel. (See I Samuel 1:20.) Like wise with baby Samson, with baby John the Baptist. When we pray for God to raise up laborers for His harvest, we may be expecting Him to send mature believers, but often He will send us "baby" Christians whom we can disciple and then send out to make other disciples in God's harvest fields.

The lives and ministries of Jesus and Paul show us this pattern. They made disciples and then sent them out to make more disciples. The Apostle Paul wrote, “The things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also” (II Timothy 2:2).

**The same God Who can send out laborers can send to you potential laborers whom you can disciple.**

Years ago, there was a Godly woman who taught Sunday School classes for college students. She realized that she was training the next generation of leaders and discipled them in the truths of Scripture. As each student grew in his relationship with the Lord, he gained a vision for the harvest fields around the world, and several of them founded effective Christian ministries. One of these students was Dr. Bill Bright, who founded Campus Crusade for Christ. Through this outreach, millions of people around the world have received the message of the Gospel. Let's pray for God to send us potential laborers today!

**II. Prayers to Initiate Thinking about Mentoring**

1- Do you have any truly intimate relationships/friendships?

Who are these people?

2- Do you have people fulfilling the following roles for you:

* A Paul-mentor: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* A Barnabas-accountability partner:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* A Timothy-a mentee: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

3- Do you know one or two individuals that could benefit from your mentoring?

4- What would be the best way to approach them?

- When would be the best time?

5 . The same God Who can send out laborers can send to you potential laborers whom you can disciple.

6. Go – make disciples.

**III. Thirty minutes prayer time**

After filling out these questions, join in groups of 3 to ask each other and pray for one another.

**IV. Prayer items for Mentors**

* Patience with people (Long-suffering)
* Ability to see the big picture (Vision)
* Commitment to relationships (Accountability)
* Enjoyment in giving (Generosity)
* Strong personal discipline (Character)
* Good communication (Communicative)
* Understanding of others (Discernment)

(Prior to Prayer: Number each item from your least to highest difficulty)

(1 = greatest difficulty; 7 = least difficult)