EACH ONE REACH ONE TEACH ONE

INTRODUCTION

I have been asking the LORD about the next step in our walk with Him this year. He has given us vision and strategy in the first 2 months of the year with the following focus:

**Goal:** Build the Kingdom

**Tactics:**

Become a people of prayer.

- We have started the Sunday morning prayer meeting.
- We have started and are encouraging prayer cells.
- We are all encouraged to spend more personal time in prayer and fasting.

Walk in love and unity

- We have taught on this and encouraged our congregation to love one another and be of one accord.
- We are praying for our leadership to be united.
- We are praying that as people come into our church that they will find a people of love.

Walk in surrender and obedience

- We have taught on this and encouraged our congregation to live lives surrendered to God, living in faith and obedience.
- Obedience is better than sacrifice and to heed than the fat of rams – 1 Sam 15:22.

I believe the next step is to obey the Great Commission:

**Matthew 28:18-20** And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. 19 Go therefore and **make disciples** of all the nations, **baptizing them** in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 **teaching them** to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” Amen.

Any endeavor to build the kingdom has to be based on the LORD’s instructions and it was inevitable that at some stage of this great adventure, we would come out at the LORD’s instructions in Matthew 28.
MESSAGE

REACHING AND TEACHING

We note that Jesus did not only speak to them about making disciples, He also gave directions on how to go about it:

**baptizing them** in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

- **This is about reaching the lost and making converts**
  - John the Baptist said “repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand”, Jesus said “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.” and Peter said “repent and be baptized”.
  - We need to focus on making converts and to this end we are looking at training our congregation on evangelism and establishing an evangelism and outreach proficiency and ministry area – Herman will be assisting with this.

**teaching them** to observe all things that I have commanded you.

- **This is about training converts up and teaching them how to live the Christian life.**
  - Just like a new born baby, people who are evangelized and give their hearts to the Lord need to be nurtured, fed, taught and followed up on.
  - Without this they become like still born babies, who never get the chance to grow up.
  - When you look at Christians who have served the Lord faithfully over long periods of time, there is normally a link to someone who took that person under their wing and taught them about serving the Lord when they were a young Christian.

Thus we understand the task of the Great Commission to not only be a short term encounter with and individual but a longer involvement where believers give a commitment of their time to those who are saved in order for them to grow and become mature Christians.

We are all called to be disciplers!

**COMMON PERCEPTIONS RESULTING IN PEOPLE NOT DISCIPLING OTHERS:**

1. The average Christian cannot effectively disciple another Christian because they are not spiritually gifted.

There is a tendency to focus special attention on believers who seem to have a “gift” for teaching.
We know the word teaches us that different people have different gifts. This leads to the conclusion that not all believers will have the gift of teaching. If only those who have the gift of teaching could disciple effectively, we would have a problem because a lot of Christians would then not be able to effectively involve themselves in the Great Commission!

God has not intended for every believer to be gifted as an “evangelist”.

- Eph. 4:11 And He gave ... some as evangelists...

But God has intended for every believer to be available to Him as a “witness”.

- Matt. 5:16 "Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.
- Acts 1:8 ... you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses..
- 1 Peter 3:15 ... sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence;

God has not intended for every believer to be gifted as a “teacher”.

- Eph. 4:11 And He gave ... some as pastors and teachers,
- Rom. 12:6-8 Since we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, each of us is to exercise them accordingly: ... he who teaches, in his teaching; ...

But God has intended for every believer to be available to Him as a “discipler” (that is, a “spiritual parent”)

- 1 Thess. 2:7-12 But we were gentle among you, just as a nursing mother cherishes her own children. 8 So, affectionately longing for you, we were well pleased to impart to you not only the gospel of God, but also our own lives, because you had become dear to us. 9 For you remember, brethren, our labor and toil; for laboring night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you, we preached to you the gospel of God.10 You are witnesses, and God also, how devoutly and justly and blamelessly we behaved ourselves among you who believe; 11 as you know how we exhorted, and comforted, and charged every one of you, as a father does his own children, 12 that you would walk worthy of God who calls you into His own kingdom and and glory.

So we see that “discipling” is not a gift. Therefore, while we should only expect some believers to become teachers, all believers should be seen as disciplers.
THE SAD TRUTH

God designed a system of multiplication whereby humans have populated the earth. We find it sad and unusual if a married couple is incapable of having children, yet there is little surprise in most churches when believers are not parenting spiritual children (making disciples) and this needs to change!

The simple calculation:

If we make 1 convert a day, in 12 years, we would have made 4380 converts. If we disciple 1 person each 6 months, in 12 years we will have made 16.7m disciples!

So what do we do about this?

We re-focus...

- We set a goal of “Each one, reach one, teach one”
- We ask the Lord to show us that individual or those individuals that we can reach and teach what we have been taught.
- We make a commitment of our time and resources to do this.

A TYPICAL DISCIPLESHIP PROGRESSION

- Salvation
- Learn about Jesus - my Rock and Foundation
- A simple overview of the Christian life – Kingdom life
- Learn about our new nature
- Learn about the Holy Spirit, our teacher and guide and comforter
- Learn about allowing Jesus to have lordship in our lives
- Learn to abide in Christ
- Learn the principles of deeper Christian life – Kingdom life in detail
- Learn to reach and disciple others
- Grow into ministry

CONCLUSION

The LORD has been giving us direction. Here is another step in building the Kingdom - Each one, reach one, teach one.

Let us ask the LORD to give us a passion for the lost, a passion for His kingdom and a desire to bear fruit in the Kingdom. Let us ask Him to identify those we can parent spiritually and we can change lives forever!