



DATE: NOVEMBER 11, 2011

TO: OUR FAMILY & FRIENDS

RE: BUT WAIT! THERE'S MORE!

Greetings & Blessings & THANKS Faithful Followers of Mission Accessible, Inc. for your support of our efforts that allowed us to successfully complete our Mission over the longest hottest summer on record here in TX:



Mission Accessible Empowers & Equips People & Families Affected By Disability So That They Will Encourage and Evangelize ALL People For The Glory of God.

Thanks to your generous support we were able to help equip ALL the members of Bartimaeus Baptist Temple with the tools and training they need for ***Making Evangelism Accessible***.

Click on the links below to see your generosity in action!

Making Evangelism Accessible: Summer Series 2011

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=owP-yEyuzg>

Yet as we embark upon a new season, I humbly ask: Lord, where to from here?

And graciously the answer arrives: don't stop with simply ***Making Evangelism Accessible*** which y'all did—exceeding abundantly! ***Keep pressing forwards in order to make not just Fans—but Followers of our Awesome Lord & Savior Jesus Christ.***

That's called **Discipleship**.

So our goal this season is to continue the momentum we've created and learn how to become not just true Disciples of Jesus Christ, but more importantly—**Disciplemakers** for His Glory in the future. Amen! ☺

First let's look at the key verses concerning Discipleship:

In Matthew 28:19 Jesus instructs His disciples in a passage known as *The Great Commission*:

MATT 28:19-20

And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." NASU

Sound familiar? Well it should! That's the SAME verse that we used to talk about Evangelism.

We begin again with this passage for this reason: realize that this was spoken over a handful of men who had just *finished spending 3 solid years with Jesus Christ!* They were FOLLOWERS, not just fans because that's what would be required to take the Gospel to the ends of the earth.

I'm there, Lord! Right? Send ME!

Yet somehow in our enthusiasm another crucial verse gets overlooked:

LUKE 9:23-25

And He was saying to them all, "If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross daily and follow Me. "For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake, he is the one who will save it. "For what is a man profited if he gains the whole world, and loses or forfeits himself?" NASU

Recently Steve Jobs, founder of Apple Computer, passed away and I saw a cartoon showing him at The Pearly Gates with God asking Steve why he should let him in? Steve replies: "I have an app for that."

Though a visionary, Steve Jobs was not a Christian but a Buddhist. And though we laugh at the cartoon, I can only think that those who have professed faith in Jesus Christ truly HAVE that "eternal app" which Steve Jobs lacked: ***eternal salvation through faith in Jesus Christ Amen!*** 😊

► MPT--"My Personal Testimony": Evangelism Sans Discipleship = Clueless Christians! ☹

I've been blessed to hear how our *Making Evangelism Accessible* Training over the summer has allowed so many people to share the Gospel with boldness and confidence!

Yet I am heartbroken when I hear from callers at 888-Need Him where I volunteer—who claim to be Christians—yet who are totally *clueless* about what it means to truly *Be* A Christian!

They took the first step but they're still waiting at the starting gate to run the Christian race!

So whether someone has run their Christian race for a lifetime—or whether they are still poised at the gate waiting to get started—our Fall Focus on Discipleship is for ALL of Us.

Now that we're confident about how to lead someone to the Lord let's focus on how we can become the kind of Disciples that He needs us to be in order to transform the world in the future. Amen! ☺

We need to talk about what Discipleship looks like.

In his book *Discipleship Essentials: A Guide To Building Your Life in Christ* author Greg Ogden gives us a glimpse into a modern-day challenge to Christianity. Theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer coined the term "cheap grace" to describe the problem.



Figure 1 Source: www.hdc.uk.com

Author Dallas Willard calls it "Bar Code" Christianity in his book entitled *The Great Omission*: "if we can be rung up by the great scanner in the sky, then eternal life is assured."

Market researcher Michael Wilkins noted in his study of Christian groups a willingness to identify oneself as "Christian" but a reluctance to be identified as a "Disciple." Says Ogden "Being a Christian is a statement about what Christ has done for me; being a Disciple is a statement about what I am doing for Christ."

And though we just got through studying Evangelism, realize that at its very core true Discipleship is NOT attained through a one-time stadium event like a Billy Graham Crusade where I was saved.

► MPT—"My Personal Testimony": *Blown Away! My Rocky Road to Salvation*

Allow me to share My Personal Testimony with you about the importance of Discipleship in my life.



I accepted the Lord as My Personal Savior at a Billy Graham Crusade in Cleveland Stadium in 1973. I was so On Fire for the Lord! But my family was no longer going to church and I had no one to Disciple me. So like the seed sown upon rock in Matt 13:5-6 my fire slowly grew dim:

"Others fell on the rocky places, where they did not have much soil; and immediately they sprang up, because they had no depth of soil. "But when the sun had risen, they were scorched; and because they had no root, they withered away." NASU

I spent the next 25 years wandering the spiritual desert but Thank God He was still there when I finally returned to renew the fire within me.

Discipling Keeps The Fire Alive & Growing!

According to Greg Ogden:

“Discipling then is a relationship where we intentionally walk alongside a growing disciple or disciples in order to encourage, correct, and challenge them in love to grow toward maturity in Christ.”

In his classic book *“The Master Plan of Evangelism”* written in 1964 author Robert Coleman states:

“One must decide where he wants his ministry to count—in the momentary applause of popular recognition OR the reproduction of his life in a few chosen men who will carry on his work after he has gone.”

Jesus of course did that perfectly—He knew exactly what he had to do in order to accomplish his mission and never strayed from it.



OK I KNOW what you’re thinking—but He was Jesus (and I’m not)! But it CAN be done—because an ordinary man did it.

I’m sure you’ve heard of him before. His name was Paul

(you know, the same Paul that wrote most of the NT? Yeah THAT Paul). And as Believers we have the same spirit in US that Paul had in him.

So Let’s Do Like Paul and “DWJD” (Do What Jesus Did)

Paul’s Discipleship Mission Statement is found in his letter to the Colossians:

Figure 2 : Image Source:

www.apostlepaulthefilm.com

“ We proclaim Him, admonishing every man and teaching every man with all wisdom, so that we may present every man complete in Christ. For this purpose also I labor, striving according to His power, which mightily works within me. ” Col 1:28-29 NASU

And Paul encouraged his Disciple Timothy to go forth and do likewise:

“The things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, entrust these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.” 2 Tim 2:2-3_NASU

But you know what the coolest part is? Jesus did it. Paul did it. **And if we follow the same methodology—and are empowered by the Holy Spirit—God can use US to do it too! Amen! ☺**

So what? What’s the big deal? Well when you compare the results of Evangelism vs. Discipleship, the difference is striking:

Which method would yield greater results after 16 years? Evangelizing one person a day for 16 years?

Or...

Discipling just 2 people a year ?

who then disciple two people...

who then disciple two people...

who then disciple two people...? 😊

In Greg Ogden's book Keith Phillips graphically conveys the power of Discipleship vs. Evangelism alone in his graph below. In it he "compares the numeric difference between one person a day coming to Christ and one person a year being disciple to maturity."

The Chart with the answer below will simply AMAZE you! (it certainly amazes me)

Discipleship Essentials
Chart: Evangelist Vs. Discipler

<u>Year</u>	<u>Evangelist</u>	<u>Discipler</u>
1	365	2
2	730	4
3	1095	8
4	1460	16
5	1825	32
6	2190	64
7	2555	128
8	2920	256
9	3265	512
10	3650	1024
11	4015	2048
12	4380	4096
13	4745	8192
14	5110	16,384
15	5475	32,768
16	5840	65536

Source: *Discipleship Essentials*

Up until year 12 it appears that the Evangelist is winning the race. But like a longshot in a horserace, in the final stretch of Year 13 the Discipler pulls out ahead and wins the race hands down with a nearly 10 to 1 lead!

Says Greg Ogden “the irony is that focusing on a few takes a long-range view by multiplying the number of disciples and therefore expands a church’s leadership base.”

He continues with “Though adult education programs and small group ministries are good tools to produce maturity, ***without the focus of small discipling units a solid foundation is difficult to build.***”

AMEN! So is Discipleship—quick? Nope. Is it easy? Not hardly. But is it worth it? Dare I say that without it nothing else is possible.

So How Do We Plan to Not Just Be Fans But Followers—*Disciples*—of Jesus Christ?

I am SO glad you asked! 😊

I searched the Web over and found no program more powerful than that from Kyle Idleman entitled: **Not A Fan**

Kyle Idelman is a pastor who lamented at the fact that Christians seem to confuse what it means to be simply a Fan (i.e an enthusiastic admirer) of Jesus Christ rather than the Completely Committed Followers that we need to be. He created a multimedia program to define the problem and learn how we can become the kind of Followers that our Awesome Lord needs us to be in order to truly transform this world for His Glory.

Check Out Kyle’s Personal Testimony!



not a fan. Kyle Idleman

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eVXs0vkQNvc>

Our Plan is to use the materials created by Kyle and Team in order for us to become not just Fans but Completely Committed Followers—DISCIPLES-- of Jesus Christ.

Thanks In Advance For Your Help Building Better Disciples For His Glory!

With your help we plan to continue to grow in our faith by learning how to become Completely Committed Followers of Jesus Christ using the NotAFan.Com teaching materials:

Here's Our *Building Better Disciples* "Wish List"

OUR MISSION ACCESSIBLE FALL 2011 WISH LIST						TOTALS		
	JOURNAL	BOOK	T-SHIRT	PASTOR' KIT	QTY	GOOD	BETTER	BEST
GOOD	\$ 8.45			39.99	30	\$ 293.49		\$ 293.49
BETTER	\$ 8.45	\$ 14.99		39.99	30	\$ 293.49	\$ 449.70	\$ 743.19
BEST	\$ 8.45	\$ 14.99			30	\$ 293.49	\$ 449.70	\$ 743.19
			\$ 9.00		30	0	0	\$ 270.00
								\$ 1,013.19
								\$ 39.99
TOTAL								\$ 1,053.18

- ▶ **Good** Buys The Pastor's Guide + everyone gets a Study Guide
- ▶ **Better** Does That + Equips everyone with their very own Book also
- ▶ **BEST!** **DOES IT ALL!** Gives 'Em That PLUS A "Not A Fan" T-shirt! 😊



Our **BEST** Package will give **ALL** members **ALL** the materials that they'll need to become better Followers of Jesus Christ **AND** allow them to be able to teach others how to become Disciples For His Glory in the future.

Luke 6:38

Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you." NIV

Helping Us Building Better Disciples

Is As Easy As 1-2-3!

Thanks for your prayerful consideration of how Our Awesome Lord would have you support the mission of Mission Accessible, Inc. (a 501-c-3 non-profit organization). Your contribution is 100% tax-deductible.

Making a safe, secure donation to Mission Accessible's Fall Discipleship Focus is a quick and easy three-step process:

- ▶ **Step #1:** Simply Go To: www.MissionAccessible.org
- ▶ **Step #2:** Click on the PayPal Button
- ▶ **Step #3:** Use Your Credit Card to Make a Secure Donation ASAP

High-tech not your style? "Old School" donations via mail are welcome! Please send your check or money order payable to "Mission Accessible, Inc." to:

Mission Accessible, Inc.

2004 Custer Parkway

Richardson, TX 75080

God Bless You! Thanks for your generous help *Building Better Disciples* of people and families affected by disability for His Glory! ☺

In His Accessible Grace,



Linda Thacker

Executive Director

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