

Making Disciples Aflame for Christ

DECEMBER 2020

Jesus said: "Go...and make disciples...." (Matthew 28:19-20)

COMMANDING HIS GREAT COMMISSION TO HIS DISCIPLES, JESUS SAID:

"...Go therefore and Make Disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit -- Teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you (Matthew 28:18-20)."



Here Jesus is commanding His followers to carry on the work they experienced with Him for the three years that He walked the earth. Jesus loved them and prayed for them daily and fervently. He walked with them in daily life; He taught them God's Word; He warned them of dangers; and He edified them to maturity.



Lighthouse of Hope

Ministries

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LIGHTHOUSE OF HOPE MINISTRIES' MISSION IS BIBLICAL DISCIPLE-MAKING.

IT TAKES TIME TO MAKE DISCIPLES. Most modern-day disciple-making involves quick formulas for instant results to get people saved, baptized and plugged into service without teaching and exhorting through the Word and walking with them in daily life.

BIBLICAL DISCIPLE-MAKING IS A TWOFOLD PROCESS THAT INVOLVES BOTH EVANGELISM (spiritual birth) **AND TEACHING** (spiritual growth). Too often, we separate these -- placing an emphasis on either evangelism or on teaching. But, TRUE DISCIPLESHIP involves BOTH; and **THE PRODUCT OF TRUE DISCIPLE-MAKING IS: COMMITTED FOLLOWERS OF CHRIST THAT ARE SPIRITUALLY MATURING IN CHRISTLIKENESS AND THAT ARE ALSO COMMITTED TO CHRIST'S GREAT COMMISSION.** They are intent on knowing Christ (through His Word), trusting Him, living for Him, obeying Him and professing Him -- no matter the cost.



THE ABSENCE OF TRUE DISCIPLESHIP results in spiritual babes that are self-absorbed rather than Christ-absorbed. They rarely read the Word; rarely pray; rarely witness of Christ. They never grow up spiritually or press on to maturity. They are easily tossed to and fro by every wind of doctrine. They can be easily taken in by false preachers/teachers and teachings. When a baby is born, it is important to nurture and care for it until it matures enough to care for itself! Through the work of Disciple-Making, GOD changes and grows His children from self-absorbed, whining, rebellious children to mature, Christ-absorbed, God-exalting, grateful, obedient disciples.

WHAT IS THE DESIRED END PRODUCT OF DISCIPLE-MAKING?

IT IS THAT CHRIST BE FORMED IN THE BELIEVER.

"My children, with whom I am again in labor until Christ is formed in you..." (Galatians 4:19)

IF A BELIEVER IS NOT MATURING SPIRITUALLY, when the fires of tribulation or persecution come, they will not be able to stand firm in the faith. In tribulation, unbelief can overtake us; and we find ourselves trying to control everything around us in our own strength rather than trusting in Christ. We have seen this in 2020. The faith of many Christians has been challenged this year from COVID; cancer/pain; family crisis; economic hardship; unrest in our country; and an unforeseeable future.

"A Bible that's falling apart usually belongs to someone who isn't."

-Charles H. Spurgeon

covenant he shall corrupt with the flatteries; but the people who know their God shall be strong, and do exploits. ³³And they who understand among the people shall instruct many; yet they shall fall by the sword, and be lame, by captivity, and by sword.

The prophet Daniel knew what it was like to have his world turned upside down by unforeseen circumstances and to be persecuted for his faith. In the revealing of end time prophecy and increased tribulation for believers, the Holy Spirit would lead Daniel to write: "the people who know their God will display strength and shall stand firm and do great exploits for God" (Daniel 11:32).



THIS IS HOW THIS MINISTRY MAKES DISCIPLES:

- We GO wherever and to whomever God leads, and we proclaim the true Gospel of Jesus Christ.
- We TEACH God's Word one-on-one as well as in a corporate setting (Bible Study groups) so that Christ's disciples can grow spiritually, grow in Christlikeness, stand firm in their faith in all circumstances, and become disciple-makers themselves.





THIS MINISTRY DOES NOT AND CANNOT REPLACE THE LOCAL CHURCH. Through these many years, God has used it to help the Local Church! Believers are maturing and laboring spiritually in their churches. Some have become ministers of the Gospel, elders, and Bible Study teachers. Some are sharing their faith with others and inviting people to church. Some have developed a more consistent prayer life -- praying for their church's leadership, it's members, and the many lost in their families and in the world.

SOME PEOPLE WE DISCIPLE HAVE COME OUT OF FALSE CHURCHES/TEACHINGS. They have been hurt in their religious walk. We labor with them through the Word to grow them in Truth -- and now they are sharing Truth with others!

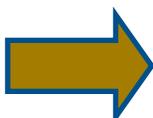
SOME PEOPLE WE DISCIPLE ARE GOING THROUGH GREAT CRISES. Their needs are great, and God has called us to walk with them through His Word as they walk through a very deep valley. The love of Christ compels us to pray fervently that they come out of the valley Ablaze with His Glory.

THERE ARE NO WORDS TO EXPRESS THE JOY AS WELL AS THE PAIN that we have experienced these 18+ years of ministry. Our joy soars as we see God transform lives Aflame for Christ -- and that now bring Him glory by introducing others to Christ. We have also seen lives turn away from the Light and Hope of Christ, which is always painful. The hours are long; the days are short; but by God's grace, we press on Making Disciples! What a privilege!

THANK YOU FOR YOUR PARTNERSHIP IN OBEDIENCE TO OUR LORD'S COMMAND TO GO AND MAKE DISCIPLES. WE ARE TRULY THANKFUL FOR YOU! It is our prayer that in the coming year we will ALL grow in the grace and knowledge of Christ, walk with Him as committed followers, and obey His great commission. To "Go" doesn't mean we have to go to a foreign country. Children, relatives, co-workers, neighbors, store clerks, and even some church attenders are all mission fields! **IN 2021, MAY CHRIST GROW HIS CHURCH LIKE WE'VE NEVER SEEN BEFORE TO THE PRAISE AND GLORY OF GOD OUR FATHER!**



IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO PARTICIPATE IN ANY OF THE WEEKLY STUDIES, PLEASE CONTACT US!



WEEKLY GROUP STUDIES/MEETINGS INCLUDE:

- ⇒ **7:00 PM MONDAY NIGHT TEEN GIRLS BIBLE STUDY** taught by Tressa
- ⇒ **10:30 AM TUESDAY MORNING LADIES BIBLE STUDY** taught by Tressa
- ⇒ **7:00 PM TUESDAY NIGHT PRAYER MEETING** led by Ray
- ⇒ **7:00 PM THURSDAY NIGHT LADIES BIBLE STUDY** taught by Tressa
- ⇒ **7:00 PM THURSDAY NIGHT MEN'S BIBLE STUDY** taught by Ray

People from churches throughout our state as well as people from other states are joining us online!
We would love to see you!

A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL AND A BLESSED-IN-CHRIST 2021!

Yours in Christ,

Ray, Tressa & Gwen

Disciples of Christ, A Flame for Christ Ministries dba LightHouse of Hope



Visit us at: www.TheLightHouseofHope.net Or E-mail us at: TShaw@thelighthouseofhope.net or GCornman@thelighthouseofhope.net

The Christian Life is Christ in you!

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