

# KANSAS COMMUNITIES MINISTRY UPDATE

*"My objective is to know Christ in my own life in ever-increasing depth and to make disciples and develop laborers at all times, under any conditions, in every place I go"*

## Hebrews 12:11

"Now all discipline seems painful at the time, not joyful. But later it produces the fruit of peace and righteousness for those trained by it." (NET Bible, used by permission)

## Establish

Establishing a new believer in his/her faith is an exciting, yet sometimes daunting task. Prayerful perseverance is required! God has called us to Evangelize (Matt. 4:19), Establish (Matt. 28:18-20) and Equip (2 Timothy 2:2). Here are some ideas on this phase of disciple-making:

1. Always start at the "beginning," even if the person seems mature in their faith. Why? They will in turn disciple others as they were discipled. Consider starting with the Beginning with Christ verses and The Wheel Illustration.
2. Keep it relational: Demonstrate true love and concern for the person, with authentic, vulnerable sharing of your life.
3. Clearly communicate the goal: knowing Jesus better. Scripture memory, the Wheel, etc, are simply tools to know and love Him better!

## Our Unconscious Witness

He was a student from China studying at our local state school. Even though he faithfully attended our ESL class at church, he openly stated that he did not believe in Jesus. He was an extremely intelligent young man and was widely read. He simply did not believe all this "religious" stuff.



As the months went on, the Holy Spirit, through the Word of God transformed him. He came to see that indeed Jesus was who He claimed to be. He expressed his trust in Jesus as his Savior. What made the difference? Was it the great teaching at the ESL class? Was it the American friends who reached out to him? Was it a truth that we were able to communicate?

While all these likely played a role in his transformation, the one thing that our Chinese student expressed was that there was "this student pilot at school who was going to give up a lucrative career in aviation in order to become a missionary pilot." That really impressed our Chinese friend!

That student pilot didn't really try to convince our friend of the truth of Scripture. Instead he just lived his faithful life in front of our friend and this is what impressed him.

Jesus said, "In the same way, let your light shine before people, so that they can see your good deeds and give honor to your Father in heaven." (Matt. 5:16, NET Bible). Who is observing your life today? Is it your children, your coworkers, your neighbors? Let your light shine so they may see your faithfulness and the love of Jesus.



## Goads and Nails

*Excerpt from Goads and Nails,  
Volume 1, pages 13-16*

*"Come apart or you will come  
apart" - Howard Hendricks*

In this statement Howard Hendricks is referring to the words of Jesus to his disciples in Mark 6:31. "...Come ye yourselves apart to a desert place, and rest a while. (KJV)" So many people were coming and going that they did not even have time to eat. In the above passage Jesus is recognizing the need to leave the pressures of daily activities and spend time in His presence for the purpose of rest and renewal.

This need is more pressing in our lifetime than it has ever been before. Our lives are crammed with activities from dawn to dusk, leaving little time for one another, let alone time with the Lord. That which is most essential in my life is that which Jesus declared to be essential in Matthew 4:4, "It is written: 'Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"

"Richard Spann



## Book review: "The Adventure of Discipling Others" by Ron Bennett and John Purvis (Pub. Navpress, © 2003

If you need a great resource on discipling, this book is it! I have found it to be most helpful, particularly when I am looking for encouragement or for individual stories to share with others.

It is arranged as a series of twelve sessions, designed to be used in a group setting to learn discipling principles. As the preface states "The Adventure of Discipling Others is designed to be used simultaneously with the actual experience of discipling at least one other person. Learning by doing is critical to making this material authentic rather than academic. There's no substituting to stepping out and investing your life in someone else's life. Such faith pleases God, and His resources are always adequate."

There is a great description of an overview of the discipling process, definitions, assumptions and core components. In order to keep it from being academic only, the authors include multiple stories and examples which are truly inspiring as you learn various discipling principles.

It might be difficult to use this one-on-one with an individual you are training, except to use it as a resource or reference work. I've used it that way and have assigned specific stories or principles to cover and then discussed it with people. It is more designed as a training manual for those wanting to know how to disciple others and then go out and apply the principles learned. Stories by Larry Glabe, Jack Griffin, Becky Brodin ("Finding the Right Person to Disciple"), Dawson Trotman, Skip Gray, Lorne Sanny, Joni Eareckson Tada, J. Oswald Sanders and many others make this a fantastic resource.