

# T. E. A. C. H.

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## ***Changing the World -- Starting with Yourself***

Dan Harrison  
C. E. Chairman

While browsing through a magazine recently I came across an intriguing advertisement for a Christian college. The catch line of the ad read: *Change the World, one person at a time. Starting with yourself. Starting at (name of the school).* The text below the advertisement began, "You know you want to make a difference - to impact the world. The hard part is knowing where to begin." I thought about the reality of that statement. Most believers really don't have any idea where to begin in trying to make an impact in the world.

The ad previously referred to, offers solid advice when it suggests that any positive impact we hope to make in the world must begin in us. Anyone wishing to make a real difference must realize the need for power from beyond themselves. J. I. Packer explains that the path to power is humble dependence on God. "We are to be channels, first, through which the power of God flows into the depths of our own being as we open ourselves up to the Lord and His grace. Then, by God's grace, we will find that repeatedly we are becoming channels of His power into the lives of others."

How would we live differently if we were really experiencing the love of Christ on a daily basis? What would life look like if we really believed we were loved? Becky Brodin filled two pages in her journal answering that question. The following entries are typical samples of the very practical things she jotted down:

I'd love other people more easily.  
I'd have more confidence in who I am.  
I'd celebrate others' achievements more quickly and not resent their successes.  
I'd relax in my relationship with the Lord.  
I'd accept others' flaws with more grace.  
I'd give love from an overflow.

Genuine life change can only begin with a realization that change is needed. Many Christians are not willing to be honest with themselves or anyone else about the levels of need in their own walk with God. That is

unfortunate because life transformation only comes about by the power of God and the power of God is only given when we honestly ask for it to change us and make us more like Christ. He does not give us His power to use at our discretion in an attempt to draw attention to ourselves. Rather He gives us His power only when our hearts have been filled with His love and we possess a genuine desire to do His bidding.

Being a disciple means being like the Master. It means giving our primary energies in life to two things: Loving God and loving people. John reminds us of the essence of true love in his epistle. "This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers." (1 John 3:16). John also wrote, "Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another" (1 John 4:11). The example of Jesus provides a clear explanation of what love is all about - He gave Himself. When we receive His love and follow His example by expressing that love to others we prove we are His disciples. We prove our love through:

### ***Love Understands Others***

Every person the Lord ever created has an inborn need to be understood and valued. Every person has a story  
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and love will motivate us to hear and understand that story. If we want to reveal love as Christ did we must remember there is a depth of reality in every person we meet. We must be willing to take off our masks and become vulnerable with others if we expect them to do the same with us. Experiencing the healing, forgiving love of Jesus until we are whole at the depth of our spirit is the best preparation I have found for this kind of honesty and vulnerability. His love at work in us will empower us to be patient when those we are trying to reach are afraid and defensive. Do we possess enough of His heart to invest the time and emotional energy necessary to really understand another?

#### *Love Accepts Others*

Jesus was more successful than most of us in expressing His opposition to evil in the world and yet at the same time displaying an accepting attitude toward the needy men and women who crossed His path. We preach and teach that people can come to Jesus "just as they are," but we have difficulty accepting them "just as they are." We understand the concept of unconditional love with our heads but our hearts have a lot of catching up to do. It seems strange that if Jesus knew people perfectly and yet He opened His arms and His heart to them that we don't do the same. Jesus understood that people deeply fear rejection and He had enough love to accept them as they were though He never left them that way. The way He treated the poor, those taken in various sinful acts, tax-collectors, and prostitutes is challenging to say the least. Have we received enough of His love to really experience acceptance? Do we have enough of His love flowing from our heart to make others feel accepted?

#### *Love Forgives Others*

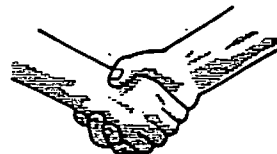
Paul reminds us, "Forgive each other, just as in Christ God forgave you" (Eph. 4:32). Forgiveness is loving in spite of how wrong, unworthy and undeserving a person may be. When people are trying to return from failure they don't need a treatise on where they went wrong. They do need open arms and a forgiving spirit. In the story of the Prodigal, a fallen son confesses that he has sinned terribly against his father. "I am no longer worthy to be called you son" (Luke 15:21). His father didn't respond with a tirade of "I told you so's" instead he began offering tangible expressions of forgiveness. Have you found that kind of forgiveness from the Father? Are you expressing that kind of forgiveness to those He brings into your life?

#### *Love Serves Others*

Love gives and serves and acts and does in the behalf of others. On the last night Jesus shared with his disciples He powerfully drove this lesson home for them through an expression of loving service. He put on an apron and took a basin of water and began washing their feet saying, "I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you" (John 13:15). This is an incredible scene when you realize everything He knew about them. He

knew Peter would deny Him and the others would soon all run away as well. He knew that Judas had already betrayed Him in his heart but in spite of everything He loved them. He knew them fully, accepted them fully, forgave them fully and served them fully.

*We are His disciples to the extent that we have accepted and experienced these things in our own walk with Him We show that discipleship to others as we share these same things with them in the living of our day to day lives.*



### ***1995 Mentoring Conference*** ***Leading and Preaching to Change Lives***

*with*

***John Maxwell & Bill Hybels***

***Charlotte, NC – Oct. 2-3, 1995***

***Kansas City, MO – Oct. 4-5, 1995***

Come for two very special days of mentoring by Bill Hybels and John Maxwell. Reflect, learn and share the burdens, heartaches and triumphs of being a pastor. Gain a fresh vision and renewed energy to face the challenges of tomorrow.

Sessions Include:

#### **LEADERSHIP**

Defining the Leadership Gift-Hybels  
Describing the Leadership Challenge-Hybels  
Surviving the Leadership Rigors-Hybels  
Leading from the Highest Level-Hybels  
How to Attract Potential Leaders-Maxwell  
Signs of Weakened Leadership-Maxwell

#### **PREACHING**

Defining the Preaching Gift-Hybels  
Preaching to Non-churched People-Hybels  
Describing Your Preaching Style-Hybels  
Difference Between a Communicator & a Speaker  
- Maxwell  
Preaching for a Commitment-Maxwell  
Preaching with Passion-Maxwell

Registration for the seminar begins at 7:30 AM on the first day and the seminar concludes at 5:00 PM the second day. Special rates are available for spouses and additional staff/lay leaders registering from the same church at the same time.

To request additional information on rates and how to register, you may call 1-800-333-6506 (8am-5pm Pacific) or write to INJOY, PO Box 19000, San Diego, CA 92159.

**1995 Christian Education Convention**  
**September 16, 1995**  
**Faith Memorial Church**  
**Lancaster, Ohio**

**Developing**

**Dynamic**

**Disciples**

**General Session Speakers:**

**Dr. Charles Lake** - is the founding Pastor of Community Church of Greenwood, Indian, an interdenominational church, and a unique 17 year old congregation. All members of Community Church are encouraged to complete at least Discipleship Training Levels 1-4, which Dr. Lake personally developed.

**Sheryl Fleisher** - is Pastor of Personal Growth at Skyline Wesleyan Church in Lemon Grove, California. Her duties include Director of Discipleship, Women's Ministries, and New Christians.

**Workshop Speakers & Topics** - Over 16 workshops will be available for you to choose from. Topics include: Children's Church Resources, Spiritual Reproduction, Promise Keeper's Program, Attractive Youth Ministry, Peer Coaching, E.C.L.'s, Exceptional Ministry, Knowing Jesus & Keeping Jesus, Timothy's, & Computer Software for Your Church, to name just a few.

**Registration** - Individual registration cost is \$10.00 per person. If you have a group of 10 or more the cost is \$9.00 per person. Make checks payable to "Convention 95". Call the C.E. Office at 513-695-0025 if you have any questions.

**Make plans now to attend this exciting conference! The development of Discipleship training within your congregation is so important. Here is a great opportunity for you to become encouraged, motivated, and grow in your commitment to the Lord. Hope to see you there!!**



***It's Here!!***

***Children's Church Resource Notebook!!***

An exciting project is now completed and ready for you! The Children's Church Resource Notebook will be available for you at the C. E. Convention. Here is a resource notebook packed full of ideas for Children's Church, Leading a Child to Christ, Music Resources, Missionary Lessons, Hints for Positive Discipline, Memory

Ideas, as well as Games, and additional resources.

Stop by the C. E. Lending Library table for your very own copy. There will be a minimal charge for each notebook to cover the printing and shipping costs. If you are unable to attend the Convention, you may still obtain a copy for your Sunday School department. Simply call the C. E. Department Office and ask for Cindy. Her number is 513-695-0025.

Now you will be all set to begin another exciting year in your Children's Church and Sunday School hours. May it be a time of great blessing to you and your children!

**COME  
CELEBRATE  
JESUS!**

There is nothing more fulfilling than attending a worship service where you can feel the power of the Holy Spirit moving. At the Columbus Delray Road Church, God is definitely moving. Pastor Troy Ervin recently shared some of his thoughts and feelings regarding his church with us.

"To make a church grow, there must be the anointing of the Holy Ghost. There is nothing that man can do to make the church grow. To see God move, we need to get on our knees and pray and wait for the moving of God," says Pastor Ervin. Before the Sunday morning service, a group of men and a separate group of women gather for special prayer. During the worship services, the congregation is able to feel the anointing of the Holy Spirit and to watch God touch lives. Many folks have come forward to have their marriages healed, to be delivered from drugs and alcohol, to confess being a victim of abuse, to release a troubled teenager or to ask for forgiveness of their sins and for the Lord to come into their lives. The power of God changes people. "Without the power of God we get so busy trying to make it go ourselves - we don't rely on Him," said Pastor Troy. "We have to get back to the fire of the Holy Ghost. Then practical things will fall in place better than if we had tried to do them ourselves."

The freedom in worship is also important in this church. Flexibility of the length of worship time, as well as the style of worship is something that makes a difference here. Many times the services run longer than expected, prayer times are extended and the music changes from one service to another. All of these elements make the worship experience at the Delray Road Church alive with the presence of God.

Pastor Troy has developed the philosophy that there are two main focuses to be accomplished in the church: 1. Worship of God, and 2. Proclamation of the Gospel. He goes back to the scriptures (cont. on page 4)

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for both using Matthew 6:33 and Acts 1:8. "We can't reach a plateau of spiritual growth - we need to keep always reaching for higher levels of growth."

In visiting with Pastor Troy, it is evident that he loves the Lord. As he said, "I'd rather attend a church somewhere where the Holy Ghost is evident, than pastor a church somewhere where it's not!" Pastor Troy has a confidence in God and believes what the scripture tells him in Ephesians 3, that God is able to do exceeding abundantly. He has a compassion and love for people to pray for them and lead them to the Lord. He also has a deep sense of celebration of what God is doing.

Pastor Troy is allowing the Holy Ghost to use him in mighty ways and that is evident in the happenings at the Delray Road Church. God's blessings to the ministry there.

### ***"Post-Altar Care: Saved, Now What?"***

Mark Otero  
Dover Hill, IN



Years ago, the British House of Commons was interrupted by the news that after years of effort and millions of dollars the cable to Africa had been completed. After the hurrahs and hat-tossing died down, Winston Churchill rose to say, "Excellent, excellent. Now, what shall we tell the Africans?" Some might say the church is alot like the House of Commons when it comes to evangelism. She cheers upon completing the task of leading a lost person to Christ but is uncertain about what to say afterwards.

Often most energies are directed toward getting people saved while little is left to disciple the saved. The end result is weak, wobbly Christianity. This is not the kind that will impact the world for Christ. We have tried so many gimmicks to attract the Lost to the Kingdom. We have often overlooked the most powerful magnet we have, Christians who resemble the Savior who redeemed them. Unless more attention is given toward cultivating lifestyle discipleship in the church, we will be like fishermen who fish with holes in their nets.

If you are tired of seeing people come through the front door of your church only to find the back exit, you may consider the following idea. Since this spring, the Dover Hill Church has participated in discipleship training ministry. No other attempt at discipling has been as rewarding as this approach. Following is a summary of how it works and how to get it started.

Discipleship training ministry is occurring in a group of 15 christians who meet weekly for about one hour.

Each member in this group makes a covenant to be accountable for regular attendance, scripture memorization, prayer partnership, and daily accountability logs that report and reflect daily quiet times. A resource notebook is distributed to each member which contains aids to accomplish the prescribed disciplines as well as a 36-week group study guide to be used in class. A typical meeting includes, instruction on aspects of the Christian life, submission of accountability logs to the discipler, prayer and sharing, and weekly assignments. The discipler reviews all logs and makes comments on them to the disciple. The logs are returned weekly. The resource material we are using is entitled Discipleship Training by Dr. Charles Lake and may be purchased from Growth Ministries, Greenwood Community Church in Greenwood Indiana.

The following steps were taken to start this ministry at Dover Hill:

1. Sample materials were ordered and presented to the local board.

2. Upon receiving an endorsement by the board, I asked for interest among them to participate in the group. (Almost all wanted to get on board!) Some of these people are prospective disciplers.

3. After setting a date to begin, a letter was sent to people who needed to be in the pioneer group. This letter was sent to new converts, teens preparing to graduate, more seasoned Christians and lay leaders. (The mixture of spiritual experiences has proven to be very helpful.)

4. An orientation was held to give prospects an overview of the ministry that included material and expectations. It was held in an informal setting with refreshments. Here each was asked if they would want to be a part of discipleship training.

5. Notebooks were ordered for each group member and one month later we started the ministry.

It is tremendous to see the spiritual believers stimulated to grow in Christ. It has had a definite impact on the climate church life. Spiritual enthusiasm is spreading. Many want to join discipleship training ministry in the future. It is my desire to see every member of the Dover Hill Church involved. As more disciplers are prepared to lead these groups I believe the church and community will be deeply impacted. This idea is not new, John Wesley instituted a similar spiritual growth ministry. I am aware of other churches in our denomination that are using this material that are having similar results. We are blessed to participate in the full observance of the Christ-commission. After the hurrahs of a spiritual birth die down, the church can know what to say next!

*Follow me  
as I follow  
Christ*



## **Discipleship - Jesus' Method of Training**

Bob Flint, Assoc. Pastor  
Milford Center, OH

The 19th century preacher Clovis Chappell told the story of two paddleboats. Leaving Memphis about the same time, both were travelling down the Mississippi River to New Orleans. As they travelled side by side, sailors from one boat made a remark of how slowly the other boat was moving. Exchanging of words resulted in the making of a challenge, and the race was on.

As the two vessels roared through the Deep South, the competition grew more and more heated. One boat fell behind because of low fuel. There had been plenty of coal for the trip, but not enough for a race. As the vessel fell further behind, one enterprising young sailor took some of the ship's cargo and tossed it into the ovens. When the crew saw that the supplies burned as well as coal, they fueled their boat with the material they had been assigned to transport. They won the race, but burned their cargo.

The church faces this same danger. In an effort to "win the race of building a church in the 90's, we often 'burn our cargo' - PEOPLE."

Jesus never lost sight of the fact that he had two objectives in coming to earth. He was the one who would make it possible for the sinful human race to be made pure and free from sin. As he moved to Mount Calvary, Jesus systematically pursued his second purpose--training people to carry out the work of the Kingdom that would be established.

If the church is going to build the Kingdom of Heaven, we must give priority to Jesus' emphasis. Rather than pursuing the latest fads, gimmicks, and crowd-gathering programs, we need to implement New Testament discipleship.

In Mark 3:13-14 we discover three basic principles the Master Discippler employed in training the twelve who would lead in spreading the Good News to a lost world.

### **I. Selecting the Disciples (vs. 13)**

The Gospel writer points out that "Jesus called to him those he wanted." Though he never ignored the multitudes, Jesus spent the majority of his time with a few that he hand-picked. As Jesus walked from place to place in the early months of his public ministry, he watched people closely. The Master Discippler noted who would

respond to the deeper truths of the Kingdom. In John 1 we read how "Jesus saw, looked at, and found" those who were to become his disciples (vs 38, 42, 43, 47). In vs. 48 we read that Jesus had seen Nathanael at an earlier time and that Nathanael had been doing something "under the fig tree" that caught the attention of the Master Discippler.

Though the church should never lose sight of the masses who are in need of The Shepherd, we must realize that it will take a group of men and women to do the work effectively. God will give us the grace to see.

### **II. Spending Time with the Disciples (vs. 14a)**

The order of vs. 14 cannot be overlooked. Before "sending out the 12", the scripture clearly states that first "the 12 were appointed to be with Christ." Jesus did not thrust these people into public ministry, but rather drew them to himself.

To be effective in ministry requires a heart like Christ's--a servant's heart. To develop that heart in the 12, Jesus spent hours, days, weeks, months, even years with them. This group walked together along lonely roads, visited crowded city streets together, sailed and fished the Sea of Galilee together, prayed together on the mountain side, and worshiped together in the synagogues and temple. They were together. Jesus trained his disciples by living with them.

In Acts 4, two of the disciples are standing before the Sanhedrin, the religious elite of that day. Vs. 13 tells us that what left a lasting impression on that group who couldn't accept Jesus was the reality that Peter and John "had been with Jesus."

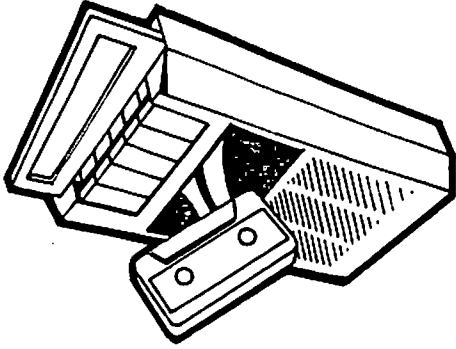
"Disciple" and "discipline" come from the same root word. If our discipleship training is to bring lasting changes in an individual's life, we must model the disciplines that result in an intimate, growing relationship with Jesus Christ. Doing what needs to be done when it needs to be done so that Christ can work in us and through our lives.

### **III. Sending Out the Disciples (vs. 14b)**

The goal of discipleship is that the life of Christ be reproduced over and over and over. The incarnation (God's becoming human flesh) did not end with Jesus Christ, but is to be accomplished in every generation until Jesus comes a second time. Just as God sent the Son, the Son sends us.

As the disciple's heart becomes more Christlike, that one wants to serve, it is the church's responsibility to enable service to be accomplished. Our time is given so that the disciples can discover who they are and what their gifts are. When there is an awareness of where they fit, the disciple is released to do the ministry that is theirs.

*In the 1st century, Jesus called 12 ordinary, mistake-prone, slow-learning people to be with him so that they could change the world for the glory of God. Jesus desires to do the exact same thing in the 20th century. If we are willing "to be with him," He will do it!*



The Christian Ed. Lending Library has dozens and dozens of cassette tapes available for your use on a number of topics. This Newsletter issue we will focus on a few dealing with Discipleship. For a more detailed list of topics and titles, contact the C.E. Office in Winchester, Ohio.

From the 1995 Church Growth Conference:  
 Facing the Bend in the Road-David Jeremiah, Whatever It Takes-Johnny Hunt, Spiritual Reproduction:  
 Mentoring One to One-Sheryl Feischer, Hungry for God-Tim Elmore, Secrets of Intimacy-Myles Genzkow, How Small Groups Can Revolutionize a Church-David Jeremiah, The Art of Loving People-Sheryl Feischer.  
 From the 1994 Church Growth Conference:  
 Developing People to Become Intimate with God-Sheryl Feischer, How to Spend One Hour with God-John Maxwell, Empowering People to be Free in Christ-Sheryl Feischer.  
 From the 1993 Church Growth Conference:

### *Tapes . . . Tapes . . . and More Tapes !*

Small Group Ministry in Church, Developing People in Christ, Training & Equipping for Small Group Leaders, Developing People New in Christ-all by Sheryl Feischer, Unleashing the 3 "P's" of God-Dwight Robertson, Spiritual Living in a Secular World-Paul Walker.  
 From the 1984 C. E. Convention:  
 Discipling New Christians I and II-Jack Combs.  
 All of these tapes can be borrowed from the Lending Library. Please call Cindy at 513-695-0025 for availability or for a complete listing of the tape library.

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