

***Crossroads
Church***



*Dedicated to the Lord Jesus Christ ...
... who alone builds His church!*

LifeBuilders!

—introduction—

Discipleship... DNA ... Direction!

Crossroads Church

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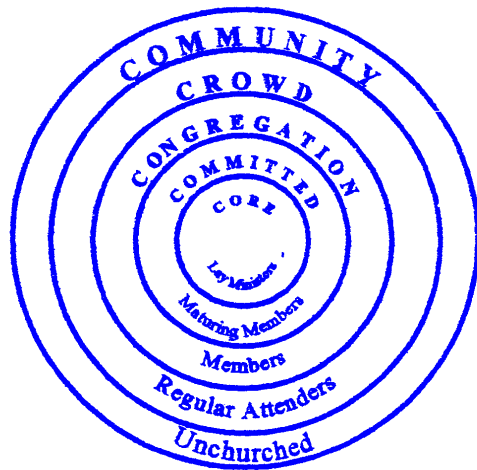
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THE FIVE CIRCLES OF COMMITMENT

Understanding Our Ministry Environment

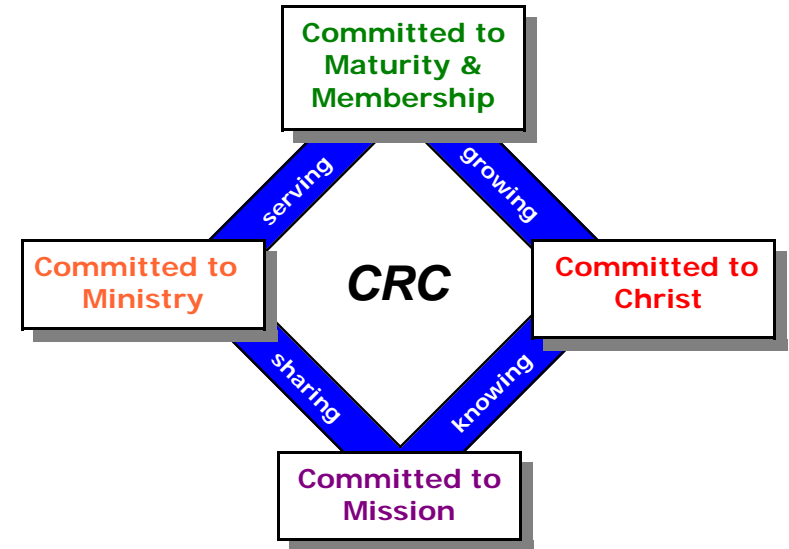
The Community:	The unchurched and occasional attenders who live within driving distance of the church. <i>(The mission field)</i>
The Crowd:	Regular attenders at worship. (Seekers and believers)
The Congregation:	Those who have chosen Crossroads as their church.
The Committed:	Those who have committed to the habits necessary for spiritual maturity to develop.
The Core:	Those who have been equipped for a ministry within the church, and a personal life mission in the world.



THE GOAL:
**To move people toward the core and then
 back out into the community!**

THE BASEBALL DIAMOND

Our Process for Growing Fully Devoted Disciples



TARGET	FOCUS	GOAL
Congregation & Community	Salvation through Christ	To bring the attending crowd to a commitment to Christ as Savior & involvement at CRC.
Committed	Maturity & Membership	To bring regular attenders in the congregation to a commitment to and practice of developing the habits necessary for spiritual development.
Core	Ministry	To bring committed, maturing members to a commitment to serve in the ministries of CRC.
Community	Mission	To bring the committed core of the church to a deeper level of commitment to their personal mission of sharing Christ with unchurched people.
Crowd	Worship, Teaching & Celebration	To bring all attenders to a recognition of the majesty of God, and the sufficiency of Christ in all things.

INTRODUCTION TO LIFEBUILDERS

This booklet explains the heart of the ministry of Crossroads Church. A primary goal of Crossroads is that we become a group of people who willingly commit to the values and vision of Christ which He explained in the Great Commission of Matthew 28:

"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." Matthew 28:19-20 (NIV)

Everyone who is a part of this church is a leader in the eyes of someone else. We each have influence the lives of other people. To this end we are all leaders and we need to take Jesus' commission seriously... the challenge for us to be effective, fruitful and reproductive disciples.

Jesus implied that discipleship is more than just evangelism and teaching. The process that Jesus outlines is that of teaching to observe (obey) all that He commanded. Discipleship implies three things that are often left out in any discussion of the Great Commission.

First: *All disciples are in a process of becoming like Christ. A disciple is a person who is learning to obey all of Christ's commands.*

Second: *All disciples teach. True, not all disciples have a gift of teaching, and not all will do it equally well. But all disciples must teach if they are to be obedient to Christ's command.*

Third: *Teaching that is truly biblical involves accountability to teach others also.*

The apostle Paul understood this. In 2 Timothy 2:2 he gives his application of what the Great Commission implies by way of a process.

"And the things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, these entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also."

Paul says a certain type of man/woman is to be identified ("faithful") who will begin to build into the lives of others so that a body of truth and a quality of life will be passed on to a new generation of believers ("who will be able to teach others also"). The implication is that they will find other faithful people who will then continue the discipleship process.

Disciples teach in such a way that those they teach will be able to teach others also.

THE KEY TO BUILDING HEALTHY CHRISTIANS

(The following are excerpted from
Bill Hull, *The Disciple Making Pastor*, p 12-15, Underline emphasis added.)

"The condition of the heart ... determines the body's ability to function normally."

"The evangelical church has become weak, flabby, and too dependent on artificial means that can only simulate real spiritual power. Churches are too little like training centers to shape up the saints and too much like cardiopulmonary wards at the local hospital. We have proliferated self-indulgent consumer religion, the what-can-the-church-do-for-me syndrome. We are too easily satisfied with conventional success: bodies, bucks and buildings. The average Christian resides in the comfort zone of 'I pay the pastor to preach, administrate, and counsel. I pay him, he ministers to me . . . I am the consumer, he is the retailer ... I have the needs, he meets them.... that's what I pay for.'

"We can most clearly see this in our idolatrous worship of the American superchurch. The bigger it is, and the more its methods mimic the American entrepreneurial spirit, the better. The seduction is complete when the bigger, the more creative, and the more 'successful' churches serve as the ultimate by which we measure all other churches.

"The all-too-common measure of greatness is the number of people gathered for worship. If 3,000 people gather, some may make a snap judgment 'this is a great church.' Measuring greatness this way has two important flaws. First, numbers themselves do not indicate greatness. Large groups can gather for any number of events, such as lynchings, mob riots, or Tupperware parties.

"The second flaw of such a superficial measure is that you have asked the wrong question, 'How many people are present?' *The right question is 'what are these people like?'* What kind of families do they have, are they honest in business, are they trained to witness, do they know the Bible, are they penetrating their workplaces, their neighborhoods, reaching friends and associates for Christ? Are they making the difference in the world for Christ that He expects? These are the right questions, the issues of the heart, and the criteria for greatness.

"The evangelical church has lost the will to ask the right questions and the courage to face the answers. The critical decision facing the church is, "Will we commit ourselves to the issues of the heart? Will we repent of our foolish ways and turn to the work Christ commanded?" But what are the issues of the heart? What is the cardiovascular system of the church?"

"What obvious truth causes the saints to squirm? Simply this: **THE CHURCH EXISTS FOR MISSION.** The church lives by mission as fire exists by oxygen. The church does not exist for itself. This collides head-on with the self-indulgent ego driven psycho-babble mentality that dominates evangelicalism. Look at the best selling Christian books.... talk to the average parishioner; the common thread is a preoccupation with felt needs. If the church is going to obey Christ, this must stop. Christians won't stop having needs, real or felt. However, the pre-occupation and prioritizing of felt needs over Christ-commanded activity must stop.

"The focus of a church's staff, leadership, *and* core congregation is not to be inward, but outward. The church's mission is penetration into the world, as its metaphors instruct us. Salt, light, leaven, army, ambassadors, pilgrims, all denote movement and penetration. The church grows when members become more effective in penetration.

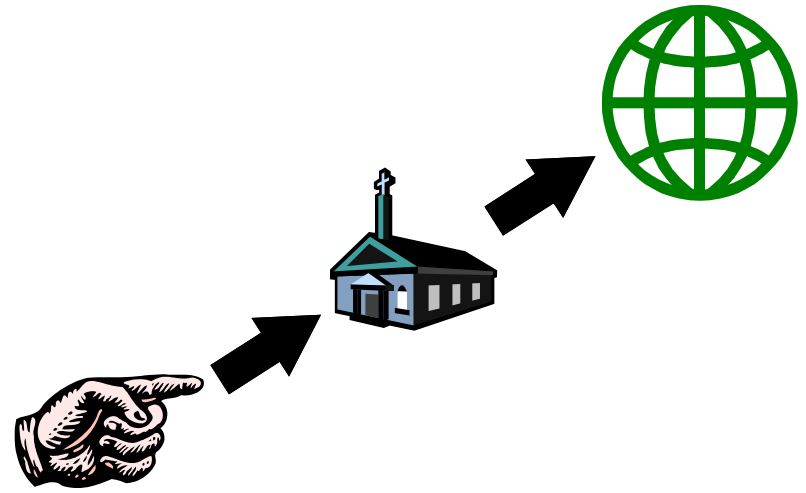
"Only one kind of person will penetrate the world, and the failure of the church to produce this kind of person is the error that has thrown it into crisis. . . . The Christ-commanded product is a person called a disciple. Christ commanded His church to 'make disciples' (Matthew 28:18-20). Jesus described a disciple as one who abides in Him, is obedient, bears fruit, glorifies God, has joy, and loves (John 15:7-17).

"When we obey Christ's commission, two good things happen: we create healthy Christians; healthy Christians reproduce, and the body grows, then multiplies, and the world becomes evangelized."

The approach of Crossroads Church is that we are not content to "do church" the way it is often done. Wholeheartedly we want to follow the plan of God laid down in the words of Scripture.

THE ROLE OF THE LOCAL CHURCH

God's Plan for Reaching the World



The local church is His primary instrument for accomplishing His plans in the world.

But ...

What is His Plan for the World?

THE GREAT COMMISSION

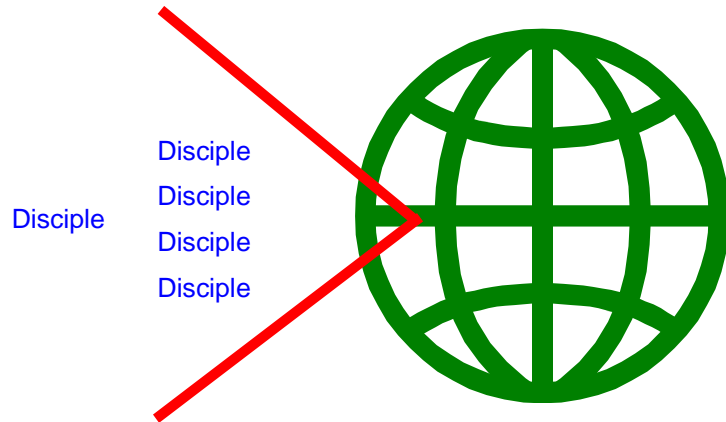
“Therefore **Go and Make Disciples** of all nations”

-Jesus

(Matthew 28:19)

A Helpful Illustration:

The Church Makes Disciples
Who Multiply... and Go!





WHAT IS A DISCIPLE?

“And He went up to the mountain and summoned those whom He Himself wanted, and they came to Him. And He appointed twelve, that they might be with Him, and that he might send them out to preach.”

Mark 3:13-14

Jesus called His disciples to:

1. “Be with Him”  To Grow in an intimate relationship to Christ as Savior and Lord.
2. “Send them out”  To be involved in a ministry of discipleship and evangelism

HOW DID JESUS IDENTIFY DISCIPLES?

In Mark 4, Jesus demonstrates what He valued in His potential disciples.

Mark 4:1-20

Again Jesus began to teach by the lake. The crowd that gathered around him was so large that he got into a boat and sat in it out on the lake, while all the people were along the shore at the water's edge. ^[2] He taught them many things by parables, and in his teaching said: ^[3] "Listen! A farmer went out to sow his seed. ^[4] As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. ^[5] Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. ^[6] But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root. ^[7] Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants, so that they did not bear grain. ^[8] Still other seed fell on good soil. It came up, grew and produced a crop, multiplying thirty, sixty, or even a hundred times."

^[9] Then Jesus said, "He who has ears to hear, let him hear."

^[10] When he was alone, the Twelve and the others around him asked him about the parables. ^[11] He told them, "The secret of the kingdom of God has been given to you. But to those on the outside everything is said in parables ^[12] so that,

"they may be ever seeing but never perceiving,
and ever hearing but never understanding;
otherwise they might turn and be forgiven!"

^[13] Then Jesus said to them, "Don't you understand this parable? How then will you understand any parable? ^[14] The farmer sows the word.

^[15] Some people are like seed along the path, where the word is sown. As soon as they hear it, Satan comes and takes away the word that was sown in them. ^[16] Others, like seed sown on rocky places, hear the word and at once receive it with joy. ^[17] But since they have no root, they last only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, they quickly fall away. ^[18] Still others, like seed sown among thorns, hear the word; ^[19] but the worries of this life, the deceitfulness of wealth and the desires for other things come in and choke the word, making it unfruitful. ^[20] Others, like seed sown on good soil, hear the word, accept it, and produce a crop—thirty, sixty or even a hundred times what was sown."

HOW DID JESUS IDENTIFY DISCIPLES? (CONT)

1. List the four types of Soil: (1-12)

2. List what each soil represents: (13-20)

Q. Which type of person do you think became a part of Jesus' discipleship team?

Q. Which type of person should you seek to be and reproduce if you are to be a disciple?

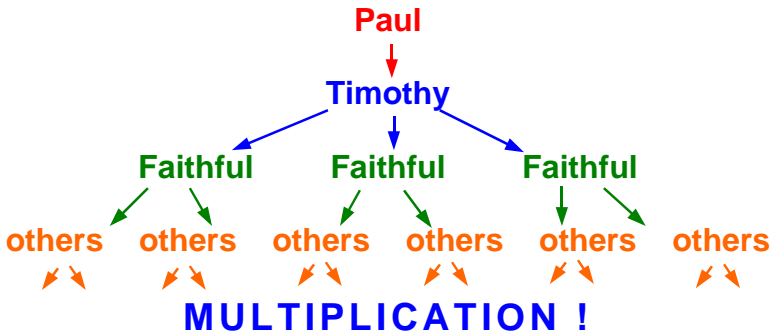
1. Along the path
2. Rocky places
3. Among the thorns
4. Good Soil

1. Hear it, and Satan takes it away
2. Receive with joy, but no root, lasts only short time
3. Hear it, but worries, wealth & desire choke it out -no fruit
4. Hear it, accept it, produce fruit 30x, 60x, or 100x

WHAT DOES GOOD SOIL PRODUCE?

Good soil, which represents disciples making other disciples, (the tree bears fruit after its kind) is the process of MULTIPLICATION!

*2 Timothy 2:2 "And the things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, these entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also."
...gives an example of multiplication:*



Reaching the world of 6,000,000,000

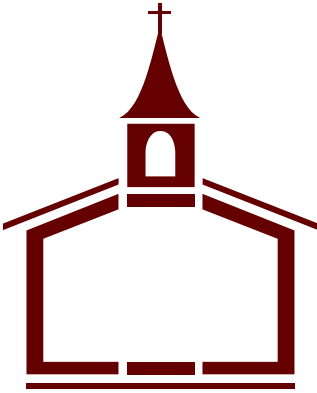


ADDITION	MULTIPLICATION
<p>One person reaching 1,000 people a day will need over 18,000 years to reach the whole world.</p>	<p>One person discipling one other person a year, each discipling another the second year, etc., etc., ... in just 33 years could reach the world!</p>

THIS IS THE GENIUS OF THE PLAN OF GOD!

Can you imagine the impact that Crossroads Church (or any church) will have for the Kingdom of God, if we become a church where every member captures a vision to be what Christ wants all of us to be ...

... reproducing disciples?



HOW DO WE EVALUATE?

Everything we do at Crossroads is designed to help disciples make other disciples.

We evaluate everything we do in light of its contribution to that goal.

We are trying to create a “movement mentality”

PROGRAMS	MOVEMENTS
Begin large	Begin small
Develop little or no leadership	Build leadership
Decline over time	Grow over time

KEY PRINCIPLE:

Disciples are needed to begin this movement.

1. To be with:

2. So as to be sent:

CHARACTERISTICS OF DISCIPLES

1. A life surrendered to the process of becoming like Christ
2. A Heart for God, and for God’s Word, and a willingness to teach this to others
3. Desire to be a reproductive disciple thus living a ministry of discipleship and evangelism

RESPONSIBILITIES OF DISCIPLES

1. A willingness to be discipled by someone else.
2. A commitment to being a discipler of others
3. A recognition that this is a primary purpose for which god created you!
4. A humble acceptance of the call to live the life of a disciple in your church and in your community

WHAT DO YOU SENSE GOD LEADING YOU TO DO?