



EQUIPPER

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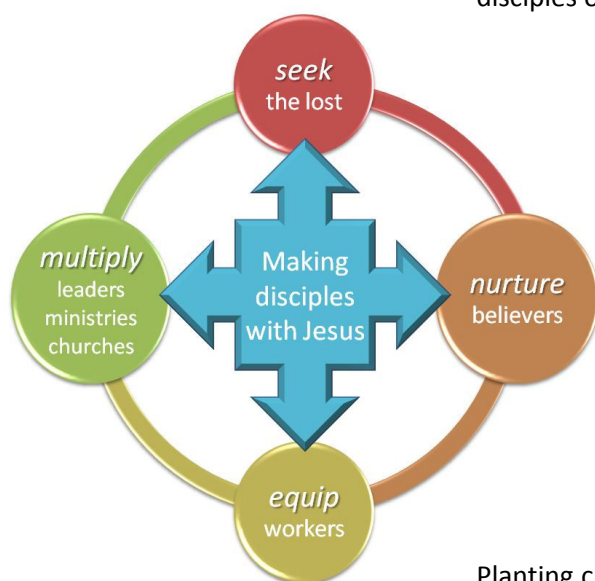
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Dear pastors and ministry leaders,

Last month I mentioned that this year's focus would be *multiplying new leaders, new disciples and new churches*. That does not mean turning aside from existing leaders, disciples and churches. Quite the contrary! It means "locking arms" to participate together in what Jesus is doing, through the Holy Spirit, to "make disciples of all nations" (Matthew 28:19).

As you know, the Holy Spirit is the one who calls people to follow Jesus. He gifts some of those disciples to be leaders, who in turn, multiply disciplemaking ministries and churches. We seek to follow the Spirit's lead in this, which means faithfully and creatively deploying our God-given resources of time, talent and treasure.

Toward that end, we will seek to focus CAD ministries (CMM, GenMin and our church development training and consulting services) on this movement of multiplication. Doing so means emphasizing spiritual formation (presenting ourselves to God), spiritual discernment (understanding what the Lord is doing) and disciplemaking strategy (deploying our resources in the Lord's service). These emphases are addressed in the *Transformational Church* consulting services that we will continue to offer to our churches in 2013.



Planting churches is a key fruit produced through these emphases. Why? Because it is how the Holy Spirit works in and through the church. Some ask, "How can my little church plant a new church?" Please understand that few of our existing churches have the resources needed to start a new church on their own. However, no matter how limited their resources, all our churches can share in our church planting movement. Indeed, many are! To learn more about how your church can join the ranks of others to help plant churches, please read Randy Bloom's article on page two.

I want to challenge all our pastors and ministry leaders to prayerfully seek the Lord's direction concerning how your congregation or ministry can take an active role in helping multiply new leaders, new disciples and new churches in 2013.

It is a great blessing to share this journey with you. May God bless and keep you as we move forward together.

Dan Rogers
Director, GCI Church Administration and Development, USA

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Multiplying new churches

by Randy Bloom, CAD ministry developer and CMM director

In last month's *Equipper*, Dan Rogers emphasized *multiplying new leaders, new disciples and new churches*. Ted Johnston then provided an article showing how *intergenerational ministry* is key to multiplying new leaders. In this article, I will emphasize that what established churches do to multiply new leaders is vital for multiplying new churches.

First, I want to express my gratitude to the many established churches that are helping some of our new leaders plant GCI churches in the US. Fruit is being borne! To learn more about these new churches, visit <http://cmm.gci.org/>. By God's grace, more plants will come as more congregations participate.

Why is church planting a major focus for us? Our main motivation is a heartfelt desire to share in what our Lord Jesus Christ is doing to make disciples of all nations. And the reality is that church planting is by far the most effective way to reach new people with the gospel and to see them become followers (disciples) of Jesus within the Body of Christ.

By their very nature, new churches provide ready-made opportunities for multiplying new (often younger) leaders. Also, new churches generally are more adept than established churches at reaching across generational and cultural boundaries. Given these realities, it is clear that GCI needs to emphasize church planting. While we continue to resource and support our existing churches, we seek to involve them in a denominational movement of church multiplication. This strengthens both existing churches and the entire denomination.

For a church of any size, involvement begins by prayerfully embracing a vision for church planting. It then deepens with active participation, in whatever way possible, to support the starting of new GCI churches. CAD, through CMM, offers numerous resources to facilitate this participation. You will find several ideas on the CMM website at <http://cmm.gci.org/>. One idea that many of our churches are already pursuing, is to participate in a district-level church planting network (click on the *planting networks* tab on the website for more information).

However your church chooses to participate, one thing is clear: new churches are started by passionate, equipped ministry leaders. These people do not appear out of "thin air." They are developed by churches through small groups, one-on-one mentoring, and other relationally-based processes. These leaders are the fruit of what congregations do in sharing the gospel and multiplying new disciples; then equipping these disciples and multiplying new leaders and new ministries. This is the *disciplemaking pathway* that is so essential for all churches of any size. To learn more about that pathway, see our ministry development website at <http://mindev.gci.org/>.

If you would like to explore ways your congregation can participate in our church multiplication mission, feel free to contact me at Randy.Bloom@gci.org.

