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GC2 equipper

www.wcg.org/GC2/

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The monthly ministry development ezine of WCG-USA Church Administration and Development
Equipping workers and leaders for Great Command—Great Commission ministry



Dan Rogers

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

What a blessing it is to participate in GC2 ministry—embracing Jesus and expressing his love (The Great Commandment); advancing Jesus’ discipling priorities and patterns (The Great Commission). GC2 equipper helps us grow in this Christ-centered motive and method.

GC2 equipper is now online at www.wcg.org/GC2/. We’ll continue to send it by email, and encourage you to send us your comments, short articles, testimonies and questions (send to Ted.Johnston@wcg.org).

In this issue (page 3) we profile CAD’s new **Ministry Development Team** and recommend resources that help established leaders equip emerging workers and leaders. This equipping is a vital part of GC2 ministry.

In this issue (page 2) we also share a testimony from Tom Davis—WCG pastor in Wilkes-Barre, PA—concerning the benefits of using the *Discovery series*. 39% of our U.S. congregations now use this valuable tool. If your’s isn’t among them, I have one question for you: Why not? I urge you to make use of the *Discovery series* in 2007.

I pray that you and yours have a blessed Advent. May we celebrate with joy the Lord’s ‘comings’ for our salvation—past, present and future.

—Dan Rogers, CAD director & superintendent of U.S. ministers

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GC2 ministry

*Embracing Jesus and
expressing his love:*
**The Great
Commandment**

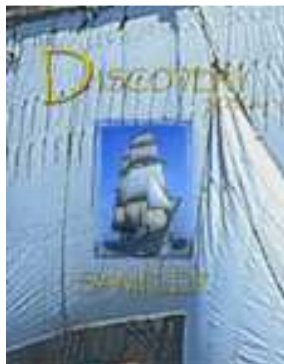
*Advancing Jesus’
discipling
priorities and patterns:*
**The Great
Commission**

For a useful summary of the biblical messages of the Advent season see the free download at <http://biblestudies.stores.yahoo.net/5bigmeofna1.html>.

Q & A: Tips and Resources

Q: What is the experience of WCG congregations in using CCBT's *Discovery series*?

A: The *Discovery series* is a discussion-based curriculum for use in small groups involving believers and/or seekers. We recommend its use in discipleship classes meeting at church and small groups meeting in homes. Here's what WCG pastor, Tom Davis sent us about the *Discovery* groups now meeting in his Wilkes-Barre, PA congregation:



Discovery series

The four sections of the *Discovery series* focus on right thinking about God and emphasize the intimate relationships that flow from that thinking—first with God and then with people.

In my congregation this emphasis has led to growth in three areas:

1. **Love.** True love and concern for each other are built in a secure relationship. We have seen this happen in our two *Discovery* groups through sharing our lives and sincerely caring for each other. As these groups progressed through *Discovery*, I could sense and observe the difference in our love for each other. As we shared our lives and homes, we grew to know each other at a deeper level. The groups became more cohesive and even the shy ones among us became more open about their beliefs and more willing to share.

2. **Prayer.** Effectual, fervent prayer in our meetings flowed from the growing base of love for Christ and for one another. It soon became obvious that the Holy Spirit was moving powerfully to transform our group prayer times into ones of intimacy with God and with each other.

3. **Understanding.** *Discovery* has helped us grow in appreciation and understanding of what God wants in each of our lives. *Discovery* is easy enough for the uncommitted, the seeker or the babe in Christ to understand and grow; yet deep enough to challenge the mature believer.

Discovery will make you think long and hard about all aspects of your relationship with Jesus...and that is a phenomenally good thing.

Q: What's a good resource for conducting a series of studies on spiritual disciplines?

A: To augment what is covered in the *Discovery series*, you may find the video series, "Discovering Spiritual Disciplines" to be helpful. It's available at <http://faithvisuals.com/39143>. In nine lessons Richard Foster, John Ortberg and George Barna explore how spiritual disciplines strengthen your faith and help you remain God-centered.

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Discovery series is available from CCBT at

www.ccbt.org/the_discovery_series.htm

Order the customized version with WCG covers by phoning
(888) 422-2896

CAD Ministry Development Team

In the online article [The 21ST Century Church](#), Leadership Network writes that effective churches place high value on “lay mobilization with each person seen as having a gift, role and place to serve” (www.leadnet.org).

CAD’s **Ministry Development Team** (MDT) helps WCG congregations advance lay mobilization. Its work is grounded in the biblical mandate for church leaders ‘to equip the saints for the work of ministry’ (Ephesians 4:12, NRSV) so that the church may function as a ‘priesthood of all believers’ (1 Peter 2:9).

The MDT offers its services through conferences, consulting and publications. The team includes ministry developers Lorenzo Arroyo, Randy Bloom, Ted Johnston, Curtis May and Dan Rogers.

We’ll soon publish a brochure which will explain how you can access MDT services in your congregation and pastoral network.

An important tool for lay mobilization now available to WCG congregations is **Servants Passage**. It’s sponsored by WCG *Generations Ministries* and is open to WCG members of all ages (teens through senior adults).

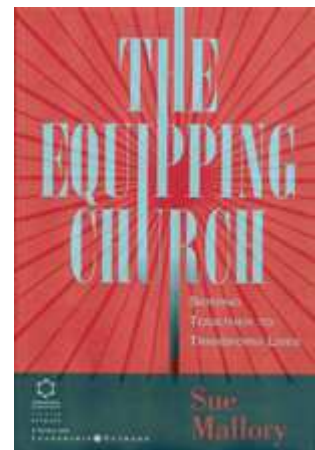
Servants Passage helps congregations set up local church-based learning ‘communities’ with mentor-leaders, augmented by denominationally sponsored weekend ‘intensives.’ The goal is to assist established leaders in helping emerging workers and leaders identify ministry callings, measure current abilities, and grow in effectiveness in living out those callings within their local congregations.

For information about starting Servants Passage in your area, contact your district superintendent, district pastoral leader, or Ted Johnston at Ted.Johnston@wcg.org.

A helpful book on lay mobilization is **The Equipping Church**, by Sue Mallory. It describes the structure and culture of an equipping church. Its companion, *The Equipping Church Guidebook* by Mallory and Brad Smith, provides assessments, forms and other tools for implementing a system of lay mobilization in the local church.



Servants Passage intensive
in New York state



Q & A continued from page 2

Q: How can we encourage teens to continue in the church after they graduate from high school?

A: Some estimates say that 60% to 80% of churched teens stop attending church after high school. We believe that part of the answer to this problem is to emphasize **intergenerational ministry**.

We agree with what a pastor in Illinois posted on his blog (<http://zayasbazan.blogspot.com/>):

“If the church is to be a community, then it needs to reflect the intergenerational quality of the traditional family. Norm Wakefield, Spirit of Elijah Ministries, suggests that a biblical model of youth ministry involves adults modeling appropriate behavior to the younger generation. He recommends men's and women's retreats that include the children. He has observed that teenagers behave differently with adults of their gender than in peer groups. Boys will model adult behavior when on a fishing trip with men because they want to be accepted.

“[Effective] small groups tend to follow an intergenerational approach to adult ministries. This helps to fulfill the older women and older men mentoring the younger women and men mandate of the Bible. This can be done without a drop in numbers...

“One way to bring generations together is through big projects that involve the whole church. We had a car wash at Grace Chapel that involved children, teens, college students, older adults and seniors. It is one of the most endearing memories I have of a church working together. Our ministry to the nursing home has also involved people of all ages.

“Building an intergenerational church can be a challenge but it is a witness to the world of the holistic community that God wants us to be.”

Q: How can we reach out to parents in the congregation and community?

A: A good approach is to provide a small group or class that equips parents. An excellent Bible-based curriculum for this purpose is **Parenting with Purpose** from CCBT. It has 12 lessons in the same format as the Discovery series. Order at <http://www.ccbt.org/ParentingwithPurpose.htm>.

Q: How can we keep announcements in our church service from being a ‘worship killer’?

A: Here are two tips:

1. Present announcements in up-beat and visionary ways. For example, don't just mention the church picnic—paint a compelling picture of how you anticipate God using it to reach unchurched people or to build believers. In other words, relate church activities to disciplinemaking vision and strategy.

2. Good ‘flow’ in worship is essential and is achieved by building and sustaining momentum from one worship element to the next.

Announcements tend to interrupt this flow. When they're placed between the song service and the sermon, the momentum gained during singing is lost and may not be regained until well into the sermon.

We recommend placing announcements at the beginning of the service (perhaps after a call to worship music selection) or at the end. It's also good to put announcement details in a bulletin or project them on screen before and after services so you only have to read the highlights.

GC2 equipper is edited by Ted Johnston and published monthly by Church Administration and Development.

While resource recommendations do not constitute full endorsement, we think these resources will benefit your ministry and are worthy of your prayerful consideration.

Send questions, comments and relevant short articles and testimonies by email to Ted.Johnston@wcg.org.