



WORLDWIDE
CHURCH OF GOD

Living and Sharing the Gospel

GC2 equipper

www.wcg.org/mindev/

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Dear Minister of Reconciliation:

We are blessed to participate with the Spirit in making evident the reconciliation humankind has with God in the person of Jesus Christ. Our Lord said, “Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the desert, so the Son of Man must be lifted up that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life” (John 3:14-15). Here Jesus compares his ‘lifting up’ with the lifting of the bronze snake in the sight of Israel for their healing (Numbers 21:4-9). By being ‘lifted up’ in crucifixion, resurrection and ascension, Jesus (the unique and permanent union of God and man) accomplished in himself the ultimate healing: reconciliation of humankind with God. And now God invites everyone, everywhere, through belief in Jesus, to participate in the ‘eternal life’ that this reconciliation provides.

Those who believe in Jesus are called and equipped by the Spirit to participate with Jesus in his ministry of reconciliation (2 Cor. 5:18). This ministry is exercised in various ways—but always in demonstration of Jesus’ power to reconcile people to God and to one another.

Recently I was privileged to take part in one such ‘demonstration’—the Lifeline Expedition Prayer Walk. It extended over seven years covering much of the transatlantic seaboard in the U.S., Britain and NW Africa. Last March I walked part of a segment in England from the home of abolitionist William Wilberforce in Hull on to London. It was part of the 200th anniversary celebration of the abolition of the British slave trade. One prayer-walker carried a serpent on a pole (see picture above, left) symbolizing the healing of the terrible hurts caused by slavery.

Through prayer walks and other initiatives, Lifeline calls for the abolition of slavery around the world (where 27,000,000 people are enslaved). I pray God will use the body of Christ to help achieve this important goal. And I pray he uses you, in accordance with your calling to ministry, to extend to a hurting world the knowledge and experience of the reconciliation humankind has in Jesus. *GC2 equipper* is a tool provided by the WCG Ministry Development Team to help you identify and live out that calling.

In Christ’s service,

Curtis May
WCG ministry developer
Director, Office of Reconciliation Ministries (ORM)



Lifeline prayer walk

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Curtis May

Q & A: Ministry tips and resources

Q: How can I help others in my congregation live out their calling to participate actively in Jesus' ministry of reconciliation?



A: Here are some ideas:

1. Forward this publication to others involved in ministry in your congregation.
2. Pastors can forward to this same group Pastor General Joseph Tkach's *Weekly Update* (some pastors find it helpful to forward it on to all members).
3. Tell elders, ministry leaders and ministry workers about the ministry resources posted for them at www.wcg.org/mindev/.
4. Check out the WCG *Servants Passage* ministry development program described at youth.wcg.org/generations/developmentprograms.htm.

Food for thought: Remember the kids!

My young son asked what the highest number I had ever counted to was. I didn't know, but I asked about his highest number. It was 5,372.

"Oh," I said. "Why did you stop there?"

"Church was over."

—Joanne Weil, as told by Mike and Amy Nappa, *Bore No More!* (Group Publishing), p. 7.

Q: How can I grow as a servant-leader in the body of Christ?

A: Above all else, effectiveness as a servant-leader comes from an intimate relationship with Jesus Christ, the great Servant-Leader. Out of that relationship flows qualities that typify effective leaders—including the following six enumerated by John Maxwell in his article, *The 360° Leader*.

1. **Discernment.** Effective leaders cut through the clutter to see the real issues.
2. **Security.** Effective leaders are secure enough to avoid focusing on reaching a *position*. Instead they focus on reaching their *potential*.
3. **Service.** Effective leaders are *servants*—serving the mission and those on mission with them. The true measure of leaders is not the number of people who serve them but the number of people they serve.
4. **Resourcefulness.** Effective leaders find creative ways to make things happen. Creativity is the joy of not knowing it all. We seldom, if ever, have all the answers, but effective leaders have the imagination to create solutions to problems.
5. **Maturity.** Effective leaders put the team before self. Nobody who possesses a 'me-first' attitude is able to develop much influence with others. A mature leader sees beyond their personal vantage point and has the courage to make sacrifices which advance the team.
6. **Communication.** Effective leaders link to all levels of the organization. We often think of communication in organizations as being primarily top-down. Leaders at the top cast vision, set direction, reward progress, etc. However, good leadership communication is a 360-degree proposition. In fact, oftentimes the most critical communication comes from leaders identifying problems or solutions at the ground level and sending them up the chain of command.

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Our resource recommendations do not constitute unreserved endorsement.

We welcome your questions, comments, short articles, resource recommendations, and testimonies. Send them to Ted.Johnston@wgc.org.

GC2 equipper is posted on the WCG MinDev website at www.wcg.org/mindev/.

For the full article see www.injoy.com/newsletters/leadership/content/issues/10_7/default.htm#1