



WORLDWIDE
CHURCH OF GOD

Living and Sharing the Gospel

GC2 equipper

www.wcg.org/mindev/

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The monthly ministry development newsletter of WCG-USA Church Administration and Development.
Equipping for active participation with Jesus in his Great Commandment – Great Commission ministry.

Dear disciplemaking follower of Jesus:

This is an exciting time, as God enlarges our understanding of the glorious truth that all humanity, in union with Jesus, is included in the love and life of our triune God. What a joy it is to understand that the *ministry* that flows from this inclusion is our *active participation with Jesus* as he loves and lives in our world!

It has always been Jesus' plan to share his ministry with us—though sometimes I joke that if I were Jesus, I'd have a different plan! Surely, Jesus can do his ministry better without me!

But, of course, I'm not Jesus, and his plan is none other than to minister to us, with us and through us. "As you go," says Jesus, "make disciples" (see Matthew 28:19).

Therefore, we go! And what a joy and privilege it is to go together: with Jesus, through the Spirit, to the Father's glory.

In the current round of WCG-USA regional conferences, Dan Rogers shows how our *Christ-centered theology* integrates with our *disciplemaking ministry strategy*. In this issue, I summarize some of what Dan shares. I pray that this summary is helpful to you and to your congregation. It is the goal of *GC2 equipper* to help us grow together in active participation with Jesus in his Great Commandment - Great Commission (GC2) ministry.

Grace and peace as you go,

Ted Johnston, editor
GC2 equipper



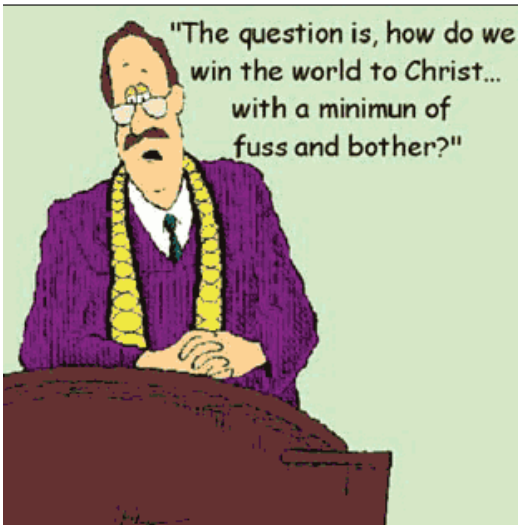
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MINISTRY AND MISSION

The Apostle Paul and other New Testament writers instruct us that we are *united with God in Christ*. Our Christian ministry and mission flow forth from that lived-out union. To be involved in Christian discipling is to participate with Jesus in ministry and mission on earth in our day.

As ministers, we know we have been called to serve God and his people. As Paul writes in Ephesians 2:10, “We are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.”



Ministry is not about what we do “for” Jesus (a mistaken idea that leads to problems like the one satirized in the cartoon to the left)—rather, ministry is our life “with” Jesus.

Indeed, Jesus is the foundation of our ministry (1Cor. 3:9-11 and Mat. 16:18), and to be a follower of Jesus (a “Christian”) is to participate in what Jesus is doing in our world.

Therefore, ministry is not merely what we *do*—it flows from who we *are*. And who are we? We,

like all people, are united to Christ (or, as Paul says many times in Scripture, we are “in Christ”). And to be a Christian is to *realize* and to *participate* actively in this union.

Christian ministry is what Jesus is and does. As the one who is fully human and fully divine, he uniquely ministers the things of God to man and ministers the things of man to God. Our role as Christians is to participate in this life and love of Jesus. To neglect active participation is to neglect our present salvation, which is established in Christ.

Through the ministry of the Holy Spirit, who unites us to Christ, we “grow up” into Christ, and we increasingly participate with Jesus in his life and ministry—in communion with God and with other Christians (the Church, which is the Body of Christ). Together we participate in the works of the Spirit who proclaims and bears witness to the grace of God, which is manifest in Jesus.

This realized union with Jesus is given to us personally and in community through the gift of the Holy Spirit. It is the ground of the church and the practice of Christian faith and ministry.

The Church’s role in our world is thus to *bear witness to Jesus*—to his grace, his mercy, his forgiveness and his vicarious humanity (which provides eternal life for humanity). This bearing witness is *The Great Commission*, which is given to those who follow Jesus. In the Worldwide Church of God, we refer to this as *living and sharing the gospel*.

The Christian life is participation in Jesus’ continuing ministry in our world.

The Great Commission is the will of the Father obediently carried out by Jesus in his ministry. The role of each Christian as a member of the Body of Christ (the Church) is a **realized** and increasingly **active participation** in the ministry of Jesus Christ that fulfills the Great Commission.

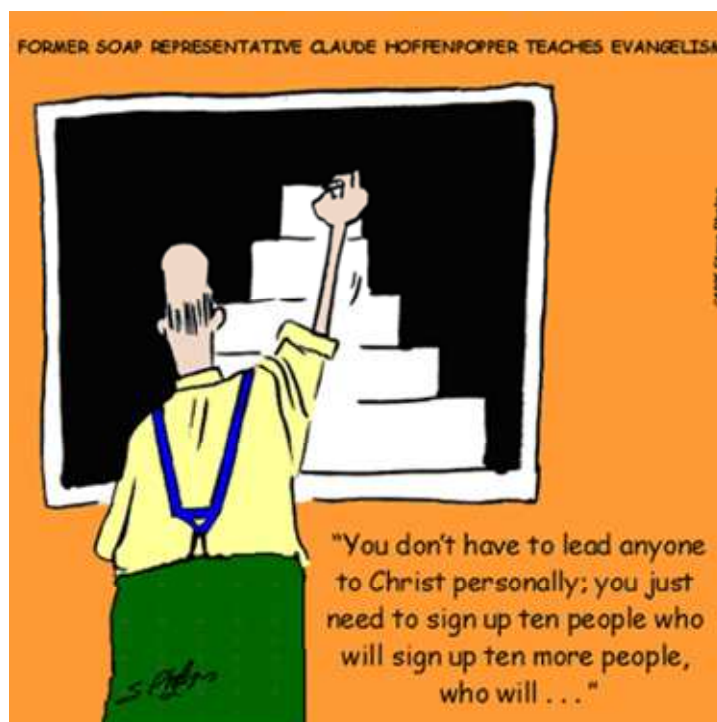
DISCIPLEMAKING STRATEGY

In the WCG, we live and share the gospel by sharing in Jesus' *disciplemaking ministry*. This ministry is not what we do "for" Jesus, but what we do "with" him. It is our calling to participate with Jesus in his **Great Commandment** love for God and for people, expressed in his **Great Commission** lifestyle of *making disciples who make disciples*. In the Worldwide Church of God, we refer to this loving and living as **GC2 ministry**.

Unlike formulaic approaches to ministry (like the one satirized in the cartoon to the right), *GC2 ministry* is a *lifestyle*—think of it as *dancing with Jesus*. There are particular steps in the dance, but they are danced with innovation and freedom.

The basic steps of *GC2 ministry* are as noted below. Together, they form a **disciplemaking strategy**—our active participation with Jesus as he loves and lives in our world.

- **Win.** The focus of this step is **engaging nonbelievers**—helping them discover and embrace their identity in Jesus. We participate in this aspect of Jesus' ministry by sharing, through actions and words, the good news of the adoption of all humanity in Jesus. With this *proclamation* comes the *invitation* to believe this Gospel, to repent (change one's mind) concerning views to the contrary, and to actively trust in Jesus, who accomplishes our salvation for us and in us.
- **Build.** The focus of this step is **nurturing believers**—helping them grow in the faith of Jesus and the comfort of the Holy Spirit. We participate in this aspect of Jesus' ministry by sharing with believers the basics of Christian belief and practice.
- **Equip.** The focus of this step is **equipping workers**—helping them share actively in Jesus' disciplemaking ministry. We participate in this aspect of Jesus' ministry by helping willing believers identify and embrace their God-given "divine-design," including their ministry calling and opportunities. We then provide them with appropriate ministry training and coaching.
- **Multiply.** The focus of this step is **equipping leaders**—helping appropriately gifted, prepared and available leaders establish (multiply) disciplemaking ministers, ministries and new congregations. We participate in this aspect of Jesus' ministry by providing leaders with appropriate resources, training, opportunities and coaching.



For resources related to *GC2 ministry* strategy, see the Ministry Development website at <http://www.wcg.org/minddev/> and the introduction to the WCG *Church Administration Manual* posted at <http://www.wcg.org/lit/church/manual/>.