



GC2 EQUIPPER

From union to communion: Making disciples with Jesus

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The monthly ministry development newsletter of Grace Communion International

Dear fellow traveler:

Happy 2010! The year ahead offers us new opportunities to experience the joys and privileges of journeying with Jesus in his *Great Commandment–Great Commission (GC2) mission and ministry*.

There is joy in participating in the ongoing mission and ministry of Jesus Christ as we (in the power of the Holy Spirit) share with all people the good news of God's love for them. We proclaim the good news (gospel) that God in his grace has included all humanity in union with him. We are privileged to co-minister with the Holy Spirit in helping those who believe the gospel to journey from **union** (inclusion in God's love and life) to an ever-deepening **communion** (intimacy with the triune God and active participation in God's ongoing mission and ministry).

My prayer for 2010 is that we more deeply will come to understand and embrace the triune God's ongoing mission and ministry to bring all humanity from union to communion. To highlight our understanding of and our participation in what Jesus is doing, we have adopted a new motto for GCI within the United States:

From union to communion: Making disciples with Jesus.

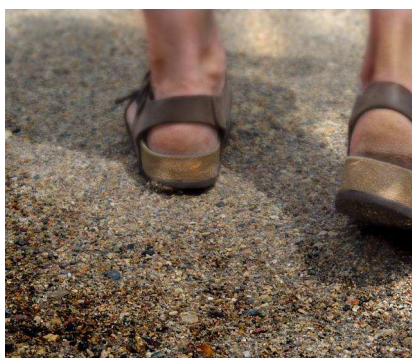
"*Union to communion*" speaks to a person's faith-journey with Jesus. "*Making disciples with Jesus*" speaks to the church's participation with Jesus in ministering to these people. Different churches will live out this motto in different ways, according to their God-given vision and resources. Yet common to all will be to follow the Spirit in sharing with Jesus in the *patterns* of his Great Commandment *loving* and Great Commission *living* in our world.

We see these patterns in the Gospel narratives of Jesus' ministry. Then in the book of Acts and in the Epistles we read of the risen and ascended Jesus continuing, in the Holy Spirit, to minister in line with the same patterns. Throughout these New Testament accounts, Jesus calls his disciples to share in these patterns with him. Let us hear his call today and respond in our lives to the invitation to participate with Jesus in his *GC2 mission and ministry* from the Father and in the Holy Spirit.

On page two, we explore ways to discern what Jesus is doing, and then participate with him in creative and effective ways. Church Administration and Development seeks to help ministers and congregations do so by providing resources, training, coaching, consulting and supervision. We look forward to serving you in 2010.

Journey on!

Dan Rogers, CAD director



Journeying with Jesus

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From union to communion: Making disciples with Jesus

This motto addresses the journey of individuals with Jesus (*From union to communion*) and our participation with Jesus in ministering to these people (*Making disciples with Jesus*). The journey for individuals typically is from *lost* (unaware of their union with God); to *believer* (now trusting God); then, as a disciple of Jesus, to *worker*; and some to *leader*. The Spirit calls and gifts individuals and churches to join with Jesus in ministering to these individuals in the ways noted below. Let us journey in these missional patterns with Jesus in 2010!

1. Seeking the lost

Jesus is actively “seeking” those who are “lost” (Luke 19:10). He does so as the Savior who has already included them in God’s love and life through his substitutionary and representative life, death, resurrection and ascension. Our calling as disciples of Jesus is to personally experience God’s love, and then share it with those who do not yet know Jesus. There are many ways to do so. Some churches find a short-term mission trip to be helpful in gaining experiences that can be used back home. Others focus on a nearby group of non-believers with whom they can build loving friendships. What will your church do in 2010 to join Jesus in *seeking the lost*? For resources, see <http://go.gci.org/seek>



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2. Nurturing believers

Jesus lovingly nurtures *all* people, but works with his disciples in particular ways to help them mature into the fullness of his stature (Ephesians 4:13b). The Spirit forms and calls the church to participate with Jesus in lovingly nurturing believers. That work involves immersing (“baptizing”) believers of all ages in the truth of the Gospel. We then help them grow in Jesus through participation in Jesus’ “ACTS” manifested by the Spirit within the church: *Adoration* (worship), *Community* (fellowship), *Truth* (biblical teaching), and *Serving*. What will your church do in 2010 to join Jesus in *nurturing believers*? For resources, see <http://go.gci.org/nurture>

3. Equipping workers

Jesus recruits and resources willing believers to participate actively with him as co-workers in his ongoing GC2 mission and ministry. Church leadership has an important role in facilitating this equipping (see Ephesians 4:11-13). What will your church do in 2010 to join Jesus in *equipping workers*? For resources, see <http://go.gci.org/equip>

4. Multiplying leaders, ministries and churches

Jesus calls certain workers to share in his ongoing leadership of the church—always with an eye toward multiplying those who embrace his love and follow him as disciples. Fundamental to this movement of multiplication is what Jesus does through leaders to develop ministries that help transform existing churches and plant new ones. What will your church do in 2010 to join Jesus in *multiplying leaders, ministries and churches*? For resources, see <http://go.gci.org/multiply>