

## How I Joined the Disciple-Making Revolution

### I Was Shocked by What I Heard

In the fall of 2015, I stepped off a plane in Rwanda, and what I heard and saw revolutionized my perspective on how God wants His kingdom to advance on earth. On the ride to the hotel in Kayonza I asked the *For His Glory Ministries*' Africa Director, "How many Training for Trainers (T4T) disciple makers did you train back in August when T4T was first introduced here?" He told me that they had trained only 165. I asked him, "How many do you have now?" He told me, "2,500!" That blew me away! "You mean you grew from 165 disciple makers to 2,500 from August to October? That's incredible!" I was shocked and sold on T4T.

### At Odds with the Conventional Model

It was on that trip to Rwanda that I began to realize that Jesus' way of making disciples was at odds with the conventional model of disciple making I had seen practiced all around me for years. My awakening began when a member of the mission team loaned me his copy of the book "T4T" by Ying Kai. As I read it I realized that I didn't really practice discipleship the way Jesus designed it; therefore, I wasn't nearly as effective as I could be.

### Huge Church Growth in First Two Years

As I read, I began to see that the way Jesus taught His disciples to train others to disciple was how God intended us to do it as well. God was able to create a disciple-making movement through Ying Kai's trainees that established 3,535 church groups in their first two years. Ying's method of disciple making, which he calls training the trainers, has led to the founding of over 150,000 churches and over 2.5 million baptisms in China over a 9-year period.

### How Could I Have Missed Jesus?

How could I have missed the importance of the last things Jesus said before He left this world, ascending to His throne? He wanted us to realize the significance of making disciples. Jesus told His disciples in Matthew 28: 18 – 19 that since all authority had been given to Him in heaven and earth that He wanted them (and us) to go and make disciples of all nations. This means that making disciples of all peoples or nations is one of the things Jesus most wants to happen in this world. It is the way He has directed us to share the good news that He has taken away our sin and made eternal life available to everyone.

This is a key part of Jesus' message to us, and I totally missed it for years! I had discipled people for decades, which produced some good fruit but nothing on the scale of what I saw happening through the T4T model.

## **More People Come If We Go First**

I asked people to come to church, which is a good thing, but it's not what Jesus said to do. He didn't say come; He actually told us to go. How could I miss that? I read many times that He wanted us to go make disciples of all nations, but I didn't know how. Many people have been helped by coming to church over the years, but I could have been much more effective if I understood why Jesus put the emphasis on "go" rather than "come". I also discovered that more people will come and join the church if we that are in the church focus first on "going" and then on "coming", in that order.

## **More Conversation about Jesus Than Ever Before**

As I began to focus, even here, on going where the people who need Jesus are, I found myself having many more conversations about Jesus than I ever had before. Others in my groups are doing the same and are now discipling others, as well as leading groups.

## **Jesus' Model Really Works**

Jesus told them and us to teach others to obey His commands, which actually includes His command to teach others. This means that Jesus was telling us to teach others, to teach others who will teach others, and so on. This is Jesus' model of training disciples, and it really works.

## **T4T Coming to America**

We are excited to see the tremendous results that T4T has made in Asia. We are honored that God is using us to help introduce the T4T disciple-making model to Africa. We are already seeing growth here in the U.S as our first T4T disciple-making group of only 2 people grew to 16 attendees. This group has also launched over 40 new groups across the St Louis area in less than 18 months.

## **How-to Step-Up Disciple Making**

This T4T model is so important because it enables us to fulfill the final wishes of the Lord Jesus that we make disciples. We begin by encouraging pastors and church leaders to supplement their current discipleship and small group programs with the T4T principles. This helps step up the disciple multiplication because making disciples soon after coming Christ is much faster than waiting.

## **This Frees Up Church Leaders**

Our model is "grow as you go" rather than the much slower model of "grow then go". This frees up church leaders to focus on the ministry of the Word because the T4T disciple-making model empowers more of their members to do the work of the ministry.

## **Believers Sharing Their Stories**

*For His Glory* does this is by training devoted followers of Jesus called disciples how to share their story with their friends, family and people they meet. Their story is compelling because that's how God actually became real to them.

## **Telling Our Story Gives Others Hope**

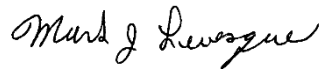
Their story consists of what their lives were like before Jesus, how they encountered Him, and how their lives have been transformed by His life and love. Telling our stories gives others hope and that opens their hearts to hear about Jesus!

## Tell Everyone the Good News that God Is with Us

This model is revolutionary because it empowers every Jesus follower to share the good news that God is with us, will give our lives meaning, and be a potent cure for the pain and miseries of this life. We call this model Training for Trainers (T4T); and it is contributing to indigenous, self-perpetuating disciple-making movements here and around the world.

I hope that you join us on this journey! For more information, please email me at [mark.levesque@forhisglorymin.org](mailto:mark.levesque@forhisglorymin.org).

God Bless,



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