



Church Strengthening (CS) covers many aspects of a church's ministry: worship, youth ministry, men's ministry, preaching, leadership development, administration, pastor search, church conflict, etc. This team has three priorities, disciple-making, leader training, and small group ministry. DiscipleMaking is more than a program. *Every church needs to be able to answer two questions. First, what is our plan for making disciples? And second, does our plan work?* (Dallas Willard) Because leaders are in short supply, a church must intentionally discover, develop and deploy them. Small groups (including SS) need much attention. CNBC congregations need input and encouragement to grow in these three priorities.

During 2018 I led seminars about small groups and DiscipleMaking in Vancouver, Toronto, Ottawa, the Maritimes, Calgary and Edmonton. I anticipate going back to do additional training to some of these locations. This is a primary need of churches, to get a viable small group ministry running.

In May 2018 I partnered with Hamish Buntain to organize a West Coast Baptist Association GO! Weekend, training pastors and church leaders. Similarly, in late September I helped organize an Edmonton conference, helping churches get trained and inspired. It had 411 attending, a huge success.

I send weekly e-blasts emphasizing Church Strengthening issues relevant to our churches. The e-blasts give me rapport with church leaders. I alternate e-blasts between a general CS topic and ones with an emphasis on small groups. Small groups are important and challenging for our churches. I want to encourage and educate leaders in this area. The e-blasts on doing weddings and funerals and the value of small churches brought the most feedback.

I try to feature Equip-U (formerly Lead360) in my e-blasts whenever possible. Equip-U is designed to give a structured "semester" process using the eQuip videos for Christian and theological education. We're not using it as much as in previous years.

I update E-quip regularly, our CNBC online training website. On Wednesday each convention partner gets a report listing the new videos available. I organize them into channels, programs and courses so they're available to our constituency.

I continue to update the DiscipleMaker Stages app, designed to help individuals disciple others. (DiscipleMaker Stages at the app store). The optics are attractive and the content user-friendly. It's organized around the themes *Head, Heart and Hands*. There are now nearly 250 training articles in the app for the various stages. We're use Storylines, a process Seba Vazquez (IMB, U of T) developed to help people disciple others. Seba and I collaborate on a Stages website, disciplemakerstages.com. A prominent Christian businessman in the Philippines has asked if his

organization can translate Stages training articles into Tagalog. We've given permission, only asked them for attribution and that it be offered without charge. I'll lead a seminar in Manila in May/2019, training 150 leaders.

I continue to serve as volunteer pastor at ROOTS, into my fifteen year. In August/18 I took a team of 9 from ROOTS to Athens to work with Christian partners, hosting a Muslim family camp. As well I did an additional week's ministry in Antakya, Turkey speaking at a Syrian youth retreat, preaching and whatever else the Protestant church pastor asked of me.