



CNBC Report for 2018 Annual Convention Church Strengthening | Paul Johnson

Church Strengthening (CS) covers many areas of congregational life. It includes worship, Sunday school/small groups, disciple making, children's ministry, youth ministry, men's ministry, spiritual disciplines, pastoral search, leadership, church conflict and pastoral/preaching support.

My priorities as CS team leader are small groups, disciple making and leadership. If we can help CNBC congregations in these areas, we'll contribute significantly to their growth and their members' spiritual maturity.

During 2017 the CS team did small group and discipling seminars for training conferences in Vancouver and Edmonton. Cesar Parra and I were presenters at an excellent training conference in Edmonton in the fall of 2017. Cesar, Kathy Morales and I did the same at a conference for the West Coast Baptist Association in early June 2017. In January 2018, I trained pastors and church planters in the GTA and in April 2018, held a training in Ottawa. This illustrates our team's commitment to work with regional ministry leaders, providing appropriate training for congregations in their regions.

I send weekly e-blasts to promote Church Strengthening topics for our constituency. In addition to the recurring emphasis on small groups and disciple making, I feature such topics as apologetics, restarting churches, doing funerals and weddings, and premarital counseling. Some e-blasts are time-sensitive, helping churches prepare for Christmas or Easter.

Our team is responsible to update E-quip, the CNBC's online training website. On Wednesdays, each convention partner gets a E-quip report listing new videos posted. We organize them into channels, programs and courses so they're available to our churches.

Lead360 is also our team's responsibility, now reformatted into E-quipU. It is designed to give a structured "semester" process using E-quip videos for Christian and theological education.

The DiscipleMaker Stages app has a new look and is more user-friendly. CNBC churches are using it more – pastors tell us it's their church discipling strategy. IMB missionaries use it too. There are nearly three hundred training articles in Stages, including a Meet Up plan for discipling individuals. The app is synced with a website, Disciplemakingstages.com,



making it practical to print the articles for discipling others. We emphasize Storylines, using a Head/Heart/Hands motif to move from one stage to another.

Personally, I had the privilege of taking a 7-member team from ROOTS to Antakya (that is, Antioch), Turkey, at Christmas in 2017 to work with CGR and a local congregation, helping Muslim refugee families. The previous spring, I went with another ROOTS team, led by ROOTS leader Shelley Liu, doing similar work with refugees in Athens. I find it very meaningful and rewarding.