



## NEW DISCIPLE-MAKERS TEAM REPORT

*Paul Johnson*



**Paul Johnson**  
New Disciple-Makers  
Team Leader

The CNBC recently designated Disciple-Maker as one of the four indicators of a healthy church. Early in 2012 I was asked to give leadership to this often-neglected art in our church culture. If we're serious about seeing 1000 churches and 100,000 baptisms by 2020, we must learn how to develop Disciple-Makers.

A Disciple-Maker is someone who has learned to feed themselves spiritually, then accepted the responsibility of feeding others out of the overflow of their personal relationship with God.

Our convention annually counts those in attendance (nearly 13000), in Bible study (9400) and in Discipleship (3500). What we don't have is clear evidence that these activities produce Disciple-Makers.

In Spirit Rising, Jim Cymbala says, ...most believers don't change more than 5 percent from what they believed when they were two years old in the Lord. No high school student would be satisfied operating using his Grade 2 education, he comments. Why are we satisfied with a similar condition spiritually?

DiscipleMaking is the process of maturing Believers

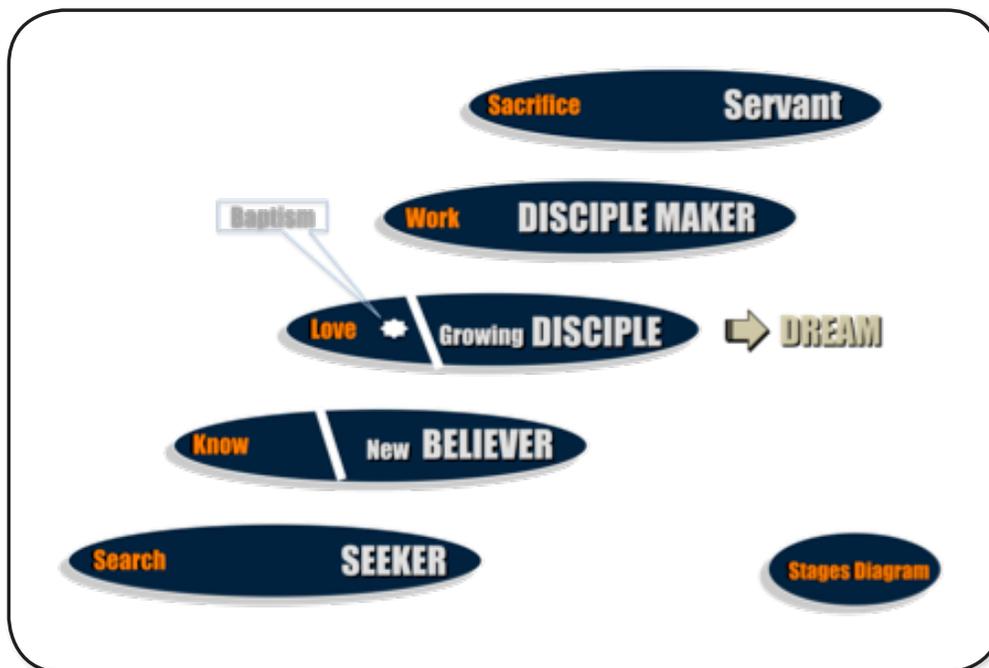
so they can feed themselves and begin feeding others. It doesn't happen by accident or osmosis. It's intentional and methodical.

The Stages Diagram illustrates the process in an easy-to-understand form.

Each stage requires a person to say Yes to God. It gets harder to say yes, the higher one rises in the stages.

Few Believers progress to Disciple stage, fewer still to Disciple-Maker. We must ask the Spirit to show us how to change this.

Where to start? If Disciple-Maker is Jesus' default, it should be ours. He expects his followers to become spiritual coaches for younger Christians. We can make this clear and compelling to our congregations, by incorporating DiscipleMaking during worship. Stories and interviews to illustrate the process would be an example. Memorizing verses together, another example.



Can you turn your church into a DiscipleMaking school? Yes, if you help newly baptized Believers dream God-sized dreams. Tell them they'll change their world one person at a time if they partner with Jesus. Train them to practice spiritual disciplines like silence and solitude before the Lord, and worship and Bible study together with others. Challenge them to feed others from the overflow of their walk with God. Expect Disciple-Makers, and settle for nothing less.

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