

Live with the Vision

Great Vision 201-1

Christ gave the Church the mission of making disciples to take the world.

Jesus came and told his disciples, "I have been given complete authority in heaven and on earth. Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age" (Matthew 28:18-20 NLT).

- 'Go and make disciples' was said in Greek as a command. What Christ gave to the original apostles was also given to the Church. We therefore should regard this mandate as the official vision of the Church and also as the higher purpose for all Christians to live with.
- This mandate is esteemed as 'the Great Commission' because it has the highest authorization (based on Christ's 'complete authority in heaven and on earth'). It has also the widest coverage—"all the nations". And it will have the confirmation of Christ's presence always, 'even to the end of the age'. When the original apostles went out and preached the gospel everywhere, Christ was 'working with them and confirming the word through the accompanying signs' (see Mark 16:20). The Great Commission gives every local church a foreign dimension of ministering beyond its membership and locality to reach all people at where its members stay, work, and travel to.
- Christ ministered to the multitudes (see Matthew 9:35) but He takes the world by making disciples (see Matthew 9:37-10:1) 'of all the nations'.
- Mentoring believers to become disciples to achieve the Great Commission has three stages: *winning* all people, *training* all believers, and *sending* all disciples.

1. *Win all for Christ*

'Go to all nations... Baptizing them...' (Matthew 28:19 NLT) signifies *winning*.

- The Church exists to take 'all nations' (Gk: *ethne*, means 'all ethnic groups') by preaching the gospel and baptizing all the responsive to identify with Christ's death and resurrection (see also Romans 6:1-5).

And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature (Mark 16:15 NKJV).

- The main work in achieving the Great Commission is to 'preach the gospel to every creature'. To 'preach' is to tell your firm belief and to urge people to accept it. 'Gospel' (Gk: *euangelion*, means a good news) is the good news that God has saved us from the severe judgment against sin. 'Every creature' means 'everyone, everywhere' (see Mark 16:15 NLT).

The gospel message is that the loving God wants all people to be saved.

'God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life' (John 3:16 NKJV).

- The absolutely righteous God has to judge sins severely and eternally. Because His first nature is love, He has chosen to love 'the world' which means all the people and allowed 'His only begotten Son' who is actually the Second Person of Himself to become a blood creature to be killed for all the sins of the entire human race so that we 'should not perish' in hell forever (see also 1 John 4:8; Revelation 20:15).
- 'Whoever' signifies that God has freely offered the gospel to all people. Though Christ has tasted death 'for everyone' (see Hebrews 2:9), each person needs to 'believe in Him', the Sin Bearer, to be saved from destruction and to receive an 'everlasting life' to live in heaven with God when his time on earth ends. Christ wants us to 'preach the Good News to everyone, everywhere' (see Mark 16:15 NLT). God does not want anyone to perish but all should come to repentance (see 2 Peter 3:9).

Win the people in your circle of influence at where you are.

- Befriend them and help each person to increase in his understanding of the gospel until he can make an informed choice to receive salvation.
- Share with each person an appropriate topic from the *New Life 101* to explore the benefits that only Christ can give.
- You can invite a few persons whom you have befriended to join a *Discovery Group* to explore what only Christ can benefit them for a lifetime.

The six benefits that Christ can give them are:

- *Salvation* if they suffer emptiness in their life,
- *Restoration* if they are restricted by past hurts,
- *Renewal* if they are confused by a false view on human life,
- *Healing* if they suffer sicknesses,
- *Deliverance* if they are troubled by demons, and
- *Abundance* if they suffer financial lack.

2. *Train all for ministry*

'Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you' (Matthew 28: 20 NLT) signifies *training* all the born again by teaching them what you are taught.

For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them (Ephesians 2:10 NKJV).

- Train all believers to do spiritual works because God has created all people to do 'good works'.
Because you have been my partners in spreading the Good News about Christ from the time you first heard it until now. And I am sure that God, who began the good work within you, will continue his work until it is finally finished on that day when Christ Jesus comes back again (Philippians 1:5-6 NLT).
- 'Good work' refers to their partnership 'in spreading the gospel' with Paul which God had started and intended to complete. 'Good work' is primarily the works done for evangelism and spiritual growth.
So we continue to preach Christ to each person, using all wisdom to warn and to teach everyone, in order to bring each one into God's presence as a mature person in Christ (Colossians 1:28 NCV).
- Since all people are created for doing good works, evangelism is to be done with the vision of 'preaching', 'warning', and 'teaching' them until their lives can reflect Christ so that they can repeat on others what you have done on them.

We unite members in groups to train them for accomplishing the Great Commission.

So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house (Acts 2:46a NKJV).

- The first Church met in their homes and enjoyed the Holy Spirit working mightily through the cluster dynamics of small groups.
- Small groups of a church win people for Christ, provide fellowship for members, and build strong partnership for extension. A cell group starts with one leader, two interns, and two founding members, aiming to plant twelve cells eventually. The cell begins as a *Discovery Cell*, transits into a *Fellowship Cell* and matures into a *Discipleship Cell*. It grows from evangelistic, to pastoral, and partnership in three stages.
- This cell-based process of winning, training, and sending follows the lessons of the *Discipleship Program: Foundation 100, Discipleship 200, Ministering 300, and Leadership 400*.

3. *Send all to make disciples*

'Make disciples' (Matthew 28:19 NLT) signifies *sending*.

- Disciples are serious followers of Christ who honor Christ above all (see Luke 9:23-26; Matthew 10:37-39; Luke 9:57-62) and they want to succeed in the works that Christ assigns (see John 15:8).
- Christ specified winning the world is by making disciples in all places. He takes the world by training twelve men to launch a process of spiritual multiplication, starting from Jerusalem until it covers all nations. Disciples multiplied quickly in Jerusalem in the first three years (see Acts 6:1, 7) and the multiplication spread to Antioch which was five hundred kilometers in the north in the following three years. And in just twenty-two years, it impacted the Roman Empire.

- If you imitate Christ to mentor twelve disciples, and they each also train twelve disciples, you will have 5,159,780,352 (that is 12^9) ninth generation disciples and 61,917,364,224 (that is 12^{10}) tenth generation disciples which is far larger than the world population now, as a spiritual network to win the world.
And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also (2 Timothy 2:2 NKJV).
- Paul, Timothy, and the 'faithful men who are able to teach others' are the three generations of disciples committed to multiply disciples. A spiritual legacy must last three generations to perpetuate (see Exodus 3:15). When three generations of disciples are living for the vision of making disciples to win the world for the Lord, the process will continue.
- We win all people to Christ and train them to grow in their commitment to Him until they can make disciples for spiritual multiplication.