

CHURCH GROWTH THROUGH
DISCIPLESHIP



Paul Jinadu

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Introduction

In the summer of 2000, a church in London sent a team of leaders to Bogota, Colombia in South America. They went to look at the ministry of Pastor Cesar Castellanos. His church, “*The International Charismatic Mission*,” had grown from 8 members to well over 120,000 in just 18 years. By the year 2004 there were 55,000 reported cells taking the church into the hundreds of thousands. What was the reason for this explosion?

The Lord gave Pastor Cesar a vision of the multitudes and a strategy to reach them. It is a cell church ministry based on the Government of 12 (G 12).

The vision basically is:

Win them, Consolidate them, Train them and Deploy them. I have adapted this strategy into a training and mentoring programme to suit our church culture and ministry style, and the people we work with. I am sure we too can make it work.

The vision is based on two Biblical principles:

- **Jesus' method**

Mark 3:13-15, 13 *“Jesus went up on a mountainside and called to him those he wanted, and they came to him. 14 He appointed twelve that they might be with him and that he might send them out to preach 15 and to have authority to drive out demons.”*

Jesus called them to be with Him so he might train them, and then sent them out to win souls for the kingdom and turn them into disciples, like themselves.

He chose 12 disciples, who in turn won new converts and turned them into disciples. So, the cycle of multiplication is meant to continue ad infinitum.

- **Paul's method**

2 Timothy 2:1-2, *“You then, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. 2 And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable people who will also be qualified to teach others.”*

Paul's instructions to Timothy, his son in the faith is a multiplication strategy, where the evangelised is turned into an evangelizer. It is one of the oldest and most effective methods of fulfilling the Great Commission: *“Go into all the world and make disciple of all nations”*.

In some churches the number of people involved in winning souls for Christ in a year is no more 3.5%, including the ministers. This situation is unacceptable. We cannot claim to be followers of Jesus if we blatantly ignore His command to make disciples. The general population of the church cannot be blamed for this situation because there are not many effective programmes out there to engage the whole church in church growth.

This is a book to show you a way for the Pastor or a church leader to engage the church in disciple making. It is also able to show any Christian worker how to start from scratch by winning souls and forming his cell group with his new converts.

Preface

Church growth through discipleship is a guide and training manual to take a new Christian on a journey. The journey takes a man from when he was an unbeliever to a place where he is evangelised, becomes a born-again Christian, and then comes into the discipleship training programme of a church he has just joined.

He joins a Consolidation cell group where he is taught and nurtured in the Word of God, so that his faith can be strengthened or consolidated. This is stage 1, which can take him from 6-8 months to complete.

He joins another cell group where he is taught and guided on how to go deeper in his faith. This will include deliverance from enemy attacks in the past. He is also taught the need to receive power from on high to give him divine help to become an overcomer.

This stage will end with his going through believer's baptism. The ministry part of this stage takes place at the Encounter weekend. Part of this stage will be spent going through more teaching in the Believers' Bible Class (BBC) at his local church.

The third stage on his journey is when the man joins another cell group for those training to become leaders in the church's discipleship programme. After this course he transitioned into a disciple and church worker, who is capable of winning souls to Christ, and train them and disciple them just as he himself had been discipled by others.

The final stage is when he is released into his own ministry of winning souls and teaching his own cell group.

This is the process we follow in order to obey the command of our Lord Jesus to “*Go into all the world and make disciples of all nation*”.

The evangelised has become an evangelizer. The new Christian becomes a disciple, and then trains to be a disciple maker.

Training materials for each stage:

- **Stage One:**
New Life In Christ
Authority of the Believer
- **Stage Two:**
7 Reasons Why Every Christian Should Speak in Tongues
Freedom From Bondage
- **Stage Three:**
Church Growth Through Discipleship
The Making of a Disciple

There are two ways of doing this programme:

Example A

Start with the Pastor and his cell group with members. The members start from Stage Three: Leadership Programme.

On completion or even during the course each member of the group starts a cell group of his own with new converts. He then goes through Stage One with his new cell group. This is where new converts are brought into the church. So the church is growing already.

Example B

The Pastor or any member can go out and win souls for Christ. Bring them into his own Consolidation cell group in Stage One.

The role of either the Pastor or member who initiates A or B is that of a discipler. This involves taking a new Christian through stages 1 – 3.

When the new Christian has reached the place where he is now ready to start his own cell group with new converts on Stage One the role of his original discipler becomes that of a manager or mentor. The former, the Pastor in our example, can start a new cell group with new converts or more members of the church.





Chapter 1

Setting Goals

We must set goals in our discipleship programme. This is clearly pointed out in Joshua 1:3-5

3 I will give you every place where you set your foot, as I promised Moses. 4 Your territory will extend from the desert to Lebanon, and from the great river, the Euphrates – all the Hittite country – to the Mediterranean Sea in the west. 5 No one will be able to stand against you all the days of your life. As I was with Moses, so I will be with you; I will never leave you nor forsake you.

Three things stand out here:

1. God guarantees success to Joshua. His was a journey of conquest, not an adventure of programmes without progress. *“I will give you every place where you set your foot”*.
2. He had specific goals. *“Your territory will extend from the desert to Lebanon, and from the great river, the Euphrates”*. Joshua's achievements were measurable. He was to win new territories. Every living thing grows. You either grow up or grow old but grow you will. So, which one are you? Programmes must end in progress.
3. *“No one will be able to stand against you all the days of your life”*. Joshua was to succeed in battle because he was a success himself.

Only failures fail. Successful people don't fail. Only their projects fail. They always get up, dust themselves and start all over. Successful people never quit. In this programme you will succeed if you don't quit.

Importance of timing in follow-up.

During the first 8 to 10 weeks the new convert is taken through the follow-up process, while the disciple making programme may take up to a year. The more mature the Timothy, the less structured the relationship.

Note this important observation regarding the time in which a Paul should start to disciple a Timothy. Careful research on 400 converts above the age of fifteen in a large church in the USA confirmed the importance of immediate follow-up.

Of the Timothies who met up with a Paul after joining the church: On the first week 90% completed the 10-week follow-up course. On the second week 70% completed the course. On the third week 30% completed the course, and serious attrition had already begun.

Once new converts are set in their ways it becomes increasingly difficult to mould them into the image of Christ. Discipleship multiplication is not solely for church growth but more importantly for Christian growth

The Vision Of A Cellular Church

You must be convinced the vision of a cellular church is for you as a church. You must be committed to following each step repeatedly until the majority of your church members join up. You must keep a record of each person's progress through the programme.

Then you'll find it easy to trace it back to the origin should they fail to complete the course to become disciples.

Always think of making disciples of all nations; not just filling your building.

Chapter 2

Jesus and His Method

Jesus and His Method

How did Jesus go about getting His 12 disciples? Knowing his method of recruiting men will help us immensely to follow in His footsteps.

1. **Jesus Prayed All Night**

His evangelistic method started with prayers, and intensive prayers they were, lasting all night. Before He spoke to men about God, Jesus first spoke to God about men.

He said, *“No man can come unto Me unless the Father draws him”*. Witnessing to people that bears fruit is a direct result of prayer. For it is only as the Spirit of God works in the hearts of men that they can be saved. To give men a remedy they must have a sense of need for it, otherwise our words will fall on deaf ears.

Besides, it is the work of the Holy Spirit to *“convict of sin”*. Thereafter the message of the gospel, in whatever ways we deliver it, can reach the hearts of men. Jesus saw His disciples as God sent. He said in His prayers for them, *“Of all that You gave Me I lost none”*. So, it is God, in answer to fervent prayers, who will give you the 12 people to disciple. God will lead you to people whose hearts He has prepared.

Praying all night for souls to be saved and seeking all day and every day to find someone to share the gospel with sounds all well and good on paper. In reality it has many problems attached to it. It won't last if it's done out of a sense of duty or guilt. We want something that can become a lifestyle more than an obligation.

Jesus ministered to the masses because He was moved with compassion for them.

It was this compassion that led Him to feed the 5,000, to heal the cripple man stranded by the pool of Bethesda, to raise the dead son of the widow of Nain, and to call Lazarus back from the grave. Compassion is not an intellectual notion; it is deeply emotional. When Jesus heard about the death of Lazarus, He wept. Compassion for lost souls can move a man to tears.

Anyone who has studied past Revivals will tell you that above all else, it's the key elements of repentance and also heart rending, Spirit-fired prayer that first led to Revival, and then keep the flames burning. However, to pray this way, we must have the Holy Spirit empowering and leading our prayers. This is why Charles Finney and other revivalists would talk about the "*spirit of prayer*" coming upon them. Charles Finney once said, "*...unless I had the spirit of prayer, I could do nothing. If I lost the spirit of grace and supplication even for a day or an hour, I found myself unable to preach with power and efficiency, or to win souls by personal conversation*".

2. **Jesus Made Men**

(Matthew 18-20) "*As Jesus was walking beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon called Peter and his brother Andrew. They were casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. 19 "Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will send you out to fish for people." 20 At once they left their nets and followed him.*"

Too often we witness to people about Christ, they give their hearts to the Lord and get saved, and then we leave them to grow up on their own. We expect them to grow up on the same diet we give to the rest of the congregation, when in fact they are still "*babes in Christ*."

Jesus and His Method

Jesus made men to become future leaders. None of His disciples remained a follower; they all became leaders of men.

One interesting observation about Andrew and Peter is that Jesus promised to make them fishers of men, something they could relate to. They knew how to fish: they did it for a living and were evidently good at it. So, they could relate to becoming fishers of men.

It would not have been appropriate for Jesus to say the same thing to Matthew, for example. He would think, *“O, I need to learn how to catch fish before I can be of use on this training course”*. No, Matthew the tax collector needed a different approach to ministry.

The point I see here is that Jesus was not asking Peter to do something that would be out of his comfort zone. He was in familiar territory with the imagery of fishing. So, with you and me, we don't have to become what we are not in order to become effective in personal soul winning. Remember when Peter and his companions caught a great number of fish at Jesus' command, he beckoned to his friends in the other boat to help haul the catch ashore.

You may be shy and timid in approaching people in evangelism, but you can help bring in the catch through the efforts of more confident workers.

I heard of a man who was scared of sharing his faith with strangers. So, he always prayed that the Holy Spirit would let someone open up a conversation with him on matters of religion. Sensing an opening when they do, all he had to do was just simply tell them how he got saved. He apparently got many people saved that way than people who were more confident but less subtle.

3. **Jesus Called Men To Be With Him**

For Jesus, and also for Paul, making disciples was not done in a classroom setting. He associated with them, he took them with Him on missions, and they watched and learned from Him as He did His miracles. We read that after Jesus turned water into wine in Cana His disciples believed in Him (John 2:11). They learned more about Him by what He did than by what He said about Himself at this point.

Paul called Timothy his son in the faith. That is how close they were. The training and mentoring were carried out in this environment of love, trust and obedience. It is an exchange of life more than mere exchange of knowledge.

When you disciple an individual, you are using the material only to transfer your life and experience to him. It helps to keep the training within certain curriculum so that important subjects can be treated by all participants. We can now understand why Jesus had only men in His twelve, as it would not be appropriate to be so close in a mixed group. Paul, in line with this ethos, directed Titus:

“Likewise, teach the older women to be reverent in the way they live, not to be slanderers or addicted to much wine, but to teach what is good. 4 Then they can urge the younger women to love their husbands and children, 5 to be self-controlled and pure, to be busy at home, to be kind, and to be subject to their husbands, so that no one will malign the word of God”. (Titus 2:3-4)

You can see traces of some kind of discipleship going on among groups of women.

I am not suggesting segregation on gender or age or profession basis for cell groups, but some research suggests that homogeneous groups grow faster and get along better. People who have a lot in common find it easier to attract those of like mind to the same group. Wisdom and flexibility are called for here.

Jesus put much store on this type of leadership training. He would have felt all was lost had the twelve disciples decided to leave Him, as others took to their heels and no longer walked with Him. **“Will you also go?”** was a cry from the heart, for He had no plan B. But it's worth the effort. It's these few men who later 'turned the world up-side-down' for God and changed history.

Summary

- Jesus chose His 12 disciples by prayer: sometimes all night. He was able to win men because he was moved with compassion. Evangelism was a joy rather than an obligation. He regarded the 12 as given by God, and He expected God to keep them faithful to the end.
- Jesus taught his disciples more by what he did than what he said at a point. They were close to Him, as Timothy was also close to Paul, whom he called 'my son in the faith'.
- Discipling homogenous groups is more effective. When people in a group have a lot in common, they tend to integrate better and be more productive.

Chapter 3

Why We Are Called To Become Disciples

Why We Are Called To Become Disciples

Rom 8:28-29,

28 “And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. 29 For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters.”

Heb 2:11;

“Both the one who makes people holy and those who are made holy are of the same family. So, Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters.”

Every born-again Christian has been predestined by God to be conformed to the image of Christ and to become like Him. That's the goal of discipleship. If we are to be joint heirs with Jesus, then we must become like Him.

For Jesus not to be ashamed to call us brethren we need to be of the same stock, of like nature with Him, so that we would have the potential to be like Him. It is through discipleship that every Christian is moulded and fashioned to become like Jesus. It's God's way of making us be at His disposal and ready for the Master's use.

Mk 3:13-15,

13 Jesus went up on a mountainside and called to him those he wanted, and they came to him. 14 He appointed twelve that they might be with him and that he might send them out to preach 15 and to have authority to drive out demons.”

The first thing Jesus required of His disciples was that they should be with Him. He does not send people He does not know. He prefers to use people who are acquainted with His life and purpose. Discipleship is not an option for the believer but the ultimate goal for all of us.

The Christian walk is therefore not a destination where one could say he has arrived. Until Christ comes or we go to meet Him, it's a never-ending journey.

*“Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.” **Philippians 3:13-14***

You cannot go to heaven just because your sins are forgiven. Your sins are forgiven so that you are no longer an enemy of God. You are no longer a rebel, a transgressor. It means you are no longer like the devil. However, because you no longer resemble the devil does not mean you resemble God. The process of transition from one to the other is through discipleship.

Strictly speaking you cannot be a Christian without becoming a disciple. There are no free rides in the Kingdom. We are saved from sin for a purpose.

Why We Are Called To Become Disciples

“Make every effort to live in peace with everyone and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord”

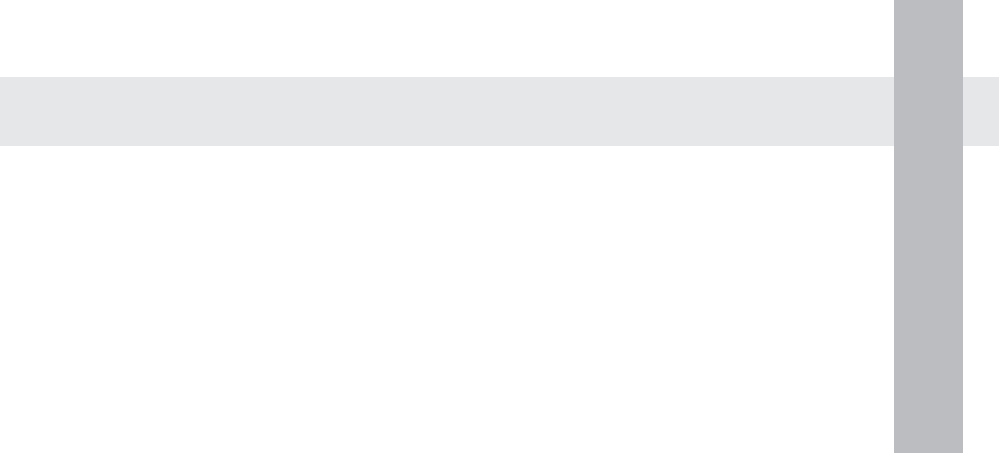
Hebrews 12:14.

We are not saved by works but saved unto good works. We must bear fruit to prove we are saved and transformed.

This transformation cannot take place by self-tuition. God's design for growing into the fulness of Christ is through the input of a fellow believer. That is why Jesus told His followers:

“All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations.”

Matthew 28:18-19.



Chapter 4

Making Disciples

Making Disciples

“And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable people who will also be qualified to teach others” (2Tim 2:2).

According to Paul there should be no break between a person becoming a believer and their developing into a leader. The use of the word “*entrust*” hints at a system developed to pass on the same message. The phrase “*qualified to teach others*” is also a pointer to some form of training. It is a chain reaction, and a break in the chain would result in a breakdown of the system.

The Place of Apostles and Prophets

In a balanced local church, the five-fold ministries should operate in one degree or other. The apostle to govern, the prophet to guide, the evangelist to gather, the pastor to guard, and the teacher to ground. What God designed for church growth has actually turned out to be the route to church rot, because a simple statement was ignored or neglected over the years. I am talking about

Ephesians 4:11-13.

11 “So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, 12 to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up 13 until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.”

Making Disciples

Whilst there are many highly gifted and mightily anointed servants of God through the years, some of whose ministries shook many large cities of the world, one important ingredient was missing in the way most conducted their work, and some still do.

According to Ephesian 4:12, one of the major tasks entrusted to, say, an Evangelist, was not only to shake “*my*” city for Christ by attracting hundreds of thousands to a stadium, but to equip me to do the work of an evangelist in a local church, if that was my calling or gifting.

When the Evangelist has finished and moved to the next town or country, he would have left behind perhaps many hundreds of new believers, but no evangelists. He has come and caught many fish but failed to teach anyone how to fish. So, what are we supposed to do now? I guess wait for another big outreach.

The same could be said of a pastor. Every new member wants to know who the pastor of the church is. One man has to overstate his importance and stretch himself beyond his gifting in order to play a role. How can one man be the 'father' to 1,000 people? It's not natural. No one person has the energy or the ability to meet the diverse needs and demands of a large congregation.

Doubtless there are many men and women endowed with pastoral gifts and have the call of God to the ministry. But they are not the only ones in the church with the same calling or to a lesser degree the same gifting. The role of the pastor, therefore, like that of the evangelist, is to identify and train (equip) people in the congregation to carry out this ministry along with him.

Making Disciples

So, you might find in a leader's cell team of a city church, for example, people with different complementary ministry gifts to build up the cells under their supervision, and to duplicate themselves in more leaders.

This will help the church to grow to become in every respect the mature body of Him who is the head.

The goal of the ministry is to bring every member to maturity, so they are not easy prey to false doctrine and unscriptural practices. Each member knows what he believes, what his rights are in Christ, and how to have a fruitful, Christ-centred purpose in life. The apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers are part of the local church, and they are meant to duplicate themselves in the people. The common practice of segregating the clergy from the laity over the years is not working. We are not making men for God; we are just entertaining them with religious programmes.

We are teaching people, but we are not training them to become teachers. We are building people, but we are not turning them into builders. The church is supposed to build itself up: *“grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.”* **Ephesians 4:16.**

The ideal situation is when a minister engages in his area of gifting and at the same time multiplies himself by training others through the cell group. This is why we have developed a systematic approach to learning, so it can be easily passed on from one disciple to another in small groups.

Chapter 5

Breaking the Financial Stranglehold

Breaking the financial stranglehold

Making disciples of all nations is both hard work and a spiritual battle. You will meet resistance from unchurched people. You will meet apathy. Most of all you will have to fight an internal battle with discouragement. We are at war, and the place to develop faith to conquer is on the financial battlefield. This is where I learnt how to wage spiritual warfare as a young preacher. I had to learn how to believe God for finance. It was from there I graduated to other aspects of spiritual warfare.

One reason why some Christians or churches are relatively poor is because that is what Satan wants. If he knows you or your church are going to spend your spare resources to advance the work of the kingdom he will attack you. His strategy is subtle. What he is after is not your finances as such but who controls your source. He wants to make you rich. He wants to be part of your success story, knowing full well that God cannot accept contaminated money.

This is one of the reasons Satan offered to enrich Jesus and fund his mission, if only He can worship him.

“The devil led him up to a high place and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. 6 And he said to him, ‘I will give you all their authority and splendour; it has been given to me, and I can give it to anyone I want to. 7 If you worship me, it will all be yours.’”

Luke 4:5-7.

Satan won't stand in your way of prospering once you are willing to abandon the way of the cross and adopt the way of the world.

He wants you to turn a blind eye to the ways your members enrich themselves, their compromises and ungodly associations. That is why our first battlefield is the arena of financial provision.

Luke 16:9-11, *“And I say to you, make friends for yourselves by unrighteous mammon, that when you fail, they may receive you into an everlasting home. 10 He who is faithful in what is least is faithful also in much; and he who is unjust in what is least is unjust also in much. 11 Therefore if you have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon, who will commit to your trust the true riches?”*

One of the earliest lessons I learnt in my Christian life was about believing God for finance. It's so fundamental to certain aspects of prayer that I will share my experience of God's dealing with me in this area. It is an aspect of prayer we don't often hear about. To the vast majority of believers prayer is about receiving answers from God. *“The God that answers by fire, let Him be God”* sort of thing. There is, however, another angle to prayer. It is the angle of proving to God that you can be trusted to get the job done.

In other words, God is looking for partners. He wants to intervene in our lives, in our churches, in our community, in our nation. Now where can He find the prayer partner who has risen to the spiritual height of seeing his prayers answered on a consistent basis? He is watching out for people who can see their personal challenges through to victory. If you cannot pray through for victory in your personal challenges, why should the Holy Spirit entrust into your care prayers for bigger issues?

It is those who show they can be trusted to get results every time that the Spirit will trust with carrying the burden of prayer and faith for the important issues, like winning souls and seeing their church multiply on a regular basis.

God wants to see how I pursue Him in mundane matters like finance before He lays on me the burden for spiritual conflicts and matters of the Kingdom. In other words, if I cannot even believe God for my finances, either personal or for the ministry, why should He send me to do greater exploits for Him?

Developing faith for finance

It was in 1962. I just entered the Bible College of Wales to study for the ministry. I was very green. I was just nine months old in the Lord. Though I was on fire for Jesus there was a lot I needed to learn. One of them was how to believe God to answer my prayers.

It was when I attempted to pray for money to cover my school fees and general expenses as a student that I began to learn how faith really works. It is possible that the crucial lessons I learned early in my Christian walk many people, even pastors, have not fully grasped. I know this because of what I often hear my fellow ministers say. *“I have a great plan for expansion. Many people are calling me to come and start our church in their area, but lack of funds is preventing me. I appeal to fellow ministers and write appeal letters to former members who have now moved away to better-paid jobs, but no response.”* So, many feel hemmed in.

What a breakthrough it will be if my testimony can help others to see what is possible out there. To have the knowledge, and the proof, that what God orders He pays for.

Breaking the Financial Stranglehold

I wasn't long at the College when I found out that the whole establishment was run on the principle of faith. There were about thirty on the staff, both for the Bible College and the adjacent Grammar and Boarding school. All of them were living by faith. No one was on salary. This was an eye opener to me. Many of them had been living this way for fifteen years or more, and they looked happy enough to me. Some even had cars.

Like many students I had saved up enough money to fund my two-year course. However, on learning about the life of faith and its implications, I decided to give it a go.

The implications were that learning to trust God for money can quickly develop your faith to a level that could be applied later in life to other aspects of ministry. But at first, I was very sceptical. I could not believe my prayers for money could be answered when I wasn't permitted to share my burden with anyone. You are to tell God alone! Not a single soul must know you needed money. God who hears you in secret will reward you in the open.

I began to wonder. How could people know I needed some financial assistance? At least if they knew that I was praying for money and my needs were urgent, and they were already asking God to direct them to where to sow their money, He might just point them my way.

The way taught by the Bible College of Wales was nothing like that; not even close. Nobody must know you were praying for money. They could well assume that you were among the number of students who had saved up for their time at the College. Some students were actually receiving support from their local churches. A few had government grants.

Breaking the Financial Stranglehold

It was in the midst of these divers financial mix-match that I opted for the life of faith. I gave away all my savings and deliberately made myself destitute. At this time this was how God led me. It isn't often He asks people to give away all their money in order to live by faith. I soon realised that indeed this step was a phase. What I like to call the Wilderness Wondering phase.

Chapter 6

The Wilderness Wandering Phase

The Wilderness Wandering Phase

Most ministries, if not all, go through a wilderness wandering phase. Often at the beginning of a ministry or church planting one goes through a very difficult and dry phase. Money can be very tight and expenses high at this time. This is what God says about this phase:

2“Remember how the Lord your God led you all the way in the wilderness these forty years, to humble and test you in order to know what was in your heart, whether or not you would keep his commands. 3 He humbled you, causing you to hunger and then feeding you with manna, which neither you nor your ancestors had known, to teach you that man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord.” **Deuteronomy 8:2-3**

God led Israel through the wilderness for 40 years to prove to them that He doesn't need human agency to supply the needs of His people. He doesn't even need a conducive environment. He could 'furnish a table in the wilderness'.

Those among the Israelites who survived the 40 years wondering knew beyond any doubt that by faith they can overcome anything they might face in Canaan. The faith they developed in the wilderness was the faith they deployed in Canaan.

Faith is like muscle. If you develop it, you'll be able to carry a heavier load. This was the big lesson I learnt believing God for finance at the Bible College of Wales.

Having given away all my savings I began to be very pleased with myself, believing that my life of faith will be like a walk in the park. God will be so pleased with my sacrifice He will answer my prayers speedily and my blessings will be full and running over. How wrong I was.

Learning to walk before I can run

This lesson is so true in learning to walk by faith. My initial target was my school tuition and boarding fees of £75 a year. A huge amount of money to believe for in 1962, even though the fees were subsidised. In fact, any amount of money is big if you don't have it, and I didn't have it. I was soon running out of toiletries too, and transport money to town at weekends had dried up.

Because I could see all the College staff around me having God supply their needs on a daily basis, I assumed my money won't take long. How wrong I was. In fact, I was in for a shock. I prayed, I believed, I confessed I got the money by faith, I quoted Scriptures, but nothing came. I thought it was a joke at first.

Term started in September. Come Christmas my fees still hadn't come. So, I had to stay behind in the College. We weren't allowed to leave for holidays if we were still behind in paying our fees. Everybody had left, except a few members of staff. My faith and zeal were at rock bottom. All this while I had been praying a lot, quoting promises about God's provision, speaking in tongues, binding and loosing. Nothing was working.

Then one day God spoke to me

The first ray of light came in when the Holy Spirit began to speak to me. All the while I was the one doing all the talking. That was the way it was in those days. I prayed and God listened. I am now learning that the Holy Spirit wants to engage me in a dialogue. I was praying for £75.

The Wilderness Wandering Phase

The fees were ridiculously low, even for the 60s. The Holy Spirit said to me, *“You want to run when you have not learnt to walk.”* He pointed out to me that faith was like weights you lift in the gym. You start light and work your way up to heavier weights as you build muscles and fitness. *“You are asking Me for £75, when you have never trusted Me for £1”*, He said.

£1? Why pray for £1 when I needed £75. I was looking at living by faith with the eye of the world outside. Normally if I needed money as a student, either I asked my mother for it, or took a holiday job or odd jobs at the weekend. That's why £1 seemed such a pittance to be occupying hours of my prayer time. Yet the Holy Spirit insisted. Small as that is, if you can't pray it in without sharing your needs with others or working for it, then your faith isn't working. In that case what's the point of praying for revival where you will have even less of a chance to influence the outcome? All of a sudden £1 became a huge mountain before me because I had never believed God for money before now. So, I began beseeching the Lord for £1.

The prayer for finance at this time became more complicated. Though I was going out to preach in churches almost every Sunday, I wasn't allowed to touch the honorarium. The Holy Spirit called it predictable source of income, or, as we often called it in the Bible College: cheap deliverance. These gifts from preaching I gave away to other students. During this learning period the answers to my prayer must come from unexpected sources.



Chapter 7

Living By Faith

Living By Faith

Matt 6:6, *“But you, when you pray, go into your room, and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who is in the secret place; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly”*.

This scripture is behind the principle of praying in all your funding without making any public appeal or even letting people know what you are trusting the Lord for. There is nothing wrong with making appeals, but during my period of training keeping strictly to the guidelines was very helpful. The thinking is that if you are not looking to people to respond to your appeals then there is no barrier to how much or from where your help can come.

Another scripture supporting this principle of faith is **Psalms 78:17-20**,

“But they sinned even more against Him by rebelling against the Most High in the wilderness.¹⁸ And they tested God in their heart by asking for the food of their fancy.¹⁹ Yes, they spoke against God: They said, “Can God prepare a table in the wilderness? ²⁰ Behold, He struck the rock, so that the waters gushed out, and the streams overflowed. Can He give bread also? Can He provide meat for His people?”

There is that deep-seated unbelief in the heart of man, doubting whether God can answer prayer without our little help. That was the battle raging in my heart in those early days of learning the principles of faith for finance.

Was it not foolish to be giving away money when I was in dire need of cash myself? How can God send money my way to meet my exact amount without anyone knowing I was praying for it? That was why I had to adhere strictly to the rules. I was not allowed to take the honorarium as an answer to my prayers because it was an expected source.

Lessons learned so far:

1. Lesson number one was to learn to walk before I can run.
2. Lesson number two was to realise that praying for money was different to working for money.

What I did, or didn't do, or the thoughts and intentions in my heart had nothing to do with getting paid for work I did, or asking people for help to do the work of God. When living by faith though, it all mattered.

Psalm 66:18 says, *“If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear.”*

Though I was starting from ground level and praying for just £1 any iniquity in my heart would still be an issue. So, living by faith was a real help towards personal holiness.

3. Lesson number three was that it taught me how to hear from God. When the prayer was heard, and the answer was on its way, I could not pray anymore on that matter, no matter how I tried. The assurance of faith was almost as tangible as the cash.

One morning in College I returned from the bathroom to find a pound note had been slipped under my pillow (£1 was a note in those days). My first breakthrough in finance by faith! I asked the Holy Spirit what to believe for next. He said, £5.

This time the heart searching was deeper. Things I had to put right were more of my motives and my thought life than my outward behaviour. Thinking more notes would follow the first one I kept checking under my pillow every morning, but there was no show. Instead, the deliverance came in Swansea city centre. We were at a prayer meeting held in a Baptist church on a Friday night. At the end of the meeting someone approached me with an envelope. Inside was exactly £5.

Slowly but surely the money started coming in until by the end of the first year I had paid off my fees for the two years. I had also bought everything else I needed. I had now built up my faith in God's ability to supply my needs, irrespective of the amount or the circumstances.

I have since then over the years built up my faith for greater challenges and opportunities. It was then I moved from the Wilderness Wandering phase to the Canaan Land phase, the land flowing with milk and honey. There we are not expected to wait on the Lord for manna to fall, but to trust God for the ability to create wealth. Because God has put in place the manner in which the church will be financed, all we have to do is to bless the people and the people will bless the church.

Here we move from faith in God for money (daily manna) to relying on God's faithfulness to send rain in season, make the ground fertile, and rebuke the devourer. In Canaan God is in control and is our source. Even when we make the needs known to the members it is God who makes his people willing in the days of His power.

The nature of faith

If you try to by-pass the lessons of the Wilderness phase, and you never learn to discover and develop faith, praying and fasting and numerous appeals will not work,

For *“unless the Lord build the house, they labour in vain that build it”*.

To have faith is not quite the same as to believe. You have to discover faith. It is a gift of God. It is given for salvation, and it is also given for exploits.

Faith is conditional. You lose it if you don't obey its rules. These are some of its rules:

1. **Galatians 5:6**, *“For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision has any value. The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love.”*

It is in an environment of love for God and fellow workers faith thrives. There is no faith where there's contention or strife, even if you are in the right.

2. **Psalm 66:18**, *“If I had cherished sin in my heart, the Lord would not have listened.”*

Faith and sin cannot co-exist.

3. **Daniel 6:21-22**, Daniel answered, *“May the king live for ever! 22 My God sent his angel, and he shut the mouths of the lions. They have not hurt me, because I was found innocent in his sight. Nor have I ever done any wrong before you, Your Majesty.”*

Hebrews 11:32-33 the commentary on this passage referred to those (Daniel) by faith shut the mouths of lions.

“And what more shall I say? I do not have time to tell about Gideon, Barak, Samson and Jephthah, about David and Samuel and the prophets, 33 who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, and gained what was promised; who shut the mouths of lions.”

Daniel called the reason for his escape from death his pure heart toward God and the king. The writer of Hebrews calls it faith.

4. **1 John 3:21-22**, This text wraps it all up: *“Dear friends, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have confidence before God 22 and receive from him anything we ask, because we keep his commands and do what pleases him.”*

All I have to do is to make sure my heart does not condemn me. If it does, then I shall quickly confess and repent and restore my fellowship with the Holy Spirit.

All things are possible with faith and right strategy

In the same way, if you are going to plant a church, you can start small. Every life starts as a cell. It's easy to accommodate. It does not cost anything to start cell groups. Start many cells made up of 10-15 people each.

By the time you have three or four cells you are talking about 40-50 individuals. If you can believe for them to come together, they can believe with you for a venue, however basic. If you keep making more cells you can create another hub of 40-50 individuals.

Then you can hire or beg for the use of a church hall in the afternoon for combined Sunday service.

As you keep multiplying, faith for a venue of your own will arise, and the numbers will be better placed to contribute to start something somewhere.

If you follow the Cell Division Vision you will always have accommodation problems because you will never stop growing.

Chapter 8

Building A City Church

Building A City Church

Over the years it has become clear to me that our conferences with their satellites have some shortcomings. These require that we make some adjustments to make them fit for purpose. The success stories among the satellites have given us a false sense of achievement, and we fail to acknowledge or turn a blind eye to the vast majority of our branches that continue to struggle with small numbers and inadequate leadership.

At the heart of the problem is placing a man or a couple at the head of a new plant, where their ministry gifts are not sufficient to meet the challenges they are bound to face. A man may be a good pastor and functioning well in a large congregation. His maturity and submission to authority may prompt the leadership to send him and his family to plant another centre, perhaps closer to where they live.

In fairness they may be given a couple of families as support members. However, cracks may soon appear for two or more reasons.

One reason for stagnation and stunted growth may be because the leaders have never worked together at the large church. And even if they had worked together, they may have competing gifts rather than complimentary ones. So, you get two pastors in a congregation of 15 adults. No youth or children's workers, no one with the gift of an evangelist, and the struggle begins, which may lead to stagnation.

The big church quickly replaces those it had sown as a new plant and believes it's because they are fulfilling a spiritual principle: sow and you shall reap.

Building A City Church

But the new plant may grow at a modest pace, if at all, because it doesn't have the right ingredients in place like the main church, which has a full complement of able leaders and departments in place.

As the large church continues to grow it faces accommodation problems and may resort to the same old remedy of planting more satellites, which are separate and indigenious. These in turn may struggle or thrive, if the mix is right. Here then comes the idea of a city church.

Because the city church is working the cellular vision, it can grow as large as it wishes without losing its effectiveness. When one building is full to capacity, even with multiple services, it just expands into another building wherever it wants and can within the city. The leadership structure, the training, the finances and the facilities are shared. It is one church meeting at multiple venues.

This approach to church life is possible because of one fundamental difference to traditional ways. The emphasis is on 'go and give' and not 'come and get'. The focus is on the cells: the people. When and where they meet are not as important because the leader is making disciples. It would be a different matter if he was only trying to get them to attend meetings. It is the cell leader and his ministry of discipleship who is key to retaining disciples and not what programmes are going on in a building.

Some cell groups may decide to hold their services on a Monday lunch hour near their workplace, while others may meet at 6pm Saturday evening. The cells are groups of 12 or more people, making it easier to find places to meet.

A person thus committed by association and thorough grounding in Christ will follow you anywhere for Sunday celebrations.

The Missed Opportunity in Turkey

1,500 years after Pentecost the church in what is now modern Turkey stopped following the cellular system of church life. The believers had become complacent, lost their focus, paid more attention to their personal goals than the Great Commission. They built impressive edifices, gloried in their large numbers, and stopped making disciples.

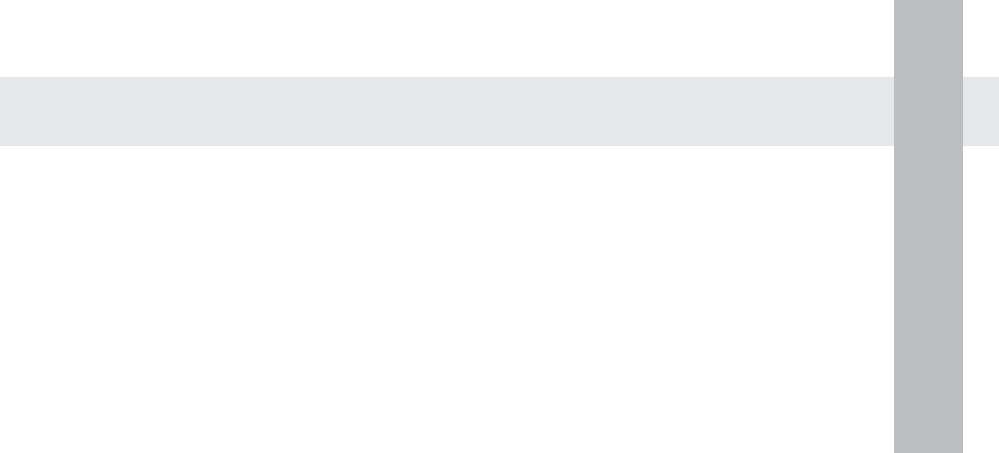
A country of the seven churches of Revelation, where Paul the apostle was born, has now become 98% Islam. A salutary warning to us all that once corruption and apathy set in the demise of the church is only a matter of time. In fact, Satan does not need to do anything to destroy the church. We are quite capable of doing it ourselves. Just by deviating from New Testament pattern of Church growth, even if only by a small degree over decades, the rot will have set in with its inevitable consequences.

The dynamics of the church is that it must be making disciples: we must win them, instruct them, involve them and invest them. Our physical bodies would be in a serious condition if any of its part was not receiving blood supply or neural signals from the brain. Yet in the Body of Christ, we have people who are totally detached; they just attend meetings.

Discipleship and church growth go hand in hand. That is why it is one of the cardinal doctrines of the New Covenant Church. In spite of our stand on the subject, however, the desired result of sustained and substantial growth has eluded us.

Building A City Church

So, I have been looking for ways to get the job done more effectively by putting together a package that is easily transferable from one member to another.



Chapter 9

Winning Your 12

Winning Your 12

The Pastor or any member of the church can kick start the Discipleship Cell Group Programme by selecting 12 or more members of the church to form his cell group. He trains them to become disciples who are capable of starting their own cell groups by going out and winning new converts for Christ.

Starting with a clean slate

On the other hand, the Pastor or other members of the church can start his cell group of 12 by going out and winning souls to make up his cell group.

1. Here the Pastor goes out to evangelise and adds each new convert to his cell group until they become 12.
2. He now takes them through a programme of follow-up until each one becomes a strong Christian and well established in his faith. Next, he takes them through a programme of teaching and training in order to turn the new converts into disciples. A disciple is someone who is growing up to become like Christ, and also capable of winning others to Christ and then train them into disciples.
3. This process can take up to a year, by which time the 12 disciples are capable of starting their own cell groups of 12. When each one has his own 12, then the new members under the supervision of the Pastor is 144 (12x12)
4. Where the Pastor starts the programme with 12 members of his congregation, he is multiplying his efforts by a factor of 12.

Each member of his group now starts his own group of 12 with new converts. So, by the time these new converts become disciples and start their own group of 12, we could have the number of new members under the Pastor now up to 1,728 (12x12x12). This route could take up to four years or more. A mini revival.

How to win your 12

Win a notable person to the Lord. One outstanding conversion can start an avalanche of newcomers into your group.

1. The healing of the lame man at Gate Beautiful.

You cannot beat our first example. One man miraculously healed, and after a short sermon 5000 people were saved and added to the church in one day. Imagine how many cell groups of 12 you can start with that many new converts. Strong converts rarely need much follow-up in order to be established in their faith. They are keen to go on with Christ and bring others into the group.

2. The woman of Samaria

Practically the entire city of Samaria came to Jesus after the testimony of the woman at the well.

John 4:28-30 28 *“Then, leaving her water jar, the woman went back to the town and said to the people, 29 'Come, see a man who told me everything I've ever done. Could this be the Messiah?' 30 They came out of the town and made their way towards him”.*

This is the power of an outstanding testimony. The new convert who is excited about new life and freedom found in Christ will become your best promoter. You should pray: *“Lord, give me just one notable conversion”*.

3. **What about Lazarus?**

John 12:9-11

9 “Meanwhile a large crowd of Jews found out that Jesus was there and came, not only because of him but also to see Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. 10 So the chief priests made plans to kill Lazarus as well, 11 for on account of him many of the Jews were going over to Jesus and believing in him”.

Most people would follow friends and family to church, or a cell group, more than they would a stranger. So, people with a sizable pool of none-Christian friends, young or old, are likely to be more effective in bringing more people.

You cannot argue against such a notable miracle. That is why the Early Church was so successful. Whether in Solomon's portico or from house to house they saw the hand of the Lord.

“Then the disciples went out and preached everywhere, and the Lord worked with them and confirmed his word by the signs that accompanied it.”

Mark 16:20

If miracles are happening in your cell group on a regular basis, and prayers are being answered, you will never stop growing. Getting people to listen to your message without the backing of the Holy Spirit can be hard work. Jesus would never tell us to make disciples if it was a daunting task. Jesus never struggled to do anything.

The testimonies of those in your group will force their friends and family to seek your help too.

The thing is, if miracles are happening in your group every week the faith and expectations of new people joining you will be high. In fact, sometimes they will have more faith than you for their problems.

Faith is contagious. The more people who touched Jesus and were healed the more others wanted to touch him as well. He did not have to do anything, except just be approachable.

The boy born with deformed leg

The famous American Evangelist Oral Roberts told the story of a little boy who came with his grandma to his tent crusade with thousands of people.

This young man had watched Oral Roberts miracle crusades on TV regularly until faith for his healing was sky high. He was born with a leg defect; one leg was shorter than the other. So his parents had a special pair of shoes made for him.

When he heard that Oral Roberts was holding a crusade near his grandma's house, he asked his parents to take him over to her place for the weekend so he could attend. On the way to the crusade ground the boy pleaded with grandma to stop by a shoe shop on the high street. *"What for"*, demanded grandma. *"To buy a pair of normal shoes, grandma,"* the boy replied with enthusiasm. The grandma obliged the little boy, not wanting to dampen his faith. So, they continued their journey with the boy clutching the box of new shoes close to his chest.

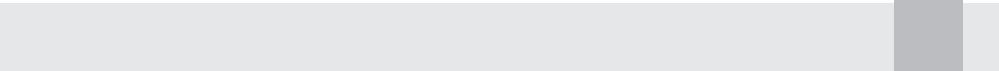
He was still carrying the box with him when he came up for prayer. Out of curiosity the Evangelist asked the boy why he was carrying a shoe box. The boy replied: *"I have been watching you lay hands on people on TV, and see many people healed. So, I asked my grandma to bring me to the crusade. I know when you lay hands on me, I too will be healed, and I won't need these special shoes any more. So, I bought a pair of normal shoes.*

Moved with compassion Oral Roberts laid hands on the little boy and prayed for a miracle. However, there was no visible miracle. The boy walked away still clutching his box of shoes.

Further away from the prayer line the little boy sat on a piece of furniture. Took off his special shoes, and began to try on his new shoes, while Oral Roberts looked on. To everyone's surprise, as soon as the boy put on the normal shoes, the bad leg was healed and grew to the same length as the other one. To everyone's cheers.

The Evangelist had to confess later on that the little boy had more faith to be healed than he had.

Just ask God to give you a good start. You will soon have your 12, and more.



Chapter 10

*The Consolidation
Programme*

The Consolidation Programme

Now you have won your 12. It is time to take them through the Consolidation Programme. This is a very important stage in the spiritual journey of the new believers. You must make sure their decision to follow Christ is not just an emotional one. They may have been moved by the miracles they had witnessed, either theirs or a friend's.

1. On the back of that they may have made a commitment to follow Christ. It is wise to now let their faith and spiritual experience take root in the Word of God, and not just how they feel.

2. You should also use the teaching material to show them the importance of repentance. It is not enough we confess our sins; we must also repent of them. Whereas a person may confess to God during an altar call: *"I confess that I am a sinner, and I have broken your laws, please forgive me. Jesus, I give you my heart."* Or a similar 'sinner's prayer'. Most likely they will be forgiven and be saved. The job, however, is not yet complete. The confession of sin is too general. They also need to repent.

Matthew 3:1-2

In those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the wilderness of Judea 2 and saying, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.'

3. Without repentance the faith of the new convert may be built on sand, and easily crumble. It must be built on the solid rock of repentance.

The Consolidation Programme

If you ask God to forgive all your sins, and He does, that doesn't mean you will not commit the same sins again. It is only when you take the trouble to single out a single sin you are willing not only to confess, but to never commit it again, that you are on your way to true repentance.

4. The new convert needs to truly repent of something, at least one sin, to show a true desire for change. The Holy Spirit will take them deeper after that.

5. This is why each new convert must go through the Consolidation Programme. The more they confess and repent, as you take them through the follow-up material, the less foothold Satan will have over their lives. Usually, it is the weight of besetting sins that slows down the growth of new believers. Some problems later in life, or tendency towards erroneous teaching can be traced to a weak start to their conversion experience.

So, a thorough grounding at this stage will certainly give you strong Christians who can be trusted to finish the course and become true disciples.

Another reason repentance is important for a new believer, to make sure he is truly born again, is the need for restitution. The Bible calls it *'the fruit of repentance'*.

When a person truly repents, he will want to put past misdeeds right, as much as it is in his power. It is a sure sign that his heart has been touched and transformed.

Take the case of Zacchaeus

Luke 19:7-9: *" All the people saw this and began to mutter, 'He has gone to be the guest of a sinner.' 8 But Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord, 'Look, Lord!*

Here and now I give half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount.' 9 Jesus said to him, 'Today salvation has come to this house, because this man, too, is a son of Abraham'.

It is impossible to be truly born again without true repentance. When Jesus invited Himself into Zacchaeus' home, his immediate reaction was to turn away from sin and pay reparations to people he had wronged and robbed. You cannot live in sin and hope that grace will abound.

• **Take the case of Saul of Tarsus.**

Acts 9:5-6 (NKJV) “5 And he said, “Who are You, Lord?” Then the Lord said, “I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. It is hard for you to kick against the goads.” 6 So he, trembling and astonished, said, “Lord, what do You want me to do?” Then the Lord said to him, “Arise and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do.”

Whenever a person truly repents something happens to the heart. He wants to change and repair damages he may have caused in the past. Right there by the roadside Paul put himself at God's disposal. He had been destroying the church all his life. Now he wants to build it.

When people claim to be born again and you don't see evidence of a changed life, you should be sceptical about their claims. Paul did not need any prompting to show forth the fruit of repentance.

· **Take the case Lydia.**

Acts 16:13-15, *13 And on the Sabbath day we went out of the city to the riverside, where prayer was customarily made; and we sat down and spoke to the women who met there. 14 Now a certain woman named Lydia heard us. She was a seller of purple from the city of Thyatira, who worshiped God. The Lord opened her heart to heed the things spoken by Paul. 15 And when she and her household were baptized, she begged us, saying, "If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come to my house and stay." So, she persuaded us.*

The fruit of repentance in the case of Lydia was hospitality. She was a hilarious giver as a result of her new faith.

· **Take the case of my conversion.**

Soon after my conversion I heard about repentance and restitution. Immediately the Holy Spirit would not give me peace until I put some things in my past right. One major one was my sin of fares dodging. I didn't think it was a sin at the time. I just thought I was being clever; boys in my school in Croydon were full of pranks like that. They often want to see how often they can break the law and get away with it.

I used to tell the bus conductors that I was two years younger than I really was, so that I could pay a child's half fare. I got away with it for two years, even though by my height the bus conductors must have known I was fibbing. I left school and that was that. I never thought more of it, until I got saved. Then like a flashlight the Holy Spirit kept shining his touch on this issue. I soon knew it was a sin, and not a harmless teenage prank.

The Consolidation Programme

In the end I had to retrace my steps back to Croydon. I went to own up to the bus company. They refused to take my money because they had nowhere to put returned stolen fares. However, an older believer advised me to sow it into a Christian ministry instead.

The Blood of Jesus will not cover sin you have not uncovered. It was a good start to my Christian journey as it helped me to become sensitive to the Holy Spirit.

Some Christians tell me they cannot have a close fellowship with the Holy Spirit, because they cannot distinguish Him from the Father and the Son. May be there are some stones in their past that need to be turned. Without true repentance our transformation into Christlikeness may stall.

The Training Material

The recommended teaching material to use for this Consolidation Programme is my book:

New Life In Christ

The new Christian is also taken through Believers' Bible Class (BBC) in the church on Sunday, where he will be grounded further with the book:

Authority of the Believer

Encounter Weekend

Then we move on to the Encounter Programme which culminates in the Encounter Weekend. This is the time for the new converts to meet with the Lord for the subsequent works of grace in their lives. The weekend is a time of deep and comprehensive ministry to different areas and aspects of their lives.

The teaching materials for this programme are:

- **7 Reasons Why Christians Should Speak In Tongues**
- **Freedom From Bondage**

The Consolidation Programme

They may need deliverance from bondage, inner healing from the effects of abuse of different kinds, spiritual bullying like physical healing, breaking old unwholesome habits, and knowing who they are in Christ.

This programme may require the attention of members of the leadership of the church who have experience and the anointing for divine healing and deliverance.

They will also be prepared for water baptism, and the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

Chapter 11

*The Leadership
Training Programme*

The Leadership Training Programme

This stage is a full circle: each of the 12 disciples in the Pastor's cell group has now won and consolidated up to 12 new converts in his own cell group. He has taken them through to the Encounter Weekend. These people, who could number up to 144 men or women for the whole group are now saved, baptised in water, baptised in the Holy Spirit, and set free from any oppression of the enemy from the old life, and cut off from all generational limitations.

They are now ready to be enrolled in another cell group for the Leadership Training Programme. The same programme their trainer has passed through. By the end of this training programme the 12 in the Pastor's cell group would have multiplied themselves in a total of 144 men.

If these 144 were all soundly saved and full of the power of the Holy Spirit and fully understand the vision of cellular division for church growth, they will be ready to win their own 12, and disciple them, exactly as they had been discipled. Except this time, they will be using their own knowledge and experience, with references to their trainer for guidance, in the same way the original 12 deferred to the Pastor. Effectively the Pastor has duplicated himself in his 12. He can now start all over again with either 12 more selected members of the church or go out and win 12 new converts.

Number of 12 new converts per cell group is the optimum target, and not every leader will reach that number. Whatever the number achieved, the important thing is to see multiplication and consistence.

Summary

1. The Pastor selects 12 members to form his cell group.
2. Each man in the Pastor's group forms his own group of 12 down the line.
3. When each man in the Pastor's group also forms his own cell group, the Pastor drops out of the picture. He now acts as a mentor or counsellor when needed.
4. The Pastor's original 12 have now stepped into the role of trainers. Just as the Pastor was. Now we have 12 men each with his own group of 12, and so giving us a total of 144 men.
5. We just keep repeating this multiplication process, making sure there is no break in the chain. This is probably how the Early Church managed to grow so fast, and yet with strong and capable members.

The training material for this Stage Three Programme is:
Church Growth Through Discipleship
The Making Of A Disciple

We've now come full circle

Now that the new converts have passed through the various stages of teaching and training and are enrolled in their own Leadership Training Programme we have come full circle. Once they reach the stage where their disciplers were, we have come a full circle.

Is it too good to be true?

The answer may surprise you. The road to these heights is not without obstacles, otherwise everyone will be doing it.

I am not talking about potential membership of 2,000 who just attend church and need handholding some of the time. I am talking about soldiers. People so well trained and motivated that they could stand alone and survive under any condition and go on to start more cells that can grow and multiply.

The Romans persecuted the Christians for various reasons from 1st to 4th century, which led many Christians to be scattered all over the region. There was the Jerusalem one after the martyrdom of Stephen that led to Philip moving out to evangelise Samaria.

When the Romans persecuted the church and members were scattered all over the Empire, they did not reckon with the quality of each member. The State couldn't stop the church by imprisoning or killing their leaders. Neither did these displaced persons stop spreading the gospel.

They were not only converts, but they were disciples. Their commitment and resolve to serve the Lord, or die for Him, if necessary, were as strong as those of any apostle.

The enemy of continuous growth with this quality of men is not the devil, or human opposition, or hardship. It is more basic than that. The real enemy is success. Success is more difficult to handle than struggle.

It is easy to lose your hunger for growth when you become successful.

Chapter 12

7 Habits Of A Cell Ministry

7 Habits Of A Cell Ministry

1. Love the Cellular Vision

Every member of the church needs to be involved in the vision of the 12 and should have his/her own set of cells, irrespective of other duties and ministries he/she is doing in the church. Be it the church secretary, the boy on the drums on Sunday, to the children's teacher or the usher.

Whatever our ministry or role in the church everyone should be part of this vision. The Lord's command is for all of us to 'go and make disciples of all nations.' Those who give must 'go', those who pray must 'go', and those who have just joined must 'go' ultimately. Jesus tells the church to 'go' but tells the unbeliever to 'come'.

Age is no barrier. Retired grandmas can have their own set of cells, the students in college, the children, the banker or the housewife should love the vision and buy into it.

It is not just because we want to increase in number that we want everyone to be on board. This discipleship programme is the way for every member to grow into maturity in Christ. It is the way to come into our inheritance in Christ and be transformed into His image.

The Bible says,

"I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me" (Gal 2:20).

What this scripture is telling me about myself is that when Christ was on the Cross, I was in Him. When He died on the Cross I (my old self) died with Him.

That means I am dead: old habits cannot control me anymore. Satanic strongholds have lost their grip. If I am alive now it is no longer me that is living. It is Christ living in me. If I don't live for Him (allow Him to live His life through me) then I have no life. This is what discipleship is all about. This is the point of total surrender we want to bring every man into. And Christ in me wants to make disciples.

So, I must be involved in the vision of the cell whoever I am, once I call myself a child of God. There is no other reason God is allowing me to live. Then I must be obedient to the command of our Lord to make disciples.

2. Do not divert from the Cell Vision

Like many things that are worth doing, perseverance is the key to ultimate success. I had this vision of discipleship relationship with God as far back as 1983, and when the New Covenant Church came into the picture I tried to incorporate it into our way of life.

I saw this cell vision help accelerate our growth in Ibadan, Nigeria at a rapid and solid rate, when the church first started. In fact, at the time our centre at Samonda, Ibadan was the fastest growing church in town. We started with about 160 people, meeting from house to house and on Sundays. Within the space of 24 months, we were running two Sunday services with around 1,800 members.

Some house fellowships met in a commercial district at lunchtime. They were exclusively dealers in car spare parts. They would have Bible studies and pray for one another's businesses.

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As testimonies of prosperity and life changes began to circulate in the district others joined. People wanted to belong to something that would bring positive changes into their lives.

Other cell groups were among women petty traders, most of whom were illiterate. They, too, used prayer evangelism to attract new members. If you come to Jesus and you see your business prosper, your marriage enhanced, your children doing better at school, and your health improving, you, too, would want to belong. Businessmen too met in their lunch hour.

That was how we began. The cells were feeding the church. It was hard work though very rewarding. Gradually, however, we began to drift into a building centric ministry.

Our constituent changed. Not only were we getting new people join the church on a weekly basis, different kinds of people were now joining. Lecturers, university professors, businessmen and women: busy people. They found something attractive and lively about our church, and they joined. The worship was good, and love flowed genuinely among us. The rich helped the poor and the strong supported the weak. And the building was full in both morning services. Nobody wanted to miss church. If some people needed to travel, they would wait till after first service on Sunday to do so.

If you had a wedding, it would cost you no more than just to turn up on the day. The church, especially your house fellowship zone, would rally round and pay for everything and bring food and drinks.

It became necessary to divide and multiply, and so many centres around the town were pioneered.

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By this time Samonda had become a model that the new centres wanted to copy. The pastors of these centres saw what was happening at the mother church as the reason behind its success. They were trying to copy the church model instead of the cell model.

It is easy to see why. By the time some of these new leaders became members of the church we had relaxed and gone soft on the vision of discipleship multiplication. It was becoming difficult to require some of these mature and experienced ministers joining the church to come under less experienced house group leaders.

So, the proportion of congregation participation in the cell meetings tapered off.

Another spanner thrown into the works was the increasing number of 'busy' people joining the church. Most were not just busy with their businesses or professional careers, they were also heavily involved in para-church ministries, where some of them held leadership roles. In trying to accommodate them we went soft on the cell programme.

It was not feasible to expect them to attend weekly Bible studies and prayer meetings of their fellowship, as well as our Bible studies and house fellowship meetings.

So, this is where we find ourselves today, trying to introduce church growth through discipleship as if it were new to us.

3. Do not allow the cell to become unfruitful
As the saying goes, 'the good is the enemy of the best'. While the enthusiasm for cell group can spread through the church at the initial stages, it can soon become a victim of its own success.

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One of the benefits of meeting in small groups is the bonding. You get to know people up close. You may see another side to them, and discover some people are more interesting and engaging than you thought.

Some house fellowships have become a little community. They look after each other's children. Buy food in bulk and share at a lower cost per unit. They bonded well. But the bonding can turn out to be a barrier to newcomers. New people may find it hard to break into the clique.

I was sad to hear what a visitor said to me after church one day. It was somebody known to me from outside London. She said, *"I felt left out in church today. Nobody talked to me before or after the service. I walked in and I walked out without being acknowledged. Everybody was busy talking to their friends."* That shouldn't be. You can bond so much that newcomers become a distraction, and they can't even get your attention.

We should make newcomers feel more loved and wanted than the regulars. A new person may have decided never to come back to your church even before the pastor mounts the pulpit to deliver the Word.

When a newcomer to a church was asked what helped her decide to join the church, she said, *"The moment I walked into your church I felt the atmosphere was warm and people showed me so much love. I felt, this is where I belong."* Before the message was delivered by the pastor the lady had decided to make the church her new spiritual home.

The vision of the cell group is about winning people to Christ and making them into disciples of Christ. It must be a place new people would want to belong and stay.

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We should not be happy unless new people are joining our group each and every week and staying. That's why we gather: to bear fruits.

Every cell has to be evangelistic. You must go out and look for people. Begin with a cell.

4. **Meet once a week**

As a leader you should meet with your cell once a week. It shouldn't be too arduous as we are only talking about 1-2 hours each meeting. In fact, you should find it hard to keep away from these cell meetings, because the joy of seeing people saved every week is indescribable, as well as the sheer delight of seeing people grow up to become Christlike, where sin, poverty, sickness or demonic oppression have no more hold on God's children.

Make it homogenous: men with men, women with women, couples with couples, and children with children. Bring together people who 'speak the same language', who share a lot in common, a homogenous group. People who share certain things in common find they can flow more easily and therefore are more likely to invite others of like-mind, or situation, into the group. You can get more effective ministry and rapid growth this way.

5. **Make a leader of each member**

See the potential in each member, or visitor, to become a future leader. I wonder where I would be today if my pastor in Chelmsford had not believed in me. Even though I had a miraculous encounter with Jesus at a Gospel Crusade, I didn't make the connection that now I was a Christian I was expected to be attending church. Having been a Muslim all my young life the resistance and prejudices I had built up in my heart against Christians weren't going to go away over-night.

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I honestly wasn't expecting going to church as being part of being born again. I thought I was now ready to go to heaven (when I died) but wasn't ready to go to church.

Pastor Ron Sherrington came for me on my first Sunday as a believer and invited me to church. He waited for me to get ready and drove me to church. I wasn't prepared for that. My Sundays were usually spent on the athletics tracks training for the next championship for Essex County. He kept coming for me until I had formed a habit of attending church. It was a big sacrifice for me, and a big disappointment to my trainer who was pinning high hopes of my chances of winning trophies for the county.

Almost at every meeting he would ask me to share my testimony or give a short 'word' or pray. I was born again in November 1961, by the following May the Lord had called me to the ministry. In fact, I had overtaken many of the people in church because I was so hungry for the things of God.

It was Pastor Sherrington who made it all possible. He must have seen the potential in me, and he welcomed me with open arms, and poured his life into mine from day one.

Everyone has the potential to be someone great for God. Leaders of the cell group must see that potential and help all newcomers grow to become future leaders.

6. Do not permit murmuring inside the cell
When water stagnates, it decomposes and brings out bad odours. The same thing can happen when a cell stagnates and stops growing. It can degenerate into bad atmosphere, if care is not taken.

Simple house rules: never allow someone to speak badly about another member.

If you see defects or weaknesses in others, or the church, pray about it, because it may be the Lord is placing a burden of prayer on you for them. (Neither should you make their supposed weaknesses a matter of public prayer).

Sometimes a misunderstanding may occur between two members of a cell, and gradually you find some people taking sides. The best policy is to pray and see what positive contribution you can bring to normalize things or bring improvement. If you have nothing good to say, say nothing.

7. **Develop your goals strategically**

The work of the church must be like a business, with targeted projections. If you were to talk to a business manager about his goals, he will show you charts with projections that he desires to reach.

The leader should know the vision of the 12, and how he is going to prepare his people, and how many cells he should have by the end of the year.

Great achievements begin with the conquest of small goals.

Chapter 13

*The Challenge is to Win
Souls and Consolidate them*

The Challenge is to Win Souls and Consolidate them

Rick Warren makes these true statements:

1. The most overlooked key to growing a church: We must love unbelievers the way Jesus did. Jesus went to their wedding and performed a miracle to bring solution in a tight spot. He was even called friend of sinners and publicans.

2. We cannot expect unbelievers to act like believers until they are believers. We must accept them without approving what they do.

(a) *Jesus accepted the Samaritan woman without approving her low morals.*

(b) *He ate with Zacchaeus without approving of his dishonesty.*

(c) *He publicly defended the dignity of the woman caught in adultery without minimizing her sin.*

3. A church will never grow beyond its capacity to meet needs. Anybody can be won to Christ if you discover the key to his/her heart.

4. Most unbelievers are looking for relief, not truth. People need fewer 'ought to' and more 'how to' sermons.

Rick Warren makes more observations about a growing church.

- Look beyond the hype of every growing church and you will find a common denominator: they have all figured out a way of meeting the real needs of people.
- If your church is genuinely meeting needs, then attendance will be the least of your problems – you'll have to lock the doors to keep people out.
- When it comes to using felt needs as an open door for evangelism, the possibilities are limitless.

He then identifies over seventy targeted ministries of his church to the crowd and community, each built around a specific need.

He mentioned five support groups:

- “Empty Arms” for couples dealing with miscarriage and still births.*
- “Peacemakers” is an outreach to meet the needs of people in law enforcement.*
- “Hope for the Separated” ministers to people who are trying to save their marriage after a partner has walked out.*
- “Life-lines” seeks to meet the needs of troubled teenagers.*
- “Celebrate Recovery” ministers to people struggling with alcoholism, drug dependency, and other abuses.*

Wherever you may go around the world, you will discover that people feel the same emotional and relational needs. People need to be loved and accepted. They are looking for forgiveness and a sense of meaning, self-expression and a purpose for living.

People are also looking for freedom from fear, guilt, worry, resentment, discouragement, and loneliness. If your church is meeting these kind of needs, you won't have to worry about advertising your services.

Changed lives are the church's greatest advertisement.



Chapter 14

Revival in Iran

REVIVAL IN IRAN

For the last few years, researchers have credited the underground church in Iran as the fastest growing Christian church in the world. It has unique characteristics that defy comparison with churches in America and Europe, and in the opinion of some who know it well, the church in the West could learn by studying it.

“The fastest growing church in the world has taken root in one of the most unexpected and radicalized nations on earth,” according to *“Sheep Among Wolves,”* the outstanding two-hour documentary about the revival that has taken place inside Iran. *“The Iranian awakening is a rapidly reproducing discipleship movement that owns no property or buildings, has no central leadership, and is predominantly led by women.”* The documentary was produced by Frontier Alliance International (FAI), which supports disciple-making teams targeting the *“unreached”* and *“unengaged”* within the 10/40 Window. There is a mass exodus leaving Islam for Christianity within Iran, according to FAI. *“What if I told you Islam is dead?”* one unidentified Iranian church leader says on the film. *“What if I told you the mosques are empty inside Iran? What if I told you no one follows Islam inside of Iran? Would you believe me? This is exactly what is happening inside of Iran. God is moving powerfully inside of Iran.”*

Many of the ruling class still follow Islam, *“because that’s where the high paying jobs are,”* according to the film, but the majority of the ordinary people love God and recognize that Islam is the problem.

“What if I told you the best evangelist for Jesus was the Ayatollah Khomeini?” an Iranian church leader asks. He maintains the ayatollahs brought the true face of Islam to light and people discovered it was a lie, a deception. “After 40 years under Islamic law — a utopia according to them — they’ve had the worst devastation in the 5,000-year history of Iran.”

Efforts by the ayatollahs to destroy Christianity have backfired but have served to refine and purify the church. *“What persecution did was destroy the church that were not disciples, and destroy the church that were about converts,” the Iranian church leader noted. “All these church planters found out that converts run away from persecution, but disciples would die for the Lord in persecution. So, our model inside Iran is that we don’t convert to disciple, we disciple so we can convert.”*

Often a disciple making movement (DMM) begins the first moment someone comes into contact with an unbeliever. *“When we do DMM, Jesus has gone faster than us. He has come in their dreams, or he’s come miraculously in their lives. When we hear this, we know that Jesus has gone ahead of us.”*

Surprisingly, their emphasis is not planting churches; it is making disciples. *“He is letting unbelievers lead other unbelievers to himself and the kingdom of God. If you plant churches, you might make disciples. But if you make disciples, you will plant churches,” the Iranian church leader said.*

“One thing powerful with DMM is that it is obedience-based discipleship. It is based on the authority of Scripture and every time you read the Scripture, you must obey it. This is how people become conformed to the image of Christ and sanctified.

They are not just reading the Bible for information. They are reading the Bible to get transformed.”

About 55% of the disciple makers are women, according to one Iranian leader. *“What's fascinating right now is that the most powerful leaders in Iran are women, but it's not in a bombastic, humanistic way...in fact, they are the most gentle women. They are leading this movement, going out in the highways and byways sharing with prostitutes, drug addicts, with everybody they come into contact with, and that takes courage. They are courageous women.”*

The women leaders in Iran have not embraced a feminist theology, according to one of the U.S.-based leaders with FAI *“In a biblical way they are submissive to proper structure and the order of the church, but when it comes to what Satan is doing, they are fierce. These are not like modern angry liberal women that are just upset. No, there is a gentleness and submissiveness that is beautiful and follows the biblical pattern.”* The film cites one Iranian couple that had the opportunity to move to the U.S. After living in America for a matter of months, the wife decided she wanted to move back to Iran, telling her surprised husband: *“There is a satanic lullaby here. All the Christians are sleepy and I'm feeling sleepy.”*

One leader with FIA notes the alarming nature of her conclusion. *“That story was disturbing because that woman was discerning a threat to her faith that was a greater threat than the kind of persecution that happens in Iran. She saw that spiritual sleepiness is a greater threat to her faith than persecution.”*

“When we walk outside, we really don't care if we get arrested, we are not upset if we get arrested. What is 50 years in prison compared to eternity with Jesus?”

The filmmakers contend the church in Iran offers wisdom to impart. *“I believe that what is happening in the church in Iran is going to become a measuring stick for the global body of Christ. It is not something we will be able to admire from afar. It is going to be something we are required to participate in. It is going to disrupt our lives,”* one U.S.-based leader with FAI says.

Summary

Discipleship and Training Material for the three stages in the Discipleship Multiplication Vision.

- a) Consolidation Programme
New Life in Christ
Authority of the Believer
- b) Encounter Process
7 Reasons Why Every Christian
Should Speak in Tongues
Freedom from Bondage
- c) Leadership Training Programme
Church Growth Through
Discipleship
The Making of a Disciple

ABOUT THE AUTHOR



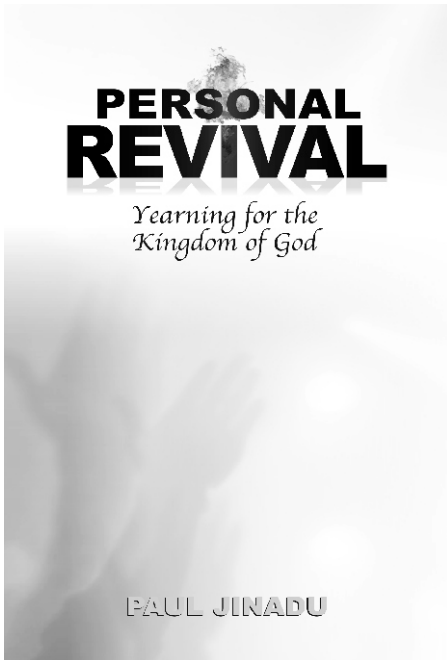
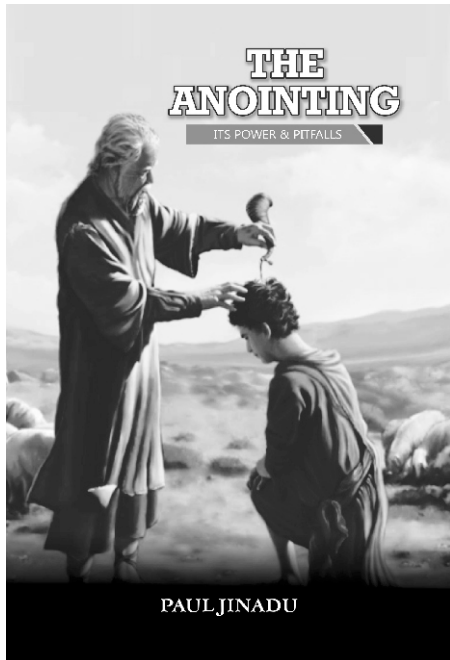
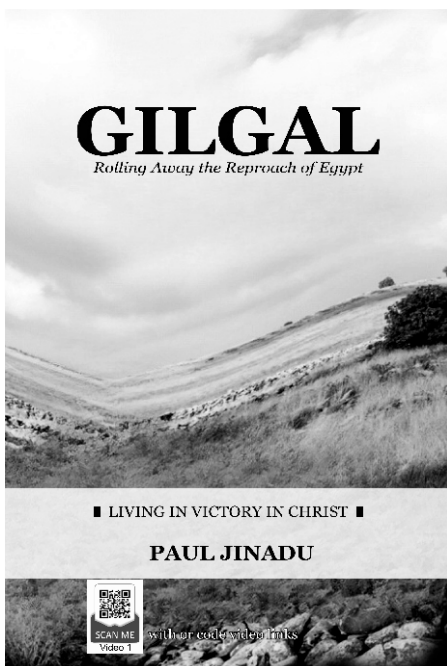
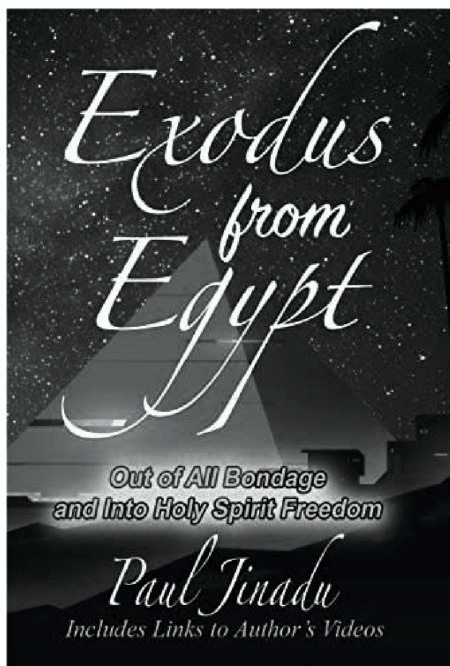
Rev. Dr. Paul Jinadu was born a Muslim in Lagos, Nigeria. He became a Christian after Jesus appeared to him, and he then abandoned his pursuit of a medical education in the United Kingdom.

He went to The Bible College of Wales, Swansea in 1962 and later also studied theology at The London Bible College, where he graduated in 1972. He married Kate who he met in Bible College, and they returned to Nigeria as Missionaries in 1966. They first worked with the Apostolic Church in Lagos, and then extensively with the Foursquare Gospel Church as pastors and church planters.

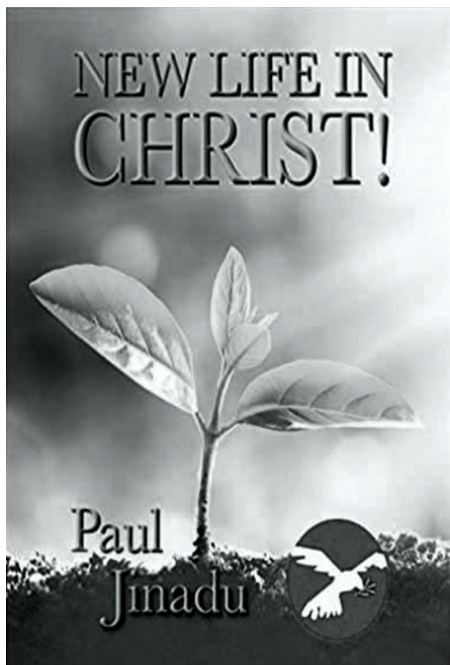
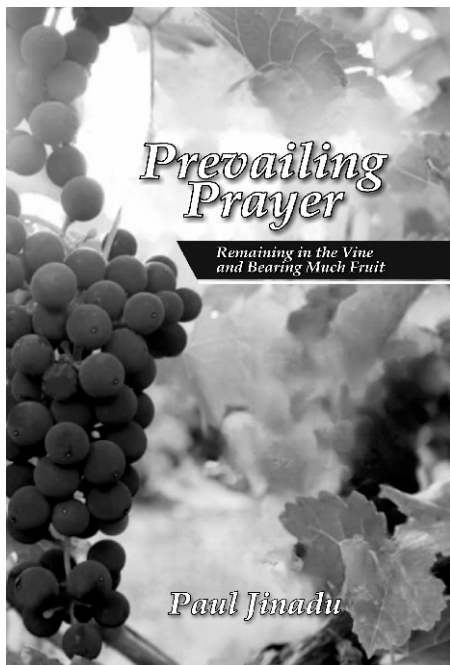
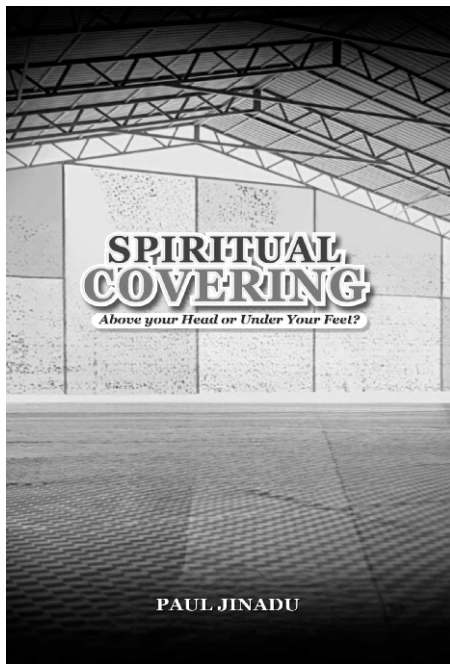
They returned to the UK in the early 80's, with Brother Paul going all over the country as a travelling evangelist and conference speaker. Kate, meanwhile, was involved in leading people to Christ through The Christian Coffee Club in York. In 1985, at the invitation of many of his disciples, Brother Paul started the New Covenant Church in Nigeria, and a year later in the UK. He now oversees hundreds of churches in around 50 nations of the world. HE was the second President of the African and Caribbean Evangelical Alliance in the UK. He is an Apostle, spiritual father, and mentor to many pastors across the globe; a sought-after speaker and author of, *I have Seen the Lord*, and many other books. He conducts leadership seminars and training all over the world.

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Missionaries in 1966. In 1985 Paul started the New Covenant Church in Nigeria and a year later in the UK. He now oversees hundreds of churches in around 50 nations.

He is an apostle, spiritual father, and mentor to many pastors across the globe.

CHURCH GROWTH THROUGH DISCIPLESHIP

Mark 3:13-15, ¹³“Jesus went up on a mountainside and called to him those he wanted, and they came to him. ¹⁴He appointed twelve that they might be with him and that he might send them out to preach ¹⁵and to have authority to drive out demons.”

Jesus called them to be with Him so he might train them, and then sent them out to win souls for the kingdom and turn them into disciples, like themselves. He chose 12 disciples, who in turn won new converts and turned them into disciples. So, the cycle of multiplication is meant to continue ad infinitum.



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