

Dear Friends,

The population of the earth as of March 2008 is over 6.6 billion people. Church growth is not keeping pace with the population growth. Dr. Terry Taylor of the Navigators says,

“The size of the task is changing and the distinction we have made between professionals (pastors) and the laity (church members) is a barrier to reaching the lost. Both leaders and laity are aware of the problem within the church that the ministry by in large is in the hands of the professionals and not the laity. Laymen and women are serving the professionals by helping them to accomplish their vision, ministry, and programs. Instead of serving where they are gifted.

Most pastors are serious about Ephesians 4:11-12. The primary job description for gifted leaders is that they equip the saints for works of service. If the saints are not doing the works of service then we are not equipping them adequately. Something is wrong. Who is serving whom?



The 1st reformation was largely characterized by getting the Bible out of the hands of the professionals and into the hands of the laity. **The 2<sup>nd</sup> reformation must be characterized by getting the ministry out of the hands of the professionals and into the hands of the laity.** The problem is like a two-sided coin. On the one side, we professionals must recognize that our primary job description is to equip the laity for the work of service in their natural spheres of influence. We must remember who is serving whom.



The other side of the coin rests with the laity. Apathy and complacency are rampant in the church today. The responsibility of the laity can no longer be abdicated. As a believer, each person must accept their God given mandate to be involved in Christ's Great Commission for their generation. **Not to do this paves the way for apathy and an academic faith (all knowledge, no action), one of the deadliest dangers in the church.**



It's very simple a person does not give his life to that which he does not own. Not only should the professional own it, but each of the laity as well. The size of the task is changing and only a movement of this magnitude, a movement of God through the ministering laity to the lost, is going to make a difference”

Discipleship International's desire is to be at the forefront of such a movement. DI continues to work with pastors, leaders, laymen and women, helping them to fulfill the mandate God has given them. Please continue to pray for DI, as we are hard pressed to keep up with the demand to send equippers into the various churches that are asking for help. The process of training equippers is not quick, it cannot be done overnight. It

takes two or more years to train an equipper, and finding people who have the desire to grow in this way can be challenging. Presently we have 32 equippers who are involved with 40 ETS (Equip To Serve)

groups throughout the lower mainland and by God's grace we will continue to raise up more and to move ahead, "Making Disciples Of All Nations", despite the trends of our day.



Steven Equipping Another

**Prayer Requests:**

- Pray that seasoned equippers will be physically refreshed over the summer.
- Pray that young equippers will take hold of the vision of "Making Disciples Of All Nations"
- Pray that new equippers will be added to our team.
- Pray that DI maintains the mission of: *"Winning, Building and Mobilizing"*
- Pray for our foreign missions work in the Netherlands, Mexico, and Guatemala.

**Upcoming Events to Be A Part Of:**

- **June 14<sup>th</sup> the ½ Day of Prayer** will start at 8:30 am at Fraserlands Church in Vancouver located on 3330 Marine Drive.

- **June 21<sup>st</sup> the DI Grad Celebration** will take place at 6:00 pm at 1460 W.49<sup>th</sup> Ave., in Vancouver, at Trinity Baptist Church.

- **June 28<sup>th</sup> the DI Annual Picnic** will be held at 1:00 pm, Woodward's Landing in Richmond.

- **July 05 – 18 Mission Trip Pinotepa Mexico**



Chelsea Training To Be An Equipper



Dave Encouraging Future Equippers

**May the Lord continue to bless you as we await His return!  
 Love in the Lord,  
 The Team of DI**