

Dear Friends and Family,

It has been awhile since I corresponded with you as I have been like a fish out of water as we patiently wait for our home to be completed after the fire last August. Despite this God has been expanding Discipleship International in new and exciting ways. Please enjoy as I share some of the highlights of the ministry this year.



Leader's retreat in March

We now have Equip To Serve groups running in Chinese, Spanish and Korean in the lower mainland along with our 33 current groups in English. Our English books are undergoing an exciting transformation as we update the look and feel of the books without changing the strong Biblically based content.

I will be travelling to Mexcio this summer to visit, encourage and continue to train the leaders of Discipleship International Mexico. Valdemar the Director in Mexico has come on staff with DI full-time and the fruit is apparent as groups are expanding all around the Tehuacan area.

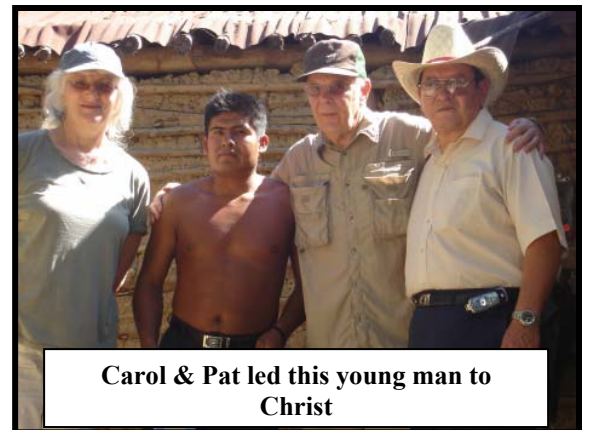
We are also sending a team to Guatemala in a joint effort with our Mexican brothers. We will be working with the church in Guatemala City to help in "Discipleship Training". We received an e-mail recently from a Pastor in Guatemala who said, "We have been heavily evangelised but our people are comfortable and need to be challenged and discipled to maturity in their faith." Sounds familiar to the needs in Canada as well. There is a real push in Discipleship Training and we are excited to play a small part in meeting this need, in the body of Christ.

Further in the year I will be leading a team again to Pinotepa, Mexico to continue to build into the church along with our team from Tehuacan. Another team will be heading to Haiti to work in an orphanage where one of our staff is involved and is presently adopting two children.

We had a half day of prayer on March 24th and more than 70 people joined us in spending an uninterrupted half day of prayer with God. We would like to invite you to our next one on **June 9th at Burnaby Pacific Grace Church.**

Our leader's retreat at Loon Lake brought our leaders' together from around B.C. and Pastor Jim Postlewaite from Peace Portal Alliance Church took us through training in relational leadership. It was also a great time of encouragement for leaders' from around the Lower Mainland. Our next one will be in August and we will be going through "A Growing Marriage" conference by Gary Chapman both to encourage our married leaders in their marriages and the single leaders in their relationships and to train them to help their students in these areas.

Discipleship is about coming along side another believer and this means helping them in times of need as well as rejoicing with them when times are good. Our leaders are dealing with the whole person, people who need their encouragement to finish the race strong. I believe discipleship to be one of the most testing ministries because we are dealing closely with the daily struggles and tests that each person is going through. In Phillipians it reminds us that ... Each of us should look not only to our own interests but also to the interests of others.



Carol & Pat led this young man to Christ

One example of this is how Belinda Poon one of our staff members has come along beside May Chan. May shares the results of spending time with God as a result of personal discipleship.



I started my journey in the “Equip To Serve” discipleship training three years ago. At that time, I did not think too much about it. I thought I should know most of the teaching since I called myself a Christian for the last 30 years. The only two things that worried me were 1) memorizing the bible verses. (I am a little rusty in scripture memory) and 2) witnessing.

To my surprise, after I finished the first book, I could not believe my spiritual life was totally transformed. Besides getting confirmation of what I really believed in, I was also provided with tools to get to know God in a very systematic way. My bible studies and my prayer times with God were so intimate, that many times; I felt I was talking to God on the phone. He used the Holy Spirit to give me wisdom to clear up many of my own doubts.

He also used other people to give me answers to my questions like Belinda and my small group members.

Now I am almost finished book six and I am able to remember and quote all 65 verses, which totally surprised me!

I find myself reading the bible consistently, journaling each time and praying to God about everything. Sometimes, I can spend three to four hours reading the bible without losing interest. I can use the Bible verses (mostly God’s promises and commands) to encourage others and myself when I have felt lost. The most amazing thing is that I no longer have a fear of sharing the Gospel with others. As Paul said *“I am not ashamed of the Gospel because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile.”*- Romans 1:16. God has provided opportunities for me to go over the bridge illustration with non- believers. Most of the time, I knew it was the right moment for me to do it. One has accepted Christ so far. Now God has given me another challenge to go to Kuwait to bear testimony to the Chinese community and help new believers to be rooted in His Word, by using the discipleship principles I was taught.

I thank God for Discipleship International, whose members have devoted their lives to make this teaching and training available to all who believe.

May is one example of what can happen when God is front and centre in our lives. We are excited about co-labouring with the Lord in making disciples of all nations and give God all the glory in using us to bring people like May to a closer relationship with Him and equipping her for ministry.

Thank-you for your encouragement, love, prayers and support in this ministry of DI and may you be blessed as you reach out to those in your mission field.

May the Lord continue to strengthen and encourage you as we await His return.

Yours in the Lord,

George Baarschers

Praise & Prayer requests:

- Chinese, Spanish, Korean and English discipleship training classes starting up this fall
- Mission trip to Guatemala: a strong relationship can begin with the church there.
- Trip to Mexico, health and strength
- Setting up a main office
- New leaders for ETS course
- Networking with new churches who need help in the area of discipleship
- Our home would be completed soon

Upcoming Events:

- > ½ day of prayer June 9
- > DI graduation June 16th
- > DI picnic June 30th