



WORLDWIDE
CHURCH OF GOD

Living and Sharing the Gospel

GC2 equipper

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The monthly ministry development ezine of WCG-USA Church Administration and Development
Equipping workers and leaders for Great Commandment—Great Commission ministry

Introducing GC2 equipper



Dan Rogers

As we near the end of 2006 I want to extend my sincere thanks to the ministry workers, ministry leaders and pastoral leaders of the WCG-USA. It has been a challenging year for us all; yet an inspiring and fruitful one of grace and growth. This is due in no small part to each of you. Your faithful service within our part of the body of Christ is deeply appreciated. It is my privilege to serve with you.

In support of your ministry, CAD is restructuring (see page 4) and also publishing *GC2 equipper*. You are reading our first issue. This monthly ezine (electronic magazine) is designed to equip you—your heart (character), your head (knowledge) and your hands (skill) for growth in what we refer to as *GC2 ministry*. This is ministry that...

- embraces Jesus and expresses his love in accordance with the *Great Commandment* (1John 3:23; 4:16-21; John 15:12, 17).
- advances Jesus' disciplemaking priorities and patterns in accordance with the *Great Commission* Matthew 28:18-20).

GC2 equipper will focus on the practical 'nuts and bolts' aspects of the multiple ministries serving our congregations. In that way it supplements the theological/doctrinal focus of *Good Shepherding*; the church news focus of *Together* and Joseph Tkach's *Weekly Update*; and the Christian living focus of *Christian Odyssey*.

GC2 equipper is edited by Ted Johnston with contributions from CAD's *ministry development* and *pastoral administration* teams; from sources outside the WCG; and from you our readers. Please let us hear from you.

- Send short articles, testimonies, tips, resource recommendations and questions related to GC2 ministry to Ted.Johnston@wcg.org. Feel free to write material yourself—we're glad to provide the editing.
- We invite your comments and questions concerning what you read here. Please send them to Ted.Johnston@wcg.org. We'll publish some of these to get a dialogue going. Let's talk!

Please pass this issue on to others. It has been emailed to all senior pastors, pastoral team members, and several ministry leaders. In the future we'll let you know of a website where you can download *GC2 equipper* and/or sign up to receive it regularly by email.

—Dan Rogers, CAD director, superintendent of U.S. ministers

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GC2 ministry

Embracing Jesus and expressing his love:
The Great Commandment

Advancing Jesus' disciplemaking priorities and patterns:
The Great Commission

Q & A: Tips and Resources

In this regular column we'll answer questions, provide practical tips and recommend helpful resources. Our goal is to equip you for GC2 ministry in the 'real world' of your WCG congregation and local community.

Most of our congregations are small and challenged to provide necessary congregational ministries. Yet the Lord is good and provides for our needs. We pray that this column will be part of his abundant provision.

The resources we'll recommend here will include books, articles and other resources from non-WCG sources. While our recommendations do not constitute full endorsement, we think these resources will benefit your ministry and are worthy of your time and consideration.



Dan Reiland

Q: How do we help people in an increasingly materialistic and self-centered culture become and remain devoted followers of Christ?

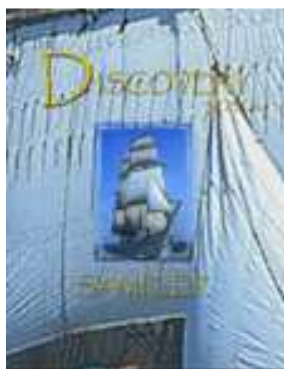
A: It's a challenge the Holy Spirit is well able to meet. And he calls us to join with him in 'making disciples who make disciples.' Yet our part is increasingly challenging for reasons Dr. Dan Reiland addresses in, *Has Conversion Become Complicated?*

In this article in "*The Pastors' Coach*," Dr. Reiland notes that while the gospel never changes, our discipling methods must because the culture changes. In particular, he recommends that churches...

- Don't assume anything (old methods may not work)
- Don't rush the process (discipling takes time)
- Remove all pretense (get real—take off the masks)
- Emphasize grace (it's all about the gospel)
- Provide a faith-producing environment

See his full article at www.injoy.com/newsletters/pastors/content/#1

An excellent resource to use in discipling seekers and believers is CCBT's *Discovery series*; see www.ccbt.org/the_discovery_series.htm. A version with custom WCG covers may be ordered by telephoning (888) 422-2896.



Discovery series

Q: We use CD's to accompany our worship singing. Any advice?

A: Here are some tips and resources:

- Use CD's that are easy to sing along with. Many CD's are not designed for that purpose—they feature performance, not sing-along music. They may have complex rhythms that are hard to follow and lengthy instrumental bridges that leave the audience hanging. Also, they may be in musical keys that most singers cannot match (too high or too low). So choose with care—try out the CD in advance with some average singers. Be sure it will work for your intended audience.

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WholeHearted Worship

GC2 Strategy: Cultivating Events

GC2 ministry strategy involves a balance of winning the lost; building believers; equipping workers; and multiplying leaders, ministries and congregations. Here we address winning the lost to Christ, which involves sharing God's love with nonbelievers.

This sharing occurs as we live an *eternal CPR* lifestyle:

- Cultivating friendships
- Planting truth about Jesus into the lives of those friends
- Reaping a disciple by challenging those friends to respond to the truth of the gospel by placing their trust in Jesus

Congregations can equip members in the attitudes and skills that accompany the eternal CPR lifestyle (see the box below, right). They can also host cultivating, planting and reaping events to assist members in reaching out to non-believing friends.

The WCG congregation meeting in Tipp City, OH (CrossRoads Christian Fellowship) recently hosted two cultivating events. Here's CrossRoads senior pastor Jim Valekis' report:

For some time we've been reaching out to our community through cultivating events. We held two recently. The first was a block party. We invited the neighborhood around our meeting place to a day of food and fun.

It was an event both for and by the community. We set grills in the front yard and cooked chicken—the cook was a non-member friend of the congregation. We got permission from the neighbors and the city to block off the street, our worship band played upbeat Christian music and we rented a giant "jumping playground" for the kids. Lots of friendships were started.

Our second cultivating event is a continuing ballroom dance class held in our church building. My daughter, Ashley, had been taking college dance classes and they needed some guys to fill in. So her Dad was drug in (literally) to help out. The class turned out to be a place to "cultivate" relationships for Christ (including with the instructor) and that led to us hosting the class in our church building.

We advertised in the paper and at the block party and several unchurched couples from Tipp City and neighboring communities came to the first class. Several member couples also came, using the class to build friendships with unchurched people. One male member commented that he didn't participate because he was excited about dancing (although it turned out to be fun). He saw his participation as an opportunity to do ministry.



Congregations can host cultivating, planting and reaping events to assist members in reaching out to non-believers.

If your congregation has not participated in an **Everyday Commandment** seminar (which teaches the attitudes and skills of eternal CPR) you may schedule one by contacting your DPL or the CAD office at church.administration@wcg.org

He didn't participate because he was excited about dancing but as an opportunity to do ministry.

Q & A continued from page 2

- Be careful how you sequence songs. If there is a change from one musical key to another, does the change sound OK? If not, provide a break between songs (prayer, scripture reading, etc.).
- We recommend (among others) CD's from **WholeHearted Worship**. They publish several worship CD's—some with contemporary choruses; some with traditional hymns (in contemporary styles). See www.wholeheartedworship.com/. Some of their CD's provide worship sets of multiple songs so you can let the CD run through a full set (avoiding changing CD's or jumping tracks). Their song progressions provide good worship flow and appropriate key changes that are easy to sing with.

Q: What are some good CD's to use for hymn singing during the Advent/Christmas season?

A: The 2006 Advent season includes the four Sundays of December 3, 10, 17 and 24 followed by Christmas on the 25th. This is a great time for hymns and choruses celebrating Jesus' *comings*: his future coming in glory, his present coming to us through the Spirit, and his historic coming in the flesh through his incarnation and birth.

There are, of course, many classic/traditional Christmas songs and carols celebrating Jesus' birth. 30 of these in traditional choral style are on an inexpensive split-track CD, **Classic Christmas Carols** available from Christian Book Distributors at www.christianbook.com/Christian/Books/product?item_no=010233&event=CF#curr

Q: Where can I go for good sermon ideas?

A: Check out www.sermoncentral.com/. If you're preaching from the lectionary, a good site is <http://desperatepreacher.com/>. Use all such sites with discretion.

We strongly recommend giving expository sermons that accurately 'expose' and then apply to your audience a primary passage of Scripture. To help you prepare expository sermons and Bible studies, Ted Johnston sends out about three times a month an email "Sermon Series." It provides notes related to the exegesis and application of a passage of scripture—usually part of a series covering an entire book of the Bible. Send your sign-up request to Ted.Johnston@wgc.org.

CAD Restructuring

Church Administration and Development (CAD) is restructuring to provide WCG-USA church leaders and congregations with pastoral administration and ministry development services to supervise and equip them in GC2 ministry.

Here are some key points about our new **pastoral administration** system:

- The primary leader of each congregation is directly supervised by the denomination. We refer to this leader as a **congregational pastoral leader (CPL)**.
- In recent years each CPL has been supervised by one of 10 district superintendents. Under our new structure (to be implemented fully by spring 2007), CPL's will be supervised by a **district pastoral leader (DPL)**.
- Each DPL will be supervised and supported by a **regional pastoral leader (RPL)**. There are four pastoral regions and RPL's: West (Ken Williams), Northeast (Dave Fiedler), Southeast (Keith Brittain) and Spanish (Lorenzo Arroyo). RPL's will meet with DPL's on a regular basis to provide supervision and support.
- 30 DPL's will work in 30 geographic districts that include about 10 CPL's forming a **district pastoral network (DPN)**.
- DPN's will meet five or six times a year for mutual support, sharing and accountability. In addition, DPL's will provide CPL's with personal supervision and relational support.
- DPL's will supervise CPL's in addition to pastoring their own congregation(s). We deeply appreciate their willingness to take on both assignments and we appreciate the support given by their congregations in releasing their pastors to give some of their time to this essential ministry.
- CPL's and DPL's will be equipped for their GC2 ministry leadership responsibilities by CAD's new **ministry development team** that includes multiple **ministry developers (MD's)**.
- The MD's will conduct training seminars and conferences and provide online and DVD training tools. Read more about the ministry development team in the next issue of *GC2 equipper*.