



NEWSLETTER

Faith Christian Fellowship International

VOLUME 1 Sept. – Dec. 2022

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FCFI CONFERENCE

The Year of Renewable Strength
August 10, 11, 12



In This Issue

- Who Cares? By FCFI President Bill Salsbery
- 8 Key Questions to ask every Monday
- Assimilation Strategy
- Discipleship by Bishop Tim Cummings

Who Cares?

Article written by FCFI President Bill Salsbery

Sometimes wisdom and truth jump out at you. And it can come from some unusual sources. For instance, one of our long-ago U.S. Presidents (#26) was known as a Rough Rider. He fought and proved himself in the Spanish-American War of 1898. A quote that has always inspired me is this: "It is not the critic who counts, not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles, or where the doer of deeds could have done better. The credit belongs to the man in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood; who strives valiantly...who knows the great enthusiasms, the great devotions; who spends himself in a worthy cause; who at best knows in the end the triumph of high achievement, and who at the worst, if he fails at least fails while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who have never known neither victory or defeat."

Those words move me! But so does a much shorter quote from Mr. Roosevelt: "Nobody cares how much you know, until they know how much you care!"

I think about the story recorded in Mark 2:1-11. The paralyzed man on a pallet was intrigued by the stories of Jesus healing people, but it wasn't until four friends were willing to work, sweat and take a risk that he saw how much Jesus, and his four friends, cared.

Caring can be defined as having a deep and genuine concern for the welfare of another person. The Apostle Peter had been touched by the love and forgiveness of Jesus in such a way that he wrote: "Casting all your care on Him because He cares for you" (1 Peter 5:7)

Once a person is impacted by the love of Jesus and is changed by His grace, then a new adventure begins to emerge in a person's heart. It's the thrill of being used to help others and serve. No longer is the personal desire just to live for oneself and get whatever you can out of life. Rather a new desire begins to grow – a desire that is God-given and God-like. It's the adventure of "carrying one another's burdens and so fulfilling the law of Christ" (Gal. 6:2) So, who cares? Jesus does and we can too! Let the church be like Jesus!



"Caring can be defined as having a deep and genuine concern for the welfare of another person."

8 Questions to Ask Every Monday (source unknown)

Here are 8 questions that a pastor can ask every Monday that will help in reaching and developing people.

1. Who's new...that I should meet?
2. Who's missing...that I should call?
3. Who's hurting...that I should encourage?
4. Who's serving...that I should thank?
5. Who's emerging...that I should believe in?
6. Who's rising...that I should equip?
7. Who's reliable...that I should empower?
8. Who's faithful...that I should promote?



10 Key Questions for Spiritual Health by Pastor Gary Auten

Here are 10 questions that will help in keeping you spiritually healthy.

1. Do I have a THE time and THE place to meet with God?
2. Do I find myself going to the bible to feed myself or only to feed others?
3. Do I still do the secret things and keep them a secret? (Giving, Praying, Fasting)
4. How much time and what resource am I using weekly to build and encourage myself?
5. On a scale of 1 to 10 how is my physical health?
6. How long has it been since I spent an hour in prayer?
7. Who exactly, besides my spouse, challenges me in my thought processes and decisions?
8. How long has it been since I confessed my weaknesses to a fellow minister?
9. Can I receive freely or am I struggling with being critical toward others?
10. Have I healed from the last battle/attack I went through or is there bitterness?

Assimilation Strategy

By Pastor Gary Auten

The following is an example of an assimilation strategy for guests and visitors at Heartland Church located in Sharpville, IN.

Guest and First Time Visitors (Process)

1. Greeters ready with connection cards
2. Kid's ministry booth/table sign-up
3. Connection cards mentioned with announcements and mentioned in pre-service video
4. Connection cards collected in offering or turned in at the welcome center
5. Immediately after service connection cards given to pastor
6. Pastor texts or emails immediately on Sunday before leaving the building (if approved by guests on connection cards)
7. Greeting letter goes out on Monday from the church secretary signed by pastor
8. Call from church after Wednesday
9. Second week postcard mailed from church
10. Quarterly meeting with the pastor with all
— guests/visitors (meal or social event)

Newsletter Information

This Newsletter will be published online quarterly. The website address is www.fcfi.org. If you prefer to receive a hardcopy newsletter via mail, please notify the office. A general email will be sent out to communicate when the newsletter has been updated. The purpose of the newsletter is to communicate FCFI news, to encourage and strengthen FCFI ministers and churches and highlight ministries and missionaries. If you would like to contribute an article or have an idea for an upcoming issue, please contact Pastor Gary Auten at gauten@heartlandpeople.com.

The Mission of FCFI

Our Mission at FCFI is to develop a fellowship of strong believers to send out as laborers in the field. FCFI's desire is to unify these strong believers into a network that encourages and equips for the furtherance of the Kingdom of God. It is our hope that if we follow the command from our LORD in Mark and Matthew to go into the world then and only then will we show the love of God. A strong body is developed by all of the body parts participating for the common goal as in Ephesians 4:11-16.

"Sending laborers around the world armed with tools to win the lost and raising them up to reap for Christ."



Discipleship

Article by Bishop Tim Cummings

What is Discipleship? According to the World Wide Web discipleship is being a follower, one who accepts and assists to spreading the doctrines of another. Before someone can disciple another person or be disciplined themselves, they must become a Christian by asking Jesus to forgive their sins and to be in charge of their life. Then to be disciplined we must submit, follow, be taught, and accept mentorship on the doctrine of Jesus Christ by a qualified Christian disciple who is and has been disciplined. The areas I believe people need to be disciplined in start with the basics; the Word of God, repentance, faith, water baptism, prayer, fasting, communion, stewardship, tithing, the new covenant relationship, fellowship, and discipleship. Today's Christians do not know the basics. I believe that is the reason why they do not stay in church. Only 25% of today's Christians believe the Word of God is the inspired Word of God, coming directly from Him, through the Holy Ghost. Sadly, 56% of today's Christians believe there are errors in the Word of God and cannot be trusted. Once again, I believe it is because they have not been disciplined properly. Once we have covered the basics, we need to disciple Christians in evangelism, God, Jesus, the Holy Ghost, Holy Spirit baptism, motivational gifts, manifestation gifts, Holy Ghost gifts, the fruit of the Spirit, divine healing, praise, worship, marriage, parenting, church discipline, and forgiveness. We will never stop being disciplined, because once we are through the basics there are so many other areas that need to be taught. They are all discipleship class worthy. The basics are like going through the first grade to the fifth grade. Then the discipleship classes start getting more advanced. We continue through sixth, seventh and eighth grades. Then there is high school; ninth through twelfth grade discipleship; then college discipleship, master's degree discipleship, and then continued education discipleship. It's really a lifelong continuance of discipleship. Even Bible College is a discipleship because they are teaching more in-depth knowledge of the Bible. There are so many areas to cover in discipleship; it would take volumes of books to cover them all. I am presently working on a book covering discipleship training for the church, and it only scratches the surface of the things that need to be covered.

62% of parents stated that children's ministry was "very important" when choosing a new church

Barna Research

65% of children's ministry leaders agree "Churches cannot grow without effective children's ministry"

Barna Research

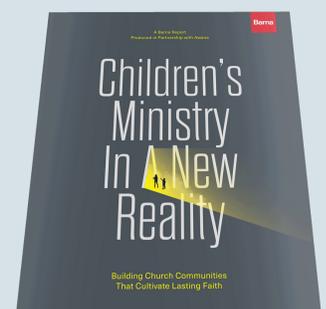
54% of parents stated that my child's time in children's ministry is as important as mine in service

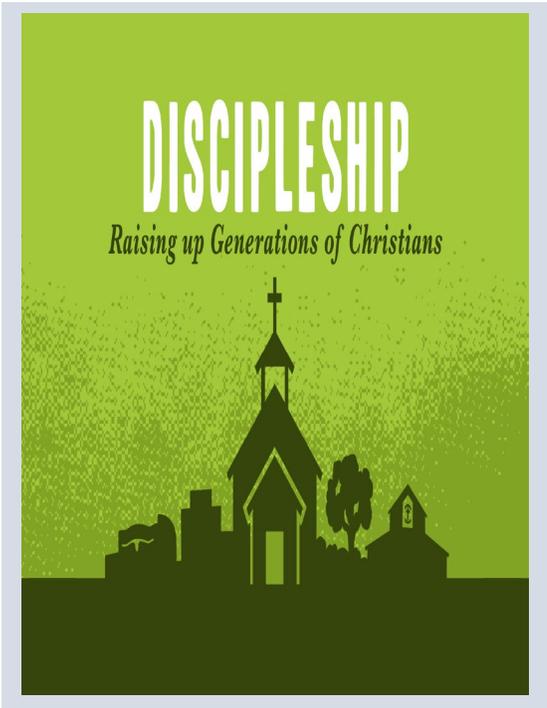
Barna Research

Over half of children's ministry leaders say Kids' Ministry is often forgotten

Barna Research

New Book! A Barna Report Produced in Partnership with Awana. Building Church Communities That Cultivate Lasting Faith.





Mentoring: Reproducing What We Are

Written by Pastor Gary Auten

Jesus began his ministry by calling disciples to come and follow Him. His calling went out then and is still heard today through the individuals committed to a lifestyle called Christianity. A Christian's primary purpose is to preach the gospel and disciple those who are saved. If we fail to function in our most basic callings such as, evangelism and discipliship, then our Christian experience will be less effective and quite possibly frustrating. We are responsible as converts of Christ to convert others. What about after conversion? Jesus invested three years of time, effort, and energy to impart his life into twelve men. Problems such as backsliding, heresy, and unbalanced faith are the result of the lack of discipleship. Furthermore, the availability of Christians to allow themselves to be discipled is also a trouble that contributes to absentee Christians. A commitment is required to be disciples and to make disciples. Jesus not only required a commitment from his disciples but also committed himself to make disciples.

Discipleship's primary purpose is to develop the character and attributes of Jesus in someone's life. Discipleship isn't a one time event or class in which the believer declares "I'm discipled!". Paul said, "Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ". This is a mentoring statement that requires time and investment in order to make disciples.

Where is the On-Ramp?

Written by Pastor Gary Auten

Does your church have a specific plan for believers to grow in Christ? Can everyone in your church state that plan? I have been on long trips before and in an unfamiliar place when I needed to make a stop and get off the interstate highway. Once I take the exit, refill my tank with gas and get something to eat I am ready to get back on the highway. Sometimes the on-ramp is not as well marked as the exit was. I have had several people with me and even with everyone directing me somehow, we would still miss the on-ramp back to the highway. When signage and directions are not clear it can be very frustrating. Take a moment and think about if you have a clearly marked on-ramp for discipleship. Is it ambiguous and hard to find? Are there several opinions about what discipleship looks like? Let's provide believers a concise plan and clear expectations about how to follow Jesus.



Growing Together

The wisdom of the words of Dennis Brown still rings true today "No man is an island. No man stands alone." In 2022 it is imperative that every pastor, missionary, and minister be connected to the body. FCFI provides the covering and connection for ministry leaders to come together. Barna research tells us that 42% of pastors have considered quitting the ministry in the past year. Barna also states that 43% of pastors feel lonely and isolated.

Do you know a someone in ministry who is an island? Pray and consider who you might invite into fellowship with FCFI. We are stronger together! Membership and information can be found at www.fcfi.org