



PREFACE

It has often been said, 'the Church in Africa is a mile wide and an inch deep.' But why has Africa been singled out? A similar comment could be made about much of Asia, Europe or the West. Or perhaps even a less complimentary observation more along the lines of 'a tenth of a mile wide and still only an inch deep.'

Lack of depth and maturity in the worldwide church is a major problem. Very few Christians really know their Bibles well or can apply the Word to their daily lives. Few really live as 'salt and light' in a dark world. Most make little impact for the Kingdom or know how to share their faith simply and in such a way that people want to listen. Sadly many are not even aware their Christian lives could be any different and so they live frustrated lives.

Where has the church gone wrong?

Could it be that we have failed to follow what Jesus commanded? His very last command before He returned to heaven was very simple 'Go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father, Son and Spirit and teaching them all I have commanded you. And surely I am with you even to the end of the age' (Matt. 28:19-20).





1-2-1 DISCIPLESHIP

A person's last words before they die or leave should be important and Jesus certainly wasn't going to waste the opportunity when His disciples were listening so intently. Of all the things that Jesus could have said, He commanded, 'go and make disciples.' There is no mention of making church buildings or setting up denominations or ordaining church leaders or attending Bible college or even of getting lots of people 'to make decisions' for Christ.

Make disciples – Jesus knew that if His disciples did that, then all else that might be necessary (such as having church leaders) would follow on. If we get the discipling part right then the church will grow and the church can become wide AND deep, giving life and refreshment instead of only disappointment and frustration.

This book aims to explain what discipleship is and give practical guidelines for discipling others. I feel compelled to write it because few seem to have been disciplined themselves and good books on the topic seem surprisingly scarce. I was one of those who had to learn everything by trial and error. This book is the kind that I was looking for but didn't find. I hope this might ensure your way is a little easier.

This book doesn't claim to be entirely comprehensive or to have the last word on how things should be done. No doubt in the future, with more experience and further insight, I will disagree with some of what I have written here. But hopefully it will pass on some of the things I have learnt and help you to at least get started in discipling.

And this booklet is supposed to be practical! So make sure you do the activities as you go through. It is always tempting to skip the tasks but they are the sections that will most help you apply what you've learnt and prepare you to disciple someone else. Please also pray as you go, that God will use you for His glory to disciple others.

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