

# GROWING LEADERS FOR GOD

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# I. STRATEGY TO PRODUCE THOUSANDS OF CHURCH LEADERS

Let's look at a strategy that is producing thousands of church leaders.

We'll begin by taking a look at Ukraine.

## A. How Ukraine became a Nation on a Move for God

- A look at what God has done
- The Beginnings, Growth and Expansion
- From 12 to 1600  
to 2000 new churches to 18000 students

I began training several groups of church leaders in 1990, and by the time it was 1991 we had a number of them very excited about this, and having a vision of sharing it with other people. They came to me and expressed their gratitude. I don't know if you like St. Bernards. I think St. Bernard's are wonderful dogs, beautiful animals. But I can't stand the way they drool all over you. And as these men were just praising me and telling me about how wonderful it all was, I just asked them one question. It turned out to be a very good question. "If you like it so much, would other people also like it so much?" And the answer was, "Yes, of course they would like it." So I said, "Come on, take some materials and get going." And that's exactly what these men did. They went out in a number of different villages, contacted people, and came back with an accurate list of villages and people that wanted to study with them. And much to my surprise, when they shared, I was totally shocked — they had a list of 1600 people who wanted to study with them. I just didn't know what to do, I was overwhelmed. I realized it would be my big downfall because I wasn't prepared for anything like that. And just at that moment was God's moment. Often when we are the very end of our way, God can begin to do something. The Holy Spirit had done something and nobody knew about it. Somebody came and said, "Abraham, do you know about all these books that were dropped off here?" I didn't know about any books. But unknown to us, a dump-truck had come, backed up to a basement window and dumped a whole load of books in the basement. And they were just lying there, helter-skelter, unorganized, not stacked, just lying there. When we went to look at what kind of materials they were, what were they? They were exactly Course #1 that we needed to have. Praise God. The Holy Spirit knew what He was doing. I tried to find out who brought these books, how did they get there, I could never find out how they got there at that particular place at the time we needed them. We think that perhaps "Open Doors" had a way of bringing these materials there. And we want to thank them for that.

These men started training 1600 people and they had one idea that they understood very clearly. **If you like it, share it with somebody else.** Those 1600 men started sharing it with other people, and before long there were 7,000 people who were studying the Word of God. Seven thousand church leaders preparing for a better and more effective ministry. And those 7000 leaders started 2000 new churches. We praise God for these godly men, and what they did, and how the Holy Spirit used them.

Eight years later in Ukraine there were 18,000 people studying the Word of God every week. What a wonderful and thankful experience that was.

## B. Ukraine became a Modern Miracle of the Book of Acts

And what were the ingredients?

- The ingredients were the strategy of Eph. 4:11 where God gave to the church not a single leader but a team of leaders.
- And again also 2 Tim. 2:2 where Paul said to Timothy, "What you received for me share with other people who in turn can share it with other people."
- It is total-person training, mentoring and apprenticeship,
- Growing men for God.
- Producing leaders
- Multiplying members and churches



## C. Ukraine has become one of the most active Christian Nations in Europe

How thankful we are to God for Ukrainian people who have gone from one country to another sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ. There are hundreds of them in Russia, they are in Spain, in Italy, in other places. They are in North America just as well. God has done a beautiful thing. There are hundreds of missionaries all over the globe, and where did all this come from? What was its source? That's what we want to talk about because that is important. **Doing what Jesus did.** That's how it happened. Hands-on leadership training based upon multiplication method began with Jesus Himself. Jesus trained men. In this lecture I want to encourage you to follow the example of Jesus and do what Jesus did — focus on training men.

- Hundreds of missionaries all over the globe
- Where did all of this come from? What was its source?

## D. DOING WHAT JESUS DID

Hands-on Leadership Training based upon a multiplication method, began with Jesus Himself.

*Jesus went up on a mountainside and called to him those he wanted ---. He appointed twelve, — that they might be **with Him** and that he might **send them out** to preach and **to have authority** to drive out demons (Mark 3:13-15).*

Jesus went up on a mountain and called to Him those whom He wanted. He appointed 12 that they be with Him.

That was the important thing — **to be with Him** and to develop a character like His character.

And then He also sent them out. There's a very interesting word that He used here, and that word is not "disciples", the word is "apostles". Disciples has a very loose meaning of being a follower today. Taking a course perhaps about reading your Bible and praying, "Yes, I'm a Christian. I follow Jesus." That's been going on for 2000 years. That's not the picture Jesus had. Jesus had a picture of being with Him and then to send them out. So that each person would take personal responsibility and go and have influence and share the Gospel with other people.

Now Jesus also knew that Abraham Bible was going to fail, he was going to come short of the glory of God. He was not going to be able to make it. And he knew that the twelve disciples also could not do that, the 12 apostles. Therefore He said, "I will give you my authority", and He gave his authority to the disciples. What was that authority? It was the power of the Holy Spirit to drive out demons, and I believe that the greatest demon we can drive out of a person's life is satan himself. That person, by the power of the Holy Spirit, must fall on his knees and ask Jesus Christ for forgiveness of sins, and come to Him and trust Him for his personal Savior. That is the great power that only God can give, and God wanted to give it to the disciples, and he wants to give it to you and me so we can share in the salvation of many.

Jesus Christ intended to launch a movement that would establish His church, better expressed as His Kingdom on earth, and he did it in a very strange way. He didn't travel to Rome or to Egypt. He never wrote a book, or got involved in politics. Faced with the urgency of training thousands of people needed to launch a movement which was destined to change the course of human civilization, Jesus invested 3 or 4 years of His life in training 12 men.

He took, as it were, the "seminary" to the students. His method was mentoring and apprenticeship. The primary aspect of Jesus' training was *His time with His students*. As they watched Jesus model the Christian life and ministry, they were transformed into a radical band of spiritual revolutionaries who literally changed the whole world.

In our own time many cataclysmic events are taking place. The rise of the European Union, the fall of communism, tsunami floods, terrorism, proposals for one global monetary system. Perhaps most drastically and extreme is the technical revolution in communication systems. If the church is going to seize this historic moment, it must, it **MUST** follow the example of its Founder, Jesus Christ. It must grow leaders for God.

## II. WHY JESUS CAME

Jesus did not come to preach — that was only advertisement. Isaiah could preach, Jeremiah could preach. He didn't have to come and do that for three years.

Jesus did not come to do miracles — that was only advertisement. Moses could do miracles, Elijah could do miracles. Yes, He had to do some of these things because people did not know who He was. So He had to show Himself, He had to explain and demonstrate to people who He was.

But, in the worldly sense, He wasn't successful at that, and ultimately all the people went away, and He even asked His apostles, "Will you also go away?"

Did Jesus just come to save people? — No

Did Jesus just come to die on a cross? — No

*He rose to begin His eternal Kingdom.*

Jesus came to begin His spiritual, invisible, everlasting **Kingdom**.

This eventually will involve a new heaven, a new earth, a whole new universe filled with God's people.

Let's take a look. Here we have a strategy of Jesus on a mission.

/// 1 /// Jesus on a Mission

Yes, He was in Palestine, yes, He did some preaching, He did some miracles, so that He could prepare the people and they would know who He was. He had to die on a cross before He could begin God's eternal reign. Those things were ingredients, but this was not His purpose. It was part of the process.

**The invisible spiritual everlasting Kingdom begins now, here on earth, with visible and physical people.** It begins with you and me.

Sometimes at a funeral we talk as if the spiritual kingdom begins after death. We say things like, "Now he is with Jesus", "Now he is in Heaven", "Now he has eternal life". Brothers and sisters, I've had eternal life for a long time. My body is the temple of the Holy Spirit. And I've had eternal life for decades and decades since I was born again.

Did Jesus come to save people? — No —. How selfish of me to stand in the middle of the universe and think that poor Jesus had to come just to save Abraham.

He came to make people citizens of His Kingdom. Not to just save them from their sin — NO. Being saved is not an end in itself. The idea is not to have a "poor sinner saved" so he can now faithfully sit in church every Sunday until he dies. NO, **the idea is participation**.

Thousands of Ukrainians have immigrated to Western countries. But is it just to draw unemployment and welfare? No! Of course not!!!

Nobody has that idea in mind. Rather it is to participate, to make a contribution, to make a vibrant new lifestyle, to build up this country, to do something beautiful together. The difference is huge!

We need to preach the message of salvation differently. We need to preach not about just being saved from sin but about **becoming a participant!**

Jesus rose from the dead and came to give us life and life more abundantly: eternal life. He came to make us new creatures, citizens of His eternal Kingdom. Where are these people, these citizens? What should they do in the Kingdom? How should they relate one to another? What is their role in this spiritual Kingdom? Why are you here today? His desire was for all citizens to become active participating citizens of His Kingdom--with influence over the rest of creation.

Let us take a look at the Kingdom plan Jesus had.

The idea of Jesus was for His citizens to form distinct communities.

Communities of believers, functioning separately from, and yet within, society.

Jesus Christ intended His spiritual kingdom to be **communities** (which we call local churches).

The Church is to be a Spiritual Community = the Kingdom — **visible and in action**.

When I'm alone often people can't tell whether I'm a believer or not, but when we are in a group it is very easy to tell.

Let's take for instance, an example of a restaurant. In front of the restaurant there stands a group of people holding a bottle of Coca-Cola talking about God. And beside that restaurant there is a bar, and in front of that

bar there stand a group of people holding a bottle of liquor cursing. Quickly you find out that these are two very different groups. One group are genuine believers and these other people are citizens of the kingdom of hell. One group of those people belong to the kingdom of God, the others belong to the kingdom of satan. One group is on their way to heaven, the other group is on their way to hell. It only takes a moment to discern when we are together in a group.

Christ's idea was to have spiritual communities. Let us take an example of the communities, and how that functions separately from society.

We'll take a look at a hospital. In a hospital you have the important people, usually men by and large in white coats and along with them there are women with a uniform and helping people. A hospital has a director, has an administrator; it has a caretaker; it has a cleaning person. All these people work together, and it's a totally different the society. Everybody knows that that place is a special place where they do a special thing — helping healing people.

Another community would be a community like a University. In a university you have a similar situation, you have a director, administrator, caretaker, and you have some very important people, maybe with nice beards, standing behind desks like I'm doing right now, giving beautiful lectures. And yes, you have other people too. Sometimes you see some of these people in the evening standing under a light pole. Usually you see a man and a woman, they have their book under their arms. They're not studying--no--they are doing something completely different under that light pole. But they belong to the community of the university. And the community functions together and works together and has a goal to accomplish, and that's what they do.

You're beginning to get the idea of what Jesus Christ had in mind for His church, — to be functioning together like that. A community which functions completely separate from, and yet within society.

Praise God, a number of our churches are beginning to function like communities and they are getting active in various ways reaching out into society and having influence.

Now that we have seen why Jesus came — seen His purpose, let us look at His strategy.

### III. THE STRATEGY OF JESUS

When Jesus was in heaven, was He just bored one day and the Father says, “You are sure bored. Why don't you go to earth for a while and just look around see what's happening over there.”? I don't think it was like that because the Bible tells us Jesus came in the fullness of time. At the most perfect moment. The latest research shows Jesus was announced to Mary in September, and she conceived in September, Jesus was probably born in June and the Wise men prepared themselves and came to worship Jesus perhaps actually on December 25.

What we want to look at is a little bit further.

#### A. Jesus came as a Crown Prince riding in Triumphal Entry

As he rode into Jerusalem he began his spiritual invisible kingdom. He rode in as a crown prince taking over the physical kingdom for God the Father to become the Prince, the Ruler of the Universe for all time to come.

Immediately after that triumphal entry the first job Jesus had to do was to **destroy** the arch enemy — destroy Death. You can't have an, Invisible, Everlasting kingdom as long as death reigns and destroys. As long as death exists, there can be no Eternal Kingdom death must first be destroyed. So Jesus came to take death and destroy it once for all. So that the power of Satan would be broken and Satan would no longer be able to rule and have a hold over mankind and over the earth. We thank Jesus Christ for His work that He did on the cross.



Another thing that we need to just get clear in our minds is that Jesus was not killed. So often people feel sorry for Jesus. Poor Jesus, and we weep and we feel bad about this sacrifice on the cross. But that's not the way it was. Jesus was not killed — He laid down His life. He said, ***“I lay down my life of my own free will, I lay it down. No man takes it from me.”*** That's pretty straight forward.

But we have another story in the New Testament that bears that out. We know about the Pharisees and some of the other rulers, they wanted to get rid of Jesus. But there was one thing they didn't want to do, and that was to get rid of Him during Passover. They said, “ During Passover? No! All the tourists are in

town. There would be a riot. It would be terrible, and we would be losing the tourist dollar. We can't do that! No! Some other time." And what did Jesus say to that? He said, "Ha ha, I will lay down my life exactly during Easter time. I am the Passover Lamb, and I'm going to lay down my life during Passover time." And that's exactly what He did.

Like Jesus we must go through death; the death of utter, complete humility and surrender in order to be resurrected as new citizens of His eternal Kingdom. And that Kingdom begins with us here and now. We must rid ourselves of our former citizenship and accept Christ's new eternal citizenship.

## B. Jesus had a special Plan for Ruling His Kingdom

What was that plan? It was a secret.

***His plan was building a leadership team!***

This is often referred to as "**Jesus' Secret Ministry.**"

We'll take a look at Luke 10:21 where we see Jesus filled with joy. There's only one statement in the gospels where we read that Jesus was filled with joy. The secret was that He was developing a leadership team. Jesus was extremely happy that it was working; His mentoring and apprenticeship method was successful.

What do you think it means to be filled with joy? How do you react, or what do you do when you're filled with joy? You go home to your wife and just say, "Honey, guess what happened today? I am so excited. You wouldn't believe. This is my most exciting day." I can see that's not how you would react or how you would act if something wonderful happened, is it? No. So, Jesus also didn't do this. It was unique, so unique that they had to write it down, take note of it and write it down. We see that He looked up in heaven, He probably clapped His hands and said, "Yes, Father! — He probably danced around, — I thank You, I praise You because You did not reveal it to other people". It was a secret. Just imagine what would have happened if the other people would have known about it. If they had known about it they would have sent a group of soldiers to Gethsemane and they would have told them, "Now, when you go there, you be sure to bring back twelve people. You bring back Jesus and the 11 buddies of Judas." But they didn't know that.

His mentoring and apprenticeship method was successful. He did it with the 12, He did it with the 70. He was also happy that the Pharisees had not discovered what He was doing and how important it was. Had the Pharisees understood this secret ministry of Jesus they would have taken 12 men captive in Gethsemane, not only one. Years later the Pharisees realized that they had failed when they discovered the success the apostles were having and that they had been with Jesus. They saw what happened and they said, "Ah, or No! We failed, we missed it, look at all these little Jesuses around here." And that exactly is what happened. They missed it because they did not understand the strategy of Jesus.

Here we have a picture of the strategy of Jesus.

/// 2 /// the Strategy

The strategy of Jesus was to take an unbeliever and turn him into an active participant – that was His strategy.

We see that Jesus was on a mission, He came to Palestine, because that's where the former physical earthly kingdom of God the Father had already been, and so He did not go to other places but to Palestine. Through His preaching, His testimonies, His miracles people began to understand who He was, and they came to seek Him. Then a large number of them eventually became believers. Out of those believers He took a small group of people and developed a leadership team. There were 3, there were 12, maybe there were many more, part of the 70. And He taught these people and trained them to become leaders in His spiritual kingdom, leaders in the church.

Jesus is still doing that today. Jesus is still going out in the highways, finding people like Zacchaeus, or Matthew, or other people. And I would like to just illustrate it like this: that Jesus is still seeing people like that walking around and I don't know, what do you see? What do you see here? Yes? Right, right, you see a drunk. You know, the police also sees a drunk. But you know what Jesus sees? Jesus sees, "here goes the pastor of the biggest church in Ukraine." That's what Jesus sees. And Jesus changes hearts and lives.

When I had an opportunity to share this with people in Russia, sometimes men would begin to weep. They would just weep and weep that shirts would become wet with tears. They would come to me afterwards, they would say, "Abraham, I was that man, I was nothing but a common drunk. Today I'm a pastor in the house of God, I'm a church leader by the grace of Jesus Christ."

Jesus began the physical kingdom in the OT with 12 leaders — the sons of Jacob, and likewise he began his spiritual Kingdom in the NT with 12 leaders. Jesus personally physically in his body never ruled his kingdom. He left and gave the kingship to others. They became under-kings. Jesus trained the 12 disciples

to be church leaders, to be Kings in His Kingdom. After His resurrection Jesus spend 40 days specifically preparing His followers to be Kings. (we read about in Luke chapter 22:29,30 and other places). He didn't talk to the unbelievers, He didn't do special miracles. He prepared His people to be rulers in His kingdom.

So let us take a look at kings and define for a moment what we mean by "Kings"

In the OT you had kings over cities, provinces, small countries and large countries. Now, today we don't use that term, we use the term of mayor, or premier, or governor and president and so forth. But in the Bible the term "king" is used for most of those people.

In the same way Jesus prepared many people, not only the 12, but the 70, and women as well, to be Kings and Queens. The disciples were not just disciples — they were men and women in training for kingship.

## C. Jesus Prepared Kings

King Peter — and He gave Rome to him

King Peter's job was to *subdue satan's kingdom* in Rome and *establish Christ's spiritual Kingdom*.

King Philip — maybe he received Egypt.

King Philip's job was to *bring Christ's spiritual Kingdom* and *diminish satan's kingdom*.

King Thomas — he went to India

King Thomas' job was to have *people immigrate from satan's kingdom into Christ's new spiritual Kingdom*.

King Andrew — he came to Ukraine, to Crimea

King Andrew's job was to *have influence over the heathen in that region*.

Christ's purpose for each of His kings was to have **influence** over their region and to change an evil society into a holy one. Christ's purpose was **not** to save just a few souls in each city.

Let's stop and investigate whether the disciples were really kings.

How do you recognize a king? Well, you may say, by his riches, or by his entourage. But when we have a group of 4 or 5 men, in a room, how would you recognize who really is the Head Honcho? Well, I think one very simple straightforward method would be for him to have a crown. With the crown on, — yes, that's the Head Honcho. Not him, not him, not the others, but this is the King.

Therefore we can ask another question. Were the apostles ever visibly and physically crowned?

YES — they were physically crowned at Pentecost. Later we read that they also will receive thrones. After their earthly ministry they will receive thrones in Heaven.

In many countries the church has drifted away — the church celebrates Christmas as THE big feast. Celebrating what? A baby — oh, so sweet, so cuddly! And if he's blond-haired, it's even better. And maybe, oh, blue eyes. Maybe even a little curl or two.

What are we celebrating at Christmas time? The celebration of Christmas isn't even in the Bible. Christmas is a man-made holiday. Easter/Pasover is in the Bible. Pentecost in the Bible. And they were invented by God long ago in the Old Testament. God put them in there.

Pentecost! - It is the beginning of Christ's Eternal Everlasting Invisible Spiritual kingdom.

It's all about KINGS!!! Kings — Presidents — Governors — Mayors — Premiers — Prime Ministers. The title makes no difference.

It is all about Rulers!

Rulers — responsible people!!! What is the difference?

The difference is a big one. It's huge. Because it is about establishing the Kingdom, **it is about influence**. It is about being responsible, being responsible for the saved as well as for the unsaved. You as a ruler in the Kingdom of God are responsible for the unbelievers in your city. It is about being responsible for your whole town.

On judgment day God is going to say to you. "You were my king, or you were my queen. You were my ruler. What influence did you have over the unbelievers in your town? **What did you do with them?**"

The 12 understood that and they did what Jesus did and conquered the whole world in 50 years. Initially I thought it was basically around the Mediterranean Sea, but later on I learned that they actually were in China, in Japan, they even went up into Mongolia. The whole world. And this is what God has for us.

## IV. WHAT DID JESUS DO?

### A. Jesus' Main Ministry was Mentoring (or) for Leadership (or was growing MEN for leadership)

Let us look at His method. Today we want to talk about methods — practical Biblical methods. The methods that Jesus used. Jesus used a practical **Mentoring & Apprenticeship** method.

Here we have a little diagram to help us think about it.

/// 3 /// In Ministry Experience

Jesus began with simple ordinary MEN. He trained people like Nathaniel in whom there was no guile. They had a spiritual background. Then He added to that special input for leadership. He also gave them special in-ministry experience.

With these two things added they began to talk about this together. And we read in a number of places that the disciples were talking about it. "What does He mean about the leaven in the bread?" or "What does He mean about being the salt of the earth?" Or sometimes you could tell that they were understanding that Jesus wanted them to be leaders, and they began to quarrel and say, "Well, you know, why should you be a better leader than I am?" or "Why should you have a higher position than I'm in?" Or they even went to Jesus, "Jesus, would you give me a special position right beside you, please?" So they really understood what Jesus was doing.

With these methods the new rulers of the spiritual kingdom conquered the world in about 50 years.

Let us take a look at how did Jesus Fill up His Kingdom with new citizens?

To answer that question we turn to the Great Commission! The Great Commission has 2 parts. I would like to take a bit of time to talk about that now.

The Great Commission is like an instruction; it is a summary statement. It is something like a motto; or something you may write on the tomb stone. Until recently I always understood the Great Commission as a command: "Abraham, go preach the Gospel. Abraham, make disciples! Abraham, go do that! Abraham, teach everything!"

Now I understand it in a completely different light--in a much more deeper sense.

Let me explain it with a few illustrations.

Jesus modeled 4 things. And three of the things (from the 4 things three of them) we find in the Great Commission, and one other thing He modeled by His lifestyle.

### B. Jesus modeled how to lead groups of unbelievers.

We're going take 3 illustrations.

(1) Jesus went to a Mafia home, exclusively for the very rich.

It was one of these special homes built on the outside of a city, usually, you know, with special turrets around, special designs, special roof, and great big fence. You could tell immediately, this was not a rich person-- this was a super-rich person! This man must be so rich there was no way he could have gotten all that money honestly. So he must have some connections with the Mafia or something like that. And we find Jesus going into that home. The ordinary people didn't go in that home. There were just those rich people that belonged to that particular club and clique together. And Jesus held a Bible study for them. And some of them got saved.

(2) Jesus went into *the home of a liberal theologian*.

We find Jesus having another Bible study. This time we see Him having a Bible study in a home of some liberal theologians. Did you know there were liberal theologians? Let me tell you about them. Jesus was having a Bible study with theologians who didn't believe in life after death, who didn't believe in heaven or hell, who didn't believe in angels, and Jesus had a special Bible study for them. The ordinary people didn't come. They were not there It was a unique Bible study.



Let me tell you about my Daddy and his church. The pastor of my Daddy's church did not believe in life after death. He believes this is all there is. The associate pastor of my Daddy's church is a homosexual. Are you surprised that my Daddy is in hell today? But it hurts, it hurts. I'm not surprised, but it hurts every time I think about it.

(3) Jesus went *into a regular home where they invited neighbors and friends.*

We see Jesus again having a Bible study, this time in the home of ordinary people. And we read there that those people went out and invited their neighbors, and their friends to come as well.

So, Jesus had Bible studies, and He set that example for us to follow Him.

### C. Jesus led groups of new believers

We see that Jesus reached out to those people who had just begun to believe and He started to help them to get a solid foundation on their faith and to become participants. This was beyond His work with His 12 select.

These are best and most easily defined as the “70.” They became believers later and Jesus mentored and apprenticed them to become participants. So it’s easy to remember that Jesus did a work to establish new believers and get them involved in the faith.

*By doing these 2 things Jesus demonstrated the first part of the Great commission — what does it mean to “make” disciples. “A” and “B” are the first part of the Great commission — “make” disciples. You need to take an unbeliever and **make** something out of him. It doesn't happen automatically. It doesn't come easy. You work him over, maybe you have to push him into participation, you have to make him active. (If a person is not a participant he is only a spectator!) And then he needs to firmly reject satanic doings. It's not just a little prayer, “Dear Jesus, I'm sorry for my sin, please forgive me. Amen”. It's much more than that. And it takes a lot more work to make an active believer – a real disciple.*

So these are the two things for the first part of the Great Commission. Then we see number 3.

### D. Jesus trained 12 church leaders--twelve kings

for His kingdom, and that is the second part of the Great Commission. The second part of the Great Commission says, “Teach them all things”. These 12 received special mentoring about Kingdom leadership.

I don't think you teach all things in grade one. I don't think you teach all things in the first year of University. Well, sometimes we try to do some of these things. I remember of one mother, she was trying to teach her seven-year-old little girl about the intimacy of marriage. A little girl says, “Mommy, where did I come from?” The mother says, “Oh, sweetheart”, and she told her all about the birds and about the bees, and all the little things, and the little girl was so impressed. And she said, “Thank you, Mommy, that was a wonderful story. Now, please, tell me where did I come from? Grandma came from Kiev, where did I come from?” So we know that that didn't work. Teaching them all things is teaching the deeper things, the upper level things about being a ruler in the Kingdom of God.

And now we'll see one more thing that Jesus demonstrated with His life, that is not in the Great Commission but He demonstrated it with His life.

### E. Daily One Hour in the Word

- (like Jesus prayed early in the mornings)

*This was not part of the Great commission but was demonstrated by Jesus' lifestyle.*

And I want to encourage you to do that. Daily an hour in the Word. Maybe Jesus didn't do it every day in the morning but we read numerous times that Jesus was praying to His heavenly Father early in the morning. Can you imagine? The Son of God, why did He have to pray? But He did. He called on His Father early in the morning. Yet for many of us, we find it easier to read our Bible in the evening, and pray in the evening. And it goes something like this, “Dear Jesus, I've been very busy today, and I've had a lot of things to do, and I ran back and forth, and some of the things didn't work out, but some things were really pretty good. I hope You're quite happy about today, and I'm very tired now. Good night. Amen.” But if pray in the morning, we can present to God a blank sheet with the whole day. And we can ask God to write on that sheet what should be happening today, who are the people He wants us to meet with, what is that He would like us to say to some of these people. He can prepare their hearts, He can prepare our hearts and our mouths, and we can give the whole day to Jesus.



So, before we go any farther, I'd like to ask right now how many here are following this example of Jesus. How many of you early in the morning, just before the sunrise, or maybe just after sunrise? Would you raise your hand? If you spend once a week or couple times a week some time with God early in the morning reading your Bible and praying. I see there are not many. Thank you for that hand. Yes, thank you. I appreciate that. Praise God, we have some people who are already following the plan that Jesus had and following His strategy.

## F. Jesus gave to the church a team of leaders.

Jesus did that later after His ascension at Pentecost.

Through Paul Jesus showed how leadership should be perpetuated.

Jesus also gave to the church a **group** of leaders Eph. 4:11 + vs 13

Paul instructed Timothy to do likewise 2Tim 2:2

Somehow through the church history we have received the idea that there ought to be one church leader, and he stands between us and the Holy of the Hollies, and he offers prayer, maybe he offers incense, or he offers prayer, and he preaches the message, he leads the singing, he does all the things for the people, he is the go between the people and God. And we see it happening in the Catholic Church, we see it happening in the Orthodox Church, we see it happening in our Protestant churches. All over the world. That's not what God had in mind. God had in mind for there to be a group of leaders who would share together and participate together. And we see that the apostle Paul wanted Timothy to instruct other people to do that also.

So now I understand the Great Commission not as a command, "Abraham, go preach! Abraham, go do this or do that". I see it completely different. Jesus at the very end of His life, He comes to His disciples and He says, "Look, you've seen what I have done; **I've modeled it for you.** I demonstrated it, and I'm leaving now. In a moment I'm out of here. And you are here by yourself. And I want to **ask** you one thing. **Would you do what I have done? Would you please follow my example?"**

Quite a request that Jesus had, isn't it? **Quite a request.**

And to me it goes so much deeper than just saying "go do this" or "go do that". Jesus is asking us to follow His example and do these **4** things. Brothers, if we want to be successful we **MUST** do what Jesus did. We must develop leadership teams. **We must grow leaders.**

## V. LET US APPLY WHAT JESUS DID

### **"Growing Men for God"**

That is what Jesus did.

Mentoring and apprenticing was Jesus' method.

This method of Jesus requires a **NEW** church leadership style. Local churches must be cultivating leaders for church multiplication. *This is the most neglected part of modern day church life.*

We must do what Jesus did — grow men for God!

Let us take a look at **Hands-on Leadership Training**, what it is.

Applying the Strategy from Jesus.

I want to share with you four elements:

### **A. Total Person Training – Know – Be - Do**

The emphasis in mentoring is not on academics but on character development and practical application.

It's not education. Yes it involves knowledge of course, but the idea is **to change one's character**, to **become a participant**, and then to practice the things that we have learned.

## B. Mentoring Groups of Leaders

Eph. 4:11 *group training is probably **the** most unique trademark*

New Life for Churches is one of a few very unique ministries. There are very few ministries who center on preparing or mentoring groups. Almost all training is geared to one individual. One individual coming from his church, going someplace to a stationary program of some sort, and sitting there and studying and being educated. Then he goes back, and there's one educated person in the church.

New Life goes to the local church and takes a group of leaders: pastors, elders, deacons, other key persons, and trains them together, according to Eph. 4:11.

## C. Bi-weekly Discussion Seminars & Practical Assignments

Training is offered in discussion format

Main emphasis: *Students learn to orally express themselves.*

Practical assignments serve as experiments for potentially new ways to do ministry.

I want to say something about the discussion seminars because it's very important. Somehow I think that in many ways God favored the ladies. And He was nice to the ladies in some ways. Ladies have a gift of gab, ladies have the gift of relationship. Ladies can do several things at the same time, they can multitask. Men are very, very different. Ladies, when they're happy, they phone somebody; when they are unhappy, they phone somebody; when they just want to talk about something, they phone somebody; when they don't know what to do, they phone somebody. Men are very, very different. When a man is upset, basically he grabs the door, and slams it shut, and says, "I'm going out!" Right? I can see it on your faces. Yes! That's how many men are. Most men don't know how to talk. Most men have a problem testifying for Jesus Christ at their job. One of the biggest problems men face almost worldwide of testifying for Jesus Christ on the job. Why is that? Because they don't know how to talk.

So one of the first thing we try to do is help men to talk. The way we do that is we give them some materials to study at home. And then they come back at the end of the week, and maybe you have 6 men, 8 men, 3 men together, and they discuss that material in a small group knowing each other, being acquainted, they loosen up and begin to talk a little bit. Then they get another lesson to take home. And again they come together a week later and discuss that material. And they do this week after week, and after about 6 months all of a sudden their eyes are open. They discover something, and they come to me, and it's happened several times, "Abe! I can do things that I could never do before. I can talk about Jesus. I always wanted to talk about Jesus. I felt guilty about not talking about Jesus, and now I can talk about Jesus". And when these men begin to be able to talk about Jesus, everything changes. They go home and tell their wife about all the things they're studying. Next morning by the bus stop or in some other place they are looking for people who are coming. They are going to share with them about Jesus Christ. Because now they are ready, and they are overflowing with the enthusiasm and the joy of being able to share the thing that is the most precious to them.

## D. Transferability

I mentioned the idea of transferability in the beginning, with the example of Ukrainian MEN passing it on from one to another. Right now we are going to take a look at:

### ***Introducing & Transferring a Mentoring Ministry into Local Hands***

How do you want to pass it on? How do you want to pass it on from one province to another province, from one city to another city, from one church to another church? What would you do if you had to go to another province or city? ---- ? How would you do it? That is the question we need to ask all our Church Planters.

I want to begin by asking a question. A question that I would like each one of you for a moment to very seriously think about. I want to send you to Africa, and I have a job for you to do there. I would like you to start a chain of 100 coffee shops. Are you ready? You like coffee, don't you? It's good, isn't it? Are you ready to get this started in Africa? What would you do, how would you begin? Anybody here want to volunteer? It's not quite so easy, is it?

Well, that's what we had to do when God called me to go to the Soviet Union. Praise God, Jesus Christ knew what He was doing. Jesus Christ set an example of training twelve men. Praise God He has already shown us what to do in Ukraine with 12 men. Praise God, He showed to my boss, my mission leader, to take 12 Ukrainian men to Russia. He said, "Abraham, why don't you take 12 Ukrainian men to Russia?" And

that's exactly what we did. We trained 12 Ukrainian men and placed them throughout Russia, in different provinces

What would a Ukrainian missionary do in Russia? You guessed it. He does exactly this, he takes his mobile phone, and he says, "Abraham, help! What do I do?" And I had to tell them, "Just do what I did. I prepared you to prepare 12 men. I prepared you to plant churches. I prepared you to train, to mentor other people. I prepared you with practical assignments. This is what Jesus did, so you just go and do what Jesus did."

And now the ball gets rolling, now it becomes interesting. In a short little while this man, way up north there in that forgotten city, he has prepared twelve men. These twelve men they go to a number of other places, and guess what? All of a sudden you can begin to influence a province for God.

So, we've just noticed that we have now men in different cities throughout the province, and we can begin to have influence throughout all of a province.

/// 6 /// Operation Russia — MAP

Those 12 missionaries, they each were training 12 Russian nationals. If your math is pretty good then you know that 12 times 12 equals 144. And today we have 144 Russian nationals who are training 5,000 people every week with the Word of God. Five thousand people preparing themselves for a better lifestyle, for a holier lifestyle. Five thousand people preparing themselves to serve Jesus Christ. God has laid the burden upon these people and they are doing a beautiful job. And so now the ministry has been transferred completely into their hands. We are so thankful for that.

We're going to take one more step and we're going to talk about:

## VI. A PICTURE OF THINGS TO COME

What will it be like if we would really practice this on a worldwide scale? And I praise God that in many places of the world different groups, different organizations, are doing this ministry or something very, very similar. Praise God for that! What would happen if it's on a worldwide scale? Because we have so many people coming to know Jesus Christ, and we need to meet this need.

In order to show a picture of the future I want to just go back and take a look at a person in history and see what that person did.

It's a near magical story of one man and his spiritual heritage.

In my opinion, there was one man who better understood the secret ministry of Jesus Christ than any other person. And he started implementing that in his country.

His name was John Wesley. John Wesley was born in a terrible, desperate, wicked situation in England. It is one of England's lowest moments. There was immorality everywhere, there was filth and degradation. Men often had a couple of different women, and maybe another wife or so in another city.

Death reigned everywhere, in the slums and throughout the big cities. In the morning the police would come by, and they would pick up all the dead little babies. There was no birth control, no nothing, women had babies and they would just leave them behind on doorsteps and other places. No way to care for them, and they would just die. And the police would come and pick them up. In the morning the police would come by, and they would pick up all the women, dead bodies of women, beaten up by men, killed, murdered. The police would come by in the morning, and they would pick up dead bodies of men who were shot to death, or stabbed to death. It was a terrible situation in England, and in that dark moment John Wesley was born.

John Wesley was 40 years old when he had discovered the secret ministry of Jesus. And he understood that Jesus' main task has been to train kings for His kingdom, to train men to be rulers in His kingdom, rulers in His church. Wesley implemented the principles of hands-on leadership training. A key factor in the success of Wesley's ministry was his training of village pastors & laymen.

He started traveling mostly to small towns. I believe he did more ministry in the smaller cities than in some of the bigger areas, and he would share there with men and with women. He divided them up often, or organized them into small groups of twelve, and he had Bible classes. His students had no dormitories.

His classrooms were the countryside in barns, in cottage kitchens, sometimes in the out-of-doors.

When evening came, he would just hook up his horse and lay down to sleep someplace in the lofts of the farmhouses if somebody would give him a place to sleep.

John Wesley traveled to his students for 40 years. He did that till he was 84 years old.

I know, sometimes you talk about how much you sacrifice and sometimes I think I've sacrificed a lot. Are you ready to do something like John Wesley did? Anybody here wants to ride a horse till he's 84 years old? I'll buy you a horse, OK? I'll buy you a horse, if you make a commitment to ride that horse till you're 84 years old. John Wesley did.

John Wesley asked his disciples to imitate Jesus.

His standard was based upon the apostles giving themselves to prayer and preaching (Acts 6:4), and he divided the day for his people who were following him into 8-hour segments.

8 Hours for personal care, grooming, eating and sleeping, and then he wanted them to spend

8 Hours in the Word of God, listening and praying, studying and praying, and then

8 Hours a day preaching and teaching and ministering to the people.

John Wesley said this, *"Give me a hundred men who love no one but God, and who hate nothing but sin, and I will change the face of the Earth"*.

The multiplication process Wesley achieved via Hands-on Leadership Training impacted the culture of England for over a generation--actually for a *century and a-half*.

"Let's look at what happened after John Wesley and perhaps as the result of his widespread influence and ministry." When we think about these things here's what happened. John Wesley did this basically for 40 years, his followers did it for another 40 years. So we have about an 80-year time span. And all of England got changed. England was popping up with spiritual heroes, spiritual giants, spiritual rulers, people who would take the Kingdom of God by force and bring it to other people.

**William Cary** went to India as a missionary, and he's known as one of the first and foremost western missionaries to go to another country. I think he translated the Bible in 6 or 8 or so languages over there. Today in India 18 million believers in India.

**Wilberforce** became Prime-minister of England, and Wilberforce had an ax to grind. There was one thing he wanted to accomplish with his life, and that was to free the Kingdom of Great Britain from slavery--set slaves free from all the areas where Great Britain had dominion. And he succeeded in doing that because he believed that all men were created equal, and slavery was banned from England, from Europe, from France, Germany, eventually, from North America.

**George Mueller**, and there were several others who had great orphanages, not just one but several orphanages with 1000's of orphans.

**David Livingstone** opened up Africa. Opened up the way for missionaries to go to Africa. People came from England and he opened up the way for those missionaries to go there.

**Hudson Taylor** went to China. 100 million today believing in China. And the miracle, if you will believe, brothers and sisters, every day, I just heard it again a few days ago, everyday many thousands in China bow their knees to Jesus Christ and are washed by the Blood of the Lamb.

**Queen Victoria**, she ruled 63 years. God made her life longer and longer, and longer like an elastic band. To my knowledge between Adam and Eve and us today there's been only two other rulers anywhere in the world that ruled longer than Queen Victoria did. Soldiers covered the globe, England changed its name; it became Great Britain. It ruled, if you will believe it, it ruled 25% of the world, 25% of the earth belonged to Great Britain. Never happened before to any country ever. Here was a Christian nation raised up by God, and used by God to influence the whole world. Missionaries followed in world conquest. And what happened? Christianity became a world religion. Something that had never happened before.

This was the anointing that rested upon the ministry of John Wesley. And today, I believe that maybe 70%, possibly even 80% of all believers everywhere in the world are followers because of John Wesley, because John Wesley had a vision. John Wesley set out to do what Jesus did. And when he did the same results happened as what Jesus and the 12 apostles did. God blessed it in the same way, and the Gospel spread across the world once more.

## VII. A WORLDWIDE APPLICATION

### A. The Crisis

- 1.The Crisis Today — 100,000 come to Christ daily!
- 2.Needed: Thousands of New Leaders
- 3.Needed: Thousands of New Churches
- 4.Needed: Comprehensive Training
- 5.The Solution? — Jesus' Strategy
  - “Growing Leaders for God
  - Doing What Jesus Did”

## B. Local Church Mentoring Leaders

Local church mentoring leaders is like Wildfire spreading Worldwide

Our hope is that The Ukrainian prototypes will to spread to other countries. Specifically to poverty stricken and oppressed regions.

EMI parts **/// 4 ///** **/// 5 ///** **/// 6 ///**

## C. The Strategic Moment

Now comes our question: our mini exam. It is an exam for your heart, but it is real--very real.

Do you want to be a Kingdom participant ??

Here is what to write down — Yes, we are asking you to make a written agreement with God.

Write down:

“Yes I will do as Jesus did” — ----- day ---- Month ---- year, the name of this city and your signature.

I will Train – Disciple – Mentor new church leaders.

Yes write it down now!!! Right there in your notebook.

DO NOT BE LUKEWARM.

Write down something!!!

Say yes to Jesus!!!

## CLOSING

In closing, let's have a prayer.

Heavenly Father, we thank You for Your work and for Your great vision. We thank you that You created the earth, the world, and all that is in it, and that you saw that it was beautiful, and that You said it was very good. We thank you for that. We thank you too that You had a plan that it would be redeemed, that there would be a second opportunity for mankind to come to know You. And we thank You, Jesus Christ, for providing that second opportunity for us by dying on the cross and destroying death, paying the penalty for sin and then rising with eternal life and establishing the Kingdom. Jesus, I love you, I love you, because You said, “I have prepared a house, and in that house are many rooms, there are many mansions, many places.” Thank you Jesus that there's room for all the new people that are still going to repent of their sins and are going to turn towards You for salvation. I thank You for that, Lord Jesus.

Holy Spirit, I thank You for Your ministry today on the face of the earth, and that it's not left up to us, because we know that it's not by might, nor by power, but by Your Spirit. And I just pray, Holy Spirit, that Your Spirit would be active, right in our churches, in our part of the world, right where we live, because we need you. We need your divine ministry.

So Lord, all we can say, and I pray there are some here today, who want to say the exact same thing that Isaiah said, simply, “Lord, here am I, send me.” Please Lord, send me.

For this we ask in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Blessings to you, our dear friends!

We are happy to present the video, audio and paper materials that have been prepared by **New Life for Churches**. You have the privilege to use this lecture with others.

