



Making Disciples who Make Disciples. This for me is the base-line definition of what Christian, Biblically-functioning Disciple Making is. And though many leaders in the Western Church, like myself, have been awakening in recent years to the importance of this reality, we have also been experiencing the shock of how both difficult and easy it can be to make disciples who can then actually make other disciples.

The difficulty comes from a handful of significant issues which dangerously are now becoming embedded in our western church culture. A few of these challenges are, but are not limited to, the following:

- ✘ A crisis in the belief that no one has the “time” to disciple another
- ✘ The effect of the individualism of our social culture upon our church culture
- ✘ A general lack of knowledge of God’s Word, as well as a lack of living God’s Word
- ✘ A significant lack of belief in or experience of the third Person of the Trinity, Holy Spirit
- ✘ An absence of or a misshapen theology of hell, leading to a malaise in most Christians about what will happen to those they know and love, if they are not converted and discipled into a living relationship with Jesus

The ease comes when each of us simply decides to not permit these and other challenges to keep us paralyzed from addressing them head on, in intentional and effective ways. And for us to live with this kind of intention, we understand what we must commit precious time to begin the process of individual as well as corporate change. For this reason, we in the Diocese of the Western Gulf Coast have established the Simeon Society, a community of believers who desire to live intentionally as biblically-functioning disciples, thus changing our lives and the lives of our communities of faith. Additionally, we understand that this type of living, in turn, will help create local church cultures which nurture and grow disciples who make other disciples.

Many of us, in the last half of the twentieth century, experienced powerful renewal movements within the Church which brought about amazing change in lives and local churches—Cursillo, Fourth Day, Road to Emmaus, Faith Alive, Happening, Marriage Encounter, to name a few. One thing these movements had in common was their design around a weekend experience, either away from the local church, or in the local church. What this design particularly provided was an intentional time set apart for a group of people to come and be taught an *intensive* on aspects of the Christian faith. Millions of people were converted during these weekends. But sadly, few were given the necessary tools or the disciplines to go forth and make disciples. This moment in history now calls for a similar intentional setting aside of time (in a weekend format) to equip believers with what is necessary to be able to live lives by God’s Word, living in deliberate and purposeful ways that, in turn, make other disciples.

The first offerings of these kinds of weekend experiences are as follows: Biblical LIFE Weekends, Biblical Leadership LIFE Weekends, Holy Spirit LIFE Weekends, and Evangelism LIFE Weekends, now being offered

by both the diocese and the Simeon Society. My deepest prayer is that you will consider hosting any of these experiences at your parish in the near future. You may find a fuller description attached to this letter.

In His peace,



+Clark WP Lowenfield
Bishop
The Anglican Diocese of the Western Gulf Coast

For the Kingdom of God is not just a lot of talk; it is living by God's power.
1 Corinthians 4:20

