



Barb Oedy, Randy, Gary & Cindy Bragdon, and Tom in Colorado. July 2008



## Coming Soon to a Computer Near You: CTO Webinars!

By Randy Murphy

These first six months as the new Executive Director of CTO have brought a lot of new opportunities as well as a lot of excitement to see where God would lead next. One of the first challenges I faced was to figure out how to get my arms around so many people that are scattered all over the country and now even around the world!! Many disciplers are very isolated with little support from their church and have few if any other disciplers living near them. My biggest concern was how to further equip these key people so they can continue to grow and develop as effective disciplers. If this is not a big enough BHAG (Big, Holy, Audacious Goal), an even bigger concern was the need to find a way to train additional disciplers without the current geographical limitations.

As Carl Moellering (Ft. Wayne, IN) and I discussed the possibilities of utilizing video conferencing for long distance discipling, he suggested I consider group training over the internet utilizing this technology as well. My mind began to race with idea after idea about the opportunities this brought. **For the first time I saw the real possibility of connecting and training disciplers all over the world in a more personal way than just over the phone by utilizing small "video classes" that could be live and interactive.** My mind has not quit racing!!! Although this will not replace live CTD training classes or live training seminars where feasible, I am convinced that a great part of the future expansion of CTO will involve this growing technology.

As I shared this possibility with a friend, we began discussing what was needed to launch these "Webinars", as they are called in the industry. He was so excited that he immediately provided \$1,000 to get the program set up so we could begin as soon as possible. I then received a call from him informing me that a new computer would be delivered and set up at our home office to better accommodate the video conferencing. We are so grateful that God has provided what is initially necessary for us to launch this training strategy early this fall!

*More information about video conferencing on page 2!*



Beautiful Colorado

## On the Road With CTO: Colorado

I recently made a trip to Colorado with Tom and Dennie to meet many of those in that area who are involved with CTO. Outside of Phoenix, AZ and Ft. Wayne, IN, the tri-city area of Ft. Collins, Loveland and Greeley have the greatest concentration of people who have been exposed to CTO. This is primarily the result of Tom and Dennie spending a number of weeks in this area doing "intensive" discipling and training of some key leaders over the past few years. These people, in turn, have discipled others who have discipled others. There are currently over 50 people in Colorado involved in around 15 different churches who are utilizing CTO.

We met with a couple of groups of disciplers from Grace Church in Greeley as well as with some of the pastors from the Crossway Chapel churches. All in all, I was able to meet with seven different pastors discussing ways the CTO ministry could better serve them. The potential is great—we will see what God wants to do next!!!

A special thanks to Gary and Cindy Bragdon and to Julie Barton who were our gracious hosts. We hope to visit them again soon!!!

Randy Murphy  
CTO Executive Director

## What is Video-Conferencing?



Let me try and answer a few of the most common questions:

**How does it work?** The “instructor” (that would be me) utilizes a webcam on his computer to send a live video feed over the internet to other computers. Both the live video and the live audio appear on the other computers that are connected to that website. The “students” (CTO disciplers) can interact with the instructor as well as the other students via video, just audio or even through instant text messages. The instructor’s powerpoints, diagrams and other documents are visible on each person’s screen. The quality of the video is limited to the “bandwidth” of your internet connection and the speed of your computer. Although it is not like live TV and may be a little “jerky”, the quality is adequate for our purposes.

**What equipment do I need?** The minimum needed to participate is a computer with speakers and high speed internet access such as DSL or a cable modem. (Unfortunately a “dial up” connection will not work.) Additional optional equipment would include a microphone or webcam, which usually has a built in microphone. In order to have the option of speaking to the instructor, a microphone is needed. In order to be seen live by the instructor and other students, a video cam is needed. Companies like Logitech and Microsoft offer webcams from \$25-\$100. (Suggested equipment options will be posted on the CTO web page.)

**Will it cost anything to participate?** In order to cover the costs of the video conferencing service and equipment to host the “webinar” there will be a nominal fee (probably \$10) per computer or “seat in the classroom” to participate in each class.

**When will it start?** The number of webinars we offer will be determined by the response of the users. Our desire is to initially offer one per month. We hope to launch the first “webinar” in late September. Duplicate classes will be offered at a number of different times throughout the day to accommodate the number of participants as well as different time zones and work schedules.

**What topics are going to be addressed?** We are planning 90 minute classes that will address a number of topics that are of common interest to disciplers. We will cover key lessons from the *Called to Disciple* training manual as well as specific topics to better equip you as a discipler. The introductory class will cover the importance of utilizing forgiveness, confession and reconciliation lists and how to expand them. Specialized “webinars” can be designed for a particular group of disciplers or even a larger class utilizing a computer, projector and screen.

**How do I reserve a “seat” in a class?** Since class sizes will be limited in order to facilitate dialogue and interaction, you will need to reserve your “seat” (each individual computer) for each class in advance. This will be done by registering through the CTO web page and paying for the class via credit card. You will then receive an “invitation” by email with a simple “link” that will allow you to enter the classroom.

A complete list of upcoming dates and topics will be published in August to help you plan the particular classes in which you would like to participate. I look forward to interacting with you “face to face” even though we may be miles apart! If you have any questions about the webinars, please feel free to contact me at [randy@ctoministries.org](mailto:randy@ctoministries.org) or 602-538-9362.

## MINISTRY FINANCIAL UPDATE

This ministry is supported by the faithful giving of those who have been impacted by CTO.

**God has provided in these first six months in some miraculous ways.** We are so grateful for those of you that have become financial partners with us through both monthly commitments or a one time gift.

Because of new additional expenses, we currently have funding in place for this year to support the existing ministry through mid October. An additional \$20,000 is needed by year end. In addition, \$15,000 is needed to develop a usable data base, automate our business procedures and rebuild the web page. We will move forward as God provides. If you wish to support Called to Obedience Ministries, you may contribute online using your credit card or by mailing a personal check to:

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