



Randy, Janet and Dennie in Ft. Wayne



CTO On The Road....

by Dennie and Randy

On April 11-12 we held our first Regional Conference in Ft. Wayne, Indiana. Two weeks later we hit the road again and provided a CTO Seminar at Valley Bible Church in Pleasanton, California. Here is a synopsis of these specialized training times...

Ft. Wayne Regional Conference

We arrived at the same time spring was arriving in Fort Wayne, IN for CTO's first regional conference. For we, as desert dwellers, seeing daffodils and trees starting to bud was a real treat! Tom had also planned to be a part of the teaching team, but God had a detour in mind for him with a family emergency in New York, and he never got to the conference (Jas. 4:13-15).

On Thursday, Randy hosted a pastors' luncheon, which was graciously underwritten by a couple who are supportive of the ministry. The pastors who received invitations are already aware of CTO discipleship because they have people in their congregations who are using the materials. Randy used this time to explain CTO's methodology and to share about a new 12-session "fast-track" which has been designed for pastors and lay leaders. Two pastors from that group expressed a desire to be discipled. Randy was also able to meet individually with several key leaders.

Fellowship Missionary Church was our very special host, providing well-appointed facilities at no cost to the ministry. We thank the leadership there, especially members of the pastoral staff for their generous contributions. **God assembled a wonderful team of volunteers led by Carl and Judy Moellering, Len and Jane Garrett, John and Beth Peterson and Dan and Glenda Hayworth. We are so grateful for their investment of time, energy and resources!** They did a superb job of coordinating the many facets needed to make the conference run smoothly. We often heard the words, "Each person did the job they were assigned to do." During the conference Diane Hayes and Jim and June Hatfield gave testimonies of how God had used their time of discipleship to bring significant changes in their lives.

God's fascinating way of creating a network of disciples and disciplers, one-on-one or couple-on-couple, was evident in the 130 people who attended. They represented four states in the Midwest and 29 churches! This is the evidence of the multiplication principle of personal discipleship and the fruit of many people sharing their lives with others—who share their lives with others!! We actually had a group present that represented four generations of discipling relationships. About 20 of those who were present had not been discipled, but wanted to learn more about the ministry. Of those, 7 men and 11 women responded on a questionnaire that they would like to be discipled. And a significant number of others indicated that they were ready to disciple.



Ft. Wayne Regional Conference

Conference/Seminar Comments

"That Friday night blew me away! ... I had three impactful conversations before the conference and during breaks with a few wonderful people who go to my church."

"This encouraged me that you don't need to be a spiritual 'giant' in order to share your walk of faith."

"I reluctantly came, but it was exactly where God wanted me to be...It was very encouraging and renewing."

"It caused me to examine my heart. Gave me scriptural wisdom to use in my life and to use to help others."

"The testimonies and examples of how lives have been changed were most valuable."

"It's so amazing how God equips someone with the Word and then, almost right away, we find ourselves in the position to share it with someone who needs it.... Thanks again for the counsel and input that you shared with all of us- its being used by many for God to be glorified!!!!"

"...the teaching was exactly what I needed. I left that night with the beginnings of a desire for God. A hunger once again began to manifest itself in me."

Here is an example of one of the Lord's orchestrations: A woman from Indianapolis (over 100 miles from FW) who desired to be disciplined was introduced to another woman from Indianapolis who indicated that she wanted to begin to disciple! God worked in similar ways throughout the entire weekend. God is good!!!

Discipling Seminar at Valley Bible Church, Pleasanton, CA

After reviewing the beneficial input from the Ft. Wayne Conference, we spent significant time reworking the teaching scheduling, rewriting/reorganizing teaching notes and revamping the handouts.

As in Ft. Wayne, there was a team of people who were getting everything ready to ensure that the Seminar ran smoothly. **A special thanks to this team led by Jay and Fritzeen Scott, both part of the church staff, who were our conference hosts and did much behind the scenes.** Along with Carol Porter, also on staff, and Tresie Matthies, they all not only worked hard on the logistics of the seminar, but have also been busy discipling. As we met new people it was apparent that most had been disciplined by one of these four key people. We still cannot figure out how they have disciplined around 40 people in just over two years. Do you guys ever sleep????

The Friday Night Session was open to the entire church body with a focus on the biblical mandate for personal intimate discipleship. The Sessions on Saturday morning were geared toward understanding how to address the key hindrances to living in obedience to Christ. The afternoon focused on the "Launching Seminar", designed to prepare each individual to begin discipling others with what they have learned and experienced. We also enjoyed two testimonies of God's grace in the middle of difficult family situations, one of which brought two sisters together in a way that had a ripple effect on their entire family.

It is exciting to see God using a church with leadership committed to discipleship and embracing CTO as one of their discipling tools. Just as we experienced in Ft. Wayne, it was refreshing and easy to teach in a context where your audience is eager to listen and hungry to learn. A potential new opportunity may be ahead of us with a missionary couple from Valley Bible who desires to get initial parts of CTO translated into Chinese. Guess where they want to use it? We'll watch how God provides the funding and resources to pull this one off!!

The list of names of people to thank from both conferences is too long to mention. Thank you all for so graciously serving us! At both Ft. Wayne and Pleasanton we saw Rom 1:12 lived out: "...that you and I may be mutually encouraged by each other's faith." As a team we were encouraged by the excitement for Jesus and His Word, the warm hospitality and the love that was expressed through the people who interacted so generously with us! Also, the hospitality we experienced from our hosts in their homes was encouraging and humbling. A special thanks to all of you!!!

"The real evidence of the effectiveness of all of this training is *not* how much CTO will grow and expand as a result. The real evidence of our effectiveness is that as a result of being together we will all love God more fervently and will be more overwhelmed by His grace. Let's make much of HIM!!"

Randy

Conference Statistics...

- 2 Conferences
- 1 Pastor's luncheon
- 35 Churches represented
- 180+ People involved
- 14 Teaching Sessions
- 12+ Hours of training
- 25+ New disciples ready to launch

- Old friends reunited
- New networks established

The opportunity to touch hundreds of lives and marriages!!!

The challenge to be used by God to change our world one life at a time!!!

Above all else...

- Christ was put on display
- God was given great Glory!!



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 \$30,000 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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