

Discipleship for Different Age Groups

CHED is focusing on leaders within the churches to enable the discipleship of others. CHED will place continually an emphasis on Discipleship of Deacons, Teachers and Trustees of the churches.

The CHED team has always carried a concern for ministries to *children*. CHED is working to *lay foundations* in the lives of small children by both *becoming friends of God*, in ways appropriate for children, and deepening this emerging friendship.

CHED also continues to work towards the discipleship of *youth* in the churches of the DC Baptist Convention. The youth of the metropolitan area, like youth everywhere, are seeking to *discover who God wants them to be*. DC Baptists want to help these youth to *find their identities*, learning to follow Jesus Christ as disciples. One of our focuses here is helping international adolescents who are members of immigrant churches with their special challenges.

CHED especially wants to see discipleship growing among the *adults* in the DC Baptist churches. There can be many ways to follow as a disciple, two of which are *regular instruction followed with practice of the principles* and, the second, the use of *mentors* who will help

to disciple their fellow members in their own churches. One of the tools of assisting the development of disciples is the partnership with the College of Prayer, Washington, DC.

Three new tools which CHED uses to equip disciples are: the Spiritual Gifts Workshop, the Forgiveness Seminar and the Neighborhood Violence/Reconciliation Workshop. The first of these helps disciples discover the gifts given to them by God, while the latter two help believers to learn to live effectively in “no exit” relationships.

Developing a Work Group on Discipleship

Two persons indicating their sense of call in developing disciples are ***Dr. Annette James*** and ***Rev. Gloria Jenkins***.



Annette James



Gloria Jenkins

Pray for these two ladies as they focus on building these ministries in Discipleship. ***Consider joining with them*** and the rest of the CHED Team to develop this ministry of Discipleship.

CHED will be developing some resources for Discipleship locally, and churches will also find good resources for Discipleship through:

- Judson Press,
- LifeWay (such as Experiencing God products) and,
- Upper Room Resources (Companions in Christ series.)

Resources are available now for individual or group use in the following elements in Discipleship:

Building a Congregational Strategy, Gift Surveys and Analysis, Prayer, Servant Leadership and Stewardship (It's A New Day).

What are the elements of Discipleship?

- Personal and corporate ***prayer***, one of the basic elements of discipleship, building an intimate friendship with God through Jesus Christ.
- An ability to ***perceive revelation*** growing in the disciple's life, frequently coming through Bible Study and ***reflection*** upon one's personal relationship (walk) to Jesus.
- The sense of a ***“no exit” relationship***, a commitment in following Jesus Christ, not without question or tension, but ***without rejection*** of Christ's guiding revelation.

- The readiness in new believers to build a **foundation for faith**, learning the basics of following Christ and His disciplines, **beginning to practice these** (instruction or mentoring).
- The practice of regular **corporate worship** with other believers in Jesus Christ as well as **sharing journeys and stories** with one another in small groups.
- The **discovery of gifts** within one's life, developing these gifts for **use within God's Kingdom**.
- A readiness **to share** one's gifts **at personal cost** for Christ's cause.

The Discipleship Work Group will continue this year developing materials for other elements, such as:

- *A Faith which leads to Love (I Peter 1: 5-7)*
- *Developing Spiritual Perception (John 1: 50-51)*
- *Failure and Victory, Sacrifice and Hope (Romans 5: 3-4)*
- *Forgiveness (Matthew 18: 15-18)*
- *Risk—both in Mission and in Sharing the Good News (Mark 4: 37-41)*

Is Discipleship a Relationship or a Process, or can it be both?

Often churches task an associate pastor with the responsibility of the ministry of discipleship. Such an honor is no small responsibility. Those who lead people to a committed friendship with Jesus Christ, teaching them how to follow the Lord, have important and challenging ministries.

One associate pastor from Anacostia was delighted in the additional impetus for her ministry making disciples. During the year she stated the interest of her church saying, “We as a church are learning the simple public declaration for Christ in a worship service does not guarantee a transformed life. We want to learn increasingly to lead interested people to become followers of Jesus.”

The same perception and discovery arises in suburbs around Washington. An associate pastor from the suburban ring around Washington is excited about developing foundations for discipleship. He says, “Helping churches make disciples is exactly what we need to be doing. We want to join with others in the DCBC that are learning how to encourage others to follow Jesus in their daily lives.”

**The Center for Congregational Health,
Evangelism & Discipleship**

Robert D. Cochran,
Associate Executive Director
robert.cochran@dcbaptist.org
DC Baptist Convention
1628 Sixteenth Street NW
Washington DC 20009

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LAYING FOUNDATIONS FOR DISCIPLESHIP

