

Paul: *Heavenly Father, we thank You for Your love for all. We thank You for Your presence. We pray that You would make this time together of eternal benefit, especially for those who have never heard the name of Jesus. We commit our time to You in the mighty name of Jesus. Amen.*

My name is Paul. There are three of us here from Global Disciples, and we trust that this time together will stir some creative thinking in you. How many of you have traveled on a boat? Almost everybody. When a boat is going through the water, behind there is a big wake, and when you turn behind and look, the wake just keeps getting bigger. The Apostle Paul followed Jesus in such a way that he left behind him a huge wake. That wake was set on fire. It was set on fire by the Holy Spirit.

When Global Disciples started in 1996, other than the time of fasting and prayer, from the beginning we said, “We want to follow Jesus the way that Paul follows Jesus.” We want to see a mighty movement of God that keeps multiplying, and so we’re going to share with you the story of what is happening and why. You’re going to meet Benson from the Northern District of Turkana, which is in Kenya. Benson took discipleship, Global Disciple training. We’re going to listen to him tell his story.

Today, we just have over a thousand training programs around the world. Each program trains 10 to 15 people, but that’s not why there’s an anointing of the Holy Spirit. Everything in Global Disciples was conceived in prayer. It has been birthed in prayer, and it is sustained by prayer. And so, we are here this afternoon to share our journey. It is just one small part of what God is doing in his Kingdom. So welcome here. I hope the video is now ready to go. There’s an English track. We’ll go ahead and watch.

[Video 02:23:44-02:35:22]

Paul: When you look at Benson’s story, know that you can be that person. So we’re going to take the next little while and just describe to you what training Global Disciples offers. So I want to introduce Jon.

Jon: I greet you all in the name of Jesus. It’s a real privilege to be here with you not only for this hour but for the entire event. It’s a real joy to be together with you. We are excited with what God is doing, not just through Global Disciples. We are so excited to hear what God is doing. It is His mission that has gathered us together. We are excited to be a small part of what God is doing. In order to share our vision with you, we are not asking you to join us. We’re asking you to join with us, as you already are on the mission of Jesus. And we hope that as we share, you will see some ways that can apply in your own context.

We long to see church blending movements. You just saw the story of Benson. That movement has continued to grow. There are over 500 churches that are part of that one network that Benson is involved with. And we have heard the need today. There are still many places that are unreached. We need many Bensons. We need many churches. We need many places to hear the Good News of Jesus Christ. So our longing is to see church planting that would multiply. We believe that addition is not enough. We must see multiplication. And it’s exciting to hear so many different models of ways that a church can multiply. We will also share ours with you.

What do we want to see happen in these church movements? First, we want to see continuous outreach. It’s not enough to plant one church. We want to see that church multiplied in the Earth. The Apostle Paul

planted churches, and those churches planted churches. We want to see God do that in our day. We praise God for his awareness of doing that, and we long for more.

Churches that are multiplying. We want to see these churches being able to self-sustained. We love the model of the Apostle Paul. Paul did not receive support from overseas. He worked, and he was able to plant churches, and we believe that is a model that will work today. When Benson first started church planting, he would take some flour from the village, and take it out there to sell to people in the villages. He would exchange that for goats, and he would bring the goats back to the large town. He would sell the goats and make enough money to support himself. We long to see churches that are able to multiply without getting money from overseas or other locations.

The third thing that we want to see happening is continued leadership development. This is a leadership consultation, so I know all of you are supporting leadership development, which means that I don't have to convince you that without strong leaders the church will not be strong. Benson has to invest a lot of time now in training and developing leaders; without that his movement is not sustainable. The growth will die down.

And we look again at the Apostle Paul ... Everywhere he went he had a group with him, a group of disciples: men that were learning from him and men that he could send to a church. He was raising up leaders. In local churches, he appointed leaders, prayed for them, committed them to the hands of the Holy Spirit. And the way that Paul followed Jesus changed his world. And we believe that God is still in the business of changing this world.

All of these elements: training disciples to reach out, finding ways for them to be supported, and strengthening leaders, are important. And we believe that when we bring them together, we will see maximum impact. So we want to tell you about the Global Disciples approach. We pray for persons that are sent by local churches. We give them our training. We share with them models on how they can do disciple mission training, or small business training, or leadership training. And then they return to their churches and begin to train individuals.

We're going to first look at the discipleship training, and Paul is going to talk about that one.

Paul: Thank you, Jon. We begin by gathering clusters of church leaders together, and there's a reason for that. For a training program to last for a long time, you need a group of churches. The power of churches in unity creates a different kind of discipleship. We call our training discipleship mission training. Simply, it means that we're just not training people to follow Jesus. We're training people to follow Jesus and share their faith, to go out. And that kind of discipleship training produces evangelists and church planters.

So what is it that we train? 2 Timothy 2:2 says, "The things that you heard me say ..." That's the goal of discipleship. To pass on what the Lord has done for you. To introduce others to the grace and mercy of God. Discipleship is about learning, but it has to be learning that's put into practice. We teach in the way of Jesus. Learn. Go and put it into practice. Come back and evaluate.

I want to show you the nine essential components of our training. We start by learning about what it means to walk in intimacy with God. We have to learn to listen to the Word and to the Holy Spirit. It all begins there. Everything flows out of an intimate walk with God. We teach them about Holy Spirit empowerment. Global Disciples is not a denomination, so we're not saying we're Presbyterian. We're not saying we're Baptist.

We work with everyone who believes and loves Jesus. But without learning about the power of his Word and the authority of the Holy Spirit, when you go out later today nothing will happen. But when you go out in confidence, you are trained to expect God's signs and wonders. You are trained to see what is happening in the spiritual realm. That produces a different kind of disciple. The thing we talk about is right relationships. What that means is the power of forgiveness.

The Scripture says, "Forgive one another." As God and Christ has forgiven. And when we come to this point in our training, there is much we think because the Holy Spirit reminds us of who we have not yet forgiven. And when you walk through the power of forgiving those who have persecuted, those who have betrayed you ... Let the Lord set you free. And when we experience that forgiveness, it's a powerful part of the Gospel that we carry.

We teach them about biblical truth. The power of God's words. God's teaching being authoritative to any part of life. We teach them what it means to talk to self and to live for Jesus. You saw some of these very poor settings where Benson was going. I have walked with him through the desert and it's not nice. We don't always eat our favorite food. The goals of our training is to go to the least reached areas where they don't eat well, where people don't live well; That's where God is calling us. Can you do that? Yes, you can.

Can you sleep on the ground or the sand? Last time I was with Benson, we dug a little hole in the sand. It was about two o'clock in the morning. I was so tired. And Benson says, "Have a good sleep, but watch out for scorpions." And I said to Benson, "Wait. How do I sleep and watch the scorpions?" The only answer he had was, "God will protect you." I said, "Okay, Benson, I don't need to watch for scorpions. Go to sleep." Yeah? Amen. The Lord teaches us to be confident that we are alive. Your life is in nobody else's hands. Only the hands of Jesus. No scorpion is going to be taking my life. No snake. No desert lion. My life is in the hands of Jesus.

We teach them about the Kingdom of God, and that the church is in the center of God's heart to build His kingdom. And in all of our trainings, we ask, "Describe what's in your mind when you hear the word *church*." There are two things that people always describe – a cross and a building. We talk about this, that the cross is over the church, but the church does not need a building. Many of Benson's churches meet under a tree or in a mud hut. God does not need walls to gather people together.

We teach them about evangelism. Very simply, share the Gospel of Jesus and care for their needs. And if you don't have anything in your pocket, God will provide. Do you have faith to see that? That's what this training is about. Open your eyes to see what you cannot see. Open your ears to hear what you cannot hear. Go with eyes and ears that see and hear what God sees and hears.

And then we give them the big vision. God is at work. Were you all here that morning when we heard about what God is doing in Syria, in Iran, and in Iraq. Those are the three places in the world that we're told they are our enemies. Not according to God. His church is growing there. His church is growing in all the broken places of the world. Hallelujah. Let that vision get a hold of your heart. We overcome our fear. We overcome the message of the world. And if God calls, we go, because God is at work in the broken places. And it's in the broken places that people have never heard of Jesus.

The ninth essential component is the power of multiplication. I wanted to show you something. Here's the power of multiplication. "I lead my brother to Jesus. I teach him; you will find another. I lead my brother to Jesus." How many are we? Four. Wait, go find someone. He's a wandering believer. How many are we? Wait, go find someone. Bring them to Jesus.

Okay. How many are here? Fourteen. If we send fourteen out with another fourteen, that'd be twenty-eight people. If we send twenty-eight people, everyone in the room would be out there. This is the power of multiplication.

We were overwhelmed this morning with how few pastors there are. We cannot just add. We have to multiply. And we have to train disciples who will make disciples who will make disciples. If we understand how to train disciples who will make disciples, the Kingdom of Jesus will multiply, and God's name will be glorified where it's not even spoken right now.

Now we gather these small groups of churches together. We teach them to send out their young men and women, in the name of Jesus. And the pastors always say, "Are you going to pay them?" As Global Disciples, we say, "No, we're not going to pay them." How are they going to survive? I want to introduce Tim to come and talk about a way in which we train and create local sustainability.

Tim: Good afternoon. One of the things that we've discovered is that many times as a church, we take the theology of Paul very seriously, but we don't take his methodology very seriously. What did Paul do for a living? Once you read the story of Apostle Paul, you very quickly learn that he used **his business as an identity**.

Can you imagine working with Paul? You know they bring a blind person into the shop, and they pray for the blind person they see, and Priscilla goes ... It says very quickly, "They were training to become church planters themselves." So I would like to tell you that we figured this out, but actually God pushed. Twenty years ago when I left Hong Kong, the goal was to train missionaries to go to businesses in unreached areas. Eighty percent of the unreached people of the world, you cannot go with a missionary identity. How many of you are pastors? When you meet a non-Christian for the first time, you say, "I'm Pastor such and so..." Does that behavior ever change? And they're afraid of you because they're afraid you're going to talk about Jesus. Does that ever happen to you? It's because we have a problem with identity. Paul solved it by making tents.

The man up there with the red vest, [screen] his name is _____. He's Nepali from Nepal. And what happened was in the early 2000s; the mullahs were persecuting everybody. And so, we helped _____ design a business as a trekking guide. And he discovered that he could go to any village as a guide, so he

took 18 people. And now he had a problem. They wanted to start businesses, as well. And so he asked for help, and I thought he wanted money. I said, "I'm not sure that's a good idea." The next day, he came back and said, "I don't want the money. I want you to come and train them, so they can start a business just like I did." And so, that was the first graduating class.

In one hand, they have a calculator. In the other hand, they have a Bible. It wasn't as easy as it looks. When we handed out the calculator the first guy put it to his ear, and it looked like this. And he thought it was a telephone. But I'd like to tell you one story about that training. Sitting right here in the second row is a man named _____. He went back to his village and started a very small grocery store. As he started his grocery store, he began to pray for the sick and they were healed. The store developed a reputation, that's the grocery store you go to for prayer, in Jesus's name. And the church he began grew to 200 people.

So I'm very curious. How do you grow a church of 200 people out of a grocery store? You want to know the secret? I said, "How do you pray for people?" He said, "In my culture, people who become sick and are about to die start to become thin." He said, "I lay hands on them, and I pray in Jesus's name. It makes them fat." I said, "That's not going to work everywhere." But what we've been learning is that the churches that have an identity have a business to sustain themselves.

And it works in China. In 2006, we did a training in Hong Kong. A missionary went to China. Had a small business running a music store teaching people to play drums. People began coming to Jesus. So he went to start up a discipleship training program. But he discovered it was too noisy to do discipleship. So next store he began a bubble tea. So bubble tea is where you go to do discipleship. Music is where you go to meet people. And they begin to train other people to do small businesses.

There are 58 fellowships in 12 different cities. And the money's not coming from the outside. One of the keys to a movement is that it can sustain itself. An African church leader said that "birds of Africa don't go to America to eat." We need to learn from the Apostle Paul. Church planters need an identity. They need access into people's lives. For them to multiply, they have to be able to sustain themselves. But if they're going to multiply effectively, the next part they'll need is effective leaders.

Jon: We are at a leadership conference. Do you understand the importance of leadership? I will just share briefly with you a model that we use as we train people in Global Disciples. We train disciples. Then we train them in business so they can sustain themselves. And then we train them in leadership so that they can continue to grow as leaders, and also multiply leaders in the churches.

We use a very simple model in our training. We say that there are three keys to effective Christian leadership. We use a three-legged stool that's used in many parts of the world. Three areas that need to be strong for a leader. The first leg is character. Our relationship with God. Our relationship with family. Our attitudes. The way we think. We talk about the brokenness of Jesus and the need for leaders to lead with humility. All of these are areas of character.

The second leg of the stool is knowledge. We talk about biblical knowledge, but we also talk about other areas of knowledge. A leader needs to know himself. His own gifts and abilities. He needs to understand

some things about leadership. We teach that leadership is influence; as we influence others we are leading them. It's not about the position. It's about impacting the lives of others. We say that leaders need to know about leadership. And we share how leadership development is part of the Great Commission. We talk about knowing our vocation.

The third leg is the area of skills. And here we mean the ability to lead well. Knowing how to lead myself. Having a vision. Having goals in my life. Managing my time well. Learning to help others. Building a team around me. Releasing powers to others. Those are what we call the skills of leadership.

When those three elements are together, we say the stool is very strong because Christ is at the center. And our goal is to produce leaders that lead like Jesus and have the heart of Jesus. And the ability to lead like Jesus. We spend five days with leaders talking in more details about these elements. And we also talk to them about how to make the training transformational. We have a curriculum that we've developed around these three. First, we talk about how to do the training. And in this, we use Malcolm's four transformational elements: spiritual component, relational component, experiential, and then instructional. And with those that we are training, we focus not on information but transformation. We want people to go and do, and to practice what they are learning. So we want the church planters to go through this kind of training, and then be able to pass it on to others.

Church planters are financially stable. We don't give money for these training programs. It can be done very simply. Meeting once a week or once a month, and talking about Jesus. All of this is with the goal of multiplying churches. We're not just interested in training a church to be strong. We're interested in a strong church reaching out. Reaching out to the unreached. Those are the three areas that Global Disciples does train. And now, welcome Paul to bring it all together.

Paul: So I'd like to show you a diagram that puts it all together. First of all, all these trainings that we're talking about are owned by the local church. The three of us do not run a thousand training programs. The training programs are owned and led by the local church.

So here is where we start. We start off with discipleship mission training. A minimum of ten days. And then they do outreach double the minimum amount of days they trained. When they come back, they share stories, and there's a discernment. Is God calling you to go back? For those who have a call on their life to become church planters, those are the people that have the opportunity to take small business development. All of these trainings now are focused on church planters; so their goal is to teach church planters how to be self-supporting so they're not a burden on their local church, and how to use business as a tool.

When they've been out for a short amount of time, we also invite them to come back and share stories on what God is doing. And that's when Jon and his team arranged to meet them in a small group that began to teach them leadership because God will be multiplying the number of churches, and it requires leadership skills, character, and knowledge. And so, what's happening in the least reached areas of our world, people are coming to faith and the Kingdom of God is growing. And it's multiplying.

If you have any questions, we're going to take some time for questions. And then, when there's no more questions, we want you to know all these materials up here are free. There's copies of DVDs on Benson's life. And there's lots of materials that describe. Unfortunately, it's all in English. But you're welcome to take it. Any questions?

Participant: Where can you find this material?

Paul: The nine essential components? Pick up one of these. They're in print here. And our website is on all these materials. Go on our website, and the information is there. Okay? Any other questions?

Translator: How do you do the small business training?

Tim: That's a really good question. How do you do the small business training? What we've learned is people need to have a way to evaluate what God's already given them. We don't tell them what to do.

Paul: There's more materials on the table.

Tim: Going back to the question, what do we do for small business training? Our target is sending out church planters to very poor communities. But many times, even among the poor, they have something they already know. And so, one of the questions we ask, first off, is do you understand the Bible's view of work? Work is meant to be a holy activity. When you go to work, you don't work for your boss, you're working for Jesus. If you start a business, the purpose of this business is not for you to get rich, the purpose of this business is to bring order to God. And that's the foundation.

The next level is talk about what God has already given to you. It's through a process of both evaluation and prayer, to help with understanding. And the rest is teaching you skills on how you preserve capital, how you keep track of finances. But the training is very biblically-based because church planters use the Bible as their livelihood. But we're discovering that there's even business people that take the training to teach other church planters. If we can't even guarantee our breath, how can we assume that our business belongs to us? We need the church to wake up and realize that God has given us our resources out of trust, and I would like church planters to lead that model.

Participant: You said that the church planters belong to a very poor community. Is there any additional plan that you give to help start up a business? That's my first question. And the second question, what would we be the initial investment to start up a business?

Paul: The short answer is: yes, and not much.

Tim: We're very interested in the cluster of churches that are sending them, and at least try to match whatever we would give. If they were to give anything it would be matched. I think right now it's \$200, and it's only focused on church planters reaching unreached people. Two hundred from our part to the church planters.

Participant: How do you encourage and promote self-sustaining ministry in a culture that teaches that if you do secular work you're not worthy to teach?

Paul: Great question. We address it in two ways. And this is a good time to say that we don't just hand out training materials. You get the materials in training. And this is one of the reasons why. We teach a biblical theology of work. Work and ministry are not separate. And in many cultures, that's a very difficult thing to understand. Work does not take away from ministry. It's a part of ministry. So we spend a lot of time in our training, and then we spend a lot of time with church leaders helping them to understand. And when the church leaders are starting to send out 10, 15, 20 church planters they cannot support them all, so that's when the concept of local sustainability makes sense. Thank you for asking the question.

Translator: They have started business missions, and missionaries are not pushed by the pastors, but business circles themselves. Jesus sent disciples out two by two. So they send people out two by two: one businessman and one pastor.

Paul: Perfect.

Translator: There's a verse in the passage **[Inaudible 03:34:34-03:34:40]**. Business people are like a snake. **[Inaudible 03:34:46-03:34:48]**. It was a joke because business in China is often tricky. Okay, so I'm here to learn how we can use your model. How can we make benefit of what we have learned through the whole conference in order for me to bring back and make useful? So I really want to know how you train them using practical material.

Paul: Okay, I'm going to suggest that you talk to Tim when we're done.

Translator: Can we go and take your training programs in China? And how?

Paul: We've started our training in China. Tim is leading all three trainings in China. He's building a team.

Translator: We have a lot of business brothers and sisters there. We really are passionate to do God's work, but we don't know how to start. If a person who does business tries to serve the church, often times, it cannot be balanced. So how can we balance these two?

Paul: We will teach you.

Participant: We started with business. We started with grocery. But the problem is that we fail in every business that we did. That has created a problem. Business is not working for our church planters. They should not get into business. And because we did not have the expertise to revisit our plans, and I understand where we've been. We also couldn't address that issue. Do you help in that kind of situation?

Paul: Yes. This is not the only answer to your question, but in every level of training we provide mentoring and coaching. That's part of the answer.

Participant: I'm very glad that we're on the same page. The question is we have a business target and we also have the missionary targets, how are they able to balance both the missionary target and the business target? How do they find success?

Paul: That is a great question. In our experience, most of the time it has to do with where you begin. If you begin by training discipleship mission church planters, then they understand that business is a tool for evangelism. Does it work all the time? No. But for the majority of time, if in their understanding they see themselves as a church planter, they keep business as a tool for evangelism. That's why this is called discipleship mission training.

Participant: I originated from Southwest China. We have other places in the mountains. No business. We cannot sell or do anything in that place. What kind of operation can we do there?

Paul: We have many, many church planters in Nepal, and most of them are going up the mountains. And most of them run a business in the valley, so they keep going and going back. So it requires a strategy. Great question.

Translator: He's in car business. I really want to share God's words in my marketplace, but when I began to share my clients always look at me differently. They do not want to talk with me about that. But the church I'm in, the young people there lack working experience. So if I invite my parents to the church, they cannot share with them. They have nothing in common. So I do not know what to do. Yeah, I wonder if you have any advice.

Paul: I don't know your situation. I would love to visit and see your car dealership. But one of the things we stress in the training is the passion in evangelism. Often times, the church planters we've observed that are most effective are the ones that don't start by getting the whole Gospel out right away. They begin by praying for somebody. Doing acts of love. One church planter in India that actually talks about a nine-month process building a relationship with someone. He says, "It's just like being pregnant." Sometimes we share the Gospel. But I believe that God will give us wisdom if we listen, and I want to thank you so much for trying. Too many business people don't even try. One of the things we teach is to never divide your world into two compartments. There is no such thing as sacred and separate. It all belongs to God. And I pray that God blesses your business to be a place where people find Jesus.

Translator: Failures and successes.

Paul: Great question.

Tim: We've had some amazing successes, and others who have done very, very well. Our biggest disappointment are the churches that take the training and don't become a mentor for another church. Our even worse, they do really well, and somebody gets excited and decides to give a lot of money, and then all of a sudden they've raised the standard for everybody around them. It becomes irrelevant. And the other thing we're really interested in is we stop listening and praying to the Holy Spirit.

Paul: Obviously, that is a big question we could talk about for a long time. Thank you everyone. It is now 5 o'clock, and we promise to release you. And thank you for asking great questions. God bless you.