

Diving into Discipleship

By Steffen Leach

Matthew 28:19-20 tells us "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, unto the end of the world". This command, known as the Great Commission, reminds us that making disciples is not limited to overseas missions, but being faithfully obedient in our own communities.

Jesus commands us to go and to preach the gospel to every creature (Mark 16:15). Missions is the intentional sending of believers to proclaim the gospel and make disciples both locally and globally. When most people hear the word *missionary*, they tend to think it requires buying a plane ticket and crossing the ocean to teach the gospel to others, which is great if this is what you have been called to do (Acts 1:8). Let's focus on the local side of it, those who live out their faith in their community. This starts with being a disciple. Being a disciple means following

Jesus with devotion, obeying his commandments, and willingly setting aside worldly desires (Luke 14:26-27; John 8:31).

"As a member at Faith Baptist, I, along with many others have completed a 14-week personal discipleship program. Completing this has challenged me to see obedience not as obligation, but as a daily surrender, placing God's will above my own desires."

In Acts 1:8, before the disciples were called to the "uttermost part of the earth", they were called to the person across the street, so to speak. In local missions, the most profound "sending" happens the moment you walk out your door. When we live this way, our ordinary routines become extraordinary opportunities for God to work through us. When you dive into local discipleship, you realize that you aren't just "serving a community"; you are becoming the hands and feet of Christ in the very place He has called you to be. The "Great Commission" isn't a call to go somewhere else; it's a call to be a disciple-maker wherever you go!



Throughout the week, personal discipleship occurs with the pastor. On Sundays, corporate discipleship occurs through "Inductive Bible Study Groups."



Pastor Joseph Howard

Growing up on the Mission Field

By Seth Harris

I was born in Birmingham, AL in September 1992. A short while later, in 1997, I moved with my family to Europe – to the little country of Belgium.

I didn't know it then, but this would have an impact on my life that would last eternally.

Growing up in a foreign country isn't strange when it's all you've known and I assimilated as well as a 5-year-old American boy could. The hardships of being the "foreigner" were barely noticed by a goofy kid just looking to make neighborhood friends and play.

My Dad was busy doing what he had been sent there to do, establishing Bible studies and church services for anyone searching for the truth in such a spiritually cold country.

"Dad was a Missionary through and through, He loved God and because of that He loved people. The Great Commission was his mission."

My Mom took on the responsibilities of educating me and my siblings; making a place for us to call home, it always felt like home there. Even if the whole outside world felt foreign and strange, whatever house we lived in felt like home. She loved and cared for us by pulling triple duty. Keeping all of us kids taught, fed and loved.

I had all of my early memories overseas; most importantly I came to know the Lord savingly while over there.

I am eternally grateful that my parents didn't neglect the mission field in the home while serving the Lord on the actual mission field.

It's been so impactful having grown up elsewhere and having "seen the world". Although customs and culture may be different from region to region, one thing doesn't change – People need the Lord!



From Our Church to Your Home

Pastor Joseph Howard

Just outside the door of my office, hangs a quote beside the portrait of Charles Spurgeon.

"Every Christian is either a missionary or an imposter."

It may seem strange when we think that those words came from the lips of a pastor. It may seem even more strange to think they came from the "prince of preachers" who pastored one of the largest churches in London, England. Spurgeon was a Puritan at heart and his love for Christ and His parting words dictated every aspect of his life.

It is my belief that though words such as these from Spurgeon may seem bold and almost offensive, they are indicative of a Christian culture with a true understanding of the holiness of God. Holiness should

not be perceived as a sort of *exterior pious posture* which would never soil the garment by the filth around it. A person who pursues holiness will not and can not be satisfied with an expression of worship that attaches itself to the *fabric of the pew* and does not extend beyond the walls of the sanctuary where sermons are heard on Sunday mornings. A church that pursues holiness will not and can not be satisfied with "holding services" on Sundays and Wednesdays.

If you ask why Faith Baptist exists, that's simple - for missions. That's not to say that we don't care for our members deeply. In fact, the only way to care for members of the church is to teach them to be Christ-centric in a self-centric world. I understand that not every Christian will or should go to the mission field, but I do propose that every Christian should *have a part* in the mission field.

Reflections from a Missionary

By Matt Stahlman, European Field Director of Macedonia World Baptist Missions

When we think about world missions, our first thoughts are often evangelism, Scripture distribution, church planting, and other "spiritual" works. These are at the very heart of missions, reaching the lost and glorifying Christ. But getting to that point requires a great deal of practical work. God has chosen to partner with us in accomplishing His mission, and through that partnership we experience the heart of God and a depth of fellowship unlike anything else.

Yet challenges arise. I sometimes frame it this way: Can a family truly survive the Great Commission? Missions carry both emotional and financial burdens. Add to that the chaos of travel, leaving behind friends and family, and the loneliness and isolation of the field, and cracks can begin to form in the lives of frontline laborers.

While volumes could be written on this subject, consider three key areas.

1. Family Life

Young couples often dream of stability such as homeownership, steady income, and a close-knit community. Yet God's call to missions frequently requires forsaking that stability and embracing risk. While exciting at first, it can strain marriages and challenge children who crave consistency. We were created to live in strong communities, supported by

church and family. Missionary families need our prayers, our understanding, and our support as they navigate life far from those anchors.

2. Finances

Cathy and I have served in missions for over 20 years, and God has faithfully met our needs. Still, the challenges are real. Predictable paychecks and stable expenses are rare. Travel, printing, shipping, and logging tens of thousands of miles each year come at a high cost. Combined with uncertain support, this creates real pressure. Churches should extend grace and recognize that missionaries are trained, dedicated, and worthy of financial investment.

3. Friendship

Many missionaries have connections around the world, but deep, lasting friendships can be harder to maintain. Constant movement and cultural differences often limit relationships to the surface level. Yet we are not meant to walk alone. Missionaries, like all of us, need meaningful relationships marked by accountability and transparency.

Missionary work is challenging, but it is not impossible. It is a three-way partnership. We need the power of God. We need missionaries who are fully surrendered. And we need Christians who will help prepare and sustain them through the hardships. (*Ecclesiastes 4:12*).



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Sunday Morning Worship:
Bible Discovery Groups | 9:30 AM
Morning Worship | 10:30 AM

Wednesday Bible Study | 6:00 PM

Visit us online @ www.fbcwj.church
6605 West Jefferson Road, Quinton

An Excerpt from a Missionary

By Hudson Taylor, taken from Hudson Taylor's *Spiritual Secrets*.

That Sunday was a very happy one. As usual my heart was full and brimming over with blessing. After attending divine service in the morning, my afternoons and evenings were taken up with Gospel work in the various lodging houses I was accustomed to visit in the lowest part of the town. At such times it almost seemed to me as if heaven were begun below, and that all that could be looked for was an enlargement of one's capacity for joy, not a truer filling than I possessed.

After concluding my last service about ten o'clock that night, a poor man asked me to go and pray with his wife, saying that she was dying. I readily agreed, and on the way asked him why he had not sent for the priest, as his accent told me he was an Irishman. He had done so, he said, but the priest refused to come without a payment of eighteen pence, which the man did not possess as the family was starving. Immediately it occurred to my mind that all the money I had in the world was the solitary half-crown, and that it was in one coin; moreover, that while the basin of water-gruel I usually took for supper was awaiting me, and there was sufficient in the house for breakfast in the morning, I certainly had nothing for dinner on the coming day.

Somehow or other there was at once a stoppage in the flow of joy in my heart. But instead of reproving myself I began to reprove the poor man, telling him that it was very wrong to have allowed matters to get into such a state as he described, and that he ought to have applied to the relieving officer. His answer was that he had done so, and was told to come at eleven o'clock the next morning, but that he feared his wife might not live through the night.

"Ah," thought I, "if only I had two shillings and a sixpence instead of this half-crown, how gladly would I give these poor people a shilling!" But to part with the half-crown was far from my thoughts.

"I little dreamed that the truth of the matter simply was that I could trust God plus one-and-sixpence, but was not prepared to trust Him only, without any money at all in my pocket."



My conductor led me into a court, down which I followed him with some degree of nervousness. I had found myself there before, and at my last visit had been roughly handled...Up a miserable flight of stairs into a wretched room he led me, and oh, what a sight there presented itself! Four or five children stood about, their sunken cheeks and temples telling unmistakably the story of slow starvation, and lying on a wretched pallet was a poor, exhausted mother, with a tiny infant thirty-six hours old moaning rather than crying at her side.

"Ah," thought I, "if I had two shillings and a sixpence instead of half-a-crown, how gladly should they have one-and-sixpence of it." But still a wretched unbelief prevented me from obeying the impulse to relieve their distress at the cost of all I possessed.

It will scarcely seem strange that I was unable to say much to comfort these poor people. I needed comfort myself. I began to tell them, however, that they must not be cast down; that though their circumstances were very distressing there was a kind and loving Father in heaven. But something within me cried, "You hypocrite! Telling these unconverted people about a kind and loving Father in heaven, and not prepared yourself to trust Him with half-a-crown."

I nearly choked. How gladly would I have compromised with conscience, if I had had a florin and a sixpence! I would have given the florin thankfully and kept the rest.

"But I was not yet prepared to trust in God alone, without the sixpence."

To talk was impossible under these circumstances, yet strange to say I thought I should have no difficulty in praying. Prayer was a delightful occupation in those days. Time thus spent never seemed wearisome and I knew no lack of words. I seemed to think that all I should have to do would be to kneel down and pray, and that relief would come to them and to myself together.

"You asked me to come and pray with your wife," I said to the man; "let us pray." And I knelt down. But no sooner had I opened my lips with, "Our



Father who art in heaven," than conscience said within, "Dare you mock God? Dare you kneel down and call Him 'Father' with that half-crown in your pocket?"

Such a time of conflict then came upon me as I had never experienced before. How I got through that form of prayer I know not, and whether the words uttered were connected or disconnected. But I arose from my knees in great distress of mind.

The poor father turned to me and said, "You see what a terrible state we are in, sir. If you can help us, for God's sake do!"

At that moment the word flashed into my mind, "Give to him that asketh of thee." And in the word of a King there is power.

I put my hand into my pocket and slowly drawing out the half-crown gave it to the man, telling him that it might seem a small matter for me to relieve them, seeing that I was comparatively well off, but that in parting with the coin I was giving him my all; but that what I had been trying to tell them was indeed true, God really was a Father and might be trusted. And how the joy came back in full flood tide to my heart! I could say anything and feel it then, and the hindrance to blessing was gone – gone, I trust, forever.

"Not only was the poor woman's life saved, but my life as I fully realized had been saved too."

It might have been a wreck – would have been, probably, as a Christian life – had not grace at that time conquered and the striving of God's Spirit been obeyed.

Our 2026 Mission Conference

- Raised over \$30,000 for missions.
- Added 2 missionaries.
- Added Gospel Advance - South Sudan.
- Provided over 500 Christmas gifts for refugee children.



"Character Coaching"

By Lauren Howard

In essence, "Character Coaching" is a specific way to witness or disciple in a group setting. In our church ministry, this is specifically played out through mentoring high school sports teams. I quickly realized that I could stick to coaching these teens towards certain biblical character traits, or I could teach them who Jesus is – the best Character Coach! If we are willing to share the true gospel and point people to Christ, He is the ultimate refiner and sanctifier of our character.

The command to believers to make disciples of all nations, Biblically, is to begin in our own back yard. While the gravity of obedience in this can be daunting, the Lord would not have tasked us if He did not intend to fully equip us. Really, it is likely much easier than you think! One of my most meaningful mentees was a teen girl I would pick up from school, and talk with while my children were in music lessons. *Relationship* was at the heart of our time together.

We see this demonstrated beautifully as Jesus lived among His twelve disciples. Doing life together through intentional relationships is where discipleship happens. What we so often consider "mundane" moments are actually rich opportunities. Just through an intentional dinner invitation, a young girl watches the rhythm of your home, teen boys see what a family dinner looks like, both of them notice how to Biblically love their future spouse. The "mundane" cumulates into future Christ-centered marriages, strong family foundations, lives marked by sanctification, and resources to teach others. I feel strongly towards this specific scenario because I have been on both sides of it. These invitations were my resource for learning how to host and where I saw the helpmate and submission of a wife in real-time. Now inviting others, the next generation is seeing the importance of a family meal and is implementing changes to support it. My encouragement to you is - *it really can be that simple!*



Scan to visit our website where you will find additional resources and upcoming events.

Upcoming Events

MAY

10

MOTHER'S DAY BREAKFAST
Sunday
9:30 AM

Every year, we honor our mother's during the service with a gift. Before service we honor them with a breakfast prepared and served by the men.

17

GRADUATION SUNDAY
Sunday
10:30 AM

Graduation Sunday afford us the opportunity to honor our 2026 graduates and their families. This year we will honor our homiletics graduates as well.

21

SENIOR SAINTS
Thursday
10:30 AM - 12:00 PM

Pastor Matthew Wilson from Central Baptist will encourage the seniors with specific areas of ministry for the elderly in the local church. Food will be provided by the church.

JUNE

8-13

THE WILDS YOUTH CAMP
Brevard, NC

By faith, Faith Baptist agreed to pay 75% of the cost for 8 students to attend youth camp this year. Pray for them during this formative time in their life.

15-17

BASKETBALL CLINIC
West Jefferson Town Hall
6:00 - 8:00 PM

Join us for Basketball Fundamentals and Gospel Foundations. **June is reserved for ages 6-9. Online registration coming soon!**

18

SENIOR SAINTS
Thursday
10:30 AM - 12:00 PM

The Senior Saints will be travelling to the Hartselle Depot in Hartselle, AL. We will take the bus for a fun day of food and fellowship!

21

FATHER'S DAY BREAKFAST
Sunday
9:30 AM

Make sure to attend our Father's Day Breakfast, prepared and served by the ladies.

JULY

13-15

BASKETBALL CLINIC
West Jefferson Town Hall
6:00 - 8:00 PM

Join us for Basketball Fundamentals and Gospel Foundations. **July is reserved for ages 10-12. Online registration coming soon!**

16

SENIOR SAINTS
Thursday
10:30 AM

Senior Saints will be back at the Faith Baptist facility for July. Check our website for future details!

26

FAMILY DAY
Sunday
10:30 AM

Family Day is always a special time and tends to be the biggest service of the year! Join us as we hear from Pastor David Webb of Walker Springs Road Baptist Church.