

December, 2013

home base



A newsletter update among friends of Pathfinders ...

our mission:

To experience Christ through simple churching and to pass it on.

our vision:

To develop simple expressions of church in the community and marketplace.

our work:

- Ordinary people leading
- Scripture-rooted open fellowship and sharing
- Nurturing relationships
- Reach out to seekers
- Disciplemaking
- Reproducing of fellowships to create new fellowships
- Intentional yet informal

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Discipling In The Democratic Republic Of The Congo ...

I have been travelling to Africa since 1999. Most of my time has been spent in both Congos. My role has been in mainly two areas, encouraging and training leaders and sustainable agricultural projects. Each trip I have taken one to two people I am discipling, and this

trip my friend Rick came. It was exciting to see how God used this November mission trip to give him a greater worldview. Lord willing, he will travel with me next November again. This trip took me to Cote D'Ivoire then onto DRC and finishing in Nairobi, Kenya at a Business Forum to be with 50 other African Christian leaders, mostly Navigators, who believe that God is calling them to Marketplace Ministry. My responsibility at the forum was to teach on "Creating An Entrepreneurial Mindset In Youth". 45% of the total African population is 15 years of age and younger. What a privilege this was. I was able to help four teens start micro businesses on this trip. There is a possibility I will return to Cameroon and Eastern DRC by March.

Stephen Cousins, The Shepherd's Farm, PEI

God's Disciplemaking Burden

We are 'declared righteous' in Christ. (Romans 5:1) It is *a new position* we have in relation to God, when we come to faith, making us *a saint*, though still *a sinner*.

But, we learn that there are at least three characteristics of being Christ's disciple:

1. **Love in action.** "All men will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." John 13:35.
2. **Obedience.** "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples."
3. **Surrender.** "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me." Luke 9:23

Can I muster such love, obedience to the Word and yielding of self simply through mental muscle and human effort? Maybe I can create a facsimile of these for a short while, *but* it is the Spirit of Christ within who is the true power and enabler of the true marks of a disciple! A disciple is not made by the will of man, but by the design and Spirit-infused leading of God. In the Great Commission, Jesus said to "Go and make disciples of all nations," but he never meant that sole human work effort. He promised that the authority (power) of God would be the enabler, working *in* and *through* us *at home* and *around the world*, as the brief stories in this newsletter report. *Thank you* for standing with us!

Ross Rains, Pathfinders



Winnipeg, Canada I am part of various types of church environments. Some are gaining new traction and moving forward, others seem to be slowing down or are perhaps getting ready for a change in direction. I spend time thinking about how to lead well, how to craft a structure that enables people to have a true and helpful experience in the church. And then one day I am looking at my "favourites" in my phone contact screen. I've recently begun attaching a little picture to each one. Some candid shot that captures what they are like. One drinking coffee, another at the gym, the goofy "I refuse to let you photo me" shot. I love these people. Just love them. I think that's where my church lies. They are not all part of the same community



with me, but together they help me walk with God. It's more like neighbourhood. I meet them in different places, I relate with them over different subjects. The way we care for each other is

expressed differently. But, they are all part of my church. The called out ones. The community of disciples.
Curtis Halbesma, Winnipeg, Manitoba

What are Pathfinders Fellowships about? We are an association of people who are finding new paths forward for God's kingdom where people live and work in the marketplace. This involves a more organic approach to church, by affirming the headship of Jesus, focus on making disciples, active labouring from the moment a person comes to faith and the dynamic functioning of Ephesians 4:11-12 in leadership. Our dream is to find new trails so that more unreached can discover the new life Jesus offers all. Welcome to the path!



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Chiang Mai, Thailand When Christian business coach, Brian Thatcher of California, met with Pastor Lu and Betty this past September, they had a very productive time working on Lu's ministry focus. The primary aim is to concentrate on southwest China in the mountain areas. They are working with pastors, leaders and disciples. They have identified the top 20 leaders with which to work, and a further group of 50 for the future. Each of these leaders have thousands in their groups.



They will be hosting 4 conferences in South Western China in the area of Nujiang, China. After each conference Lu will stay a month in the area and region to build up and train the key men and women. Canadian donors, in part, are helping subsidize the conferences and follow-up stays after each conference to equip and train leaders. Brian will be making a return visit in early 2014.



London, Canada We are pleased to report that a Pathfinders Marketplace Ministry will be launched in London, Ontario under the care of Bob Black.

Bob and Carolyn Black are long term Londoners who led the local *Youth For Christ* chapter for many years, with much fruitfulness. Bob will be hosting outreach and discipling activities to reach and equip men and women in the marketplace. Please pray for this.

