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Every Community uniquely restored with the Good News Of Jesus

There are some lessons I learned from CRU in the early 80's that are still a part of my ministry paradigm today. One of those is the concept of multiplication from II Timothy 2:2 where Paul tells his protégé Timothy to "entrust" the things he has learned from him to "reliable men who will be qualified to teach others." To this day I pray, aim, and rejoice uniquely when I hear of someone who has been invested in, taking the step to invest in others. I have recently heard multiple stories of this and want to share two of them.

This spring, in partnership with my son who serves as a discipleship pastor, I was able to help train a group of 12 people in one-to-one discipleship. This fall, all 12 of them will be investing in someone. One of those people is my daughter Katie. Like many others, she found that initiating a conversation about discipleship with someone was incredibly daunting. Despite having a perfect candidate in mind, she was extremely fearful of rejection or of her "ask" going very badly in some way. As I expected, she experienced quite the opposite once she took a step of faith. She received a positive response to her invitation but then received a more detailed follow-up text from her friend.

"Dude. I was grinning the whole way home. God shows His love for me in many ways and your friendship is one of the most special to me. I am so grateful for any and every opportunity to learn from your wisdom and deep love for Jesus and His people. I am absolutely delighted at the prospect of an even deeper friendship with you and many more conversations with God in the center of them. I am so honored that you thought of me and are willing to dedicate more time to growing closer to Christlikeness together!! Dude I literally can't wait. Thank you so much."

I don't know about you, but a message like that fuels me like no other.

Another story comes from a long-time friend of mine who for quite a while didn't consider himself a likely candidate to multiply. But God had other plans and gave him a perfect opportunity when God grabbed ahold of his nephew's teenage son who in turn began taking his dad to church. My friend M. is now meeting with his nephew and the son and covering the basics of the Christian life that I covered with him some years ago. Here's the text M. sent to our small group after his first meeting.

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"Good afternoon to all of you. I just finished my first session with J. and X.. I felt very unimpressed with my performance; however, I know that the Holy Spirit is actually really doing it. It is funny how you question your ability to do things. I have so much more to learn. I am really not much of a teacher at this point. However, the Holy Spirit rocks and I think J. and X. enjoyed it."

Thanks for your investment in us and our ministry and being a part of seeing the gospel multiplied in people's lives.

Blessings,

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