# ascen equipping churches for Christ-centered discipleship

### **MISSION ACCOMPLISHED:** AN AL CASE STUDY

### **Church:**

Marvin Methodist Church Tyler, TX



### **Challenge:**

Build a dynamic discipling culture in a large church

#### **Outcome:**

150 members joined discipleship groups tailored to their needs

#### How:

Through a churchwide retreat and discipleship assessment, coached by Ascending Leaders

### Case Notes:

- Marvin Methodist Church contracted with Ascending Leaders to coach them in building a discipleship culture.
- Took a church "Discipleship Assessment" under the guidance of Ascending Leaders.
- Designed and created new class meetings, band meetings and discipleship groups.
- Over 150 members become active in their new discipleship culture; driving church-wide impact.

"Ascending Leaders helped Marvin Methodist Church think more broadly about discipleship. More than programming, it is a process that engages all of life and mirrors the stages of human development.

Ascending Leaders

- introduced us to the concept of a Discipleship Continuum
- trained us in its application.

Now, more than content, we are offering opportunities for people to go further in their faith journey and experience transformation. The ultimate goal being a life rooted, grounded and centered in Christ."

Dr. Marc Donaldson Pastor of Discipleship and Community Formation



# **MISSION IN ACTION**

Equipping churches for Christ-centered discipleship. Measurable results. Eternal outcomes.



"I have heard very good things from the church about you and the material. I thought it was excellent. It is one of those deep dive studies on discipleship which I hoped for and knew our church needed. Please pray with me that it continues to spread and cause our church to think more intentionally about our mission."

Rev. Michael Hansen, Lead Pastor, First Presbyterian Church Wichita Falls, TX



## **MISSION ABROAD**



A closed country not-to-be named.

#### **Challenge:**

Village churches need a discipleship culture, rather than a pastor-dependent program.

#### **Outcome:**

Pastors/church leaders explored together how to build discipleship cultures in their settings.

#### How:

A Pastor's Discipleship Workshop, March 29-30, 2023.

### Case Notes:

- A great amount of time was spent on internalizing.
- Each pastor, with the help of their church leaders present, built their own action plan.
- The training started by distinguishing discipleship-oriented Christianity from
- program-oriented Christianity. Since the churches are new village churches, the time is ripe for having a discipleship
- culture at the onset.



### **WISSION EXPERIENCED**

"I was a rag picker (Waste collector) and used to collect waste in the same area where are conducting our training. I am so grateful that God has lifted me from the garbage. He has brought me to this training that I do not even deserve. I do not read or write. My congregation also doesn't read and write but we are thankful that we are maintaining our faith in spite of lots of challenges. I want my congregation to drink sweet cold water and I want my congregation to eat green grass which can happen only when I will work hard to create a culture of discipleship. I am thankful that I learned about Disciple, Discipleship, and the stages of faith."

Pastor A...

"We are receiving this training very late. We should have received it a few years ago. I am serving the Lord in a tribal area and there are unique challenges in our context which hinder our new believers to grow in the Lord. I am so blessed by the sessions about the Stages of faith. We have a language for the people who are not growing. We understand that it is a wall experience for them. I am now able to diagnose that people in our Churches are experiencing the wall and now I know what I should do to move them forward."

Pastor J...

### **KEEP THE MISSION GOING**



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The summer months are often lean months for donations.

Give the Ascending Leaders mission a boost with a summer donation.

The Oldham Little Church foundation has awarded Ascending Leaders a grant to underwrite the service of 2-3 little evangelical churches in 2023.

Ascending Leaders is now set up to accept gifts of stock. To see the steps, go to ascendingleaders.org/waystogive/





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