

# Discipleship Journeys with Jesus

February 2017



## Spiritual Growth Requires a Plan!

I was reading Pastor Rick Warren's Daily Devotional on [www.pastorrick.com](http://www.pastorrick.com) recently and it explained the vision of the DJJ Ministry! The devotional was titled "**Spiritual Growth Requires a Plan.**"

First group to go through the lessons at New Song Community Church. Mark, Matthew (yes, with blue hair), Ollis, Graham and Patty.

Rick wrote:

**Millions of Christians have grown older without ever growing up; they act as though spiritual growth is automatic.** They may have a plan to save for retirement. They may have a plan for sending their kids to college. But they don't have a strategy for enriching their souls. They leave the single most important facet of human existence to chance!

**But a soul doesn't automatically grow to maturity any more than a baby automatically grows to physical maturity.** You need to have a plan for feeding, exercise, education — and especially potty training! — if a child is going to grow up healthy, strong, and mature.

A baby left on its own withers and dies. The same thing is true of your soul. Our world is full of people who have grown older but are still babies when it comes to spiritual maturity.

**Spiritual growth is not automatic, even for people who have opened their hearts to Christ.** The writer of Hebrews sadly noted, "You have been believers so long now that you ought to be teaching others. Instead, you need someone to teach you again the basic things about God's word. You are like babies who need milk and cannot eat solid food. For someone who lives on milk is still an infant and doesn't know how to do what is right. Solid food is for those who are mature, who through training have the skill to recognize the difference between right and wrong" (Hebrews 5:12-14 NLT, second edition).

**Spiritual growth doesn't just happen. You have to have a plan!**

**Discipleship Journeys is a plan for spiritual growth!** When completed, there will be 52 lessons to take believers, new and old, from A to Z in spiritual maturity.

The reason most believers don't have a plan is because most churches don't have a plan. **Our vision is to provide a plan to churches to disciple their people and grow deep in Christ.**

Again, thank you for sharing in this DJJ vision: for praying, supporting and sharing us with others! **Please pray for ½ million people to eventually go through these 52 discipleship journey lessons.**

*God Bless! Mark Williams*

## Join Us In Prayer:

### Thanking God for:

1. **Lesson drafts** have been written for the first 7 lessons.
2. Graphic designer has created a template and the first 5 lessons have been done.
3. DJJ class taught weekly at **New Song Community Church, Oceanside, CA.**
4. **Most Donors have made the transition** with their support.
5. Non-Profit Status form CA received.
6. **Patty** has started building a donor support team.
7. For a **new Board Member, Rich Fernandez.** He joined **Carlos Sales and Darin Sargent** in the latest meeting.



A group prayed over Danny before he left on 1/25.

### Praying for:

1. For **Danny Williams** as he has moved to Denmark to be a long-term missionary serving with **YWAM.** He will be on staff working at the Discipleship Training School and leading missions trips. His dream is to start a house of prayer and worship in the future in Copenhagen.
2. **Mark and Carolyn's trip to South America. Feb. 2-20.** Mark will be sharing DJJ and making valuable partner connections.
3. **Clarity in writing,** that Mark will cover all of the important parts of discipleship and it will be compelling.
4. **Staff Recruitment**– for the right people to join the ministry.
5. **Support raising**– for the remaining donors to move their support for Mark from DCPI to DJJ.
6. **Protection over the ministry and those involved.** The enemy would love to disrupt and destroy this new ministry.

### Ways to Keep in Touch:

#### **Mark and Carolyn Williams**

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Discipleship  
Journeys  
with Jesus



### Ways to Donate to the ministry:

1. Mail a check to:  
DJJ  
P.O. Box 2975  
Vista, CA 92085-2975
2. Visit the website and link through for online donation. You can set up a special gift or a reoccurring gift.  
[www.djjministry.org](http://www.djjministry.org)