

# Two Years Old and Our Vision Has Increased Immensely!

October 2018

As of this month, Discipleship Journeys with Jesus is two years old.

During these first two years we've seen God do some amazing things, as we've told you about in these monthly prayer letters.

Now we also have a newly increased vision. Our Board of Directors recently affirmed that: **"Our vision is to take 100 million people on a Discipleship Journey with Jesus"**

**Why this increase?** It's largely because one of our partners challenged me saying "Your vision is too small." Previously our vision was to take ½ million people on discipleship journeys. I thought that was big for a new ministry, but since then I've learned that others also felt it was too small.

There are **three great reasons** our board said our vision should be increased:

1. **God loves faith.**

The Bible says, "Without faith it is impossible to please God." (Hebrews 11:5a) "Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you." (Romans 12:3) **Vision should be based on how big God is, not how big we are.**

2. **People are attracted to a big vision.**

**A big vision of impacting** the planting a million churches is a major reason I became a staff member of Dynamic Church Planting International back in 1998. **Big visions for God are inspiring!** Too many get stymied by the question of "how" and thus it limits vision. **"The what is way more important than the how. Until you get clear on the what, the how won't show up."** –Michael Hyatt

3. **God is already working in remarkable ways through DJJ.**

People are often amazed at all we've accomplished in our first two years. And in addition, **"God is able to do Immeasurably more than we can ask or imagine..."** (Ephesians 3:20)



DJJ Board receiving some leadership coaching from Wes Coddington.

Also, as reported last month, this summer we recorded videos in Turkey, Greece and Italy to complete the first 52 discipleship journey lessons. Now, we have a challenge to cover the cost of the post-production, which is the editing of the videos. The cost is \$300 per lesson and there are 31 lessons to complete, plus a few extra promo videos. In addition, there is \$7,000 in other video production expense. So, the total need is about \$19,000. **Could you help meet this need?** If you are able to make a special donation of \$300, you can help us complete one of the lessons. Of course, \$600 will pay for two, \$900 for three and so on.

**Thank you for being part of this ministry with us in your prayers, encouragement and financial support. Together let's make 100 million disciples!**

*Mark Alan Williams*

Dr. Mark Alan Williams  
Founder and President of DJJ

## Jason Resende: Latin America Update



DJJ Study Group in Brazil

In February 2017, on a Partnership visit to Brazil, Mark met **Jason Resende** and his wife Fabiana. Since then, **God has led Jason to become our first international staff member of Discipleship Journeys with Jesus!** Jason is our Latin America Representative. He has contacts and travels to many Latin American countries.

In this role, Jason has been translating the DJJ lessons into Portuguese. He has also translated DJJ videos for closed captioning and begun to Portuguese produce voice-over of the videos. (It's fun to see Mark on the videos "speaking" in Portuguese.)

**On September 13, Jason and Fabiana launched the first official DJJ study group in Brazil.** About 20 people are attending and the graduation ceremony for the first quarter is scheduled for December 9.

Jason is also set to start two other discipleship groups very soon. Please pray for God's guidance and blessing for the Resendes. And please **pray for more staff to develop partnerships like Jason is doing in other parts of the world.**

Please pray for Jason and Fabiana and their two adult children, Walter and Karine.



Jason and Fabiana Resende,  
our Latin America Representative

## Board, Foundations and Business

### **Board:**

**Discipleship Journeys with Jesus is a Board-governed non-profit organization.** In a nutshell this means that while the day-to-day business is conducted by others, the Board has the ultimate responsibility to maintain bylaws that govern the running of the organization. This means that Bylaws are followed, major decisions are discussed and voted on. Currently our DJJ Board consists of Chairman Carlos Sales, Treasurer Steve Foster, Secretary Richard Fernandez and our new member, Dr. Cynthia Standley. **Our goal is to be always be transparent to our supporters, foundations and more importantly to God.**

### **Foundations:**

**This summer we have worked extensively with a Grant Writing Specialist, Gil Mertz, who has been quite valuable in creating a concise ministry overview of Discipleship Journeys with Jesus.** As we are looking for additional funding, we're reaching out to various foundations who might help cover the cost of translations, trainings, material production, partnerships and more. **Would you please be praying for several foundations to say "yes" to the ministry?**



Richard, Cynthia, Steve, Carlos and  
Mark at our August Board Meeting

# Happy 2nd Anniversary! Major Highlights Include:

- \*12/16/15 Prayer retreat in San Diego, Mark receives vision for new ministry.
- \*6/20/16 Received endorsed articles of incorporation, dated 6/8/16 as official incorporation date.
- \*9/20/16 Publicly launched DJJ.
- \*2/18 & 20/17 Taught two DJJ Partnership workshops in Brazil.
- \*11/2-12/17 Israel video trip: recorded 42 videos in 21 locations
- \*4/24/18 DJJ Board made unanimous decision to make DJJ materials "free."
- \*7/12/18-8/1/18 Turkey, Greece & Italy video trip: recorded 62 videos plus 5 promo videos in 19 locations.
- \*9/7/18 A new vision is unanimously approved by our Board: "Our vision is to take 100 million people on a Discipleship Journey with Jesus"
- \* 9/15/18 People from 37 countries have now downloaded Quarter 1 and 2 (26 lessons) from website.

## Journey to Germany's Passion Play in 2020

Since 1634, the most famous Passion Play in the world has taken place in Oberammergau, Germany. The tradition maintained and experienced almost without interruption for over 380 years, of putting on the play about the suffering, death and resurrection of Christ every ten years.



Scene from the Oberammergau Passion Play

The village of Oberammergau at the edge of the Bavarian Alps expects approximately 500,000 visitors for the passion play, over half of which will be international guests. All participants, from actors playing the big speaking parts such as Jesus, Mary or Judas, through members of the choir, orchestra, firemen and ushers, must have been born in Oberammergau or lived there for at least 20 years. Over 2,000 Ober villagers will participate in the 2020 Passion Play.

**We are planning to go to this Passion Play and have as many DJJ friends as are able to join us!**

Mark & Carolyn will be joined by DJJ Board Chairman Pastor Carlos & Lisa Sales.



Wartburg Castle, where Luther translated the New Testament into German

To make the trip even more special, it will be combined with a Reformation Heritage Tour of locations in Germany and Austria. **We'll visit the famous Wittenberg door where Martin Luther posted his 95 Theses** that helped spark the Reformation. **We'll visit the Wartburg Castle**, where Luther translated the New Testament into German in 1522 (in just 11 weeks)!

We will also visit Innsbruck, Austria, site of two Olympic winter games and Nuremberg, with a visit to the Reichstag Museum. These are just some of the sites we'll visit in this trip, July 7-16, 2020.

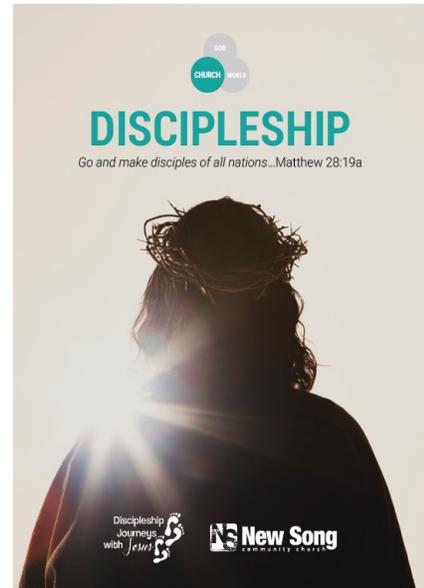
**We'd love to have you join us!** To learn more, please contact Mark: [mark@djjministry.org](mailto:mark@djjministry.org) or go to [markalanwilliams.net/PassionPlay](http://markalanwilliams.net/PassionPlay)

# Discipleship Jumpstart: Available to Bring to Your Church or Ministry

**Are you involved in a church that could benefit from the 2.5 hour Discipleship class that we have developed?** This class has 4 DJJ lessons that will bring a great understanding of what it means to be a disciple of Jesus. It covers four discipleship areas in the same format as the DJJ lessons:

- ◆ Why Should I be part of a discipleship group?
- ◆ How can I structure my prayer life?
- ◆ Why should I study the Bible?
- ◆ What does the Bible say about giving?

If bringing this to your church or pastor interests you, please reach out to us by emailing [service@djjministry.org](mailto:service@djjministry.org) and we will connect with you. The cover shown can be adapted with your logo or church name.



## Prayer

- **Thank God** for the productivity, safety and connections made during the **video trip to Turkey, Greece and Italy**, 67 videos were recorded.
- **Thank God for the new subscribers** from around the world who are downloading our materials. We now have **37 countries represented**.
- **Thank God for small groups, church discipleship classes, one-on-ones, and other ways people are using the lessons to disciple others.** Pray for more churches, partners and individuals to sign up and USE lessons.
- Pray for wisdom in knowing how to get the word out about DJJ.
- Thank God for our recent work with our webmaster to get our website more “user-friendly.”
- **Thank God** for Jason Resende’s **translation work** and his new small group that is going through Qtr. 1.
- For Patty’s health and learning to accommodate limited vision while recovering from detached retina surgery and the cataract that has now developed.
- **Pray for the development of a Help Desk.** It would be used to help mentor people who don’t have access to a local mentor. Have an **urgent need** for someone to fill in **now**.
- Pray for the pending release of English Quarter 3 lessons and Spanish Quarter 1. Pray for a quick solution to our current backlog of materials to be formatted for worldwide distribution.
- **Pray for the development of mobile phone platforms of the lessons.** Pray for us to define what that would look like and be a user-friendly format.
- Pray for funding, through donors, foundations and other revenue streams that would help us do more ministry. Thank God for the funding that has come in over the past month!
- Pray for protection over the ministry as we know Satan loves to disrupt the spreading of the Gospel.

### Ways To Donate:

Visit the website:  
[djjministry.org](http://djjministry.org)  
Use the “donate” button  
to set up a reoccurring  
or special gift

Mail a check to:  
DJJ  
P.O. Box 2975  
Vista, CA 92085-2975

