

DJJ's 5th Anniversary Celebration

October 2021



Last month, we celebrated DJJ's 5th anniversary at our home church, New Song Community Church in Oceanside, California. **We have been providing discipleship materials digitally, without cost, to all who want to make disciples for five years!** We have also been building Partnership and Headquarters Teams, creating infrastructure, partnering with churches and ministries to bring discipleship to their people, and much more!

As we look toward 2022, it feels as if DJJ will be in a new season of ministry. The focus will shift to the many things that will expand discipleship around the world, including Partnership Trainings, more translations, more staff, and more new products, such as DJJ4K lessons for children.

Our DJJ Board Chair, Dr. Cynthia Standley, introduced the 2022 goals that we believe God is calling us to accomplish. Inside this Ministry Update, you will find those 2022 goals and the financial needs associated with them. **We are so grateful for the contributions that have brought us this far.** Now, would you please consider partnering with us to go to the next level? You can donate for specific goals on the donate tab of the website.

Since prayer is vital to the progress of these goals, we are organizing 22 days of fasting and prayer, January 1 to 22, 2022. Please note that fasting doesn't necessarily mean abstaining from food. It can also mean fasting from electronics, activities, or anything that distracts you from an intentional time of prayer and worship. You will also find the handout included in this Ministry Update, so you may join us in praying over those Big Holy Audacious Goals (BHAGs) for 2022. If you join us, please email service@djministry to be included in the fasting group for more information and daily encouragement as you fast.

Praise God for our first fantastic 5 years and the 100 countries that have downloaded the discipleship lessons!



Making Discipleship Doable,

**Dr. Mark Alan Williams
Founder and President**

5th Anniversary Discipleship Challenge



To see the videos, message notes, additional pictures, Partnership Team member videos, and more, go to the Resource tab/5th Anniversary.

During the 5th Anniversary Celebration, Dr. Mark Alan Williams highlighted and challenged people with two crucial questions, **Why Discipleship** and **Why DJJ**, to which he then offered some answers.

Regarding the first question, "**Why Discipleship**," Dr. Mark quoted the Great Commission and referred to the one imperative in it: "**Make disciples.**" He then quoted eleven Christian leaders and authors speaking of the need and neglect of disciple-making, despite Jesus' clear Commission to "make disciples." A summary quote by Dr. Dallas Willard is: "**The greatest issue facing the world today, with all its heartbreaking needs, is whether those who, by profession or culture, are identified as 'Christians' will become disciples.**"

Regarding the second question, "**Why DJJ**," Dr. Mark stated that he believes DJJ can and will be a key answer to this greatest need in the world because:

I. **There must be a plan for discipleship.** He quoted Pastor Rick Warren, who pointed out that "**Spiritual growth is not automatic, even for people who have opened their hearts to Christ. Spiritual growth doesn't just happen. You have to have a plan!**"

II. **DJJ is a unique, systematic plan for disciple-making.**

There are many discipleship ministries, however many or most are:

1. Theoretical, DJJ is practical.
2. Western, DJJ is worldwide.
3. Complex, DJJ is simple enough for anyone.
4. Printed, DJJ is digital and thus available instantly worldwide.
5. For sale, DJJ is free and therefore affordable for the masses worldwide.
6. Limited, DJJ is comprehensive. (Upon completion, DJJ will have 2 years' worth of discipleship lessons if done weekly).
7. Denominational, DJJ is interdenominational.
8. In English (or a limited number of languages), DJJ is translated into many languages.
9. Erratic, DJJ is based on a systematic study through the Bible
10. Didactic, DJJ is based on a personal study of the Scriptures.

In summary, Dr. Mark said, "**DJJ offers a unique system for making disciples, a top priority of Jesus!**" Our vision is the take 100 million on discipleship journeys with Jesus and "with God, all things are possible."

How will YOU be a part of this vision? Will you bring discipleship to your church or ministry? Will you start the lessons with your family? Will you join the next Headquarter-led Partnership Training in a few weeks? Please email us to let us know your plans so we can pray for you!

Invitation to Online Partnership Training with Dr. Mark

You are invited to a unique DJJ Partnership Training via Zoom. Please feel free to invite your pastors, ministry leaders, small group facilitators, and people you think would benefit from it.

In this training, you will learn how to multiply discipleship groups in your church, ministry, school, family, workplace, and circle of influence. Discover an A-to-Z process to fulfill Jesus' command to "make disciples." Many people have told us how easy it was to plan their strategy after attending this training.

The 2-part training will be on Thursdays, October 21st and 28th, 7-11 AM PDT. It is essential to check the hours as it will be different times throughout the world zones. Register for the training by emailing service@djjministry.org. There is no charge for this event. Participation on Zoom is limited to the first 100 who register.

For those who complete the training, we will have an extended session for Ambassador Training during the final 45 minutes of Week 2. We will share how you can apply to become an Ambassador and use the same Partnership Training to train others.

Three New Translations on the Website

DJJ now has 15 languages for New Testament Quarter 1 on the website! Added last month were Swahili/Kiswahili, Kirundi, and Runyakitara. These new translations will significantly increase discipleship in many countries.

1. **Swahili**, also known as **Kiswahili**, is a primary Bantu language spoken by 50-150 million people throughout East Africa. While it is used in 10 countries, it is the national language of Kenya, Uganda, the Democratic Republic of Congo, and Tanzania. (top picture)
2. **Kirundi** is another Bantu language spoken by over 11 million people in Tanzania, DRC, Uganda, Rwanda, and it is Burundi's national language. (middle picture)
3. **Runyakitara**, another Bantu language, has a uniqueness as it was created in the early 1990s as a hybrid and standardized language. It is a combination of four other languages, Kiga, Nkore, Myoro, and Tooro. Over 5 million people speak this language in Uganda. (bottom picture)

Please thank God for the hard work and time the translator, graphic designers, and reviewers put into these translations

Please pray for those that will be using these lessons to grow and to know Jesus on a new and more profound level.



Testimony of the Month - Nancy Esposito

Testimonies of Lives Changed Through DJJ Discipleship

Disciple's name: Nancy Esposito

Disciple-Maker: Dee Schrey

Church: New Song Community Church

City/Country: Oceanside, CA, USA



Nancy Esposito
New Song Community Church
Oceanside, CA, USA

One life that has been transformed is Nancy Esposito from DJJ's home church, New Song Community Church in Oceanside, California.

Nancy started coming to New Song six months ago. She connected to Dee Schrey's small group as they began to go through New Testament Quarter 4. Here is some of her story.

"After living a hard life in an abusive and drug-filled marriage God reached down His hand to me one day and opened my ears to hear the gospel. I accepted Jesus into my heart. I was then a single Mom but had a heavenly Father! He has provided peace, joy, and everything else worth living for in this life."

"Through the DJJ lesson, Journey 47, Jesus' Journey to Sacrificial Giving, I was led to start tithing to my church. I prayed and asked God for a way. God blessed me with two jobs and I am now able to tithe regularly to my church. Praise God!"

It is a great joy to celebrate the lives transformed by the DJJ lessons! Please use the "Share Your Story" button on the About Us/Stories Around the World web page if you have a testimony to share. Please include a picture, preferably holding the DJJ lessons or your Certificate of Completion.

We may feature your testimony next!



To give through our website go to djjministry.org/donate or use the QR code.

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Mail to DJJ at the address below.

Text to Give: Text "Give XX (\$ amount)" to 1-844-481-0460

