

4 NO DEGREE REQUIRED

By Jonathan Lumbar

Are you qualified to disciple another person? According to Jonathan, you are not only qualified; you are also commanded.

5 "DAD, LET'S GO!"

By Randy Loescher

Ready to raise up a generation of self-feeding, reproducing disciples who reflect Jesus' character and anointing? Randy's article will demonstrate how.

7 THE JOY OF DISCIPLE-MAKING NEXT DOOR

By Max Tyus

How well do you know your next-door neighbors? Read about one pastor's joy in discipling his own neighbor.

8 CULTURAL SHOCK

By Mike Juntunen

Imagine living in a culture that is foreign to you – the dress, the language, and the customs. According to Mike, that is how many people feel when they walk into our churches.

9 LETTING GOD SHINE IN THE EVERYDAY

By Joyce Hunsaker

Learn how a part-time job, a snowstorm, and a love of gardening all present a discipling opportunity that leads to salvation.

12 60TH ANNIVERSARY FOR OBC/CUBA

By Vince McCarty

After the revolution in 1959, the Cuban government restricted religious practice. Yet in April, nearly 4,000 people gathered, many on a rooftop, to celebrate Open Bible's 60th anniversary in the country.

Plus Much More!

Want to Change the World?



ANDREA JOHNSON/Editor

Our youngest daughter was barely two years old when her first mom passed away. Her daddy, who is now my husband,

did a great job with two toddlers, but had not been raised around girls. The first thing he did was have Ashlie's hair cut in a cute, but very short style for easier care. Before long I noticed this little child – who used to be dolled up in pink, frilly dresses and girly outfits – wearing her older brother's blue jean shorts, sports t-shirts, and baseball caps.

A couple of years later my two children and I joined Denny and his two children in marriage. The first Sunday we went to church as one family, my older daughter, Leslee, and I were so excited to dress Ashlie up. We picked out a beautiful dress for her to wear with matching socks, made sure her tiny fingernails were painted, and spent several minutes styling her hair. Leslee and I beamed with pride at our little doll and I couldn't help wishing her first mama could see her. However, when we arrived at church and all piled out of the van, Leslee and I caught each other's eye and burst into laughter. Our little "doll" had the distinct gait of her daddy. Of course all that would change in due time but it was amusing nonetheless.

To be clear: Nothing is wrong with the way Denny walks, but ladylike it is not! In the absence of a mother, Ashlie had learned to imitate the footsteps of her next available example.

How often those around us are caught in a similar dilemma. In the absence of healthy mentors – like a pastor, or grandma, or aunt or uncle – they are left to imitate the behavior of the next available role model. Unfortunately that person could be a pop star with poor morals, a fallen athlete, or the class bully.

What would happen if we took the time to disciple those people? Maybe that lonely kid next door; or that frazzled young mother who is always late to Sunday school; or that new co-worker? A person doesn't need special credentials to disciple another person – just a willing heart.

Our church recently started a formal discipling ministry for Bible study, growth, and accountability, pairing newer Christians with those more seasoned in the faith. We were surprised at the number of those wanting that type of relationship. Talk about a mission field.

Jesus' followers needed more than verbal instructions. They needed a live example – one they could see, touch, and smell. How did He respond when someone needed help? What did He do to those who mocked Him? How did He treat those the world rejected? Jesus consistently invested Himself into twelve disciples. He taught them to walk in His footsteps. And it changed the world.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Andrea".

Andrea Johnson,
Managing Editor