

Throughout the years I have been blessed to have a few men who have taken the initiative to disciple me. I believe that my life is a testimony to each of them having freely given their time to help me build my life in Christ. Since I know first hand what meaningful *discipleship* is, having been a recipient of other's intentional desire to help me grow, I too have wanted to become one who can contribute toward building the lives of others in the character of Jesus and in obedience to all He commands us to do.

When the *Discipling Others Seminar* was offered last year at Myerstown I knew this was a training event that I wanted to attend. Actually, five of us decided to go from the Lititz Trinity E.C. Church. After the seminar was over, we gathered together to reflect upon what we had learned. Without question, all of us believed that God was leading us to begin focusing our attention on cultivating intentional discipleship relationships with others. As a result, I began to *pray* about who God might lead me to begin discipling.

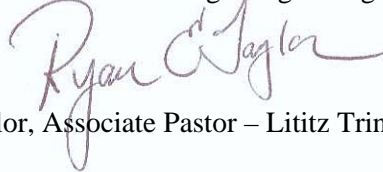
Since most of my evenings were already filled, and because I have a young family, I prayed specifically that God would provide someone who could meet with me during the day. (That in itself is a challenge!) But eventually God led me to ask Randy. Randy had recently been in trouble with the law. He and his family were working through the consequences of his actions. But, it also turned out to be just the right timing for him to become receptive about getting serious in his relationship to Christ. (The best part is: his daytime hours were open!) We formed a *discipleship triad*. Randy and I began meeting last May with Dave, a good Christian friend of mine. Since then we have studied the Bible together and have challenged one another to memorize scripture. Randy has grown in his love for Jesus. He regularly attends church and has recently joined our membership. He and his wife are currently seeking counseling together related to his past issues and he still could be looking at a possible short-term jail sentence in the near future. But together, Randy and his wife are facing life's issues with courage and with God's leading.

During the fall of 2006 God opened up another door for a discipling relationship. Nick and I started meeting and working through some curriculum together. In the course of our relationship I learned that Nick has been addicted to prescription drugs for more than 10 years. His wife had been attending church for several years but because of his problems Nick stayed away from social gatherings due to his discomfort level. Since we've been meeting Nick is seeking help for his addiction and has been attending church faithfully. He has opened up his life more to God and to others. Last month, Nick stood in front of our church next to his wife, and Randy (from above), along with many others, as they proclaimed their faith in Christ and expressed an ongoing desire to serve God as members of our local body.

In November, God put the desire on my heart to start meeting with yet another person. I asked Mark if he would like to start studying the Bible and working together through some curriculum. He agreed. Every couple of weeks we have tried to connect over the lunch hour. Mark and his wife, Jenni, left our church about 9 months ago because they bought a home in the west York area. However, since his family's business is located in Lititz, it gives us a perfect opportunity to get together. Through our meetings Mark has continued to grow in his relationship to Christ and in his desire to serve him. The new church Mark and his family attend didn't have a very strong Sunday school class for his age group. So, Mark has volunteered to teach the class and he is using curriculum that we finished last summer in our Trinity Young Adults Sunday school class. When I hear him talk about it, Mark sounds energized by the opportunity to serve God in this way.

I am humbled by the privilege that God has given me to be a partner with Him in ministry. I am very much a broken vessel in my own right and still learning what it means to walk with Christ. That said, I can honestly tell you, the opportunities God has granted me to invest my life in discipling relationships with others are *the most rewarding experiences* I have had in my years of ministry.

A fellow Christian still learning and growing in Christ,



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