

To make disciples is not an option for the Church, it is a command to the Church



Nowadays, Bangladeshi churches seem to be much more active in evangelism than in the past. Many new denominations have been born and working to plant churches in new places, which is a very good thing. But it seems to me that Bangladeshi churches are far behind from their main calling! Now, the question is, what is the main calling of the

church? The primary calling of the church is related to the great or important command of the Lord Jesus Christ! The Lord Jesus Christ, after receiving all the authority in heaven and earth through His suffering, death and resurrection, commanded His disciples to make disciples of all nations. This is the primary calling of the church, to make **disciples** of all nations.

The author of the Gospel of Matthew recorded the great or important command which is known to us as the great commission in Matthew 28:19-20. This great commission is to **make disciples** of all nations. Before executing any order or command, it is very important to know the commander! He who commanded the church to make disciples has **all the authority in heaven and earth**. In simple words, 'disciple' means follower. In this case, to be a follower of Jesus Christ means to follow Him, to live as He lived; to serve as he served people; and to do His will in all things. In this passage, He not only commanded His disciples to make disciples but also instructed 3 steps on how to do it.

The first step is **going to all nations with the gospel**. To preach the gospel not only to a particular ethnic group but to all nations. Simply, the gospel means good news. But this good news is not ordinary good news. This good news is 'the' good news about what God has done, what He is doing and what He has promised to do to save all mankind from death, as well as reconciliation and restoration. In a word, Jesus Christ is the gospel. And if someone accepts Jesus Christ as the Lord of his/her personal life, they are instructed to be baptized.

The second important step is **baptizing** them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Through baptism we embrace the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. When we dive into the water, we acknowledge that our old self has been buried with Christ. When we rise from the water, we believe that with Christ, we are raised up with a new spirit. We need to remember that baptism is only once but growth as a disciple is ongoing.

All the authority in heaven and earth belongs to Jesus Christ, this is His command to the Church to make **disciples** of all nations

The third important step is teaching them **to obey** all the commandments that Jesus Christ gave. Most congregations tend to focus heavily on the first two steps, because many are more interested in increasing the church membership and planting more churches than making disciples. That is why churches have members but no disciples. However, as Christians, we must remember, we are not commanded to increase church members but to make disciples. Being a disciple must mean a member of the church, but a member of the church may not be a disciple. Discipleship is not a matter of one day, but of a lifetime. So, as a disciple of Jesus Christ, it is very important to know what he has commanded. Again, many people give more emphasis to teaching that disciples can learn. But in this

section, the emphasis is not on teaching and receiving knowledge, but on teaching so that the disciples can obey it. Therefore, the disciples must be taught how they can practice in their personal lives. For example, it is not what is forgiving, but it is to teach how to forgive or

how to forgive each other.

The Good News - the Lord who has all the authority in heaven and earth has promised his presence to be with His disciples till the end of time. What a wonderful assurance?

Warning - Someone has said, "If the church does not disciple the world today, the world will disciple the church tomorrow."

Self-reflection: How are you fulfilling this great commission? Who are you making disciples of? Jesus gave about 24/7 hours. How much time do you give to your disciples?

Prayer Requests:

1. For ongoing TEE (7500), B.Th. (15), MA (25) and M.Div. (30) students that they become Christ like in their area of influence.
2. For Teachers (National, International and TEE tutors) that they remain in good health, security, and wisdom as well as their provision.
3. For CCTB Council, Executive Board members for God's wisdom and vision in leading CCTB.
4. For all partners, donors, stakeholders that their joy is fulfilled in serving the Lord in partnership with CCTB.
5. For CCTB's Strategic Long-Range Plan that our Lord Jesus Christ lead us to implement them for His glory.

Academic News 2022

BTh & MA Class Orientation 2022

BTh and MA Class Orientation took place on 3-4 February 2022 at CCTB Campus. The trimester starts from February 7, 2022.

BTh (residential & online)-2022

CCTB is blessed with 11 Residential and 5 Online students in this academic year. Already, 6 courses have done successfully so far.

Student admission is open, Diploma graduates can apply for Residential program 2023. If you are interested, please contact with the address mentioned below.

Rev. Rowel Mozumder, Academic Dean,

Mobile: 01792-537385,

Email: rowelmozumder@yahoo.com



MA (residential & online)

CCTB is blessed with 6 Residential and 16 Online students this academic year. Already, 6 courses have done successfully so far. BTh graduate can apply for the next year MA residential program. Secular graduates can apply in Online MA Program, admission is open. You can contact with the address mentioned below.

Mr. Zakir Ahmed, Assistant MA Dean,

Mobile: 01730-972760, Email: zakirahmed0915@gmail.com



M.Div - 2022

CCTB is blessed with 28 students. The program can be studied through Online and Intensive. Graduates from any discipline can apply to the program. If you are interested to participate in MDiv program, then you are welcome to contact with the address mentioned below.

Dr. Young In Chang, MDiv Dean, Mobile: 01745-779236,

Email: chilmar96@gmail.com

Morning & Evening Devotion

This is a designed spiritual activity for all the Residential students. They meet together to pray, to study the word of God and spend time to reflect on their personal spiritual journey in every morning and evening time. .



Combined Devotion

This is also a designed spiritual activity for all CCTB staff, students and their families. CCTB families meet twice a week on Monday and Thursday morning at Hall Room to praise and worship God together. The Residential students lead and preach the devotion on Monday, and CCTB staff and Faculty members as well as guest speaker on Thursday.



Teachers -Students Round Table Discussion

The Teachers- Students round table discussion took place on May 9, 2022. It was a time for open discussions, and listening to the students' bodies about their growth and struggle as well as their dissatisfaction.



Creation Care

Taking care of God's creation is an important part of our education. As CCTB, we encourage and teach to care the creation. As part of the program, all the students and CCTB's staff together participate

in cleaning the surrounding of the campus and plant new trees.



Martyrs Day Observance

All CCTB students, staffs, families together celebrated 21st February International Mother Language Day. Showing gratitude to the martyrs and increase love for our country.



Faculty Development Workshop

The Faculty Development Workshop took place virtually on March 28, 2022. Dr. Peter Stevenson, Spurgeon College, England, former Principal lead this workshop. All faculty members were challenged and blessed through the workshop.



LOCAL CHURCH NETWORKING

Meeting with the Local church leaders took place on April 9, 2022 at CCTB Campus. It was good to listen the challenges of the local churches and their expectations from the theological institutions. In addition, it was good for the local churches to know each other.



SPIRITUAL AND VOCATION TRAINING

For the first time, the Spiritual and Vocational training took place on January 10-28, 2022 at CCTB Campus. Altogether, 26 college and university going young people from different churches and denominations completed the training successfully. The training helped them to define their identity in Christ and to get professional skills in computer and English language.



INTEGRAL MISSION WORKSHOP

The workshop took place on April 5-8, 2022 at CCTB campus. Altogether, 18 pastors from different church have participated in the workshop and challenged to motivate their churches members to engage the social issues.



Integral Mission Envisioning & Church & Community Transformation Bible Study Facilitators Training

Three batch of trainings took place on June 16-19, 27-30 and July 8-9, 2022 at CCTB campus. Altogether, (70+90+50) 210 leaders were envisioned for Integral Mission and trained as Bible Study Facilitators.



SUNDAY SCHOOL TRAINING

The Sunday School Teacher's training took place on June 21-23, 2022 at CCTB Campus. Altogether 18, Sunday School Teachers from different churches and denominations have been trained through this training.



Timothy Leadership Training (TLT)

Praising God in Work and Worship module took place on May 23-26, 2022 at CCTB campus. Through this training, 23 participants from different churches and denominations are encouraged to do their work faithfully and honestly as their worship to God.



On-Campus Seminar 2022 Christian Administration Course



The diploma level course Christian Administration took place on April 25- May 6, 2022 at CCTB Campus. Rev. Michael Ripon Biswas, Mr. Richard Biswas and Mrs. Champa Barmon taught the course. All together, 19 students from different church denominations successfully completed the course.

English Bible-1 Course



The diploma level course English Bible-1 took place on June 13-24, 2022 at CCTB Campus. Ms. Louise Lynch, from BMS, taught the course. All together, 9 students from different church denominations completed the course successfully.

CCTB Family Retreat

CCTB family retreat was held on February 25-26, 2022 at the CCTB campus. All CCTB's staff, faculty, students and their families joyfully participated in the retreat. It was a good time to build up better relationships with God, families and each other.



New Faces at CCTB

As a CCTB family, we are very glad that Mr. Saberio Baidya joined as Finance Officer on June 1, 2022 and Mr. Atin Rupom Mondol joined as Monitoring and Evaluation Officer on July 1, 2022. Please remember them in your prayers that they can play a vital role in taking forward CCTB with their talent, competence, skill and experience.



Welcoming Monsoon

CCTB Student Council organized the event on May 5, 2022. The event was celebrated with students' performance, and they appreciated some of the CCTB's staff for their sacrificial service.

