The Associated Gospel Churches exist
to glorify God by partnering together in obedience to the Great Commission
and the Great Commission.
Matthew 28:19–20

The vision of the AGC
is to be a healthy movement of reproducing churches.

When Jesus called His disciples, He called twelve men to follow Him. They were on the inside of the journey of faith. For three years these men walked with Jesus. They lived with Him. They listened to Him and they replicated what they saw in Jesus. This is what it means to be a disciple. We know that not all disciples are the same. Even Jesus had an insider, Judas, who turned his back on the Master. Discipleship is a very human relationship, often complex and always demanding.

Yet, to be a true disciple of Jesus, walking in faith and obedience is the only life that pleases God our Father and unites us to Him and His Kingdom. In short, we cannot be a Christian unless we are a disciple of Jesus.

Discipleship is a call to me, to you, and to every learner and that we commit to constant growth in spiritual maturity. Discipleship is a call to us, and to every disciple, to continue to grow in our willingness to walk alongside each other, to develop close relationships and to commit to constant growth in our devotion to the Lord and to His Word.

The result of this corporate reflection, introspection, and submission is taking our church in a much different direction. The immediate feedback and growth is very positive. We now evaluate all our ministries in the context of helping, sharing, and exhibiting the Great Commandment.

The result of this corporate reflection, introspection, and submission is taking our church in a much different direction. The immediate feedback and growth is very positive. We now evaluate all our ministries in the context of helping, sharing, and exhibiting the Great Commandment.
In the book Just Walk Across the Room, Bill Hybels challenges us to step out of our comfort zone and into encounters with people who long for relationship. People are yearning to experience God’s love. That love can be displayed through our smile, our encouragement, and through our willingness to walk alongside them in their journey of faith. We sometimes refer to this as discipleship.

Upon entering the gym of our church for refreshments following service one Sunday morning, my eyes were immediately drawn to a young man who was standing alone. The Spirit prompted me to go and speak to him, I hesitated, but was clearly prompted again. I walked toward him, offered my handshake and a smile, and his face lit up. We immediately entered into conversation and discovered that he was a fairly new Christian. Since I lead a home group, I asked him if he was involved in one. When he replied that he was not, I invited him to join us that very evening as we were starting a new study. I walked away hoping that this man would accept the invitation because I sensed that he needed to be built up in his faith.

The young man called that afternoon asking if he could come and “check us out.” That was the start of a wonderful relationship. Discipleship was a privilege. My walk across the gym accomplished great things for God’s kingdom and added blessings to each of our lives.

I have learned from my experience of obeying the Spirit’s prompting that God rewards you above your wildest expectations, hopes or dreams. When you put yourself out there and engage with people, you will never be bored. There are always new stories to hear and connections to be made that will change not only the heart of the person that you have reached out to, but your heart as well, to take a walk. You might be surprised who you end up discipling for Jesus.

Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit. 

Galatians 5:25

It has been a privilege to work on this edition of our AGC Connect 2014. May we all give glory to God by faithfully, as His disciples, becoming like Jesus.

To God be the glory, great things He has done!

Bill Fitje
President
bill@agcofcanada.com

The Associated Gospel Churches exist
to glorify God by partnering together in obedience to the Great Commission of our Lord Jesus Christ and the Great Commission. Matthew 28:19-20

The vision of the AGC
is to be a healthy movement of reproducing churches.

A disciple is ONE WHO
BELIEVES IN THE SON OF GOD
lives in OBEDIENCE to CHRIST
makes a COMMITMENT to BECOME LIKE THE MASTER

Jesus is the Master Disciple and the Master Discipler. As a true disciple of His Father, Jesus presented His Father’s teaching and obeyed His Father’s will. As the Master Disciple, Jesus called His disciples to follow Him, to learn from Him and to obey Him even as He followed His Father in Heaven.

When Jesus called His disciples, He called twelve men to follow Him. They were on the inside of the journey of faith. For three years these men walked with Jesus. They lived with Him. They listened to Him and they replicated what they saw in Jesus. This is what it means to be a disciple. We know that not all disciples are the same; even Jesus had an insider, Judas, who trusted his back on the Master. Discipleship is a very human relationship, often complex and always demanding.

Yet, to be a true disciple of Jesus, walking in faith and obedience is the only life that pleases God our Father and unites us to Him and His Kingdom. In short, we cannot be a Christian unless we are a disciple of Jesus. Discipleship prepares us for living today and for Heaven to come.

This issue of CONNECT 2014 will inspire us all to walk as disciples and to disciple others. The discipleship stories shared on these pages are glimpses of real lives in journey with Jesus.

May we all give glory to God by faithfully, as His disciples, becoming like Jesus.
**Bonding and Faith Formation**

**Testimony of Tanya Biggell**

It was April 2010 and I was questioning so many things about life. I just wasn’t sure why I was here in this world. What was my purpose? At the same time, there were several situations in my life that were making me feel unhappy, uncertain and lost. I felt very dissatisfied and weighed down.

One day at work, after attending a meeting, I discovered that one of my co-workers, Kathy, was a life coach and a pastor’s wife. Shortly after that, I contacted her and we agreed to meet. It was that meeting that began a journey toward much change in my life.

As Kathy and I continued to meet and talk, I realized that it was only through a relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ that I have a purpose. Fulfilling His purpose for my life started with accepting His gift of salvation and becoming His child.

I have a great desire to learn more about walking this journey of faith. I read my Bible, Christian books, a daily devotional, and regularly attend church. I also started attending a Workplace Discipleship Group once a week, meeting with other women to share our stories and grow deeper in our knowledge of Jesus.

Life is not perfect. I still have my ups and downs, but it is different from my uncertain times in 2010. It’s different because I have Jesus and am growing deeper in my relationship with Him.

We are praying that this difference may make a difference in someone else’s life. It did for me. In so much that Kathy was willing and able to disciple me.

Submitted by: Kathy Butryn

**Pastor Alan Butryn**

Bridletowne Park Church, Toronto, Ontario
**The Goodness of Youth Mentoring**

“Mom, my mentor gave me his car! And it’s a standard!”

This excited exclamation could be heard from one of our teenage sons. Our boys’ initial nervousness about connecting with their church-appointed mentors was soon replaced with respect and interest as their respective contacts generously set the groundwork for ongoing relationships. Now, an hour or two spent with their mentor is followed with comments that show a mix of awe and anticipation.

From the outset, as parents and kids alike were drawn into discussion about a mentoring program through Crossroads Community Church, there has been clear direction, focus, and planning. Follow-up by church leaders has been diligent, and parent/child feedback has been welcomed.

Our family has had the privilege of having two mentors: they are persistent in working out schedules, committed to connecting with our kids in mutually interesting ways, and even going out of their way to connect with us as parents. The impact of the deeper, dove-tailing mentor-teenager relationships is engaging, encouraging, and inspiring.

A gift of time to our family as we welcome this addition of faith-based, God-loving adult influence in our kids’ lives.

“Well, I don’t know if I can do this... but it’s a great deal of help!”

When we started the youth mentoring program at Crossroads last fall for our 16 young people we didn’t know entirely what to expect. It is already bearing amazing fruit in the lives of parents, youth, and mentors. In the words of one youth:

“Too much study time, endless deadline. Every day I do my best to present myself as I should.”

Our goal was to help them know Jesus in a deeper way. Now our aim is to help them live for him. We want to equip them to know God’s plan for their life and to follow him on that path with joy and confidence.

**The Hospitality of Youth Mentoring**

“Welcome to a grateful mom!”

It was April 2010 and I was questioning so many things about life. I just wasn’t sure why I was here in this world. What was my purpose? At the same time, there were several situations in my life that were making me feel unhappy, uncertain and lost. I felt very satisfied and undefined.

One day at work, after attending a meeting, I discovered that one of my co-workers, Kathy, was a life coach and a pastor’s wife. Shortly after that discovery, I contacted her, and we agreed to meet that was to begin a journey toward much change in my life.

As Kathy and I continued to meet and talk, I realized that it was only through a relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ that I have a purpose. Fulfilling His purpose for my life started with accepting His gift of salvation and becoming His child.

I have a great desire to learn more about walking this journey of faith. I love to read the Bible, Christian books, a daily devotional, and regularly attend church. I also started to attend a Workplace Discipleship Group once a week, meeting with other women to share our stories and grow deeper in our knowledge of Jesus. Life is not perfect. I still have my ups and downs, but it is different from my uncertain times in 2010. It’s different because I have Jesus and am growing deeper in my relationship with him.

I am thankful that Kathy was willing and able to disciple me.

**Testimony of Kathy Butryn**

It was April 2010 and I was questioning so many things about life. I just wasn’t sure why I was here in this world. What was my purpose? At the same time, there were several situations in my life that were making me feel unhappy, uncertain and lost. I felt very satisfied and undefined.

One day at work, after attending a meeting, I discovered that one of my co-workers, Kathy, was a life coach and a pastor’s wife. Shortly after that discovery, I contacted her, and we agreed to meet that was to begin a journey toward much change in my life.

As Kathy and I continued to meet and talk, I realized that it was only through a relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ that I have a purpose. Fulfilling His purpose for my life started with accepting His gift of salvation and becoming His child.

I have a great desire to learn more about walking this journey of faith. I love to read the Bible, Christian books, a daily devotional, and regularly attend church. I also started to attend a Workplace Discipleship Group once a week, meeting with other women to share our stories and grow deeper in our knowledge of Jesus. Life is not perfect. I still have my ups and downs, but it is different from my uncertain times in 2010. It’s different because I have Jesus and am growing deeper in my relationship with him.

I am thankful that Kathy was willing and able to disciple me.

**Submitted by:** Kathy Butryn

**Pastor Alan Butryn**

Bridletown Park Church

Toronto, Ontario