

DISCIPLE BIBLE OUTREACH MINISTRIES OF N.C., INC.

THE CROSS AND KEY

*Ministering in the prisons and pews of
North Carolina*

April – June 2006



DBOM Expands Vision

(Adapted from an article in the UMC Reporter by Neill Caldwell.

Read the full article at www.reporterinteractive.org/main/feeds/tabid/116/newsid/725/default.aspx

After six years of successful ministry across North Carolina, Disciple Bible Outreach Ministries is expanding its vision to the rest of the United Methodist Church.

“Our growth has been exceptional,” says Dr. Mark Hicks, DBOM’s executive director. “It’s really a God-inspired ministry because it has been developed through people catching the spirit of what it means to take Christ beyond the walls of the church.”

DBOM has begun an online training project in partnership with the Foundation for Evangelism. Board member Mike Smith, who has experience in setting up online training in the business world, has created courses that can be taken by people all across the country to follow the NC model.

Hicks has also been involved with the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry to develop a criminal justice initiative for the United Methodist Church.

Beyond its prison ministry, DBOM is also expanding its scope in Disciple Bible Study. The ministry is working to take Disciple Bible Study training into every district across North Carolina over a three year period. The United Methodist Publishing House has partnered with DBOM to make this happen. “By offering the trainings in each district and by making them available to all at no cost, we hope to eliminate the barriers of cost and inaccessibility that often keep churches from participating in Disciple Bible Study, Hicks said. With the full support of Bishops McCleskey and Gwinn, DBOM hopes to begin the district trainings later this year.

New Website

Check out our new website design at www.disciplebibleoutreach.org

Rings of Fellowship Video

RYE Foundation awards grant to Disciple Bible Outreach Ministries

Neill Caldwell

Disciple Bible Outreach Ministry is creating a video for its youth Bible study curriculum thanks to an \$11,400 grant from the RYE Foundation of Winston-Salem, NC.

Warren Steen, President of the RYE Foundation, said that the project matches well with what his organization is trying to do for youth and children. "This project will have a tremendous impact across the state," Steen said. "The work of this ministry is a natural fit with what our foundation is trying to do." "We're concerned that there are 40,000 youth inmates in North Carolina and 120,000 boys and girls who wake up each day with no role model," said Steen. "We're trying to help the youth who are affected by that."

"We're delighted to work with the RYE Foundation and very appreciative of their support," said the Rev. Dr. Mark Hicks, executive director of Disciple Bible Outreach Ministries. "The potential for expanding this ministry into other states is very strong."

A joint ministry of the Western North Carolina and North Carolina Annual Conferences that was begun in 1999, Disciple Bible Outreach Ministries promotes the four DISCIPLE Bible Study courses and RINGS OF FELLOWSHIP, a course for youth in the local church and in other settings including juvenile prisons.

RINGS OF FELLOWSHIP was created on the Disciple Bible Study model, and like DISCIPLE, it was edited by United Methodist Bishop Richard Wilke. RINGS is divided into five sections: **R**esponsibility, God's action in an **I**ndividual's life, **N**eighbors (Christ's Gospel message), **G**od, and **S**ervice. Each section includes four lessons plus a graduation ceremony for each phase, which gives participants a regular sense of accomplishment as they move through the course.

In addition to its use in a number of juvenile prisons, RINGS is used in the local church, both as a Sunday school curriculum for the middle high age group and as a UMYF evening study. RINGS OF FELLOWSHIP has also been translated into Spanish.

The video project is also being financially supported by the Western North Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church. A wide cross-section of college and high school-aged young people are being used in the filming. DBOM has partnered with Rev. Andy Lambert, a United Methodist General Evangelist and President of Isaac Ministries and Bill Gibson, creative videographer, to develop the new videos. "Far from talking heads, the RINGS videos will be designed just for youth and will be high energy, creative and inspiring," Hicks said.

Based in Winston-Salem, the RYE Foundation derives its name from the first letter of its three programming priorities - **R**eligion, **Y**outh and **E**ducation. This is the foundation's third major gift to United Methodist projects.

Los anillos de comunidad

RINGS OF FELLOWSHIP in Spanish!

Thanks to our friends, Western Pennsylvania Prison Outreach Ministry, the RINGS Student Manual has been translated into Spanish. Translated by Dr. David Stains, a pastor in the Western Pennsylvania conference, the Spanish translation has been printed and is available for use. "We pray that this resource will be another powerful way to reach people for Jesus Christ," Hicks said.

DISCIPLE PRISON REPORT

“GEARING DOWN - STARTING UP!”

Darrell Hayden, Associate Director

It's hard to believe another year of DISCIPLE Bible Study in prison is coming to a close. Before you know it, year 2005-2006 will be in the past. Many wonderful blessings on both sides of the wall have taken place this past year. And yes, we have had our challenges. But God makes a way for us when we are willing to accept God's call. Many blessings as well as new challenges await us as we go forth.

First, we at DBOM wish to express our deepest appreciation to all of our dedicated volunteers. You make it happen! We must, however, not rest on our past success, but continue to move ahead with purpose and determination. What is “your call” for the coming year? Do you know someone you could invite to become a volunteer? Please know that we will have three new prisons opening in 2006. Each of these units will have a population in excess of 1,000! These units are as follows...

- Maury Correctional - Maury (April 2006)
- Bertie Correctional – Windsor (July 2006)
- Columbus County - Tabor City (Dec/Jan 06/07)

In addition, there are several units we feel could be made available to us if we had volunteers. These are...

- Marion Correctional – Marion
- Hyde Correctional – Swan Quarter
- Southern Correctional – Troy

Please pass the word concerning our need for volunteers for these six units! Plans are now being made for the 2006-2007 prison study year. Soon, all volunteers will be receiving information concerning plans for the coming year. Please be in prayer concerning “your call”. DBOM will again offer Prison Ministry Training for potential volunteers to facilitate the DISCIPLE and RINGS Studies. This will take place in August. Information concerning time and place will be provided at a later date.

2005 Special Sunday Gifts top \$60,000

On August 28, 2005, a Special Sunday offering was received in the UMC churches of NC. Gifts from this event have topped \$60,000, and the number of churches participating in the offering doubled from the 2004 offering with more than 450 congregations participating. “DBOM is deeply grateful for the support the offering received,” says Dr. Mark Hicks, Executive Director. “To the pastors and congregations of the WNCC and NCC, we thank you from the bottom of our hearts!” “God's word is a powerful thing and when that word is presented by caring Christian volunteers, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, true transformation takes place.” “The generous support for the DBOM offering shows that Christians are willing to support efforts that bring Jesus Christ to people.” Hicks said.

<p>2006 DBOM Sunday – August 27, 2006</p>
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Ministering in the prisons and pews of North Carolina

Give online
www.disciplebibleoutreach.org

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DBOM is....

- NC's DISCIPLE Bible Study Ministry
- An Affiliate Ministry of the North Carolina and Western North Carolina Conferences
- Manager of the DISCIPLE Prison Ministry
- Manager of the RINGS OF FELLOWSHIP Juvenile Justice Ministry
- DISCIPLE Bible Study trainer in NC
- Dependent on your prayer, volunteer and financial support

For more information about DBOM, please call our staff or speak to one of our Board members...

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