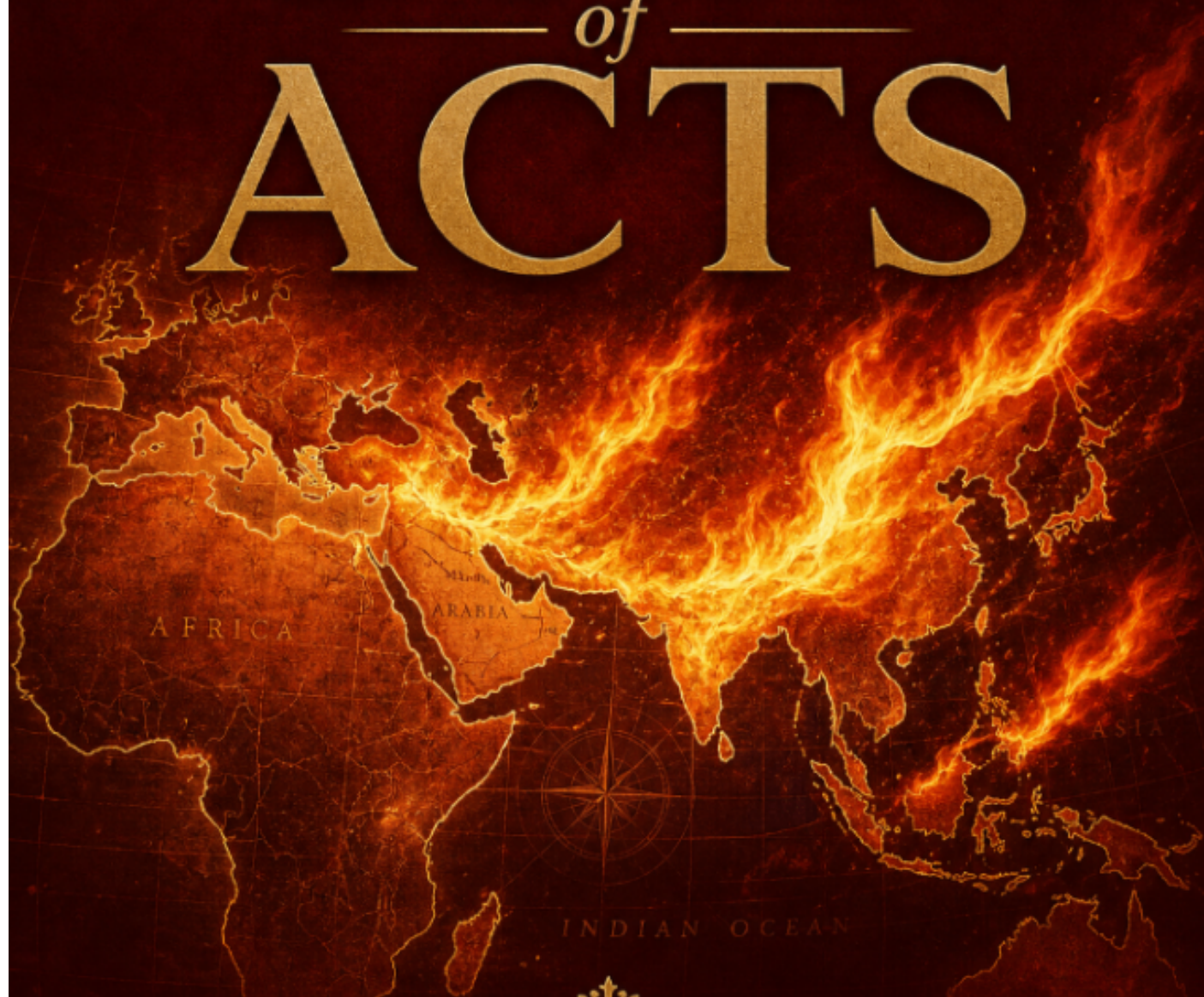

The
**MODERN-DAY
BOOK
of
ACTS**



THE GOSPEL IS STILL GOING FORTH.
THE CHURCH IS STILL ON MISSION.

TERRY RUFF

FREE MINISTRY RESOURCE

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Terry Ruff

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The Modern-Day Book of Acts

Ten Movements That Prove Acts Is Still Unfolding

By Terry Ruff

DMM Catalyst & Zume Trainer/Coach

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Dedication

To the ordinary believers around the world

who chose obedience over comfort,

multiplication over addition,

and sending over settling.

And to Amy — who went to Ghana with me,

believed before the fruit was visible,

and kept going.

Contents

Foreword

Introduction: The Book of Acts Is Still Being Written

Chapter 1: China — When God Moves

Chapter 2: India (The Bhojpuri Movement) — When Ordinary Believers Sparked a Movement of Millions

Chapter 3: China (The T4T Movement) — Training for Trainers

Chapter 4: Iran — When Persecution Could Not Stop Multiplication

Chapter 5: East Africa — Ordinary Believers Multiplying Thousands of House Churches

Chapter 6: Indonesia — From Fear to Faith

Chapter 7: Nepal — From One Prayer to a Nationwide Movement

Chapter 8: Bangladesh — When Ordinary Believers Sparked a Multiplying Movement

Chapter 9: Pakistan — Multiplication in the Midst of Opposition

Chapter 10: West Africa — When Disciple-Makers Multiply Across an Entire Region

Conclusion: What This Means for You

About the Author

Foreword

I never set out to write a book about global movements.

I set out to be faithful to one person.

In 2009, my wife Amy and I moved to northern Ghana. Not with a strategy to start thousands of groups. Not with funding for a large initiative. We moved there to make disciples — one person at a time — the way Jesus modeled it.

What happened next is still hard to explain without pointing to God.

Over the following 14 years, we watched something unfold that we did not produce, could not control, and would never have predicted. Simple Discovery Bible Studies spread from person to person. Obedient disciples made other disciples. Groups multiplied into other groups. What began with one conversation eventually grew into approximately 3,000 Discovery Bible Study groups touching an estimated 20,000 people — at zero cost to the outside.

No buildings. No professional clergy. No special programs.

Just obedient disciples.

Since returning to the United States, I have had the privilege of coaching disciple-makers across more than 37 countries on every continent. And everywhere I look, the same story is unfolding. In different languages. Different cultures. Different levels of opposition. Different starting points.

But the same pattern.

This book is my attempt to document ten of those stories — modern-day movements that prove the Book of Acts is not ancient history. It is a living pattern. And it is still unfolding today.

My prayer is that these stories do not merely inspire you.

My prayer is that they compel you to obey.

Terry Ruff

DMM Catalyst & Zume Trainer/Coach

Introduction: The Book of Acts Is Still Being Written

Most Christians read the Book of Acts as history.

It is not history. It is a pattern.

In Acts, we see what happens when ordinary believers take the Great Commission personally. We see fishermen becoming preachers. We see tentmakers planting churches. We see slaves and soldiers and merchants carrying the gospel across the known world — not because they had credentials, but because they had encountered Jesus and could not keep quiet about it.

We see multiplication, not addition. Decentralization, not centralization. Disciples making disciples who make disciples who make disciples.

And what most of us have been taught — implicitly or explicitly — is that those days are over.

They are not over.

In the pages that follow, you will read ten stories from ten different parts of the world. China, India, Iran, East Africa, Indonesia, Nepal, Bangladesh, Pakistan, and West Africa. Each story is different. Each culture is different. Each level of opposition is different.

But the pattern is the same.

Wherever ordinary believers accept the responsibility Jesus gave them, movements begin. Wherever disciples make disciples who make disciples, the gospel multiplies. Wherever simple, reproducible disciple-making spreads through relationships and households, the Kingdom advances.

This is not a strategy. It is a return to the original.

As you read, pay attention to the common thread in every story: ordinary people who obeyed. No one waited until they felt qualified. No one waited for a building. No one waited for a program. They shared what they knew, disciplined those who responded, and trusted the Holy Spirit to multiply what they could not produce on their own.

That is the invitation extended to you on every page.

Not to admire what God is doing elsewhere.

To join it.

Chapter 1

China

When God Moves

How Millions of House Churches Multiplied Under Persecution

"The things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also." — 2 Timothy 2:2 (NKJV)

...

In 1949, when Communism took control of China, foreign missionaries were expelled. Church buildings were closed. Christian leadership structures were dismantled. Public gatherings became dangerous.

Many assumed Christianity in China would slowly disappear.

But the opposite happened.

It multiplied.

Today, estimates suggest there are over 100 million believers in China, with tens of millions gathering in simple house churches across the country. How did this happen without buildings, without institutional support, and under constant pressure?

The answer reveals something every believer needs to understand.

...

When the System Collapsed, the Church Simplified

With missionaries gone and church systems removed, believers returned to something simpler. They met in homes. They shared the gospel with friends, family, and neighbors. They disciplined others personally. They did not depend on professionals. They depended on obedience.

Every believer understood something clearly: "I am responsible to share." And when responsibility spreads, multiplication begins.

Every Believer Became a Disciple-Maker

New believers were encouraged to share what they learned immediately. Not after years of training. Not after formal education. Immediately. They shared their story. They shared Scripture. They disciplined others.

This created generational multiplication. Disciple to disciple-maker to disciple-maker to disciple-maker. This pattern spread from home to home, village to village, and city to city.

Persecution Did Not Stop the Church — It Accelerated It

Pressure did not destroy the Church. It decentralized it. Believers carried the gospel wherever they went. New groups formed. New leaders emerged. Multiplication accelerated.

Because movements do not depend on buildings. They depend on obedient disciples. And disciples can go anywhere.

Leadership Multiplied, Not Centralized

Instead of relying on a few trained professionals, leadership responsibility spread across ordinary believers. This prevented bottlenecks. Multiplication continued across generations.

This is exactly how the early Church grew. Not through centralized control. Through distributed obedience. Just as we see throughout the Book of Acts.

What This Means for Us Today

The same Holy Spirit is working today. The same gospel. The same mission. The same command. What happened in China was not a historical anomaly. It was a return to the disciple-making DNA of the New Testament Church. And it can happen anywhere — including through ordinary believers like you.

• • •

One Simple Practice

Ask yourself: Who is one person I can begin discipling? Pray for them. Encourage them. Open Scripture together. Take one simple step of obedience. Movements do not begin with institutions. They begin with ordinary believers who say yes.

Chapter 2

India (The Bhojpuri Movement)

When Ordinary Believers Sparked a Movement of Millions

The Bhojpuri Movement in North India

"And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also." — 2 Timothy 2:2 (NKJV)

• • •

In 1994, the Bhojpuri people of North India were considered one of the largest unreached people groups on earth. More than 90 million people. Fewer than 1 in 1,000 were believers in Jesus. Entire districts had no churches. No disciples. No gospel witness.

Many assumed reaching them would take generations.

But within a few decades, something extraordinary happened. Not through large events. Not through buildings. Not through professional clergy. Through ordinary believers.

Today, the Bhojpuri region has seen millions baptized, hundreds of thousands of house churches started, and multiple generations of disciple-makers multiplying.

...

The Turning Point — When the Focus Shifted from Converting to Multiplying

In the early years, progress was slow. Then a simple but profound shift occurred. Instead of asking, "How do we reach more people?" they began asking, "How do we help every new believer reach others?"

New believers were not treated as spiritual consumers. They were equipped immediately as disciple-makers. From the beginning, they learned how to share their testimony, share Scripture with others, gather their family and friends, disciple new believers, and start simple churches in homes. Obedience began immediately. And obedience began to multiply.

The Multiplication Moment

Something powerful happens when new believers understand one truth: following Jesus includes helping others follow Him. A farmer discipled his family. His brother discipled his neighbors. His neighbors discipled their relatives. Each generation reproduced the next. Not addition — multiplication.

Soon there were first-generation disciples, second-generation, third-generation, fourth-generation and beyond. Entire networks of multiplying disciples formed across villages, districts, and regions. The movement no longer depended on outside leaders. It sustained itself. Just like the Book of Acts.

Key Movement Principles Revealed in the Bhojpuri Movement

Five principles drove the movement. Every believer was expected to reproduce — disciple-making was normal Christianity, not reserved for leaders. Obedience was immediate — believers did not wait years to begin sharing. Churches were simple and reproducible — they met in homes, requiring nothing that slowed multiplication. Leadership developed through multiplication — leaders emerged naturally as disciples reproduced disciples. The movement became self-sustaining — it no longer depended on outside workers.

Why This Matters for Us Today

The Bhojpuri people were once considered unreachable. Today, millions have heard the gospel. Not because of resources. Not because of buildings. But because ordinary believers accepted responsibility.

The Great Commission was never meant to depend on a few. It was meant to spread through everyone. What happened among the Bhojpuri can happen anywhere, because the same Holy Spirit still empowers believers today.

• • •

One Simple Practice

Share one simple truth God is teaching you with one person this week. Not as a teacher — as a fellow disciple. Then encourage them to share it with someone else. This is how multiplication begins.

Chapter 3

China (The T4T Movement)

Training for Trainers

How One Radical Shift Multiplied 1.7 Million Believers Across the Globe

"Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations..." — Matthew 28:19 (NKJV)

• • •

This movement is especially important because it did not just multiply in one region. It became a reproducible model used all over the world, including Africa, Asia, and the Middle East.

Founder: Ying Kai. Started: Early 2000s. Location: China, later spread globally.

Impact: 1.7 million+ baptized believers, 150,000+ churches started, spread to dozens of countries, one of the fastest-multiplying documented movements in modern history.

• • •

The Crisis That Sparked It

Ying Kai had been faithfully sharing the gospel for years. But after years of work, he had only seen a few dozen believers. He realized something critical: he was doing most of the ministry himself. So he made one radical change. He stopped focusing on training disciples. He started focusing on training trainers. Not just followers — multipliers.

The Breakthrough Principle

Instead of the model of one leader to many disciples, he shifted to a model of leader to trainers to trainers to trainers. Multiplication accelerated. Disciples immediately learned to share the gospel, lead discovery Bible studies, start simple churches, and train others to do the same. Not later. Immediately.

The Result: Explosive Multiplication

Within a few years, thousands of new churches formed, entire regions were reached, and generational multiplication emerged. Eventually: 1.7 million believers, 150,000 churches, multiple generations deep. All from one key shift: training trainers, not just disciples.

Why This Movement Matters Globally

The T4T model became one of the foundational approaches used in modern Disciple-Making Movements worldwide. It proved something powerful: movements accelerate when every disciple is equipped to multiply. Not eventually. Immediately.

The same principle applies in every culture and context. When the focus shifts from making disciples to making disciple-makers, everything changes.

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One Simple Practice

Ask the people you are discipling: "Who are you training?" Shift the conversation from what they are learning to who they are multiplying. This one question changes the trajectory of disciple-making.

Chapter 4

Iran

When Persecution Could Not Stop Multiplication

The Fastest-Growing Church in One of the Most Restricted Nations on Earth

"Those who were scattered went everywhere preaching the word." — Acts 8:4 (NKJV)

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If you were designing a strategy to stop Christianity from spreading, you might choose a country like Iran. Evangelism is illegal. Conversion from Islam can bring arrest. House churches are raided. Believers are monitored.

And yet — Iran is widely recognized as home to one of the fastest-growing Christian movements in the world.

Not through church buildings. Not through public crusades. Not through institutional systems. Through disciples making disciples.

...

From 500 Believers to Over One Million

In 1979, at the time of the Islamic Revolution, there were reportedly only a few hundred Muslim-background believers in Iran. Today, estimates suggest hundreds of thousands — possibly over one million — Iranian believers, with thousands of simple house churches and ongoing multiplication despite pressure. All of this growth has happened largely through relational disciple-making networks, not public church expansion.

When the System Collapsed, the Church Simplified

When missionaries left and church structures tightened, believers had one option: return to simplicity. They met in homes. They disciplined personally. They shared with friends and family. No buildings. No stage. No programs. Just obedience. And when obedience spreads, multiplication begins.

The Pattern of the Early Church

This is not new. It is exactly what happened in Acts of the Apostles. Persecution did not stop the early church. It decentralized it. Iran is living proof that Acts is not just history — it is a pattern that God still uses today.

How the Movement Multiplies

Observers consistently note five core principles in Iran. First, the gospel spreads through trusted relationships — friends, family, coworkers. Second, new believers quickly become disciple-makers because obedience is immediate, not delayed. Third, house churches are the primary structure — small, simple, reproducible gatherings. Fourth, leadership multiplies instead of centralizing, with no personality-driven model. Fifth, conviction replaces convenience — faith costs something, so it grows deep.

The Great Paradox

In Iran, the church is growing without public freedom, institutional support, large gatherings, or cultural favor. This confirms a powerful truth: the gospel does not require ideal conditions to multiply. It requires obedient disciples. The limiting factor is not culture. It is responsibility.

...

One Simple Practice

Ask one disciple this week: "If church buildings disappeared tomorrow, could you keep making disciples in your home?" If the answer is no — simplify. If the answer is yes — multiply.

Chapter 5

East Africa

Ordinary Believers Multiplying Thousands of House Churches

How the Gospel Is Spreading Across Uganda, Kenya, and Tanzania

"And daily in the temple, and in every house, they did not cease teaching and preaching Jesus as the Christ." — Acts 5:42 (NKJV)

• • •

Not long ago, vast regions of East Africa had little consistent gospel witness. Villages scattered across rural Uganda. Remote communities in Kenya. Isolated regions in Tanzania. Many had churches — but few had multiplying disciples. Many had believers — but few had disciple-makers.

And without multiplication, entire regions remained unreached.

But then something began to change. Not through large crusades. Not through buildings. Not through professionals. Through ordinary believers.

• • •

The Turning Point: Disciple-Making Became Everyone's Responsibility

For generations, many believers assumed disciple-making was the responsibility of pastors or evangelists. But when simple, reproducible disciple-making began spreading, something shifted. Believers began to understand: disciple-making is not a calling for a few — it is an assignment for every believer.

They began meeting in homes. Under trees. In villages. In refugee settlements. In marketplaces. They opened Scripture together. They obeyed immediately. And they shared with others what they learned. Just like the early church.

Young Leaders Accelerating the Movement

One of the most powerful realities of this movement is how strongly God is working through young leaders. One young man named Samuel, whom I am coaching, lives on the border of Uganda and Kenya. He is just 21 years old. No seminary degree. No large organization behind him. No building. Just obedience.

He began by sharing the gospel, starting Discovery Bible Studies, discipling new believers, and teaching them to do the same. Today, there are over 300 house churches started through generational multiplication. Another young man in Uganda shared that through generational multiplication he now has over 100 Discovery Bible Study groups — and growing.

Multiplication Spreading Across Cities and Nations

This movement is not confined to one village. It is spreading across entire nations — urban centers, rural villages, border regions, and refugee communities. One brother in Kenya reported 1,000+ baptisms in a single year as disciples multiply through prisons.

Leaders and disciple-makers in Rwanda, South Sudan, Malawi, and Ethiopia are seeing the same pattern: simple obedience, multiplying disciples, multiplying churches, multiplying generations.

The Principles Behind the East Africa Movement

Five principles drive these movements. Obedience-based discipleship — believers obey immediately. Every believer is a disciple-maker — no spectators, everyone participates. Simple, reproducible methods — anyone can multiply. House churches, not institutional dependence — flexible, mobile, reproducible. And generational multiplication vision — disciples who make disciples who make disciples.

• • •

One Simple Practice

Start one Discovery Bible Study with one person this week. Open Scripture. Ask simple questions. Obey what Jesus shows you. Share with someone else. This is how movements begin.

Chapter 6

Indonesia

From Fear to Faith

How the World's Largest Muslim Nation Is Seeing a Disciple-Making Movement

"Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations..." — Matthew 28:19 (NKJV)

• • •

Indonesia is the largest Muslim nation on earth. Over 280 million people. More than 17,000 islands. Hundreds of language groups.

For generations, many believed widespread disciple multiplication there would be nearly impossible.

Yet today, across villages, cities, and islands, something extraordinary is happening. A Disciple-Making Movement is quietly multiplying. Not through large church buildings. Not through public campaigns. But through ordinary believers making disciples who make disciples.

• • •

The Turning Point: Returning to Jesus' Simple Model

For years, most ministry followed a familiar pattern: gather people into church services, train a few leaders, hope growth would come. But multiplication was slow. Then believers began rediscovering Jesus' original strategy. Instead of focusing on gathering crowds, they focused on making disciples. Instead of waiting for people to come, they went to homes. Instead of creating dependents, they created disciple-makers. Everything changed.

Discovery Bible Study Unlocked Multiplication

A simple tool began spreading across Indonesia: Discovery Bible Study. The format was simple: Read Scripture. Ask what it says. Ask what it means. Ask how to obey. Ask who to share it with.

This allowed anyone — even brand-new believers — to immediately begin discipling others. No seminary required. No building required. Only obedience required. And multiplication began.

House Churches Began Multiplying Across Islands

Small groups began meeting in homes, shops, farms, villages, and urban neighborhoods. New believers were encouraged immediately: share with your family, share with your friends, start new groups. And they did. Second-generation groups formed. Then third generation. Then fourth. In some regions, entire village networks began following Jesus.

Ordinary Believers Became Movement Catalysts

One of the defining characteristics of the Indonesia movement is this: ordinary believers became disciple-makers. Farmers. Business owners. Students. Mothers. Not professionals. Disciples made disciples. Groups multiplied naturally through relationships. Leadership emerged from obedience, not titles.

Entire Regions Are Seeing Generational Multiplication

Today, across Indonesia, there are networks of multiplying disciples and house churches — thousands of Discovery Bible Studies, rapidly multiplying house churches, multi-generational disciple networks, and Muslim-background believers making disciples. This is not addition. This is multiplication. This is a modern-day Book of Acts reality.

...

One Simple Practice

Start one Discovery Bible Study — not in a church building, but in a home or a coffee shop with one or two people. Ask: "What does this passage say?" "How will we obey it?" "Who will you share this with?" And watch what God does.

Chapter 7

Nepal

From One Prayer to a Nationwide Movement

How Nepal Went from 100 Believers to Over One Million

"And daily in the temple, and in every house, they did not cease teaching and preaching Jesus as the Christ." — Acts 5:42 (NKJV)

...

In 1960, Nepal had almost no known Christians. Fewer than 100 believers in the entire country.

Nepal was a Hindu kingdom. Conversion was illegal. Foreign missionaries were expelled. Public Christian witness could lead to imprisonment.

By every human measure, the Church in Nepal should not have grown.

But God had another plan.

Today, Nepal has over one million believers. And most of that growth did not come through traditional church structures. It came through multiplying disciples.

...

It Began With Prayer Outside the Country

In the 1950s, a small group of Nepali believers living in India began praying for their homeland. They had no buildings. No funding. No institutional support. Only faith. They asked God to bring the gospel back to Nepal. Eventually, some of them returned home — quietly. Not as professionals. As disciples.

The First Disciples Multiplied Through Relationships

These early believers shared the gospel with family members and close friends. House to house. Person to person. Relationship to relationship. New believers were not told to wait. They were taught to obey Jesus immediately. And they were taught something else: "You must share this with others."

This simple expectation changed everything. Because obedience spreads. And when obedience spreads, multiplication begins.

House Churches Began Multiplying Across the Nation

Without buildings or public gatherings, believers met in homes. Small groups formed. Scripture was read. Believers obeyed what they learned. And they shared it with others. New disciples started new groups. Those groups started more groups. Soon, second-generation disciples became third-generation disciple-makers, then fourth, then fifth. The gospel spread across villages, valleys, and cities. Not through events. Through people.

Persecution Could Not Stop the Movement

Many believers faced opposition. Some were arrested. Others were rejected by family. Some lost jobs or social standing. But persecution did not stop the movement. It strengthened it. Because the movement did not depend on buildings. It depended on disciples. And disciples cannot be shut down.

The Multiplication Impact Today

Nepal is one of the most powerful examples of disciple-making multiplication in the world. From fewer than 100 believers to over 1,000,000 believers. From no churches to tens of thousands of simple house churches. From isolation to a nationwide movement. Entire regions now have multiplying generations of disciples, and the movement continues to grow.

...

One Simple Practice

Meet with one person this week to read Scripture together. Ask simple questions: What does this teach about God? What does this teach about people? What will you obey? Who will you share this with? This is how movements begin — not with crowds, but with one obedient disciple.

Chapter 8

Bangladesh

When Ordinary Believers Sparked a Multiplying Movement

Multiplication from a Nation Born in Poverty and Pressure

"Therefore those who were scattered went everywhere preaching the word." — Acts 8:4 (NKJV)

...

In 1971, Bangladesh emerged as a new nation after a brutal war. It was one of the poorest countries on earth. The population was overwhelmingly Muslim. Opposition to the gospel was strong. Social pressure was intense. Following Jesus often meant rejection by family, loss of livelihood, and isolation.

Many assumed the gospel would advance slowly here.

But something unexpected happened. Instead of stagnation, the Church multiplied. Not through buildings. Not through programs. But through ordinary believers who simply obeyed Jesus — and helped others do the same.

...

The Turning Point: Disciple-Making Became Everyone's Responsibility

For many years, traditional approaches produced limited fruit. Believers gathered, but multiplication was rare. Then a shift began. Instead of focusing on gathering believers, leaders focused on making disciple-makers. New believers were immediately encouraged to share with others. They were not told to wait. They were not told they needed years of training. They were taught to obey what Jesus said now. This simple shift changed everything. Because when responsibility spreads, multiplication begins.

Discovery Replaced Dependency

Instead of relying on professional teachers, believers began gathering in simple Discovery Bible Study groups. They met in homes, under trees, in small village settings. They read Scripture together and asked: What does this teach us about God? What does this teach us about people? What will we obey? Who will we share this with?

No one needed to be an expert. Everyone could participate. Everyone could obey. Everyone could share. And when everyone participates, movements begin.

Multiplication Spread Through Families and Villages

One believer would share with family members. Family members became followers of Jesus. Families became groups. Groups multiplied into new groups. New leaders emerged from within the harvest itself. Generation after generation of disciples began forming. Multiplication became normal. Not rare.

The Same Pattern as the Book of Acts

The early Church did not depend on a few leaders. Every believer became a messenger. Every home became a place of multiplication. This same pattern is now happening in Bangladesh. And it can happen anywhere. Movements do not require freedom or buildings or professionals. Movements require obedient disciples.

...

One Simple Practice

Ask God to show you one person in your life who is open. Share one simple truth God is teaching you. Then ask them: "Would you like to discover more together?" You do not need to have all the answers. You only need to take the next step.

Chapter 9

Pakistan

Multiplication in the Midst of Opposition

How the Gospel Spreads Through Courage and Obedience

"Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations..." — Matthew 28:19 (NKJV)

...

In Pakistan, following Jesus can cost everything. Family rejection. Social isolation. Threats. Persecution. In some areas, even asking spiritual questions can bring suspicion.

By human standards, this would seem like one of the hardest places on earth for the gospel to grow.

But that is not what is happening. Instead, disciples are multiplying. Quietly. Consistently. Courageously. A modern-day Book of Acts is unfolding.

...

When the Gospel Travels Through Relationships, Not Buildings

Most multiplication in Pakistan is not happening in church buildings. It is happening in homes, tea shops, workplaces, and under trees. Ordinary believers are sharing stories from Scripture with friends and family. They are not preaching sermons. They are facilitating discovery.

They ask simple questions: What does this passage teach us about God? What does this passage teach us about people? If this is true, how should we obey it? Who can we share this with? And when people obey, everything begins to change.

Every New Believer Becomes a Disciple-Maker

In many traditional systems, new believers are told to wait — to learn more, to mature, to be qualified. But movements operate differently. New believers immediately begin sharing what they are learning. One believer shares with three friends. Those three share with others. Groups begin forming naturally. Discovery Bible Studies multiply. New disciples become disciple-makers. And multiplication begins to accelerate.

Multiplication Despite Risk

In Pakistan, following Jesus requires courage. Some believers meet quietly to avoid attention. Others walk long distances to gather with fellow disciples. Many face pressure from family and community. And yet, they continue. Because when someone encounters Jesus personally, they cannot keep Him to themselves. They share. And when sharing becomes normal, multiplication becomes inevitable.

The Pattern Is Always the Same

Whether in China, Iran, Bangladesh, East Africa, or Pakistan, the pattern remains consistent. Movements grow when every believer sees themselves as a disciple-maker, Scripture is accessible and obeyed, disciple-making happens relationally, leadership multiplies naturally, and ordinary believers step into their calling.

This is not theoretical. It is happening now. Across Pakistan, new Discovery groups are forming. New disciples are emerging. New leaders are rising. The Kingdom is advancing.

...

One Simple Practice

Share one Scripture this week with one person. Ask them: "What do you think this teaches us about God?" Then ask: "Who else could we share this with?" You do not need a platform. You only need obedience.

Chapter 10

West Africa

When Disciple-Makers Multiply Across an Entire Region

From Sierra Leone to Northern Nigeria — A Movement Without Walls

"So the churches were strengthened in the faith, and increased in number daily." — Acts 16:5 (NKJV)

...

Something extraordinary is happening across West Africa.

From the coastal nations of Sierra Leone, Ghana, Cote d'Ivoire, Togo, and Benin, to the inland regions of Mali, Burkina Faso, Senegal, The Gambia, Mauritania, and northern Nigeria — disciples are multiplying.

Not through large events. Not through church buildings. But through ordinary believers who have discovered that obedience to Jesus multiplies. And an entire region is being transformed.

...

A Region Long Considered Difficult

West Africa is home to hundreds of millions of people. Many belong to unreached or minimally reached people groups. In large areas — especially in the Sahel belt — following Jesus can bring rejection, persecution, and loss. For generations, gospel progress was slow.

Church growth often depended on trained pastors, buildings, and centralized leadership. But these approaches struggled to reach deep into families, villages, and relational networks. The gospel was present. But multiplication was limited. Until something changed.

The Turning Point: When Ordinary Believers Took Responsibility

Disciple-makers across West Africa began embracing a simple, biblical truth: making disciples is not just for pastors — it is for every believer. New believers were immediately encouraged to share their story, share Scripture, pray for others, start discovery groups, and disciple those who obey. They did not wait for formal training. They obeyed immediately. And obedience began to multiply.

Discovery Groups Spread Across Villages and Cities

Instead of inviting people to church buildings, disciples began gathering people into homes, courtyards, and community spaces. They opened Scripture and asked simple questions: What does this teach us about God? What does this teach us about people? How will you obey this? Who will you share this with?

These simple discovery groups required no buildings, no budgets, no professionals. Only Scripture. Only obedience. And multiplication followed.

Entire Networks of House Churches Are Multiplying

Today, across West Africa, thousands of discovery groups and house churches are multiplying. In northern Nigeria, disciple-makers are seeing networks of house churches expand generation by generation. In Ghana, Cote d'Ivoire, and Sierra Leone, believers are helping catalyze new multiplication into neighboring regions. In Burkina Faso, Mali, Benin, Togo, Senegal, and beyond, disciples are multiplying through simple, reproducible obedience.

The Movement Principle: Multiplication Happens When Believers Obey

The West Africa Movement reveals a powerful truth: movements do not depend on favorable conditions. They depend on obedient disciples. Jesus never commanded His followers to build institutions. He commanded them to make disciples. And when ordinary believers take responsibility, multiplication becomes inevitable.

What is happening across West Africa is not unique to Africa. It is the natural result of disciples obeying Jesus fully. The same gospel. The same Holy Spirit. The same mission. The only question is whether believers will step into obedience.

• • •

One Simple Practice

Ask God to show you one person in your life who is spiritually open. Share a short passage of Scripture with them this week. Ask what they see. Ask how they will obey. Ask who they can share it with. This is how movements begin. And this is how they multiply.

Conclusion: What This Means for You

You have now read ten stories.

Ten countries. Ten movements. Ten examples of what happens when ordinary believers obey the simple command Jesus gave.

Go and make disciples.

What is the common thread in every story? It is not a building. It is not a budget. It is not a special program or a celebrity leader or a perfectly designed strategy.

It is obedience.

Obedience from ordinary people who believed that Jesus meant what He said — that every believer is sent, that every believer can make disciples, and that the gospel will multiply when disciples stop consuming and start reproducing.

The question is not whether God is still moving. These ten stories answer that question with a resounding yes.

The question is whether you will join what He is doing.

Not someday. Not when you feel more qualified. Not after the next seminar or the next class or the next season of your life.

Now.

Somewhere near you, there is a person who is open. A neighbor. A coworker. A family member. A friend. Someone God has placed in your path.

Open Scripture with them. Ask simple questions. Obey what Jesus shows you. Share with someone else.

This is how every one of the movements in this book began.

Not with a leader. Not with a strategy.

With one obedient disciple.

The Book of Acts is still being written.

And your chapter is waiting.

About the Author

Terry Ruff is a DMM Catalyst and Zume Trainer/Coach serving as a missionary with Northside Christian Church.

After more than 25 years serving on staff at two US mega-churches, Terry and his wife Amy moved to northern Ghana, where over 14 years they helped catalyze approximately 3,000 Discovery Bible Study groups touching an estimated 20,000 people — at zero organizational cost.

Since returning to the United States, Terry coaches disciple-makers across more than 37 countries, running multiple Zume Training cohorts simultaneously for leaders in Africa, Asia, Europe, and beyond.

Terry holds a deep conviction that the Great Commission was never meant to depend on a few — it was meant to multiply through everyone. His goal is to see 2033 — the 2,000th anniversary of the Great Commission — marked by movements of multiplying disciples in every unreached people group.

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