“So, Christ, himself, gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up.” Eph 4:11-12 (NIV)

What a God we serve! He is moving hearts to faith and equipping his people for service through Discipleship International (DI). Celebrate with us what he has done this last year in Canada, Mexico, the Philippines, and Africa. The body of Christ is truly being built up through going, prayer, and faithful giving.

**CANADA – Greater Vancouver & Fraser Valley – Morden & Winnipeg**

Equip to Serve (ETS) groups continue to expand throughout Greater Vancouver and the Fraser Valley (20 new groups in the last year). We partner regularly with local ministries to encourage our students and leaders to participate in outreach ministries, e.g. bringing students to share their testimonies and the bridge with the Community of Hope, the sandwich making for the homeless with the Trinity Baptist Church “Trinity Cares”, the Fujian Evangelical Church Outreach to the seniors at Fraserview Intermediate Care Facility and street evangelism with One Way Ministry. We continue to hold a regular Bible study at Union Gospel Mission, New Westminster every Monday and we are invited to train the staff in ETS.

Lynn Obradovich has joined us in the last year in the DI office as an Administrative volunteer. Lynn & her husband, Bob, have four grown children and a daughter-in-law, live in Abbotsford and completed the ETS series in Nov 2011. They currently lead an ETS Book 3 group.

DI is growing in Manitoba. We now have two “Equip to Serve” (ETS) groups in Winnipeg and two groups in Morden. We made contacts through “Missionfest Manitoba” and continue to make contacts through church presentations.

**MEXICO – Monterrey & Tehuacan (July 2011) – Pinotepa (December 2011)**

Beautiful Monterrey, once called the pearl of Mexico, faces an escalating problem of violence and corruption related to the drug trade and kidnapping. Monterrey is fast becoming the world leader in deaths from the drug trade. Many US and Canadian mission groups functioning in Mexico are pulling out because of the violence there. Everyone we spoke to was affected by the violence.

George Baarschers took a team of five, from Canada and the USA, to Monterrey in July 2011. Our Mexico DI director, Valdemar Sanchez, his wife Irma (photo on the right with George and June), and their team (group photo on next page) worked together to share the good news of Jesus Christ with the people of the city. They were joined by two staff members from Tehuacan (Eliezer on the far left and Ismael standing in the front right of the group photo). Both are young men aware of the cost to be a disciple of Christ.

Everyone prayed for safety and that the Word of God would go out with power, realizing that where sin abounds, grace abounds all the more. God answered using five outreach teams to bring 150 people to Jesus. Seven churches are now interested in using the ETS material.
God has answered our prayers for developing a strong DI team in Mexico with the addition of Edgar Garcia (centre photo) and Oziel Segura (right photo). These are men who have counted the cost of being servants for God. Please keep them in your prayers, especially in light of the strong chance that few foreigners will venture into Mexico in the future.

Over the past few years, the DI teams have seen hundreds come to Christ in Pinotepa. The left photo shows the December, 2011 DI team led by Dan Saunders. These four young men in the right photo all accepted Christ after a DI outreach team shared the Gospel. The fields are truly ripe for harvest.

PHILIPPINES – Palawan, Davao, Manila & Los Banos (November 2011 and February 2012)

Praise God, who orchestrates everything! Chona Borres, a DI Canada staff member, spent December 2010 and January 2011 in the Philippines training Ruthia and Thomas in leading the ETS series. Ruthia led the first ETS class in August, 2011 at New Millennium Evangelical Church and another class where three of the students were lay leaders from the Manila Chinese Baptist Church. They commended the ETS series to their church leadership, based on their experience. A year later, Chona was able to take our first DI team to the Philippines in December 2011 (left photo). A group photo on the next page is their first DI half day of prayer in Manila.

Through all these connections and by the grace of God, a class of 48 pastors and lay leaders gathered January
2012 at the Manila Chinese Baptist Church to hear the principles of ETS Book 1. This class led to an invitation from Dr Vicente Sia to bring the ETS series to Jubilee Evangelical Church in Manila.

Dr. Sia is a retired senior pastor of Jubilee Evangelical Church. After taking ETS Book 1 & 2, he started training 12 missionaries from Jubilee and traveled in the Philippines to train pastors in ETS Book 1 & 2. There are currently 42 taking ETS Book 1 at Jubilee from various churches led by six who completed the ETS leader seminar. Dr. Sia was invited to facilitate the ETS series in General Santos, Batangas City, and hopefully with Pastor Reyes in Cagayan de Oro before the end of this year. Also Dr. Sia plans to travel to Vancouver, BC in May to meet the DI staff.

Pastor Cesar Reyes is in the process of joining DI as staff. Pastor Reyes served for 10 years in several BC churches as Senior Pastor. He is a registered counselor and has previously completed the Navigators 2:7 Series Leadership training. Cesar and his wife, Lourdes, divide their time between Canada and the Philippines. Their daughter, Christine, and son, James, live in the Fraser Valley. Pastor Reyes is actively involved as a speaker, facilitator, chair and teacher. With the help of Dr. Sia and Pastor Jun Namoc, Senior Pastor of Grace Baptist Church, Palawan Pastor Reyes will be our main point person for DI in the Philippines while coordinating with Chona Borres, DI staff Canada.

The six Grace Baptist Church pastors and lay leaders who attended the intensive one-week DI Leaders' ETS seminar in Palawan have facilitated the ETS Book 1 with the ministry leaders of their church. These ministry leaders will train the rest of the congregation. Their goal is to have 100 trained in ETS Book 1 and Book 2 in the one year. Last year in the Philippines over 200 have completed ETS Book 1, over 80 are completing Book 2 and the first half-day of prayer was organized for Manila and Palawan. Also the staff of the Deaf Ministries International in Davao has completed ETS Book 1 & 2 and they plan to facilitate the ETS series with the students.

Six lay leaders completed ETS Book1 & 2 at Church Among The Palms in Los Banos, Laguna and plan to train their church group leaders by May 2012.

AFRICA – Kenya & Uganda – July 2011

Travis Whims, DI staff, and his team saw the moving of God through their DI mission team ministry. One of the highlights of the trip was seeing the vision of the local church in Kenya to disciple their members. The testimonies especially from the young people were inspiring. The pastors in each church spoke about how the youth had been leaving the churches in great numbers, but now that they are being discipled and are experiencing true growth in Christ they are staying.

The other blessing/challenge, that Reverend Timothy related, was that the youth are now leading some of the services and those in the congregation are beginning to take notice. In one church the congregation mentioned that the youth sermons were more powerful than the pastors. For this reason Manee Kenya is now going to ensure that all of the pastors and elders go through the ETS series. The momentum for such great growth in Kenya is through the Holy Spirit guided leadership of Reverend Timothy, Sylvester, Heric, Ruth, Isaac, Japheth, and Doreen. Manee Kenya NGO had a recent DI ETS series graduation ceremony with 150 graduates. This is a result of faithful training in over 40 ABC churches in Kenya. Their vision and passion to disciple outside of their denomination is very evident as well.
Movement outside denominational boundaries was put into practice when Sylvester (2nd from right - front row) and Heric (far right - front row) joined Travis and Belinda (front row) in Uganda to train 30 pastors from the Full Gospel Church in Uganda. These two men took leadership and trained the pastors through ETS Book 1.

Pastor Elijah (far left - front row), in Uganda, is also a great man of vision, often mentioning that what had been taught was life changing. Most of these pastors had very little training or resources; therefore, when the DI team taught them how to have a daily quiet time, journal, and memorize scripture, they began to see the Word of God in a whole new way. The next step was to give them ownership and responsibility to teach and mobilize their congregations to do the same thing. The team will not return to train the pastors for ETS Book 2 until they have taught their congregations what they learned in Book 1.

Another highlight of many was the medical clinic in which the DI team took part. Dan, one of the team members from Canada, gave great leadership and Dr. Susan organized everything in Kenya. This was Manee Kenya’s first medical clinic and the team showed them that it could be done effectively. While people were waiting in line, some for 8 hours or more, it gave us ample time to share the gospel with them. The combination of meeting physical and spiritual needs was powerful.

We are looking forward to what God has in store for the future as we work together making disciples of Kenya and throughout Africa as God leads.

Praise God with us for:
- Continued open doors in Mexico, Philippines and Africa, and pastors excited about ETS training
- The over 150 people that opened their lives to Christ in Monterrey, Mexico this summer
- The invitation for Dr. Sia to teach ETS at Febias College of Bible this June and to teach with Pastor Reyes at Batangas Christian College in October.
- The translation of the ETS series in the Philippines into the local dialect, Tagalog
- A local Kenyan team that reached out to Uganda to teach ETS Book 2
- Growing interest for new ETS groups in BC and Manitoba
- An ETS group started at Trinity Western University
- Plans for the Union Gospel Mission (UGM) staff to be trained in ETS Book 1

Please pray with us for:
- Spiritual growth through effective discipleship follow-up for everyone who accepted Jesus locally and worldwide.
- Physical safety and boldness for those sharing the gospel in Mexico
- Supporters for, Pastor Cesar Reyes, who is in the process of joining the DI staff
- The perseverance and commitment of the leaders of Grace Baptist Church as they continue their training in the ETS series and the growth in their church as they train others.
- Please pray for Reverend Timothy, Sylvester, Heric, Ruth, Isaac, Japheth, and Doreen as they oversee the discipling of the ABC Church members.
- The team ministry of making disciples in Kenya, Uganda, and throughout Africa as the Lord leads. They are planning to translate the ETS series into the local Kenyan dialect of “Kikima” to reach more people.