In an atmosphere of grace and with a commitment to truth and excellence, we are pursuing lives of eternal significance in Christ Jesus. –Vision Statement of Church of the Open Door

On September 3, 1915 eighty-six men and women from all over greater Los Angeles gathered to sign as charter members, the constitution and bylaws of a new church—Church of the Open Door. Led by Dr. R. A. Torrey, they built a 4064-seat auditorium and dedicated themselves to the task of “becoming a strong evangelical witness in the Los Angeles area and serving as a platform from which conservative leaders from around the world could be heard.” God used their faith and vision to build one of the most significant ministries in church history. Never satisfied with mere survival or mediocrity, generations of COD’ers have maintained their passion for grace and truth, as they boldly trusted God for new horizons in Christian education, missions, music and radio.

As we moved into the new millennium in 2000 we decided, as a church family, that Church of the Open Door should once again move forward in the name of Jesus Christ. We heard God asking us to turn our attention from our recent and necessary preoccupation with survival to a renewed passion for significance—eternal significance. That was our theme for the year 2000—From Survival to Significance.

Just twelve years later, the Lord has shown us His powerful answers to our breakthrough prayers and Church of the Open Door is making a difference in lives around the world. I believe He’s asking us to dream even bigger dreams for Him, to Refuse to Settle for Less than His absolute best for our lives and our community. Specifically, the Lord is asking us to trust Him as He tells us to reach out into our community to those who are without Christ and without hope.

He’s asking us to live boldly for Him and to pray even more boldly.

If ever there was a year we need to remind ourselves of our number one priority it will be this year. We’re not looking to fill our Worship Center with people seeking anything or anyone other than our Lord Jesus Christ. We want to fill all four services with disciples of Christ Jesus—those being transformed by His grace and truth! The “famous last words” of Jesus, His final command to His followers brings us back to our purpose, our Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20): Save the lost, build the saved, and send your best to do the same. This is OUR MISSION, this is what we must do: To help people fulfill life’s purpose, God’s purpose for their lives by introducing them to the Lord Jesus, encouraging them to get to know Him as their Friend, and equipping them to go and tell others of the Savior’s love and power.

The Great Commission: ___________ the lost; ___________ the saved;
And ___________ your best to do the same!

I. OUR MANDATE: MAKE DISCIPLES OF ALL NATIONS! (Matthew 28:18-20)


1. The Context: These are the Lord Jesus’ final words to His doubting disciples assuring them of His authority from the Father (28:16-17; see also Acts 1:8).

2. The Command: On the basis of His absolute authority, His followers are to make disciples of all nations (28:18-20a).
a. One Command: Make disciples (obedient, maturing followers of Jesus Christ, μαθητευσατε—constantive aorist imperative, do this!)…

b. Worldwide Scope: Of all the nations (παντα τα εθνη, from every people group) MAKE DISCIPLES!

c. Three Modifiers (circumstantial participles):
   1) Having gone or as you go (CF 10:7)…MAKE DISCIPLES!
   2) by baptizing (New Believers)…MAKE DISCIPLES!
   3) by teaching (Believers)…MAKE DISCIPLES!
      a) to observe (fulfill, fully grasp)
      b) all that I commanded (all Scripture)

3. The Close: The Lord Jesus assures disciple-makers that He will be with them to the end (28:20b).

B. An expanded translation: As you go (through your daily life) make disciples (produce obedient followers of Jesus Christ) of all the nations (send disciple-makers to every culture) by baptizing new believers (saving the lost) and then teaching them so that they fully grasp everything God has said (building the saved to maturity).

C. The Great Commission: As you go through real life, save the lost; build the saved; and send your best to do the same.

II. Build to Send: MAKE DISCIPLES OF ALL NATIONS!

A. Undeniable Realities
   1. For my church to make disciples, I must tell unbelievers about Jesus Christ!
   2. For my church to make disciples, I must make disciples!
   3. For my church to send disciplermakers, I must give to my church!

B. Critical Breakthrough Prayer for 2013:

   Father, please use us to build a community of 800 worshippers transformed by your mercy and growing in grace!

C. 2013 Prayers for Every COD’er:

   Father, please show me at least one person from my everyday life you want me to tell about Christ.

   Father, please lead me to at least one person I can disciple this year.