



What Do We Mean when we say "Disciple-making Movement" (DMM)?

For the purposes of MultiplyUs Conferences, we are defining a **disciple-making movement (DMM) approach** as a **strategy seeking to raise up a vibrant group of Christ-followers who have prioritized biblical strategies and life principles so that, through God's Spirit (AND ONLY THROUGH GOD'S SPIRIT), they grow and multiply rapidly by focusing on being Spirit-led with every follower being a multiplier, desiring peer accountability (especially for obeying, training, and sharing with others) and becoming a disciple worth multiplying, while nurturing a vision that reaches around the block and around the world, multiplying disciples, simple groups or churches, leaders and movements.**

In MultiplyUs Conferences, we consider the terms, *disciple-making movement* (DMM) and *church-planting movement* (CPM), to be synonymous. (We recognize this is not a universally-held view, but we believe it to be more inclusive. To facilitate ease of communication, we'll use "DMM" here, but we respect either term and use them both in training.) It's important to remember that no one person invented these phrases so, accordingly, there is no copyrighted meaning. There is no "DMM HQ" nor sanctioning organization. Trainers like to point to Christ and the Apostles as founders, but the exact phrase doesn't occur in the Bible. (The Bible **does** say that "the disciples multiplied," however -- Acts 12:24, *NASB*.) In spite of this fuzzy origin, there is seemingly a strong consensus on the part of all who train and implement these principles. Let's focus on those. The 24:14 network has described a **DMM approach as one in which:**

1. There is awareness that **only God can start movements**, but disciples can follow biblical principles to pray, plant, and water the seeds that can lead to (a) book of Acts type multiplying movement(s). **ONLY GOD CAN MAKE THIS HAPPEN.**
2. The focus is to make **every follower of Christ a reproducing disciple** rather than merely a convert.
3. **Each follower develops behavioral patterns of frequent and regular accountability** for obeying God's instructions and passing them on to others in a loving environment. This requires a participative small-group approach.
4. **Each disciple is equipped in comprehensive ways** (such as interpreting and applying Scripture, a well-rounded prayer life, functioning as a part of the larger Body of Christ, and responding well to persecution/suffering) in order that they might function **not merely as consumers, but as active agents of Kingdom advance.**
5. **Each disciple is given a vision both for reaching their relational network and for extending the Kingdom** to the ends of the earth with a prioritization on the darkest places (with a "no place left" mentality - Romans 15:23). They are equipped to be able to minister and partner with others in the Body of Christ in both of these environments.
6. **Reproducing groups or simple churches** are intentionally formed as a part of the multiplying disciples process. The intent in DMM approaches is that **disciples, groups or simple churches, leaders and movements** can multiply endlessly by the power of the Spirit.
7. Emphasis is not on the specific model of DMM used (e.g. T4T, DBS, Zume, 3/3, 4 Fields, etc.) but on the underlying **biblical principles of multiplying kingdom movements.**

Note: This last point (#7) is important. There is indeed variation in methodology among those who are movement-minded. But though strategies vary, all hold Scripture as their highest authority. All are strongly committed to group life, the priesthood of all believers (1 Peter 2:5-9), and growth of all kinds. As of June, 2020, researchers have found evidence of **1,369 movements involving over 76 million people and 4.8 million groups or simple churches.** (See the Dashboard at <https://2414now.net/resources/>.) Learn more at <http://www.MultiplyUs.com>.

Remember, movements are messy. By nature, they are often non-sequential. In fact, many probably will stretch us (and our attempts to write definitions like this one!). But at the same time, it can be helpful to list some milestones even though we realize that no two movements will be identical. What's more, talking about movements and their components might, in and of itself, help us better appreciate the goals and directions we'll need to set in order to remove potential barriers for their genesis. With the hope of prompting us toward greater understanding, the 24:14 Network has described movements in terms of 7 stages along a continuum of characteristics:

- 0 - DMM Team in context but no purposeful DMM plan or efforts yet
- 1 - Moving purposefully - Trying to consistently establish 1st generation of NEW believers & churches
 - 1.1 - Purposeful entry; looking for person of peace / houses of peace; evangelism; activity but no results yet
 - 1.2 - Have some new Gen1 believers
 - 1.3 - Have some new Gen1 believers and new groups
 - 1.4 - Have consistent new Gen1 believers
 - 1.5 - Have consistent new Gen1 believers and new groups
 - 1.6 - One or more new first generation churches
 - 1.7 - Several new Gen1 churches
 - 1.8 - Gen1 churches are starting new groups
 - 1.9 - Close to Gen2 churches (1+ Gen2 church)
- 2 - Focused - Some 2nd gen churches (i.e. new believers/churches have started another generation)
- 3 - Breakthrough - Consistent 2nd generation and some 3rd gen churches
- 4 - Emerging DMM - Consistent 3rd gen churches and some 4th gen churches
- 5 - DMM - consistent 4th++ generation churches in multiple streams
- 6 - Sustained DMM - Visionary, indigenous leadership leading the movement with little/no need for outsiders. Stood test of time with at least several hundred churches (Most stage 6 CPMs have 1000 or more churches)
- 7 - Multiplying DMMs - Initial DMM is now catalyzing other DMMs in other people groups or cities

(NOTE: All generations counted are NEW believers and new groups/churches, not EXISTING believers and churches. Existing believers/churches are labeled Gen 0 indicating that they are the baseline generation from which we are launching. Also, note that this original 7-stage continuum, as provided by 24:14, used the alternate term, CPM. We have changed it to DMM only for the purposes of consistency within this document/definition.)

Disciple-making movement strategies work effectively when commencing outreach in a new area - but, because these strategies seem in sync with life in New Testament times (e.g., in the Book of Acts, as the church multiplied), they are also perfectly tuned as ancillary tools in existing church structures. While the core principles of a DMM are lived out in small group communities, networking of these small groups can at times be implemented in larger gatherings (for example, a megachurch or a city-wide church network). These network gatherings can take on the roles such as leadership development, celebration, and intercession, but must affirm the sufficiency of simple small-group churches and support the focus of empowering every disciple to be a disciple maker.

Finally, we need to underscore again the importance of realizing that as humankind, all we can do is obey - and place ourselves in the center of God's will, as much as we possibly can. If we remove as many barriers as possible, maybe God can work in our midst. But again, if He chooses to do so, it's only because HE makes that choice. Disciple-making movements aren't brought about by a methodology or a magic wand. **THEY ARE A DIRECT RESULT OF GOD'S SPIRIT.**