



BOOK REVIEW



Mentoring For Mission: A Handbook on Leadership Principles Exemplified by Jesus Christ

by **Günter Krallmann**

Our Generation Publishing, 2002



In *Mentoring For Mission*, Günter Krallmann offers a thorough and inspiring study of Christ's model for discipleship and leadership development. Leaning heavily on the Gospel witness, Krallmann shows that Jesus developed leaders who were sure to succeed in his plan for the worldwide spread of the gospel (Acts 1:8).

Beginning with an in-depth look at the cultural influences and the style of rabbinic education in Christ's day, Krallmann points out the similarities but also the stark contrast between Christ's method and the rabbinic method of disciple-making.



Krallmann stresses the fact that Christ's primary method for forming his followers was consociation – being with, or the “with-ness” as Krallmann calls it. This “with-ness” was crucial to the desired training outcome, that is, to mold his followers to be like him.



Jesus first called the disciples to “Come and you will see” (John 1:39), that is simply to spend time with him and observe him in all the rhythms of life. Mark 3:14 states that this choosing was so “that they might be with him.” This closeness between Christ and the disciples facilitated not only the acquisition of information (i.e., knowledge unique to and presented in a way particular to the teacher), but also resulted in formation (i.e., the development of character traits, habits and mannerisms unique to that teacher).

The task of discipleship, according to Jesus, is then not only about the transference of skills and knowledge, though these are important. The task of discipleship is to replicate the Master, to form those who would follow Jesus into people who are like him. Only then can they be effective witnesses for him.



Such formation cannot be accomplished by the acquisition of facts about the Master, it can only happen by spending time with the Master.

The brilliance of Christ's method is that it can be applied today as much as it was applied when he was physically on the earth. We can spend time with Jesus today in gospel imagination exercises, in times of prayer where he speaks and we listen, in being with others who are like him. This principle of formation through “with-ness” ought to be the personal experience of all maturing believers.

—**Ingrid Reichard is pastor of discipleship at Glencairn MB Church, Kitchener, Ont.**

