

# The Tini Times



## "Make Disciples": Recipe? Ingredients?

Can you feel the heat? We are not glowing with the Holy Spirit in the above picture. Instead, we are glistening due to the incredible temperatures atop the lodge at Camp Luther in Ohio. The "glowing" young lady to my left is Steffi Hall, an education student in Freiburg whom I have had the privilege of mentoring. **What is mentoring? Also called discipleship, mentoring is actually mentioned in Jesus' last words to His followers.** Also called the Great Commission, Jesus calls believers to "go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you." (Matt. 28:19-20)

How exactly does one "make" a disciple? Could that be what we are doing in picture on the right—me kneading the dough and my niece, Grace, rolling up her sleeves to help? What is a disciple anyway? **The Oxford dictionary defines a disciple as "a personal follower of Christ during his life..."** Since Christ is still living in the form of the Holy Spirit in us, I would say that this definition continues to apply to us today. Making disciples therefore involves making followers of Jesus.

Still confused? Wondering if you need specific ingredients or have to follow a ten-step program or complete a particular training course? Does disciple-making take place in the kitchen? At church? In the privacy of your own home? **Discipleship can happen any- and everywhere—in the kitchen or on the rooftop, with a 21-year-old student or with your two-year-old niece.** You simply need people that, like the pretzel dough in the picture, are moldable, wanting to grow and to mold into followers of Christ.

Disciple-making/discipleship/mentoring is a cornerstone of what we do in the Freiburg ministry. It involves meeting students where they are spiritually, coming alongside them as they struggle through doubts and trials, rejoicing with them when they discover something new about Jesus, and watching them progress in their faith and trust in God. **This journey with students can start and end at different places. Some women have been raised in the church and are longing to be challenged/grow in understanding and faith in Christ. Other times, however, I have started with someone at the very beginning—being introduced to them when they are skeptical about Christianity, having many questions and doubting if Jesus is real at all.** I cannot describe to you the joy that comes with experiencing someone reach the milestone in her faith where she realizes for the first time that there is a God who loves her so much that He gave His one and only Son for Him—priceless! I long to experience that again and again!

Over the passed few years, I have been blessed to have a front row seat to the growth of several young women. Most, having already finished with their studies, have gone on to shine their light and make their own disciples as teachers, Sunday school staff, members of a small group, youth group leaders, etc. **The more I mentor young women, the more I realize my own incapability of actually “making” women into followers of Christ.** I was never given a “How-To” book. I don’t have all the answers to life’s difficult questions, nor am I able to direct each unique young lady in the perfect way as she tries to follow Jesus.

Looking back at the Scripture above, Jesus tells us to teach them to obey all the commandments. One could, therefore, assume that discipleship takes place in a classroom setting. That is, after all, where learning takes place, right? True, but not exclusively. **Jesus, Himself, spent time teaching his disciples specifically, but also spent considerable amounts of time praying and doing ministry with them, challenging them to go out on their own, and also simply enjoying everyday life together.**

**Who better to copy the recipe for disciple-making from than Jesus himself?!** I would say discipleship, therefore—whether in Freiburg, Germany, Crestline, OH or anywhere in between—involves spending time in the Word learning the commandments and learning from the Master himself, doing ministry together, posing challenges, as well as living life together.

Seem like a tall order? I agree! The great thing though, is that we are not expected to do it alone (nor can we, for that matter). The second half of Matt. 28:20 is “And surely I am with you always, even to the end of the ages.” **Jesus lives in all believers, speaking through them to His followers. What’s more, because He is in both you and the one you are mentoring, Jesus speaks equally to and through both of you.** I have learned from and grown through countless individuals that God has placed in my life. I am also incredibly grateful for my family, the camp counselors, Sunday School leaders, women at church, coaches, roommates, friends, etc. THANK YOU for taking the Great Commission seriously and for helping me to grow into (and continue growing) a follower of Jesus!

**Making disciples is not limited to missionaries or clergy, but is a calling/privilege for all believers.** Its implementation is as unique as each one of us, ranging from praying with your toddler at the dinner table to doing a service project together, to praying before work. The sky is the limit!

I thank each one of you for the role that you have played in guiding me along this journey of following Jesus. As I pray about to whom God is calling me to “therefore go” to, I wonder how this Great Commission applies to each one of you. **To whom is God calling you? I would love to hear your stories and know how I can be praying for each one of you personally.** Remember in and through it all, that He is with us, even to the end of the age. God bless, *Tini*

### Prayer Requests

#### Thanks...

- that I am able to study at teacher's college and that God has, as a result, blessed me with countless valuable experiences.
- for my time in the U.S.—that I was able to connect/reconnect with many of you and able to share my life/experiences with Steffi.
- for the love and support of the staff team here in Germany, who have become like family to me

#### Requests...

- that God would direct our team of staff and students as we plan for the coming semester.
- that God would continue to provide opportunities for me to be a light to the students in my classes.
- open doors to start a high school ministry here in Freiburg.
- discernment and wisdom for Annette and I as we decide how we can lead a campus group with less staff—On what things do we need to focus?

### My Contact Information

Frankenweg 17  
79117 Freiburg  
Germany

christinajhorning@googlemail.com  
www.give.ccci.org/christinajhorning

The picture on the right shows the university staff team in Germany at our recent planning conference.

