

Latest news from Chris and Sara Middleton

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1 + 1 + 1 = A Combo?



The first time I (Chris) walked into a fast food restaurant or (casse-croûte as it's called here) I thought I was ready to order. I wanted a hamburger combo and so that's what I asked for (in French). The person behind the counter looked at me with a blank expression. A number of things went through my head: Did I pronounce it wrong? Is my English accent making it impossible for them to understand me? Is this a prank? In the end I learned that a combo here is called a trio. Pretty simple, but it makes all the difference when trying to order.

As we continue to look to catalyze movements of disciple-making here in our region (the Laurentians) we have struggled to get to the next step – beginning Discovery Bible Studies. The idea of DBS is to discover what it means to be a disciple of Jesus and to live that out together with others. Through reading the Scriptures we learn what the Bible teaches allowing the Holy Spirit to illuminate the truth as we read and seek and to lead us to put that truth into action in our lives (obedience). There's a bit more to it, but that's it in a nutshell.

Ideally we would start a DBS with a Person of Peace who is open to the Gospel and willing to invite others from their circle to discover with them. COVID has not made the task of connecting with people easy or for a large chunk of this past year at all possible.

As 2020 was coming to a close our pastor at our church in St. Jerome (David) was discussing his concern at the lack of intentional discipleship in the church. There were a few small groups still running but with COVID restrictions it has been increasingly difficult to connect with people. He felt the church needed to pivot in order to better address the need to develop disciples. As we discussed this we were reminded about what Brenda Flemming (one of our Fellowship International missionaries) has started among women at our home church, Calvary Baptist in Guelph. They're called Triads (or Trios). Three women meet together to study the Bible using the DBS format. Brenda shared with some of the leaders at our church here in Quebec her experience and what has happened with these triads. They have allowed women to dig in more deeply into relationship with each other and with God, to seek not only to know the Scriptures but to live them out in their lives. The goal was for each person to be walking as a disciple of Jesus and prepared to develop others to be disciples of Jesus. Brenda reported that not only has the first part of this goal been happening but so has the second. New triads have started with women inviting non-Christians that they know to study the Bible with them from creation to Christ. The DBS format and the triad size has made this initiative intimate and easy to reproduce.

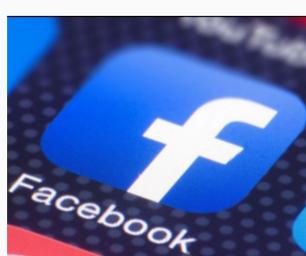
So earlier this month Ecclesia decided to test the waters with these discipleship trios and have asked us to lead it. This is a great opportunity not only to be part of an initiative to develop disciples but also to get some first-hand experience using the DBS format in French and with Francophone Quebecois(e). Our desire is to start with 5 new triads made up of people from our church by the end of February/beginning of March. Our long-term goal is to see each member of an original triad start another one and to eventually see at least half of those new triads be engaging with unbelievers.

We're not looking for a special combo, but a trio of people willing to seek the Lord together and to live in obedience to his Word and leading. We're praying that we might see from within our host church a movement of disciple-making – disciples following Jesus and then leading others to follow Jesus.

For Prayer

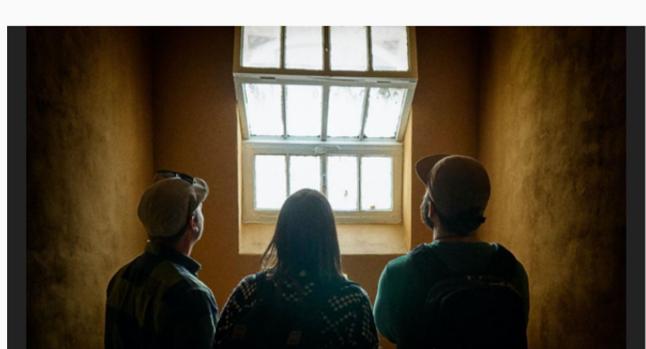
- Pray for the launch of the Discipleship Triads at Ecclesia - we are praying for at least five triads to launch within the next month
- Pray for Sara and Chris as they each join/facilitate a triad - for growth as disciples personally, development of others as disciples and for a good learning experience for future triads and DBS groups
- Pray for wisdom in readjusting our ministry and family life to best respond to the ongoing challenges with COVID restrictions, confinement and caring for our community
- Pray for Jude and Ethan for their growth as disciples of Jesus

Drop us a line and let us know how we can be praying for you!



If you want to take part in our movement of prayer in some way join our Facebook group **Movement of Prayer QC**.

This is the spot where we will be posting all the relevant information and communication for those involved in this movement of prayer with us



Discipleship Triads - What each session looks like

LIFE TOGETHER

- 1 thing you are **thankful** for...
- 1 thing you are **concerned or stressed** about
- How did you do with your previous week? « **I will ...** »

LEARN TOGETHER

- Read through the passage & summarize it in your own words
- What do you learn about **God** his character and his plan
- What do you learn about **humans** and specifically us?

LIVING IT OUT

- My response to obey – This week « **I will...** » - *make it practical & specific*
- Is there someone I can share this with?
- Is there a need in our group we can respond to?
- Pray for one another

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