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Dear Ministry Partner,

"Christianity without discipleship is always Christianity without Christ." - Dietrich Bonhoeffer-

As I read this opening sentence of *The Complete Book of Discipleship*, my first thought was that it might be a bit extreme. Christianity without discipleship is Christianity without Christ? Really? I had to stop and think for a few minutes to see if I really agreed. But then the author, Bill Hull, continued. "Without discipleship, Christianity doesn't exist, because following Jesus activates the Christian faith." I agree.

Many times as we labor in the inner city, a mission field that has its share of disappointments and discouragement, we long to see the fruit of our labors. We eagerly await the time when a neighbor with whom we have built a relationship, and prayed, and shared the Gospel, will accept Christ. We anticipate a time when they will allow us to lead them in the sinner's prayer and the Kingdom of God will be expanded by their conversion. But if that is where it ends, then we have failed in our response to the Great Commission.

Jesus instructed us to "go and make disciples". The Gospel requires us to teach others to follow Jesus daily, to make disciples who learn to obey everything that Christ taught. When speaking of Christianity, William Law stated, "It implies an entire change of life, a dedication of ourselves, our souls, our bodies unto God in the strictest and highest sense of the words." This is the change that we desire and seek through the work of the Holy Spirit. When converts become disciples and begin to follow daily in the footsteps of Jesus, lives will be changed, habits broken, families restored and God's Kingdom will come to earth.

As we seek to fulfill our part of the Great Commission by making disciples, training leaders, and planting churches in the inner city of Saint Louis, we ask that you continue to lift us up in prayer. I am reminded of the statement, "If the church is going to advance, it must first do so on her knees." Your prayers are vital to us and to the work that God has called us to. Continue to pray for our missionary staff, that we would humbly and boldly declare the Gospel of Jesus Christ to our community. Pray that the love of Christ would shine through us and that the hearts and minds of our neighbors would be drawn to Him. Please also continue to pray for the financial needs and support for the ministry and for each of our missionary staff.

Thank you for your continued faithfulness and partnership. We are blessed by your prayers and support and thank God for your commitment to His Kingdom work.

In Christ,

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